

# seed for MORE feed

# Your Seeding Decision

## When should I reseed?

If you have a pasture that has a fair or poor condition rating, reseeding along with a change in pasture management can be one of your best choices.

To boost nutritional value, consider a grass-legume mix. As shown below, the proportion of legumes often declines in an existing tame stand after a few years of continuous grazing, so reseeding or over-seeding of these species will reinvigorate your pasture. By adding legumes you will increase the nutritional value of the pasture for your livestock, and add nitrogen and improve the soil condition of your pasture.

### Forage Condition Classes

Condition	Criteria	Action
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33-49% of the potential yield for the area under the present growing season</li> <li>• &lt;50% of production coming from desirable species</li> <li>• Vigour of desired species is low</li> </ul>	Terminate stand and reseed; change management practices
Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50-59% of the potential yield for the area under the present growing season</li> <li>• 50-74% of production coming from desirable species</li> <li>• Vigour of desired species medium to low</li> </ul>	Change management practices; consider rejuvenation methods such as reseeding
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60-74% of the potential yield for the area under the present growing season</li> <li>• 75-90% of production coming from desirable species</li> <li>• Vigour of desired species high</li> </ul>	Fine tune management practices
Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75-100% of the potential yield for the area under the present growing season</li> <li>• At least 90% of production coming from desired species</li> <li>• Vigour of desired species high</li> </ul>	Maintain management practices

*Adapted from G. Ehlert, Alberta Agriculture, 1990 and Kirychuk, Foster, Bowes and Larner, 1997.*

### Alfalfa Populations Decline Over Time

	% of Alfalfa in Stand
Year of planting	23%
Six years after seeding under continuous grazing	12%
Six years after seeding under rotational grazing	46%

*Source: University of Alberta, Kinsella Ranch*

## Certified Seed Delivers Benefits

Once you decide to reseed, make a 'certified choice'. The "Blue Tag" of certified seed guarantees that your seed is not only hardy and well-adapted to your area but also has high seedling vigour and varietal purity. In addition, certified seed is nearly weed-free so you won't be introducing new weeds and competition for your forage seedlings.

With certified seed you get innovation – newly adaptable forage quality varieties, disease and insect tolerance or resistance, cold-hardiness, and a whole lot more. By using certified seed you get peace of mind and the latest in forage seed technology.

**Check out the handy calculator on the back to help you evaluate the bottom line on reseeding your pasture.**

## Pastures Profit with Certified Seed



Canada's Seed Partner

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306-569-4082



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## Will Reseeding Improve My Bottom Line?

Use this calculator to help you evaluate the bottom line on reseeding your pasture.

This dryland example shows that by burning off the old forage and reseeding an alfalfa-wheatgrass mix, using a zero-till drill, there is an estimated \$11/acre return over three years.

### Return Per Acre (Southern Saskatchewan Dryland Example)

Treatment Costs	Est. Cost \$/acre	Your Cost \$/acre
Herbicide burn-off	\$10.00	
Seeding (zero-till disc)	\$14.00	
Seed (alfalfa/wheatgrass mix)	\$13.00	
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$37.00</b>	
Value of Additional Forage (see corresponding calculations)	\$48.00	
<b>Return per Acre</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>	

Forage Value Assumptions	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3
Change in Production (%)	40%	45%	45%
Additional Forage Production (lb/acre)	1,600		
Value of Forage (\$/ton)	\$60.00		
<b>Value of Additional Forage</b>	<b>\$48.00</b>	\$48/acre = \$60/ton x 1,600lb/acre / 2,000lb/ton	

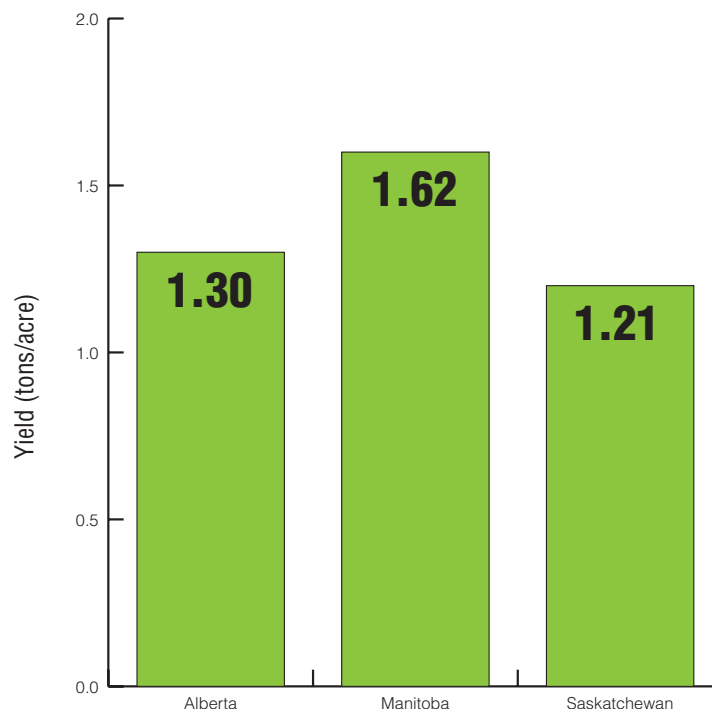
*Adapted from Rejuvenation of Tame Forages – Southern Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization.*

## Make an Informed Decision

Depending on the methods you choose, market value for forage in your area, and yield potential, your calculations will differ from those shown in the dryland Saskatchewan example above. Remember forage yields vary considerably across regions, providing even greater potential returns.

Use the expertise of a certified seed retailer to help choose the best forage variety or mix selection for your operation.

### Tame Hay Forage Yields (Average 1998 - 2006)



*Source: Canada Grains Council*



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