

Practical Grazing System Application



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Practical Grazing System Application: **Extending the Grazing Season**



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Goals

Challenges

Options

Goals

Goals

300 days
of grazing

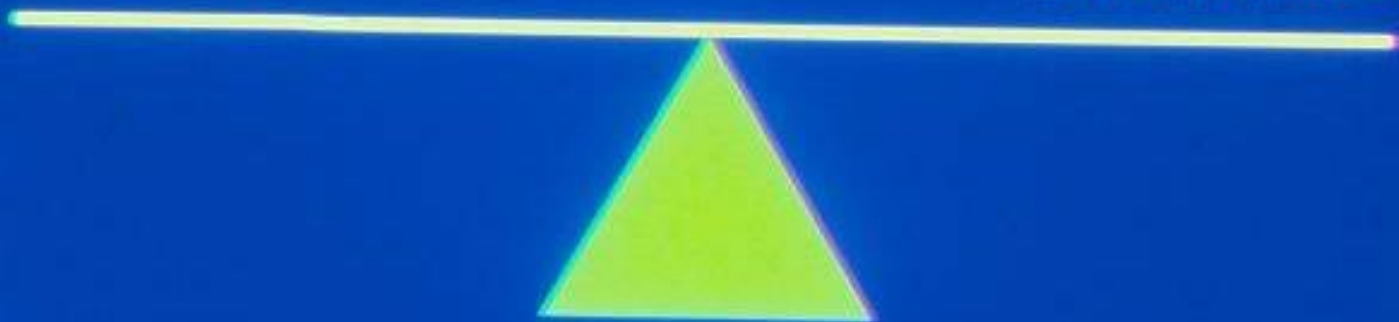
Challenges

livestock



SUPPLY

DEMAND



Challenges

Available
forage gaps

Options

Two options:



