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HIGHER CROP YIELDS FROM IMPROVED VARIETIES

corn

soybeans

wheat

oats

legumes

grasses

Purdue University
Agricultural Extension Service
Lafayette, Indiana

Mimeo AY-81
Revised, 1961

LEGUME AND GRASS VARIETIES FOR 1961

Availability:

Supplies of legume and grass seed of the varieties extensively used in recent years are adequate and reasonably priced.

Legume Variety Recommendations for Indiana

Alfalfa:

CULVER is added to the list of recommended alfalfa varieties. No other changes are made in named variety recommendations compared to those of recent years. The alfalfa used should be winter hardy, for it must pull through the first winter as well as any subsequent winter. Forecasting Hoosier winters is always uncertain, and it is therefore good judgment to use alfalfa ranking high in hardiness.

CULVER, the first Purdue-developed alfalfa variety, contributes more resistance to spittlebug than any other alfalfa. Dense growth, attractive deep green color, and high yielding ability make this new variety one of the best for Indiana. In winter hardiness and wilt resistance it equals Ranger. It is superior in resistance to several other insects and diseases and has produced higher yields in Purdue tests. Trials covering five years prove its adaptation throughout Indiana. 90,000 pounds of certified seed were made available through seed trade channels for 1961 planting. Much more extensive seed production is planned for the following years.

Supplies of certified RANGER are larger than for any other named variety. It will continue in wide-spread use in Indiana because of its winter hardiness, wilt resistance and satisfactory yielding ability. BUFFALO, similar to Ranger, except for winter hardiness is recommended only in the southern third of Indiana.

VERNAL has the same qualities as Ranger with even greater winter hardiness and more resistance to leaf spot diseases. Dense leafiness, high yielding ability, fine stems, deep green color and variegated flower color make this variety highly attractive. Seed supplies justify recommending Vernal throughout the state. Costs will be higher since it produces less seed per acre than Ranger.

ATLANTIC lacks the wilt resistance of the four preceding varieties but develops wilt more slowly than more susceptible varieties. It is higher yielding than Ranger for the first two years in Purdue tests, and winter hardiness is satisfactory.

The above named varieties are recommended over other alfalfas commonly offered for sale in Indiana. Common alfalfa is highly variable in its performance, depending upon its background.

Blends and Brands:

Blends are not varieties but may be mechanical mixtures of seed of different varieties of different origins. The performance of any blend for any characteristic, such as disease resistance, would be expected to approximate the average of the seed lots used in the blend.

Much of the seed sold through commercial channels carries a trade brand of the company handling the seed. Brands are, in a sense, "trade marks" of the various companies and may be applied to certified seed, blends or unmixed lots of ordinary (uncertified) seed.

Red Clover:

KENLAND is the only named variety recommended in Indiana. It leads all red clover in resistance to southern anthracnose disease and in ability to make more recovery growth following its second season. It has been outstanding in recent Purdue tests. Certified Kenland seed is produced in Idaho and other western states and is well adapted to Indiana. For "native" red clover sources, stay as close to home as possible. Indiana, Illinois and Ohio grown red clover is likely to be better adapted than that from states to the north.

Sweet Clover:

While the white blossom EVERGREEN and yellow blossom MADRID are excellent performers, seed supplies are very limited.

Birdsfoot Trefoil:

The broad-leafed EMPIRE, and the upright VIKING appear to be satisfactory for Indiana. Imported broad-leafed types have been variable in performance.

Korean Lespedeza:

This variety is the only one widely used in its area of adaptation in southern Indiana.

Grass Recommendations for Indiana

Smooth Bromegrass:

ACHENBACH, LINCOLN, and SOUTHLAND are recommended. These southern varieties are greatly superior to northern or Canadian varieties in Indiana.

Tall Fescue:

KENTUCKY 31 and ALTA are the only named varieties available to date. Since they are similar in performance, the one available with the better seed quality and price should be used.

Orchardgrass:

Named varieties such as POTOMAC and the new STERLING (IOWA-6) are not superior in yield or disease resistance in Indiana. Imported seed from Europe is in general, equal to or superior in leafiness, vigor, and disease resistance to domestic varieties. S-37 is significantly later and may offer advantages.

Sudangrass:

GREENLEAF is recommended first with PIPER second among the older varieties. New sorghum x sudangrass hybrids may yield significantly more, although the ones tested to date are less leafy and higher in prussic acid.

Other Legumes and Grasses:

No variety recommendations are made for SWEET CLOVER, ALSIKE, CLOVER, TIMOTHY RED TOP and ORCHARDGRASS.

Certified Seed

NAMED VARIETIES: The use of certified seed to insure varietal purity is strongly recommended. Tests to date show that half the non-certified alfalfa seed, distributed as "Ranger" in Indiana, has failed to meet the critical tests for trueness to this variety.

Additional Information

Alfalfa, Purdue Mimeo AY-36K, and mimeos on any of the other legumes and grasses will be sent on request by County Agents or from Purdue.