



Horse Pasture Guide



Grow More Pasture With Southern States

Through GrowMaster® Crop Services of Southern States, you'll receive the expert level of advice you need to produce and maintain healthy and environmentally safe pasture for your horses.

GrowMaster® is the name for our team of Certified Crop Advisers, Technical Service Providers and Professional Applicators. Through continuous education, these GrowMaster® professionals are uniquely qualified to help you manage your pastures, from seed to fertilizer to crop protectants.

All Southern States proprietary seed in this publication has earned the respected GrowMaster® seal of approval. These premium products have met the quality standards of cost effectiveness, agronomic and environmental soundness.

To prepare for fall planting, visit your local Southern States dealer today and let us show you how GrowMaster® Crop Services outperforms the competition.

GrowMaster® Crop Services include:

- A team of certified professionals
- Soil testing instructions, supplies and advice
- Proprietary products that meet GrowMaster®-quality standards available only at Southern States



For a healthy horse pasture, spring into action this fall.

A high quality pasture not only supplies your horse with good forage, it provides your horse with a natural and healthy environment for exercise, entertainment and rest. And it helps you control feed costs.

Fall is the best time to plant, fertilize and lime your pasture, because in cooler weather grass actually starts growing down, not up. The root systems start developing, growing stronger and storing fertilizer. That's why it's said, "the root is more important than the shoot" when it comes to surviving the cold of winter and the heat of summer.

Once a pasture is established with a strong root system, it ultimately means less re-seeding and rebuilding in the future. In other words, less work for you.

Healthier pastures begin with Southern States.

Southern States products and services can help you grow a healthier, more nutrient-rich pasture, because our people are thoroughly trained with the agronomic skills necessary for pasture management.

From soil testing to seed mixes. From optimum spray protectants to fencing. Southern States is the supplier of choice when it comes to equine pasture management.

• Soil testing

It's essential to know what nutrient levels are present in your soil. A soil test will reveal any gaps to be filled so that your forage will grow properly. Ideally, it's best to do this about a month ahead of planting to be ready to plant at least one month before the first frost.

Soil test instructions and supplies are available from your local Southern States dealer. The test results generally take 7 to 10 days.

• pH Factor

Proper pH is especially important, since it affects the way fertilizer is utilized by the plants. In the fall, plants

use specialized fertilizer blends to promote root structure. Since soils in the southeastern U.S. tend to have a pH less than 6.0, a high quality agricultural grade ground limestone should be used to raise pH levels to the proper 6.0 to 6.5 range.

Dolomitic limestone is effective because it's safe and supplies essential calcium and magnesium. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (or potash) are additional nutrients plants need in order to grow and survive. Your GrowMaster professional can help you design a program to properly balance soil pH for optimum fertilizer uptake.

• Pasture care and maintenance

Two to four acres of pasture are recommended for each horse. But smaller areas can be used for limited grazing. Fields can be divided into paddocks, and in some cases, paddocks can be subdivided with temporary fencing to better use the forage.

Once fertilizer and lime applications are completed, allow the pasture to become well established before turning out your horses. Ideally, horses should be turned into a pasture when the grass is 8 to 10 inches tall, and removed when they have grazed it down to about two inches. Pastures may need to be clipped during the grazing season, since horses are spot grazers.

• Controlled grazing

For the best use of your forage, it's suggested that you implement rotational grazing. That is, divide your pasture into six to eight paddocks. Let your horses graze in each paddock for four or five days, then rest it for 30 to 35 days.

This kind of controlled grazing will help pastures produce more high quality forage over a longer period of time.

Southern States carries a complete line of temporary and permanent fencing supplies to quickly and easily accomplish your grazing needs. Ask your local Southern States professional if you need a little help getting started or making upgrades to your farm with specialty horse-safe fencing products.

Horse Forage & Pasture

Seeding with cool-season grasses

You should choose forages adapted to your climate and soil. High performance varieties will return many times over and provide your pasture with improved yield, longevity and disease resistance.

In most areas, "cool-season grasses" such as orchardgrass, bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, timothy and low-endophyte and nontoxic endophyte tall fescue are good choices. These grasses are perennials and function best when seeded in late summer to early fall.

Forage Selection

Vigor and persistence are characteristics you want from your forage seed. We recommend these Southern States improved varieties for horse pastures.

Southern States Professional Horse Pasture Mixture

An ideal solution that eliminates having to make decisions on how much of each forage species to plant is to use Southern States Professional Horse Pasture Mixture. This exclusive forage mixture is specially formulated to meet the nutritional needs of horses and to withstand intense grazing.

- Specially formulated for horses
- Low Endophyte
- High digestibility
- Withstands heavy traffic

Seed mixture includes:

- 20% Benchmark Plus orchardgrass
- 45% Kentucky Bluegrass
- 20% Grand Daddy perennial ryegrass
- 10% Derby timothy
- 5% Will Ladino clover

Varieties may be updated as needed.

