

WEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN SUSTAINABLE PASTURE SYSTEMS. Richard Leep, Forage Agronomist, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University, Hickory Corners, MI 49060.

Almost 90 percent of weed control in pasture systems can be accomplished by good pasture management. Management practices which can be used to control weeds in pastures include grazing, clipping, preventing perennial weeds from reaching the reproductive stage of growth, proper soil fertility, and maintaining thick stands of grasses and legumes. Many weed species are opportunistic and when combined with poor practices such as over grazing, these species can compete with perennial and annual forage species in a pasture. The 10 percent of weeds that may need to be controlled in pastures can be troublesome and may need to be treated with an appropriate herbicide. Most often, these weed patches can be controlled with spot treatments. Knowing the biology of the target weed species will help in control measures.