

EFFECTS OF ASPHALT EMULSIONS AND VEGETATIVE  
MULCHES ON THE VIABILITY OF  
BERMUDAGRASS SPRIGS

By

LARRY BOOTH GILLHAM

Bachelor of Science

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, Oklahoma

1968

Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate College  
of the Oklahoma State University  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of  
MASTER OF SCIENCE  
May, 1970

Thesis

1970

G499E

cop 2

OKLAHOMA  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY  
OCT 12 1970

EFFECTS OF ASPHALT EMULSIONS AND VEGETATIVE  
MULCHES ON THE VIABILITY OF  
BERMUDAGRASS SPRIGS

Thesis Approved:

Wayne W. Huffine  
Thesis Adviser

Lester W. Reed

D. Durbin  
Dean of the Graduate College

762.214

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author is deeply indebted to his major adviser, Dr. Wayne W. Huffine, and the members of his advisory committee, Dr. Robert D. Morrison and Dr. Lester W. Reed for their assistance throughout the course of this study.

Appreciation is extended to John L. Coltharp for his undivided hospitality and service while establishing these studies.

Appreciation is expressed to the Oklahoma State Highway Department and to the Oklahoma State University Department of Agronomy for providing the funds and facilities necessary for this study to be conducted.

The author is grateful to his wife, Janice, for her patience and assistance during the course of this study.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Chapter                              | Page |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| I. INTRODUCTION. . . . .             | 1    |
| II. LITERATURE REVIEW . . . . .      | 2    |
| III. METHODS AND MATERIALS . . . . . | 6    |
| IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. . . . .  | 11   |
| V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS . . . . . | 31   |
| LITERATURE CITED . . . . .           | 33   |
| APPENDIX . . . . .                   | 35   |

## LIST OF TABLES

| Table   | Page |
|---|------|
| I. Treatments, Planting Date, Planting Season, and Nitrogen Content of the Bermudagrass Sprigs at Planting Time . . .   | 7    |
| II. The Treatments, Exposure Periods, and Temperatures Used to Evaluate the Cold Hardiness of Bermudagrass Sprigs in the Laboratory. . . . .  | 9    |
| III. The Mathematical Procedure Used for Determining the Percent Moisture of a Soil Sample From the Field Study to Determine the Overwintering Ability of Newly Planted Sprigs. . . . .           | 36   |
| IV. The Dates in Which the Daily Maximum and Minimum Temperatures Fell Below a $-1.11^{\circ}\text{C}$ ( $30^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) at the Agronomy Research Station in Stillwater, Oklahoma. . . . . | 37   |
| V. The Average Number of Sprouted Nodes per Three Replications From Winter Planting Dates and the Treatments: Water, Asphalt, and Mulch . . . . .   | 38   |
| VI. The Average Number of Sprouted Nodes per Three Replications From Winter Planting Dates and the Water Treatment. . . . .   | 39   |
| VII. The Average Number of Sprouted Nodes per Three Replications From Winter Planting Dates and the Asphalt Treatment . . . . .   | 39   |
| VIII. The Average Number of Sprouted Nodes per Three Replications From Winter Planting Dates and the Mulch Treatment . . . . .  | 40   |
| IX. The Total Number of Common Bermudagrass Nodes per Planting Date Which Initiated Growth as Determined on May 28, 1969. . . . .   | 40   |
| X. The Total Number of Bermudagrass Sprigs Which Sprouted Under the Various Asphalt Treatments and Days' Exposure to a Constant Temperature of $4.44^{\circ}\text{C}$ . . . . .                   | 41   |
| XI. The Total Number of Bermudagrass Sprigs Which Sprouted Under the Various Asphalt Treatments and Days' Exposure to a Constant Temperature of a $-1.11^{\circ}\text{C}$ . . . . .               | 41   |

XII. The Total Number of Bermudagrass Sprigs Which Sprouted Under the Various Asphalt Treatments and Days' Exposure to a Constant Temperature of a  $-6.67^{\circ}\text{C}$ . . . . . 42

## LIST OF FIGURES

| Figure   | Page |
|--|------|
| 1. The Average Number of Sprouted Bermudagrass Nodes From the Winter Planting Dates and Treatments of Water, Asphalt, and Mulch . . . . .  | 12   |
| 2. The Average Number of Sprouted Bermudagrass Nodes From the Winter Planting Dates and the Water Treatment . . . . .  | 13   |
| 3. The Average Number of Sprouted Bermudagrass Nodes From the Winter Planting Dates and the Asphalt Treatment . . . . .  | 14   |
| 4. The Average Number of Sprouted Bermudagrass Nodes From the Winter Planting Dates and the Mulch Treatment . . . . .  | 15   |
| 5. The Total Number of Common Bermudagrass Nodes Which Had Sprouted as of the May 28 Evaluation Date . . . . .   | 16   |
| 6. The Total Number of Bermudagrass Sprigs per Replication Which Sprouted Under the Various Asphalt Treatments and Days' Exposure to a Constant Temperature of 4.44°C (40°F) . . . . . | 19   |
| 7. The Total Number of Bermudagrass Sprigs per Replication Which Sprouted Under the Various Asphalt Treatments and Days' Exposure to a Constant Temperature of -1.11°C (30°F). . . . . | 20   |
| 8. The Total Number of Bermudagrass Sprigs per Replication Which Sprouted Under the Various Asphalt Treatments and Days' Exposure to a Constant Temperature of -6.67°C (20°F). . . . . | 21   |
| 9. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of August, 1968 . . . . .  | 22   |
| 10. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of September, 1968. . . . .   | 23   |
| 11. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of October, 1968. . . . .   | 24   |
| 12. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of November, 1968 . . . . .   | 25   |
| 13. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of December, 1968 . . . . .   | 26   |



| Figure   | Page |
|--|------|
| 14. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of January, 1969. . . . .   | 27   |
| 15. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of February, 1969 . . . . . | 28   |
| 16. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of March, 1969. . . . .     | 29   |

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

It has long been a question as to when and how common bermudagrass (Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers) can be planted in order that it will overwinter. At the present time, the Oklahoma Highway Department stops sprigging or stolonizing operations after the first of August; thus, roadbeds and adjacent slopes prepared after this date generally are allowed to deteriorate by wind and water erosion until these operations can be resumed the following spring. The only protection, if any, these areas receive is an asphalt-hay mixture blown on as a mulch. This mulch is frequently broken down by wind and water, and once more erosion is resumed. Frequently, after one winter these eroded areas have to be completely reworked before stabilization can proceed. This renovation results in a great loss of time and expense.

The purpose of this study is to determine whether common bermudagrass plantings can successfully be made in the fall and winter through the use of protective asphalt emulsion coatings of sprigs and living vegetative mulches. If this can be achieved then the planting of bermudagrass sprigs can be extended over most of the year and erosion control on the highway can be greatly enhanced.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Proper stabilization of highway roadsides and slopes require some kind of a protective soil cover. The main requirements for roadside turf as reported by Jacobs et al. (9), is: rapid establishment to prevent undue erosion, self maintenance, and low growing habits to help ease the rising costs of mowing. This rapid establishment is helped through the use of protective mulches. Mulching helps to improve soil moisture, reduces runoff, and erosion, and will reduce the high daily temperatures and help retard the loss of heat at night. Common bermuda-grass, Beavers et al. (6) concluded, has a relatively rapid covering ability and is well adapted to most central and southern areas, but it needs mulch and/or companion species to facilitate its speed of cover and retardation of erosion until it can take over.

There are many types of mulches being used today. Barnett et al. (3) found that whisker dams, which consist of two tons of grain straw per acre embedded or penetrated into the soil surface, provided adequate protection to newly prepared and seeded 2 1/2:1 backslopes when subjected to both 1-year frequency storms, i.e. 1.3 inches of rain in 30 minutes, and the 10-year frequency storms, of 2.7 inches of rain in 60 minutes. He also found that in all cases where AE-5 asphalt emulsion spray was used, the effectiveness of the mulch was decreased when tested by the 10-year frequency storm system. Wheat straw, sawdust,

and Turfiber were used by Barkley et al. (2) whereby they moderated the soil temperatures of the seed zone thus improving the germination, emergence, and growth of grass seedlings. The wheat straw and Turfiber treatments appeared to conserve the soil moisture and retard erosion better than the sawdust. Sounders (14) had a situation where the straw mulch could not be used due to the lack of supply and the possibility of a fire hazard, as the road was through an undeveloped wooded area. Instead he used a mixture of equal parts, of AE-5 asphalt and water and achieved fair erosion control, but poor germination due to the unseasonably dry weather.

The loss of plant cover due to winter injury is very important, but also very complex according to Smith (13). Winter injury usually results from exposure to freezing temperatures, alternating temperatures, ice sheets, desiccation, or any combination of these. There appears to be two main theories of actual causes of winter injury in plants: the mechanical and desiccation injury theories. The mechanical injury theory, as explained by Levitt (10) results from the formation of extra cellular ice crystals which along with the contraction of the cell wall subject the protoplasm to stresses and strains resulting in injury. Also, he found that if a plant has a low protoplasm permeability to water, the internal water cannot diffuse from the cell sap to the external ice crystals with sufficient speed to increase the concentration of the cell sap, thus lowering the freezing point. Consequently, intracellular ice crystal formation results in complete destruction of the tissue. Meryman (12) found that injury can occur through dehydration when the external ice crystals withdraw moisture from the internal structure. The plants may survive if the duration of

dehydration is not too long. With very low temperatures, the rate of dehydration remains approximately the same, but injury may now result from chemical denaturation.

Beard and Olien (4) and Beard (5) found similar results in which they divided low temperature injury into the equilibrium and non-equilibrium processes. The non-equilibrium process consists of intracellular ice crystal formation upon freezing. This explosive growth of ice crystals can cause mechanical disruption of the tissue of the protoplasm and eventual death. The equilibrium process involves extracellular ice formation in which living protoplasts may or may not be injurious. During this process, there is a redistribution of water from within the cells to the extracellular ice crystals because of their low vapor pressure. If this condition continues for a sufficient length of time, frost desiccation of the protoplasm may occur. Upon dehydration, the protoplasm becomes brittle and can be damaged when subjected to extreme tensions during the contraction caused by dehydration. In contrast, Levitt (10) showed that the cell sap concentration is only a secondary factor; in that, while as the concentration is increased the actual cell sap freezing temperature drops, but the rate of dehydration remains the same.

It seems logical that partial winter hardiness could be due to difference in cutin thickness. Although this could be true in other species, Ahring and Irving (1) found that there was no apparent difference in the cutin thickness between different varieties of bermudagrass, even these varieties can withstand different lengths of exposure to freezing temperatures. They found that winter hardiness depended more upon the age of the rhizome rather than inherent conditions such

as differential cutin layer thickness. Also, they showed that common bermudagrass could survive an indefinite exposure to temperatures of  $-22^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but would not survive more than three days' exposure of  $-6.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ , soil temperature. Carroll (7) stated that soil temperatures limited the survival of turfgrass species more than air temperatures.

## CHAPTER III

### METHODS AND MATERIALS

In August, 1968, an area free from bermudagrass was selected and a program for the evaluation of the winter hardiness of newly planted common bermudagrass sprigs was initiated. This area was located on the Oklahoma State University Agricultural Research Station at Stillwater.

