

RANGE IMPROVEMENT IN LAKE COUNTY

by

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The cheapest feed source in Lake County is range, and any improvement the range operator can make in providing his livestock with earlier and later feed as well as more palatable feed per acre will benefit his income.

Steps for Establishing Dry-land Pasture

1. Plant Sudan grass in April or May.
2. Drill Harding grass and legume seed in Sudan stubble, October 1 - November 10.
3. Fertilize with 400 pounds single superphosphate plus 20 pounds actual nitrogen per acre at time of planting.
4. Inoculate legumes prior to seeding.
5. Add another 20 pounds actual nitrogen per acre in February or March.
6. Graze in April and May to control volunteer annuals.
7. No grazing the first summer.

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Seed Bed

The best and deepest soil should be utilized first by planting Sudan grass on a prepared seed bed in the spring after all danger of frost is past. The Sudan grass can be grazed in the summer by sheep or cattle, and then sometime between October 1 and November 10 Harding grass and legumes should be seeded in the Sudan stubble before the first fall rains.

The spring ground preparation prevents annual volunteer grasses and weeds from developing and setting seed, thus eliminating competition for the fall seeding. Seeding in Sudan stubble may help keep the ground from heaving and breaking off the seedling roots if the winter is cold.

Seed to Plant

Harding grass is palatable and has out-yielded and outlived most other perennial grasses planted in Lake County and therefore is the only one recommended.

Subterranean, Rose, and Crimson clovers have all given fair to excellent results, depending upon soil and moisture conditions, so all should be used.

A good seed mixture is as follows:

Harding grass	4 pounds per acre
Crimson clover	1 " "
Rose clover	1 " "
Mt. Barker Sub. clover	1/2 " "
Tallarock Sub. "	1/2 " "

3.

Inoculate the Seed

All three of these legumes need a certain bacteria in the soil to do well. You can purchase the inoculant for these legumes the same time you purchase your seed and then mix just prior to seeding. Follow the directions carefully on the package of inoculant.

Fertilizer Helps

Single superphosphate, 200 to 400 pounds per acre, should be applied by broadcasting at time of planting to help the legumes. Twenty pounds of actual nitrogen per acre also should be applied at time of planting to help the Harding grass. An additional 20 pounds nitrogen per acre can be applied in February or March if the weather permits to give additional growth and development to the Harding grass in the spring.

Controlled Grazing

Grazing the first spring should be done by enough livestock to eat the volunteer annuals down so they will not give too much competition to the Harding grass and legumes seeded. Controlled grazing is a must this first year and should be done during the latter part of March and during April and the first part of May. Stock should not be allowed to graze this seeded pasture the first summer, but can be put on again in the fall.

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