

PUBLICATIONS

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Forage Research in Texas

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Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Project: H-6370
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Location: Angleton

RYEGRASS EVALUATION IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS

OBJECTIVES:

Evaluate forage production of ryegrass cultivars under southeast Texas edaphic and climatic conditions.

PROCEDURE:

Ryegrass cultivars were drilled in a Lake Charles clay prepared seedbed on October 2, 1979 at 25 lb/ac. Fertilizer applied at planting was 48-60-0 (N-P-K) with additional 50 lb N on Jan. 14 and Mar. 3. Plots consisted of six-8" rows, 15 ft long in a randomized block design with four replications. The middle four rows of each plot were cut at a 1½" height on Jan. 8, Feb. 4, Mar. 3, Mar. 20, Apr. 16, and May 23.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

There were significant differences between ryegrass cultivars only at the Jan. 8, Mar. 3, and Mar. 20 harvests (Table 1). Florida Reseeding, Gulf, North Mississippi Reseeding, ASSO, TX-O-R-78-2, and Common were the most productive at the first harvest. Although significant, differences in forage production during the March harvests were small.

The lack of significant differences in forage production of ryegrass cultivars in southeast Texas coincides with previous results. Major differences in forage production occur only during unusually cold winters when the more cold-hardy cultivars such as Florida Reseeding and Magnolia are more productive.

Table 1. Forage production of ryegrass cultivars at Angleton, 1979-1980.

Cultivar	Harvest dates							Total
	Jan 8	Feb 4	Mar 3	Mar 20	Apr 16	May 23		
	----- lb/ac -----							
Tetrablend 444	956 cd*	958	606 bcd	701 ab	1475	378	5074	
Florida Reseeding	1337 ab	927	690 ab	584 cd	1355	299	4992	
Gulf	1149 a	930	634 abc	553 cd	1210	501	4977	
North Miss. Reseeding	1129 ab	712	634 abc	791 a	1333	348	4947	
ASSO	1162 a	806	546 cde	529 d	1318	353	4714	
TX-O-R-78-3	935 cd	874	659 ab	534 d	1280	339	4621	
TX-O-R-78-2	1026 abc	664	632 abc	596 abc	1171	444	4533	
Georgia Reseeding	973 bcd	707	730 a	560 cd	1210	256	4440	
Magnolia	845 d	850	638 abc	563 cd	1134	344	4374	
Common	1093 abc	582	508 de	550 cd	1127	350	4210	
Meritra	977 bcd	666	484 e	667 bc	1159	250	4203	

*Values in a column followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the .05 level using Duncan's Multiple Range Test.