**Manage existing
perennials**

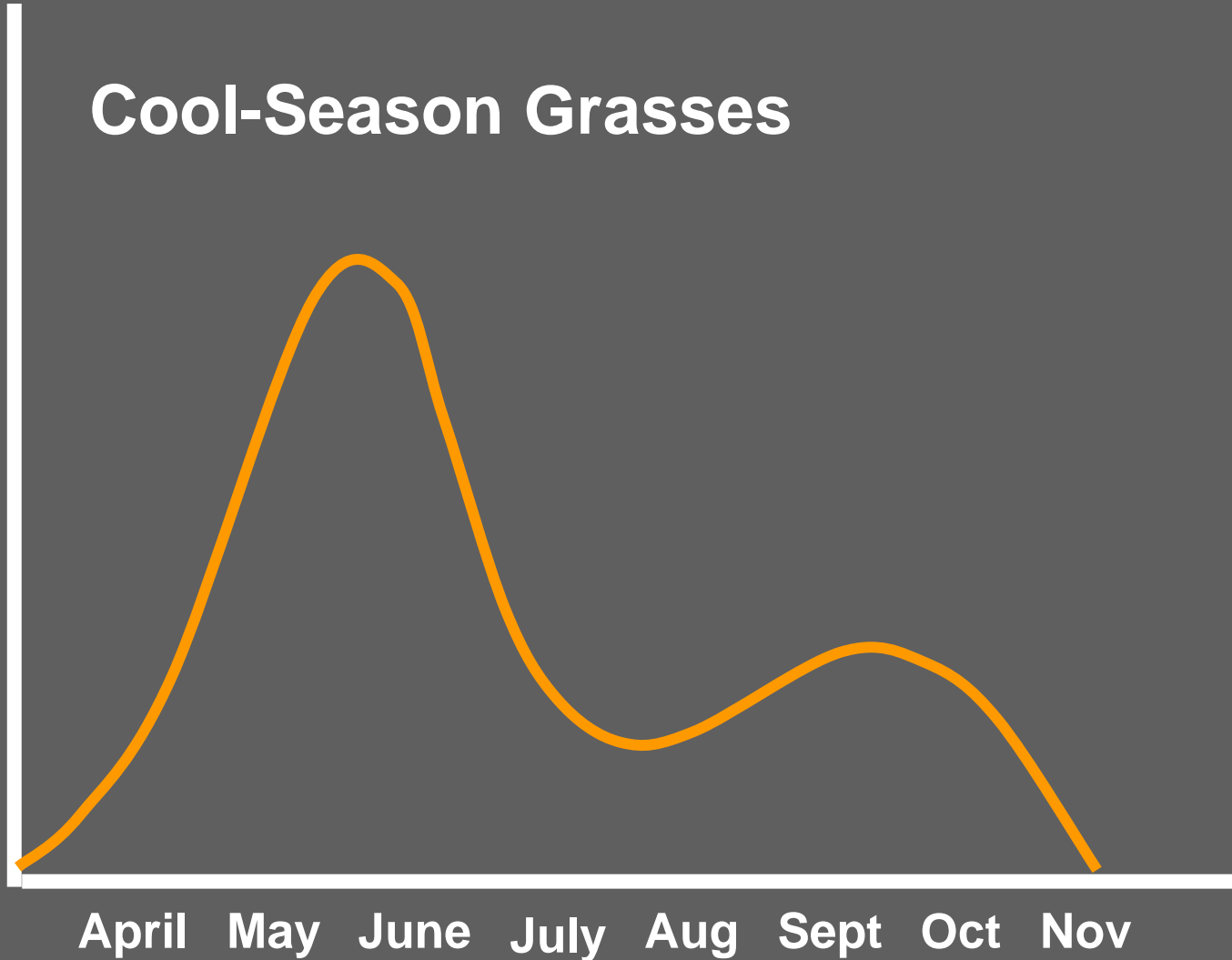


Add annuals

Strategy

- **Start with what you have**

Forage Supply

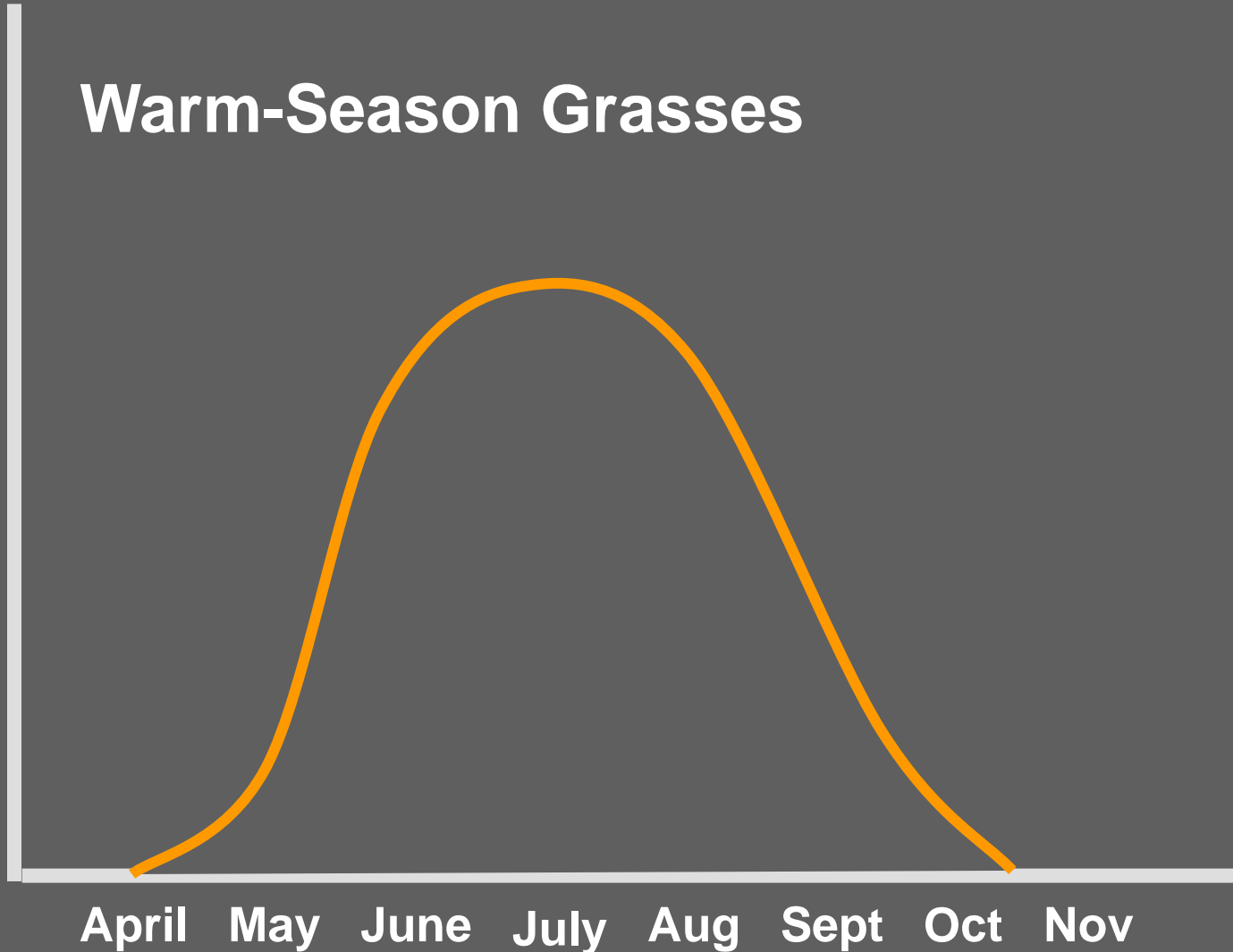


LIMITATIONS: COOL-SEASON GRASSES

- ✓ **low summer production**
- ✓ **low summer forage quality**
- ✓ **excessive (?) spring growth**
- ✓ **unreliable fall production**

