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EC63-152 Conservation Education for Elementary School Children : Grass in Soil and Water Conservation

Harold Gilman

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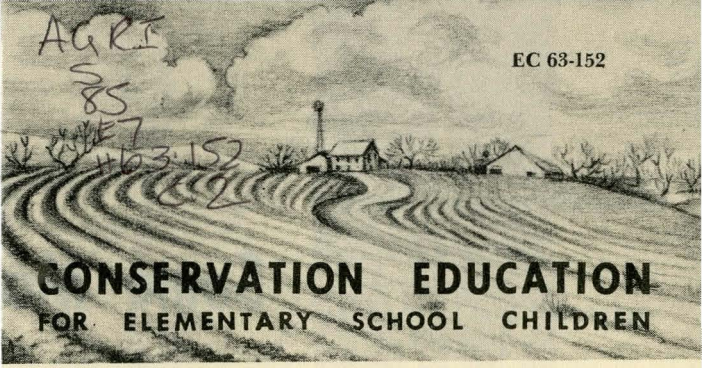

CONSERVATION EDUCATION FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Grass in Soil and Water Conservation

By Harold H. Gilman

Grass is one of the most effective tools available for soil and water conservation. The leaves of grass protect the soil from wind and break the force of falling raindrops. Grass prevents raindrops from sealing the pores of the soil. This permits water to soak into the ground quicker and easier.

Grass roots are numerous and tiny. They protect the soil from wind and water erosion. They make the ground easier to cultivate and increase the soil's ability to produce good crops.

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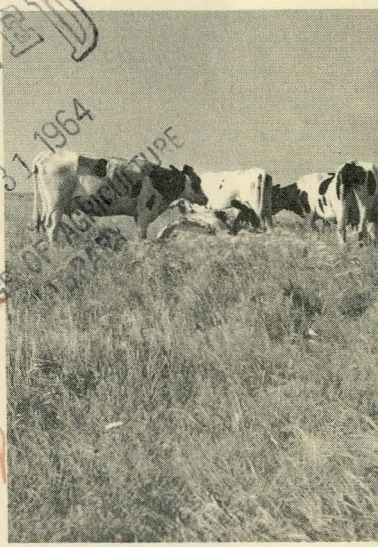

Hay and pasture for livestock

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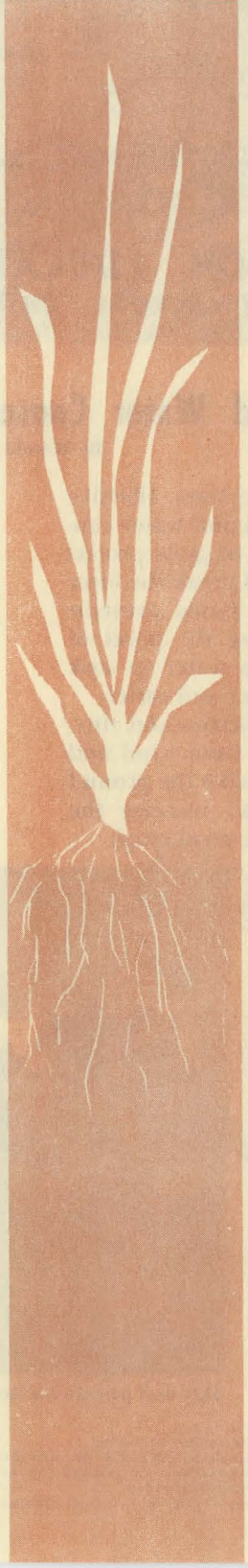
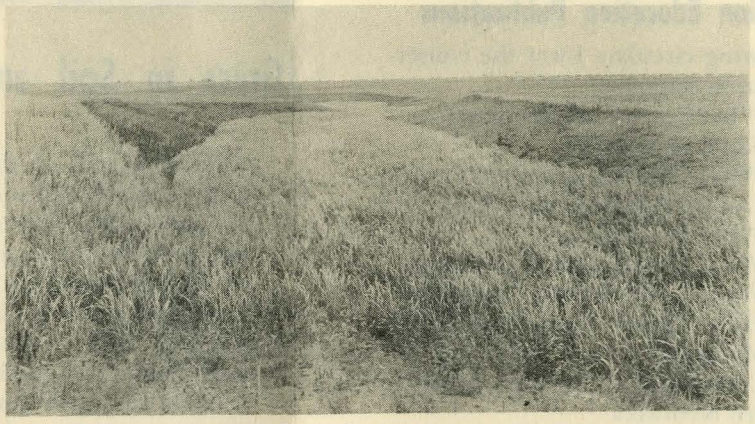
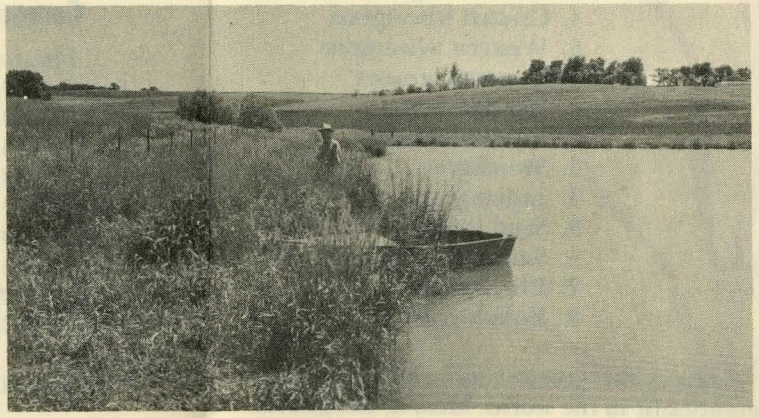


