

In the fall of 1959, weed competition ratings were again made on the various plots. There were almost pure stands of the bahiagrasses and pangolagrass, while there was a slight encroachment of bahiagrass in the carpetgrass plots. The Coastal bermudagrass plots had carpetgrass, bahiagrasses, and sedge growing in them, while the Suwannee bermudagrass had been invaded by bahiagrass and carpetgrass. At this time there was no "Giant" pangolagrass or fescuegrass to be found in their respective plots.

DISCUSSION

Grasses

Pensacola and Argentine Bahiagrasses—These grasses are extremely competitive with weeds and other grasses but are somewhat slower to establish than the bermudagrasses and pangolagrass. Once established, weed competition is practically eliminated.

It is generally agreed that these grasses require less care and will tolerate overgrazing better than will pangolagrass or the bermudagrasses, but that, overgrazed bahiagrass pastures will produce less beef gains than properly managed ones.

Both bahiagrasses appear to survive severe cold better than pangolagrass even though practically no growth can be expected during the winter and early spring. Under conditions of moderate frosts, pangolagrass will outyield the bahiagrasses during the winter months.

These grasses should not be allowed to grow to maturity before grazing and should not be undergrazed, because the mature plants are very unpalatable.

Pangolagrass—This was one of the better grasses in the test. It established fast, produced large summer yields, responded well to fertilization, competed well with grass and broadleaf weeds, and produced more forage in the winter and early spring than the bahiagrasses.

Pangolagrass must be planted vegetatively; therefore, planting costs are somewhat greater than the costs for grass varieties which are seeded. Pangolagrass is susceptible to aphid attacks in the fall and spring. Chemical control is very effective.

Pangolagrass maintains its protein contents for only short periods of time after fertilization during the spring and summer. Soon after fertilization the protein content may be fairly high, but the decrease in protein is much more rapid in pangolagrass