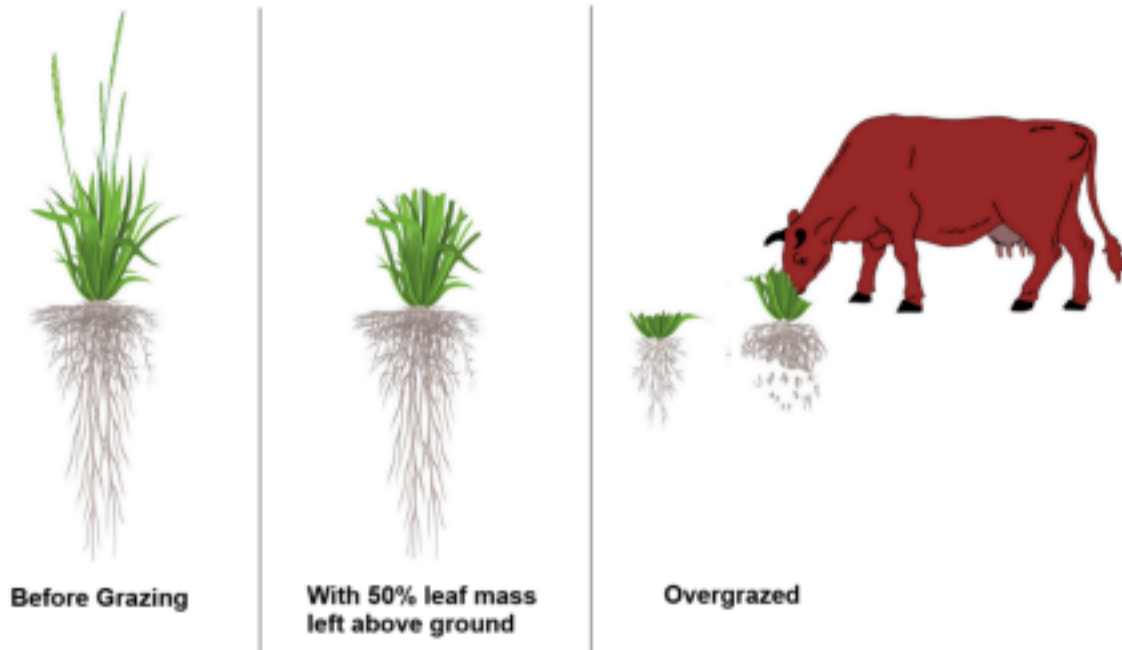


The Effects of Overgrazing Pasture

Repeatedly grazing plants above ground without sufficient rest periods results in slower root growth below ground.

If at least 50% of the leaf mass is left on a plant after grazing, then the roots will continue to grow.



If the livestock is permitted to either eat too much leaf matter from any one individual plant, or to re-graze the plant before it has time to recover properly then root growth will slow, or even stop and roots may be shed off.

The negative consequences of grazing pasture too short will be amplified when the pasture plants are stressed for example by drought, or if the soil is water-logged or compacted.



