

# Weekly Article

7-25-2022

## Time to Consider Late Summer Forage Seeding

Hello, my Name is Richard Purdin with OSU Extension, Ag and Natural Resource Educator and Community Development Educator for Adams County. I hope to better inform local producers and the public of the latest news in the world of agriculture. The end of July is here, and August is just around the corner. As a child I remember dreading the month of August because I knew school was about to begin and burley tobacco harvest was just about to start! Now that I am older August is one of my favorite months, as a burley tobacco producer I look forward to harvesting and housing a good crop and it is the sign of autumn is just around the corner. Precipitation amounts have been very spotty across the county with some areas receiving 1/2 inch of rain and others receiving less than .10 of an inch. Even with the dryer trend, hay fields and lawns are growing quickly and second and third cutting will need to be accomplished very soon. In my travels and scouting I have taken note that corn pollination is going very well, silks and ear development looks very well, and diseases are very minimal. I have seen some northern corn leaf blight and some grey leaf spot but at very minimal amounts. Soybeans are also growing quite well as they continue to bloom, and some are forming small pods at the bottom of the plant. I have seen some Japanese beetle feeding on leaf's but not enough to warrant treatment. Wildlife damage from birds and deer continue to be the most destructive factor in this season crops. Wrapper tobacco harvest will begin very soon, and burley tobacco is being topped and soon will be yellowing down. Pumpkins are growing very well but I have noticed heaving leaf feeding from the striped cucumber beetle. August is considered a transition month from summer to fall and for many livestock producers this can be a great month to improve forage stands either through weed control, fertility, stand enhancement, or complete renovations. Today, I want to discuss some considerations to think about before doing any of these steps.

- **Evaluate your needs and goals-** Take time and think about your overall goals and actual needs before spending money on expensive herbicides, fertilizer, or new forage stands. Late summer is often the time livestock poisoning will occur due to poisonous weed consumption, as forages slowdown in growth. Livestock might be tempted to eat plants that are not good for their health. Take time to scout for poisonous weeds and if you need help reach out to me and I can assist. August is a great time to look at the overall stand quality of your pasture or hayfield. If forages look tired

or weak a nutrient deficiency might be the issue. Collecting a soil sample and sending it to the lab can tell you what nutrients are needed.

- **Budget first-** Before heading to the farm supply store to buy seed, crunch the numbers first. Seeding down a new hay or pasture field can be very expensive, seeding some forages such as roundup ready alfalfa can be as high as \$450/ac!
- **Do the job right the first time-** After making your budget and realizing the expense, you might be tempted to cut corners to save time and money. This does not pay, seeding down new pastures or hayfield might be expensive up front but the goal is to have that stand last for 5 plus years. If you decide to cut seeding rates or skimp on fertility, forage stands will suffer and not be as persistent meaning in another year or two you are having to spend money again.
- **Timing is everything-** No matter if you are planting, applying herbicide, or applying fertilizer proper timing is everything. Most of our cool season forages can be planted beginning in early August though mid-September. If we get past that mid-September time frame winter survival decrease and germination % decreases. Timing for herbicide application should be based off weed stage of growth. A common weed in pastures today is cockleburs, applying herbicides before seed production begins and when the plant is smaller will allow for more success, consider using a sticker or adjuvant for better herbicide contact. For applying fertilizer timing is critical, apply nitrogen in late summer seems very untraditional but research has shown that applying 40 to 50 units of nitrogen to a grass-based pasture or hay field can increase quality and persistence well into the fall and winter, allowing you to graze longer and feed less hay!

Some other details to go over

- August 4<sup>th</sup> Managing noxious weeds Field Day located at Tom Downing's farm 2549 Bethlehem Road Winchester, Ohio 45697 from 9:30am-12:00, lunch will be provided. Call the office at 937-544-2339 if you would like to attend or call the USDA Service Center to learn more at (937) 544-2033.
- September 26-28, this three-day Artificial Insemination training will be located at the Jackson Research Farm, 19 Standpipe Road, Jackson Ohio. There is a 100 fee for the course. Registrations will be to the first 20 producers to learn how to register contact me at (937) 544-2339 or Purdin.19@osu.edu

**Ag Educator Words of Wisdom** – "Farming isn't a battle against nature but a relationship with it. It is respecting the basics of nature in action and ensuring that they continue." **Jeff Koehler**