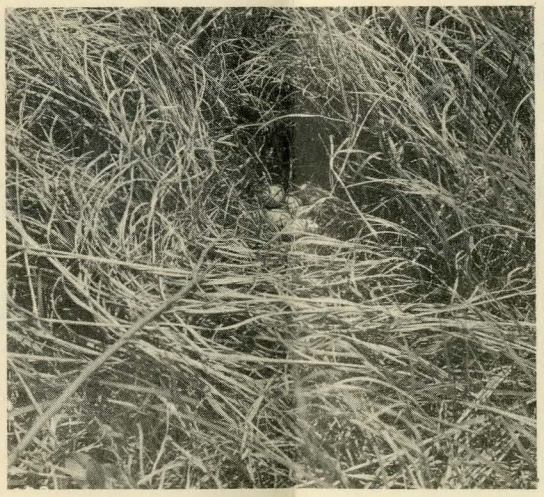
Some More Uses of Grass:



Grassed waterways

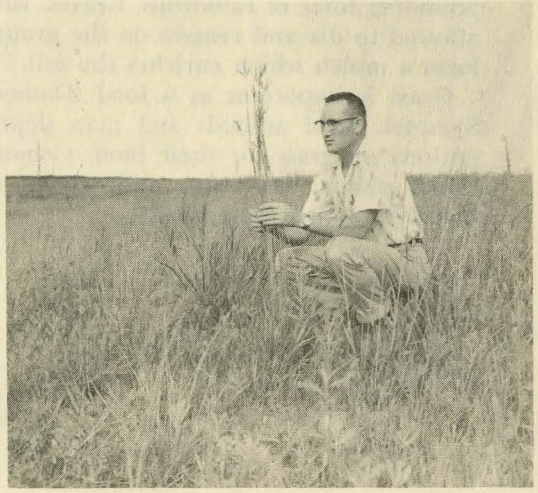


Seeding dams and shorelines



Wildlife habitat

Seeding blowouts



Seeding turn rows and odd acres

Grasses Used in Nebraska

Cool season grasses

1. Bromegrass
2. Intermediate wheatgrass
3. Tall wheatgrass
4. Crested wheatgrass
5. Western wheatgrass

Warm season grasses

1. Big bluestem
2. Little bluestem
3. Switchgrass
4. Indiangrass
5. Sand lovegrass
5. Side-oats grama
7. Blue grama
8. Buffalograss

Grass is the greatest soil and water conservationist in the world. Most of the grasses have a mass of tiny, fibrous roots. These tiny roots bind or hold soil together. A soil full of these roots does not wash away easily. Grass leaves protect the soil from the pounding force of raindrops. Leaves, when allowed to die and remain on the ground, form a mulch which enriches the soil.

Grass is important as a food. Domestic livestock, wild animals and man depend entirely on grass for their food. Common cereal plants, like corn and wheat, are members of the grass family.

Conservation Education Publications

The following circulars form the conservation education series.

EC 63-139 What Couses Soil Erosion?
EC 63-140 Kinds of Erosion
EC 63-141 What Causes Gullies?
EC 63-142 Can Gullies Be Controlled?
EC 63-143 What Is a Terrace?
EC 63-144 What Is a Grassed Waterway?
EC 63-145 What Is Wind Strip Cropping?
EC 63-146 How Should Farm Ponds Be Managed?
EC 63-147 Conservation Practices in Eastern Nebraska
EC 63-148 Conservation Practices in Western Nebraska
EC 63-149 Conservation Practices in the Sandhills
EC 63-150 Shelterbelts?
EC 63-151 Who Helps Nebraskans With Soil and Water Conservation?
EC 63-152 Grass in Soil and Water Conservation
EC 63-153 Stubble Mulch
EC 63-154 Conservation Rotation
EC 63-155 Bench Leveling