

MISSOURI CATTLEMAN POCKETS ADDED \$\$ WITH MAXQ FESCUE

As a long time veterinarian, cattle farmer and Joplin Regional Stockyard field representative, Harold Haskins can rightfully be considered an expert in beef cattle production. To borrow from the old E.F. Hutton ad, when this innovative Diamond, MO, cattleman speaks, people tend to listen. So, when Haskins says cattle producers have some real opportunities to make money with MaxQ tall fescue, he speaks from experience and it gets people's attention.

As are most successful cattlemen, Dr. Haskins is well versed in forage selection, production and management. He candidly states, "Fescue is the greatest thing that ever hit this part of the country." However, he readily admits that he is fully aware of the limitations that toxic fescue varieties have in beef production. Because of his appreciation of fescue and his innovative nature, Haskins jumped at the chance to introduce Jesup MaxQ non-toxic novel endophyte infected fescue to his pasture forage system shortly after its release in 2000. For Dr. Haskins, having a tall fescue variety that would persist and have no adverse effects on cattle health and performance was a dream come true. He saw immediate results. "My cattle consumed more MaxQ, gained more weight and bred back better than those on the toxic Ky31 fescue. I also noticed that the cattle spent more time grazing and less time in the shade than those grazing Ky31."



Veterinarian and cattle producer Harold Haskins is using MaxQ to economically add value to his stocker calves.

With some nine years of experience with Jesup MaxQ on his own farm, Dr. Haskins encouraged the establishment of 220 acres of MaxQ at Joplin Regional Stockyard in the fall of 2009 and the spring of 2010. Of the 220 acres, 135 acres are pivot irrigated with effluent captured in run-off from the stockyard facility. "We wanted to establish a forage based system to add gain and value to weanling calves. We needed a forage that would persist and provide excellent gains while promoting good animal health. Since there was no shade, we also needed something that would not elevate body temperature of the cattle. I felt MaxQ would provide what we needed to do the job," says Haskins.

Dr. Haskins theory would soon be put to the test. On April 15, 2011, 521 pre-conditioned steers averaging 528 lbs. were placed on the MaxQ using a rotational grazing system. The steers were removed 75 days later on June 29. Average weight per head at removal was 654 lbs. Average daily gain per head was 1.68 lbs. with no supplemental feed. The cattle were sold by video auction on July 7 for \$146/cwt. With such excellent success, Haskins was understandably pleased, "We were able to put nearly \$93,000 (\$178/hd or \$423/ac) of added value on this group of cattle with an out-of-pocket investment of \$32 per acre for nitrogen fertilizer! With favorable weather, we should be able to run 2-3 groups of stockers each year on the MaxQ."

Dr. Haskins admits the record price received for the cattle put this in a very favorable light. However, he argues that even if the cattle had been sold at \$100/cwt, the profit figures would have been impressive. The fact remains says Haskins, "Cattle producers have some real opportunities to make money with MaxQ."

(Contributing to this article was Linda Perkin, Missouri Division Publications Dept.)

MaxQ
A Non-Toxic Endophyte
to Enhance Tall Fescues

Durana's Persistence & Sustainability Leads to Multiple Uses

Because it is nutritious, persistent, durable and able to fix its own nitrogen, Durana white clover has quickly gained a reputation as a premier forage and one that will be a key component of future sustainable forage and crop production systems. These same traits have scientists, landowners, wildlife enthusiasts and erosion control professionals looking at additional ways Durana can be used to lower production costs, improve wildlife habitat and enhance the aesthetics of the countryside.

Pecan Orchard Floor

While many have used Durana as a pasture forage and wildlife food plot plant, researchers and leading fruit and nut producers in several states are now adding this popular legume to the orchard floor forage mix to lower nitrogen fertilizer costs and attract beneficial insects.

