

Orchardgrass Response To Grazing

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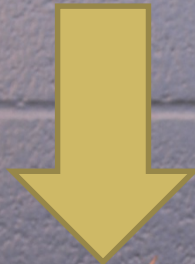
Orchardgrass

Dactylis glomerata, also known as cocksfoot, is a cool season perennial bunch grass with a fibrous root system. It was first introduced in mid 1700's to the USA from Europe.

Orchardgrass plants maintained under ideal conditions in the greenhouse .



This plant was
clipped to 1 inch
weekly to simulate
continuous grazing



This plant was clipped
to 3.5 inches every 28
days to simulate
rotational grazing



DAY 7



DAY 14

Orchardgrass can tolerate close grazing for short periods of time.



DAY 21

After three weeks of close grazing orchardgrass plants start to become severely stressed.



DAY 28

The second month of continuous grazing. Plants have not been able to maintain sufficient leaf area for photosynthesis and rebuilding carbohydrate reserves at the base of the tillers.



DAY 35



DAY 42



DAY 49



DAY 56



This time lapse shows the dramatic impacts of continuous grazing and the benefits of rotational grazing.

Note: The rotational grazed plant grows back slower after two months due to reduced light conditions indoors where the time lapse was filmed.

