

Reseeding . . .

on The High and Rolling Plains of Texas

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Many old fields and barren range lands are giving small returns to livestock operators. Research and demonstrations have shown reseeding these areas is both practical and profitable. All of the answers are not known, but here are some indications.

HOW

Seed may be drilled into undisturbed stubble of sorghum, millet, sudan or cane. (Figure 1) Moderate grazing to firm the seedbed prior to planting is advisable. On long-used cropland growing an annual grass and legume combined with fertilization may be necessary to condition the soil before reseeding is attempted.

WHEN

Use a grass drill and plant in late winter or early spring. Row plantings usually give better results for seed production, whereas close drilling is preferable for grazing.

SOURCE OF SEED

Preferably use seed grown in areas from 200 to 400 miles south of where it



Figure 2: Abandoned farm land reseeded to sand lovegrass which is producing high gains on Hereford cattle.

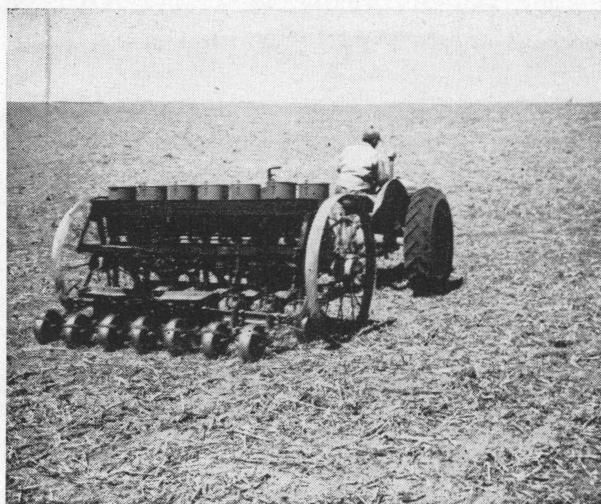


Figure 1: Drilling native grass mixtures into a protective mulch of stubble and hay residue left from a previous crop of close-drilled sorghum. This gives a firm seedbed, controls wind and water erosion, prevents baking of the soil and retards surface evaporation until the grasses can emerge and become established.

is to be planted, or use local seed, but never use seed produced north of where it is to be planted.

SUGGESTED VARIETIES AND RATES PER ACRE

The variety and rate varies considerably depending on availability, germination and purity of seed.

Sandy Land

1 lb. sand lovegrass and 3-5 lbs. yellow sweet clover is desirable (Figure 2). If more variety is preferred, use 2 lbs. switchgrass, 2 lbs. Indiangrass, 1 lb. sand lovegrass and 2 lbs. sideoats grama. For blow land, 1 lb. weeping lovegrass and 1 lb. sand dropseed may be included to obtain a quick cover.

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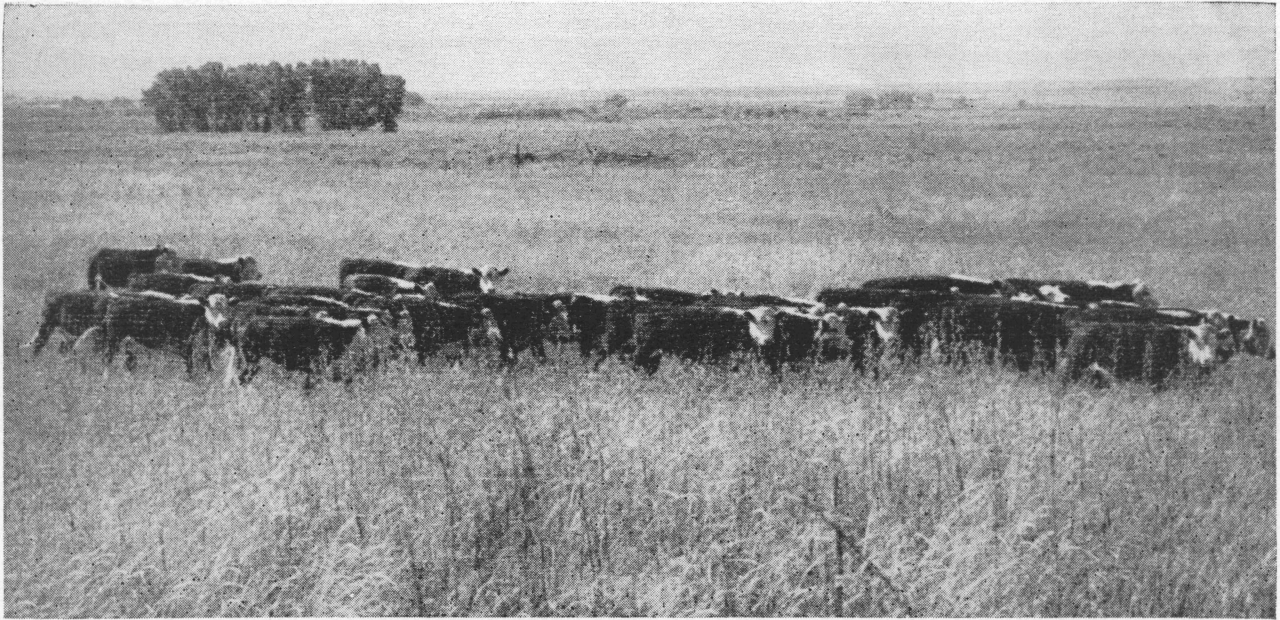


Figure 3: Experimental steers grazing a reseeded tall grass mixture.

Mixed Land

1/2 lb. sand lovegrass, 2 lbs. blue grama, 1 lb. switchgrass, 3 lbs. bluestem mixture and 2 lbs. yellow sweet clover.

Hard Land

4 lbs. sideoats, 3 lbs. blue grama, and 1 lb. switchgrass.

Bottomland and Overflow

5 lbs. western wheatgrass and 2 lbs. Indiangrass. In dried areas, 10 lbs. western wheatgrass and 1 lb. buffalograss.

WEED CONTROL

Plan to mow, not spray, weeds twice the first year and once the second year.

Fertilizer

Fertilization is not advised before seedlings become established. Demonstrations show that weed competition is greatly increased.

Grazing

Do not graze reseeded areas the first growing season. Graze moderately the second summer after July 1. This gives seedlings a chance to become established.

Costs

These range from \$2-\$10 per acre including the cost of land preparation. \$5 is a good average not including P.M.A. payments.

Results

As much as \$25 net return per acre may be obtained under favorable moisture conditions. (Figure 3) This compares with income from cotton and grain sorghums and will exceed such crop income on poor land with less labor. Also, reseeded areas usually produce two to three times more forage than nearby native range land properly managed.

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