



# Grazing Management

# Prescribed Grazing Tables

## Illinois

**Table 1: Minimum Heights of Pasture Species for Initiating and Terminating Grazing**

Species and Mixtures	Minimum/Optimum Height of Vegetative Growth 1/	Minimum Grazing Height 2/	Minimum Regrowth Before Killing Frost	Approximate Date to begin Res for Winter Protection, by Plant Suitability Zones 3/		
				I	II	III
Cool Season (C3s)	INCHES Begin Grazing	INCHES End Grazing	INCHES			
Alfalfa/Timothy/Orchardgrass	6-8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10/15	9/10-10-20
Alfalfa/Orchardgrass	6-8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Alfalfa/Timothy/Bromegrass	6-8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Ladino Clover/Orchardgrass	8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Red Clover/Ladino Clover/ Orchardgrass	8	3	8	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Red Clover/Ladino Clover/Tall Fescue	8	3	5		9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Birdsfoot Trefoil/Timothy	5	3	6	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	
Ladino Clover/Bromegrass	5	3	6	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	
Orchardgrass	6-8	3	8	4/	4/	4/
Tall Fescue	6-8	3	8	4/	4/	4/
Alfalfa/Tall Fescue	6-8	3	8		9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Ladino Clover/Tall Fescue	5	3	8		9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Alsike Clover/Ladino Clover/ Timothy	5	2	5	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	
Ladino Clover/Alsike Clover/Reed Canarygrass	6	4	6	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Ladino Clover/Alsike Clover/Tall Fescue	5	3	8		9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Alfalfa/Bromegrass	6-8	4	6	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Sericea Lespedeza/Tall Fescue	10	4	8			9/20-10/20
Korean Lespedeza/Tall Fescue	6	4	8			9/20-10/20
Bluegrass 5/	4	2	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>WARM SEASON (C4s)</b>						
Switchgrass	18	8 6/	10	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Indiangrass	18	8 6/	10	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Big Bluestem	18	8 6/	10	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20
Eastern Gammagrass	20	10	15	9/1-10/1	9/15-10-15	9/20-10/20

1/ Minimum plant heights are to be reached before grazing is permitted in the spring or following a rest period resulting from rotational grazing. Management Intensive Grazing (MIG) systems (8 or more pastures) can reduce the height by 50%.

2/ Minimum plant heights below which grazing is not permitted.

3/ Protection from fall grazing is required for one month before a killing frost. Remove livestock on or before the dates shown and do not permit grazing before a killing frost occurs.

4/ No restrictions.

5/ May include other species such as redtop, timothy, quackgrass, or white clover.

6/ Leave a 10" stubble at end of grazing season until after first killing frost.

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