Effect of Cutting Treatments and the Control of Injurious Insects on Seed Production of Ladino Clover (*Trifolium repens*)

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Ladino clover is rapidly attaining a position of importance among forage plants in Wisconsin. It is used principally for pasture but it is also valuable for hay and silage when grown in mixtures with other grasses and legumes. The high price of seed and the seeding of large acreages of Ladino clover have resulted in increasing interest in the possibility of producing seed under soil and climatic conditions such as prevail in Wisconsin.

Tesar and Ahlgren (1) have shown that management of Ladino clover has a profound effect on the production of forage, and Medler and Chamberlin (2) reported that the control of injurious insects on Ladino clover results in an increase in the yield of seed. Little is known beyond this, however, relative to the possibility of producing Ladino clover seed in Wisconsin. Consequently, studies were initiated at Madison, Wis., in 1947, to determine the effect of (a) controlling injurious insects and (b) time of flowering of Ladino clover on seed production. The results of these studies, which were conducted during the period 1947 to 1950, inclusive, are reported below.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Seedings of Ladino clover were made at the rate of 2 pounds per acre in Miami silt loam soil on the University of Wisconsin Gugel farm in 1947, the University of Wisconsin Campus farm in 1948, and the D. S. Gray farm near Madison in 1949. No fertilizer treatment was given the seeding made in 1947. In 1948 and 1949 an 0-20-20 fertilizer was applied at the rate of 200 pounds per acre at the time of seeding. Barley was used as the companion crop in 1947 and 1948 and oats in 1949.

The effect of the following five management treatments on seed production was studied in the year after establishment: (a) first crop harvested for seed; second crop harvested for seed after the first growth had been cut when it was (b) 4 to 6 inches...