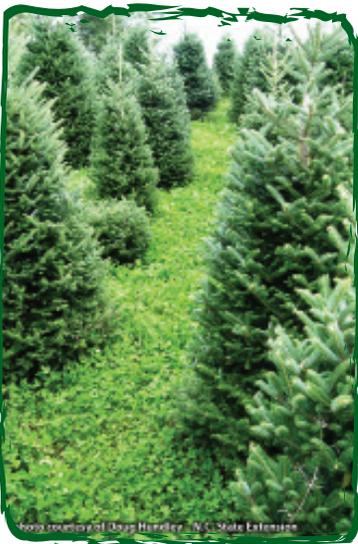


Erosion Control

Responding to the commercial erosion control industry's desire for a more sustainable and aesthetically pleasing slope vegetation mix, Pennington introduced the SlopeMaster product line which features Durana as a key ingredient. With its aggressive stolon production forming a thick water penetrable mat, Durana holds soil in place making it a natural fit as an erosion control plant. It also provides color which makes for more aesthetically pleasing areas.

Highly Nutritious Food Plot

Because of its high quality (25-30% protein and 80% digestibility), persistence and ability to compete in a mixed stand with perennial grasses or other aggressive plants including weeds, Durana has become a favorite as a wildlife food plot plant. It is a key component of several Pennington Rackmaster and Buckmaster deer mixes including Rackmaster Elite and Buckmasters Ultimate.



Christmas Tree Ground Cover

Christmas tree growers in North Carolina are using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Groundcover Management protocol for Fraser fir that combines the use of a reduced rate of the herbicide glyphosate with adapted and sustainable vegetative groundcover like Durana clover to control and suppress problem weeds. As a perennial, Durana has a long growing season of up to 10 months and re-grows both from live stolons and from volunteer reseeding. It is low growing and requires minimal maintenance which makes it ideally suited as a ground cover for this management system.

Pine Plantation Wildlife Habitat

Managing planted pine plantations while simultaneously creating suitable wildlife habitat has traditionally been a challenge. But now with Durana white clover and a Quality Vegetation Management (QVM) system developed and perfected by researchers in Mississippi, landowners can manage their pine plantations for both maximum income and quality hunting. With its wide adaptability, low maintenance, shade tolerance and ability to withstand weather extremes and heavy grazing pressure, Durana white clover is a natural and proven choice as a perennial forage for this management scheme.



TIMING OF N APPLICATION CRITICAL TO FESCUE GROWTH & LONGEVITY

Timing of nitrogen fertilizer application can have a major impact on tall fescue forage production and stand life. The timing of application for fertilizers containing nitrogen to fescue should be just prior to its periods of rapid forage growth. There are normally two such periods - one occurring from March through early May and a second period from September through early November if adequate rainfall occurs. For optimum fescue forage growth, apply 50-100 lbs/A of nitrogen in mid-February to mid March and 40-60 lbs/A in late August or early September.

Applying nitrogen containing fertilizer to tall fescue pastures outside of these growth periods can lead to increased competition from undesirable weeds and also enhance the encroachment of unwanted summer annual and perennial grasses. This can lead to loss of production and fescue stand decline. Lime, phosphorus and potassium can be applied throughout the year if called for by a soil test.



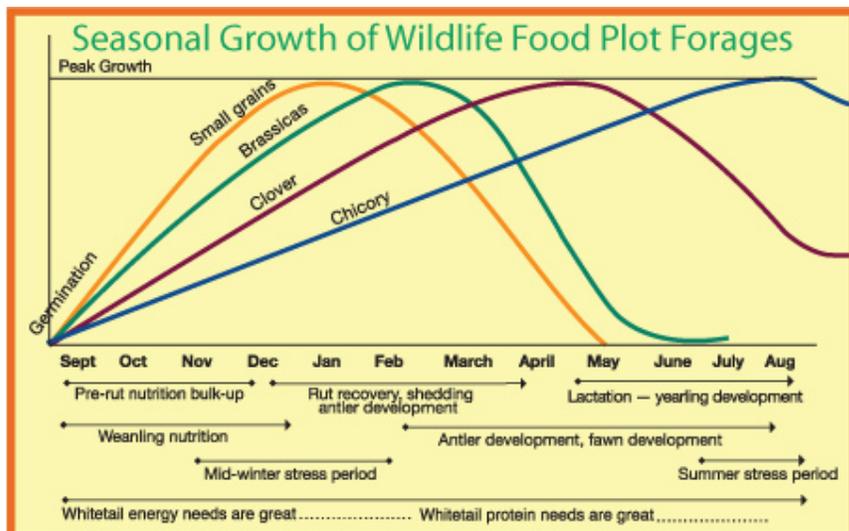
Improper timing of nitrogen fertilizer application to tall fescue pastures can lead to weed encroachment and stand thinning.

