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NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF:

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Gregg County

NEW ARROWLEAF CLOVER

Recent research shows Apache, a new arrowleaf clover resistant to bean yellow mosaic virus (BYMV), can provide cattle average daily gains of nearly three pounds per day under moderate stocking rates.

These gains were accomplished without the use of nitrogen fertilizer with a stocking rate of two animal units per acre during a three month period from March through May, noted Dr. Monte Rouquette, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station scientist who conducted the grazing study.

For the study, one animal unit was defined as 1,000 pounds of animal. Suckling steers and heifers were used for the study.

At lower stocking rates of 1.2 animal units per acre, average daily gains topped 3.5 pounds. At the high stocking rate of 2.8 animal units per acre, average daily gains dropped to about 1.75 pounds per acre.

Cattle on the study received no extra protein or supplements, only the standard free-choice mineral supplement, noted Dr. Ray Smith, clover and legume breeder with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and developer of Apache.

Released in 2002, Apache promises to make arrowleaf clover a viable part of forage production in East Texas and other southern states.

As early as the 1960's, it was common practice to mix arrowleaf seed with crimson clover seed and grow it widely throughout many southern states, from East Texas to Georgia. By mixing the early maturing crimson clover and late-maturing arrowleaf, ranchers and farmers could have forage from February through early June. Multiple disease problems, including plant viruses and

fungal rot, effectively put a stop to this practice a decade ago. Of the diseases, Bean Yellow Mosaic Virus (BYMV) was one of the most prevalent and damaging problems.

BYMV didn't affect crimson clover, but it either killed arrowleaf clover, stunted it, or caused it to mature early.

Arrowleaf clovers such as Yuchi, Meeche and Amclo, are affected by BYMV in several ways. Some plants are killed outright by lethal wilt. Others go on to survive but will suffer a variety of symptoms, including misshapen leaves, yellowed leaves or leaves spotted in a yellow mosaic pattern. Of the surviving plants, yields are reduced by as much as 50 percent, but worse, the productive lifespan of the survivors is shortened, leaving months during the spring without forage production.

Apache is resistant to the lethal wilt caused by BYMV and tolerant to the secondary symptoms such as leaf discoloration and stunting.

Seed should be available in good quantities this year for fall planting.

Arrowleaf clovers can be interseeded in bermudagrass pastures either by broadcasting alone, lightly disking and then broadcasting or by drilling.

Though just broadcasting the seed and doing nothing else is not the most effective method, it does often produce good results. The recommended rate of Apache is about 10 pounds of seed per acre. At \$2 per pound, this means the total cost of establishment could be as little as \$20 per acre. The seed can be mixed with a light fertilizer application if immediately broadcast or planted.

A light disking has two advantages. It sets the warm season grass back a little and exposes bare soil.

"They'll get a little more forage if they disk and perhaps a little earlier forage. The cost for disking will add another \$7 to \$8 per acre in establishment cost."

Fall Landscaping Seminar

The Gregg County Master Gardeners and the Longview Beautification Association will be sponsoring a "Fall Landscaping Seminar" on Saturday, September 27. The program will be held in the Gregg County Extension auditorium at 405 East Marshall in Longview. Registration for the seminar

begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program starting at 9:00 a.m. This program is free to the public.

Mr. Aubrey King, with King's Nursery in Tenaha, Texas will be addressing the topic "Plants That Thrive in East Texas." Addressing the topic of "Color Throughout the Year" will be the co-owner of New Orleans Gardens and a Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional, Bonnie Holloway. Other topics include: "Fall Landscaping Chores" and "Arboretum Plans for Longview." This program is free to the public. Come and enjoy a morning of gardening and landscaping information.

PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING SCHEDULED

The Gregg, Harrison and Upshur County Extension offices will be sponsoring a private applicator training session on September 30, 2003, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Gregg County Extension Auditorium at 405 East Marshall. Successful completion of this course, a passing grade on the test and payment of a \$60.00 fee to the Texas Department of Agriculture will allow you to become a licensed private applicator.

Agricultural producers must be licensed or certified private applicators to be able to purchase or apply restrictive use pesticides. Herbicides, or weed killers, are the primary chemicals that producers purchase that requires a pesticide license.

Following the training session, a Texas Department of Agriculture representative will administer a test.

A Private Applicator Manual is available from the Gregg County Extension office for \$20.00. It is highly recommended that all participants purchase this manual which includes a set of study questions prior to the course.

Please contact the Gregg County Extension Office to preregister for the course at 903/236-8429.

This program is for those producers who have never been certified or licensed as a private applicator. No recertification credit will be given.

Dennis Smith can be contacted at the Gregg County Extension Office by e-mail at dg-smith@tamu.edu or telephone at: 903-236-8429.

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