

PASTURE-TYPE ALFALFA TRIAL

The pasture-type alfalfa trial seeded in 1972 was clipped for yield for the third season in 1975. Two clippings were made on all varieties. Stands on all varieties continued to be very good, although some of the plots showed appreciable damage from ground squirrels. Bait was placed in the burrows, but control was not complete.

The clipping yields from the alfalfa plots in the 1975 season are given in Table 7. Yields were very good with the second clipping averaging over 75 % of the first clipping. These yields were of course reflections of the good rainfall picture for the 1975 season. In the 1974 season the yield of the second clipping averaged only about 18% of the first clipping. The average yields of the varieties were the highest obtained in any of the three seasons of the trial.

In the 1975 season 9 of the 12 varieties averaged over 3 tons per acre with only Drylander and two of the Swift Current synthetics averaging less than 3 tons per acre. These three varieties all averaged over 2 3/4 tons/acre. Of the varieties producing over 3 tons/acre Ladak was the top producer at 6651 lbs total yield, and SC-Syn 3703-L at 6148 lbs was the lowest producer. The range between the top-yielding was thus only about 500 lbs/acre.

Regrowth after cutting was appreciably slower in some varieties than in others. Regrowth in Travois, SC-Syn 3701-L, and Semi-Palatinsk was significantly slower than in the other varieties, but total final production for the second clipping was not much different from the production of the other varieties. Regrowth on Travois was quite fine and appreciably shorter than the regrowth of any of the other varieties.

Total yields of the varieties for each of the three years of the trial and average yields for the period are given in Table 8. Actually there is little real difference between the average total production of the first five varieties, the range being only from 6651 lbs/acre for Ladak to 6359 lbs for Roamer. The 3-year average yield of Travois at 6496 lbs/acre is near the yields of the top producers. On the basis of the anticipated behavior of a pasture-type alfalfa Travois seems to be reasonably typical.

To date none of the varieties has exhibited a strong creeping habit. While some of the varieties may have the capability of developing the creeping habit, it is unlikely that this characteristic will be exhibited in this trial, since the treatment of the plots has been that of clipping rather than grazing. Vigor in all varieties seems to be relatively high, and thus far stand maintenance has been good.

Table 7. Production of varieties in pasture-type alfalfa trial - 1975 season.			
Variety	Dry-weight yield - lbs/acre		
	1 st clipping	2 nd clipping	Total
Ladak	3563	3088	6651
Teton	3692	2883	6575
Travois	3700	2796	6496
SC-Syn 37045	3727	2701	6428
Roamer	3657	2702	6359
Semi-Palatinsk	3435	2844	6279
SC-Syn 37025	4037	2195	6232
Rambler	3492	2671	6163
SC-Syn 3703-L	3670	2478	6148
Drylander	3292	2483	5775
SC-Syn 3701-L	3001	2687	5688
SC-MF 3713	3281	2235	5516
Average	3546	2647	6193

Table 20 - Barley variety trial - Dickinson and off-station sites								
Variety	Yield in bushels per acre							
	Dickinson	Beach	Bowman	Glen Ullin	Hettinger	Killdeer	Mandan	Avg. 6-station
Hector	61	47	36	42	44	Hailed Out	22	46
Vanguard	45	46	31	46	40		24	42
Step toe	49	50	24	31	38		21	38
Firlbecks III	55	48	39	48	42		21	46
Multum	64	45	39	48	49		24	49
Georgie	61	44	32	40	43		16	44
Nordic	52	42	18	33	33		28	36
Standard error of a treatment mean	2.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4		0.9	
L.s.d. @ 5%	8.2	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.0		2.7	
The c.v. = P.C.	10.9	7.9	11.0	7.7	6.6		8.3	

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