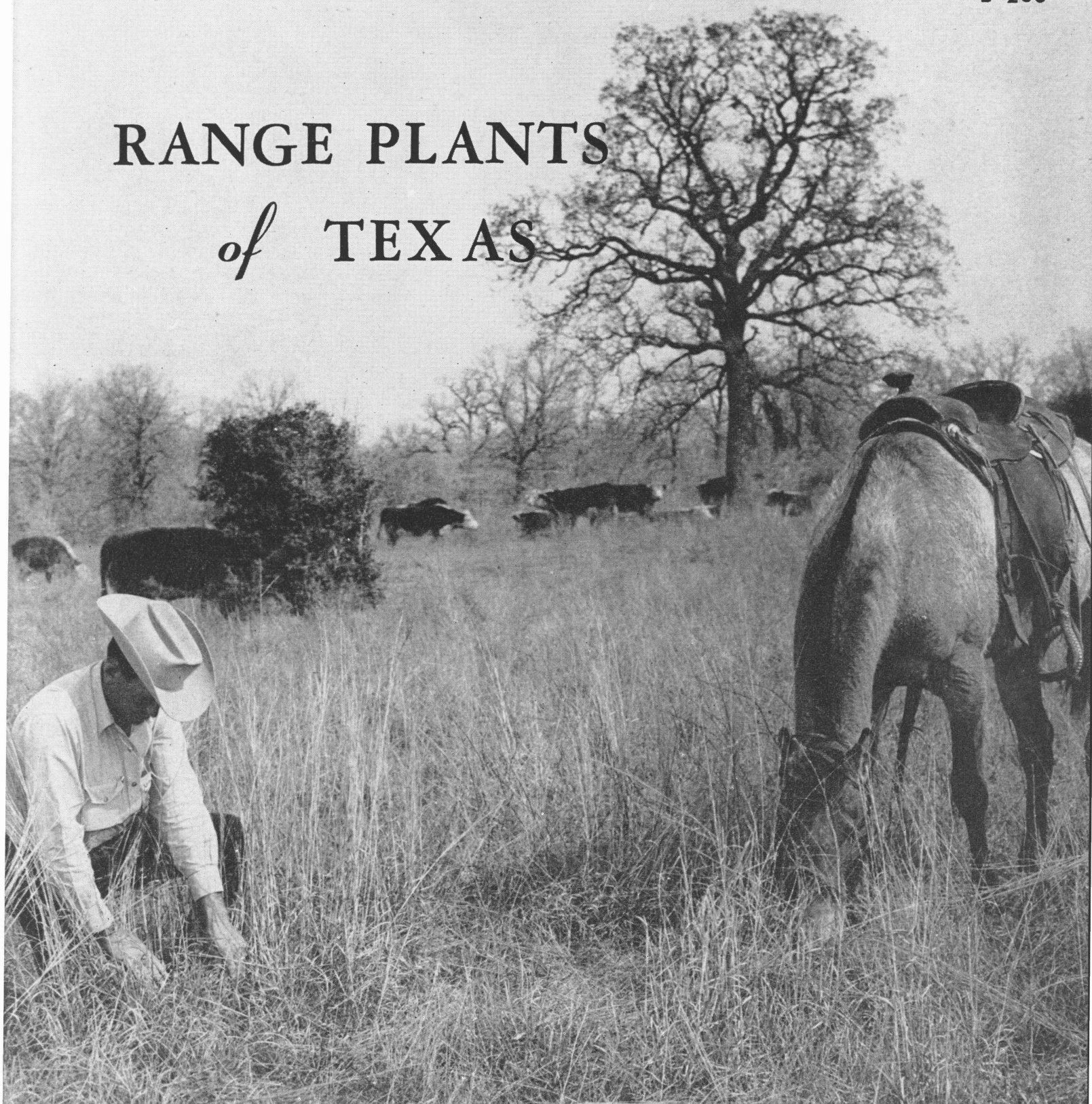
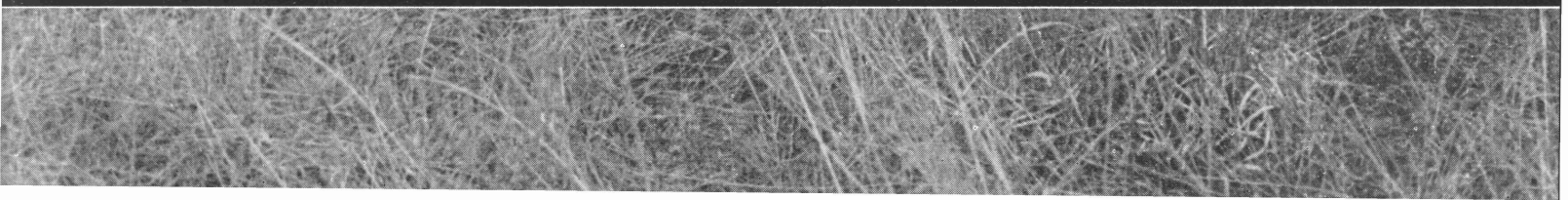
