

# Establishing Limpoggrass Pasture

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## BACKGROUND

We began planting limpoggrass on Deseret Ranches in the early 1980's. We have tried both the Big Alta and Floralta varieties. Floralta has proven to be a hearty grass and has persisted very well. Big Alta, however, did not persist and planting was discontinued.

Presently we have 8,300 acres of established Floralta *hemarthria* grass. We plan to continue planting Floralta until we have approximately one acre per cow. This will allow us to rotationally graze our cattle between *hemarthria*, bahiagrass, and bahiagrass/legume pastures.

Floralta works well in a bahiagrass rotation. Compared with bahiagrass, Floralta grows earlier in the spring, later in the fall and can be stockpiled for winter grazing. These characteristics allow you to extend your grazing season by utilizing your Floralta in the spring, fall, and winter. The bahiagrass can then be utilized in the summer when Floralta seems to slow down in growth.

## ESTABLISHMENT

Floralta should be sprigged into a well prepared seedbed, disked in approximately 2 to 3 inches, and then compaction rolled to prevent soil moisture loss. A few keys to success are as follows:

1. Cut and plant your material the same day (holding a limited number of bales overnight for next day planting is okay).
2. Plant approximately 3.5 bales (4 ft.) per acre.
3. Figure one acre seed material to nine acres planted pasture.
4. After sprigging, disk the grass in promptly. This will prevent drying of the seed material.

5. Roll the field after disking in the planting material to prevent further soil moisture loss.

The following is an estimated cost breakdown for planting one acre of Floralta *hemarthria*.

### Establishment Costs

Disking (3 times)	\$ 31.96
Mowing	9.06
Baling	14.74
Moving sprigging material	19.75
Spreading material	39.43
Rolling (2 times)	<u>13.74</u>
Total planting cost	\$128.68
Fertilizing seed beds (100N-25P-50K)	2.75
Fertilizer (50N-50P-50K)	<u>24.19</u>
Total fertilizer	\$26.94
Herbicide (if need second year)	\$10.63

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Floralta will allow you to extend the grazing season due to earlier and later growth and stockpiled forage.
2. Cost around \$155/acre to establish.
3. Don't use 2, 4, D - Banvil will control weeds.
4. Stockpiled forage will require protein supplementation.