



Orchardgrass better than KY-31 in shade

At the recent American Forage & Grasslands Conference, a Virginia Tech student presented a poster entitled “Shade Affects Quality and Productivity of Forage Mixtures for Silvopastures.” This poster documented the results of a study on different pasture species and mixtures grown under various levels of shade. Without trying to explain the poster details, note in the graph on the right that orchardgrass seems to clearly handle a higher percentage of shade than KY-31 tall fescue.

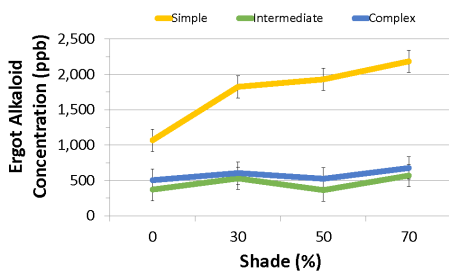
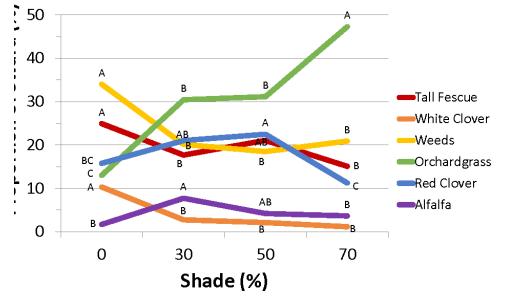


Figure 7. Shade impacts on the ergot alkaloid concentrations in the simple, intermediate and complex mixtures (standard error = 157 ppb).

They also measured the toxicity of the tall fescue. As shown in the graph on the left, in simple mixtures, the level of toxic ergot alkaloids increase substantially, whereas intermediate and complex mixtures (fescue plus orchardgrass, clover, bluegrass, alfalfa, and trefoil) remained lower in concentration. The suggested implications are that using orchardgrass, like Persist, as either straight stands or in a mixture with toxic KY-31 fescue for silvopastures, and using other forages and legumes, will likely result in higher forage productivity and safer pastures.

Used with permission. Mercier, K.M., C.D. Teutsch, J.H. Fike, and K.K. Quick. 2017. Shade affects quality and productivity of forage mixtures for silvopastures.

Cajun II Stands on top again - Twice

It's true that we just bragged on our endophyte-free Cajun II only a couple of months ago, but sometimes the good news just keeps coming in. So here's the latest:

Starkville, Mississippi - Cajun II produced 22% more dry matter last year than the next best entry, outyielding three novel-endophyte varieties and KY-31. In a prior 2-yr trial at Holly Springs, MS, Cajun II produced 12% more over the next best entry. Bottom line? Cajun II is worth a good look if you live on the southern edge of the fescue belt!

Lexington, Kentucky - Under a 3-year hay trial, Cajun II had the highest yield score over all other commercial entries including three novel-endophyte varieties and KY-31, with third-year yields being 10% higher than the next best entry. This is why we say, “Cajun II - An affordable alternative to novel-endophyte fescue. Long lasting, high yielding, and naturally endophyte free.” Learn more at CajunFescue.com.



Renovation white clover White clover can reverse the losses



On the topic of toxic fescue, and solutions to improving cattle performance, those who have a market base in the fescue belt might find a study conducted by The Samuel Roberts

Noble Foundation worth passing on to their customers and farmers. This study measured the animal and economic performance of cattle grazing on different treatments of toxic and non-toxic fescue with and without white clover. The study showed a **net loss** of \$63/acre when grazing toxic fescue alone. However, fields of KY-31 plus white clover had \$85/acre more profit! That's a pretty easy return! This compliments data showing increased average daily gains using Renovation white clover on toxic pastures in Mississippi

Tell your customers to promote and plant Renovation white clover for higher animal gains and better return per acre. Learn more at RenovationClover.com. See full report at Noble.org.

Measures of Animal and Economic Performance	TexC 139bc 457c	TexN 151a 538a	Grazing system**			
			K31C 137c 258d	K31N 151a 279d	MaxC 139bc 438c	MaxN 146ab 499b
Establishment Costs:						
Preparation (plow, disk, cultivate) (\$/acre)	38	38	38	38	38	38
Fertilizer (N, P ₂ O ₅ , K ₂ O) (\$/acre)	187	187	187	187	187	187
Herbicide application (\$/acre)	10	10	10	10	10	10
Tall Fescue Seed and Seed Establishment (\$/acre)	90	90	50	50	90	90
Total Establishment Costs (\$/acre)	324	324	284	284	324	324
Establishment Costs Amortized @ 7.5% (\$/acre)	47	47	28	28	47	47
Over Establishment Costs (\$/acre)	18	-	18	-	18	-
Over Cost Amortized @ 7.5% (\$/acre)	5	-	5	-	5	-
Total Annual Establishment Cost (\$/acre)	53	47	33	28	53	47
Annual Production Costs:						
Fertilizer (N, P ₂ O ₅ , K ₂ O) (\$/acre)	35	118	35	118	35	118
Herbicide (\$/acre)	26	32	26	32	26	31
Little Receiving (\$/acre)	121	139	121	139	121	140
Interest on Operating Capital (\$/acre)	31	40	31	40	31	39
Total Annual Production Costs (\$/acre)	214	328	214	328	214	328
Total Cost (\$/acre)	267c	376a	247d	356b	267c	375a
Gross Revenue (\$/acre)*	462c	545a	269d	293d	443c	497b
Net Return (\$/acre)	195a	169a	22c	-63d	176a	122b

calculated assuming a value of gain of \$1.21 and \$0.88 per lb of gain for the fall and spring grazing periods, respectively. Letters that vary between systems represent statistically significant differences at a 95% level of confidence.