



Establishing Grass in Existing Cropland

****Preferred Method***

If land has been managed with a glysohate during the last 2-3 years, it is possible to go directly to a new planting. It is best to avoid any tillage so as to provide a firm seed bed and not to “wake up” weed seeds that are lower in the soil profile.

If other chemicals have been used, chemical carryover and interactions with seed that is not well-understood, you should always assume that any chemical such as milestone or plateau used to control broadleaf plants will have a carryover effect, and does affect germination of seeds.

Speak with your chemical salesman but, if uncertain, take the cautious route and allow the field to have at least 2 years of rest from chemicals other than glysohate prior to planting. Plant Glysohate-tolerant crops or inexpensive multi-species cover/forage mixes during this time.

Establishing Grass Mixes in Tame Stands

Start by completely haying or grazing the existing stand, then use a recommended glysohate for stand burn down. Till the field for at least 1 year to flush the grass seedbank to expose grass and weeds, and to level the field if necessary. Use glysohate-tolerant crops or manage with other chemicals.

After tilling, no-till-management is preferred to create a firmer seed bed. If cropping is not desired, a year or two of glysohate burn down to maintain weeds will work well.

Perennial Grass Seeding Dates

Seeding dates are based on climatic records, research, and experience; and represent optimum periods for grass and legume establishment. These dates should provide for adequate development of adventitious roots prior to stressful periods, such as hot, dry summers and cold, open winters. Variation from these dates plus or minus 5 days may be made if justified by moisture and temperature conditions.

Visit <https://ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu//index.html> for soil temperatures across the state.

Cool Season Species

Spring – Prior to May 20th

Late Summer – August 10th to September 15th

Late Fall – When soil temperature is less than 40°F for 5 consecutive days

Warm Season Grasses

Spring – May 10th to June 25th

Warm/Cool Season Mix

Spring – April 20th to June 15th

Alfalfa

Spring – Prior to May 20th

Late Summer – August 10th to August 25th

Late Fall – When soil temperature is less than 40°F for 5 consecutive days

www.chesakseedhouse.com

Bismarck: 701-223-0391 | Minot: 701-839-4024