

Pasture Clipping Yields

The data on the 1960 pasture clippings from the plots in the new fertilizer trial are given in Table 15. The two-year average yields from the pasture clippings are given in Table 16. It should be pointed out that there was very serious stand deterioration in the intermediate wheatgrass plots subjected to pasture clipping after only one season of clipping. Consequently, the intermediate pasture plots were not clipped in the 1960 season. So much of the stand died out in these plots that it is questionable whether they will be able to recover.

A further complicating factor in the results of the pasture clipping was that the rotary mower used in the clipping trials swept up large quantities of dust and debris, which could not be readily separated from the grass. In reporting the yields, the actual weights of yield samples were decreased by 30 per cent to allow for weight of this foreign material.

The presence of alfalfa in the mixtures resulted in increased yields over the check yields, but this increase was not great. With Nordan crested, the fertilized plots produced no more than the grass-alfalfa plots, although all fertilized plots yielded slightly better than the check plots. The same general situation prevailed with Russian wildrye, with alfalfa and all fertilized plots yielding only slightly better than the check plots. In the case of Lincoln brome, a fairly good increase in yield was obtained with the alfalfa grass mixture, but very little additional increase was obtained from the fertilizer.

As indicated by the data of Table 16, the results of the trial thus far show no substantial advantage for fertilizer over alfalfa in increasing yields of pasture-type clippings. The increases in yield obtained thus have not been economical on the basis of additional forage produced.

Table 15. Dry-weight yields* (lbs./acre) from pasture clippings of grasses alone, with alfalfa, and with three rates of nitrogen fertilizer -- 1960 season.

	Grass Alone			With Alfalfa			33# N			67# N			100# N		
Variety	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total
Nordan Crested	700	270	970	841	306	1147	736	272	1008	825	231	1056	853	257	1110
Intermediate Wheatgrass	Plots clipped as pasture mainly killed out.														
Russian Wildrye	652	330	982	653	372	1025	700	342	1042	683	352	1035	804	469	1273
Lincoln Brome	337	251	588	507	211	718	587	248	835	813	230	1043	585	286	871
*Actual sample weight decreased by 30 per cent to allow for dust and debris swept up by rotary mower.															

Table 16. Two-year average dry-weight yields (1959-60) from pasture-type clippings of grasses alone, with alfalfa, and with three rates of nitrogen fertilizer.

	Grass Alone			With Alfalfa			33# N			67# N			100# N		
Variety	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total	1st Clip	2nd Clip	Total
Nordan Crested	615	265	880	853	291	1114	783	240	1023	880	277	1157	852	273	1125
Intermediate Wheatgrass	Plots clipped as pasture killed out after first year.														
Russian	468	368	836	463	400	863	566	378	944	568	407	975	624	465	1089

Wildrye															
Lincoln Brome	369	262	631	510	248	758	524	249	773	629	250	879	579	361	940

[Back to 1960 Research Reports Table of Contents](#)

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