BENCHMARK PLUS

ORCHARDGRASS

Select for improved persistence in hay and pasture.

- Early maturity
- Excellent for pure grass hay and pasture
- Good vigor and persistence
- Excellent disease resistance similar to Benchmark

HAYMASTER

ORCHARDGRASS

- New late-maturing variety
- Excellent for grass-legume hay
- Good vigor and persistence
- High quality and palatability

GRAND DADDY

TETRAPLOID PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

The highest quality cool-season forage grass available.

- Resistant to leaf spots, leaf blights, mildews and brown patch
- Endophyte-free
- Combines well with alfalfa or clover
- Works for overseeding

DERBY

TIMOTHY

New early maturing variety.

- Excellent winter hardiness
- Excellent yield potential
- Selected for improved regrowth after cutting
- Excellent companion to legumes in mixtures

MAXQ®

TALL FESCUE

Excellent for cool-season horse pastures.

- Contains non-toxic endophyte
- Good vigor and persistence
- High quality and palatability
- Non-toxic to pregnant mares

MaxQ® is a registered trademark of Pennington Seed.

LAREDO BRAND

BERMUDAGRASS

Specially blended for high quality hay, grazing and silage.

- Highly productive for, green chop or pasture
- Excellent palatability
- Spreads rapidly
- Extremely heat tolerant
- Cold tolerant
- Drought and alkali tolerant once established

Alfalfa and White Clover

Mixing in 5% to 10% legumes, such as alfalfa and white clover, will enhance your pasture's protein value and will reduce the nitrogen fertilizer requirement of the grasses. Legume levels should be limited to no more than 25% to 30% of your pasture. Excessive legume content could cause colic problems in horses.



ALL-VANTAGE™ seed coating gives your alfalfa every possible advantage. This superior coating combines a rhizobium inoculant, fungicide treatment, micronutrient package and seed coloring to give your planting an added boost during germination.

ALL-VANTAGE™ is a trademark of Allied Seed LLC.

Southern States Professional Horse Paddock Mixture

Establish a healthy, safe and attractive pasture by using a quality mixture like Southern States Horse Paddock Mixture. A forage mixture specially formulated with added low-endophyte fescues to meet the nutritional needs of horses while withstanding intense grazing.

Seed mixture includes:

- 30% Benchmark Plus orchardgrass
- 20% Kentucky bluegrass
- 20% Grand Daddy perennial ryegrass
- 15% Select tall fescue
- 5% Will Ladino clover
- 10% Derby timothy

Varieties may be updated as needed.

Hybrid Pearl Millet

If extra forage is needed for summer grazing, hybrid pearl millets will provide a high quality forage with good drought tolerance. It takes about 45 to 55 days from time of seeding until it is ready to be grazed. Keep in mind that pearl millet is an annual which only grows one season and will have to be replanted the following year.

EVERMORE

ALFALFA

Features rapid regrowth after cutting and excellent winter hardiness.

- Very high yield potential
- Excellent drought tolerance
- First choice for use under intensive management systems
- Good seeding vigor
- Treated with ALL-VANTAGE™ seed coating

ENFORCER

ALFALFA

New advanced generation potato leafhopper resistance

- Highly resistant to potato leafhopper (80%)
- Improved forage yield and regrowth after cutting
- Excellent winter-hardiness and forage quality
- Treated with ALL-VANTAGE™ seed coating

WILL LADINO

WHITE CLOVER

Quick fall recovery for more grazing days.

- Improved variety with higher yields
- Widely adapted
- Excellent for diluting effects of endophyte fungus in tall fescues, especially in summer
- Excellent winter hardiness
- Selected for persistence

SS 635

DWARF PEARL MILLET

Excellent choice for hay.

- Produces lots of wide leaves
- Superior leaf-to-stem ratio
- Tolerates acid soils very well
- Emergency summer forage

Do-it-yourself weed-free pastures

Make no mistake, weeds are the enemy of any good pasture. Weeds take valuable nutrients and water from the very plants we encourage to grow. Some are even toxic and present a real threat to your horses. Appearance, horse safety and economics are three good reasons to get those pasture weeds under control.

Many horseowners attempt to combat weeds by mowing or through the use of a garden hoe. But both these methods are ineffective in the long term. The only real way to stop the spread of weeds is by using spray herbicides.

Horse-friendly herbicides

Southern States carries several horse-friendly herbicides sold under the commercial names Remedy®, Redeem®, Pasturegard® and Cimarron®. All of these may be broadcast or sprayed over pastures. To control weeds in fence rows or for spot treatments, you may use Remedy, Redeem or Pasturegard. The only difference is that concentrations are stronger for fence rows or spot applications. There are no grazing restrictions for these horse-safe weed killers. No special license or permit is required for application.

