

Chaparral™

FESCUE SEED HEAD SUPPRESSION Q&A

SPECIALTY HERBICIDE

How does suppression of tall fescue seed heads help mitigate fescue toxicosis?

- Seed heads, which may be selectively grazed by animals, contain at least 3X greater concentration of alkaloids than the leaf blades. Removing the seed heads decreases the overall ergot alkaloid loads in cattle, improving their performance.
- Maintaining the vegetative state of tall fescue also maintains higher forage nutritive values and improves body condition and cattle resiliency to toxicosis.

What is the effect on Cattle?

- Average daily gains in stocker cattle have been shown to increase 0.33 - 0.62 lbs/day when grazing fescue pastures that have been treated with Chaparral™.
- Cow herds have been shown to have higher pregnancy rates (9-18% unit increase) and wean heavier calves (17-55 lbs BW/head) when grazing fescue pastures treated with Chaparral for fescue seed head suppression.
- Cattle are less heat stressed and tend to actively graze during hotter times of the day compared to cattle on unsuppressed pastures.
- Cattle consistently shed winter hair coats compared to cattle grazing unsuppressed fescue, partially relieving heat stress.

What is the effect on the forage when using Chaparral for fescue seed head suppression?

- Fescue remains in a vegetative growth stage for the remainder of the season.
- Pastures have higher levels of crude protein, water soluble carbohydrates, and dry matter digestibility.
- Some reduction in yield during the spring can be experienced due to the lack of seed heads and the lag

in growth during the yellowing period or lag phase.

- Pastures tend to resume normal growth by mid to late-spring.
- Chaparral has little effect on other grasses so when tall fescue seed heads are suppressed other grasses become more competitive in the pasture and begin to increase in proportion.

How and when to spray?

- 2.0 oz/acre of Chaparral + 0.25% non-ionic surfactant (no additions or substitutions).
- Apply as early as 3 weeks prior to seed head emergence and as late as the early boot stage, with later applications preferred over earlier applications.

Why is spraying late better than early?

- Spraying during the boot stage allows most of the spring vegetative growth to accumulate before going into the lag phase (yellowing period).
- Greater number of emerged weed species for better spring weed control.
- Later applications to fescue appear to be less damaging and result in a shorter lag phase.

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