Forage Supply

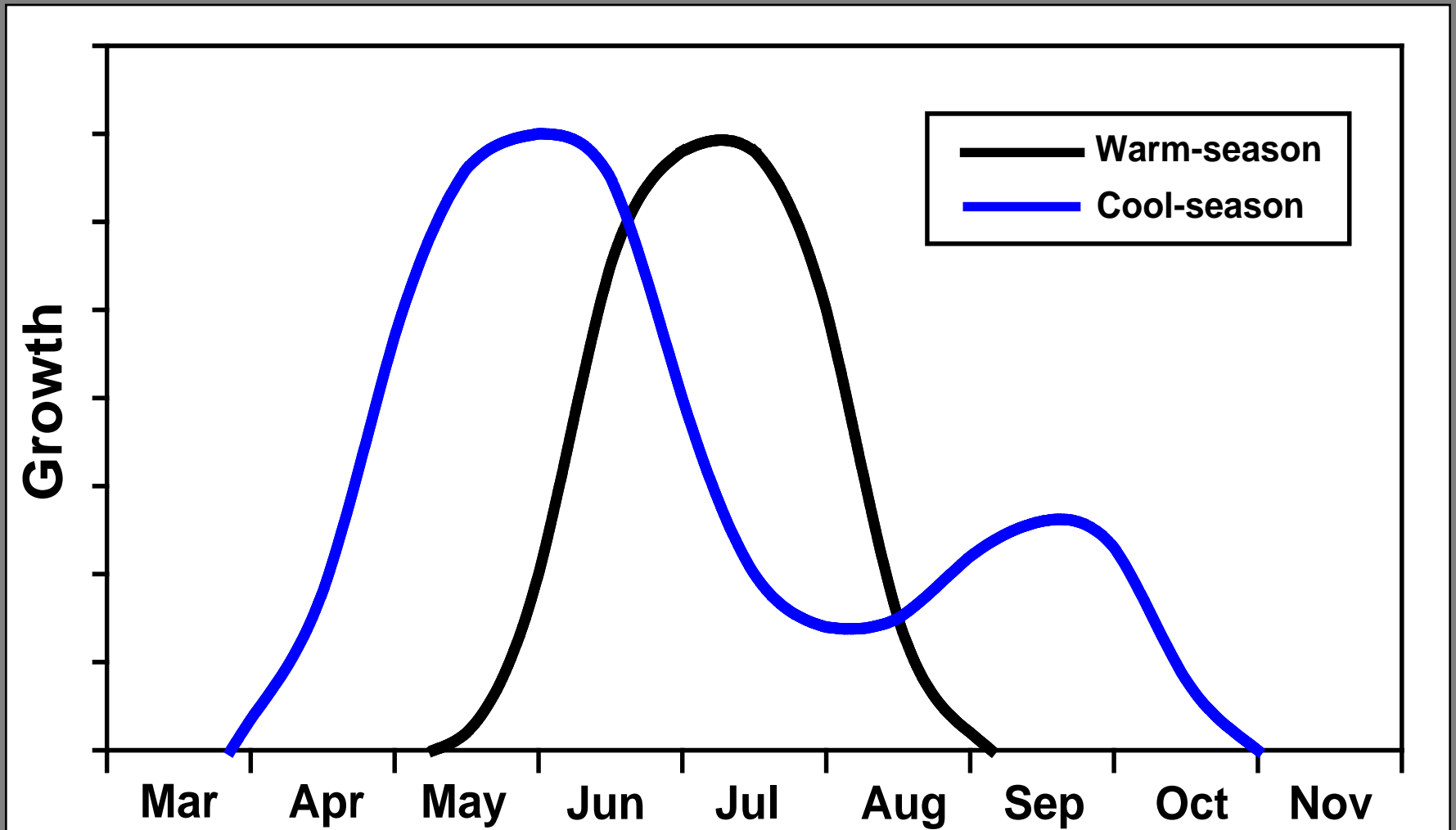
Warm-Season Grasses



LIMITATIONS: WARM-SEASON GRASSES

- ✓ **short growing season**
- ✓ **grazing management is
challenging**
- ✓ **vigor requirements**

Growth periods of cool- and warm-season plants



Daily gain

24% ↑

**Carrying
capacity**

38% ↑

What else?

Fertilizer

- High and fast response to N
- N costs keep increasing
- Challenge to stimulate more growth when needed



