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The XXI International Grassland Congress / VIII International Rangeland Congress took place in Hohhot, China from June 29 through July 5, 2008.

Proceedings edited by Organizing Committee of 2008 IGC/IRC Conference

Published by Guangdong People's Publishing House

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Evaluation of *Medicago sativa* ssp . *falcata* for hay systems in Michigan , USA

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Introduction *Medicago sativa* spp . *falcata* sustains vegetative growth well after flowering resulting in accumulated dry matter yield . If *falcata* were utilized in Michigan for hay production it could allow fewer cuttings while maintaining adequate yield ; thereby reducing input costs .

Objective To determine dry matter yield and forage quality of *Medicago falcata* under 1 , 2 , and 3 cutting systems compared to *Medicago sativa* alfalfa .

Results A two-cut system with SD201 *falcata* resulted in the highest dry matter yield due to indeterminate growth habit compared to other species in 1 and 2 cutting systems (Table 1) . In the 3-cut system , WL 346LH was the highest yielding species .

Table 1 Lake City Alfalfa Cutting Trials-Lake City , MI . 2006 .

Schedule/cultivar	Species	cut 1	cut 2	cut 3	Total
		Yield dry matter Mg/ha			
Three-cut		8-Jun	24-Jul	6-Sep	
WL 346LH	<i>sativa</i>	4 .68	3 .90	1 .57	10 .15b
SD201	<i>falcata</i>	5 .85	2 .44	0 .47	8 .76c
Norcen	birdsfoot trefoil	3 .49	1 .79	0 .13	5 .41e
Two-cut		22-Jun	22-Aug		
SD201	<i>falcata</i>	6 .74	4 .50	.	11 .24a
WL 346LH	<i>sativa</i>	4 .79	4 .20	.	9 .00c
Norcen	birdsfoot trefoil	6 .72	1 .19	.	7 .91d
One-cut		10-Jul			
SD201	<i>falcata</i>	8 .42	.	.	8 .42cd
Norcen	birdsfoot trefoil	5 .35	.	.	5 .35e
WL 346LH	<i>sativa</i>	4 .64	.	.	4 .64e