

Forage Research in Texas

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Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Project: RI 6249

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Location: Beeville

(THE EVALUATION OF) TRIFOLIUM AND MEDICAGO
CULTIVARS IN THE COASTAL BEND AREA

OBJECTIVE:

To evaluate the performance of temperate annual legumes largely in the Trifolium and Medicago genera.

PROCEDURE:

Cultivars of arrowleaf, persian, Medicago, and red clover were seeded at the rate of 16 kg/ha and rose clover at 12 kg/ha. Plots consisted of five rows spaced 30 cm, 6 m long. Inoculated seed were planted on October 6, 1979, on Clareville clay loam soil. Moisture was limited and germination was delayed until mid-December.

RESULTS:

The greatest yields were produced by arrowleaf clover with RRPS-3 and Amclo producing significantly more than Meechee and Yuchi. The red clovers produced less than the arrowleaf clovers with no difference among the three cultivars. In the miscellaneous legume test, Abon persian was the highest yielding entry, producing about the same as the red clover cultivars. The rose clovers, which have performed very well in some studies, were the lowest producing. The late emergence may have affected rose clover relatively more than the other species. For reasons not well understood red clover produced about 1000kg less forage in this test than in the cultivar test.

Arrowleaf and subterranean (see report in this publication) clovers show promise for this area. Cultivars of both species have produced reseeded (volunteer) stands regularly at this location when management permits seed production. Subterranean clover, because of superior seedling vigor, makes more winter growth but arrowleaf clover makes more total growth possibly because of later maturity.

Table 1. Forage yield of arrowleaf clover cultivars, Beeville, 1979.

Cultivar	Kg/ha, Dry Forage
RRPS-3	7586 a'
Amclo	7302 a
Meechee	6201 b
Yuchi	5629 c

'Values followed by same letter are not significantly differ (0.05 level).

Table 2. Forage yield of red clover cultivars, Beeville, 1979.

Cultivar	Kg/ha, Dry Forage
Tensas	4638 a'
Kenland	4561 a
Kenstar	4517 a

' Values followed by same letter do not siffer significantly, (0.05 level).

Table 3. Forage yield of miscellaneous legumes, Beeville, 1979.

Cultivar and Species	Kg/ha, Dry Forage
Abon Persian Clover	4530 a'
Berseem clover	3698 b
Red clover	3171 bc
Jemalong medic	2989 c
Hanford medic	2085 d
California rose clover	1352 e
Kondinin rose clover	1131 e

' Values followed by same letter do not differ significantly, (0.05 level).