
This text is the first volume of two published by CAB in association with members of the International Herbage Seed Production Research Group. The objective of Volume 1 is to be the “definitive resource for all those concerned with breeding and profitable seed production for grasses and legumes used within grazing systems or recreation. . .” The text is divided into two parts, each consisting of 11 chapters. Part One deals with crop physiology, crop management for maximum seed yields, pollination and fertilization, harvest and postharvest management, seed quality, and crop breeding for higher seed yields. Part Two presents information concerning specific seed production practices of various forages in selected regions around the world.

This text is truly an international effort that includes numerous authors with excellent credentials, and it will serve as an invaluable reference for seed industry and academic personnel for years to come. Extensive references are provided with those chapters examining the fundamentals of crop and seed development. Any advanced college course presenting material on agronomic seed production will want to use this book as the primary text, or certainly as required reading.

The volume of published forage seed research papers is limited compared with major agronomic crops, and much of the literature, as observed by a number of this text’s authors, frequently fails to try to develop a better understanding of the seed crop’s physiological response to the environment. However, Part One of this book does an excellent job of presenting the latest findings on establishment of forage crop seed yield potential and its implications for seed production personnel. Chapter 4, Maturation of Grass and Legume Seed, provides a very good overview of what is known and unknown about seed development and maturation. Additionally, Chapters 5 and 6 on Grass Seed and Legume Seed Management, respectively, are well-referenced discussions with a wealth of information for seed professionals. The strength of Part One continues in the next four chapters that present comprehensive coverage on pollination and pollinators, seed harvest, conditioning and storage, the components of seed quality, and an interesting view on the often overlooked importance of how to use within grazing systems or recreation.

From Chapter 11, the last chapter of Part One, and in Part Two, various authors present information on the forage seed trade of selected crops in selected countries. Background of the seed trade history and issues should provide professionals in international markets. Unfortunately, there is significant redundancy in material presented with that specifically found in Chapters 5 to 11. The same cited references and subject matter (development, management, fertility requirements, etc.) from Part One are duplicated in Part Two. In writing different chapters can present different content and diplomatic and crop production statistics. Greater subject material between authors of Parts One and Two would have been beneficial.

Yet, as a result of the expertise of the international membership, this text presents a breadth of information on the forage seed industry that is arguably unparalleled. There are sufficient references throughout the book to the appropriate literature, and subject matter, particularly those chapters examining the fundamentals of crop and seed development, will want to have valuable reference.


OTHER BOOKS


