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# *How to Plant a Pasture*

## **1. SITE PREPARATION**

*Before planting, remove existing vegetation from the planting site with a non-selective herbicide such as Round-Up. Till the site with a plow, roto-tiller or disc to a depth of 6 inches. Level and firm the area and apply a starter fertilizer such as our **15-16-16**. Rake smooth, filling in any low spots. Roll or water the area to settle the soil.*

## **2. SEEDING**

*Apply seed at the rate of 50 lbs. / acre, covering the area evenly. Lightly rake the seed into the soil a depth of 1/8" to 1/4". Do not plant the seed deeper than 1/4". Water the entire area lightly to settle the soil and assure good soil/seed contact.*

## **3. WATERING**

*Keep the seed bed moist for 45 to 60 days, until germination is complete, keeping the seed damp but not soaking wet. A new planting should never be allowed to dry out. Infrequent, deep watering after 60 days encourages the plants to produce a deeper root system, increasing their drought tolerance and reducing their need for fertilizer.*

## **4. GRAZING**

*It is best to wait a year before returning livestock to a newly seeded pasture. If you can't wait a full year, grazing can be tolerated 60 days after establishment, allowing animals to graze only a few hours each day. Never graze off more than 1/2 of the plant.*

## **5. WEED CONTROL**

*Weed seed is present in the soil. If weeds sprout in your new pasture, wait for 45 days before applying a weed killer as new plants are easily killed by a premature application. Apply a weed killer approved for pastures, following all label directions.*

## **6. FERTILIZING**

*For faster establishment and a healthier pasture, fertilize 4-6 weeks after planting. A spring and fall fertilization should be a part of your yearly pasture care.*