The program was arranged as a  $2^3 \times 6$  factorial having three replications. This made eight treatments and six planting dates, spaced at monthly intervals. The treatments consisted of AE-5 asphalt emulsion as a sprig covering, living vegetative mulches of German millet (Setaria italica (L.) Beauv.) and hard red winter wheat (Triticum aestivum (L.) em. Thell.) and water. The treatments, along with the planting dates, are listed in Table I. The individual plot size was 0.7 by 0.3 m (2 1/2 ft. by 1 ft.) with a 0.3 m (1 ft.) space between plots and a 1.52 m (5 ft.) space between plots having different planting dates.

The actual planting area in each plot consisted of a furrow 1.18 cm deep by 1.18 cm (3 in. by 3 in.) wide the entire length of the plot. After an initial application of 378.5 liters (100 gals) of water per 170.4 m (500 linear ft.) of row space in every plot, six sprigs, dug and cut just prior to planting, were placed evenly end to end in the furrow. The sprigs were separated by a small (1 in. by 6 in.) stake at each end, to enhance the rating of the individual sprigs. The total

TABLE I  
TREATMENTS, PLANTING DATE, PLANTING SEASON, AND NITROGEN CONTENT  
OF THE BERMUDAGRASS SPRIGS AT PLANTING TIME

| Treatments |          |          | Planting Date  | Planting Season | Percent Nitrogen |
|------------|----------|----------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| No Asphalt | Mulch    | Water    | Aug. 27, 1968  | Summer          | 1.50             |
| No Asphalt | Mulch    | No Water | Sept. 10, 1968 | Fall            | 1.50             |
| Asphalt    | Mulch    | Water    | Oct. 15, 1968  | Fall            | 1.54             |
| Asphalt    | Mulch    | No Water | Dec. 11, 1968  | Winter          | 1.44             |
| No Asphalt | No Mulch | Water    | Jan. 23, 1969  | Winter          | 1.59             |
| No Asphalt | No Mulch | No Water | Mar. 19, 1969  | Winter          | 1.56             |
| Asphalt    | No Mulch | Water    |                |                 |                  |
| Asphalt    | No Mulch | No Water |                |                 |                  |



length of the individual sprig was not critical; the only requirement being that each sprig contain three nodes. After the sprigs were in place, the asphalt was applied at 3264.7 liters/ha (345 gals/acre) to the respective plots. The furrows were then covered. The August planting was overseeded with German millet at 33.6 kg/ha (30 lbs/acre), while hard red winter wheat at 134.5 kg/ha (120 lbs/acre) was used on all other dates.

The water portion of the treatments was for supplemental purposes throughout the study in order to insure that the available soil moisture would not fall below the permanent wilting point. Prior to the actual field planting, three soil samples were taken and placed in a greenhouse where the moisture content of the soil at the permanent wilting point was determined through the use of hard red winter wheat. The method for the determination of the permanent wilting point and the percent available moisture appear in Appendix Table III. Once these factors were determined, soil samples could be taken throughout the duration of the study and by weighing, drying, and reweighing to determine the percent available moisture, the plots could be kept above the wilting point by the addition of supplemental water.

The treatments were evaluated periodically throughout the program as to the number of nodes per sprig which initiated growth with the final ratings being made on May 6 and 28, 1969.

In August, 1969, another study was started to determine the ability of bermudagrass sprigs treated with different concentrations of asphalt to withstand cold temperatures. This study was made possible through the use of a controlled environment chamber.

The program was arranged as a split plot design with the three temperatures being the main plot. The subplots consisted of six sprigs for each of the 30 treatment-exposure temperatures used. The treatments, exposure periods, and temperatures are listed in Table II.

TABLE II

THE TREATMENTS, EXPOSURE PERIODS, AND TEMPERATURES USED TO EVALUATE THE COLD HARDINESS OF BERMUDAGRASS SPRIGS IN THE LABORATORY

| Treatment Number | Treatments    |             | Number of Days of Exposure | Temperatures |       |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------|
|                  | Parts Asphalt | Parts Water |                            | F°           | C°    |
| 1                | 0             | 0           | 0                          | 20           | -6.67 |
| 2                | 1             | 0           | 1                          | 30           | -1.11 |
| 3                | 1             | 1           | 2                          | 40           | 4.44  |
| 4                | 1             | 2           | 3                          |              |       |
| 5                | 1             | 3           | 4                          |              |       |
| 6                | 1             | 4           | 5                          |              |       |

Since only one cold chamber was used, only one temperature range could be run at a time. The sprigs were dug and cut just prior to each day's treatment. Again as in first study, the total length of the sprig was disregarded, with the only requirement being that each one contain three nodes. After the sprigs were cut and labeled, they were treated (respectively) by dipping them into an asphalt and water mixture, then wrapping them in one layer of aluminum foil and then they

were placed in the cold chamber. The sprigs requiring the longest exposure period were treated the first day, followed by the others in their respective order with the shortest exposure time going in the last day. At the end of five days, the sprigs were removed, unwrapped and placed in the germinator at 30°C under constant light. At this time, the check treatment, of zero days' exposure, was treated and placed in the germinator with the other treatments. The sprigs were evaluated as to the number of nodes which sprouted at the end of 5, 7, and 14 days.

## CHAPTER IV

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The statistical analyses of both the field and the cold chamber studies show only significant difference between the asphalt and no-asphalt treated sprigs. The results of the winter planting season and treatments interaction in the field study are shown in Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The summer and first fall plantings, August and September, respectively, sprouted and grew well with all treatments. The untreated sprigs sprouted best. The asphalt treated sprigs did not sprout as well due perhaps to the thick asphalt coating. Despite this good summer and fall growth, the majority of these plants did not overwinter. Within these two planting dates, a total of only one sprout from each of the four nodes out of a possible 432 overwintered, with all four being in the August planting period. Of these sprigs, none were treated with asphalt. The actual number of nodes which survived from each planting are presented in Figure 5.

The four plantings of bermudagrass made in October, December, January, and March, showed no sprouts until the following spring. Within these four plantings, sprouts from two nodes survived from October, two from December, 125 from January and 114 from March. Again as in the first two dates, the sprigs which survived from the October and December plantings were not treated with asphalt. However, from

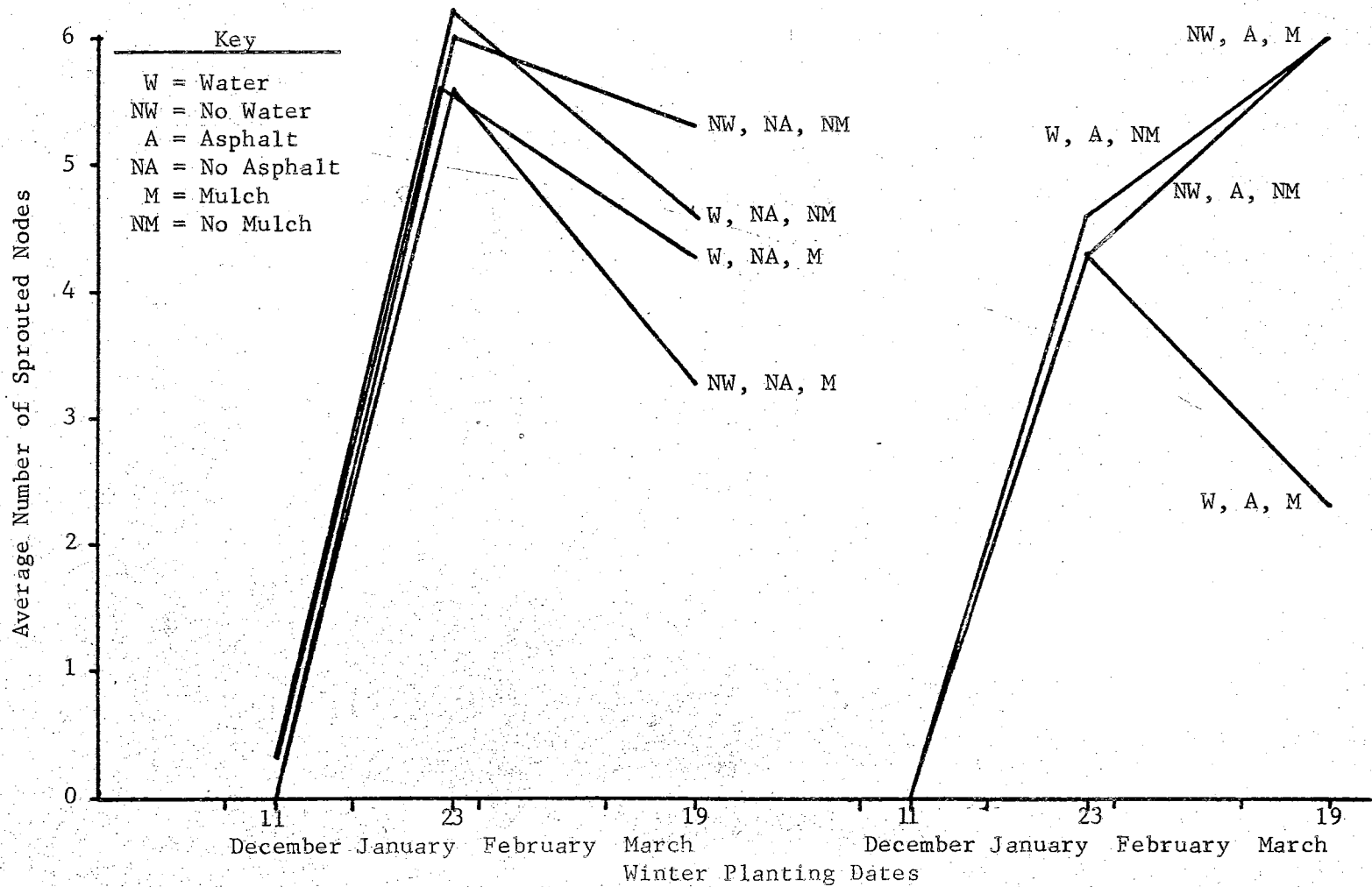


Figure 1. The Average Number of Sprouted Bermudagrass Nodes From the Winter Planting Dates and Treatments of Water, Asphalt, and Mulch

