

## **NEW WORK BEGUN IN 1953**

Four new small plot nurseries were seeded in the 1953 season. These were the North Central Sweetclover nursery supplied by Dr. Gorz of the Agronomy Department - five species and strains in four replications with a 6' x 24' plot size; the U.S.D.A. Uniform bromegrass nursery - 13 strains of smooth bromegrass, plot size 5' x 20', four replications; the U.S.D.A. uniform intermediate wheatgrass nursery - 4 strains, plot size 5' x 20', four replications; and the U.S.D.A. uniform birdsfoot trefoil nursery with 11 strains of trefoil, 5' x 20' plots, four replications.

Excellent stands were obtained with these new nursery seedings in all cases except the uniform birdsfoot nursery. This appears to be largely a failure. While seeding emergence was good, most of the plants apparently died during the late summer dry period.

A grass seed production study was seeded on April 23. This consists of 6 species of grass seeded in 1/40th acre row and drill plots with three replications. This was seeded on clean stubble without tillage. Chemical weed control was attempted with fair success. Excellent stands were obtained, but toward the end of the season pigeon grass competition became very severe and no doubt retarded the development of these seedings to some extent.

A sweet clover production trial was seeded in May with oats as a companion crop. This is a randomized block, three replications, with one white and one yellow sweetclover in drill plots and in row plots for yield as hay and as silage.

A plot of 32 acres was seeded to crested wheatgrass on October 12 as the initial step in a pasture trial to determine quantitatively the value of crested wheatgrass and crested wheatgrass-alfalfa combinations for early spring grazing. The seeding was made on clean oat stubble with a single disk drill. The seedbed was somewhat rough, but otherwise in excellent shape for a late fall seeding. The alfalfa will be seeded in the spring.

A fall application of nitrogen at three rates was made on an old crested wheatgrass stand to determine whether

there was any advantage in fall application over the spring application. The nitrogen was applied on the surface using the fertilizer attachment of the grain drill. The date of application was October 14.

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