

Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

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Winter Watering Strategies

By Jamie Hampton

Horses need more water in the winter to help stay warm. However, they are reluctant to drink excessively cold water. Studies have shown a 40% greater water intake when water is warm, compared to water near freezing temperatures. One way to help your horses get enough water is to use tank heaters. These heaters need to be maintained regularly. Check that your tank heaters are working

properly before the weather turns cold. Also check for electrical shock from the water or metal tank. Electrical cords should be protected from nosy horses. Encasing them in plastic pipes, securing them out of reach of your horses, or you can also use a partial tank cover that protects your cords from getting nibbled on. Horses have different levels of sensitivity to electrical current, pay

attention to their drinking habits, just because some horses are drinking doesn't mean that there is no stray voltage in the trough. There are solar powered freeze-free trough's available as well. In the absence of a tank heater of some sort, you will need to be sure to break the ice for your horses at least twice a day. Horses are not the only species that will need to have their water looked after.

Fall Sprayer Maintenance

Author, Erdal Ozkan, edited by Jamie Hampton

Properly winterizing and storing your sprayer now may help you mitigate costly problems in the spring

It is very likely that you will not be using your sprayer again until next spring. If you want to avoid potential problems and save yourself from frustration and major headaches next spring, you will be wise to give your sprayer a little bit of TLC (Tender Loving Care) this time of the year. Yes, there may still be crops to be harvested, and it may still be a busy time of the year for some of you, however, do not delay winterizing your sprayer too long, if you haven't already done so. You don't want a pump that is cracked and/or not working at its full capacity because you did not properly winterize it before the temperature falls below freezing, which is rapidly approaching. Here are some important things you need to do with your sprayer this time of the year. Effective rinsing of all the sprayer components, circulate clean water through the whole sprayer for several minutes, first with the nozzles off, then flush out the rinsate through the nozzles. Dispose of the rinsate according to what is recommended on the labels of the pesticides you have used. Always check the label for specific instructions.



Rinsing the system with water may not be sufficient to get rid of chemicals from the sprayer. It is best to clean and rinse the entire spraying system with some sort of cleaning solution. Usually, a mixture of 1 to 100 of household ammonia to water should be adequate, but you may first need to clean the tank with a mixture containing detergent if your tank is a little extra dirty. Some chemicals require specific rinsing solutions. Cleaning the outside of the sprayer components deserves equal attention. Check one more time to make sure there is no liquid left inside any of the

sprayer parts to prevent freezing. After draining the water, add a small amount of oil, and rotate the pump four or five revolutions by hand to completely coat interior surfaces. After a good cleaning try to find ways to protect your sprayer against the harmful effects of snow, rain, sun, and strong winds. The best protection from the environment is to store sprayers in a dry building. If storing in a building is not possible, try covering the sprayer with some material that will protect it from sun, rain and snow. For the full article click [here](#) or visit the CORN Newsletter



Stubborn as a Mule

If you have ever worked with a mule, you know when you hear this phrase that there is no other statement truer. Mules are a cross between a horse and an ass. Bred for their resilience and work ethic. I have friends that trail ride mules and say they are a loyal and lifelong companion. Mules will work hard and steady, until the decide they are done, then you might as well hang up the reins because you will not get them going again. Mules were used to move canal boats up and down the canal. I was taught this summer by Neal Brady with MECCA during our Nature Walk programming that they used mules because they would stop when they were tired, horses would go until they died.

This phrase is used today to refer to some one that does not give in or give up. As far as I can find there is not evidence to say where this phrase may have originated, I found one tidbit that says 1771, when the phrase appears in Tobias Smollett's "The Expedition of Humphry Clinker" however, I believe that it may have been around much longer.

Keys to Successful Frost Seeding

By Mike Rankin, Edited by Jamie Hampton

Frost seeding legumes and grasses is common means to improve forage yield or change the species composition of a pasture.



Some of the Keys to being successful with frost seeding are ensuring good seed to soil contact, reduce plant competition, select proper species and seeding rate, seed at the proper time and use a trusted seeding method.

Seed-to-soil contact

As with any method of forage establishment, seed-to-soil contact is critical for successful frost seedings. There are several management practices that can be done to help ensure good seed-to-soil contact. The first involves fall grazing management. Graze pastures short in the fall or winter prior to frost seeding to open stands and expose soil. Sod-type grasses like bluegrass are the most difficult to make successful frost seedings, especially where a thick layer of thatch covers the soil surface. In these situations, short duration animal hoof action after seeding is sometimes needed to enhance seed-to-

soil contact.