Weed & Brush control

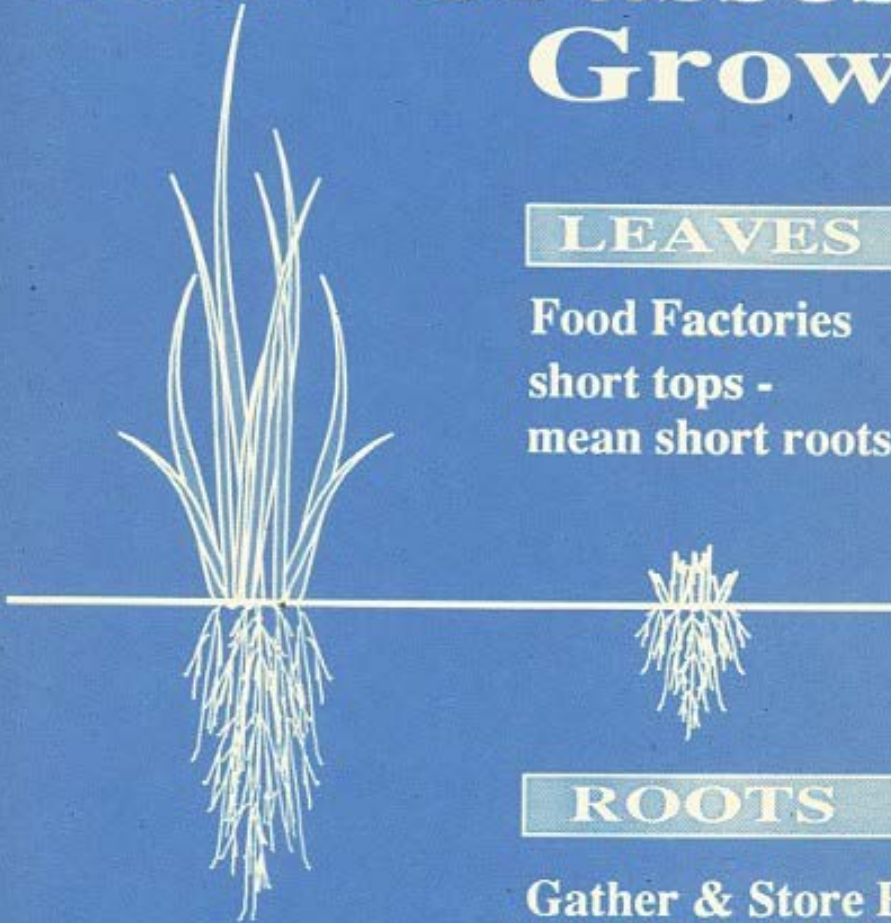
- **Chemical costs and risks**
- **Multiple species**
- **Weed or feed?**



**Without good grazing
management, all
production
improvements will be
wasted.**

**G
R
A
Z
I
N
G**

How Grasses Grow



LEAVES

Food Factories
short tops -
mean short roots

ROOTS

Gather & Store Food
short roots -
mean short tops

Overgrazing Destroys both leaves and roots

**M
A
N
A
G
E
M
E
N
T**


Abundant leaves

**rapid growth
strengthen roots
increase forage**



Few leaves

**slow growth
weaken roots
less forage**

A photograph of a herd of cows grazing in a lush green field. The cows are of various colors, including black, brown, and white. They are scattered across the field, some standing and some lying down. In the background, there are trees and a building. The sky is overcast.

**What can we do to
extend grazing of
existing perennials?**

Fertilizer

- High and fast response to N
- N costs keep increasing
- Challenge to stimulate more growth when needed



Fertilizer

- High and fast response to N
- N costs keep increasing
- Challenge to stimulate more growth when needed



Conserve excess!









Windrow Grazing:

- Windrows left in field for direct grazing; often during fall and/or winter but summer also possible



Mob grazing



Stockpile



ANNUAL FORAGES

**A mouthful of forage
when the supply is low
may be worth more
than two mouthfuls
when forage is plentiful**

Annual Forages for Pasture

Warm Season Annuals

Late-spring or early summer seeded:

Millet (grazing & hay types)

