IN MANY regions of the United States it is necessary to make the first cutting of most hay crops when climatic conditions are often unfavorable for field-curing. Hence the farmer delays cutting the crop until it is mature and much lower in feeding value than if cut early. In an effort to find the best method for preserving early cut forage, investigations have been conducted on barn drying, ensiling and hay crushing. While these methods have helped to solve the problem, they require the purchase of expensive equipment or the building of new and costly structures. If economical methods of drying hay were found, the amount of weather-damaged hay could be decreased, harvesting of hay would be encouraged and a higher quality crop would be produced. The purpose of this study was to determine if treating forage with different herbicides was an economical and practical method of increasing the drying rate of hay.

It had been observed that certain herbicides cause rapid wilting and dessication of forage crops. Phillips working with DNBP and Endothal applied these chemicals to alfalfa for the purpose of eradicating weeds (2). He found that there was a reduction in the moisture content of alfalfa and weed samples taken 52 hours after application of the herbicide, with the DNBP being more effective in reducing moisture content than Endothal. Slife, in a similar study, found that red clover treated with Endothal, Dow