IN FORAGE variety tests, yield is generally of overriding importance. Not only can yield be determined easily and with precision, but it is also an evaluation of physiological efficiency, resistances, and all of the genetic factors that influence growth. This is not to say that quality of herbage is of minor importance. Varietal differences in animal intake and digestibility have been reported (7), and in some cases these, rather than yield, may determine the true worth of a variety. For the present, accurate procedures for measuring forage quality are neither routine nor cheap.

Although yield can be measured accurately, conclusions can be reversed under different management practices. One factor that enters into the evaluation is the harvesting schedule. Green and Eyles (3) found in perennial ryegrass that late varieties compared better with early varieties when each was cut at ear emergence than when all were cut at a single date. Scheijgrond and Vos (6) compared harvesting schedules using early and late varieties of perennial ryegrass with white clover. They found that cutting at the same date favored early varieties, but yields measured by grazing animals supported cutting at the same date rather than the same physiological stage. Tysdal and Kiesselbach (8) found that time of harvest was important in determining yield of some alfalfa varieties, but had little effect on yield of others. Fortmann (2) reported that five varieties of smooth bromegrass maintained the same rank under three different cutting treatments two, three, and four harvests per year. Leafiness is generally considered to be associated with forage quality. Reid et al. (5) reported $r = 0.95$ between leaf percentage in first cutting forages and digestible dry matter percentage.