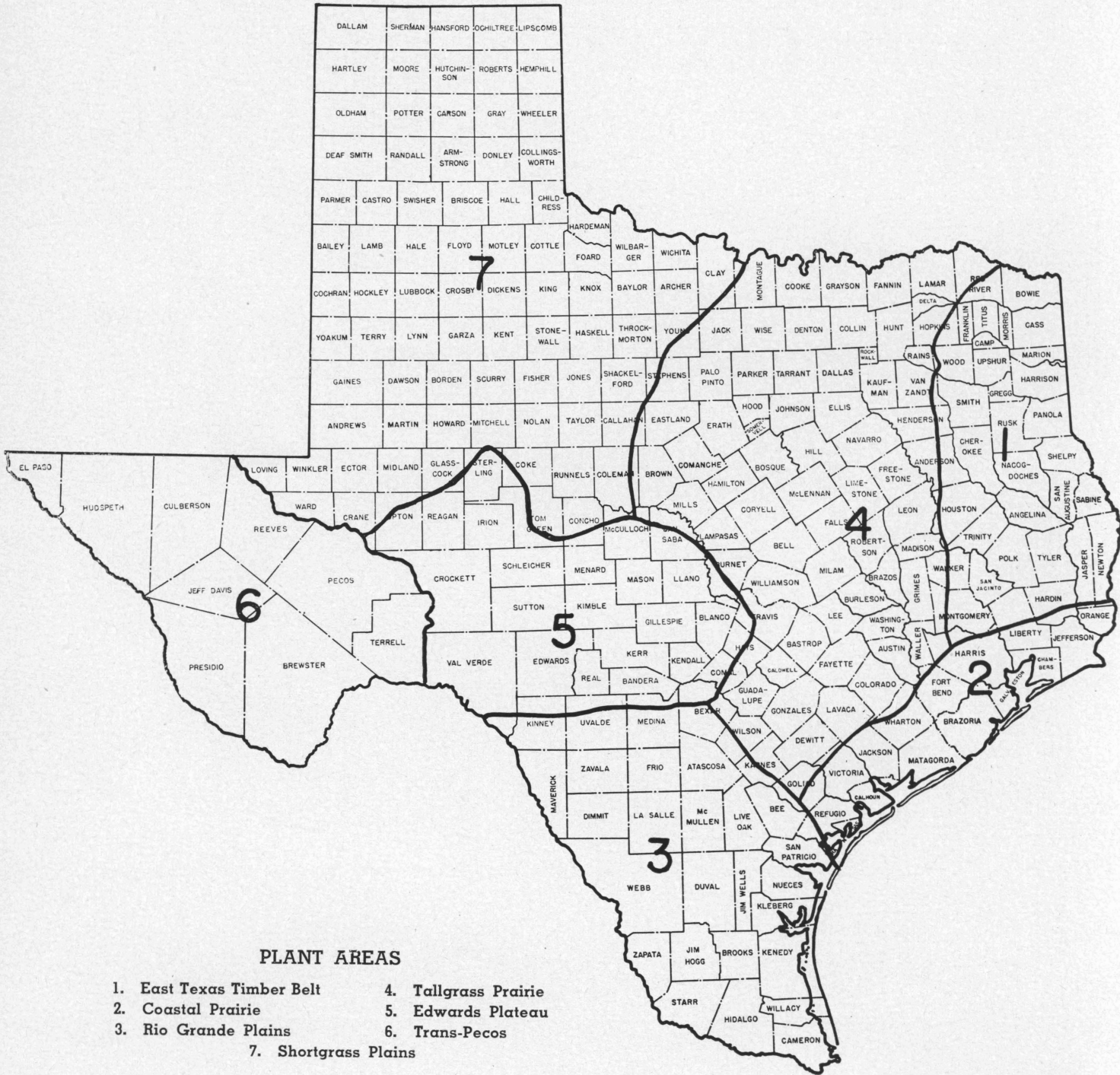


