

# Horses for Clean Water

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## Monthly Pasture Management Schedule for Western Washington Horse Farms

- JANUARY:** Rest pastures, no grazing. Service tractor, mower & compost spreader. Remove manure from confinement area(s) at least every 3 Days.
- FEBRUARY:** Rest pastures, no grazing. Walk pasture fence lines to check for winter storm damage & mend fencing as needed. Continue manure removal in confinement areas. Complete a soil sample test to determine appropriate soil amendments.
- MARCH:** Rest pastures, no grazing. Inspect supply of temporary fencing & buy needed materials. Continue manure removal. Plant native trees and shrubs for filters, hedgerows, summer shade and stormwater management.
- APRIL:** Begin rotational grazing of pastures, in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour increments - work up to several hours over a period of weeks. Clip weeds and tall grasses, harrow manure. Pull emerging weeds.
- (Mid-April): **Fertilize:** Apply 35% of annual compost or commercial fertilizer requirement.
- MAY:** Implement rotational grazing system - never graze below 3" and don't allow grass plants to go to seed. **Fertilize:** Spread thinly ( $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$ " layer) 40% of annual compost or 40% of commercial fertilizer. Continue to clip weeds and tall grasses. Harrow manure in grazed pastures after rotating livestock.
- JUNE:** Rotate livestock on pastures, graze (to 3") - mow - harrow. Wait until pastures regrow to 6 or 8" before re-grazing. Mow and clip

weeds and tall grasses. Harrow to spread manure after rotating livestock.

- JULY:** **Rotate livestock.** Inspect for weeds - contact CD office for help with ID & control methods. Continue harrowing to distribute manure and clipping tall grasses. Repair or build winter confinement areas and covered manure storage areas.
- AUGUST:** **Conduct soil test** & send in for analysis (if not done in spring). Continue to **rotationally graze** - mow - harrow. Finish winter confinement areas and covered manure storage bins.
- SEPTEMBER:** **Fertilize:** Spread 25 % of annual compost  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick or commercial fertilizer. Finalize preparations for winter confinement areas - order any needed additional footing. **Continue to rotate** livestock and mow, harrow. Check gutters, downspouts, and outlets.
- OCTOBER:** **Spread lime** in pastures according to soil test results. **Remove livestock** from pasture when rains start. Begin manure collection at least every three days in confinement areas.
- NOVEMBER:** **Remove livestock** from pasture if they aren't already in confinement. Collect manure and compost it for next spring
- DECEMBER:** **Rest pastures, no grazing;** Store pasture equipment for winter. Collect manure and compost it for next spring.