

2-1982

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Repository Citation

Sigafus, Roy E.; Taylor, Norman L.; Lacefield, Garry D.; and Evans, J. Kenneth, "Alfalfa, White Clover, and Red Clover Variety Trials" (1982). *Agronomy Notes*. 87.
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/pss_notes/87

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AGRONOMY NOTES

Volume 15. No. 1

Feb. 1982

ALFALFA, WHITE CLOVER, AND RED CLOVER VARIETY TRIALS

Roy Sigafus, N. L. Taylor, G. D. Lacefield, and J. K. Evans

This note is a brief summary of results obtained in 1981 from one white clover, five alfalfa, and three red clover trials. Yields in the seeding year, and from the first full year of production thereafter, are not the best estimate of the full potential of most forage legumes. The third season stand and yield are a good measure of persistency with red clover and white clover. At times it may be the fourth or fifth season with alfalfa before stands begin to thin.

To supply information on the best varieties available there is a continuous monitoring of new varieties and a few experimental strains about ready for release. Results of tests of experimental strains are found in Forage Variety Progress Reports along with descriptions of most varieties named in this report.

ALFALFA VARIETY TRIALS

In Tables 1 and 2 alfalfa varieties are listed in order of their 5-year total yields--highest yielding variety first. Table 3 includes the second-year yields from a few old varieties and several new ones. Twenty varieties were seeded at both Lexington and Princeton. At Lexington an additional 18 varieties and 3 experimentals were included. The extra varieties were: Agate, Arc, DeKalb 120, Honeoye, Iroquois, Raidor, Saranac, Thor, Trident, Voris 66, WL-311, WL-312, WL-313, WL-316, WL-318, 524, 531, and 555.

Table 1. Dry Weight Yields of Alfalfa Varieties--1981 Season Yields and 5-year Totals from an April 1976 Seeding at Lexington.*

Variety	1981 Yield Tons/A	5-year Total Tons/A	Variety	1981 Yield Tons/A	5-year Total Tons/A
Arc	7.89	32.10	Narragansett	7.17	27.72
Olympic	8.31	30.88	Vernal	7.16	27.60
Weevlchek	7.97	30.63	Agate	6.98	27.58
Vanguard	7.43	29.84	Buffalo	7.07	27.56
Thor	7.44	29.83	520	7.23	27.55
Apollo	7.26	29.25	Ramsey	7.10	27.28
Cody	7.39	27.92	Victoria	7.12	27.14
530	6.87	27.83	Spredor	6.53	25.17

* Harvested 3 times in 1976 but yields not recorded.

Harvested 4 times in 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1981, and 5 times in 1980.

Table 2. Dry Weight Yields of Alfalfa Varieties--1981 Season Yields and 5-year Totals from Seedings Made in 1977 at Princeton and Lexington.

Princeton			Lexington		
Variety	1981 Yield Tons/A	5-year Total Tons/A	Variety	1981 Yield Tons/A	5-year Total Tons/A
Saranac AR	6.24	24.85	Arc	7.61	27.28
Classic	6.24	24.05	Saranac AR	7.49	26.62
Weevlchek	5.74	24.03	Classic	7.08	26.56
Apollo	5.77	23.65	Olympic	7.92	26.46
Tempo	5.49	23.47	Vernal	7.38	26.16
Gladiator	5.90	23.43	Gladiator	7.16	25.97
Williamsburg	5.30	23.00	Vanguard	7.19	25.52
Vanguard	5.92	22.94	Williamsburg	7.54	25.49
Olympic	6.12	22.52	530	7.33	25.35
Cody	5.43	22.48	Tempo	7.40	25.13
Thor	5.69	22.48	Apollo	7.31	24.97
Vernal	5.66	22.14	Cody	7.19	24.64
Buffalo	5.09	21.64	Weevlchek	6.98	24.58
Arc	5.68	21.55	Thor	6.93	24.41
530	5.17	21.41	Buffalo	7.31	23.76
Spredor	4.85	19.56	Spredor	6.17	20.00

Seeded in May 1977 and harvested 3 times that year.
Harvested 4 times in each of the following years.

Table 3. Dry Weight Yields of Alfalfa Varieties for the 1981 Season. Seeded at Princeton and Lexington April 1980.