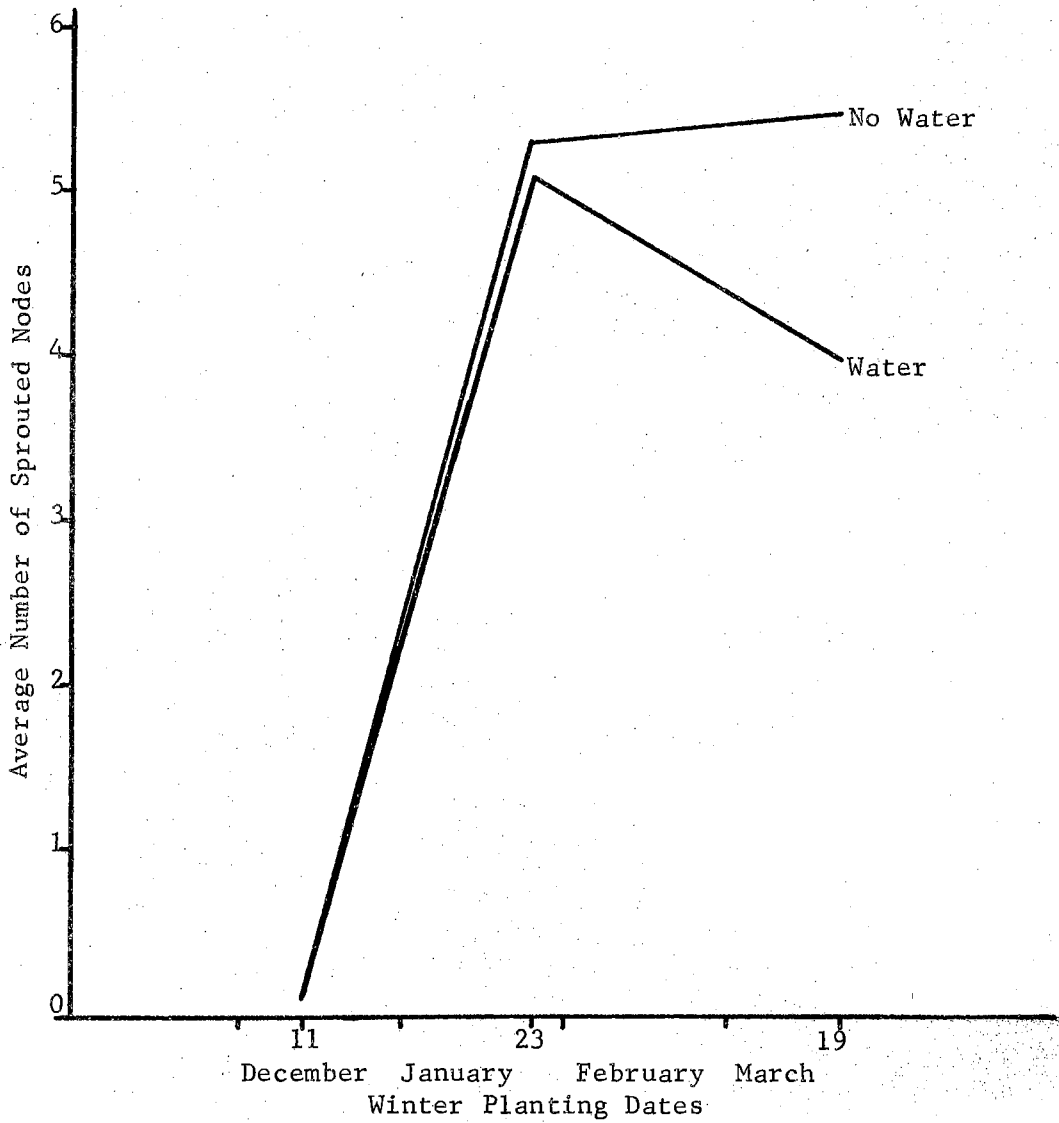


Figure 2. The Average Number of Sprouted Bermudagrass Nodes From the Winter Planting Dates and the Water Treatment

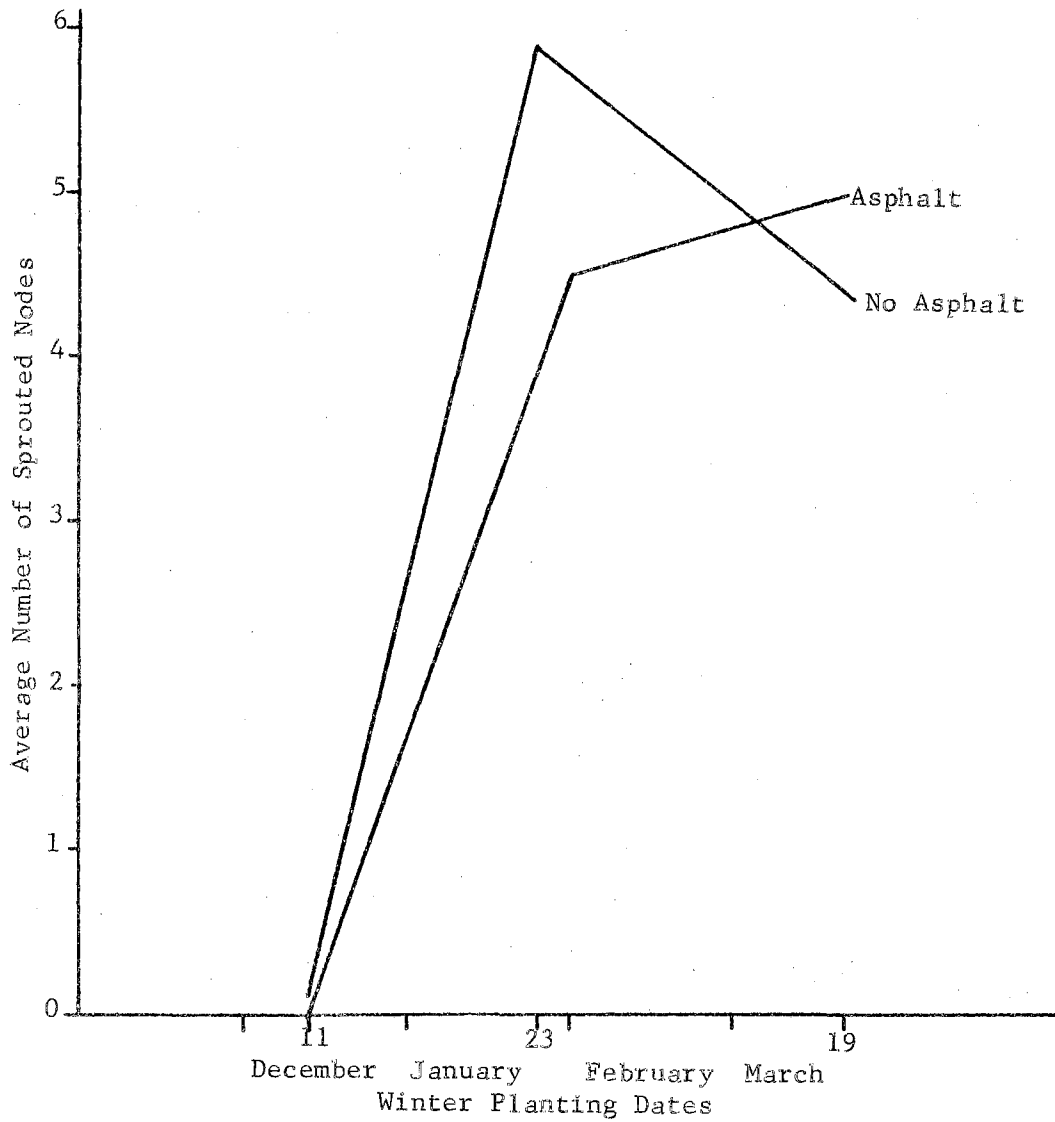


Figure 3. The Average Number of Sprouted Bermudagrass Nodes From the Winter Planting Dates and the Asphalt Treatment

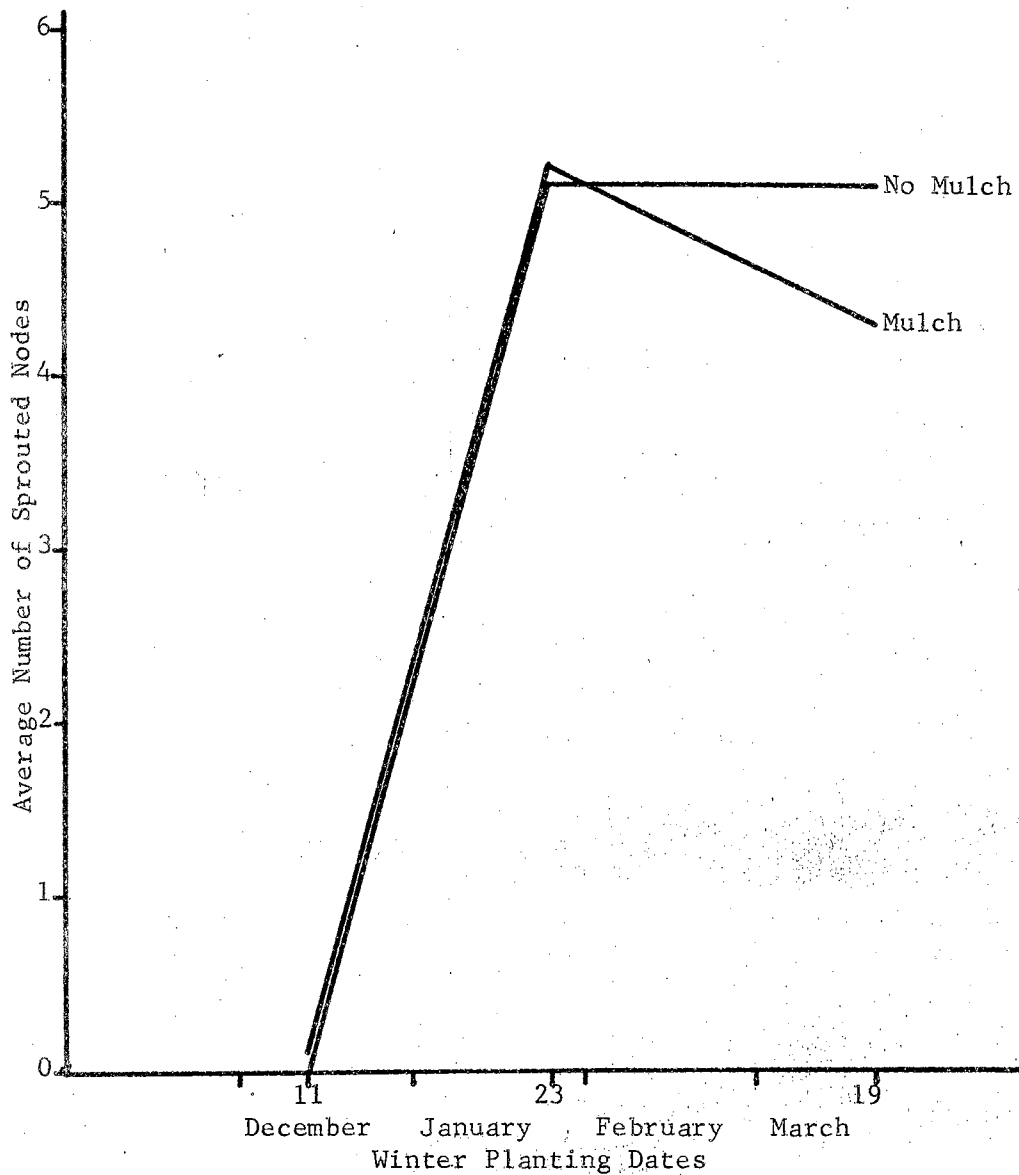


Figure 4. The Average Number of Sprouted Bermudagrass Nodes From the Winter Planting Dates and the Mulch Treatment



