

# Guide to Successfully Replacing Toxic Fescue Pastures with Jesup MaxQ®, Texoma MaxQ II® and Lacefield MaxQ II<sup>4</sup> Tall Fescue - Spring Planting

The improved animal performance and economic benefits of replacing toxic tall fescue pastures with new non-toxic, novel endophyte-infected tall fescue varieties such as Pennington's Jesup MaxQ<sup>4</sup>, Texoma MaxQ II<sup>4</sup>, and Lacefield MaxQ II<sup>4</sup> are well documented. Replacing toxic fescue with these superior forages must be done properly to achieve maximum forage productivity and animal performance. This guide outlines a step-by-step process for a Spring planting conversion of toxic fescue pastures to a novel endophyte fescue variety along with first year management tips for establishment success.

## In Spring & Summer One Year Prior to Spring Planting

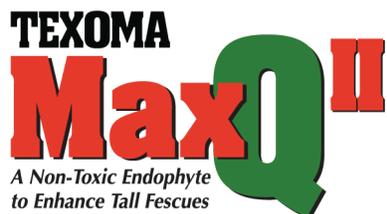
- Prevent toxic fescue plants from blooming by close grazing, clipping or chemical seed head suppression.
- Apply fertilizer and lime as recommended by a soil test.
- Use pasture as normal for grazing and/or hay.
- Do not feed toxic fescue hay in fields to be planted.

## In Late Summer Prior to Spring Planting

- Closely graze or harvest excess forage for hay.
- Remove livestock and apply 2.0 lbs/A active ingredient (a.i.) glyphosate (1.5 qts./acre 5.5 lb a.i./gal glyphosate, i.e. \*Roundup WeatherMAX® or 2.0 qts/A 4 lb a.i./gal glyphosate) to kill existing weeds and grasses 2-3 weeks prior to no-till planting a winter annual or tilling the field.
- Plant a winter annual small grain for cover and/or grazing.
- Do not feed toxic fescue hay in fields to be planted.

## In Spring Prior to Planting MaxQ®

- To kill annual weeds and grasses and any perennial grass escapes, apply 2 lbs/A active ingredient glyphosate 10-14 days prior to no-till seeding MaxQ® tall fescue. (If field is to be prepared by plowing, apply glyphosate 2-3 weeks prior to tilling.)
- Apply fertilizer as recommended for fescue establishment.
- No-till drill MaxQ® seed into stubble or seed into tilled seedbed.
- Plant seed 1/4" – 1/2" deep. Deeper planted seed may result in poor emergence.
- Do not plant a companion/nurse crop with MaxQ®.
- Recommended seeding rate is 15-20 lbs/acre drilled or 20-25 lbs/acre broadcast.
- Planting dates: For Midwestern, Northeastern and transitional states including Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland – mid-March thru mid-April (Dates are general in nature. Refer to local forage experts for specific planting dates for your area.) Spring planting is not recommended for Southern areas of tall fescue adaptation.



**Special Note:** Refer to the label of the herbicide used to kill existing toxic fescue, weeds and other grasses for plant-back times for fescue. Observe all safety precautions and restrictions as described on the pesticide label.

# First Year Management

## During Summer after Seeding

- ▶ Do not graze seedling pasture.
- ▶ Scout pasture for broadleaf weeds and if needed, apply an appropriate herbicide after fescue seedlings are fully tillered (4 leaves or more). Refer to pesticide product label for usage rate on seedling forages.
- ▶ If favorable growing conditions occur after planting, pastures may be lightly grazed when forage growth reaches 8 or more inches in height and plants are firmly anchored. Do not graze below a height of 4”.
- ▶ Do not graze when soil is excessively wet and soft.

## First Year Fall & Winter Management

- ▶ Apply fertilizer as recommended by a soil test.
- ▶ Do not graze until forage is 8 inches tall or taller and plants are firmly anchored.
- ▶ Flash graze for short periods (2-5 days). Do not graze lower than a 3” - 4” stubble height.
- ▶ Do not feed toxic hay on newly seeded pastures.
- ▶ To prevent hoof pugging damage, do not graze when soil is excessively wet and soft.
- ▶ Stockpiling of fescue forage is not recommended in the year of establishment due to potential suppression of tillering in young plants.

## Spring Management Year-old Stand

- ▶ Apply nitrogen fertilizer just prior to the onset of rapid spring forage growth.
- ▶ Rotate graze for short periods (2-5 days) or harvest for hay at the early boot stage.
- ▶ Do not graze or clip lower than 3 - 4”.

## Summer Management Year-old Stand

- ▶ Rest fescue pasture during the summer months. If weather conditions are favorable for growth, forage may be used for light rotational grazing for short periods or harvested for hay. Leave 3 - 4” of forage growth after grazing or haying.

## General Grazing Management

- ▶ Apply fertilizer annually as recommended by a soil test. Apply nitrogen in early fall and in late winter.
- ▶ Keep forage fresh and leafy by grazing or periodic clipping. Utilize a rotational grazing system. Rotate cattle between pastures more often during periods of heat and drought stress.
- ▶ On older stands (established 2 years or more), forage may be stockpiled during periods of rapid growth in early fall and used for winter grazing.
- ▶ Do not feed toxic fescue hay in MaxQ® pastures.



**Early Spring - MaxQ®  
no-tilled in killed sod**



**Early Summer -  
seedling MaxQ® in killed sod**



**Early Fall - MaxQ®  
ready for limited grazing**

\*Roundup Weathermax® is a registered product of Monsanto Technology LLC.



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