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Fact sheet

Grazing Restrictions for Pasture Herbicides

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Weed Management in Grass Pastures

Unless properly managed, broadleaf weeds can become a serious problem in grass pastures. They compete directly with forage grasses and reduce the nutritional value and longevity of the pasture. Of greatest concern are perennial and biennial broadleaf weeds. They can persist for many years, reproducing from both seed and underground reproductive structures. Occasional mowing or grazing helps control certain annual weeds, but perennials can grow back from underground root reserves unless long-term control strategies are implemented. In their first year of growth biennial weeds exist as a prostrate rosette, so even close mowing does little to control their growth. The second year biennials produce a seed stalk and a deep taproot. If these weeds are mowed or grazed at this stage, root reserves can enable the plant to regrow again.

In general, the use of good cultural practices such as maintaining optimum soil fertility, rotational grazing, and periodic mowing can help keep grass pastures in good condition and more competitive with weeds. There are a number of herbicides that can be safely used on grass pastures to control both annual and perennial broadleaf weeds. These herbicides include: Ally, 2,4-D (sold under many different trade names), Banvel, Crossbow, Stinger, Spike, and Weed Master. These herbicides will control a wide spectrum of annual and perennial broadleaf weeds. Roundup, a nonselective herbicide, may be used as a directed spot treatment to control unwanted vegetation. For detailed information on these herbicides consult the manufacturers label and bulletin 237 (Pest Management Recommendations for Field Crops).

Herbicide Safety to Horses

The following table provides the grazing restrictions (amount of time animals should not be permitted to graze on the foliage treated with a herbicide) for herbicides used in grass pastures. Note that for non-lactating animals (horses) there are no grazing restrictions for any of the herbicides with the exception of Roundup. However, it may be advisable to remove horses for 1 to 3 days from a pasture treated with herbicides. Grazing restrictions for lactating dairy are also provided and may be used as a guide for the maximum level of horse safety.

Special Note:
Nitrate accumulating plants, as they dry out after a herbicide application, should be mowed before allowing any animals to graze a pasture. Plants in this category include pigweed, labsquarters, smartweed, Canada thistle, burdock, and goldenrod.

Grazing Restrictions for Pasture Herbicides

Herbicide	Type of Animal	Interval Between Application/Grazing	Comments
Ally	All	0	
2, 4-D	Horse Dairy	0 7-14	Individual herbicide labels may vary between 7 and 14 days
Banvel	Horse Dairy	0 1 pt-7 1-2 pt-21 2-4 pt-40 4-16 pt- 60	-No waiting period for nonlactating animals.
***Crossbow**	Horse Dairy	0 14	
Roundup	All	14 or 56	14 day restriction if Roundup is used as a spot treatment. 56 day restriction if the entire pasture is treated for renovation
Stinger 3A	All	0	-**Do Not** transfer livestock from treated grazing areas into sensitive crop areas without allowing 7 days of grazing on un treated pasture
***Weedmaster**	Horse Dairy	0 7 days	
Spike 20P	Horse Dairy	0 14	

[1] Before using any pesticide, please read and follow all directions on the label.

* **Restricted Use Pesticide.**

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