RANGE PLANTS *of* TEXAS



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
G. G. GIBSON, DIRECTOR, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS





RANGE PLANTS OF TEXAS

A. H. WALKER, *Extension Range Specialist*

Texas A. and M. College System

What plant area do you live in? Are the good grasses listed abundant on your pasture, or do you have mostly FAIR and POOR kinds? If so, proper stocking, deferred and rotation grazing, reseeding and possibly some fertilization will be helpful in restoring your rangeland to high production.

Good forage plants are essential for economical livestock production but many Texas operators with highly bred animals do not have top pastures. Kinds of grasses differ as much as types of cattle, sheep, or goats. As in livestock, some plants are purebreds, others good doers and some scrubs or culls. It takes a combination of well-bred animals on the best kind of forage man and nature will let grow on a native pasture to net the most returns.

Livestock depend on native range vegetation for 75 to 90 percent of their feed. Thus, it is time that all operators know what kind of a grass crop they are growing on their pastures. It will require a knowledge of the plants, growth characteristics and best seasons of grazing to manage them properly.

The basic resources of rangeland are soil, water and good vegetation. Conservation of soil and water depends upon keeping a good plant cover. Originally, the vegetation on our rangelands was mostly grass, but today on thousands of acres there are many plants of low forage value such as brush, weeds and poisonous plants.

The main reasons for the deterioration of rangeland in Texas has been overstocking, poor distribution of livestock on the pastures, lack of water facilities and poor management plans. These causes have been made more serious by drouth, but they point the way to improved range conditions through proper management.

Grasses are the foundation of the livestock industry. A determination of the kind, density and litter or cover of the good grasses on a pasture have a direct bearing on the possible production. On the other hand, poor grasses on a pasture limit the ability to produce even under good moisture conditions. Forb or broad-leaved herbs and browse plants supply additional forage but should not be used to determine range condition. Since their number and distribution is variable these plants are not included in the following lists.

The many different kinds of plants, soil, climate and topography mean that numerous combinations of these conditions exist and that no two pastures are ex-

actly alike or respond the same to similar management. However, to promote a better understanding of rangeland, grazing regions with more or less similar conditions are indicated. Few such regions have natural boundaries and much overlapping of plants and conditions exist near the boundaries. In Texas the seven regions described by Cory and Parks (1937) have similar kinds of plants and seem best suited for this publication.

These seven regions recognized are listed with four classifications of plants for each: *Good grasses, fair grasses, poor grasses and low value plants.* This classification was determined by a plant's drouth resistance, palatability, sustained forage production, nutritive value and behavior at various stocking rates. The range condition of a pasture usually depends upon an abundance of good grasses. For instance, an excellent range condition has a high percentage of good grasses and a poor range condition has a high percentage of poor grasses and low value plants.

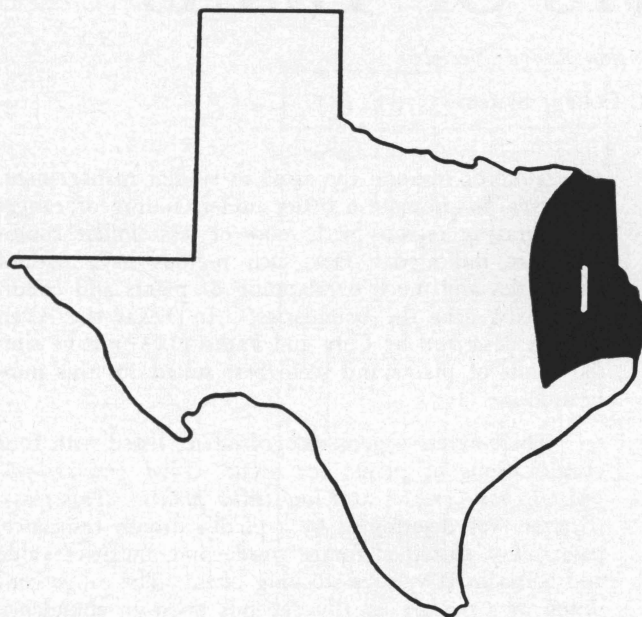
The *Good Grasses* are the most desirable ones for the given area. They are usually highly palatable, drouth resistant, increase with proper stocking and give a continuous forage yield; however some of them lose their nutritive value during dormancy. When most of the plants found in a pasture are included in this list, the pasture is in good or excellent condition and has the highest potential forage and meat production.

The *Fair Grasses* are usually less desirable kinds but may be very nutritious and palatable at certain seasons. They are not sufficiently numerous, produce less forage and are more restricted to certain soil types than the desirable grasses. These are the "middle class" grasses. Ranges on which these plants exist in abundance are in fair condition.

The *Poor Grasses* have little value on rangelands and are replaced by the more desirable kinds with range improvement. Some are widespread and many head of livestock in Texas depend on them for forage during lean years. They are indicators of over-use, low forage producers, short-lived, and they cure out poorly. The ranges where these grasses grow abundantly are in poor condition.

The *Low Value Plants* include weeds and brush species which are unpalatable as a group and when numerous indicate extremely poor range condition. They increase with overgrazing, drouth and poor management.

