

ALFALFA VARIETY TRIAL AND DEMONSTRATION

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INTRODUCTION

Many alfalfa varieties have been released by both commercial and public breeders. Producers are questioning whether these new varieties will produce as much as Vernal, a common public variety and have requested that a non-biased comparison be conducted in Dunn County by the Dickinson Research Extension Center and the NDSU Extension Service. The primary questions that producers have concerning alfalfa varieties are 1) adaptation to dryland conditions in western North Dakota, 2) production (tons/acre), and 3) the value of the feed produced.

PROCEDURE

Representatives from Cenex, Northrup King, Agri-Pro, Interstate, Pioneer, and Cargill provided varieties that they thought to be adapted to western North Dakota in 1975. In addition to commercial varieties, seeded in 1995, three public varieties, 'Vernal', 'Ladak', and 'Ranger' were included. Varieties were seeded in a randomized complete block design to evaluate potential difference in dry matter yield. 'Vernal', which is commonly grown, was used as a check variety.

Plots were seeded into standing oat stubble that had been hayed the preceding year. Glyphosate (Roundup) was applied as a "burn down" herbicide to control early season weed growth prior to direct seeding with a John Deere 750 no-till drill. Forty pounds of 18-46-0 was placed with the seed.

RESULTS

A stand evaluation will be made in the spring and yield information taken at the time of the cutting. Yield information will be reported in the 1996 report.

ALFALFA PERFORMANCE DEMONSTRATION - DREC MANNING RANCH DUNN COUNTY PLOT PLAN To be planted in 1996

Yield Trial Plots			Demonstration Strips
Rep I	Rep II	Rep III	Variety Key
(101) 1	(201) 4	(301) 6	1 VERNAL
(102) 7	(202) 2	(302) 7	2 ALLEGIANCE
(103) 4	(203) 7	(303) 1	3 PROOF
(104) 3	(204) 1	(304) 4	4 120
(105) 6	(205) 6	(305) 5	5 DK 127
(106) 2	(206) 3	(306) 3	6 RAINIER
(107) 5	(207) 5	(307) 2	7 5454

1995 Planting			
Rep I	Rep II	Rep III	Variety Key
(401) 2	(501) 3	(601) 6	1 STERLING
(402) 8	(502) 12	(602) 12	2 CROWN II

(403) 15	(503) 18	(603) 11	3 DEFIANT
(404) 3	(504) 14	(604) 19	4 CUT/GRAZE
(405) 14	(505) 8	(605) 3	5 BLAZER XL
(406) 7	(506) 5	(606) 14	6 LEGENDAIRY
(407) 10	(507) 2	(607) 1	7 MG 200
(408) 4	(508) 13	(608) 9	8 740
(409) 6	(509) 19	(609) 4	9 SPREADOR III
(410) 16	(510) 1	(610) 16	10 NK 919-10
(411) 13	(511) 17	(611) 2	11 NK 919 RANGELAND
(412) 18	(512) 10	(612) 17	12 AVALANCHE + z
(413) 12	(513) 15	(613) 7	13 5262
(414) 9	(514) 7	(614) 15	14 5364
(415) 19	(515) 6	(615) 10	15 VERNAL
(416) 11	(516) 9	(616) 5	16 LADAK
(417) 17	(517) 4	(617) 8	17 RANGER
(418) 5	(518) 11	(618) 13	18 AFRICAN LOVE GRASS
(419) 1	(519) 16	(619) 18	19 Empty

Numbers in parenthesis () are assigned plot numbers.
Number in plot corresponds to number in variety key.

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