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## Forage News [1998-02]

University of Kentucky Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

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## FORAGE NEWS

Garry D. Lacefield and Jimmy C. Henning, Extension Forage Specialists • Christi Forsythe, Secretary

### **National Alfalfa Symposium and XVIII Kentucky Alfalfa Conference**

**February 26-27, 1998**

**University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center  
Bowling Green, Kentucky**

It's almost HERE. We are looking forward to an outstanding, practical meeting in Bowling Green. If you have not preregistered, we encourage you to do so ASAP. Remember there is a five or ten dollar discount for registration by February 12. We would greatly appreciate you letting Dr. Monroe Rasnake, Research & Education Center, P. O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445, Phone-502/365-7541 Ext. 206, FAX-502/365-2667 know if you plan to attend. It will be a big help in planning on number of meals, etc. This is especially important for those of you who will be bringing car loads, vans or a bus.

The hotel has extended its conference rate until February 9. Please call 502/745-0088 for reservations.

If you need copies of the program, please call Christi at 502/365-7541, Ext. 221.

See you in Bowling Green.

### **KFGC AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT ALFALFA SYMPOSIUM**

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council will present their annual awards at the luncheon during the Alfalfa Symposium in Bowling Green February 27, 1998. Awards will be presented in four categories: Forage Producer Award, Public Service to Forages County & State, and Industry Award. The Certified Alfalfa Seed Council will also present their awards at the luncheon.

### **U.K. ALL COMMODITY FIELD DAY**

Mark your calendars for **JULY 16** and plan to attend the U.K. All Commodity Field Day at the U.K. Research and Education Center in Princeton. The 1996 field day attracted nearly 2000 people from throughout Kentucky as well as several states. More details on this important event in future issues.

### **GRAZING SCHOOL FOR SPRING 1998**

The spring Kentucky Grazing School will be held April 21-23 at the Eden Shale Farm and Owen County Extension Office in northern Kentucky. Registration is \$125 payable to the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and covers lunches and supper meals during the school plus all breaks, grazing manual, a copy of Southern Forages, and a Grass Identification booklet. Spaces are limited so please get your name in early. For more information contact Jimmy Henning at 606/257-3144, FAX 606/323-1952, E-mail [jhenning@ca.uky.edu](mailto:jhenning@ca.uky.edu) or Ken Johnson at 502/487-6589.

### **MORE FORAGE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

In addition to the National Alfalfa Symposium in Bowling Green in February, another national forage meeting is planned for Indianapolis. The annual meeting of the American Forage and Grassland Council will be March 8 (Sunday) through March 10 (Tuesday) at the Adams Mark

Hotel in Indianapolis. There will be a special emphasis on forages for wildlife and other uses in addition to the papers and posters on managing and utilizing forages in North America. This is another unique opportunity to see and hear the national experts in forages present their latest research findings and to meet some of the nations best forage producers. For more information contact Jimmy Henning at 606/257-3144, FAX 606/323-1952, E-mail jhenning@ca.uky.edu. Pre-registration closes on February 7, so don't delay.

### FORAGE VARIETY REPORTS

Due to the slow learning curve of yours truly (Jimmy Henning), the 1997 Forage Variety Test reports are late this year. A photo-copy of the alfalfa and red clover reports is already in the mail to county agents offices and are also available to anyone if they will call Susan Leopold at 606/257-5836 and request them. The tall fescue, orchardgrass, and timothy reports will be out in about a month. The finished copies of all of these publications will be placed in the weekly county agent packet when they are in print.

### POULTRY LITTER FOR PASTURES

Many Kentucky farmers now have access to poultry litter and want to know about using it on pastures. When used right, poultry litter is excellent on pastures. It contains relatively high amounts of nutrients - averaging about 50 pounds per ton of nitrogen, phosphate and potash. Since many of our pastures need all of these nutrients, nothing is wasted. Application rates should be limited to about four tons/A per year for efficiency of nutrient use and to reduce the risk of environmental or animal health problems. Litter can be applied anytime except when the ground is very wet or frozen. Nutrient use efficiency is improved if litter is applied near the times pastures are growing best. For cool season pastures, this is in late winter to early spring (Feb.-March) and early fall (Sept.-Oct.). If litter is applied on the same field every year, soil tests should be taken to check nutrient buildup. When soil test levels of phosphate and potash become very high, the efficiency of nutrient use and value of litter on the field is reduced. In this case, it would be best to apply only the nutrients needed on that field and apply litter to fields that need the phosphate and potash. (Monroe Rasnake)

### INFLUENCE OF SEEDLING GROWTH ON FLOODING INJURY IN ALFALFA

ABSTRACT—Temporary flooding of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) seedlings frequently occurs in the midwestern USA, often resulting in total or partial stand establishment failures. This study evaluated the effect of seedling growth stage on the severity of flooding injury in alfalfa grown in the greenhouse. Alfalfa seedlings of 'WL 323', rated as highly resistant to root rot caused by *Phytophthora medicaginis* E.M. Hans. & Maxwell and resistant to root rot caused by *Aphanomyces euteiches* Drechs., were flooded for 14 d at three vegetative growth states: (i) early seedling development

(1-2 trifoliolates), (ii) early vegetative (3-6 trifoliolates), and (iii) mid to late vegetative (5-11 branches on the main stem). Root and shoot dry weights (DW) were recorded at the initiation of flooding, 0 days after flooding (DAF), 18 DAF (shoots only), and 36 DAF (18 d of regrowth from the 18 DAF harvest). The experiment was conducted twice. Flooding significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) reduced root and shoot DW, regardless of growth stage, and adversely impacted regrowth potential of alfalfa. There was a growth stage X flooding treatment interaction ( $P < 0.01$ ) for root DW at 0 and 36 DAF in Trial 1, and at 0 DAF in Trial 2. Generally, flooding reduced root DW the least when seedlings were in the mid to late vegetative growth stage. Averaged over experimental trials, flooding reduced root DW at 36 DAF by 78% for early seedling, 73% for early vegetative, and 64% for mid to late vegetative growth stages, compared with unflooded controls. There was a growth stage X flooding treatment interaction ( $P < 0.01$ ) for shoot DW at 0, 18, and 36 DAF in Trial 1, and at 36 DAF in Trial 2. Averaged over trials, flooding reduced alfalfa shoot DW measured at 36 DAF by 57% for early seedling, 40% for early vegetative, and 19% for mid to late vegetative growth stages, compared with unflooded controls. We conclude that older and more vegetatively advanced alfalfa seedlings recover shoot regrowth potential after temporary flooding better than do seedlings in the early trifoliolate stages. (SOURCE: Christopher D. Teutsch and R. Mark Sulc, *Agron. J.* Vol. 89, No. 6, Nov-Dec 97)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEB 26-27 XVIII Kentucky Alfalfa Conference and 28<sup>th</sup> National Alfalfa Symposium, University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Bowling Green, KY
- MAR 8-10 AFGC, Indianapolis, IN
- JUL 16 U.K. College of Agriculture All Commodity Field Day, UKREC, Princeton, KY

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FEB 98 Extension Forage Specialist