PASTURE AREAS IN THE UNITED STATES

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In the United States there are five fairly definite pasture regions resulting from climatic conditions. Due to the response of various pasture plants to either temperature or rainfall conditions, or both, each region may be appropriately divided into two sections, a northern and a southern.

CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT PASTURE REGIONS

Since temperatures, rainfall, topography, and soil each have a marked effect on the distribution and character of the flora, these features of the pasture regions outlined above are discussed briefly. Most attention, however, is given to the vegetation which characterizes each region.

TEMPERATURES

Anyone who has given the least consideration to vegetation characteristics knows that climate is the chief factor governing the distribution of plant species over the earth. In the United States, the 60° isotherm marks as closely as any temperature factor available the northern limit of usefulness of southern pasture plants such as the bermuda, carpet, Dallis, and centipede grasses. The exceptions to this general rule are mostly annuals such as the hopclovers, lespedeza, and Sudan grass. North of this line southern perennials are not fully winterhardy and are on the whole less valuable than the northern type of pasture plants. South of this isotherm bluegrass, orchard grass, timothy, redtop, and the clovers, which are at home and provide productive pastures in Region 1 and Sec. 5a, do not thrive because of the long period of high temperatures.

The discussion of the temperature factor relates chiefly to the humid regions (1, 2, and 5a) because in the Great Plains and Intermountain area (Regions 3 and 4) rainfall exerts a greater influence on the vegetation than do temperatures. The line of demarcation between the floristic groups is of course not sharp. The southern type

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