

Berseem Clover Before Corn

PFI farmers were among the first to introduce berseem clover into their cropping systems. Cooperators are still examining this annual legume for its production and compatibility. **Tom and Irene Frantzen**, Alta Vista, have compared berseem and red clover for the last two years ([Table 1](#)). Oats has yielded better when seeded with red clover than with berseem, but the fast-growing berseem has made more straw when the oat/legume mix is baled. There was also more berseem regrowth after mowing in 1994.

The 1995 corn yielded nearly six bushels better after berseem than after red clover. But the late spring soil nitrate test showed plentiful nitrogen across the field. Tom attributes the advantage to planting conditions, explaining that the berseem left the soil in better shape than did the red clover. (Both treatments were disked before planting.) Many people have remarked that in the wet spring of 1995, planting conditions made all the difference to the success of a crop.

Table 1. "A/B" FERTILITY TRIALS				"A/B" FERTILITY TRIALS							
COOPER- ATOR/ CROP	TREATMENT "A"		TREATMENT "B"		TRT "B"		DIFFERENCE			COMMENT	
	DESCRIPTION	YIELD (bu.)	TRT COST	DESCRIPTION	YIELD (bu.)	TRT COST	YIELD DIFF.	YLD LSD (bu.)	YLD SIG.		\$ BENEFIT OF TRT "A"
FRANTZEN/ CORN	CORN (1995) AFTER 1994 BERSEEM CLOVER	150.6	\$21.00	CORN AFTER RED CLOVER	144.7	\$8.00	5.9	*	2.7	\$13.00	CORN PLANTING CONDITIONS WERE MUCH BETTER IN 1995 AFTER 1994 BERSEEM. LATE SPRING SOIL NO3 = 32 PPM (HIGH). 4 REPS ONLY. BOTH TREATMENTS RECEIVED 146 LBS N. DOUBLE ROW CORN BUT NOT HIGH POPULATION
	OATS W. BERSEEM IN 1994	64		OATS W. RED CLOVER IN 1994	75						
	OATS/BERSEEM STRAW IN 1994	30.0	BALES/ ACRE	OATS/RED CLOVER STRAW IN 1994	24	BALES/ ACRE					
	BERSEEM REGROWTH IN 1994 (REMOVED)	1.8	TONS/ ACRE	RED CLOVER REGROWTH IN 1994 (REMOVED)	0.75	TONS/ ACRE					
FRANTZEN/ OATS	OATS W. BERSEEM IN 1995	90.2	\$20.25	OATS W. RED CLOVER IN 1995	95.7	\$8.00	-5.5	*	4.6	(\$6.97)	\$ BENEFIT SHOWN INCLUDES OAT YIELD, STRAW, AND SEED COST
	OATS/BERSEEM STRAW IN 1995	45	BALES/ ACRE	OATS/RED CLOVER STRAW IN 1995	37	BALES/ ACRE	7.8	*	4.9	\$9.24	
MUGGE/ CORN	PURCHASED N ONLY (TOTAL OF 117 LBS N)	146.4	\$21.90	LIQUID HOG MANURE (100 LBS N) (20 LBS 28% N AT PLANTING)	142.2	\$4.87	4.2	N.S.	6.5	(\$17.03)	STALK NITRATE IN MANURED CORN LOW: 119 PPM. 1,300 PPM IN PURCHASED N CORN
ROSMANN/ CORN	PURCHASED CHICKEN MANURE	120.5	\$32.07	COMPOSTED HOG MANURE	121.5	\$16.42	-1.0	N.S.	6.3	(\$15.65)	CHICKEN MANURE (44+54+33), HOG COMPOST (14+14+19). FOLLOWING SOYBEANS
STONECYPHE- R/ CORN	60 LBS 32% N SIDEDRESS	167.6	\$13.38	120 LBS 32% N SIDEDRESS	178.1	\$26.76	-10.6	*	9.0	(\$16.82)	LATE SPRING NO3: 11 PPM, STALK NITRATE 173 PPM (60 LBS), 447 PPM (120 LBS)
WURPTS/ SOYBEANS	BIOLOGICAL FERTILITY PROGRAM	52.6	\$8.15	ISU FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS	51.7	\$0.00	0.9	N.S.	2.0	(\$8.15)	
WURPTS/ CORN	BIOLOGICAL FERTILITY PROGRAM	139.2	\$49.61	ISU FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS	138.3	\$26.76	1.0	N.S.	7.1	(\$22.85)	