MAXIMIZE FOOD PLOT USE WITH SEASON-LONG CARE

To get maximum benefit from wildlife food plot plantings, their management needs to extend well beyond the end of hunting season. As shown in the Seasonal Growth Chart, deer need adequate amounts of high quality nutrition year-round for optimum growth and development. The chart also illustrates that food plot forages can provide large amounts of high quality food over a long period of time – but only if they are managed appropriately.

Nitrogen fertilization is a key component in getting the most from one's wildlife food plots. If plantings contain small grains and other non-legume plants and are being heavily used by deer, the addition of a nitrogen sidedress application in late winter (mid-February thru early March) will significantly boost forage growth and quality. The amount of actual nitrogen needed will vary from 30 to 60 lbs/acre depending on the amount of forage being consumed. If the food plot contains legumes, the amount of N applied can be reduced to 25-30 lbs/acre.

Clipping or mowing is also an integral part of properly managing the food plot. In late spring, food plots containing mixtures of annual and perennial forages may need to be mowed to remove excess growth of winter annual foliage and/or seed heads. This will reduce competition and allow sunlight to penetrate down to lower growing perennial plants such as white clover and chicory. Periodic mowing of the food plots throughout the summer months also helps to hold weeds in check.



PENNINGTON EXPANDS SERVICE & SALES IN TENNESSEE, KENTUCKY, OHIO AND INDIANA

With the opening of a new distribution center in Cincinnati and the addition of a new regional forage specialist, Pennington is expanding its sales and service efforts in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. Katie Harver, a recent graduate of Virginia Tech, is the new forage specialist for Tennessee and Kentucky. Katie will be assisting dealers in the area grow their sales of Pennington's premier

forage products including non-toxic MaxQ novel endophyte tall fescue, Olympia orchardgrass, Durana and Patriot white clovers and the Rackmaster and Buckmaster lines of wildlife food plot products.

The primary focus of the Cincinnati Distribution Center will be sales of products to commercial entities including the professional landscape and erosion control industries. In addition, Cincinnati DC Manager Grayson Godley will be targeting several areas in Ohio & Indiana for sales of Pennington livestock forage and wildlife seed products.



Katie Harver

WHITE CLOVERS NEED TIME TO ESTABLISH

The development and release of persistent and grazing tolerant white clovers like Durana and Patriot has had a major impact on clover use throughout the U.S. These perennial clovers are true "workhorses" that can tolerate drought, heat and heavy grazing while also competing with existing pasture forages used throughout the U.S. As such, they have become extremely popular.

However, these clovers have different growth habits than annual and ladino clover types. If these unique growth habits are not clearly understood, it can lead to a disappointing perception of white clover performance. White clover emerges, sends down a deep taproot and then begins forming a network of stolons that spread along the soil surface.

The plant pegs down at each node to form a series of "daughter" plants that produce an abundance on new leaf mass. Each so-called "peg" develops into a root system that enhances water and nutrient uptake by the plant and also prevents the plant from being uprooted by heavy livestock grazing. It may take six months or longer for white clover to establish and provide noticeable forage production. While other clovers may initially seem more productive with taller growth and larger leaves, white clover is developing a plant base of large numbers of stolons that will lead to an abundance of leafy, nutritious forage while at the same time better competing for nutrients and water with the existing pasture forage. This unique growth habit

makes white clover a real "workhorse" with unmatched persistence and toughness.



6 week-old Durana seedling



Durana - one year after planting

WHITE CLOVER MANAGEMENT DURING ESTABLISHMENT YEAR

»Because sunlight is essential for clover seedling development, existing pasture forage should be utilized so that it does not develop a shade canopy over the clover. This is best done by periodic grazing of the pasture. Allowing perennial grasses to amass for a hay harvest during clover establishment is strongly discouraged as it places added stress on clover seedlings and can potentially lead to stand failure.

»During the year after planting white clover, limit nitrogen fertilization to no more than 25 or 30 pounds of actual nitrogen/acre. This encourages clover nitrogen fixation and helps reduce grass competition with the clover.

»Utilize a rotational grazing system. This allows clover seedlings periodic rest periods to build energy reserves, become more firmly established and maintain greater persistence.