COMPARISON OF THREE WINTER GRAZING MIXTURES IN A PECAN ORCHARD OF THE GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN

The cool-season dormancy of pecan trees makes it practical to inter-crop a pecan orchard during the winter season. Some difficulties are the low hanging branches which interfere with machinery operation and the surface roots which hinder plowing or deep cultivation. Most of these difficulties are avoided through the use of winter cereals for grazing purposes since these do not have to be cultivated or harvested with machinery. The purpose of this study was to evaluate by a grazing test three winter forage combinations in a pecan orchard. All combinations are used widely and give good results under open field conditions.

The yearly and mean animal performance for the 3 combinations (fertilized with 500 pounds of a 4-12-12 and 100 pounds of nitrogen as ammonium nitrate per acre) are given in Table 1. The gains varied with the grazing mixture and were especially variable with years. With one exception, that of the mixture of oats, ryegrass, and crimson clover in 1954-55, the rye and vetch combination produced the greatest gains per acre during the 3-year period. Also the rye and vetch mixture afforded 27 to 36% greater carrying capacity on the average than the other combinations. Beef yields from the rye-vetch pasture were 64% and 45% greater than the next best mixture in 1952-53 and 1953-54, respectively. For the 3-year period the rye and vetch combination yielded 12% more beef than the next best combination of oats, ryegrass, and crimson clover.

The carrying capacity of the rye-vetch combination was 63% greater than the next best mixture in 1953-54 and averaged 27% greater carrying capacity than the next best mixture for the 3-year period. Generally, the rye and vetch carried 1 1/2 animals per acre, whereas the oat mixtures carried only 1 animal per acre.

Both Southland oats and Abruzzi rye were outstanding in their early fall growth but were dissimilar in their distribution of herbage. Southland oats was more noticeably injured by grazing than Abruzzi rye, with the oats producing less growth and slower recovery as the season progressed. This weakness of Southland oats was somewhat compensated for by the ryegrass and crimson clover component of the mixture, and the oats were used on sites which interfered with machinery operation and the surface roots which hinder plowing or deep cultivation. Most of these difficulties are avoided through the use of winter cereals for grazing purposes since these do not have to be cultivated or harvested with machinery. The purpose of this study was to evaluate by a grazing test three winter forage combinations in a pecan orchard. All combinations are used widely and give good results under open field conditions.

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The net return of $30.16 per acre from the rye-vetch mixture was almost double that of the oat-vetch mixture (Table 1). It is significant to note that all combinations would appear to favor nut production as compared to conventional practice of fallowing during the winter season.

Pecan yields were not measured precisely, but the nut return, particularly from rye, would seem to justify this practice.

F. P. Gardner, Associate Professor of Agronomy, Missouri Agricultural and Mechanical College; formerly Assistant Professor of Agronomy, University of Georgia; and O. L. Brooks, Superintendent, Southeast Georgia Branch Experiment Station.

A NEW METHOD FOR LABELING SEED ENVELOPES'

A new method has been adopted at the Agronomy Experiment Station for labeling seed envelopes for randomized corn yield trials. This system consists of an addressing machine. An addressograph plate is made and verified for each seed envelope it is used to print. On this plate the following information is given: In the test, entry number, and the plot number of which is the replication or range number. A randomized set number is required only when more than one set is used in the test. The purpose of this study was to evaluate by a grazing test three winter forage combinations in a pecan orchard. All combinations are used widely and give good results under open field conditions.

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