1. EAST TEXAS TIMBER BELT



I. *Good Grasses:*

- Bermudagrass
- Dallisgrass
- Little bluestem
- Big bluestem
- Switchgrass
- Indiangrass
- Beaked panicum
- Virginia wildrye
- Longleaf uniola

II. *Fair Grasses:*

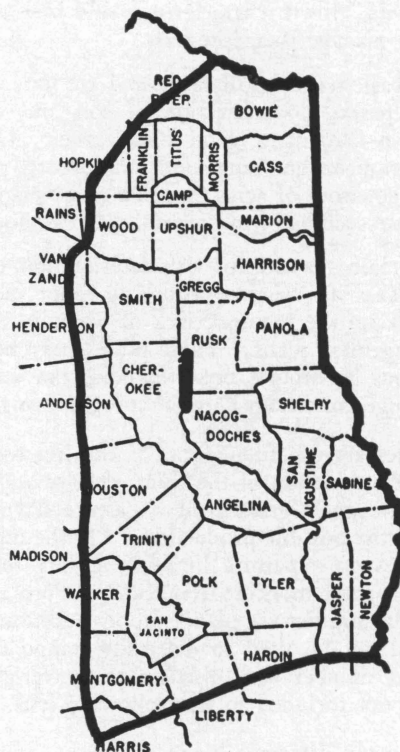
- Carpetgrass
- Brownseed paspalum
- Silver bluestem
- Purpletop
- Texas wintergrass

III. *Poor Grasses:*

- Broomsedge bluestem
- Prairie threeawn
- Smutgrass
- Red lovegrass
- Crabgrass
- Tumblegrass

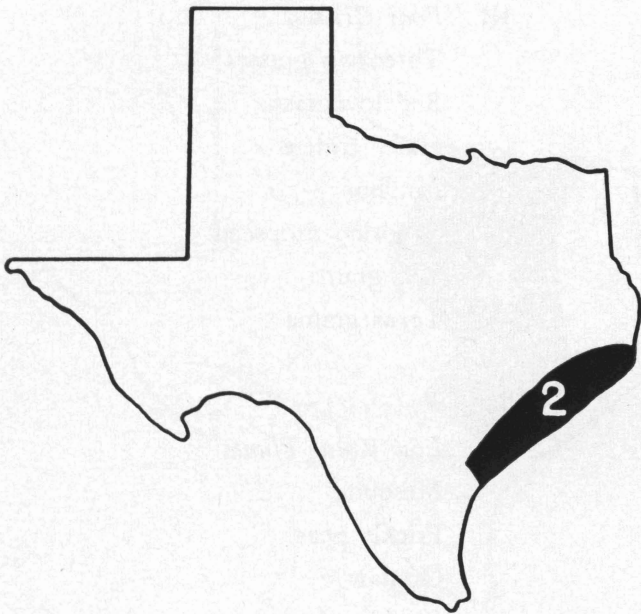
IV. *Low Value Plants:*

- Post oak
- Blackjack oak
- Yaupon
- Annual broomweed
- East Texas bitterweed
- Ragweed
- Poor joe
- Niggerhead
- Goatweed



*Counties in East Texas
Timber Belt*

2. COASTAL PRAIRIE

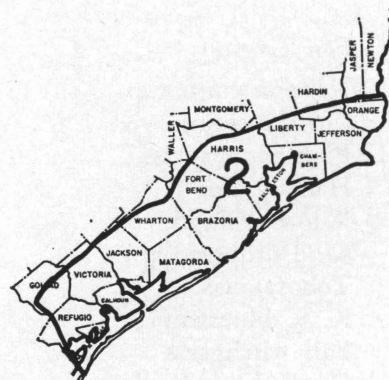


- I. *Good Grasses:*
 Little bluestem*
 Big bluestem
 Indiangrass
 Dallisgrass
 Bermudagrass
 Switchgrass
 Crinkleawn

- II. *Fair Grasses:*
 Carpetgrass
 Brownseed paspalum
 Balsamscale
 K. R. bluestem
 Texas wintergrass
 Sideoats grama
 Prairie cordgrass
 Seashore saltgrass
 Silver bluestem
 Longtom

- III. *Poor Grasses:*
 Bushy bluestem
 Prairie threeawn
 Red lovegrass
 Smutgrass
 Crabgrass
 Sandbur

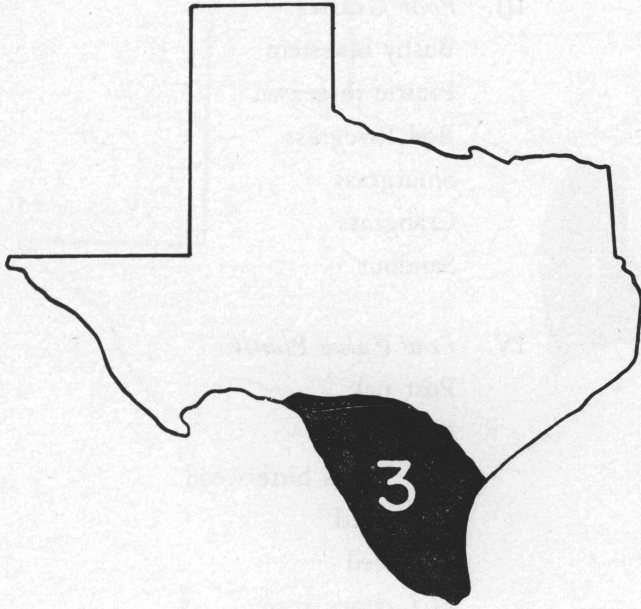
- IV. *Low Value Plants:*
 Post oak
 Live oak
 East Texas bitterweed
 Goatweed
 Ragweed
 McCartney rose
 Mesquite
 Huisache
 Annual broomweed



Counties in Coastal Prairie

*Seacoast bluestem is a recognized variety of little bluestem.

