

'Forage Suitability' Something That Can Be Plotted, Used By Producers

(Continued from Page A31)

Description: Switchgrass pasture, <5% legume.

Percent of Total Growth by Month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
00	00	00	00	00	21	32	31	16	00	00	00

Yield Adjustments:

Crop

Alfalfa	Clover, red or Ladino	Corn silage /Sorghum	Leg.-grass ¹	Switchgrass /Big bluestem	Tall fescue

Percent of Maximum Probable Yield

Soil Fertility Level - P & K only.

V low ²	---	---	---	---	---	---
Low	45	45	50	55	50	65
Medium	60	60	75	70	75	80
High	80	80	90	85	90	90
V High	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ Cool season legume and grass mixture. Either alfalfa or red clover is the legume. One of these grasses is used: Bromegrass, orchardgrass, perennial ryegrass, timothy, or tall fescue.

² This suitability group is well supplied with potassium. It is outside the range of this category.

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP

Deep, channery, well drained, strongly acid, moderately steep upland soils

Crop

Alfalfa	Clover, red or Ladino	Corn silage /Sorghum	Leg.-grass ³	Switchgrass /Big bluestem	Tall fescue

Percent of Maximum Probable Yield

Surface soil pH Adjustment

<4.5 ⁴	10	20	15	40	70	50
4.5	30	60	30	50	80	60
5.0	40	70	56	63	88	70
5.5	62	81	82	80	95	82
6.0	86	91	90	92	98	92
6.5	98	100	100	100	100	100
7.0	100	100	100	100	100	100

Frost Heaving Potential Adjustment

Low	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mod.	80	90	100	90	100	100
High	30	50	100	60	100	100

³ pH adapted legume and tall cool season grass combination. Red clover at lower pH
⁴ Values in this row are extrapolated estimates and seeding failure likely on legumes

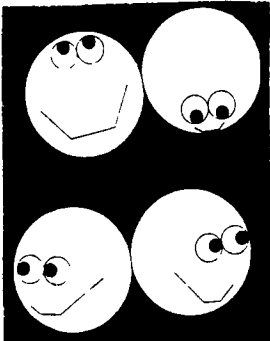
Soil Limitations: Primary soil limitation for this group is the acidic nature of the surface and subsurface soil layers. These soils may be near neutral to strongly acid, depending on whether or not these soils have been limed in the past. If lime has been applied to bring the pH up to at least 6.0, then Kentucky bluegrass, bromegrass, orchardgrass, and alfalfa are additional climatically adapted forage species selections to those listed on page 3.

Frost heave potential on these soils is moderate. Open winters after wet falls with significant freeze-thaw cycles may cause an occasional loss or reduction of alfalfa stands. Probability of alfalfa stand reduction or loss is once in 5 years on average.

Slopes are moderately steep. Additional caution should be used when driving wheeled equipment as slopes near 25 percent. Potential for severe cattle trail erosion and underutilized pasture areas is high. This is heightened by a single watering facility located at the upper or lower end of pasture greater than 800 feet long in the direction of the slope. Fence construction on this soil group requires more line brace assemblies to maintain adequate wire fence tension as more breaks in grade are encountered than on smoother, flatter sloped soil groups.

Channery rock fragments will interfere with post setting and seedbed preparation somewhat. Tillage tools will wear out prematurely. The rock fragments are also largely responsible for the plant available water holding capacity (AWC) to be in the moderate range. The same soils without the channers are in the high AWC range. Forage production on these soils of moderate water holding capacity will be noticeably affected.

(Turn to Page A41)



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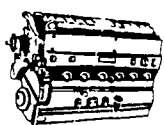


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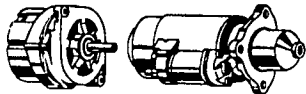
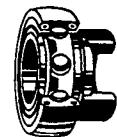
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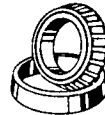
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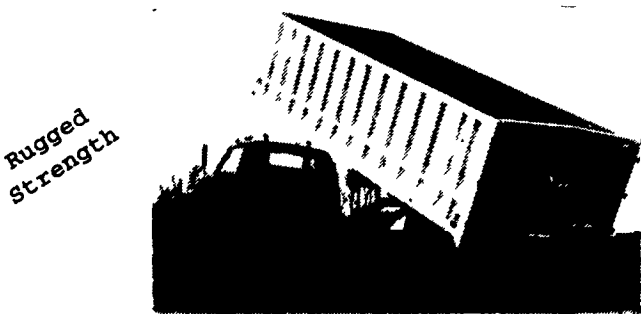
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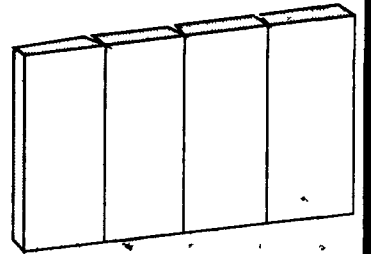
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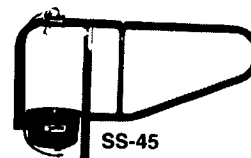
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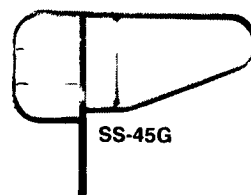
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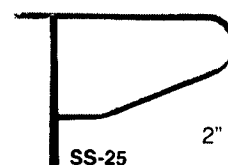
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