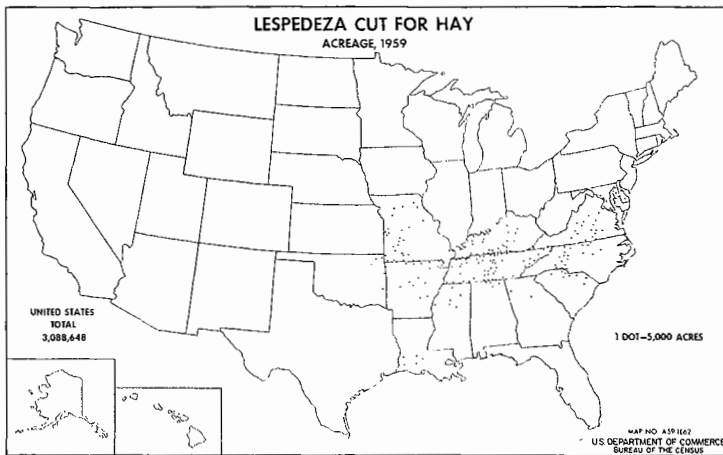


WILD HAY CUT

The Northern Plains is the major region in which wild hay is cut. In 1959 wild hay was cut from 10.5 million acres in the United States. Of this total 7.2 million acres, or about 70 percent of all wild hay was cut in the Northern Plains. Nebraska was the leading State with 2.7 million acres cut. It is a particularly important source of roughage feed in the Sand Hills of Nebraska, where ranchers place considerable emphasis on it as a source of winter feed. Often, selected areas of pasture or range are cut for hay wherever the grass yields are best. Generally, however, many of these wild hay producing areas are associated with depressions where moisture accumulates or along streams. In the Western States wild hay is often irrigated, sometimes merely by spreading water over the rangeland adjacent to an available water source.



LESPEDAZA CUT FOR HAY

Lespedeza is a comparatively new crop among the hay and forage crops in widespread use in the United States. As a legume it has found ready acceptance in the mid-South where soils are not too favorable for the production of alfalfa. In 1939 the Census of Agriculture reported 4.7 million acres of lespedeza cut for hay. The peak acreage of 6.9 million acres was reported in the 1949 census. Less than half as much was reported 10 years later in 1959—only 3.1 million acres. Tennessee and Kentucky each reported a half million acres cut in 1959. North Carolina, Arkansas, and Virginia each had about a quarter of a million acres cut in 1959.

Compared with alfalfa, yields of lespedeza are not spectacular. Most States reported from 1 to 1.5 tons per acre as average yields. Yet this yield compares favorably with the yields of clover and timothy, which generally average between 1 and 2 tons per acre.