

# Plan Spring Pasture Grass Fertilization Programs Now to Ensure Quality, Profit Potential

Producers should plan spring fertilization programs for pasture grasses now to ensure that essential nutrients are at optimum levels to help produce lush forage.

Oregon-grown orchardgrass is a highly palatable, shade tolerant, widely adapted perennial forage grass that is high in feed value and yield. It's also an excellent choice when establishing a high-producing pasture for meat, wool and milk-producing animals.

Well-fertilized soils will deliver grasses with more protein and essential minerals for livestock, says Al Ludwick, western director of the Potash and Phosphate Institute. Orchardgrass requires timely fertilizer applications of nitrogen, phosphate and potash for top production. Each ton of orchardgrass harvested removes about 50 pounds of nitrogen, 17 pounds of phosphorus and 62 pounds of potash.

He suggests producers pay special attention to their soils' potassium levels

and to use soil test results to best determine requirements and guide applications.

"Potassium remains a key element in grass establishment and year-to-year productivity," he says. "When in proper balance with nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur and magnesium, potassium ensures high-yielding, quality forage."

Potassium is also particularly important to clover-grass pastures. Adequate potassium levels are essential for optimal growth because grasses compete vigorously with clover for this nutrient.

As part of the fertilizer mix, producers can provide orchard and clover-grass pastures with several necessary crop nutrients in the form of potassium-magnesium sulfate (K-Mag®), according to Ray Hoyum, vice president of market development and communications at IMC Global.

"A K-Mag® program delivers potash, magnesium and sulfur in a water-soluble form that's readily avail-

able to any forage crop," he says. "These nutrients work immediately to help improve nitrogen and phosphorus efficiency and minimize the risk of grass tetany, a serious health condition in animals that is linked to a shortage of magnesium and calcium in forages."

Mined by IMC Global, K-Mag® is a three-in-one combination that consists of 21-22 percent sulfur, 20-22 percent potassium, and 10-11 percent magnesium.

"Since K-Mag® contains sulfur, potassium and magnesium, producers can reduce the amount of these nutrients from other fertilizer sources in an overall mix," Hoyum says. "Plus, a low salt index and low chloride content in K-Mag® are additional product features that can be beneficial to help cattle producers produce lush forage."

For more information on K-Mag® or soil fertility, access either Web site [www.kmag.com](http://www.kmag.com) or Web site [www.back-to-basics.net](http://www.back-to-basics.net)



## Enhance your grass yields and cattle performance with K-Mag.

Only K-MAG® offers the unique 3-in-1 fertilizer combination needed to boost your forage yields and profits. It supplies the potassium, magnesium and sulfur necessary for optimum yields, better grass quality and improved disease resistance.

Your cattle will benefit from:

- Healthier grazing
- Superior forage
- More protein and essential minerals for reduced chance of grass tetany



Learn more about K-Mag at [www.kmag.com](http://www.kmag.com) or ask your local fertilizer dealer.