Reduce plant competition

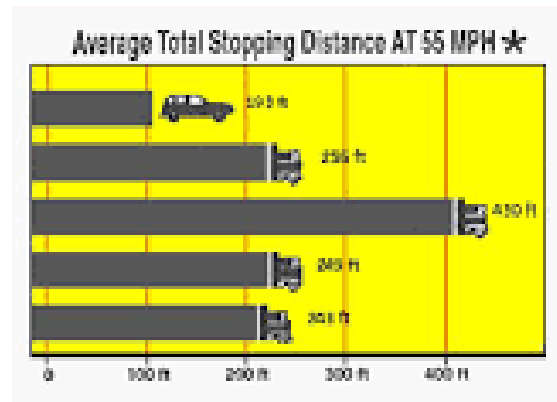
New seedlings must be given a chance to establish without excessive competition from plants already present in the stand. Reducing competition can be done in several ways. First, grazing pastures down to 2 inches in the fall will help to slow regrowth in the spring. Frost-seeded pastures need to be grazed regularly in the spring and summer to allow for light penetration into the plant canopy; however, it is also beneficial to move animals off pastures before young seedlings are consumed prior to adequate root development.

Species selection and seeding rates

In many cases, frost seedings are made to introduce or increase forage legume species into a grass stand. Research and farmer experience has shown good results with red clover and birdsfoot trefoil. Alfalfa, alsike clover, and white or ladino clover have also been frost-seeded with varying degrees of success. Do not frost-seed alfalfa in situations where alfalfa plants already exist in the stand. Autotoxicity will prevent new seedlings from becoming established. Red clover is often frost-seeded every two to three years to sustain legume production.

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Tow-Ability: Stopping Distance Snippets for towing safely



I began towing trailers as soon as I could reach the pedals. I would pull hay wagons back to the barn or pull the baler and wagons with dad loading. I learned that stopping distance changes drastically when you have extra length and weight behind you.

When calculating stopping distance, you need to consider the ability of the vehicle, the weight of the load and the road conditions. When you have a heavy load your stopping distance increases, even more so when road conditions are not ideal.

A typical car needs about 316 feet to stop, a tractor trailer will need at least twice that.

Other things to consider is what kind of load you are hauling, liquid makes stopping distance change, the truck is normally surged in the direction that the liquid is surging, a full liquid load is better than a half full load because it reduces surge. Hauling livestock is another factor that needs to be considered, you shouldn't smash the breaks with a load of cattle, you will end up with injured animals.

This topic can go into great detail, but for the sake of this article, let's allow plenty of stopping distance, if you are hauling a trailer, take the time to look up the recommended stopping distance, and be aware of semis hauling grain, they need that space.

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Seeding Time and Method

The fundamental principle behind frost seeding is that alternating freezing and thawing, along with spring rains, will help to incorporate the broadcast seed into the soil surface. Seeding on top of snow is acceptable only if the depth is not too great. The risk of seeding on top of snow is that a rapid meltdown may result in runoff of both water and seed. Where a new legume species is being introduced to the pasture, inoculate legume seeds prior to seeding. Bacterial inoculant is specific for each legume species. For example, alfalfa inoculant is not effective on red clover. There are many excellent tools for making broadcast frost seedings. These include seeders that mount onto ATVs and tractor 3-point hitch mounted seeders. Conventional roller and grain drill seeders can also be used but will require more trips across pasture. When using a spinner-type seeder, be sure to determine the effective seeding width for each seed type or mixture. This will vary between species.

Table 1. Suggested Seeding Rates for Frost Seeding into an Existing Grass or Legume Sod

Species	Rate (lb./acre)		Expected Established Plants*
	Seeded Alone	As Part of Seed Mixture	
Red Clover	4 - 8	3 - 4	2 - 5
Birdsfoot Trefoil	4 - 6	2 - 3	6 - 9 (in 2nd year)
Alfalfa	5 - 8	3 - 4	4 - 6
Ladino Clover	2 - 3	1 - 2	1 - 2
Alsike Clover	2 - 4	1 - 2	2 - 3
Perennial / Italian Ryegrass	8 - 15**	2 - 3	10 - 12
Orchardgrass	3 - 4	1 - 2	4
Tall Fescue	6 - 8	3 - 4	3 - 4
Smooth Bromegrass	Not recommended for frost seeding		
Reed Canarygrass	Not recommended for frost seeding		
Timothy	Not recommended for frost seeding		

* Expected plants based on "alone" seeding rates

** Use higher rate in "bare ground" situations and lower rate in existing sods

“There may be times when either higher or lower rates are justified depending on pasture and weather conditions.”

Frost seeding can be an effective, low-cost method to introduce new forage species into an existing sod or maintain the current forage composition of pastures. So, to summarize, to be successful, good seed-to-soil contact needs to be accomplished by grazing or clipping pastures close to the soil surface in the fall prior to seeding. Best results are obtained in forage stands of non-sod forming species without a thatch barrier. After frost seeding, keep

competition to a minimum by frequent grazing or machine harvests. Frost seeding success is usually obtained with legume species like red clover or birdsfoot trefoil but some grasses such as perennial or Italian ryegrass and orchardgrass can be successfully frost seeded with proper management. Base seeding rates on the current condition of pastures and the desired density of forage species being established. For the full article click [here](#)



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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October Events



Auglaize County Events:
Harvest, be safe out there

Nearby Happenings:
Harvest, be safe over there



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