Intercropping small grains and ryegrass with kura clover for forage. (C06-contreras160929-Poster)

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Abstract:

Extending the growing season in the northern USA is one means to increase forage production. The objective of this research was to determine autumn and spring forage production of small grains and ryegrass (Lolium multiflorum L.) grown in monoculture or binary mixture (BM) with kura clover. Four small grain species and Italian ryegrass were sown in monoculture and into an established kura clover sward in Aug. 1998 through 2000 near Arlington and Lancaster, WI. Autumn harvests were taken in late October and spring harvests in mid-May. Averaged over 3 yr, autumn oat (Avena sativa L.) monoculture yield was 2.2 Mg/ha compared to BM of oat and kura clover or kura clover monoculture at 0.75 Mg/ha. Ryegrass monoculture and BM were similar to monoculture kura clover. In spring, winter wheat (Triticum aestivum L.) and winter rye (Secale cereale L.) monoculture yields were 3.08 and 4.32 Mg/ha while kura clover BM with these grasses and kura clover monoculture yielded 2.26, 2.95, and 1.25 Mg/ha. Neutral detergent fiber concentrations of all BM in spring or fall were below 370 g/kg whereas monoculture oat ranged from 350 to 490 in autumn and winter wheat or rye from 400 to 560 g/kg in spring.

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