3. RIO GRANDE PLAINS



I. *Good Grasses:*

- Little bluestem
- Cane bluestem*
- Sideoats grama
- Buffalograss
- Plains bristlegrass
- Plains lovegrass
- Silver bluestem
- Green sprangletop
- Texas wintergrass
- Tanglehead
- Slender grama

II. *Fair Grasses:*

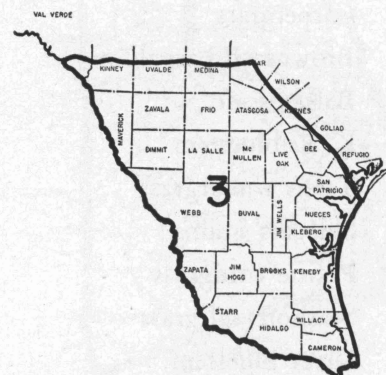
- Arizona cottontop
- Curly mesquite
- Pink pappusgrass
- Hairy grama
- White tridens
- Sand dropseed
- Tobosagrass
- K. R. bluestem
- Fall witchgrass
- Hooded windmillgrass
- Trichloris

III. *Poor Grasses:*

- Threawn grasses
- Red lovegrass
- Hairy tridens
- Sandbur
- Whorled dropseed
- Red grama
- Texas grama

IV. *Low Value Plants:*

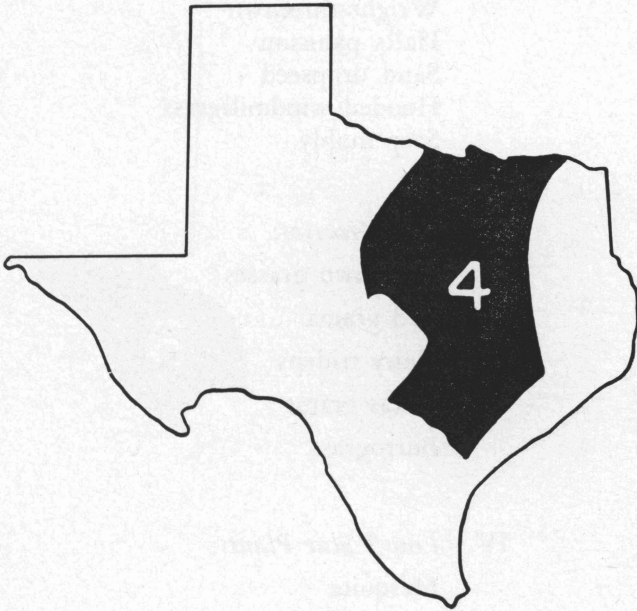
- Mesquite
- Prickly pear
- Catclaw
- Blackbrush
- Guayacan
- Whitebrush
- Retama
- Texas persimmon
- Huisachillo
- Granjeno
- Goatweed
- Javelina brush



Counties in Rio Grande Plains

*Most grasses called pinhole bluestem (*Andropogon perforatus*) are actually cane bluestem with pinholes.

4. TALLGRASS PRAIRIE



I. *Good Grasses:*

Little bluestem
 Indiangrass
 Big bluestem
 Sideoats grama
 Texas wintergrass
 Tall dropseed
 Canada wildrye
 Switchgrass
 Bermudagrass
 Dallisgrass
 Texas bluegrass
 Buffalograss

II. *Fair Grasses:*

Meadow dropseed
 Hairy grama
 Fringeleaf paspalum
 Silver bluestem
 Halls panicum
 Purpletop
 Johnsongrass
 Texas cupgrass
 Sand dropseed

III. *Poor Grasses:*

Threawn grasses
 Tumblegrass
 Tumble windmillgrass
 Japanese bromegrass
 Red lovegrass
 Broomsedge bluestem
 Texas grama
 Hairy tridens

