

**Table 1. Prescribed fire objectives for grasslands**

Prescribed burns should be conducted about every 3 years to:

- Remove dead grass and litter and create bare ground between plants for wildlife
- Stimulate germination of legumes, forbs and other wildlife beneficial plants
- Reduce the vigor of a grass stand that is too thick for wildlife (e.g. fescue)
- Kill or set back encroaching woody vegetation

Grass Type	Growth Stage *	Approx. Month	Objectives
NWSG <sup>1</sup>	Before new growth starts	January-March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prepare for overseeding of legumes or forbs</li> <li>• Recommended in thick stands of NWSG to stimulate germination of legumes and forbs</li> </ul>
CSG <sup>2</sup>	Less than 2 inches of new growth	February-March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prepare for overseeding of legumes</li> <li>• To stimulate CSG and thicken the stand</li> <li>• To stimulate germination of legumes in rank stands of grass</li> </ul>
NWSG	1-3 inches of new growth	April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To thicken a poor stand of NWSG or encourage NWSG in old fields and pastures</li> <li>• May set back some woody vegetation</li> <li>• Not recommended for wildlife purposes in thick stands of NWSG</li> </ul> <p><b>CAUTION:</b> Burning at this time will kill germinated annual lespedeza</p>
CSG	At least 4-6 inches of new growth	April-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To set back thick stands of CSG and encourage forbs and annuals</li> <li>• To set back woody vegetation</li> <li>• To reduce thick stands of CSG</li> </ul> <p><b>CAUTION:</b> Burning at this time will kill germinated annual lespedeza</p>
NWSG and CSG	Extensive top growth	June-November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To stimulate native forb growth and seed germination</li> <li>• To set back rank stands of NWSG</li> <li>• Will kill trees and shrubs not in dormancy</li> </ul>

\* **Plants are most susceptible to the effects of fire when they are actively growing.**

<sup>1</sup>Native Warm Season Grass (NWSG ) – big bluestem, little bluestem, Indiangrass, sideoats grama

<sup>2</sup>Cool Season Grass (CSG ) – fescue, brome, orchardgrass, timothy

