
Frame, Charlton, and Laidlow recognize the important contributions of temperate forage legumes to worldwide grassland agricultural systems. The beneficial role of forage legumes has received increasing visibility over the past two decades. Therefore, the authors produced a timely book dealing comprehensively with the most important forage legume species on the basis of hectarage grown.

The book is organized into nine chapters. The first and last chapters are an introduction and future assessment of the role of forage legumes in grassland agriculture. The remaining seven chapters address the various species of forage legumes in their order of importance.

The first chapter of the book is a comprehensive introduction to the history and benefits of forage legumes in grassland systems. The environmental impact and costs associated with nitrogen fertilization is presented and the benefits of utilizing forage legumes is addressed in a balanced manner. The authors cite copious amounts of literature to aid the reader in further exploration of specific areas of interest.

The chapters dedicated to the specific temperate forage species follow the same general format. Each chapter includes a series of sections that include a description of the growth and development of each species. These are generally accompanied by excellent black and white line drawings by author J.F.L. Charlton, including the aboveground plant, root systems, leaf, inflorescence, seeds, and seedling stage. This is followed by sections dedicated to the physiology, nitrogen fixation, management, utilization, forage quality, and animal performance on each species. If disadvantages or antiquality factors are known, these are adequately addressed at the end of each chapter. The authors have tailored the amount of detail and length of the chapters to reflect the species relative importance worldwide. The species covered in the book include white clover; lucerne (alfalfa); red clover; subterranean clover; birdsfoot trefoil and greater Lotus species; alisove clover and sainfoin; and serradella, sull, and tagsasante. For temperate legumes not discussed by the authors, they have supplied the reader with literature citations for these minor legumes at the end of Chapter 1.

The first three chapters are the most detailed and discuss the three most important temperate forage legumes on a worldwide basis (white clover, lucerne, and red clover) and comprise approximately two-thirds of the book. For example, Chapter 2 on white clover provides the reader with in-depth coverage of the species including numerous figures and tables extracted from the cited literature to support the agronomic information presented. The authors have strived and succeeded at utilizing research conducted throughout the world in addition to their extensive research efforts on the species. With the literature citations occupying approximately one-third of the chapter, it is easy for the reader to continue to investigate specific areas. The authors continue to utilize this model in the remaining chapters about specific temperate legumes in the book.

The next four chapters are significantly shorter and discuss legumes species of lesser importance on a worldwide basis. The chapters on subterranean clover and birdsfoot trefoil and the greater Lotus species present relatively detailed descriptions of the species in the same general format and also supply the reader with an adequate and balance list of literature citations should the reader want to pursue more in-depth coverage of the species. The inclusion of a chapter pertaining to serradella, sull, and tagsasante makes this book unique to the reviewer since these species are uncommon in agricultural systems in the USA.

The final chapter addresses the prospects for forage legumes in the future. Because of the increasing appreciation for the value of forage legumes in grassland agriculture, the authors conclude the usage of forage legumes is likely to intensify. However, the authors adequately address both the...