Princeton		Lexington	
Variety	Tons/A	Variety	Tons/A
Saranac AR	6.96	G-7730	8.03
Hi-phy	6.88	Hi-phy	8.00
Classic	6.77	Saranac AR	7.99
Cimarron	6.75	Baker	7.87
Gladiator	6.69	Weevlchek	7.82
Riley	6.69	Cimarron	7.82
Tempo	6.57	Apollo	7.81
Weevlchek	6.57	Voris 77	7.80
DeKalb 130	6.56	WL-220	7.76
Apollo	6.52	Vancor	7.71
G-7730	6.49	Gladiator	7.71
Liberty	6.48	Classic	7.70
Vancor	6.35	DeKalb 130	7.69
555	6.29	Vernal	7.64
Voris 77	6.23	Phytor	7.52
WL-220	6.17	Liberty	7.52
Vernal	5.81	Tempo	7.51
Buffalo	5.79	555	7.30
Phytor	5.78	Buffalo	7.23
Baker	5.52	Riley	7.22

WHITE CLOVER AND RED CLOVER VARIETY TRIALS

At Lexington white clover and red clover are seeded, in early spring, in wheat seeded the previous fall at about half the normal rate. After wheat removal the clover plots are harvested once in early September. These yields, at least a ton of dry weight per acre are not recorded.

At Princeton red clover was seeded in early spring using an herbicide. Only one harvest was possible in 1980 due to very hot, dry weather.

Table 4. Dry Weight Yields and Stands of White Clover Varieties Seeded at Lexington in March 1979.

Variety	Yield	Stand
	1980 Tons/A	1981 %
Arcadia Ladino	3.38	31
Certified Ladino	3.04	37
Regal Ladino	2.89	34
Tillman Ladino	2.84	43
La. S-1 (Intermed.)	0.88	0

Table 5. Dry Weight Yields and Stands of Red Clover Varieties Seeded at Lexington in March 1979.

Variety	1980	1981	2-year	Stand
	Yield Tons/A	Yield Tons/A	Total Tons/A	Sept. 1981 %
Kenland	5.19	3.45	8.64	43
Kenstar	4.94	3.98	7.92	41
Flare	4.84	2.76	7.60	13
Redland	4.82	2.65	7.47	19
*Redmor	4.76	2.45	7.21	8
Redland II	4.72	2.47	7.19	24
Redman	4.70	2.47	7.17	14
*Chesapeake	4.97	2.05	7.02	7
*Prosper I	4.50	2.15	6.65	4
Florie	4.45	2.14	6.59	4
*Ottawa	4.08	1.49	6.28	0
*Pennscott	4.39	1.89	6.28	3
*Arlington	4.22	1.80	6.02	4
*Florex	3.98	1.66	5.64	0
*Lakeland	3.86	1.37	5.23	0
Norlac	2.68	1.05	3.73	0

* Usually not for sale in Kentucky.

Table 6. Dry Weight Yields and Stands of Red Clover Varieties Seeded at Princeton and Lexington in April 1980.

Princeton			Lexington		
Variety	1981 Yield Tons/A	Stand Sept. 22 1981 %	Variety	1981 Yield Tons/A	Stand Sept. 30 1981 %
Kenland	4.26	64	Kenstar	5.63	84
Kenstar	4.14	45	Flare	5.56	70
Redland	4.09	46	Kenland	5.49	78
Florie	3.83	13	*Tensas	5.46	83
Redland II	3.81	27	Redman	5.43	69
*Tensas	3.75	26	Redland II	5.41	60
Redman	3.69	20	*Chesapeake	5.34	58
*Arlington	3.61	12	Redland	5.34	70
Flare	3.46	26	Florie	5.20	58
*Redmor	3.46	4	*Prosper I	5.19	59
*Prosper I	3.32	9	*Pennscott	5.18	41
*Chesapeake	3.23	8	*Arlington	5.09	70
*Pennscott	2.90	6	*Redmor	4.76	56
*Lakeland	2.87	3	*Lakeland	4.58	19
*Florex	2.82	6	*Florex	4.44	24
Norlac	2.15	2	Norlac	2.77	11

* Usually not for sale in Kentucky.

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