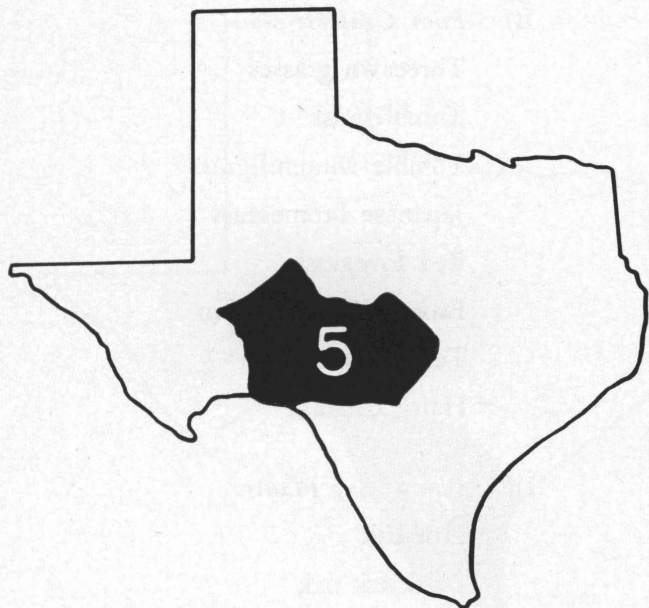
IV. *Low Value Plants:*

Post oak
 Blackjack oak
 Mesquite
 Goatweed
 Perennial broomweed
 Annual broomweed
 Western ragweed
 Yankeeweed



Counties in the Tallgrass Prairie

5. EDWARDS PLATEAU



I. *Good Grasses:*

Sideoats grama
Buffalograss
Little bluestem
Indiangrass
Cane bluestem
Silver bluestem
Texas wintergrass
Green sprangletop
Blue grama
Big bluestem
Plains bristlegrass
Plains lovegrass
Texas cupgrass
Vine mesquite
Bush muhly
K. R. Bluestem

II. *Fair Grasses:*

Meadow dropseed
Hairy grama
Curly mesquite
Tobosagrass
Fall witchgrass
Arizona cottontop
Slim tridens

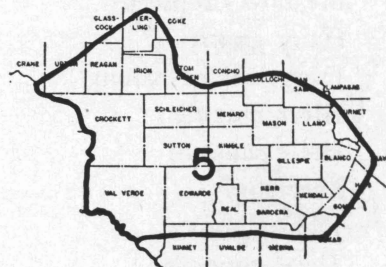
Wright threeawn
Halls panicum
Sand dropseed
Hooded windmillgrass
Seep muhly

III. *Poor Grasses:*

Threeawn grasses
Red grama
Hairy tridens
Texas grama
Burrograss

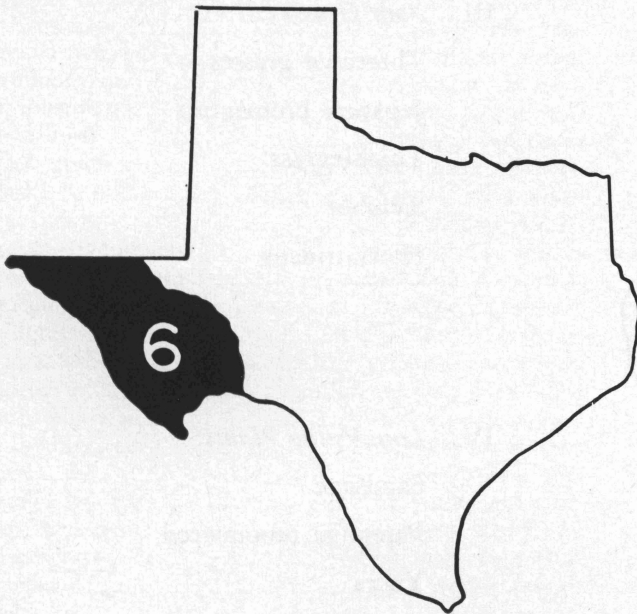
IV. *Low Value Plants:*

Mesquite
Cedar
Prickly pear
Live oak
Shin oak
Catclaw
Whitebrush
Huisache
Perennial broomweed
Western bitterweed
Sacahuista
Yucca
Goatweed
Queens delight



Counties in the Edwards Plateau

6. TRANS-PECOS



I. *Good Grasses:*

Blue grama
 Black grama
 Sideoats grama
 Hairy grama
 Arizona cottontop
 Tanglehead
 Silver bluestem
 Cane bluestem
 Bush muhly
 Buffalograss
 Alkali sacation
 Little bluestem
 Plains bristlegrass
 Vine mesquite

II. *Fair Grasses:*

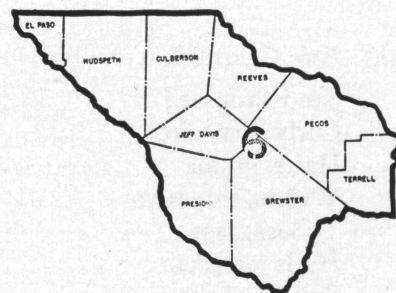
Curly mesquite
 Tobosagrass
 Fall witchgrass
 Wright threeawn
 Halls panicum
 Sand dropseed
 Slim tridens
 Chinograss
 Bullgrass
 Sand muhly
 Balsamscale

