

**NOTES ON GRASSES AND  
FORAGE PLANTS OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN STATES,  
BULLETIN NO. I, JUN. 13, 1930**

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Notes on Grasses and Forage Plants of the Southeastern States, Bulletin No.I, Jun.13, 1930 by  
Thomas H. Kearney

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**THOMAS H. KEARNEY**

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16

NOTES ON

GRASSES AND FORAGE PLANTS

OF THE

SOUTHEASTERN STATES.

BY

THOMAS H. KEARNEY, Jr.,  
ASSISTANT AGROSTOLOGIST.



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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
DIVISION OF AGROSTOLOGY,  
*Washington, D. C., September 19, 1895.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for publication some notes on the grasses and forage plants of the Southeastern States, prepared by my assistant, Thomas H. Kearney, jr. These notes are based upon direct observations in the field, made in accordance with a commission from the Secretary of Agriculture under date of June 18, 1895. In accordance with his instructions Mr. Kearney visited Knoxville, Tenn.; Selma and Mobile, Ala.; Tallahassee, Apalachicola, Jacksonville, and St. Augustine, Fla.; Savannah and Augusta, Ga.; Aiken, S. C.; Wilmington, N. C., and Norfolk, Va. He was directed to note all the species of grasses at the several points visited, and to gather all facts obtainable relative to them which might be of scientific or economic interest.

Material assistance in accomplishing this work and much valuable information concerning the grasses and other forage plants of their respective localities was furnished by Dr. Charles Mohr, of Mobile, Ala.; Dr. A. W. Chapman, of Apalachicola, Fla.; Judge R. C. Long, of Tallahassee, Fla., and Capt. W. W. Woolsey, of Aiken, S. C.

The paper here presented is divided into two parts—the first, devoted to forage plants of actual or possible value, the several kinds being enumerated in alphabetical order for more ready reference; the second comprises a list of all the species of Gramineæ collected or seen, arranged according to their natural classification, with observations of purely botanical interest. This arrangement of the matter separates the economic from the scientific portions of the report, which will be appreciated alike by the farmer and the botanist.

Respectfully,

F. LAMSON-SCRIBNER,  
*Agrostologist.*

HON. J. STERLING MORTON,  
*Secretary of Agriculture.*





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NOTES ON GRASSES AND FORAGE PLANTS COLLECTED OR  
OBSERVED IN THE SOUTHEASTERN STATES.

PART I.

ECONOMIC NOTES UPON THE GRASSES AND OTHER FORAGE PLANTS  
OF THE REGION TRAVERSED.

Very few plants are widely cultivated in the South for hay or pasturage, the farmer relying for the most part upon the wild grasses. These may be roughly divided into two classes—the first comprising introduced grasses, mostly annuals, which spring up on cultivated land after the regular crop has been removed; the second, native grasses, the majority perennials, which make the bulk of the pasturage. Of the first class by far the most important is crab grass (*Panicum sanguinale*), which forms a great part of the volunteer hay crop of the South Atlantic and Gulf States. With it are often associated crow-foot or barn grass (*Eleusine indica*), little crowfoot (*Dactyloctenium aegyptiacum*), pigeon grass (*Setaria glauca*), and, in the far South, spur grass (*Cenchrus echinatus*) and Mexican clover (*Richardsonia scabra*). Of the native, perennial grasses perhaps the most important belong to the genus *Paspalum*, Louisiana grass (*Paspalum platycaule*) being the most common and best known. *Panicum serotinum* is also a valuable pasture grass over extensive areas. The broom sedges (*Andropogon* species), early in the season, make the bulk of the grazing on thin dry soils. Three other widely known forage plants, belonging to neither of these classes, must be mentioned. Johnson grass, dreaded as a weed yet esteemed as a forage plant, is an introduced perennial grass, highly valued for hay. Japan clover (*Lespedeza striata*) is perhaps the most valuable pasture maker, for the largest area, in the Southern States, while both for hay and for grazing “Bermuda” is king among grasses throughout the South.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE GRASSES AND OTHER PLANTS OF THE SECTIONS  
VISITED WHICH ARE OR MAY BE OF IMPORTANCE AS FORAGE.

[With economic notes.]

AGROSTIS ALBA VULGARIS. (See Redtop.)

AGROSTIS PERENNANS.—In northern Alabama this grass remains green nearly all winter in damp, sheltered ground, and affords good pasturage.

ALFALFA.—Alfalfa is cultivated with great success near Augusta, Ga.