

NATIVE GRASS PASTURE YIELDS

The yield cages in the native grass pasture at the Station livestock farm were clipped for the tenth consecutive year. [Table 10](#) gives the oven-dry weights of the forage obtained from the cages in a single late-season clipping. Type 5, which is on land no longer belonging to the Experiment Station, was not clipped this season. It is impossible to include this type in the clipping program any longer.

Production of native grass in the pasture was surprisingly good this year considering the fact that April and most of May were quite dry, and growth of the grass was very poor during the early part of the season. The native grass responded well to the late moisture. This year blue gama grass produced a larger portion of the yield than usual. This is the only late growing grass of importance in the upland portions of the pasture. The average production of all types was 1538 lbs. per acre, which is about the same as last season's production and slightly more than the 10-year average production of 1371 lbs. per acre for all types.

This does not give an entirely clear picture, however, of the actual yield status of the pasture this year. The data in [Table 10](#) show that production on all types except one was less or about the same as last year, and that production on one of the most important types, Type 8, was less than half that of last year and only about two-thirds the average production of this type.

Table 10. Forage Yields from Cage Clippings - Dickinson Experiment Station Native Grass Pasture -1946-1955												
Type No.	Type Description	Forage Yield - Lbs. per acre (Oven-dry)										10-year Average
		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	
1	Upland type	924	1432	776	434	710	512	593	1768	929	903	898
2	Upland draw	1313	2394	1210	869	915	869	948	3009	1157	1459	1414

3	Lower draw	1455	2972	1385	941	1226	597	1701	3144	3060	2407	1889
4	Bench type	658	1039	667	315	742	310	470	1587	637	562	699
5	Upland Slopes ¹	561	1395	1129	549	624	349	496	1805	---	---	---
6	Lower bench	1269	1518	1263	743	800	339	597	2804	624	663	1062
7	Big bluestem	2128	2849	2552	2136	3444	1823	2134	3522	2886	3971 ²	2744
8	Crested Wheat grass	937	1945	1222	613	1262	989	657	2383	1808	801	1262
Average - all types		1156	1943	1275	825	1215	723	949	2503	1586	1538	1371

¹Type 5 is no longer included in the pasture.

The 8-year average yield of this type is 863 lbs. per acre.

²Yield considerably increased because of sweetclover grown to maturity in cages.

Taken on the overall basis, production on the Station native grass pasture this year should be rated about average or possibly a trifle below average.

Production on Type 7, the big bluestem type along the watercourse, was unusually high this year. This production was not the result of unusually good grass production, but rather the result of an unusual development of sweetclover inside one of the cages. There was some sweetclover in all the cages, but production by this species was very heavy in one of the cages, where it had grown to full maturity.

[Back to 1955 Research Reports Table of Contents](#)

[Back to Research Reports](#)

[Back to Dickinson Research Extension Center \(http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/dickinso/\)](http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/dickinso/)

[Email: drec@ndsuent.nodak.edu](mailto:drec@ndsuent.nodak.edu)

