

Plants Serve As Good Cover

Lathco flatpea is the latest conservation cover crop developed to meet the needs of farmers in the Northeastern states. The plant has "great potential to cover and stabilize disturbed and bare sites and to control and reduce erosion and water run-off," claims Dr. Guy W. McKee, professor of agronomy at The Pennsylvania State University.

The new plant has been tested extensively in the Northeast to cover abandoned logging roads, strip-mine bands, refuse banks,

gravel pits, and public utility and highway rights-of-way. As with most new crops, seed supplies are limited this year, Dr. McKee pointed out.

Lathco flatpea has been released jointly by the Experiment Stations of Penn State and Cornell University in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The variety traces directly back to seeds collected in Lewis County, Washington, in 1957. This selection of flatpea was compared with

five others from Sweden, the Netherlands, Maryland, and Washington. The variety was superior to the others in seeding vigor, rate of establishment, rate of spread, vegetative cover, and seed production.

The new cover crop has a deeply-penetrating root system which gives it some drought tolerance. It is adapted to a wide variety of soil conditions. It even grows well on sites of low fertility such as sands, gravels, shales, and mine spoils. The species is best adapted to well-drained sites but provides acceptable cover on moderately well-drained sites.

Lathco flatpea will not tolerate poorly-drained sites. In this respect, flatpea is intermediate between birdsfoot trefoil and alfalfa or crownvetch. Trefoil is somewhat tolerant of poor drainage while alfalfa and crownvetch are not. Lathco flatpea will not replace birdsfoot trefoil and crownvetch as cover crops, Dr. McKee said, but will provide another valuable plant for conservation purposes.

If the pH of the site is below 6.7 agricultural lime should be added to produce flatpea. Where soil test results are not available, apply 2 tons of lime and 400 pounds of a 10-20-20 or similar fertilizer. If possible, work the lime and fertilizer into the soil.

Flatpea seed is fairly large and should be seeded as early as possible in the spring at a rate of at least 30 to 40 pounds per acre — 50 to 60 pounds would be better, Dr. McKee suggested. The seed should be drilled, if possible, to a depth of 1 to 1½ inches. Flatpea is a legume and the seed should be well

inoculated, using inoculant prepared for garden peas and sweet peas.

Lathco flatpea is not recommended as forage for cattle, horse, and sheep at this time. It has not been studied for nutritional or feeding value under Pennsylvania conditions. It has been used, however, in the Pacific Northwest and Canada for grazing, silage, and hay.

Since flatpea seed can be somewhat slow to germinate, perennial ryegrass at a rate of 8 to 10 pounds per acre, or tall fescue at a rate of 15 to 20 pounds per acre, should be seeded to provide cover until the flatpea provides complete cover.

Jr. Angus Show Set

The Western Pennsylvania Junior Angus Club has announced plans for a junior Angus show and showmanship contest July 19 at the Mercer County 4-H Park in Mercer, Pennsylvania.

Cattle arrival time is set for 10:00 a.m. with the show to begin at 11:30. Deadline for entries is July 10. Entries should be sent to Robert E. Calvert, Associate County Agent, Courthouse, Mercer, Pennsylvania 16137.

TRY A CLASSIFIED

Charolais Council Slated

Arrangements are being made for 150 junior Charolais breeders and their sponsors for the sixth annual Junior Leadership Conference of American International Junior Charolais Foundation, Inc., at Auburn University, Ala. June 29-July 2.

Sponsored jointly by the university and the junior Charolais Foundation, the conference will feature University and Alabama Experiment Station personnel covering subjects that include live animal and carcass evaluation, breeding programs, marketing, and the popular computerized cow-calf game where participants match potential breeding capabilities with dams of known performance.