III. *Poor Grasses:*

Threeawn grasses
 Fluffgrass
 Burrograss
 Red grama
 False grama
 Ring muhly
 Hairy tridens
 Sixweeks grama

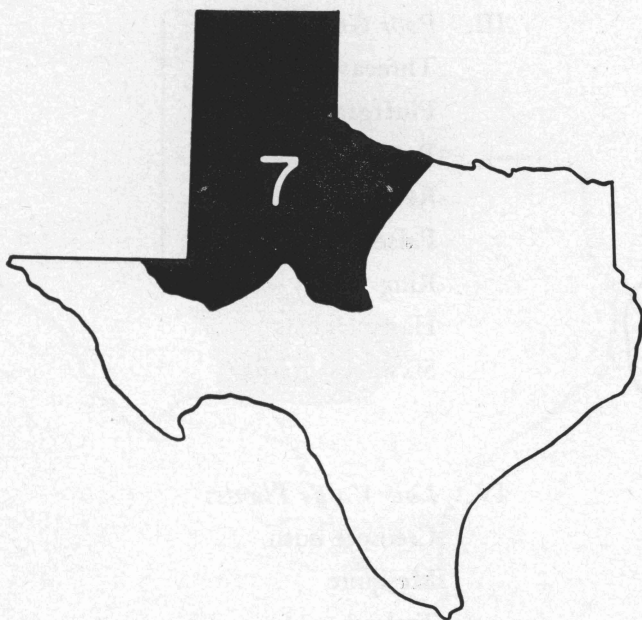
IV. *Low Value Plants:*

Creosote bush
 Mesquite
 Tarbush
 Perennial broomweed
 Cacti
 Cedar
 Catclaw
 Lechuguilla
 Sotol
 Blackbrush
 Yucca
 Senecio
 Burrobrush
 Sacahuista



Counties in the Trans-Pecos

7. SHORTGRASS PLAINS



I. *Good Grasses:*

Blue grama
 Sideoats grama
 Buffalograss
 Western wheatgrass
 Little bluestem
 Sand bluestem
 Big bluestem
 Canada wildrye
 Sand lovegrass
 Switchgrass
 Indiangrass
 Black grama
 Texas wintergrass
 Crested wheatgrass

II. *Fair Grasses:*

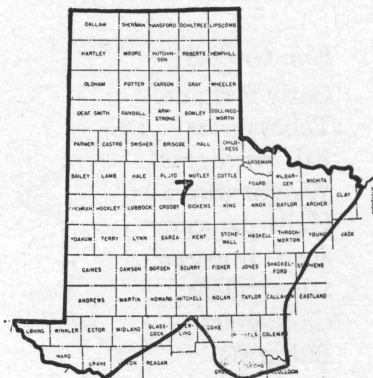
Sand dropseed
 Curly mesquite
 Hairy grama
 Wright threeawn
 Tobosagrass
 Halls panicum
 Fall witchgrass
 Hooded windmillgrass

III. *Poor Grasses:*

Threeawn grasses
 Japanese bromegrass
 Tumblegrass
 Sandbur
 Hairy tridens

IV. *Low Value Plants:*

Sandsage
 Perennial broomweed
 Yucca
 Russian thistle
 Mesquite
 Prickly pear
 Shin oak