Sudangrass

S X S hybrids

Cane

Teff



48 days (13-Sep.) after 27-July seeding



Preferred Uses of Summer Annuals

Pasture: sudan, pearl millet

Hay: sorghum-sudan, teff,
pearl millet, foxtail millet

Silage: forage sorghum









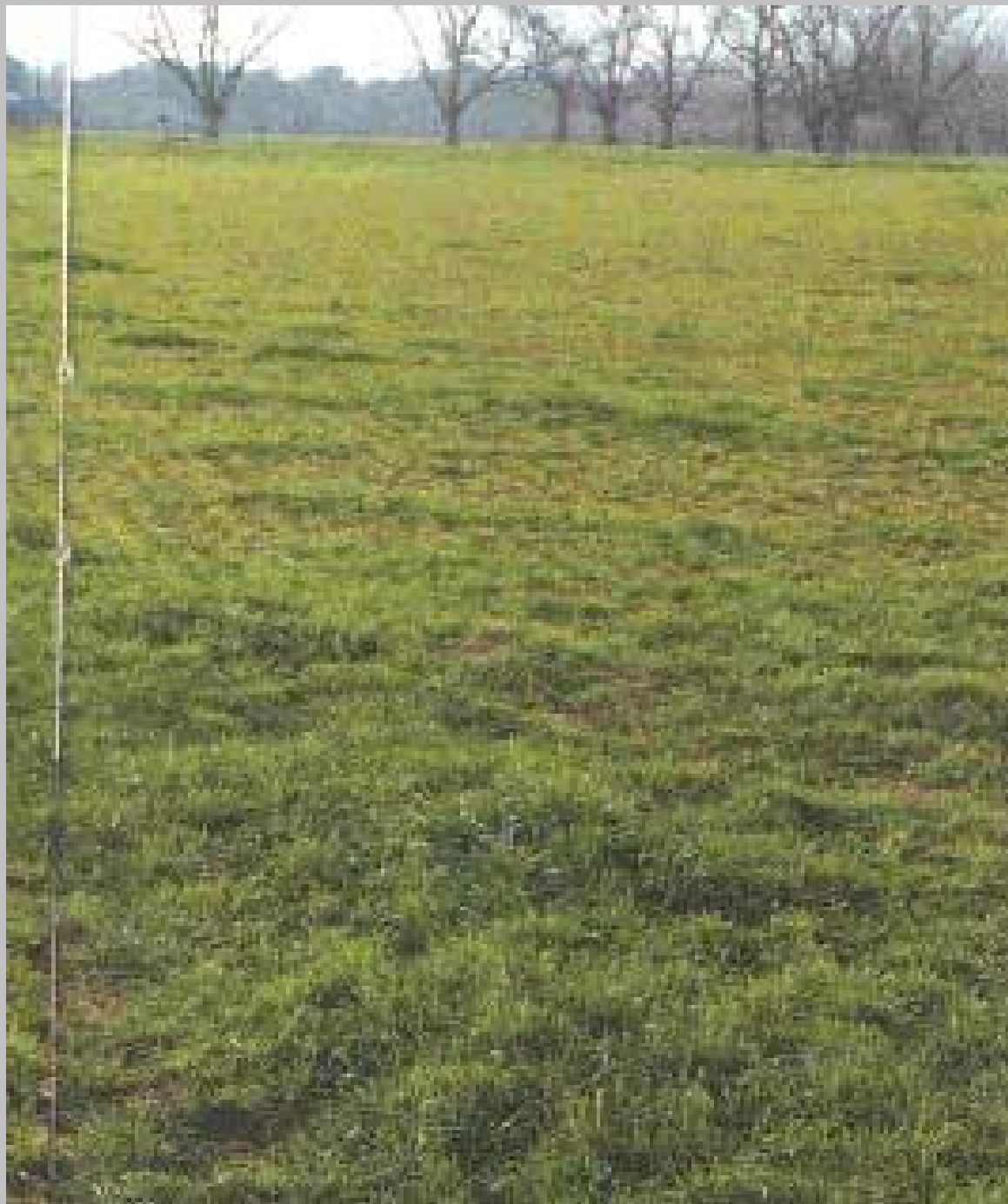
Grazing Maize

Annual Forages for Pasture

Summer or late-summer seeded (for fall forage):

**Annual ryegrass
and clovers**

**Oats, barley, rye,
triticale, and/or wheat**



Annual Forages for Pasture

Summer or late-summer seeded (for fall forage):

**Turnips &
other brassicas**



Photo taken Oct. 19, 2006

**'Pulsar'
rapeseed**

**'Purple Top'
turnips**

**'Dwarf Essex'
rapeseed**

Oats + Turnips

(Planted Aug. 20, 2004)



Nov. 1, 2004

**Freeze-down...late November to
mid-December**



Nov. 1, 2004

Use imagination

Use imagination

Be flexible

Use imagination

Be flexible

Plan ahead

Use imagination

Be flexible

Plan ahead

Opportunistic

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