Breeding Ladino Clover for Persistence

W. E. Knight

LADINO clover, *Trifolium repens* L., is the principal legume for high producing rotational pastures in Pennsylvania and the northeastern region. Acreages of this crop have increased rapidly in recent years in spite of the fact that many stands have been relatively short-lived. The present study was made in order to investigate possibilities of producing, by breeding, a variety of Ladino clover that will be more persistent in pastures than existing strains. To meet this objective, single-cross and polycross progenies of selected clones were studied in the greenhouse and in replicated field experiments.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Winter injury and other plant characteristics were studied by Ronningen in approximately 5000 individually spaced plants of Ladino clover, common white clover and intermediate types. Wide differences in the nature of winter injury were found. Plants with a close, reticulate stolon pattern as opposed to an open, radiating type of growth tended to be injured less severely. In addition, stolon size, internode length, flowering and rooting

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