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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt; nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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From the Albany Cultivator.

PASTURES

Land which is the best adapted to pasturage, we think should never be plowed. This rule is particularly applicable to moist grounds, and those situated on hill-sides and mountains. We have frequently noticed a great difference in the production of grass hill-sides, owing entirely to one portion having been plowed, and the other portion not having been plowed. The grass on the unplowed part is always much the best. In many instances, it is almost impossible to use the plow on a hill-side, without rendering the ground liable to be washed and gullied by rains but if it is sown with grass-seed without plowing, the numerous fibrous roots of the trees and shrubs, will hold the soil together till it becomes thoroughly netted together by the grass-roots.

The natural condition of land as it is cleared off the forest, is generally favorable to the growth of grasses, as may be seen by the readiness with which they come in and flourish; and we believe that no mixture or reversion of the soil can be made with any advantage, for the production of grass. Drains may be made if needed, to make the ground sufficiently dry. The use of the harrow, after the growth has been properly cleared off by the axe and the mattock, will put the surface in a good state for the reception of clover and grass-seeds, or for a crop of small grain, if it should be deemed advisable to sow one. Should young trees, bushes or sprouts, from the stumps, spring up, let them be cut out with the mattock; and should the grass die out, or mosses come in, a sharp-toothed harrow drawn over the ground, and seed sown in August or first of September, with a dressing of plaster, compost of muck and ashes, or rotted manure, will bring on a fine sward of good herbage. On lands naturally adapted to the growth of grass, the use of top-dressing, or a re-sowing of seeds, will seldom be necessary, for under a judicious course of feeding, the pasturage, instead of declining, will actually improve for several years. The occasional use of a light, sharp harrow, may however, increase the growth of grass, by preventing the sward from becoming "bound."

It is very important to obtain the best grasses and herbage plants for pastures. In making a selection, due regard should be had to the adaptation of the different species to climates and localities. Some of our indigenous kinds are excellent, and perhaps best, their hardiness and nutritive qualities being considered. For the middle and northern States, one of the most valuable sorts is the *Poa pratensis*, sometimes called "Kentucky blue grass," the "spear grass" and "June grass" of the northern and eastern States. On rich soils, not too dry, particularly those of a calcareous (limestone) nature, its produce is remarkable. It starts very early in spring, and grows late in the fall, but being effected more by drouth than some other kinds, does not always grow as much in the middle of the summer, though from the great tenacity of life in the roots, it seldom dies. It propagates itself by tillering, or by many lateral roots, as well as by seed, so that it spreads rapidly, and as other grasses die out, it soon covers the whole ground. Its nutritive qualities are comparatively but little destroyed by frost, and on this account it is highly esteemed for winter pasturage, in sections where but little snow falls. By keeping the stock from fields well set with this grass, so that it may make a good growth in the fall, excellent grazing is afforded to cattle and sheep during winter. Its leaves form a thick matted growth, the surface of which may be bleached a little by the frost, but the lower portion will be almost as fresh and green as corn, and will even in this condition fatten stock of any kind.

Another species of the same family as the above, and sometimes mistaken for it, is the *Poa compressa*, flat stalked meadow-grass, sometimes called "green-grass." It is more hardy, and is believed to be more nutritive than the *Poa pratensis*.

It delights in warm loams, and is often very troublesome in the cultivation of wheat and other crops, and from the difficulty of killing it, it is generally considered a pest. Its produce is less than the before mentioned kind; but it is exceedingly nutritive, and much relished by cattle and sheep. Its stalk, even when the seed has ripened and fallen off, is quite green, and though it appears hard, animals always eat it greedily. It will grow in a colder atmosphere than any other grass we are acquainted with, is the first to start in the spring, the last to stop growing in the fall, and keeps greener than any other through the winter. For the advantage it affords as an early "bite" for sheep, particularly for nursing ewes, it might be an object to appropriate a suitable lot for it, which it would not be necessary to cultivate for other purposes.

Several species of the *Agrostis* family of grasses are indigenous to this country. The "red top," called in Pennsylvania and some other sections, "herds-grass," appears to be the *Agrostis vulgaris*, or "bent-grass" of the English books. In Massachusetts, there are cultivated two varieties generally known under the name of red top; one considerably larger and later in flowering than the other, and is better adapted to cold moist lands. The small kind is however held in great estimation for its nutritive qualities, especially for feeding working oxen, for which it is, in some districts, thought more valuable than any other grass. The large kind is generally most esteemed for pastures, as it is less affected by drouth and its growth is more constant through the whole season. On the whole, it is well worthy of cultivation as a grass for grazing.

