



Forage Research in Texas

Departmental Technical Report No.80-6
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Project: H 6287
Date: 1980
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PC-0015

YIELD COMPARISON OF SIX COOL-SEASON GRASSES
IN THE TRANS-PECOS AREA

OBJECTIVES:

To determine the seasonal and total dry-matter yields of four tall wheatgrass varieties ('Jose', 'Largo', 'Alkar', and 'Platte'), 'Ky 31' fescue, and NK Tetrablend 30.

PROCEDURE:

Five cool-season perennial grasses and one cool-season mixture of annual and perennial rye grass were planted October 17, 1978 on the Pecos Station in a randomized block design with four replications. All varieties were seeded at 25 lb./acre in 8-inch drill widths. After establishment, plots were standardized to 5.3 by 20 foot blocks. Plots were harvested initially on April 19, 1979 and thereafter, at monthly intervals to a 3-inch stubble height. Total weights were recorded in the field and sub-samples taken for moisture determinations. Following each defoliation, all plots were fertilized with 40 lbs/acre nitrogen (urea) and immediately sprinkle irrigated. The total moisture applied via precipitation and/or irrigation, was 61 inches.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Dry matter yields for the six cool-season grass varieties are shown in Table 1. Tetrablend 30, which is composed of 38 percent annual ryegrass, had a rapid decline in production. Although fescue had a lower total yield than some of the wheatgrass varieties, it tended to produce a more stable yield into the summer season. This could be an advantage under a fixed stocking rate system. Largo had the highest and Platte the lowest dry matter production of the tall wheatgrasses.

Table 1. Dry-matter yield of six cool-season grasses.

Grass	Harvest Dates							Total
	4-19	5-22	6-22	7-26	8-23	9-25	10-31	
	(lbs/ac dry matter)							
Largo	1922	3444	1528	1181	1286	856	1079	11,296
Jose	2083	3102	1011	1113	1060	849	854	10,072
Alkar	2436	2711	1046	1058	1065	613	800	9,729
Fescue	821	2351	2147	1938	1125	535	661	9,578
Platte	1246	3031	1042	960	1010	738	663	8,690
Tetrablend 30	2603	1847	999	374	642	495	185	7,145