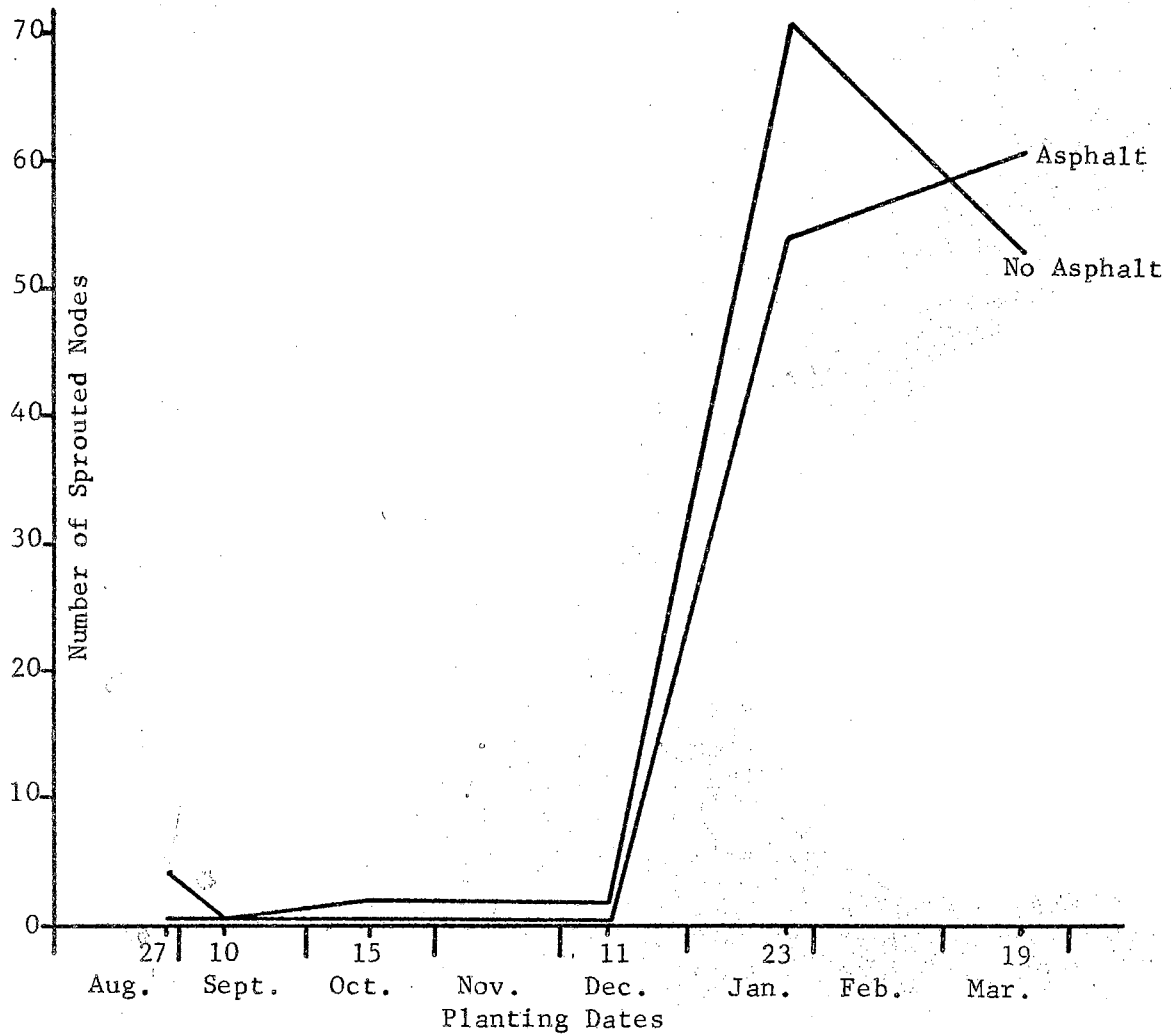


Figure 5. The Total Number of Common Bermudagrass Nodes Which Had Sprouted as of the May 28 Evaluation Date

the January planting 53 treated and 71 non-treated nodes survived whereas 60 treated and 54 non-treated nodes survived from the March planting.

After the October planting, the only treatment which could influence the results was the asphalt coating of the sprigs. Prior to and including the October planting date, the millet and wheat produced very adequate mulch covers; while after this date, the environmental conditions were such that the wheat did not germinate, thus the last four plantings had no vegetative mulch. Originally some plots in this study were designed to receive supplemental watering when necessary; however, the soil moisture was at such a high level throughout the entire program, that this was not necessary. Sprouts from the untreated bermudagrass sprigs withstood the cold temperatures from the January planting better than the treated ones as shown in Figures 1 and 3, while in the March planting the asphalt treated sprigs sprouted better than the untreated ones. This benefit in the March planting might be attributed to the asphalt coating that sealed the sprigs and helped to prevent internal moisture loss, thus keeping them from drying out. Upon freezing, as from the September to January plantings, this retention of internal moisture perhaps causes the cells to swell and burst, thus destroying the sprig. The untreated sprigs, however, apparently lost enough moisture that the freezing temperatures did not rupture the plant cells. Thus the untreated sprigs were able to endure the cold temperature of December, January, and February better than those that were treated. The asphaltic coating providing possibly additional moisture retention appeared to be of value during the March planting as

the treated sprigs excelled in the number of sprouts over the untreated ones.

The results of the cold chamber study were very similar to the field study. The untreated and lower asphalt concentration treated sprigs survived the cold temperatures as well if not better than the asphalt treated sprigs as shown in Figures 6, 7, and 8. All of the sprigs exposed to the 4.44 (40°F) and -1.11 (30°F) °C temperatures survived equally well, as expected; while the viability of those exposed to the -6.67 (20°F) °C dropped very sharply from an average of 197 to 5 out of a possible 216 sprigs. This sharp drop in viability perhaps can be attributed to the same factor as in the field study in that the untreated sprigs partially dried out and survived while the treated ones ruptured internally and died upon excessive exposure to freezing temperatures.

The cold chamber study showed that bermudagrass sprigs, having all the treatments studied, can withstand at least five days of continuous exposure to -1.11°C and up to two days at -6.67°C. Appendix Table IV, compiled from Figures 9 through 16 shows the days on which the high and low air temperatures at Stillwater, Oklahoma, dropped below -1.11 and -6.67°C during the period from August 1, 1968, through March 31, 1969. Throughout this eight month period, the air temperatures dropped below -6.67°C more than one continuous day only once, December 30 through the 31st, and below -1.11°C only three times, January 3 through the 4th, January 23 through the 24th, and March 8 through the 9th. At no time during this eight month period did the temperature remain below -1.11 or -6.67° for more than two consecutive days. According to Fluker (8), the soil acts as a buffer to rapid changes in temperature, but at a soil



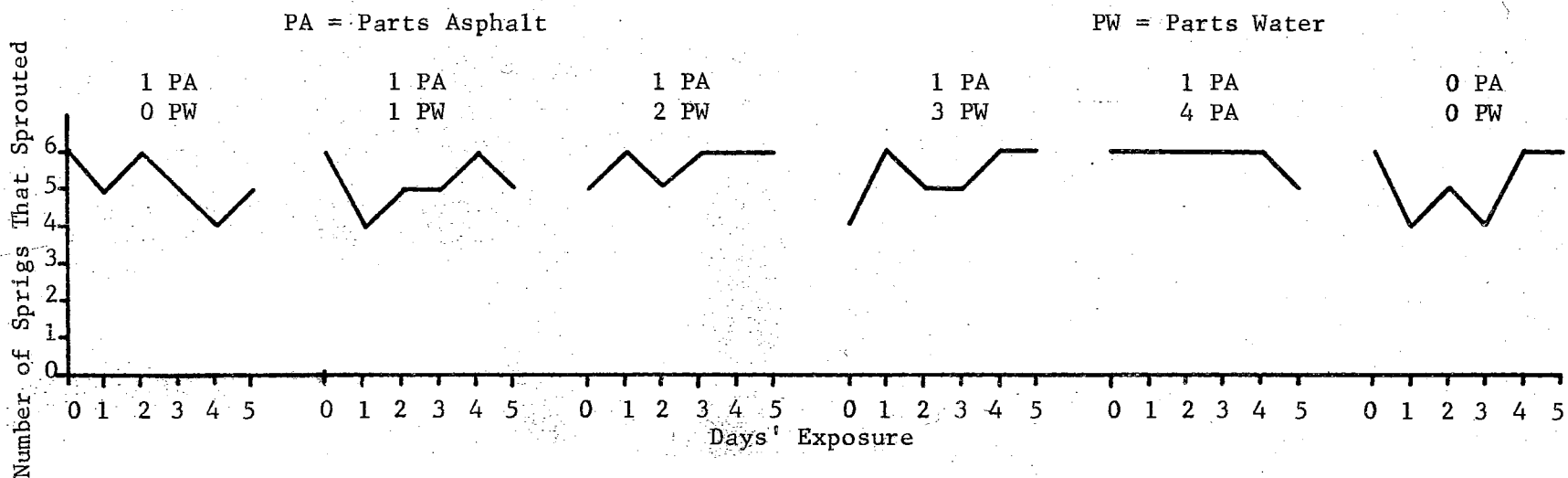


Figure 7. The Total Number of Bermudagrass Sprigs per Replication Which Sprouted Under the Various Asphalt Treatments and Days' Exposure to a Constant Temperature of  $-1.11^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $30^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

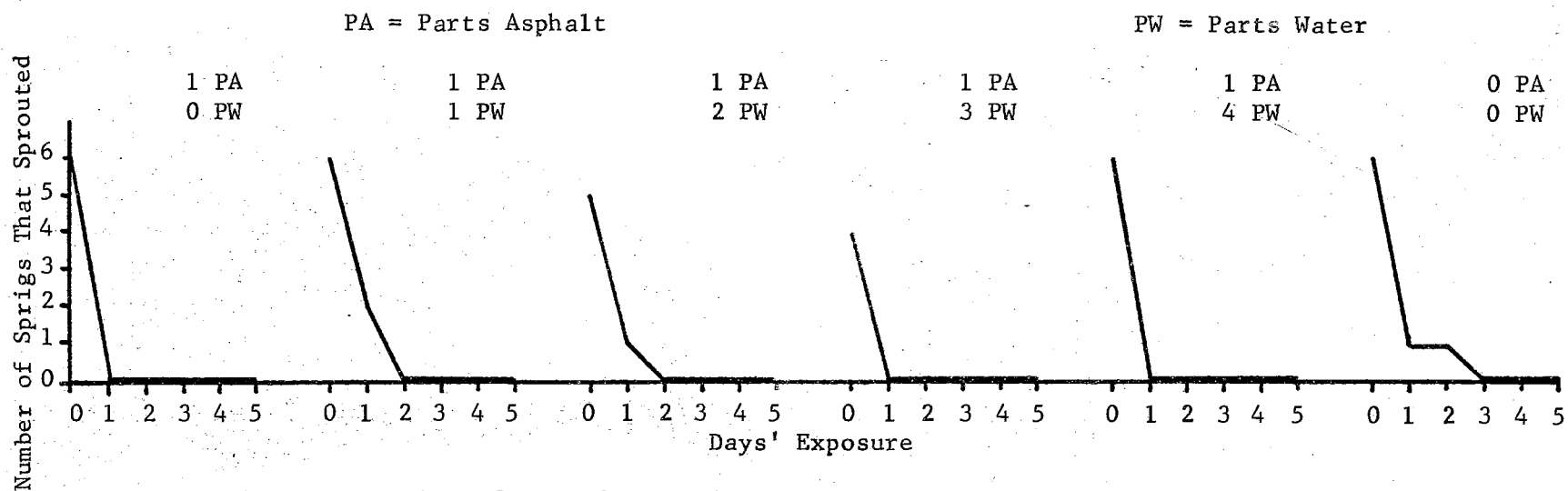


Figure 8. The Total Number of Bermudagrass Sprigs per Replication Which Sprouted Under the Various Asphalt Treatments and Days' Exposure to a Constant Temperature of  $-6.67^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $20^{\circ}\text{F}$ )