Counties in the Shortgrass Plains

Common and Scientific Names of Plants Listed

Alkali sacaton	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	Pink pappusgrass	<i>Pappophorum bicolor</i>
Annual broomweed	<i>Gutierrezia spp.</i>	Plains bristlegrass	<i>Setaria macrostachya</i>
Arizona cottontop	<i>Trichachne californica</i>	Plains lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis intermedia</i>
Balsamscale	<i>Elyonurus spp.</i>	Poor joe	<i>Diodia teres</i>
Beaked panicum	<i>Panicum anceps</i>	Post oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>
Bermudagrass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Prairie threeawn	<i>Aristida oligantha</i>
Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardi</i>	Prairie cordgrass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>
Blackbrush	<i>Acacia amentacea</i>	Prickly pear	<i>Opuntia spp.</i>
Black grama	<i>Bouteloua eriopoda</i>	Purpletop	<i>Tridens flavus</i>
Blackjack oak	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	Queens delight	<i>Stillingia sylvatica</i>
Blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Ragweed	<i>Ambrosia spp.</i>
Broomsedge bluestem	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	Red grama	<i>Bouteloua trifida</i>
Brownseed paspalum	<i>Paspalum plicatulum</i>	Red lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis oxylepis</i>
Buffalograss	<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	Retama	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>
Bullgrass	<i>Muhlenbergia emersleyi</i>	Ring muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia torreyi</i>
Burrobrush	<i>Hymenoclea monogyra</i>	Russian thistle	<i>Salsola pestifer</i>
Burrograss	<i>Scleropogon brevifolius</i>	Sacahuista	<i>Nolina texana</i>
Bush muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia porteri</i>	Sand bluestem	<i>Andropogon hallii</i>
Bushy bluestem	<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	Sandbur	<i>Cenchrus pauciflorus</i>
Cacti	<i>Opuntia spp.</i>	Sand dropseed	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>
Canada wildrye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Sand lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i>
Cane bluestem	<i>Andropogon barbinodis</i>	Sand muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia arenicola</i>
Carpetgrass	<i>Axonopus compressus</i>	Sandsage	<i>Artemisia filifolia</i>
Catclaw	<i>Acacia greggii</i>	Seashore saltgrass	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>
Cedar	<i>Juniperus spp.</i>	Seep muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia reverchoni</i>
Chinograss	<i>Bouteloua breviseta</i>	Senecio	<i>Senecio spp.</i>
Crabgrass	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	Shin oak	<i>Quercus spp.</i>
Creosote bush	<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Sixweeks grama	<i>Bouteloua barbata</i>
Crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron desertorum</i>	Sideoats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Crinkleawn	<i>Trachypogon montufari</i>	Silver bluestem	<i>Andropogon saccharoides</i>
Curly mesquite	<i>Hilaria belangeri</i>	Slender grama	<i>Bouteloua filiformis</i>
Dallisgrass	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Slim tridens	<i>Tridens muticus</i>
East Texas bitterweed	<i>Helenium spp.</i>	Smutgrass	<i>Sporobolus poiretii</i>
Fall witchgrass	<i>Leptoloma cognatum</i>	Sotol	<i>Dasyliroton texanum</i>
False grama	<i>Cathestecum erectum</i>	Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
Fluffgrass	<i>Triodia pulchellus</i>	Tall dropseed	<i>Sporobolus asper</i>
Fringeleaf paspalum	<i>Paspalum ciliatifolium</i>	Tanglehead	<i>Heteropogon contortus</i>
Goatweed	<i>Croton spp.</i>	Tarbrush	<i>Flourensia cernua</i>
Granjeno	<i>Celtis pallida</i>	Texas bluegrass	<i>Poa arachnifera</i>
Green sprangletop	<i>Leptochloa dubia</i>	Texas cupgrass	<i>Eriochloa sericea</i>
Guayacan	<i>Porlieria angustifolia</i>	Texas grama	<i>Bouteloua rigidiseta</i>
Hairy grama	<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>	Texas persimmon	<i>Diospyros texana</i>
Hairy tridens	<i>Tridens pilosus</i>	Texas wintergrass	<i>Stipa leucotricha</i>
Halls panicum	<i>Panicum hallii</i>	Threeawn grasses	<i>Aristida spp.</i>
Hooded windmillgrass	<i>Chloris cucullata</i>	Tobosagrass	<i>Hilaria mutica</i>
Huisache	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	Trichloris	<i>Trichloris spp.</i>
Indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Tumblegrass	<i>Schedonnardus paniculatus</i>
Japanese brome grass	<i>Bromus japonicus</i>	Tumble windmillgrass	<i>Chloris verticillata</i>
Javelinabrush	<i>Microrbammus ericoides</i>	Vine mesquite	<i>Panicum obtusum</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Virginia wildrye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>
K. R. bluestem	<i>Andropogon ischaemum var.</i>	Western bitterweed	<i>Actinea odorata</i>
Lechuguilla	<i>Agave lechuguilla</i>	Western wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron smithii</i>
Little bluestem	<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>	Western ragweed	<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>
Live oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Whitebrush	<i>Aloysia ligustrina</i>
Longleaf uniola	<i>Uniola sessiliflora</i>	White tridens	<i>Tridens albescens</i>
Longtom	<i>Paspalum lividum</i>	Whorled dropseed	<i>Sporobolus pyramidatus</i>
Meadow dropseed	<i>Sporobolus asper var hookeri</i>	Wright threeawn	<i>Aristida wrightii</i>
Mesquite	<i>Prosopis spp.</i>	Yankeeweed	<i>Eupatorium compositifolium</i>
McCartney rose	<i>Rosa bracteata</i>	Yaupon	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>
Niggerhead	<i>Rudbeckia spp.</i>	Yucca	<i>Yucca spp.</i>
Perennial broomweed	<i>Gutierrezia spp.</i>		

OTHER PUBLICATIONS ON RANGE
MANAGEMENT AVAILABLE FROM YOUR
COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT

- B-182 Know Your Grasses
- C-320 Range Management Versus Drouth
- C-330 More Grass from Controlling Hardwoods with Chemicals
- L-114 Poisonous Range Plants of Texas
- L-127 Chemical Control of Mesquite
- L-183 Reseeding on the High and Rolling Plains of Texas

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Information in this publication emphasizes some of the steps in the Texas 9-Point Livestock and Poultry Program, sponsored by the Texas A. and M. College System. See your local Extension Agents for more details on this program.