

LESPEDEZA

A Good Pasture Plant

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How Is Korean Lespedeza Established

1. Plant twenty to twenty-five pounds of seed per acre.
2. Plant sometime between March 20 and April 15.
3. Test soil and correct lime deficiency before discing the ground.
4. *Don't plow.* Use a disc and leave all dead vegetation on the surface.
5. Generally speaking, mix seed with 40 pounds superphosphate, 200 pounds rock phosphate, and 100 pounds lime. Plant by any available method—a combination drill or a “spreader”, of one kind or another, followed by a harrow.
6. Better plant ryegrass or winter oats *in* Korean, rather than the Korean *in* oats or ryegrass. This is not entirely essential. Spring plantings in oats or ryegrass do usually succeed.
7. Inoculate seed faithfully using the “starch” and rotted manure method.
8. If soil is sandy better grow one crop of vetch before planting lespedeza. Allow most of the crop to rot on the surface. Then plant Korean the following spring. This practice is recommended for coarse sandy soils anywhere. It is especially recommended for sandy soils located in central Oklahoma or at points west or southwest within the lespedeza areas. This practice helps solve a moisture problem for the young plants. It also helps insure proper inoculation.
9. Don't “pet” Korean. Graze it down.
10. Feed Korean plenty of phosphorus. If an old stand has gone “wire-grass” on you, renew it with more seed, more phosphorus, and more lime.
11. Order “dodder free seed.”

Controversy

Yes, folks argue about the value of other lespedezas. But when folks do argue about the qualities of two or more plants, that means that both parties need to know more about one of the plants and generally more about both of them.

Just about all good points mentioned above can be claimed for Kobe lespedeza. It is not as early as Korean. It matures about a month later and may furnish greener pasture than Korean in late September and October. Kobe is not such a heavy seeder or such a true seeder under adverse conditions. It does not fit quite as well into a pasture program.

It can be said that Kobe lespedeza will grow on land too sour for the successful growth of Korean. It is doubtful if this is an advantage from the standpoint of future agricultural progress. It is well to remember here that no good palatable pasture was ever grown on sour soil.

Korean won't “run on one cylinder” like Kobe; but it pulls a fair load on “three.” Oh, what a plant it is when it can “run on six!” Many of its friends have never seen Korean “run on six.”

More than a hundred lespedezas are perennials. None of these are pasture plants in Oklahoma.

There are only two annuals—Korean and native Jap. All other annual lespedezas have been developed from these two species. Many times a knowledge of the history of plants helps to stop controversy.

