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GOOD PASTURE all season

If you're one of the many North Dakota farmers who "never has enough good pasture", that situation is one you can cure. This circular gives you the "recipe" for plenty of good pasture.

The chart illustrates the approximate periods different forage crops will produce the grazing you need.

IRVINE T. DIETRICH
EXTENSION SOIL CONSERVATIONIST

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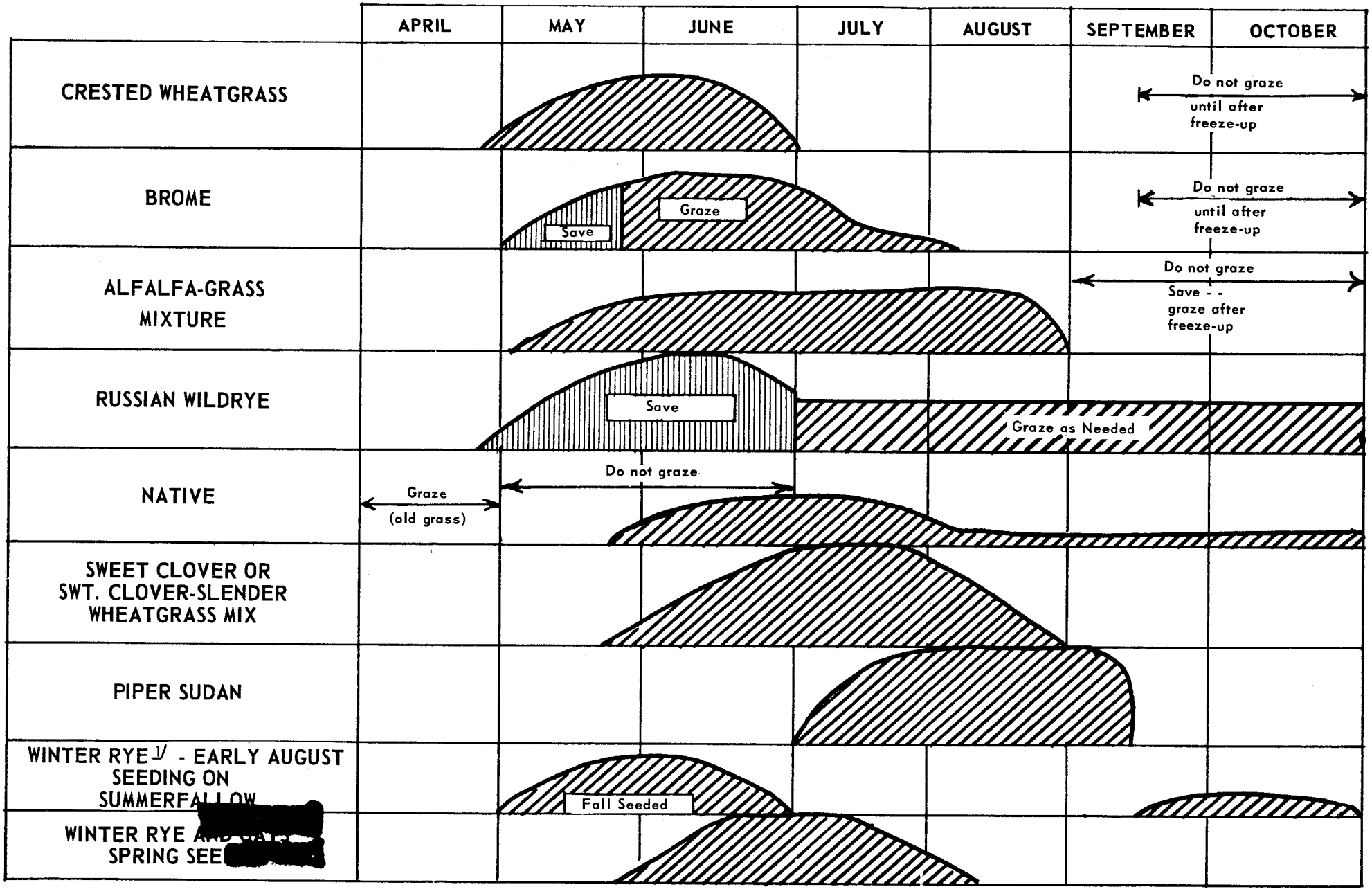
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58102

All Season Pasture

(For Beef Cattle)

Relative Production and Recommended Grazing Use of Various Pastures



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Plan For Enough

Don't underestimate your pasture requirements--plan for enough. If you have too much, It's always valuable put away as hay or silage.

HAVE PASTURE FOR EACH SEASON

The secret of all-season pasture in North Dakota is to fit the pasture to the season in which you want the grazing.

1. Spring - May & June
   Plant cool season grasses for spring pasture.
   - Recommended are crested wheatgrass or bromegrass in mixture with alfalfa.
2. Summer - July & August
   (a) Save native grass for use in July and August.
   (b) Grow sudangrass for late summer.
   (c) Have sweetclover or sweetclover slender wheatgrass mixture for summer grazing.
3. Have a Russian wildrye grass pasture for seasonal use as needed during summer and fall.
4. Use Russian wildrye for winter range.
   Russian wildrye grass retains high feeding quality in its leaves for several months. Also, it regrows whenever moisture is available.
   Russian wildrye carries green color in leaves and good feeding value into winter.
5. Green stipa grass also has high yield capacity and good regrowth habits. However, it is suited better for hay than for pasture.

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Keep livestock off native grass pasture until well into June or later. This gives the grass a chance to grow and build reserve root strength.

Do not graze alfalfa-grass mixtures from Sept. 1 to freeze-up.

Do not graze brome, crested or other cool season grasses from Sept. 15 to freeze-up. This will permit them to store needed food reserve in roots. Russian wildrye when not grazed in May and June can be fall grazed.

Grow Legumes--Or Fertilize

Plan to supply nitrogen to your grass if you want good pasture.

Grasses are heavy users of nitrogen. By growing a legume crop like alfalfa or clover along with the grasses, the legumes can supply the needed nitrogen. Or, you can apply manure or commercial nitrogen fertilizer.

HAVE FEED FOR FUTURE USE

It will pay you to build up a large reserve supply of feed, preferably in the form of silage.

Then, when drouth comes, or for some other reason you do not have good pasture. You'll have plenty of silage. Silage is the feed that comes closest to replacing pasture.

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