

# EFFECTIVE HORSE PADDOCK MANAGEMENT

## SPRING

- Harrow land to recover any compacted areas and pull out dead thatch
- Over seed every 5 years for maintenance or when required if filling bare patches
- Aerate soil to increase oxygen and nutrient availability to root network
- Fertilise land with trace elements (not pure Nitrogen) every 2 years to strengthen roots and sward. Higher frequency will promote rapid weed growth.

## AUTUMN

- Cut back boundary hedges and scrub to restrict growth into paddock
- Assess fencing, ditches and drainage
- If space allows, designate winter and summer paddocks to prevent over grazing.

## SUMMER

- If weeds are inhibiting grass growth, are harmful or too abundant to control by hand, you may need to consider spraying. Remember timing is key:
  - Always treat when weeds are actively growing
  - Consider weather conditions
  - Know your target weed
  - Understand land connectivity
- If weeds have grown past the point where spraying would be efficient, topping should be undertaken before or soon after flowering to avoid weeds setting seed.

## WINTER

- Clear ditches to ensure water flows freely through land and reduces the risk of waterlogging (which increases leaching and weed growth).

**REMEMBER**  
The better the soil structure, the stronger the grass sward you can promote, which in turn decreases space for weeds to compete - and the need to spray.