LESPEDA

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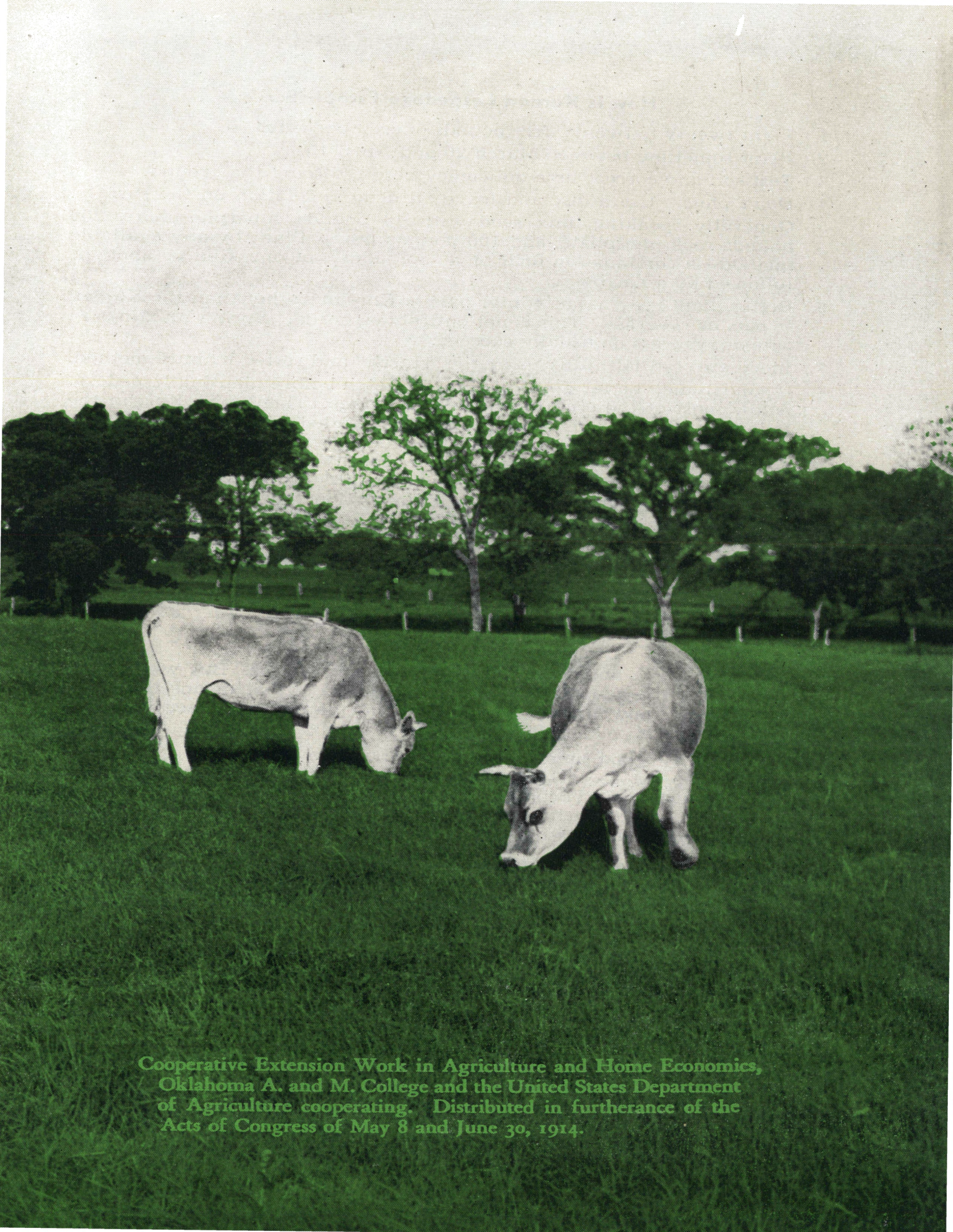
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A GOOD PASTURE PLANT

Something really dependable that:

1. Is ready to pasture sometime in May.
2. Holds throughout hot, dry July, August and generally through September and on until frost.
3. Grows to a stand *at low cost*, and is ready to graze in less than ten weeks.
4. Produces from 75 to over 200 pounds of gain per acre on cattle.
5. Is high in protein.
6. Is a splendid pasture for dairy cows and one that holds milk production through July and August.
7. Is relished enough by cattle that on the C. B. Carter farm at Yale, Oklahoma, fertilized bluestem pasture was not touched after this plant was ready to graze.
8. Is considered permanent because it reseeds perfectly under the heaviest grazing.
9. Can be kept in a grass like Bermuda if phosphate and seed are drilled in the Bermuda every third year.
10. Will grow with oats, ryegrass or wheat and produce from fifty to seventy-five pounds of meat per acre after these crops mature.
11. Builds soil and helps prepare land for grass.
12. Yields as much as two tons of hay per acre, with a high percentage of leaves and not "stemmy".
13. Grows with early clovers and takes over when hop and Dutch mature.
14. Is sort of a "hardy feeder" that can use coarse forms of mineral like rock phosphate.
15. Weeds don't bother.
16. A few farmers have learned how to grow with bluestem.
17. Makes a splendid paying seed crop under favorable conditions.
18. Like all pasture plants, needs plenty of lime; but one that, unlike many, will hold on and do a fair job on "slightly acid" soil until lime can be applied.
19. Is *easy* to inoculate.
20. Does a fair job of holding soil.
21. Builds a surface mulch to protect seedlings of cool weather clovers and grasses.
22. Is being grown successfully in nearly two thirds of Oklahoma.
23. Thousands of farmers would prefer over all summer growing pasture plants.

WHAT IS THIS GOOD PLANT

Yes, Korean lespedeza is correct. For thousands of farmers, Korean lespedeza has been the answer for "summer" pasture. You can "write home" about it when you find a better plant than Korean.



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