Another species of *Agrostis* indigenous here, is closely allied to, identical with, the European "florin," *A. stolonifera*. It is a very nutritive grass, and is much relished by stock. It is, however, only adapted to particular locations. From its habit of extending itself by stolons or lateral roots, it is peculiarly valuable on loose spongy, or boggy soils, on which it forms a firm sod that may be trodden by sheep or light cattle with safety. It is also the best grass which can be used for sodding the sides of open ditches, or water-courses, which it does so effectually that the banks cannot wash, and are not liable to be broken; they presenting, when set with this grass, a beautiful smooth green turf, most agreeable to the eye.

Phleum pratense, "meadow cats-tail," "timothy," or the "herds-grass" of New-England, is much cultivated in this country for hay, of which it produces a great yield, and where the ground is rich and moist it may be very profitably introduced with other grasses in pastures. In some sections it is pretty extensively used for this purpose. It is a native of this continent, and was brought into notice in England by Timothy Hudson about the year 1780, according to Loudon.

Of the clovers, there are two or more species indigenous to this country, viz., the white, or "Dutch clover," *Trifolium repens*, and a kind which we have not found in any botanical catalogue, called in the western part of the country, "buffalo clover." The latter is perennial, resembles the common white clover in the color of its blossoms and habit of growth, and in the height and size of its stem, is a medium between the white and the common red clover. The common white clover is usually much esteemed for pastures, combined with the grasses, but is thought not so valuable by itself, it is deficient in quantity, and too much relaxes the bowels of animals when feeding on it.

There are a few grasses and herbage plants not commonly cultivated in this country, which it would be desirable to have introduced and fairly tried. The "orchard grass," *Dactylis glomerata*, is grown in a few sections, but is not generally known. As a pasture grass, it is worthy of more general culture. It produces abundance of leaves, starts very quick after being eaten off, and grows very rapidly. It should be sown thickly, (three bushels seed per acre, is recom-

ended by English writers,) to prevent its growing up too much in the bunches or tussocks.

The perennial rye-grass, *Lolium perenne*, is recommended for sheep pastures. We have tried this grass, and think highly of it for this purpose. The meadow fox-tail, *Alopecurus pratensis*, is well suited to moist pastures, and in England is esteemed one of the best of grasses both for grazing and hay.

The sainfoin, *Hedysarum onobrychis*, is considered one of the most valuable herbage plants known in England. It belongs to the leguminosæ family, but is in many respects quite different from any of the clovers. It is said to grow spontaneously on the calcareous mountains of the middle and south of Europe. It flourishes well on dry soils, and by means of its long fibrous roots is said to find moisture even in the driest seasons. It is much esteemed both for pasturage and hay, and is said to afford on some soils a greater amount of nutriment per acre, than any other plant grown for those purposes. It is also recommended for keeping the sides of hills from washing. The roots will live in the soil, and retain their vigor many years.

A species of clover called in England, meadow-clover, cow-clover, or cow-grass, *Trifolium medium*, is perennial, and is much esteemed in pastures. It resembles in appearance, the common biennial red clover, *T. pratense*, but the leaves are narrower, and it grows to a less height. It is very desirable that this plant should be tried in this country. "A poor sandy soil it is said, will produce a good crop of cow-clover, that would not produce half a crop of the common red clover."—Loudon.

Several species of the *Trifolium* genus pass under the common name of trefoil. The most valuable of these is thought to be the French yellow trefoil, *Medicago lupulina*. It is perennial, or at least lives many years. It is well relished by stock, both in its green state, and when made into hay. It is thought of considerable consequence in pastures.

CUCUMBERS AND MELONS—PROTECTION AGAINST BUGS.

