# Grasses and legumes for conservation, 1977/8

# N.I.A.B. - LEGUME, GRASS, AND CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM EFFECTS ON SOIL ORGANIC MATTER RECOVERY, Ecological Applications



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#### Crops, Dairy, Livestock and Equine: Perennial Legumes and Grasses

Legumes also supply a considerable amount of nitrogen to the grass portion of the mixture. These bacteria reduce change atmospheric nitrogen to a form available to the plant.

#### **Legume Cover Crops**

Brassicas are biennials, producing a vegetable the first year and seed in the second but are usually used as annuals in forage-livestock systems.

# Crops, Dairy, Livestock and Equine: Perennial Legumes and Grasses

Now, it is more common to see animals grazing the crop which does take a bit of practice on the animal's part. Summer-annual use of legume crops includes, in colder climates, the use of the winter-annual crops listed above, as well as warm-season legumes such as cowpeas. Although individual plants live for only a few years, stands of birdsfoot trefoil have remained productive for 10 or more years when allowed to go to seed.

## Describe the major differences between the plant families used as forages.

Reed canarygrass spreads by rhizomes. When seeded in mixtures, red clover can suppress the establishment of other legumes.

#### Crops, Dairy, Livestock and Equine: Perennial Legumes and Grasses

Kentucky Bluegrass Kentucky Bluegrass is a highly palatable grass that tolerates heavy traffic and close, frequent grazing better than other coolseason grasses, making it well adapted for permanent pastures. It can grow on soils that are acidic and poorly drained.

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