

# U-Pick Case Study #2

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## At a glance

Located along the Nehako River near Fort Fraser is the Lily Lake Community Pasture where Alex Kulchar was overseeing a pasture rejuvenation project.

## U-Pick Criteria

- Purpose of forage:  
**PASTURE**
- Desired plant type:  
**TAME SPECIES**
- Desired stand longevity:  
**AT LEAST 10 YEARS**
- Avg. time for regrowth:  
**60-80 DAYS REST**
- Acidity level  
**pH ~6**

## FIELD DESCRIPTION



This 70 ac pasture paddock is dominated by silty clay soils and has a soil pH of 6.0. Kentucky bluegrass and dandelion were a concern prior to the rejuvenation project. In preparation for re-seeding to perennial cover, the parcel was plowed, harrowed, and seeded to a mix of fall rye, sweet clover, peas and brassicas. Due to dry conditions, only the fall rye established well out of the mix.

The fall rye was grazed in 2022 and is scheduled to be seeded back into perennial pasture in spring of 2023. An additional tillage passage will be used as pre-seed weed control measure. Total seeding rate will be 13lbs per acre and 5lbs per acre for legumes including alfalfa and clover.

## FORAGE U-PICK SUGGESTIONS



Legumes

**alfalfa**  
**cicer milkvetch**

Grasses

**14 grasses listed including brome grasses, timothy, tall wheatgrass, reed canary grass, crested wheatgrass, and creeping red fescue**

### Pro tip

Suitable forages listed by the U-Pick tool still need to be vetted for moisture conditions on site. In this example both reed canarygrass and crested wheatgrass were listed as suitable, although they do best under different moisture regimes.

## Forage longevity

In this example, longevity was an important factor. Many forage producers can relate to the goal of choosing a forage mixture which will remain productive in perpetuity. While using the Forage U-Pick tool, it can be beneficial to start with the minimum stand longevity desired versus the maximum. This will increase the number of suitable forages. Stand longevity depends on many factors with management playing a central role.

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## PRODUCER BLEND



The blend chosen by Alex for the community pasture paddock was built on experience with previous pasture rejuvenation projects. Seed was sourced from local dealer.

### Legumes

**14% Peace alfalfa**  
**25% Aurora alsike clover**

### Grasses

**7% Carlton smooth brome**  
**8% Fleet meadow brome**  
**30% orchardgrass**  
**16% tall fescue**



## Narrowing down your selection

If the tool provides a long list of suitable forages, some narrowing down of selection can help. Adding more field characteristics can help reduce the number of suggestions but may also eliminate desired choices. Area knowledge and prior seeding experience can help narrow down the selection to forages which are known to do well in the project area.

The community pasture has tried and tested mixtures which have done well in the past. In this case, the Forage U-Pick tool could be helpful in adding diversity to the mix. For example, the core mixture may already be determined through field experience but the producer may be interested in adding one or two new forages to see how they are performing or to have a more diverse forage mixture. For a more detailed recommendation, the results from the tool should be compared against site specific experience and /or reviewed with a professional agronomist.



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