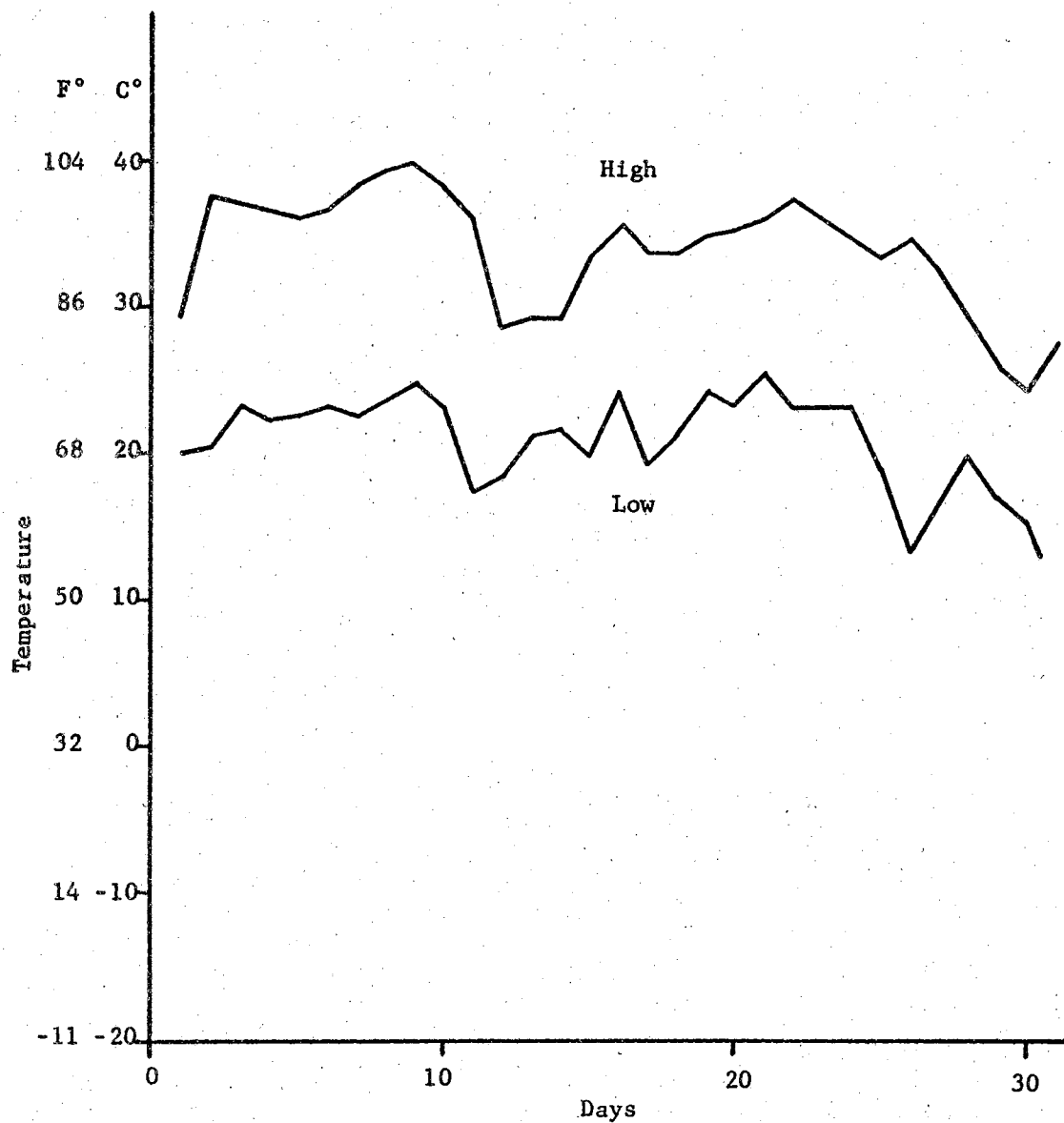


Figure 9. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of August, 1968.

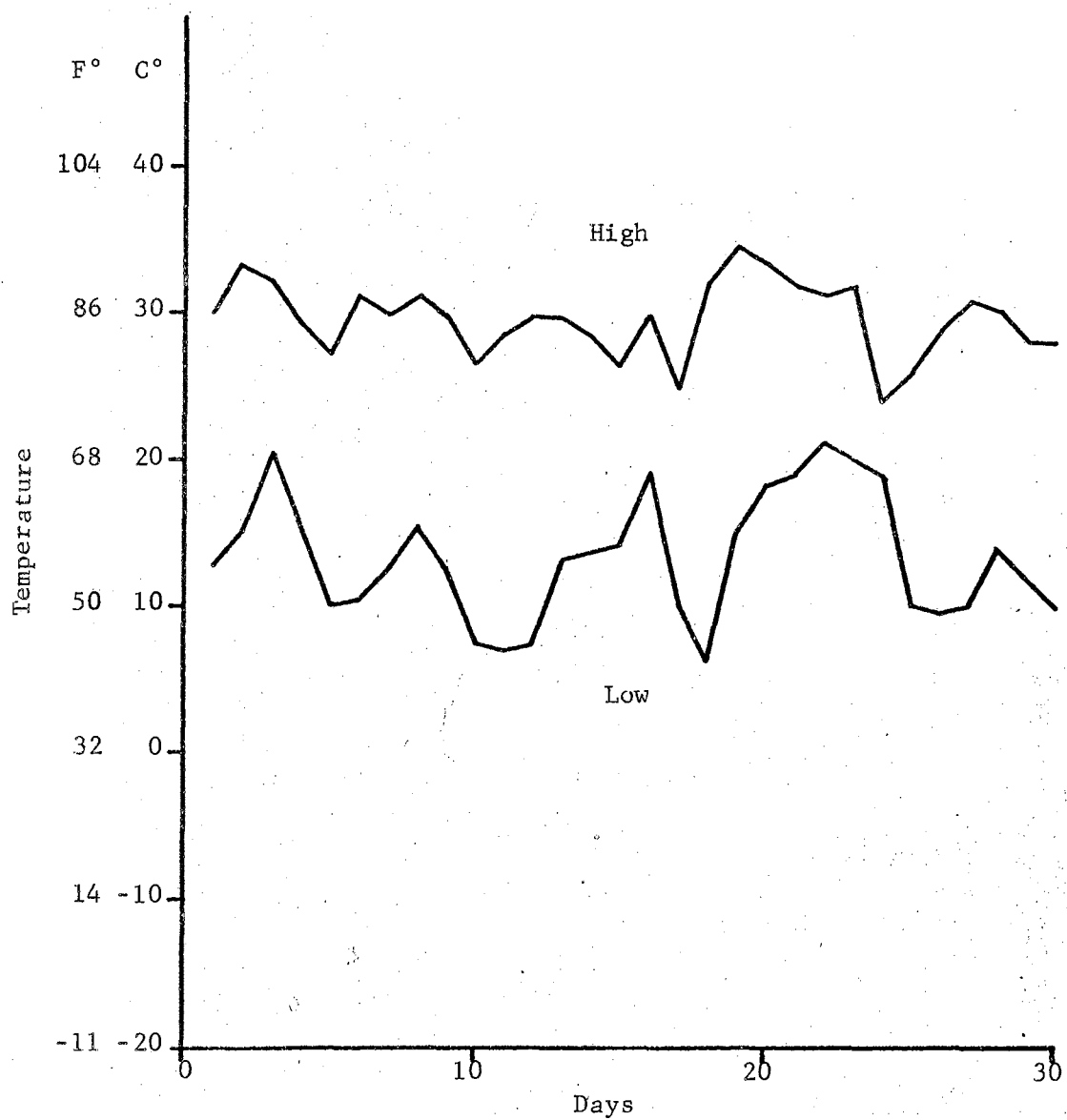


Figure 10. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of September, 1968



