

SEASONAL PASTURES FOR YEAR-ROUND GRAZING  
IN THE RIO GRANDE PLAIN

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Year-round grazing can only be attained through utilization of different pastures that supply grazing during the separate seasons of the year. There are grasses and legumes adapted to the soil and climate of this area that will furnish grazing during all seasons when used in the right combination and properly managed. Supplemental feed in the form of hay, silage or bundles should be provided for use when weather conditions prevent grazing.

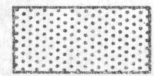
The pasture calendar on the reverse side shows the grazing period to be expected from some of the adapted grasses and legumes. All pasture plants adapted to the area are not shown. Experimental results indicate that the best perennial pasture mixture from the standpoint of production and ease of management contains one grass and one legume. 'Shotgun Mixtures' of several grasses and legumes alone or in combination have not proven desirable because competition between plants and the management practices followed generally reduce the pasture to one grass and one legume in a short period.

A balanced pasture program will include both warm and cool season supplemental pastures to furnish grazing when perennial pastures are 'short'. This will help maintain the vigor of perennial pasture plants, which in turn will reduce weeds and increase production. Sudan alone or with Chinese red or another variety of cowpeas makes excellent supplemental pasture for summer. With irrigation, plantings at different dates may be made to insure grazing over a longer period. Oats are most commonly used for supplemental pasture in winter and spring. Barley will furnish grazing earlier in the season but will not last as long in the spring. Wheat is occasionally used. Alfalfa or Hubam or Madrid sweetclover seeded in rows with these small grains will furnish more and better grazing in addition to providing more soil improvement.

Good pasture management includes adequate fertilization, mowing, rotation grazing and proper utilization of excess forage. Fertilization is an essential part of the irrigated pasture program, and the use of fertilizer on non-irrigated planted pastures is usually justified. A soil test will aid in determining fertilizer needs. Mowing irrigated pastures helps keep the plants in a succulent growing condition and aids in weed control. Dryland pastures may be mowed to control undesirable plants. Rotation grazing permits the most efficient utilization of pasturage and gives greater production, especially with irrigation. When pastures produce more forage than can be fully utilized by available grazing animals, the excess should be harvested and put up as hay or silage.

PASTURES ARE A CASH CROP - TREAT THEM AS SUCH

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JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

RHODES

HUBAM

BLUE PANIC

MADRID

JOHNSON

MADRID

BERMUDA

BUR

DALLIS ★

ALFALFA

HARDING ★

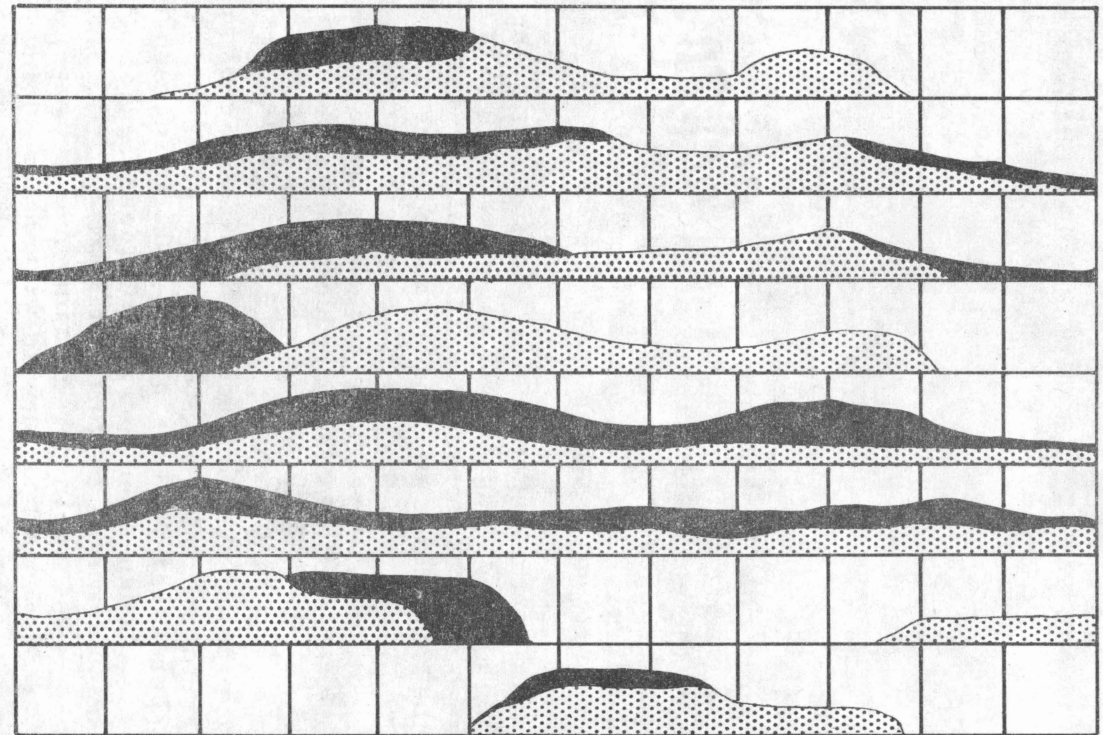
ALFALFA

OATS

HUBAM

SUDAN

COWPEAS



Agricultural Extension Service  
Texas A. & M. College System

★ USE ONLY WITH IRRIGATION

DRY LAND EXCEPT AS NOTED. EXPECT MORE PRODUCTION THAN SHOWN WHEN PASTURE IS IRRIGATED.

Supplement with hay