

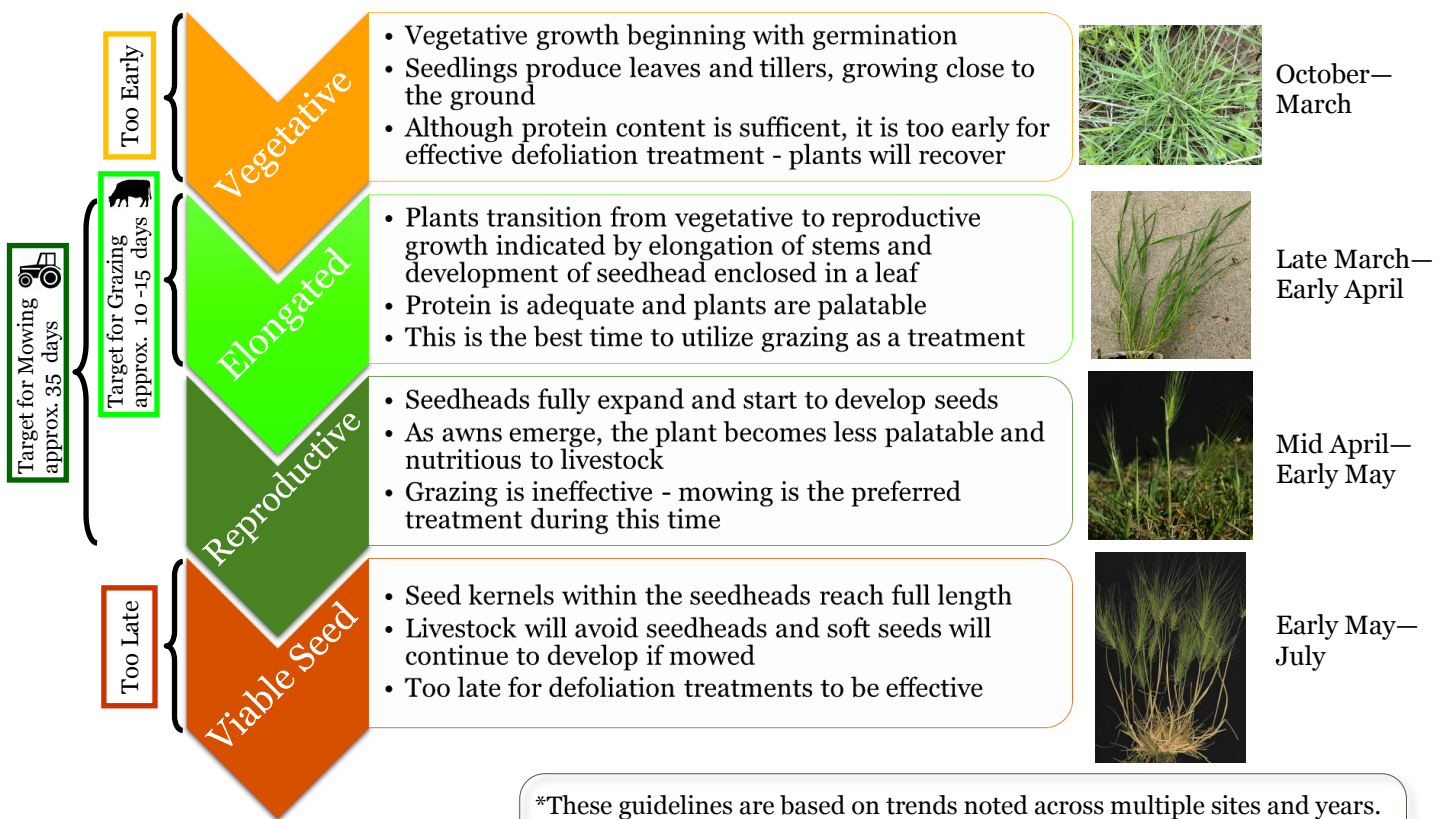
Medusahead & Barb Goatgrass Control: Timing grazing and mowing treatments based on plant growth stage

Medusahead and barb goatgrass are two of the most aggressive annual grasses invading rangelands across California. These species can spread at an alarming rate, quickly altering carrying capacity, hydrologic cycling, fire regimes and wildlife habitat.

Grazing and mowing can be economically viable tools to control these weeds, but success depends on when the treatments are applied relative to the growth stage of the weeds. The ability of a plant to recover from grazing, plant nutrition and plant palatability for livestock all change with plant growth stage. This handout describes how to use this information to identify most appropriate periods to apply grazing and mowing treatments to control these weeds.

Plant growth stages:

*Timeline**



*These guidelines are based on trends noted across multiple sites and years. There is a high degree of variability across a single pasture, between regions and year-to-year. It is best to determine treatment timing on phenology of the majority of plants at a given time, rather than the calendar.

Highlights:

- ◇ With strategically planned stocking density and timing, grazing is a viable control method during a brief period when plants have favorable palatability and nutrition. Stem elongation is a good indicator for this target window.
- ◇ Mowing as a treatment offers a wider window of opportunity for control, often extending into early May.
- ◇ By mid May, opportunities for control are limited during many years.
- ◇ As a general trend, barb goatgrass development is delayed by roughly two weeks in comparison to medusahead.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Reference the following publications for detailed information focused on medusahead and barb goatgrass biology and control:

Barb Goatgrass, Josh Davy et al.

Publication: 8315 (UCANR), 2008

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/>

Medusahead Management Guide for the Western States, Guy Kyser et al.

Publication: University of California, Weed Research & Information Center

http://wric.ucdavis.edu/publications/MedusaheadManagementGuide_pub_2014.pdf

Control of Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) Using Timely Sheep Grazing, Joseph DiTomaso et al.

Publication: *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, 2008 1:241–247

<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1614/IPSM-07-031.1>

Integrated Weed Management, UCANR

Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/Integrated_Weed_Management/

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