PUBLICATIONS

1980

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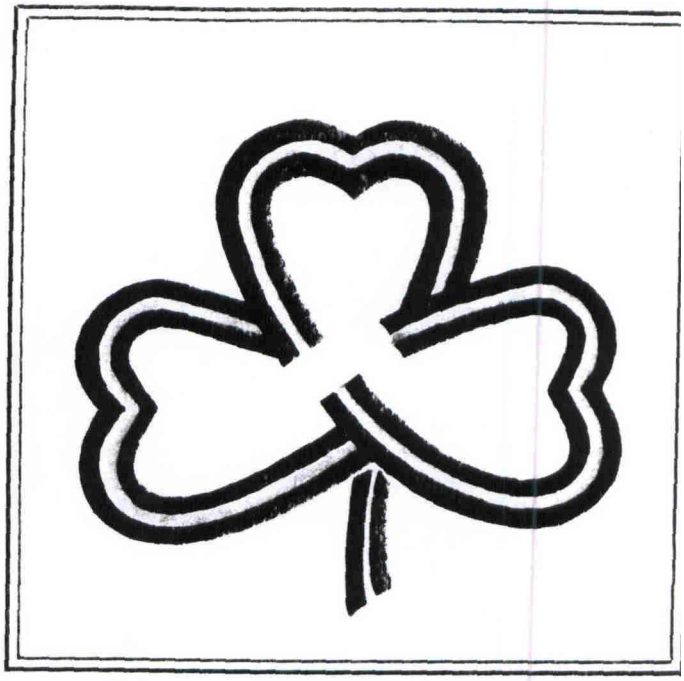

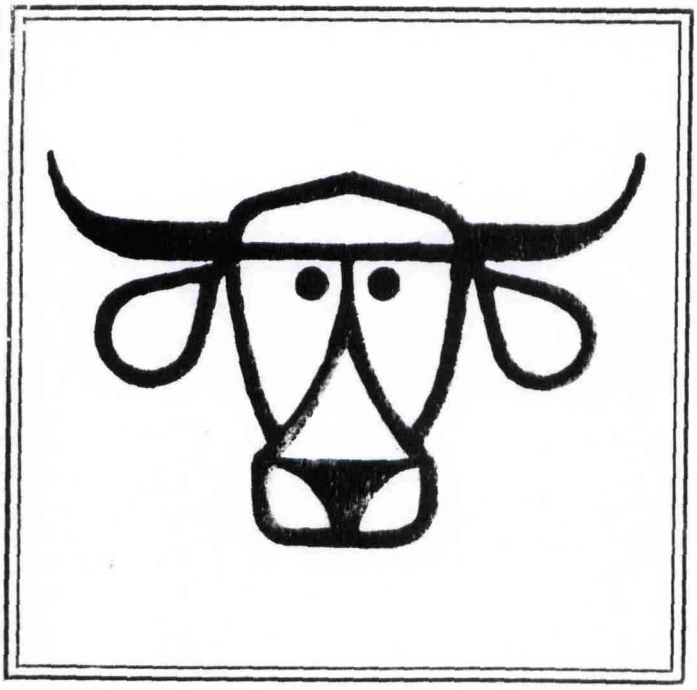

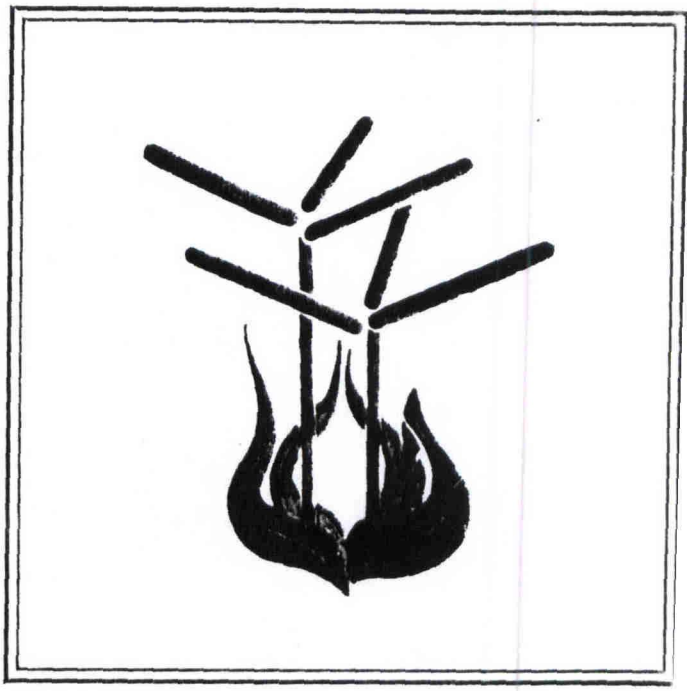

Forage Research in Texas

Departmental Technical Report No. 80-6
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Project: H 6287
Date: 1980
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PC-0030

IN VITRO DRY-MATTER DIGESTIBILITY COMPARISON OF FIVE COOL-SEASON GRASSES FOR THE TRANS-PECOS AREA

IVDMD

OBJECTIVES:

To determine the in vitro dry-matter digestibility of four tall wheatgrasses and 'Ky31' fescue grown in the Trans-Pecos area under sprinkler irrigation.

PROCEDURE:

Five cool-season perennial varieties were planted October 17, 1978 on the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Pecos in a randomized block design and replicated four times. All varieties were seeded at a 25 lb. per acre rate in 8-inch drill widths. After establishment, plots were standardized to 5.3' x 20' blocks. Plots were harvested at monthly intervals to a 3-inch stubble height beginning on April 19, 1979. Sub-samples were dried in a mechanical convection oven at 68° C for a 48 hour period. After drying, samples were ground, packaged, and analyzed for in vitro dry-matter digestibility (IVDMD).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Results of IVDMD of the 5 grasses are shown in Table 1. From the data analyzed thus far, there appears to be little difference between varieties except during the month of July when Ky31 fescue dropped 10 percent below the wheatgrasses. There was also a decline in IVDMD with season, but not to the severity that was expected.

Table 1. In vitro dry-matter digestibility from five cool-season grasses.

Variety	April	May	June	July
	(%)			
Largo	72	66	66	65
Jose	71	64	66	63
Alkar	70	65	65	63
Platte	71	65	65	61
Ky31 fescue	71	63	63	53