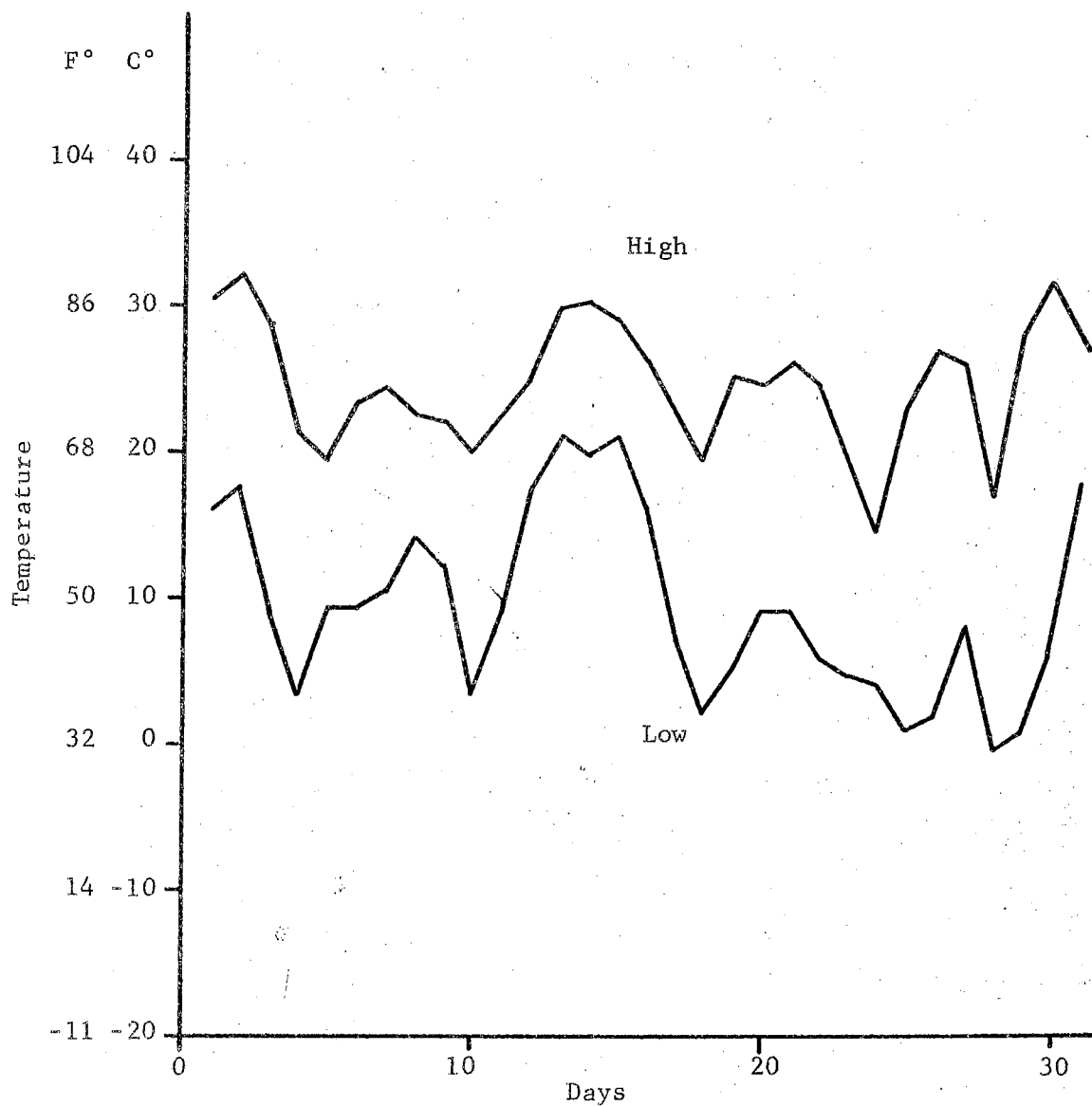


Figure 11. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of October, 1968

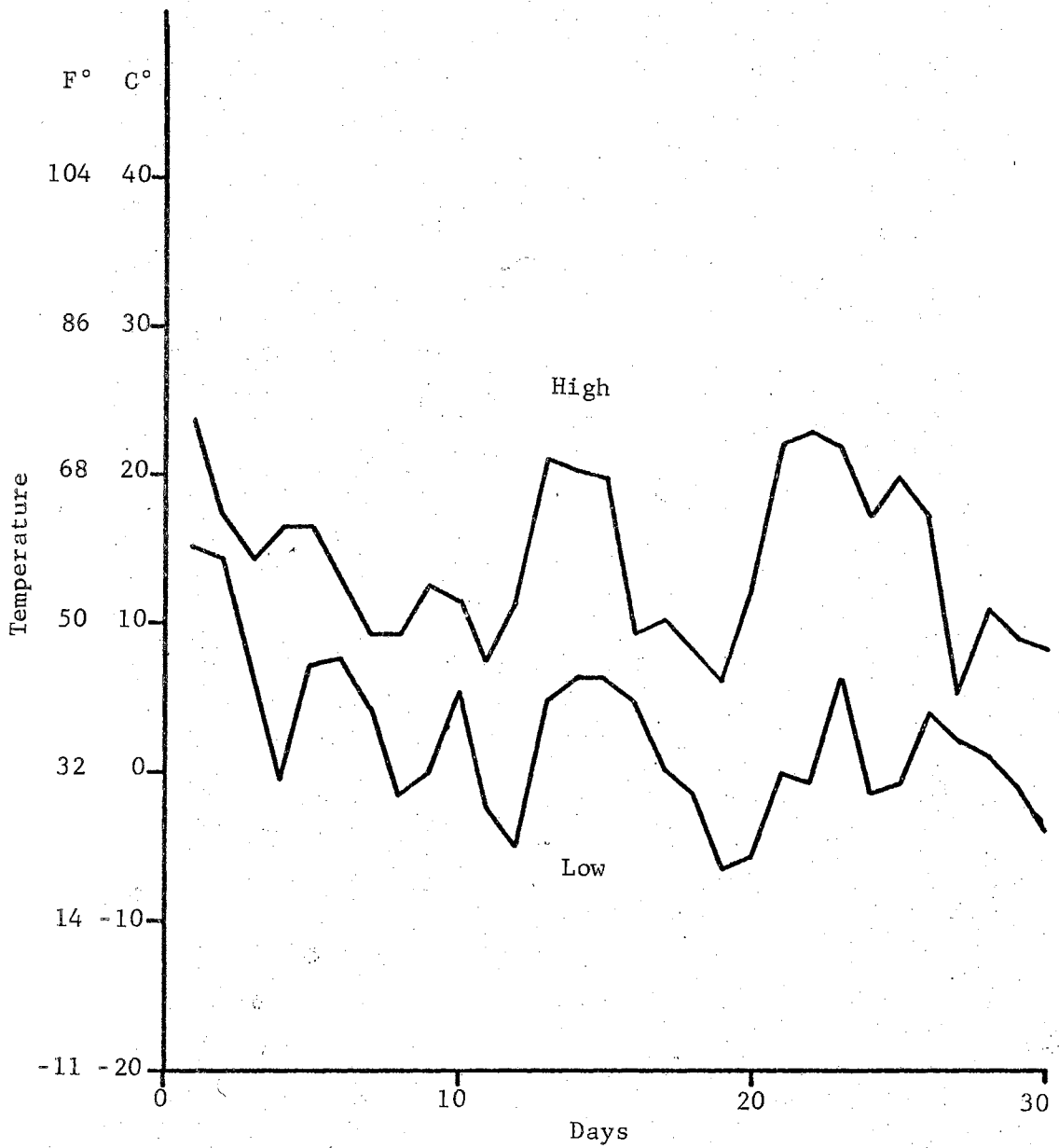


Figure 12. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperature for the Month of November, 1968

