INVASIVE ANNUAL GRASSES LIKE CHEATGRASS, MEDUSAHEAD AND VENTENATA CAN IMPACT FORAGE PRODUCTION AND CREATE A FIRE PRONE MONOCULTURE OF WEEDS. If left untreated, they can stifle native plant diversity and reduce the health of livestock and your soil. Treating infestations early on can save you money in the long run. Knowing when to treat, and the costs and benefits involved, can help you make informed decisions.

For recommendations and assistance on how to treat invasive annual grasses on your property, contact your local NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE.

WHAT LEVEL OF INFESTATION DO YOU HAVE?

- LOW
  - FINANCIAL GAIN with treatment: $2.58 per acre/YR
  - FINANCIAL LOSS with treatment: $1.42 per acre/YR
  - BENEFITS: LESS WILDFIRE RISK, IMPROVED LIVESTOCK HEALTH

- MODERATE
  - FINANCIAL GAIN with treatment: $4.94 per acre/YR
  - FINANCIAL LOSS with treatment: $4.23 per acre/YR
  - BENEFITS: IMPROVED LANDSCAPE

- HIGH
  - FINANCIAL GAIN with treatment: $5.43 per acre/YR
  - FINANCIAL LOSS with treatment: $4.39 per acre/YR
  - BENEFITS: IMPROVED EROSION PROTECTION, IMPROVED WATER INFILTRATION

How Much Forage Are You Producing?

- 500lb/acre
  - FINANCIAL GAIN with treatment: $21 per acre/YR
  - FINANCIAL LOSS with treatment: $49 per acre/YR

- 1000lb/acre
  - FINANCIAL GAIN with treatment: $2.58 per acre/YR
  - FINANCIAL LOSS with treatment: $1.42 per acre/YR

- 1500lb/acre
  - FINANCIAL GAIN with treatment: $4.94 per acre/YR
  - FINANCIAL LOSS with treatment: $4.23 per acre/YR

Benefits of Treating Invasive Annual Grasses

- REDUCED EROSION
- BETTER FORAGE PRODUCTION
- HEALTHIER SOILS
- LESS WILDFIRE RISK
- CLEANER SURFACE WATER
- IMPROVED FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT
- BETTER WATER INFILTRATION
- IMPROVED LIVESTOCK HEALTH
- LONGTERM PROFITABILITY
- PLANT DIVERSITY

CHALLENGES

1. Treatment Can Be Expensive
2. Periodic Maintenance Costs Required For Treatment
3. Forbs And Other Plant Species Could Potentially Be Impacted
4. Treatment Methods are Under Development
5. Proper Application Time May be Limited
6. Terrain Location Make Proper Application Difficult

CONTACT

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Information from "Economics of Annual Grass Control in Eastern Oregon" report produced by NRCS, 2017. Treatment costs, forage response and actual numbers will vary with site conditions. Refer to the website for more details.

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