

KEY TO PLANTING/RESEEDING PASTURES

☒ **Soil Samples:** Refer to SIA .500, *Soil Sampling: The Key To A Quality Fertilizer Recommendation*.

Note: A sample should be taken once every 2-3 years

☒ **Irrigated vs. Non-irrigated:** Irrigated land is land that should receive two acre-feet of water for every acre of crop land to be able to produce irrigated crops. Non-irrigated land is land that receives water naturally from rainfall and snow.

☒ **Depth of Planting:** ½- to ¾-inch range

☒ **Seed Rate:** Information provided in this bulletin. Also, if broadcasting, you will need 50-percent more seed than drilling.

☒ **Planting Technique:** Broadcast vs. planter. Broadcast is when seed is scattered abroad over an area while a grass drill planter plants the seed at controlled rates and depth.

☒ **Bunchgrass vs. Sod:** a bunchgrass is a species of grass that grows in distinct clumps spread only by seed while sod is a grass containing matted roots of grass spread by seed and root development.

☒ **Time of Planting:** cool-season grasses may be planted in (a) early spring (around April) or (b) early fall (around August); while warm-season grasses should be planted in spring (around May)

☒ **Plant Varieties:** A list of varieties (cultivars) are provided for most plants. A variety is a particular selection of a plant species (for example, 'Fairway' crested wheatgrass) that has distinct, improved features because of slightly different genetic make-up.

☒ **Grazing Management:** Minimum stubble heights, as indicated for the forages in this report, are given both for pastures which are continuously and rotationally grazed. Plants can be grazed to lower heights but they will have slower regrowth. Early growing periods with good soil moisture provide the best conditions for managed, aggressive grazing. However, overgrazing at this time can be particularly damaging to plant health.

Healthy plants must have an opportunity to regrow. Adequate soil moisture and the amount of leafy material on plants after grazing are key factors in the speed of regrowth.

For proper plant regrowth before regrazing, allow two to four weeks to allow stand to increase. This amount of time can vary depending on soil moisture, amount of existing leafy material, soil fertility, air temperature, and sunlight. Continuously overgrazed plants will lose health (vigor) and

eventually die. Delay first grazing in the spring until plants reach a five- or six-inch height. Avoid grazing grasses in heading and seed-set stages. During the dormant season when plants are not growing (November through February), plants can be grazed heavily. However, snow caught by tall stubble heights gives protection to plants and enhances soil moisture in the spring.

☒ **Cool- vs. Warm-Season Grasses:** Different grass species have a preference for growing best when the weather is cool or hot. A cool-season grass is a grass that generally makes the major portion of its growth during early spring and early fall. Kentucky bluegrass is a cool-season grass example. A warm-season grass is one that makes most or all of its growth during late spring and summer and are usually dormant in the winter. Blue grama is an example. (Refer to SIA 6.108)

☒ **Legumes:** Legumes are broadleaf plants which have the distinct ability to work with rhizobia bacteria in the soil to produce nitrogen useable by plants. Rhizobia invade root hairs of legume seedlings and form nodules (pinkish lumps) on the roots where the fertilizer nitrogen manufacturing takes place. Each legume requires a specific species and strain of rhizobia to form nodules. It is best to apply the correct inoculant to seed at planting time to assure successful nodulation and effective nitrogen fixation.

SERVICE-IN-ACTION SHEETS:

6.105, *Glossary of Range Management Terms*

6.104, *Designing a Grazing Mgt Plan for Co Ranches*

6.107, *Range Condition and Guide to Grazing Mgt.*

6.108, *Grass Growth and Response to Grazing*

6.101, *Seed Species for Colorado Rangelands*

6.103, *Planning for Drought on Colorado Rangeland*

6.102, *Exchanging Steers for Cow-Calf Pairs on Shortgrass Rangelands*

.103, *Planting Guide for Colorado Field Crops*

6.100, *Poisonous Plants on Colorado Rangelands*

6.106, *Animal & Plant Response to Stocking Intensity*

The following is an alphabetical listing of the most common plants which may be considered for planting and using as forage in the northern front range of Colorado. Grasses are presented first, legumes second. Descriptions are provided for each plant, as well as for their use as hay or pasture.