

NWSG Establishment and Maintenance

Beans:

- A. DO NOT TILL!!!
- B. Spray Roundup at least week before seeding to kill first flush of weeds (if not present, skip to C). This is often needed if planted later, which can reduce weed pressure and cut down # of mowings.
- C. Seed with a Native Grass drill in April 15- June 15

Corn:

- A. In fall, remove stalks aggressively (consult FSA/NRCS first)
- B. If nothing was done this past fall, Go to C
- C. In spring; chisel, or disk. Finish smooth. Cultipack or let time/rain finish soil
- D. Seed with a Native Grass drill in April 15- June 15

Hay:

- A. Spray Roundup in September or Early October
- B. If not done this past fall, treat fields as existing brome (E)
- C. Seed with a Native grass drill in April 15- June 15

Existing CRP (Brome):

- A. Remove any volunteer trees ASAP and treat with herbicide
- B. Mow fields in mid August or Hay if CRP rules allow. Allow to green back up. Spray once brome is 8" high and actively regrowing.
- C. Burn as early as possible in spring (February/March, optional)
- D. Ground might need worked with disk (several passes) to smooth
- E. Let Brome green up to 8" and spray around late April
- F. Seed with Native grass drill in April 15- June 15

Existing CRP (Switch or other Native Grass mix)

- A. Burn off cover as early as possible. Ground might need worked with a disk (several passes). Spray with Roundup or similar glyphosate once green up is to 8"-10" (2-3 weeks).

Mow the Weeds!!!

Mowing is the most universally applicable method of weed control. Best results are obtained with three mowing during the first growing season, depending on your weed pressure (influenced by weather and soils). Use your best judgment. Mowing is absolutely necessary for establishing a good stand.

- If planted in April, plan on approximately 3 mowings: Mow at the end of May, the end of June, and at the end of July. Plan on mowing 6"-8" high each time.
- If planted in May or June, plan on a couple of mowing: Mow at the end of June and the end of July, leaving 6"-8" high.
- **A good rule of thumb is to mow when the weeds are calf high**
- As the season progresses, your mowing height should increase to match the growth of the native grasses and forbs (6"-8")
- Using fire to control weeds in the second or third growing season is another option.
- Until you receive a final status review from NRCS, you are allowed to mow as needed during establishment. This includes mowing the second year of a seeding. Mowing is often needed the second year. Follow a similar mowing schedule to first year. Often it takes less mowings the second year. 2 is often good enough.
- **Patience! Prairie plantings take time to establish.....The first year IT SLEEPS.....the second year.....IT CREEPS.....the third year.....IT LEEPS!**

Failure to control weeds may result in the failure of the planting. Do not let your weeds get over 16" tall the first year. If this happens, it may be better to let the weeds go and plan on mowing or burning the following year. When weeds get this tall or taller, a rotary mowed can easily smother young seedlings.

Important to note: Always follow herbicide labels.

After final status review, to mow for weed pressure or tree control: it is necessary to get permission is required from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) during the primary nesting season (May 15th – August 1). Outside of those dates, SPOT mowing for weed/tree control is permitted.

Contact Brian Sauer, Iowa DNR for specific questions regarding your particular seeding.

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