Demonstration of Suitable Forage Options for North Central Saskatchewan

A previous demonstration at the Conservation Learning Centre of forage options for north-central Saskatchewan was well received by local producers. Due to the age of the past demonstration, it was replaced in 2020 with a variety of new forage options, including perennial ryegrass. Perennial ryegrass is a non-host plant that can help reduce clubroot levels. In order to demonstrate forage options for local producers and test the suitability of perennial ryegrass in the north-central region of the province, a trial was seeded near Prince Albert, SK in 2020.

A variety of perennial and annual forages were seeded, including both grasses and legumes. A full list of the forages seeded can be found in Figures 1 and 2. Glyphosate was applied in the fall of 2019, and the soil was disced and rototilled prior to seeding. To control the weeds, the grassy forages were mowed, and glyphosate was spot applied with a weed stamper mid-season.

In the first year of the demonstration, the establishment of the forages suffered from cool spring temperatures, weed pressure, and herbicide damage from a mid-season spot application of glyphosate.

Stand cover was low in the grass forages and declined throughout the season for most forages due to the spot application of glyphosate (Figure 1). The establishment of the perennial ryegrass varieties was good prior to the herbicide damage.

Stand coverage was high in the alfalfa and annual forage varieties (Figure 2). Oxley II cicer milkvetch and Bull birdsfoot trefoil had poor establishment.

Funding for this project was provided by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) Program.

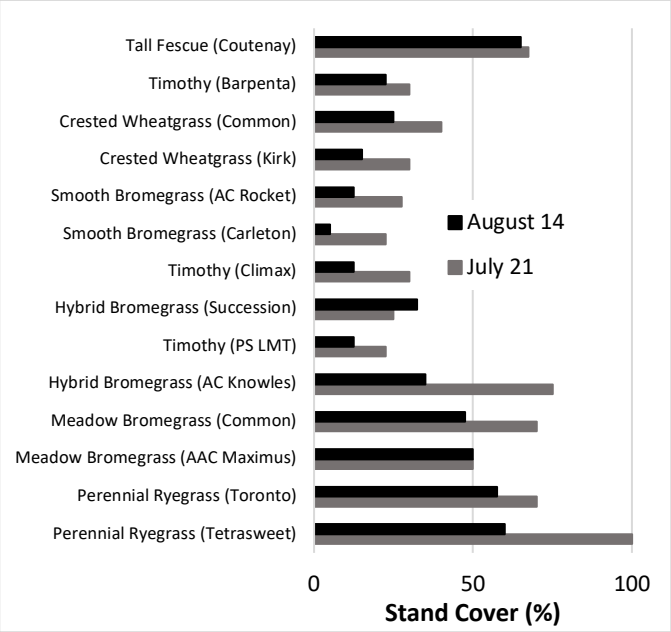

Figure 1. Establishment of grass forages at the CLC in 2020.

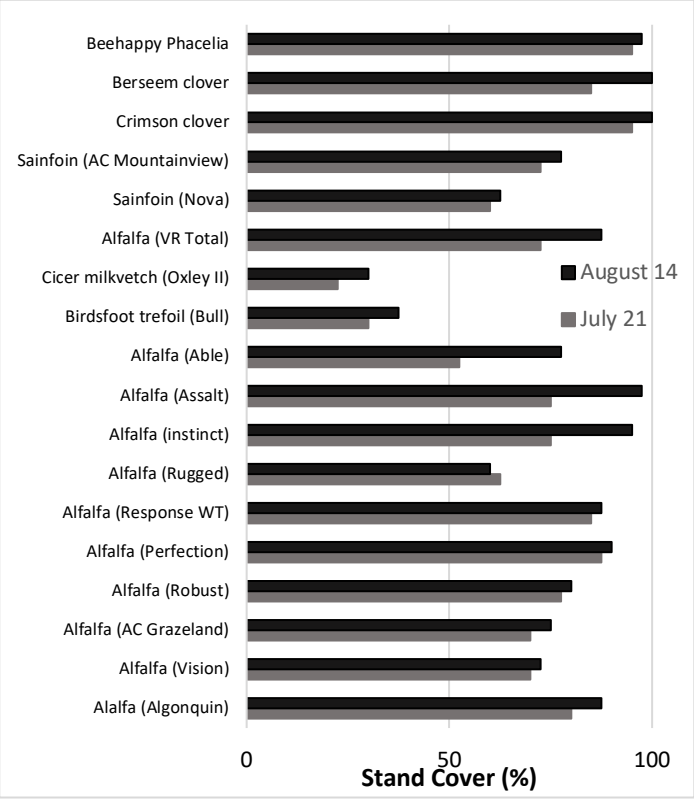

Figure 2. Establishment of legume forages at the CLC in 2020.