

IFAFS Cheatgrass Control & Range Restoration Project

Experiment 2: Competitive Interactions Seeding & Sugaring

Seeding and first sugar application (October-November)

1. Remove weeds, bunchgrasses and other conspicuous perennials from each plot.
2. Rake the plot to scarify the soil and create 0.5 to 1.0 cm deep furrows (36" landscape rake recommended).
3. Place a wind barrier around the plot. Barrier can be constructed from a rigid material (e.g. cardboard or aluminum) or from plastic sheets provided it is stretched taught and anchored at the corners (see figure below).
4. Measure 675 g sugar (approximate volume of ~ 1400 ml). Evenly distribute half of the sugar across plot area, use rake to incorporate sugar and then repeat with the remaining half.
5. Mix the appropriate seed combination with approximately ~ 80g (500ml) of rice hulls. Broadcast the mix uniformly over the plot.
6. Rake again to incorporate seed and sugar into soil surface.
7. Pack the seed into the soil with a roller packer.

Subsequent sugar application (Late January-Early February)

1. If necessary, place wind barrier around plot.
2. Measure 675 g sugar (~1400ml) and distribute evenly across plot area using the same approach described above, i.e. two half applications to ensure even sugar distribution.
3. Do NOT rake.

Note: Do NOT seed and/or apply sugar while snow still on the surface

