6. THE POSSIBILITIES IN NEW FORAGE PLANTS

C. V. Piper

It is a trite and obvious remark to say that new forage plants, novel either as to introduction or to utilization, have in the relatively recent past contributed greatly both to the potential and to the actual forage production of the nation. It is necessary to recall but a few important examples.

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

Alfalfa was introduced into California in 1851, and until about 1870 spread only gradually. Since 1885, it has been the premier forage plant of the whole region west of the 95th meridian.

Sorghum was first widely distributed by the Patent Office in 1857. Since 1885, it has been the premier forage plant of the whole region west of the 95th meridian.

Japanese lespedeza was first found in the United States in 1846. During the Civil War it became widespread, and has become more and more important since that time.

Soybeans were introduced as early as 1829, but received little attention until a second introduction in 1854. The crop became of some importance beginning about 1885, but it is only in the past few years that it has gained large favor, as the rapidly increasing acreage shows.

Sudan grass, introduced in 1909, gained almost instant favor, and its importance has steadily increased.

Velvet beans, brought to Florida prior to 1875, were not used as forage until about 1890. The development of earlier varieties brought about a great increase in the use of this crop, beginning about 1917.

Sweet clover, early introduced, known mainly as a wayside weed

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