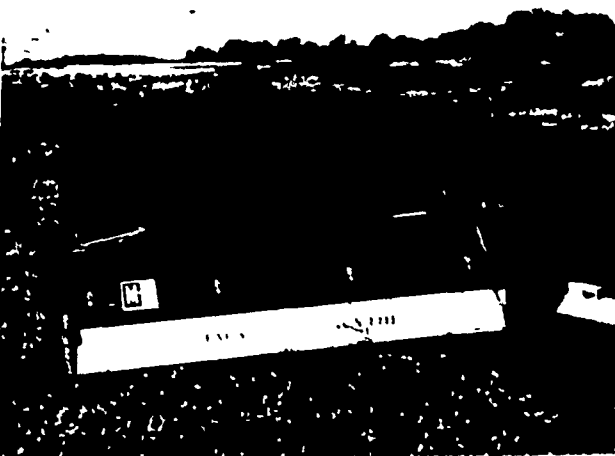
Dr. Bob Whittenburg, Alabama 4-H Livestock specialist will serve as university program coordinator. Dr. Harry Philpot, Auburn president, will welcome the group, and Dr. Bob McGuire, Alabama Extension Livestock director will be principal speaker at the conference's closing banquet and awards

program. The Alabama Charolais Assn. also is assisting with arrangements. Harold Pate of Burkville, is president of the ACA.

One of the features of the conference will be a tour of the Blackbelt Experiment station near Auburn. There, Supt. Aubrey Smith will outline cross-breeding research being conducted there with Charolais.

A panel discussion, composed of industry leaders and university personnel will discuss an individual's responsibility to the beef cattle industry. These panelists include Jim Scott, Shawnee Mission, Kans., representing the purebred breeder; John Besh of Livingston, Ala., commercial producer; Allen Taylor Montgomery, Ala., marketing; Bubba Braswell, Dothan, Ala., packer; Dr. Troy Patterson, Auburn, Genetics; Dr. B.G. Ruffin, Auburn University, nutrition. Dr. J. Lee Alley, Auburn veterinarian, will discuss animal health. Live animal and carcass evaluation will be directed by Dr. Robert Scarth.

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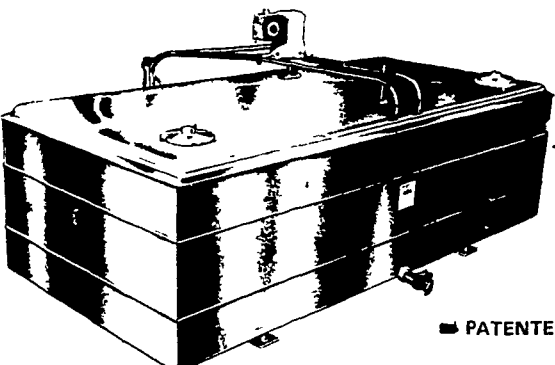


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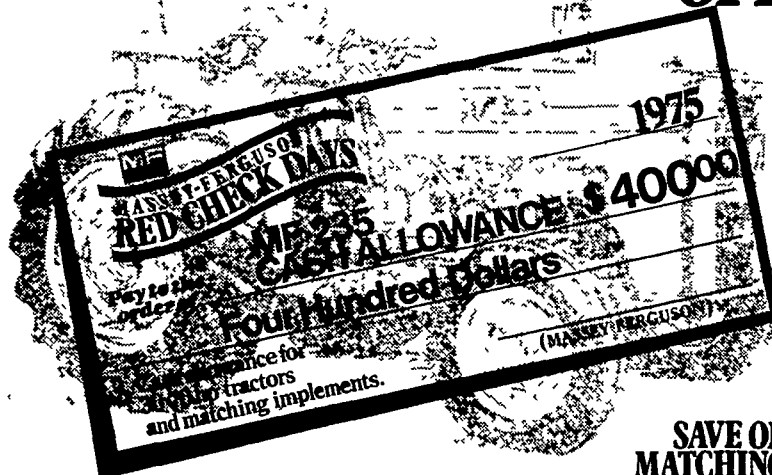


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