



Repairing Winter-Damaged Pastures by Dennis Brown

My Pasture is winter injured. Now what?

This fall and winter has been very hard on pastures due to the longer than average grazing along with the wet weather and no frozen ground.

- In a square foot area when grasses are 3 to 6 inches tall, you should not see more than 20% soil. Check this in multiple locations within the same field.
- If the injured stand is to be grazed in spring, graze conservatively to let the stand recover before turning livestock onto pastures.
- Thin grass-based pastures can be interseeded at any time in the stand's life with other grasses and clovers.
- Fertilization and weed control of the existing injured stand may be sufficient in improving the pasture to meet grower needs.
- A more productive grass and/or legume may be added to a thinned pasture or injured area. For more severely damaged pastures, consider no-till renovation on erodible land or complete renovation of the stand where erosion potential is minimal.