

# MANAGE GRASS AS A CROP FOR LONG-TERM BENEFITS

By Dan Beran, PhD, Technical Services Director, Nufarm



**Cattle producers have several different factors to consider when making decisions on how to manage their pastures. Whether they want to control pests or unwanted vegetation, or even restore the native grasses, it's critical that managers are equipped with the right tools to achieve their grazing objectives.**

One fundamental need is for land managers to get most value for their investment in grazing management inputs. Proper range and pasture management will increase beneficial grass, which will affect the carrying capacity per acre.



**MANAGE  
BRUSH AND  
WEEDS**



**RE-ESTABLISH  
GRASS  
QUALITY**



**RAISE YOUR  
CARRYING  
CAPACITY**

Dan Beran, PhD, director of technical services at Nufarm, explains that when managers have fewer weeds and undesirable plants in their pastures, they are going to end up with more desirable grasses leading to a higher yield. "As you get more carrying capacity, you can adjust stocking rates accordingly, which can impact your ability to raise profits. It's long-term

approach, but certainly can lead to a more sustainable and profitable operation," Beran says.

Beran describes cattle as harvesters and grass as the yield, with cattle turning grass into pounds of beef. However, the grass and forage species are generally perennial plants, coming back year after year unlike conventional crops such as corn and soybeans. "In most cases, pastures and rangeland consist of native grasses or domesticated perennial grasses," Beran says. "You see the effects year over year, unlike a crop where you're basically starting over every year. Managing your grass for maximum benefit means thinking of it as a long-term crop that persists year after year depending on how you managed it in the past."

**"It's easy to think of grass as a crop when controlling weeds."**

Beran says it's easy to think of grass as a crop when controlling weeds. "If managers let weeds seed and undesirable plants get

established, then they are going to keep spreading and will eventually be harder to control, much like in a crop field," he said. "It is better to get ahead of the problem before it's too late. If you let weeds get established, before you know it, you're controlling denser populations of larger weeds – at a greater cost," Beran says.

Preventing infestations of invasive weeds is critical because many of them will outcompete some of the best pasture and range grasses. Beran says that when thinking about weed control, managers will need to keep in mind the long-term results. If managers don't take control of the weeds early, many of them will come back year after year slowly lowering the carrying capacity over time. "You really have to take a long-term view," he explains.

Nufarm, a leader in weed management herbicides, equips range and pasture managers with the best tools possible to obtain their grazing goals. This management can include maintaining quality grass, controlling annual or perennial broadleaf weeds, knocking back brush issues, restoring pasture and containing wanted vegetation around the property.

**Nufarm offers a range of solutions tailored to your needs, timeline and economics, including WeedMaster®, BurnMaster®, Scorch®, Weedar® 64, Patriot®, E-2 and Clean Slate®.**

“Our priority is to provide a go-to portfolio for range and pasture management because it covers the needs of land managers regardless of the geography, be it pastures in the East or Southeast or spans of in rangeland in the West,” says Beran.

	● ANNUAL	● PERENNIAL	● BIENNIAL	WeedMaster®	BurnMaster™	Scorch™	Weedar® 64	Patriot®	E-2	Clean Slate®
Annual smartweed	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bindweed		●		●	●	●	SUPPRESSION	SUPPRESSION	●	
Bitter sneezeweed	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	
Broom snakeweed		●		●	●	●		●	●	
Broomweed	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	
Buffalobur	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	SUPPRESSION
Bull thistle		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bullnettle		●		●	●	●	●		●	
Canada thistle		●		●	●	●	SUPPRESSION	●	●	●
Carolina horsenettle		●		●	●	●			●	
Cocklebur	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Croton	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	
Dogfennel		●		●	●	●		●	●	●
Eastern persimmon		●		●	●	●			●	●
Goldenrod		●		●	●	●	SUPPRESSION	●	●	●
Horseweed	●			●	●	●	●		●	●
Kochia	●			●	●	●			●	
Lespedeza						●		●		
Marshelder	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mesquite*				SUPPRESSION	SUPPRESSION	SUPPRESSION			SUPPRESSION	●
Musk thistle		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pigweed	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	
Ragweed, common	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sunflower	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Western bitterweed	●			●	●	●	●		●	
Western ragweed		●		●	●	●	●		●	
Wild carrot	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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