

# RENOVATING HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS IN PASTURES

High traffic areas (feeding areas, sacrifice lots, alleyways, watering areas) are often bare and muddy from early spring to early summer. These areas should be renovated to slow or reduce soil erosion, compaction, forage damage and weed problems. Proper management is critical to animal health and is the key differentiator between success and a muddy mess.

## RECOMMENDED OPTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

Annual (Italian) and perennial ryegrass are ideal options for renovating these areas – annual ryegrass as a short-term fix and perennial ryegrass as a residual or long-term solution. Each can increase overall quality of the pasture or hay field being renovated.

**Italian ryegrass** is best suited for spring plantings. They provide excellent forage potential with the added flexibility of not going to head in the seeding year.

Ryegrasses can be used for pasture, dry hay or silage, and establish quickly, so they work well when seeding windows are small and ground cover is critical. When harvested in the vegetative state, ryegrass is very high in digestibility. Often referred to as the “Queen of Forage Grasses”, its high nutritional values (namely protein) are why it’s often used in dairy systems too.

We also carry and recommend SucraSeed high sugar ryegrasses, with the attributes of ryegrass (quick germination, easy to establish) plus tolerance to summer heat and dry weather thanks to a higher level of carbohydrates and stored energy.

## ADDITIONAL TIPS TO ENSURE SUCCESS:

- **Fertilizer and lime should be applied per soil test results.** Split applications of N (40-50 lbs. actual/acre) can be especially beneficial.
- **Do not over-apply N when interseeding into existing grasses.** Added N can lead to increased competition from established components in the field already.
- **Keep livestock and heavy traffic off newly seeded areas** to allow for seedling establishment
- **Do not overgraze** and allow for a rest and regrowth period before grazing again

## TETRABANA XL ITALIAN ANNUAL RYEGRASS



- Tetraploid with high palatability
- Rapid establishment-ideal for green chop or silage, intensive grazing, renovating pastures & frost seeding

**FORAGE FIRST™ FACTOR:** Greater persistence can be expected with this high quality Northern forage. Winter survival and forage yields have been the focus of improvement for this species. Remember that during the establishment year, Italian types will remain in their vegetative stage but will act as an annual after winter dormancy for the second year and will need to be managed as such.

**Perennial ryegrass**, like most cool-season grasses, may have a “summer slump” July - September (depending on region/climate). But with proper fertilization and grazing rotations, it can last several years.

## ENDO-GRAZE XL TETRAPLOID PERENNIAL RYEGRASS



- High-yielding with rapid establishment
- Excellent high quality forage in spring & fall
- Extremely palatable

**FORAGE FIRST™ FACTOR:** Breeders are continually upgrading disease resistance, tolerance to drought and heat, and overall persistence with these newer, improved varieties.

Use **tetraploid ryegrass**, which tends to be more upright with wide leaves and higher quality. A key advantage of ryegrass is palatability.

