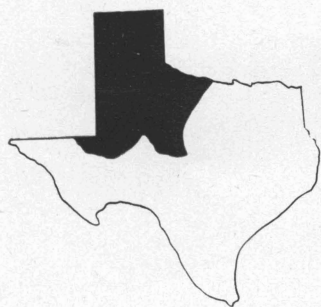




Range Reseeding . . .

on the High and Rolling Plains of Texas

A. H. WALKER, *Extension Range Specialist**

Texas A. and M. College System

MANY OLD FIELDS and depleted range lands are giving small returns to livestock operators. Research and demonstrations have shown reseeding these areas is both practical and profitable.

HOW

Seed may be drilled or planted in rows into an undisturbed stubble of sorghum, millet, sudan or cane (Figure 1). Moderate grazing to firm the seedbed prior to planting is advisable. Also such grazing will usually return the cost of land preparation. On long-used cropland, growing an annual grass and legume combined with fertilization may be necessary to condition the soil before reseeding is attempted. A soil test to determine needed fertilization is advisable.

WHEN

Plant in late winter or early spring just before the rainy season. Row plantings usually give better results for seed



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.



Figure 2. Abandoned farmland reseeded to sandy land mixture. These steers gained 503 pounds per head in 11 months.

production, whereas close drilling is preferable for grazing. Most seed should be covered $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep. Use a roller or packer wheel to insure firming the soil around the seed.

SOURCE OF SEED

Preferably use seed grown in areas from 200 to 400 miles south of where it is to be planted, or use local seed, but never use seed produced north of where it is to be planted. Plan to harvest your own seed for future planting.

SUGGESTED VARIETIES AND RATES PER ACRE

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

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

Sandy Land

1 lb. sand lovegrass gives good results (Figure 2). If more variety is preferred, use 2 lb. switchgrass, 2 lb. Indiangrass, 1 lb. sand lovegrass and 2 lb. sideoats grama. For blow land, 1 lb. weeping lovegrass and 1 lb. sand dropseed may be included to obtain a quick cover.

Mixed Land

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sand lovegrass, 2 lb. blue grama, 1 lb. switchgrass, 3 lb. blue-stem mixture and 2 lb. yellow sweet clover.

Hard Land

3 lb. sideoats grama, 3 lb. blue grama and 2 lb. switchgrass.

Bottomland and Overflow

5 lb. western wheatgrass and 2 lb. Indiangrass. In drier areas, 10 lb. western wheatgrass and 1 lb. buffalo-grass.

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 ASC 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.

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
G. G. Gibson, Director, College Station, Texas