

## MANAGEMENT PLAN SALINITY SEED PROGRAM

### 1. Seedbed:

- Conventional tillage systems:
  - prepare a fine, firm, shallow seedbed.
- Direct seed systems:
  - benefits include lower costs, moisture conservation, and the surface residue protects the emerging seedling from drying out.

### 2. Seeding Dates:

- Spring: *is the most favorable time for forage establishment.*
- Summer (July): *only* if there is enough soil moisture.
- Fall - dormant seed when the soil temperature approaches freezing and germination is unlikely, keeping in mind that snow can raise the soil temperature and the seed could germinate and die. This is best suited to problem areas that are not suitable for spring seeding.

### 3. Seeding depth:

- Seed shallow - ¼ to 1 inch.

### 4. Equipment options:

- Valmar and harrow pack.
- Air seeder: cracked wheat or phosphate fertilizer can be used to make the seed flow better.

### 5. Weed control:

- A weed-free seed bed is recommended. However, if an area is highly saline it is better to spray out the weeds versus cultivating for weed control. The dead (weeds) provide soil cover that reduce evaporation from the soil surface (evaporation draws salts to the soil surface). Also, the existing root channels are undisturbed which helps to improve moisture infiltration