

Forage Research in Texas

Departmental Technical Report No. 81-12

Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

AV - 0069

Project: RI-6249

Workers: L.D. Allison
E.C. Holt

Location: Beeville

EVALUATION OF ALFALFA VARIETIES
IN THE COASTAL BEND AREA

OBJECTIVES:

To determine the yield and persistence of alfalfa varieties in the upper Rio Grande Plains.

PROCEDURE:

Twelve varieties were planted in October, 1978 in 5-row plots, 6 m long, rows spaced 30 cm. Harvest area consisted of three center rows (0.9m x 5.2m). The soil is a Clareville clay loam in which the cotton root rot organism is common. Cutting was in the early bloom stage.

RESULTS:

Second-year stands produced yields in the range of 3,000 to 4,000 kg/ha, whereas first-year yields were in the range of 2,000 to 2,800 kg/ha. Regrowth following the early August harvest was poor due to leaf diseases and cotton root rot. Spring recovery in 1980 also was poor and stands were very erratic due to cotton root rot. The plots were discontinued in May, 1980 due to loss of stand with the conclusion that alfalfa production is not practical on the clay and clay loam soils in this area.

Alfalfa variety test, Beeville, 1979.

Variety	Pounds of dry forage per acre				Total
	Apr. 27	June 1	July 3	Aug. 2	
1. Team	1667	1593	951	1156	5367 a'
2. Dawson	1687	1328	649	1093	4747 b
3. Arc	1778	1143	614	928	4463 b
4. WC318	2016	1286	879	1126	5307 a
5. Olympic	1687	1161	659	1105	4612 b
6. Apollo	1869	1091	783	1121	4864 b
7. NAPB-42	2044	1288	734	1045	5111 a
8. WL512	1693	1226	680	1066	4665 b
9. Kanza	1653	1332	854	909	4748 b
10. Saranac AR	1672	1141	662	862	4337 b
11. Williamsburg	1577	1011	567	786	3941 bc
12. Moapa	1618	945	678	1059	4300 b
13. Kanza	546	556	672	837	2501 b
14. Cimarron	960	738	824	792	3314 a
15. Weevilchek	786	637	549	605	2577 b
16. Florida 66A	290	789	605	848	2532 b
17. Liberty	543	686	687	761	2677 b
18. Moapa	186	366	612	596	1760 c

Varieties within 1 to 12 and 13 to 18 with same letter do not differ significantly (0.05 level). Varieties 13 to 18 were planted in October, 1978, while varieties 1 to 12 were planted in October 1977.