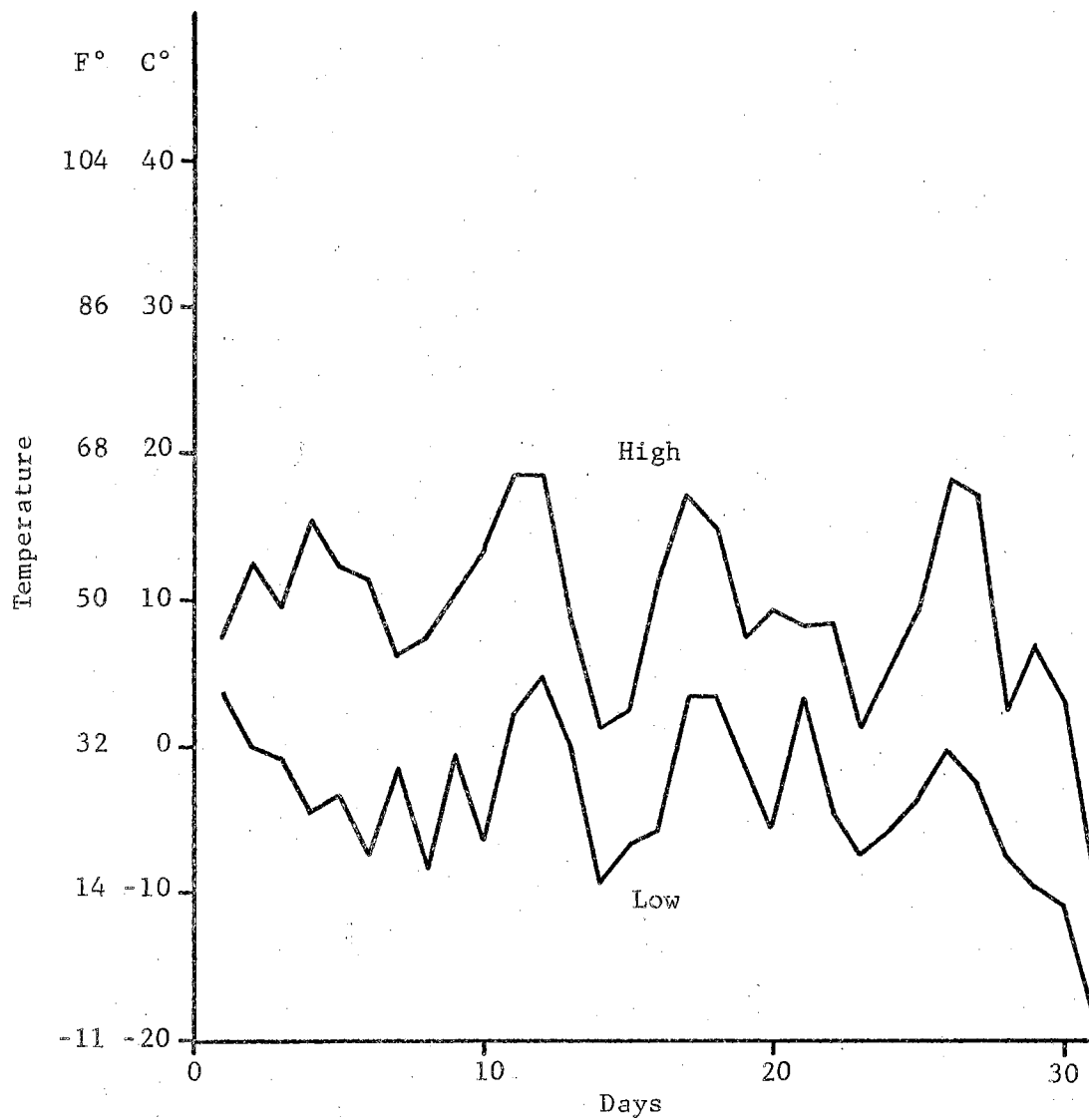


Figure 13. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of December, 1968

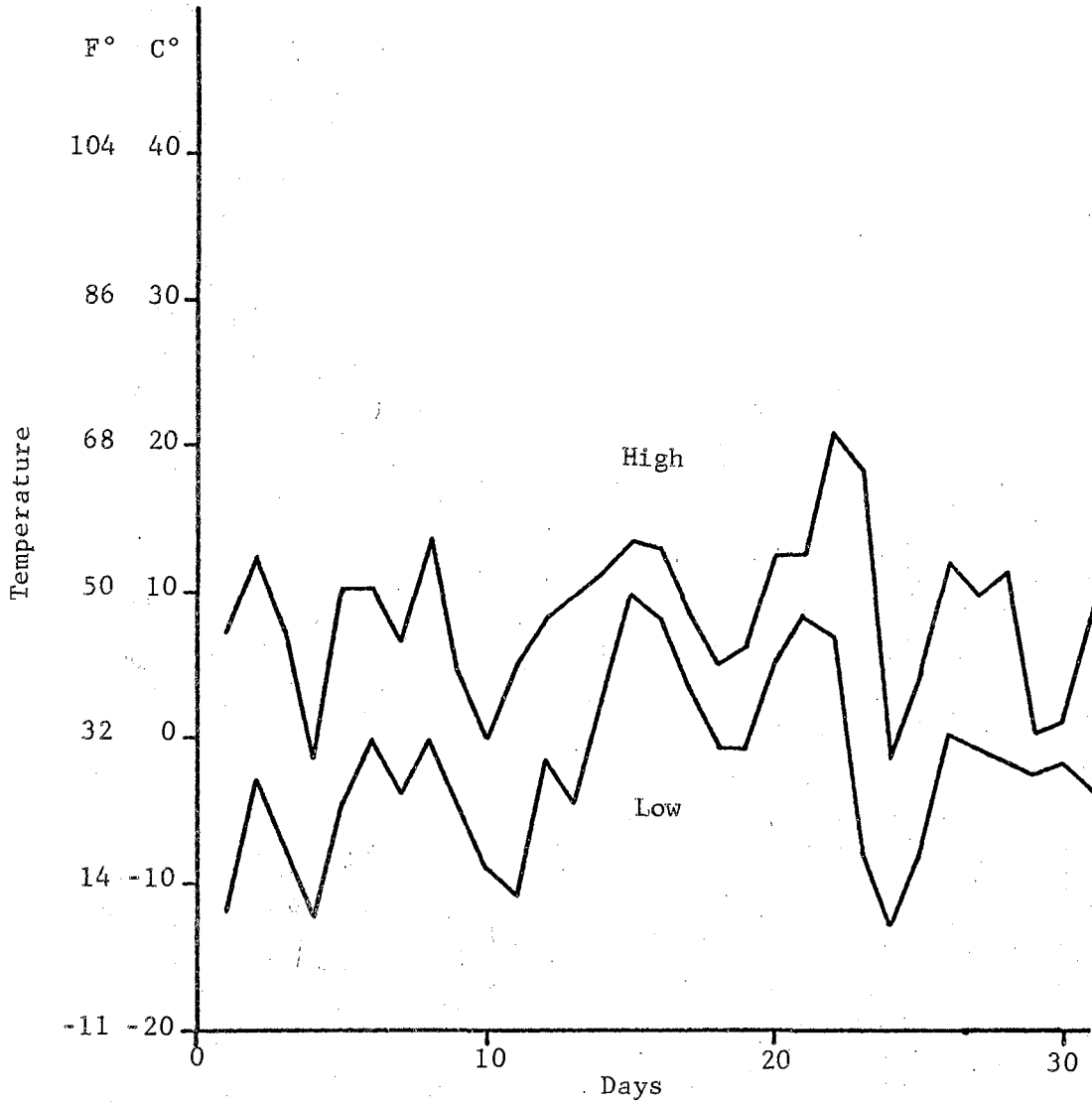


Figure 14. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of January, 1969

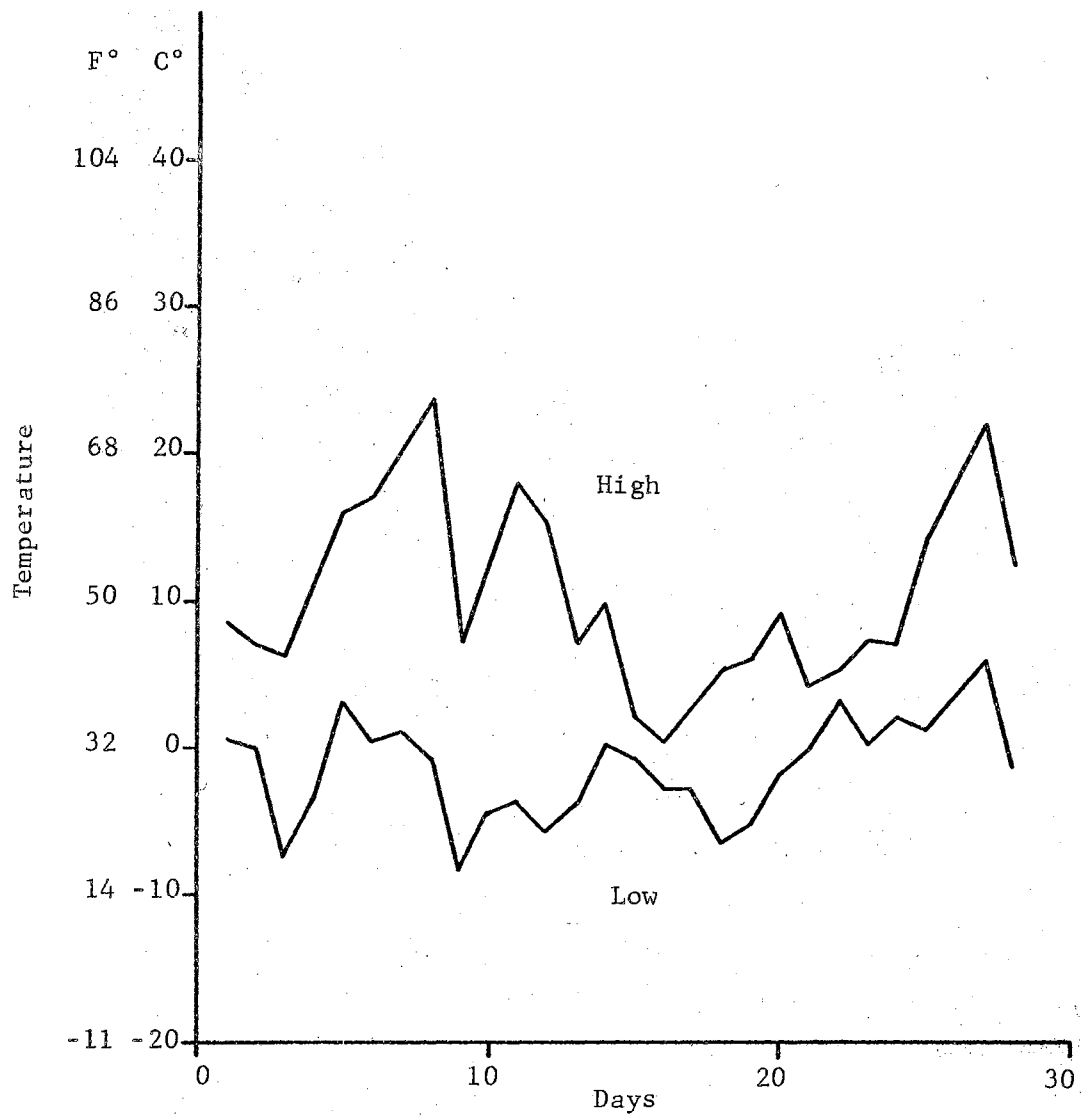


Figure 15. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of February, 1969

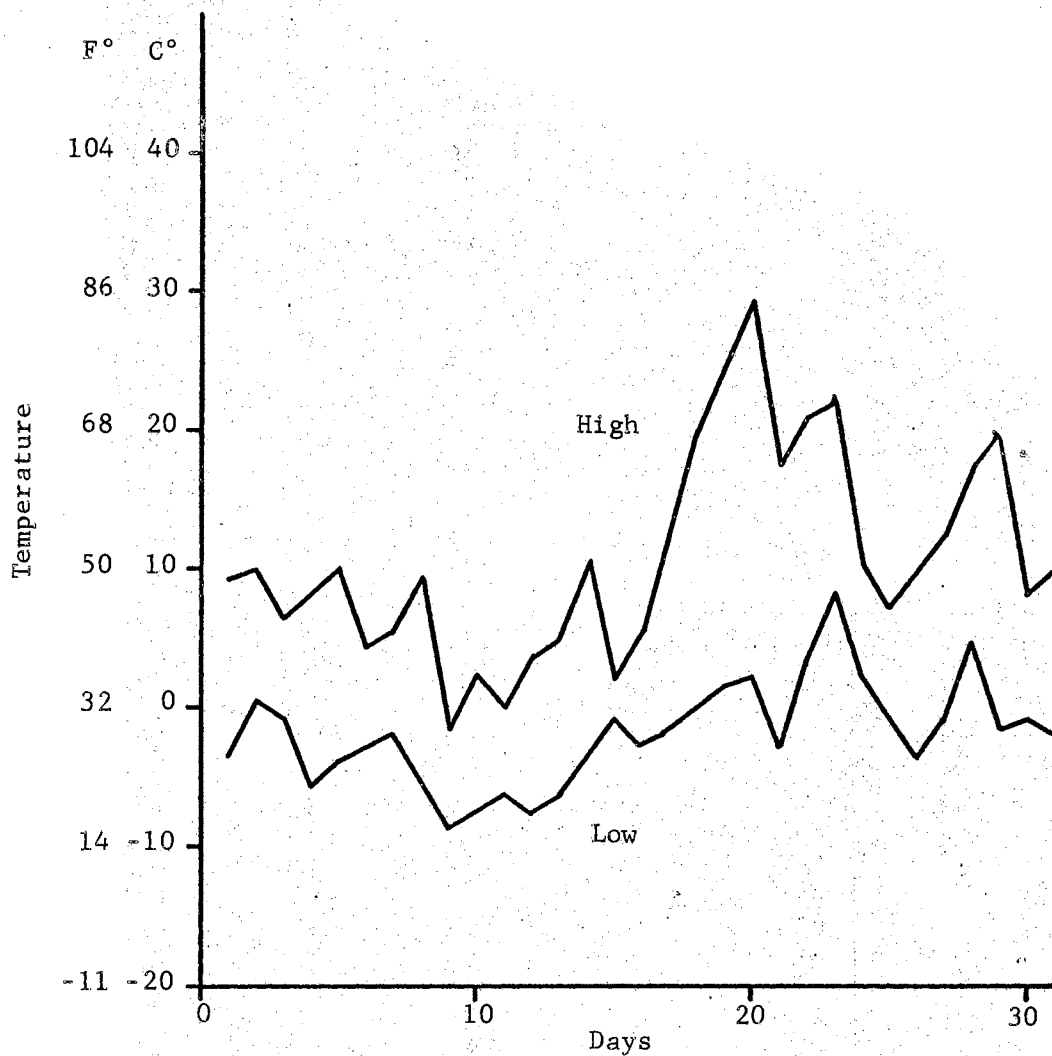


Figure 16. The Daily Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for the Month of March, 1969

depth of three inches or less the soil temperatures would be very close to the air temperatures listed. Prior to the January plantings the temperature fell to a level below that of  $-6.67^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Based on the laboratory study this could have been enough to destroy all but the hardiest sprigs. After that date the temperature never fell below  $-1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  for more than two days. Since the January and March plantings were not exposed to the extreme cold temperatures as the previous plantings, therefore all treatments had fairly good germination and growth.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In August of 1968 a study of the winter hardiness of newly planted bermudagrass sprigs (Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers) was initiated. The treatments consisted of all possible combinations of AE-5 asphalt emulsion, water, and living vegetative mulches of German millet (Setaria italica (L.) Beauv.) and wheat (Triticum aestivum (L.) em. Thell.). These experiments were started on monthly intervals beginning in August, 1968, and proceeding through March, 1969, with the exceptions of November and February. A similar study was started in the laboratory in August, 1969, to determine the actual cold temperatures which freshly harvested common bermudagrass sprigs could endure. The treatments of this study consisted of AE-5 asphalt emulsions diluted with different volumes of water, and different exposure periods to the constant temperatures of 20, 30, and 40°F.

The data and the statistical analyses from both studies indicate that common bermudagrass sprigs cannot endure more than two days' constant exposure to 20°F or below. The mulches used (German millet and wheat) and the sprig coating (AE-5 asphalt emulsion) did not enhance the cold hardiness of newly planted sprigs. Even though some of the untreated sprigs did sprout and grow, there was not enough to make it feasible to try to establish bermudagrass after August and prior to January with the mulching and sprig coating systems used in this study.



From these data it can be concluded the common bermudagrass sprigs can be successfully planted and established after January 1.

#### LITERATURE CITED

1. Ahring, R. M. and R. M. Irving. 1969. A laboratory method of determining cold hardiness in bermudagrass, Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. Crops Sci.
2. Barkley, D. G., R. E. Blaser, and R. E. Schmidt. 1965. Effects on microclimate and turf establishment. Agron. J. 57 (2): 189-191.
3. Barnett, A. P., E. G. Disekar, and E. C. Richardson. 1967. Evaluation of mulching methods for erosion control on newly prepared and seeded highway backslopes. Agron. J. 59 (1): 83-85.
4. Beard, J. B. and C. R. Olien. 1963. Low temperature injury in the lower portion of Poa annua L. Crowns. Crop Sci. 3: 362.
5. Beard, J. B. 1969. Winter injury of turfgrass. First international turfgrass research conference. Proc. Session 3A.
6. Beavers, J. and Allen L. Cox. 1965. Erosion Control Study. Second Annual Report L.S.U. Ag. Expt. Station 41.
7. Carroll, J. C. 1943. Effects of drought, temperature and nitrogen on turfgrass. Plant Phys. 18: 19-30.
8. Fluker, B. J. 1958. Soil Temperatures. Soil Sci. 86: 35-46.
9. Jacobs, J. A., O. N. Andrews, Jr., C. L. Murdouch, and L. E. Foote. 1967. Turf establishment on highway right-of-way slopes. Highway Research Record 161: 71-103.
10. Levitt, J. 1957. The role of cell sap concentration in frost hardiness. Plant Physiol. 32: 237-239.
11. Levitt, J. 1960. Freezing injury of plant tissue. Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. 85: 570-575.
12. Meryman, H. T. 1956. Mechanics of freezing in living cells and tissues. Science 124: 515-521.
13. Smith, Dale. 1963. Freezing injury to forage plants. Agron. Absts.

14. Sounders, James A. 1955. Seeding and emulsified-asphalt mulching on road in N. Carolina. Highway Research Board Roadside Development. National Academy of Sciences National Research Council pub. 356: 19-23.

APPENDIX

TABLE III

THE MATHEMATICAL PROCEDURE USED FOR DETERMINING THE PERCENT MOISTURE  
OF A SOIL SAMPLE FROM THE FIELD STUDY TO DETERMINE THE  
OVERWINTERING ABILITY OF NEWLY PLANTED SPRIGS

---

Formulas:

$X/A$  = The percent available moisture

$Y/B$  = The percent unavailable moisture

where:

X = available moisture, weight in grams

Y = unavailable moisture, weight in grams

A = weight of the soil sample at field capacity

B = weight of the soil sample at the permanent  
wilting point

When a soil sample is taken from the field, weighed, dried, and  
reweighed the percent soil moisture must be above 7.8 percent.

