A COMPARISON OF THE DRY MATTER CONTENT OF ANNUAL LESPEDEZAS, ALFALFA, AND SOYBEANS

R. E. STITT

The fact that annual lespedezas cure more rapidly than other legumes and that estimates of yields are usually less, rather than more, than the actual yields, indicates a relatively high dry-matter content at the time of harvest. It seemed desirable, therefore, to study the dry matter content of lespedeza, alfalfa, and soybeans when cut for hay and these data were obtained at Statesville, N. C., during the seasons of 1931 and 1932 from cultural and varietal test plats.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Korean (Lespedeza stipulacea), Kobe, Common, and Tennessee No. 76 (L. striata) lespedezas were harvested for hay at intervals of about 2 weeks from the time the growth was tall enough to cut until seed had set. Plats 1/90 acre in area were cut with a mower and weighed. Two samples of approximately 5 pounds each were taken from each plat immediately after cutting for dry matter determination. The green samples were dried at a temperature somewhat in excess of 70°C until they had lost enough moisture to permit storing.

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2Assistant Agronomist, Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.