Cucumbers and melons for pickling, may be planted till the first of July. New land lately cleared from the forest, is best for vines, if it can be had; next to this, a piece which was the last year in sod and planted with corn or potatoes, is to be preferred. It should be of a medium state of richness and dryness, a better crop, so far as our experience goes, being more generally obtained from such land, than that which is extremely rich. Make the hills seven or eight feet apart. A very common error is to make them too close, so that the vines have not room enough and they smother each other. Hog manure, that is pretty well rotted, or that which is in a green state, well mixed with muck and leached ashes, will do well. The manure of pigeons and hens is also excellent, but is very strong, and should be mixed with double its bulk of loam or muck. Dig the holes for the hills so deep that a peck at least of least of manure, may be put in without coming above the surface of the earth, level it off and plant the seed. To provide against the bugs and worms, it is best to plant a large quantity of seed. If there is twelve to fifteen plants to a hill while they are small, no injury will be done; but they should be thinned to no more than three, just before they begin to run, and have got well out of the way of insects. To keep off the bugs, millinet-boxes are the best preventives while the plants are small, and that is the time they are most likely to be injured. The boxes are cheap—made of pine boards six inches wide, merely nailed together square—the edge of the boards on two sides grooved—the millinet drawn over and fastened by tongues driven into the grooves. They should be large enough to fairly cover the hill without crowding. Plaster, coal ashes, or leached wood ashes, scattered over the plants while the dew is on, have some tendency to keep the bugs from eating them, but are not altogether effectual preventives.

Several years ago we made trial of water in which hen dung had been soaked until the water fermented, for keeping off bugs from vines. An old hog-trough was carried to the piece, two or three shovels full of clean manure from the hen-roost thrown into it, with three or four gallons of water. It soon fermented, and the odor from it was very offensive. A half pint of this liquid was poured on each hill each alternate day. It kept off the bugs almost entirely, and made the vines grow astonishingly. They were melons, and produced the heaviest crop we ever saw.

From the American Agriculturist. DEGENERACY OF ANIMALS BY CHANGE OF CLIMATE.

The Maine Farmer says, "The principle seems now to be very generally recognized, that most cattle degenerate with a change of climate." We cannot confess to any such general recognition, and must add, that a change of climate may as often be the means of an improvement in cattle, as a degeneracy in them; for these matters depend entirely on what they are, were taken, and how treated in their new home. We think the Devons have not degenerated in New England, when proper attention has been paid to their breeding, and we know that they have increased in size when taken to rich pastures of the west. Durhams and Herefords would be likely to degenerate in size in the extreme Northern States, especially on the short pastures of the mountains; but they hold their own in the Middle and Western States. The Norman horse has lost in size in Canada; yet it is believed that he has gained in constitution, speed and endurance. The blood horse brought from England has not deteriorated here, and the Arabian has gained in size. Sheep also hold their own remarkably well in America, especially the Merinos of Spain, and the Southdowns of England. Does the editor expect his fine Colswold buck, just received from Mr Sotham, to degenerate? We should be apprehensive in the colder climate of Maine that he might some in size; not so, however, in Ohio, Kentucky, and any other states in the same latitude, with good pastures.

"Almost every county" in England is very far at present, from having its "peculiar stock." On the contrary, we should think that full one-third of them have as great a mixture as can be found in any county in the United States. The imported cattle, such as the Durhams, Herefords, and Devons, are rapidly and widely spreading in Great Britain and Ireland; and this they are doing without degeneracy, wherever good pasture is to be obtained, and proper attention is paid to them. They would not answer at all on the bleak mountains of Wales, Scotland, nor in the bogs of Ireland; for nothing can live there, save the hardy dwarf natives. But these "improve," and very rapidly too, in a change of climate, when brought down to the rich lowland pastures; and it is quite a system with the graziers in Great Britain to thus fit these hardy animals for the London market.

Compound for Smearing Sheep and Cure for Foot Rot.—Solomon Hoxie, Leonardsville, N. Y., sends the following receipts, which he says he has used for several years with advantage. "Immediately after shearing, I make the following compound, viz. 25 lbs. grease, one pint tar, boiled and well stirred together until nearly cold; then stir in two pounds sulphur, then rub the sheep with it, commencing at the head and follow along the back to the roots of the tail; this I have found to protect the sheep from the cold storms and also to kill ticks, &c."

"The following I have found an almost sure remedy for the foot rot, viz; 1 part Barbadoes tar, two parts spirits of turpentine, thickened with sulphur to the consistency of common paint; pair and clean the sheep's feet well, and rub in the compound, and one or two applications are almost a sure cure."