Notes

PISTILLATE F₁, CASTORBEANS: THEIR POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE IN PRODUCING COMMERCIAL HYBRID SEED¹

In recent years, a number of experimental single-cross castorbean hybrids have been evaluated with results showing increased yields over their inbred parents. Because of these increased yields, and because of an available method for producing single-cross seed, hybrid castors are now being grown commercially. The method for producing single-cross seed is dependent upon the pistillate character in castors. For producing single-cross seed, hybrid castors are now being used as a female parent in producing commercial hybrid seed with this line as the female parent requires less roguing may be required to keep sib pollination at a minimum. As mentioned above, planting up to eight rows of pistillate F₁ plants to two rows of the pollen line should be adequate. Since all the F₁ plants are pistillate, it would not be necessary to rogue normal monoeicous plants as was the case in the initial cross.—


AMOUNT OF FLOWERING OF LADINO CLOVER LOTS FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES²

Since west coast grown Ladino seed is seeded by most farmers in North Carolina, strain tests were initiated to study different lots of seed produced in various west coast states. Two strain tests were seeded in the lower Piedmont area of North Carolina, near Raleigh, on a Cecil clay loam. These tests were seeded in different years, and were limed and fertilized according to general recommendations. Individual plots were 5 feet by 25 feet, and each plot was surrounded by a 3-foot tall fence border to prevent mixing between plots. There were three replications.

On June 15, 1953, plants from the four lots of Ladino seed from California were blooming more profusely than those from the four lots of seed from Oregon. Actual flowering head counts were made on July 1, 1953 in three areas, each consisting of 3 square feet, or a total of a square yard in each plot.

As shown in table 1, the lots of California grown seed produced approximately twice as many flowering heads as the lots from Oregon. Pilgrim produced fewer flowering heads than the California lots of seed. Observations at several other periods during the year showed that the California strains flowered more profusely than the Oregon strains.

Yield comparisons of these lots were obtained only for the spring, and early summer of 1953, and showed little difference in yield among these various lots during this short period of time.

In North Carolina, the effect of abundant flowering on production of forage over a period of years is not known.