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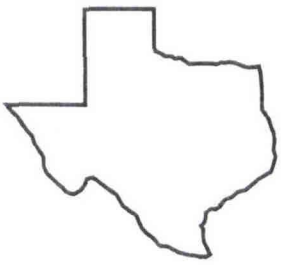
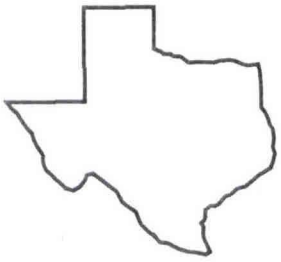
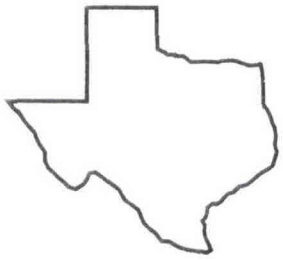
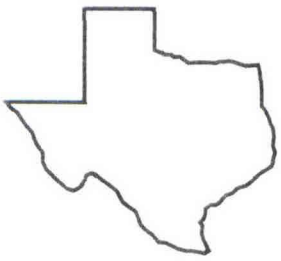




Overton Field Day Report - 1994





1994 Research Center Technical Report No. 94-1

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station • Edward A. Hiler, Director
The Texas A&M University System • College Station, Texas

EVALUATION OF RED AND WHITE CLOVER SEASONAL PRODUCTION AT OVERTON

C. L. Gilbert and G. R. Smith

Background. Red and white clover are perennials that generally act as winter-annuals under East Texas conditions. These clovers can be very productive in late April and May, but seldom survive the hot and dry summer conditions of East Texas to act as true perennials. Forage production of red and white clover in June and July is dependent on rainfall and temperature. Either low rainfall or high temperatures can bring their production to a close.

Research Findings. Fourteen red clover and ten white clover cultivars were drilled into a Coastal bermudagrass sod on Oct. 2, 1990. A small-plot planter was used to plant six drill rows in a 5 x 12 ft plot. The clover entries were arranged in a randomized complete block design with 4 replications. Seeding rate was 14 and 6 lbs/ac for red and white clover, respectively. The plot area was fertilized according to soil test with 400 lbs/ac 0-20-20 and 1 lb/ac boron. The plots were harvested on about 30-day intervals beginning in mid-April, 1991. The clovers did not recover after the June harvest.

Total season red clover production ranged from 3374 to 2651 lbs dry matter (DM)/ac (Fig. 1). Differences in total season red clover production were not significant. Florida breeding lines and Cherokee (cultivar from Florida) had better early production than the standard cultivars Kenland and Kenstar. Total season white clover production ranged from 2751 for Regal to 2204 lbs DM/ac for Reno (Fig. 2). Total season yields of the ladino types such as Regal and Osceola were generally higher than intermediate types such as La. S-1. However, reseeding of La. S-1 is superior to the ladino types in East Texas. La. S-1 also gave slightly better early yields compared to the other white clover cultivars.

Application. Use red and white clover to extend the clover production season into June in East Texas. Plant red or white clover in mixtures with crimson clover for clover production from March through mid-June. Plant red or white and crimson clover in separate pastures if crimson is to be managed for reseeding. Both red and white clover can be planted on upland soils to extend the clover season. White clover is also well-adapted to bottomland sites and has the potential to live through the summer as a perennial on soils that stay moist through the summer.

Fig. 1 Seasonal production of red clovers sod-seeded in Coastal bermudagrass in 1990-91.

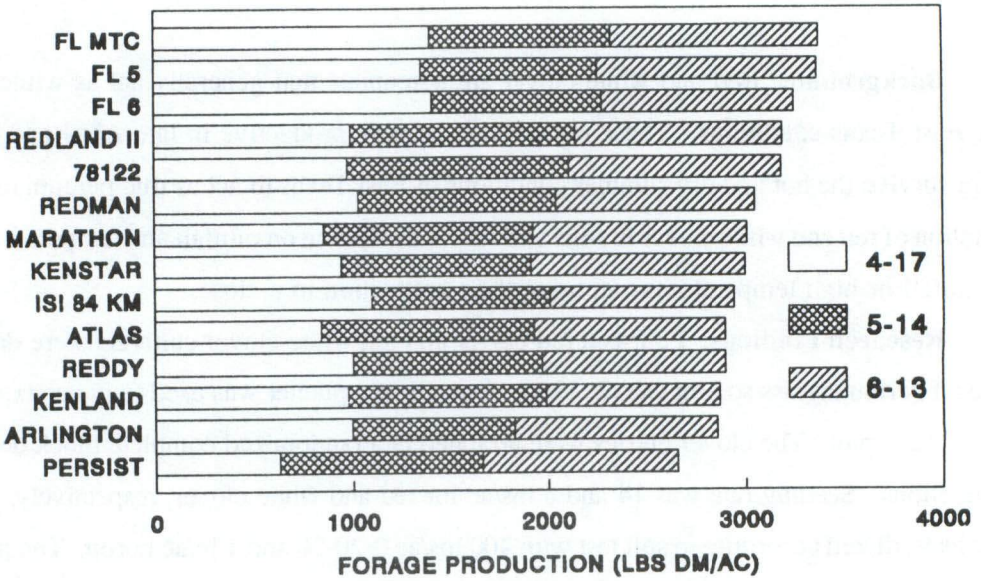


Fig. 2 Seasonal production of white clovers sod-seeded in Coastal bermudagrass in 1990-91.