GALINAT

most widely distributed in cultivated fields. This hot-

tative after the main stem has flowered and died.—W. C. 

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CRABGRASS FOR SOIL PROTECTION

The potential value of crabgrass for soil protection and 
grazing in the southeastern United States is generally 
derestimated. The prejudice against this weedy grass in 
cultivated fields has obscured its possibilities for usefulness.

Common crabgrass, Digitaria sanguinalis, is the species 
most widely distributed in cultivated fields. This hot-
weather annual develops rapidly on loose soils during the 
rainy periods of summer. In recent years, its growth after 
crimson clover left for seed and after white clover in 
some pastures has been lush and heavy. Many farmers 
have used it for grazing and hay during the summer and 
early fall.

In most corn fields throughout the lower half of the 
Southeast, common crabgrass with Florida pusley, Richardia 
scabra, crowfoot grass, Dactyloctenium aegypticum, and 
miscellaneous other species, produces a protective soil cover 
after the last cultivation.

Smooth crabgrass, Digitaria ischaemum, is usually found 
in sods. This is the principal summer grass of most pas-
tures in the mountains of Georgia and North Carolina and 
the foothills of Virginia. It produces a dense sod on soils 
of moderate to high fertility levels. Smooth crabgrass occurs 
as a less dominant summer grass in sods throughout the 
remainder of the Southeast north of peninsular Florida.

Three other species of native or naturalized Digitarias 
with creeping stems, rooting at the nodes, occur in Florida. 
Digitaria horizontalis resembles common crabgrass; D. long-
iflora and D. serotina are small perennials, common on 
unimproved or slightly improved sandy grazing lands and 
to some extent in cultivated fields. Their potential yields

are far below those of Pangola grass, Digitaria decumbens, 
used extensively in improved pastures throughout penin-
sular Florida.

The crabgrasses are short-season grasses. Their growth 
is mainly during and following rainy periods of summer. 
They complete their vegetative stage rather quickly and 
decrease in forage value rapidly after heavy seed production. 
They are not equal to good perennial grasses either for 
soil conservation or forage. They are useful, however, on 
millions of acres for partial to good soil protection and also 
for grazing or hay.—Paul Tabor, U. S. Soil Conserva-
tion Service, Spartanburg, S. C.

THE EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENT ON THE 
NUMBER OF VASCULAR BUNDLES 
PER PETIOLE IN WHITE CLOVER

White clover (Trifolium repens L.) may be divided 
into three agronomic types; namely, large, interme-
diate and small.1 The differentiation between plants of the 
large type and of the intermediate type is difficult since 
the gross morphological characteristics are similar other 


1 Ahlgren, Gilbert H., and Sprague, Howard B. A survey of 
variability in white clover (Trifolium repens L.) and its relation 

3 Hollowell, E. A. Personal Communication.

2 Gausman, H. W. and Fuelleman, R. F. Distinguishing Ladino 