



Genetic Resources, Chromosome Engineering, and Crop Improvement:: Forage Crops, Vol 5 (Genetic Resources Chromosome Engineering & Crop Improvement)

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In recent decades, livestock producers have moved away from open grazing for a number of reasons, none having to do with the health of consumers. **Genetic Resources, Chromosome Engineering, and Crop Improvement: Forage Crops** demonstrates how state-of-the-art technology can encourage the raising of livestock in open pastures where they can be fed grasses grown in nature rather than meals enriched with hormones and other by-products.

The volume brings together the world's leading innovators in crop science who furnish information on the availability of germplasm resources that breeders can exploit for the improvement of major forage crop varieties including alfalfa, wheatgrass and wildrye grasses, Bahiagrass, birdsfoot trefoil, clover, Bermudagrass, and ryegrass.

An introductory chapter outlines the cytogenetic architecture of forage crops, describes the principles and strategies of cytogenetic and breeding manipulations, and summarizes landmark research. Ensuing chapters provide a comprehensive account of each crop: its origin; wild relatives; exploitation of genetic resources in the primary, secondary, and tertiary, and, where feasible, quaternary gene pools through breeding and cytogenetic manipulation; and genetic enrichment using the tools of molecular genetics and biotechnology.

. Certain to become the standard reference, this volume?

- Discusses taxonomy, genomic and chromosomal constitution, and the geographical distribution

- Stresses the role of germplasm exploration, maintenance, and assimilation for increasing yield
- Presents practical improvement methodologies including conventional, cytogenetic, mutation, molecular, cell and tissue cultures, and genetic transformation

In addition to serving as fodder, forage crops provide ground cover, aid in abetting erosions, yield a number of pharmaceuticals, and are critical to honey production. Solving the world's food crisis requires approaches that will lead to healthier, more enriched food sources, as well as more bountiful harvests. It also requires that we make the best use of resources we have. Moving livestock away from grain and back to forage crops is one approach that can help us achieve a balanced food chain capable of meeting ever-growing demand.

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Editorial Review

Review

A specialist(s), who in most cases was intimately involved in some of the primary research reviewed, treats each crop group within a chapter. ... Chapters dealing with alfalfa, bahiagrass, bermudagrass, birdsfoot trefoil and *Brachiaria* are particularly comprehensive and present reviews of much of the taxonomy, history of genetic resource use, cytogenetics and breeding in these crop groups. These will serve as useful repositories of research results for forage breeders working with these crops.

?Steven Smith, University of Arizona, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, in *African Journal of Range and Forest Science*, 2011, 28 (1)

About the Author

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