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SUGGESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING IMPROVED PASTURES IN THE COASTAL PLAIN OF GEORGIA

Lowland Permanent Pastures

It is suggested that waste land be utilized and forest growth conserved. In many instances improved pastures can be established in combination with forestry, in which event it is necessary to remove undergrowth and sometimes thin the timber. Usually, however, an improved permanent pasture can be established where the timber stand is naturally thin.

Where the land is "water-logged" or naturally wet, drainage is necessary. A main ditch along the line of the stream to drain off surface water and lateral ditches on either side to take care of seepage may be necessary.

Thorough land preparation is advised in order to destroy undesirable plants such as gallberries, palmettos, briars and sedges. On low, wet ground it is often necessary to prepare the land during dry periods in the fall. A disk harrow is most efficient where stumps and roots are numerous. The number of harrowings necessary will be determined by the roughness of the land and the amount of native wild growth to be destroyed. Usually it takes several diskings. After harrowing has been completed the land should be dragged to level it as much as possible in order to facilitate later mowings for the control of weeds.

Seed may be mixed and sown broadcast by hand in February or March, followed by a light harrow or roller. The small seed should be covered very lightly or not at all. Packing seed into the soil with heavy log or cultipacker helps germination.

A recommended lowland pasture seeding consists of a mixture of 10 pounds carpet grass, 8 pounds Dallis grass, 5 pounds white clover and 12 pounds common lespedeza per acre. Inoculation of white clover seed is desirable.

Phosphate fertilizer has been found decidedly beneficial to pasture legumes and is especially recommended for white clover. Four hundred to 600 pounds per acre of superphosphate or equivalent can be applied broadcast in fall or spring. After two to three years, this application may be made every third year.

The following figures show approximate average yearly liveweight gains per acre, over a period of ten years, for steers on a lowland pasture mixture of carpet grass, Dallis grass, common lespedeza and white clover receiving different fertilizer treatments:

Pasture mixture fertilized with 6-12-6	320 Lbs. gain per acre
Pasture mixture fertilized with 6-12-0	290 Lbs. gain per acre
Pasture mixture fertilized with 6-0-0	140 Lbs. gain per acre
Pasture mixture fertilized with 0-0-6	150 Lbs. gain per acre
Carpet grass, not fertilized	80 Lbs. gain per acre

NOTE: The above fertilizer formulas are nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash in the order named. For the first five years 600 pounds of fertilizer per acre was applied every year but during subsequent years it was applied every third year except the nitrogen was applied annually where used.

