



# How much grass is safe for our horses?

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*Grazing season is finally here, but how much grass is safe for our horses?*

Watching horses graze in the pasture is one of life's finest pleasures—at least for us horse lovers. Below are a few tips on how to safely transition your equine friend to grazing.

The sugar content increases when the grass is putting extra energy into growth. Here are the times when it is the highest:

- When the night temperatures stay below freezing.
- On a sunny day following a night freeze.
- When the grass has frost on it. The sugar is being stored and not yet released.
- Just after it has been mowed. You should wait two days before grazing.
- When it has been rained on grass following a drought.
- In May & late August & September.
- When the grass is shorter than 5".

Sugar content is the lowest:

- Before sunrise through 10:00-11:00 am.
- When it is cloudy out.
- Once the average night temperatures stay above 40 degrees.

If your horse is overweight, has a known risk of Cushings, is insulin resistant or has had laminitis please consult with your vet to determine a safe grazing schedule.

Lastly, monitor your horse's weight to make sure he isn't gaining an unhealthy amount. You should be able to see the last rib and feel a small amount of fat over his ribs. You can often reduce or eliminate his grain intake once grazing begins. Be aware if his ribs have gone missing!