

Grass Curing Visual Guide for Western Australia



Bush Fire and Environmental Protection Branch



Grass Curing Visual Guide for Western Australia

Bush Fire & Environmental Protection Branch, June 2008
Fire & Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia

© Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia,
480 Hay St Perth, 6000

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is provided by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) voluntarily as a public service. This brochure has been prepared in good faith and is derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate at the time of publication. Nevertheless, the reliability and accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed and FESA expressly disclaims liability for any act or omission done or not done in reliance on the information and for any consequences, whether direct or indirect, arising from such act or omission.

This publication is intended to be a guide only and readers should obtain their own independent advice and make their own necessary enquiries.



Contents

Purpose	2
Introduction	2
Grass Curing Guide – Curing Physiological Changes	2
10% cured	3
20% cured	3
30% cured	4
30–40% cured	4
40% cured	5
50–60% cured	5
70% cured	6
80% cured	6
90% cured	7
100% cured	8

Purpose

This booklet is designed as a reference guide to assist fire managers, local government staff, farmers, pastoralists and community members to effectively assess the level of curing in grassland fuels. Whilst it is acknowledged that results can vary between people using the visual determination method, this guide represents the best practical means currently available of assessing grass curing.

Introduction

Many factors influence grass fire behaviour, but one of the most significant is the level of curing within the grass fuel. This level will be a prime component in determining the available fuel load and rate of spread. The CSIRO Grassland Fire Spread Meter and the CSIRO Fire Spread Meter for Northern Australia both require an assessment of the level of curing.

Grass Curing Guide

Curing Physiological Changes

% Cured	Colour	Physiological changes
10	Green.	Seed heads formed and flowering.
20	Greenish–yellow.	Seed heads maturing and opening from the top.
40	Yellow–green.	Most seed heads maturing and seed dropping.
60	Straw – odd patch of yellow–green.	Seed dropped. Lower portion of stems green. Some paddocks may be showing yellow colour.
80	Straw – very little green evident.	Some stalks still showing partial greenness, but at least half fully cured.
90	Straw – odd green gully.	Odd stalks may show some greenness.
100	Bleached.	Seed heads and stalks break easily.

Source: Bush Fire Board, 1985, "Fire Weather Course", Perth, Western Australia.



10%

10%

Green.

Seed heads formed and flowering.



20%

20%

Greenish–yellow.

Seed heads maturing and opening from the top.

30%



30%

Yellowish.

Seed heads maturing and some seed dropping.

30-40%



30-40%

Yellowish.

Most seed heads maturing and some seed dropping.



40%

40%	Yellow–green.	Most seed heads maturing and seed dropping.
-----	---------------	---



50–60%

50–60%	Straw – with odd patch of yellow–green.	Seed dropped. Lower portion of stems green. Some paddocks may be showing yellow colour but predominantly green.
--------	---	---

70%



70%

Straw – frequent patches of yellow–green.

Seed dropped. Lower portion of stems green. Most paddocks may be showing yellow colour.

80%



80%

Straw – very little green evident.

Some stalks still showing some greenness, but at least half fully cured.



90%

90%

Straw – odd green gully.

Odd stalks may show some greenness.



90%

90%

Straw – odd green gully

Odd stalks may show some greenness.

100%

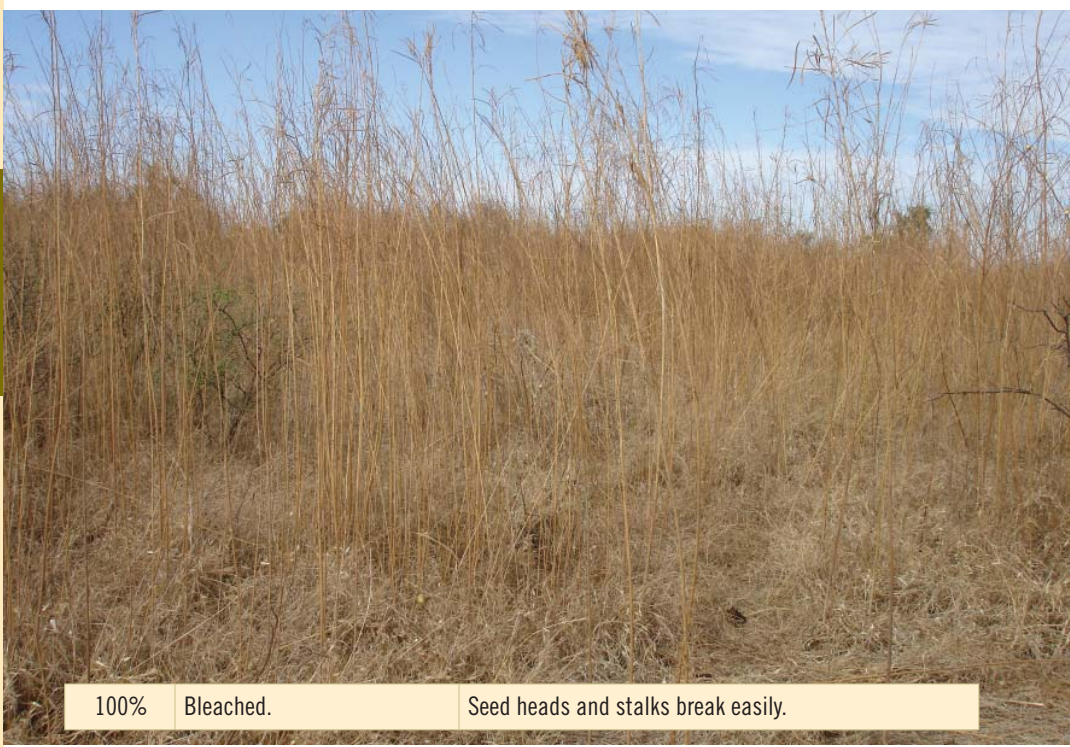


100%

Bleached.

Seed heads and stalks break easily.

100%



100%

Bleached.

Seed heads and stalks break easily.

