

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.

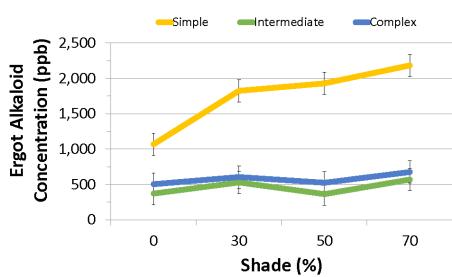
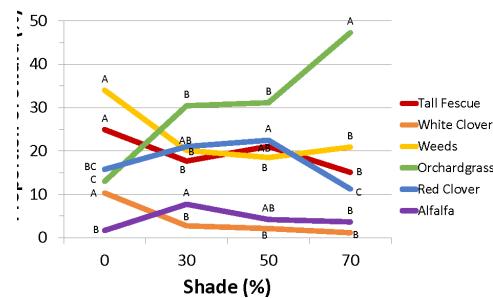


Figure 7. Shade impacts on the ergot alkaloid concentrations in the simple, intermediate and complex mixtures (standard error = 157 ppb).

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.



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.

	TexC	TexN	K31C	K31N	MaxC	MaxB	MaxN
Establishment Costs:							
seedbed Preparation (plow, disk, cultivate) (\$/acre)	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
ertilizer (N, P ₂ O ₅ , K ₂ O) (\$/acre)	187	187	187	187	187	187	187
sticide application (\$/acre)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Fescue Seed and Seed Establishment (\$/acre)	90	90	50	50	90	90	90
se Establishment Costs (\$/acre)	324	324	284	284	324	324	324
sue Costs Amortized @ 7.5% (\$/acre)	47	47	28	28	47	47	47
ver Establishment Costs (\$/acre)	18	–	18	–	18	–	–
ver Cost Amortized @ 7.5% (\$/acre)	5	–	5	–	5	–	–
ual Annual Establishment Cost (\$/acre)	53	47	33	28	53	47	47
Initial Production Costs:							
ertilizer (N, P ₂ O ₅ , K ₂ O) (\$/acre)	35	118	35	118	35	118	118
ernal (\$/acre)	26	32	26	32	26	31	31
ticle Receiving (\$/acre)	121	139	121	139	121	140	140
terest on Operating Capital (\$/acre)	31	40	31	40	31	39	39
tal Annual Production Costs (\$/acre)	214	328	214	328	214	328	328
tal Cost (\$/acre)	267c	376a	247d	356b	267c	375a	
oss Revenue (\$/acre)*	462c	545a	469d	595b	443c	497b	
et Return (\$/acre)	195a	169a	22c	63d	76a	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.