

Simple Pasture Mixtures Best In Penn State Tests

Farmers buying legume and grass seed for pasture will be interested in Penn State tests which show that simple mixtures of trefoil-canarygrass produce nearly twice the yield of pasture mixtures containing 14 different legumes and grasses.

"It is important to keep this in mind when buying pasture mixtures, since the 14-species mixtures cost more than the simple mixtures and

yield less forage," says John B. Washko, agronomist at the Agricultural Experiment Station, the Pennsylvania State University.

These two mixtures, plus one containing five species, were seeded at comparative rates of 12, 20 and 35 pounds of seed per acre. Average yield for Empire birdsfoot trefoil - Reed canarygrass was 3½ tons of dry matter per acre per year.

The five species mixture averaged slightly less than two tons and the 14-species mixture averaged a little over the two ton mark.

Each of the three mixtures yielded as described for four years, regardless of seeding rate, Dr. Washko points out. There was no advantage to seeding more than 12 pounds per acre.

The trefoil - canarygrass yielded a little better at the heavier rates because of a high percentage of hard seeds that were slow to germinate in the trefoil.

Plots on which each mixture was grown were limed according to needs. Fertilizer of 0-20-20 analysis was supplied each fall at the rate of 400 pounds per acre for maintenance.

Each mixture was harvested three or four times per year under conditions simulating grazing.

Recommended pasture mixtures and seeding rates for various conditions within the state are given in the "Agronomy Guide" available at all County Agent's offices.

Some 81 million Americans take a summer vacation yet newspaper circulation remains virtually constant summer, winter, spring, and fall.

Sloat Lists Controls

Spray Now For Weeds

County farmers are reminded of the need for control of various weeds at this time of year by Harry S. Sloat, associate county agent.

Sloat reports receiving many requests for assistance and offers the following information.

For control of Upland Cress . . . which is identified by a yellow flower in spring and belongs to the mustard family . . . in young seedlings of alfalfa and clover, Sloat recommends using one pint of M.C.P. in from six to ten gallons of water.

Old alfalfa stands are rather sensitive to this material, so apply later, after a freeze that puts a crust on the ground, Sloat advises.

For control of Chickweed in young seedlings of alfalfa, clover, pasture, winter oats, and lawns, use one and one-half to two quarts dinitro (Sinox General, Dow Pre-emergence) in 50 or more gallons of water, apply on bright sunny days, with temperature from 50 to 60 degrees.

For Chickweed control in old stands of alfalfa, asparagus beds and strawberries, use one quart Chloral P.C.L. in 30 to 40 gallons of water, anytime when weather is favorable until January 15.

Sloat warns farmers to wash the sprayer, hose and nozzle with hot water to which one to two cups of detergent or soap powder has been added, then rinse with clean water. Drain the

pump, valves, hose and nozzle to prevent freezing.

M.C.P. is a 2-4-D derivative, so to clean the sprayer, you will need to use a 24-hour boiling water soak, with household ammonia or Tri-sodium phosphate, Sloat adds.

Proper care of spray equipment means greater efficiency in future use, plus longer life for the equipment.

★ Year-End

product.

Since integration is here, co-ops will have to work closer together in a combined effort, whether in purchasing or marketing. If farmers expect anything to be done in their interests, they'll have to do it.

We have had a very prosperous year. A year we could all appreciate with

plentiful moisture to be especially thankful for.

Farming on a long-range viewpoint looks bright. The population is growing and as long as people continue to eat the farmer will have a job. The question remains: Can he survive the next few years?

Levi Brubaker



1958 was very good. Weatherwise it was almost ideal. It was good for cattle feeders and egg producers and crops in general were excellent.

1959 will probably not be as good. Layers are very numerous and beef feeder cattle are costing too much.

Closer watch on details, more complete records and a careful analysis of records and better management are the main things to watch. Diligent application of proven principles with hard work will pay off.

Noah Kreider



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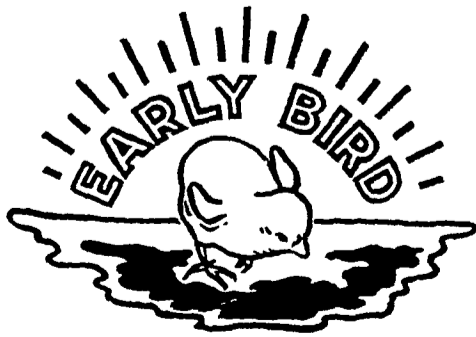
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