---

TABLE IV

THE DATES IN WHICH THE DAILY MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES  
FELL BELOW A  $-1.11^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $30^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) AT THE AGRONOMY RESEARCH  
STATION IN STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

| Day | November |      | December |     | January |      | February |      | March |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|-----|----------|------|----------|-----|---------|------|----------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|     | High     | Low  | High     | Low | High    | Low  | High     | Low  | High  | Low  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|     | C        | F    | C        | F   | C       | F    | C        | F    | C     | F    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1   |          |      |          |     |         |      | -11.7    | 11.0 |       |      | -3.3 | 26.0 |      |      |      |      |      |
| 2   |          |      |          |     |         |      | -2.7     | 27.0 |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 3   |          |      |          |     |         |      | -7.2     | 19.0 | -7.2  | 19.0 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 6   |          |      |          |     | -4.4    | 24.0 | -1.6     | 29.0 | -12.2 | 10.0 | -3.3 | 26.0 | -5.5 | 22.0 |      |      |      |
| 5   |          |      |          |     | -3.3    | 26.0 |          |      | -4.4  | 24.0 |      |      | -3.8 | 25.0 |      |      |      |
| 6   |          |      |          |     | -7.2    | 19.0 |          |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 7   |          |      |          |     | -1.6    | 29.0 |          |      | -3.8  | 25.0 |      |      | -1.6 | 29.0 |      |      |      |
| 8   |          | -1.1 | 30.0     |     | -8.3    | 17.0 |          |      |       |      |      |      | -5.0 | 23.0 |      |      |      |
| 9   |          |      |          |     |         |      | -4.4     | 24.0 | -8.3  | 17.0 | -1.1 | 30.0 | -8.8 | 16.0 |      |      |      |
| 10  |          |      |          |     | -6.1    | 21.0 |          |      | -8.8  | 16.0 | -4.4 | 24.0 | -7.7 | 18.0 |      |      |      |
| 11  |          | -2.7 | 28.0     |     |         |      | -10.6    | 13.0 | -3.8  | 25.0 |      |      | -6.1 | 21.0 |      |      |      |
| 12  |          | -5.0 | 23.0     |     |         |      |          |      | -1.1  | 30.0 | -5.6 | 22.0 | -7.7 | 18.0 |      |      |      |
| 13  |          |      |          |     |         |      | -4.4     | 24.0 |       |      | -3.8 | 25.0 |      | -6.1 | 21.0 |      |      |
| 14  |          |      |          |     | -9.4    | 15.0 |          |      |       |      |      |      |      | -3.3 | 26.0 |      |      |
| 15  |          |      |          |     | -6.6    | 20.0 |          |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 16  |          |      |          |     | -5.6    | 22.0 |          |      |       |      | -2.7 | 27.0 |      | -2.7 | 27.0 |      |      |
| 17  |          |      |          |     |         |      |          |      |       |      | -2.7 | 27.0 |      | -1.6 | 29.0 |      |      |
| 18  |          |      |          |     |         |      |          |      |       |      | -6.1 | 21.0 |      |      |      |      |      |
| 19  |          | -6.1 | 21.0     |     |         |      |          |      |       |      | -5.0 | 23.0 |      |      |      |      |      |
| 20  |          | -5.5 | 22.0     |     |         | -5.6 | 22.0     |      |       |      | -1.6 | 29.0 |      |      |      |      |      |
| 21  |          |      |          |     |         |      |          |      |       |      |      |      |      | -2.7 | 27.0 |      |      |
| 22  |          |      |          |     | -4.6    | 24.0 |          |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 23  |          |      |          |     | -7.2    | 19.0 |          |      | -7.7  | 18.0 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 24  |          | -1.1 | 30.0     |     | -5.5    | 22.0 | -1.1     | 30.0 | -12.8 | 9.0  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 25  |          |      |          |     | -3.2    | 26.0 |          |      | -7.7  | 18.0 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 26  |          |      |          |     |         |      |          |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 27  |          |      |          |     | -2.2    | 28.0 |          |      |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| 28  |          |      |          |     | -7.2    | 19.0 |          |      | -1.1  | 30.0 |      |      | -1.1 | 30.0 |      |      |      |
| 29  |          |      |          |     | -9.4    | 15.0 |          |      | -2.2  | 28.0 |      |      |      |      | -1.1 | 30.0 |      |
| 30  |          | -3.8 | 25.0     |     |         |      | -10.6    | 13.0 |       |      | -1.6 | 29.0 |      |      |      |      |      |
| 31  |          |      |          |     | -7.7    | 18.0 | -18.0    | -1.0 |       |      | -3.3 | 26.0 |      |      |      | -1.6 | 29.0 |

TABLE V  
 THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SPROUTED NODES PER THREE REPLICATIONS  
 FROM WINTER PLANTING DATES AND THE TREATMENTS:  
 WATER, ASPHALT, AND MULCH

| Planting Dates | Treatments <sup>*</sup> |         |       | Average |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------|-------|---------|
|                | Water                   | Asphalt | Mulch |         |
| December 11    | 1                       | 1       | 1     | 0.00    |
| December 11    | 1                       | 1       | 2     | 0.00    |
| December 11    | 1                       | 2       | 1     | 0.00    |
| December 11    | 1                       | 2       | 2     | 0.00    |
| December 11    | 2                       | 1       | 1     | 0.33    |
| December 11    | 2                       | 1       | 2     | 0.33    |
| December 11    | 2                       | 2       | 1     | 0.00    |
| December 11    | 2                       | 2       | 2     | 0.00    |
| January 23     | 1                       | 1       | 1     | 6.00    |
| January 23     | 1                       | 1       | 2     | 5.66    |
| January 23     | 1                       | 2       | 1     | 4.33    |
| January 23     | 1                       | 2       | 2     | 4.66    |
| January 23     | 2                       | 1       | 1     | 6.33    |
| January 23     | 2                       | 1       | 2     | 5.66    |
| January 23     | 2                       | 2       | 1     | 4.66    |
| January 23     | 2                       | 2       | 2     | 4.33    |
| March 19       | 1                       | 1       | 1     | 5.33    |
| March 19       | 1                       | 1       | 2     | 3.33    |
| March 19       | 1                       | 2       | 1     | 6.00    |
| March 19       | 1                       | 2       | 2     | 6.00    |
| March 19       | 2                       | 1       | 1     | 4.66    |
| March 19       | 2                       | 1       | 2     | 4.33    |
| March 19       | 2                       | 2       | 1     | 6.00    |
| March 19       | 2                       | 2       | 2     | 2.33    |

\*The number 1 under the treatments signifies that no water, asphalt or mulch was applied whereas, the number 2 indicates they were used.

TABLE VI

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SPROUTED NODES PER THREE REPLICATIONS  
FROM WINTER PLANTING DATES AND THE WATER TREATMENT

| Planting Dates | <u>Treatment</u> * |         |
|----------------|--------------------|---------|
|                | Water              | Average |
| December 11    | 1                  | 0.00    |
| December 11    | 2                  | 0.16    |
| January 23     | 1                  | 5.16    |
| January 23     | 2                  | 5.25    |
| March 19       | 1                  | 5.16    |
| March 19       | 2                  | 4.33    |

\*The number 1 under the treatment of water signifies that no water was applied whereas, the number 2 indicates that water was applied.

TABLE VII

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SPROUTED NODES PER THREE REPLICATIONS  
FROM WINTER PLANTING DATES AND THE ASPHALT TREATMENT

| Planting Dates | <u>Treatment</u> * |         |
|----------------|--------------------|---------|
|                | Asphalt            | Average |
| December 11    | 1                  | 0.16    |
| December 11    | 2                  | 0.00    |
| January 23     | 1                  | 5.91    |
| January 23     | 2                  | 4.50    |
| March 19       | 1                  | 4.41    |
| March 19       | 2                  | 5.08    |

\*The number 1 under the treatment of asphalt signifies that no asphalt was applied whereas, the number 2 indicates that asphalt was applied.



TABLE VIII

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SPROUTED NODES PER THREE REPLICATIONS  
FROM WINTER PLANTING DATES AND THE MULCH TREATMENT

| Planting Dates | Treatment * |  | Average |
|----------------|-------------|--|---------|
|                | Mulch       |  |         |
| December 11    | 1           |  | 0.08    |
| December 11    | 2           |  | 0.08    |
| January 23     | 1           |  | 5.33    |
| January 23     | 2           |  | 5.08    |
| March 19       | 1           |  | 5.50    |
| March 19       | 2           |  | 4.00    |

\*The number 1 under the treatment of mulch signifies that no mulch was applied whereas, the number 2 indicates that mulch was applied.

TABLE IX

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMON BERMUDAGRASS NODES PER PLANTING DATE  
WHICH INITIATED GROWTH AS DETERMINED ON MAY 28, 1969

| Planting Dates | Total Nodes<br>Sprouted | Number of Sprouted Nodes<br>per Treatment |            |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|------------|
|                |                         | Asphalt                                   | No Asphalt |
| August 27      | 4                       | 0   | 4          |
| September 10   | 0                       | 0   | 0          |
| October 15     | 2                       | 0   | 2          |
| December 11    | 2                       | 0   | 2          |
| January 23     | 125                     | 53  | 72         |
| March 19       | 114                     | 60  | 54         |

TABLE X

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BERMUDAGRASS SPRIGS WHICH SPROUTED UNDER THE VARIOUS ASPHALT TREATMENTS AND DAYS' EXPOSURE TO A CONSTANT TEMPERATURE OF 4.44°C

| Asphalt Concentration |             | Total Number of Sprouted Sprigs per Exposure Period in Days* |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parts Asphalt         | Parts Water | 0  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1                     | 0           | 6  | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| 1                     | 1           | 6  | 6 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 6 |
| 1                     | 2           | 5  | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| 1                     | 3           | 4  | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| 1                     | 4           | 6  | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 0                     | 0           | 6  | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |

\*These are totals of six replications.

TABLE XI

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BERMUDAGRASS SPRIGS WHICH SPROUTED UNDER THE VARIOUS ASPHALT TREATMENTS AND DAYS' EXPOSURE TO A CONSTANT TEMPERATURE OF A -1.11°C

| Asphalt Concentration |             | Total Number of Sprouted Sprigs per Exposure Period in Days* |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parts Asphalt         | Parts Water | 0  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1                     | 0           | 6  | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| 1                     | 1           | 6  | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| 1                     | 2           | 5  | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 1                     | 3           | 4  | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| 1                     | 4           | 6  | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| 0                     | 0           | 6  | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 6 |

\*These are totals of six replications.

TABLE XII

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BERMUDAGRASS SPRIGS WHICH SPROUTED UNDER THE  
 VARIOUS ASPHALT TREATMENTS AND DAYS' EXPOSURE TO A CONSTANT  
 TEMPERATURE OF A  $-6.67^{\circ}\text{C}$

| Asphalt Concentration |             | Total Number of Sprouted Sprigs per<br>Exposure Period in Days* |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parts Asphalt         | Parts Water | 0   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1                     | 0           | 6   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1                     | 1           | 6   | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1                     | 2           | 5   | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1                     | 3           | 4   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1                     | 4           | 6   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0                     | 0           | 6   | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

\*These are totals of six replications.

VITA <sup>v</sup>

Larry Booth Gillham

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: EFFECTS OF ASPHALT EMULSIONS AND VEGETATIVE MULCHES ON THE  
VIABILITY OF BERMUDAGRASS SPRIGS

Major Field: Agronomy

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Seiling, Oklahoma, on December 3, 1944,  
son of Stanley C. and Rosa E. Gillham.

Education: Graduated from Enid High School, Enid, Oklahoma, in  
1963; received the Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma  
State University in May, 1968; completed the requirements for  
the Master of Science degree in May, 1970.

Experience: Worked on wheat farms during the summers from 1960 to  
1963; worked part-time during school terms 1965 to January,  
1968, and full-time during the summers; worked at Stillwater  
Golf and Country Club from April to August, 1968; employed as  
a Graduate Research Assistant from August, 1968, to January,  
1970.