

# Effect of Stubble Height on Forage of Cool-season Annual Legumes. (C06-interrante104611-Poster)

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## Abstract:

Annual medics and clovers were tested for tolerance to harvest height and its effects on stand regeneration and quality. Nine local and seven commercial entries were planted in 1999 and allowed to reseed in 2000. Sub-plots were clipped monthly at 5-cm and 10-cm or April-only. Yields were highest (5.8 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) for 'Jemalong' barrel medic and 'Devine' little medic in yr 1 and 'Dixie' crimson clover (6.0 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) in yr 2. Plots harvested at 5-cm yielded 3% and 25% less than the April-only plots in 1999 and 2000, respectively. Raising the stubble height (10-cm) or delaying harvest tended to increase acid detergent fiber (ADF) and acid detergent lignin (ADL) while lowering crude protein. Burr medics, crimson clover and rose clover had the highest ADF while all clovers had lower ADL (34-53 g kg<sup>-1</sup>) at 5-cm. Crude protein was highest for the 5-cm harvests, and low in the April-only harvests, especially for crimson and rose clovers (101-139 g kg<sup>-1</sup>). Forage phosphorus decreased from yr 1 to yr 2, and was 3 g kg<sup>-1</sup> in the April-only material yr 2. Except 'George' black medic, entries were able to maintain production and improve quality at the 5-cm height after self-reseeding.

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