HERBICIDE QUICK FACTS

- An acre is 43,560 square feet (about 200 feet on a side)
- Knowing your acreage will help you determine how much concentrate to buy
- Excess herbicides can be safely stored for 2 or 3 years
- Stored herbicides should be kept dry and out of ultraviolet light
- Store in a location to prevent freezing
- Chemicals should be rain-fast 24 hours after application
- Attack weeds as early as possible in the spring and continue as needed throughout growing season
- Stop applications if drought conditions emerge
- Ask your Southern States dealer how to optimize your herbicide application with the use of surfactants

Sprayer Application Options

Your local Southern States dealer and GrowMaster professional can help you identify the most convenient and effective sprayer equipment for your pasture. Here are three of the most common options.

1 For small spot applications, a garden sprayer should be adequate. Sprayers come in several models that hold approximately 1 to 3 gallons of pesticide mix.

2 A second option is the backpack-mounted sprayer. Using one of these on your fence row and around gates will vastly reduce the effort needed to keep fences clear of weeds. The tank comfortably holds about 4 gallons of spray mix – about 35 pounds when completely full.

3 Broadcast applications or sprayers require some type of motorized equipment. If you happen to have a Gator or ATV, there are tanks, booms and sprayers available that can be temporarily mounted to spray herbicides. These tanks should be in the 25 to 30-gallon range. They normally are powered by an electric motor that is supplied electricity from the vehicle.

The advantage of equipment-mounted tank sprayers is their ability to spread a constant width pattern and, with practice, you can become a proficient DIY spray boom operator.

Larger tanks can be mounted in a pickup truck, on a platform made for the 3-point hitch on a tractor or even may be mounted on a trailer. Driving power may come from a power take-off connection or a separate gasoline engine. Spray mixes in these larger tanks will weigh approximately 8 pounds for every gallon.

Southern States offers a full range of quality sprayers from a 1 gallon disposable model to commercial grade systems. All designed to meet your specific needs. The professionals at Southern States can help determine the right sprayer and weed control program for your pasture.

Remedy®, Redeem® and Pasturegard® are registered trademarks of Dow Agrosciences. Cimarron® is a registered trademark of Dupont. Remedy, Redeem and Pasturegard are not registered for use in Maryland and Delaware.

Ask the professionals at Southern States how we can help you increase your horse's comfort and save you time. A combination of quality stall mats and premium bedding products help make stall management easier and quicker. You'll spend less time cleaning and more time enjoying your horse.

Legends® and Triple Crown®, superior feed for the life of your horse.



NOW WITH SEL-PLEX®

No matter how well we care for our horses, their beauty and performance depend on exceptional health. And that health begins with a nutritionally advanced feed.

That's why Southern States brings you Legends® and Triple Crown® horse feeds – premium feeds to meet or exceed your horse's nutritional requirements. Available in a variety of protein levels and pelleted or textured forms, it's easy to find the right formula best suited for the optimum performance and maintenance of your horse.

Our partnership with Cooperative Research Farms, the world's largest farmer-owned research facilities, enables us to research the latest nutritional, mineral and vitamin theories, follow through on university research and conduct feed trials. It has also helped us develop advanced quality controls.

The result is an exceptional feed, both in formulation and manufacture, which offers nutritional guarantees not found in most other feeds. Important benefits, to be sure. Especially when it comes to the love you have for your horse.

Sel-Plex®, the only FDA-reviewed organic selenium.

For a safer, more efficient source of selenium, Legends® and Triple Crown® premium horse feeds now contain Sel-Plex®, the only organic selenium that's FDA-reviewed.

Sel-Plex improves a horse's immune function because its organic form is metabolized and retained at a higher level and more safely by the body. Organic compounds are nature's way of transforming potentially toxic elements into safe forms. Which is why all Legends feeds contain Sel-Plex for optimum health during all stages of your horse's life.

Sel-Plex® is a registered trademark of Alltech.

Southern States can provide horse owners with the total package:

- Quality feeds
- Pasture management
- Quality sprayers
- Stall and pasture feeders
- Corrals and handling equipment

Valuable information and custom recommendations are always free from your local Southern States professional.

Cost-effective, agronomically sound and environmentally responsible growing solutions.

That's the mission and purpose of Southern States' industry-leading GrowMaster® certified pasture products and services.

Originally founded in 1923 by Virginia farmers to obtain high quality seed, Southern States is now one of the country's largest farmer-owned cooperatives, operating in 16 states. We're dedicated to developing and providing innovative and effective pasture management practices, seed, fertilizer and crop protectants to make horse pastures the safest and best for your horses.

At Southern States, when we say "Brands You Trust. People Who Know." it's more than just a slogan. It's our promise to you.



 **SOUTHERN STATES**
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