

Evaluation of Legumes for Clearcut Timberland  
in the Pacific Northwest

J. O. Peterson

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Corvallis Plant Materials Center,  
3420 NE Granger Ave., Corvallis, Oregon 97330, U.S.A.

A multi-study project has been underway since 1977 to compare legumes to provide ground cover, nitrogen, alternate forage for big game, and brush suppression on clearcut timberland in the Pacific Northwest. A trial in Snohomish County, Washington, evaluating five legumes on a 40-acre clearcut reported in this publication in previous years, continues to be active. Results in 1982 are similar to previous years, with birdsfoot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus) providing the best cover.

In 1982, 39 accessions of kura clover (Trifolium ambiguum), mostly from the 1977 Dewey-Plummer USSR exploration, were planted at the Corvallis PMC to determine suitability for Northwest conditions. Stand persistence and compatibility with reforestation are key evaluation factors. Compatibility will be based on low grow form, moderate growth rates, persistence during 3-7 years following establishment, and tolerance to brush management practices.

Also, 45 accessions of deer vetch (Lotus crassifolius) were collected in western Oregon and Washington and will be seeded in Spring 1983 at the Corvallis PMC. This native legume exhibits good brush suppression characteristics, and will be evaluated for N-fixation rates and effect on tree seedling survival.

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