

SEASONAL PASTURES FOR YEAR-ROUND GRAZING IN THE GULF COAST PRAIRIE

Albert W. Crain, Associate Pasture Specialist
Texas A. & M. College System

There is no combination of grasses and legumes to plant which will provide year-round grazing within the same fenced area or pasture. *The best pasture mixture* is the best grass and the best legume adapted to (1) the soil, (2) the *seasonal* need and, (3) grazing management practices to be followed. Cool-season perennial grasses will not thrive on the same land with warm-season perennial grasses. Warm-season legumes (lespedeza) will not grow on the same land with cool-season legumes. Cool-season *or* warm-season legumes will thrive with warm season perennials, but only cool-season legumes should be used with cool-season perennial grasses.

In the Gulf Coast region, where surface drainage beds exist, more than one legume may be used with bermuda or dallis or fescue, due to varying conditions of drainage, soil and temperature. Where white clover is used (see pasture calendar) hop and Persian clovers may be planted along with the white clover. All three make maximum growth in the same season of the year. Persian will grow where it is too wet for hop or white; hop grows on driest and poorest soil. Lespedeza should not be expected to thrive with any of these clovers.

On most areas of the Gulf Coast it is only necessary to seed dallis. Bermuda will volunteer. For summer pasture plant lespedeza on bermuda or dallisgrass sod.

Supplemental pastures are needed for both summer and winter production. Sweet clover, rescue grass and oats for winter pasture, and sudan and Chinese red cowpeas for summer will round out a good pasture program.

Due to the high rainfall in the region, the summer and winter supplemental pasture may be produced on the same field provided good perennial pastures exist to use during the spring and fall planting periods.

Anytime excess forage exists on a given pasture it should be cut for hay or silage. It should be done for good pasture management. Besides, no pasture program is fool-proof, a reserve of hay and silage is needed for drouths and cool weather. Also, hay should be available to cattle anytime they graze good succulent pasture.

A well planned fertilizing and renovating program is an essential part of a pasture program. Mowing equipment for weed control and for keeping pasture plants in a succulent condition is also a necessary part of a pasture program.

All combination of good pasture mixtures or crops are not illustrated, but sufficient examples are shown to illustrate the need for *seasonal pastures*.

PASTURES ARE A CASH CROP - - TREAT THEM AS SUCH

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DALLIS

BERMUDA

FESCUE

SUDAN

OATS

OATS

OATS



WHITE CLOVER

LESPEDEZA

WHITE

COWPEAS

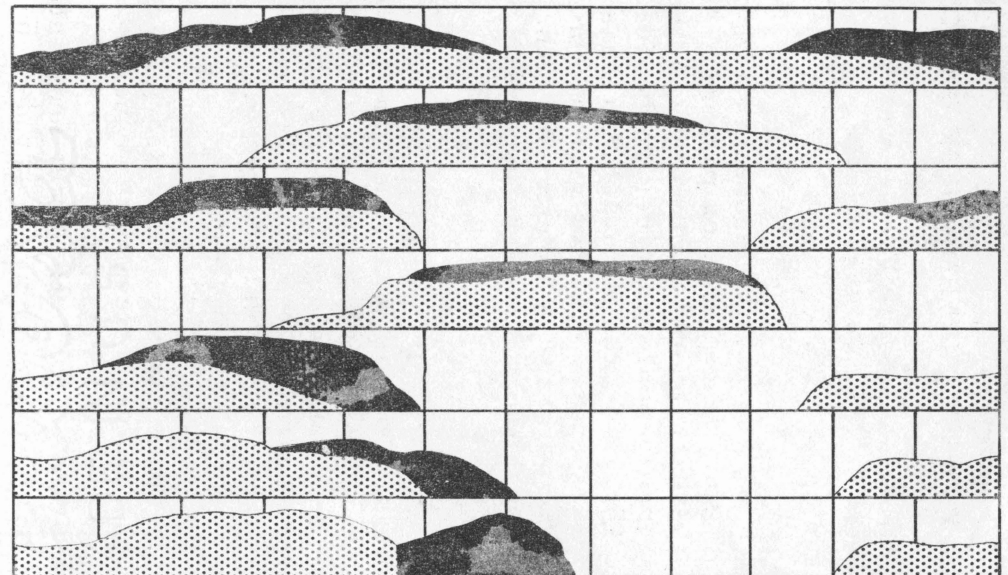
CRIMSON

HUBAM

MADRID

Supplement with hay

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC



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