Agronomic Evaluation of Leaf-Mark Morphs in Red Clover. (C06-bortnem114519-Poster)

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Abstract:

Red clover (Trifolium pratense), though typically having light marks on its leaflets, frequently produces plants without leaf marks. Our objective was to evaluate leaf-mark morphs of several red clover cultivars for morphological and forage production traits. Plots of 8 cultivars and 1 experimental were established in summer 2001. Plots were evaluated in early June and July, 2002 for maturity, forage production, leafiness, and leaf-to-stem ratio. Differences in maturity were observed among cultivars on the first harvest date, however there was no measurable effect of leaf mark on maturity, forage production, or leafiness at either cutting. Overall means showed the non-variegated plants had a significantly ($p < 0.10$) higher leaf-to-stem ratio than variegated plants. The first cutting produced approximately 75% more forage than the second with the experimental (developed at South Dakota State University) having the highest overall mean forage yield and leaf-to-stem ratio. To further compare no-mark and marked morphs in red clover, additional data to be collected include production from stockpiled growth and winter survival.

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