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Birdsfoot trefoil, *L. corniculatus* L., has been grown in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for the past 35 years. It was introduced as a long lived legume to replace red clover for hay and pastures. Certified seed of birdsfoot trefoil was first produced in the Upper Peninsula in 1958. In 1988 there were approximately 60,000 acres of birdsfoot trefoil grown in the Upper Peninsula for pasture and hay production. Approximately 7,500 acres of birdsfoot trefoil is grown for seed production in the region with 1,000 acres under certification. Cultivars with varying degrees of winter hardiness can be grown for seed production in the area due to the snow cover which prevails throughout the winter months. Because of the environmental conditions which exist throughout the year, the region is ideal for producing cultivars of birdsfoot trefoil seed which are used throughout the U.S.A.

Dr. Leep's extension and research deal with problems in birdsfoot seed production and forage management unique to the Upper Peninsula. His studies have documented the losses in seed production caused by Lygus lineolaris (Tarnished Plant Bug) and development of control strategies for the pest. Other studies include the evaluation of weed control strategies and herbicide efficacy and tolerance for birdsfoot trefoil. Efforts in extension have concentrated upon the formation of the Michigan Trefoil Growers Association as well as providing educational information to seed producers in the region. Several researchers from other areas have participated in the extension meetings held in the Upper Peninsula and shared research progress on Lotus seed production.

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Leep, R. H. and M. B. Tesar. 1981. Growing Birdsfoot Trefoil in Michigan. Extension Bulletin E-1536, MSU Ag Facts, June 1981, 8p.

Leep, R. H. and L. O. Copeland. 1984. Birdsfoot Trefoil Seed Production in Northern Michigan. Extension Bulletin E-1745, 8p.

Leep, R. H. 1986. "Evaluation of Several Birdsfoot Trefoil Varieties Compared to Iroquois Alfalfa." Research Report 474, Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, E. Lansing, MI. May 1986, 4p.

Leep, R. H. and J. J. Kells. 1988. "Evaluation of Herbicides for Established Birdsfoot Trefoil." Journal of Weed Technology. (in Review).