



The Farm and the Fireside.

Orchard Grass.

LEWIS SANDERS, Esq., the well known farmer of Grass Hills, Kentucky, gives in a late Louisville paper, the results of more than thirty years experience with the different varieties of grasses. After testing thoroughly a vast many sorts, he gives a decided preference to Orchard Grass, and we copy what he says of it, together with his directions for sowing the seed and sowing it. We should be glad to learn whether the experience of farmers in this region agree with that of Mr. Sanders of Kentucky. Will some of our readers also give their experience?

My observation and experience have induced me to rely mainly on Orchard Grass and red clover; indeed, I now sow no other sort of grass seed. Blue grass and white clover are indigenous to our soil—they come in of themselves. I do not look upon them by any means as intruders, but as grand auxiliaries; these, with orchard grass and red clover, make the best pasture.

Orchard grass and red clover mixed make the best hay of all the grasses for this climate, (Kentucky;) it is nutritious, and well adapted as food for stock. I prefer orchard grass to all others; it is ready for grazing in the spring, ten or twelve days sooner than blue grass, or any other that affords a full bite. When grazed down, and the stock turned off, it will be ready, for regrazing in less than half the time required for blue grass. It stands a severe drought better than any other grass; when all other sorts are dried up for want of rain, it keeps green, and growing. In summer it will grow more in a day than blue grass will in a week. If the ground is properly prepared, a sufficient quantity of seed sown on the orchard grass takes possession and keeps it. It will not spread but keeps out noxious weeds and intruders. I think it is from its abundant roots that most of its good qualities are derived.

Sowing the Seed.—Prepare the ground nicely by frequent plowing and harrowing, as is customary in sowing flax or hemp, as early in the spring as convenient; the sooner the better. Sow one bushel and a half of orchard grass seed to the acre, and three or four pints of red clover seed. It is of great importance that the seed be cast uniformly over the ground. Mark off in suitable widths, for a east of south; sow half the seed, then mark off crosswise, and sow the remainder. Sow the red clover seed at the same time, but separately. If the ground should be cloudy, the back of a two horse harrow would be better.

Orchard grass is naturally disposed to form and grow in tufts. The best preventive is a good preparation of the ground, and a sufficiency of seed uniformly sown.

Weeds will spring up in May, wherever strong and will crowd and perish out the young plants of orchard grass. To remedy this evil it is absolutely necessary to go over the ground with a keen scythe, and now down weeds, grass, and all, as if you were mowing a meadow for hay. This should be done early in June, according to the season. There will then be a fine fall grazing for young stock.

This well done, you will have a fine plain for either permanent meadow, or for pasture. Every farmer ought to raise his own grass seed, and have some to sell, which will soon be the case if a few bushels of seed are prepared and put in, as I have described. He can then sow his seed how and where he pleases, and a little experience will teach him the best time and the best method. Grazing orchard grass after the middle of January, diminishes the yield of seed.

To save the Seed.—The head does not ripen regular; if left to stand too long, much of the best seed shatters out, if cut too early the seed in the lower part of the head is immature—practice, with judgment, will fix upon the right time. The seed stems put up above the blades of the grass, and the heads of clover. An expert craver is best—the sickle may be used—up in a shock, then put about twenty-five in a shock no cap to remain a short time—some of the immature seed will ripen in the shock. After all the moisture is exhausted, it is then ready for threshing or tread out. With the rake and fork you get off the straw—there is not much chaff. I use three sizes of riddles; the first a coarse one to get clear of the remaining straw, &c., then pass twice through finer one, allowing the seed to pass through easily; then use the fine riddle, freeing the bulk from imperfect seed and dust. It is now ready for barreling or for sacks; it ought not to remain in a large bulk.

As soon as the seed is cut now for hay; the sooner after the seed is cut the better. The second will be the better by moving the field soon after the seed is cut. This second crop should be the main reliance for hay on the farm, and there is no grass that produces such good hay for every kind of stock, horses and mules included.

Orchard grass is not a good binder; if sown on steep hill sides, a plentiful cast of blue grass should be sown on it.

The late Judge Peters of Pennsylvania, (who was at the head of all agricultural improvements in that great state for many years,) preferred it to all other grass. So did that spirited and intelligent gentleman, John Hart Powell, of cattle celebrity, of the same State.

Your Young Apple Trees.

Many, perhaps most, of our readers have done something this season towards increasing the value of their premises by setting out young fruit trees. Where these have been set out in grass fields they must be hoed to secure success. No one would expect a hill of corn planted in the middle of a mowing field to thrive without further attention.

Not is there any more propriety in leaving a small apple tree to fight its way with the grass. The case is different with large trees whose roots have struck deep and wide and got the better of the ground. English orchardists have a way of managing fruit trees which they call mulching, and which consists in keeping a coating of litter around the tree which serves the double purpose of keeping out the grass, and preserving an agreeable temperature in the soil, a point very necessary in our variable climate in the successful management of our fruit trees.

—Chronicle.

Why do the Democracy of the country any longer hesitate to take a high and noble stand in the selection of the very best men for office.—*Mr. Vernon Bassett.*

Because the very best men are Whigs. Don't ask such silly questions.—*Charles Herold.*

Farmer's Song.

Composed by J. G. Sims, Esq., and arranged to music by Prof. T. Woods, and sung by "The Amphones," at the sheep shearing festival of A. L. BINGHAM, Esq., (of West Cornwall, Vt.) June 1st and 2d, 1853.

Have you ever heard of the farmers,
Who live among the hills,
Where every man's a sovereign,
And owns the land he till's.
Where all the girls are crooked,
And all the men are strong!
Oh! 'tis my delight, &c.,
To sing the farmer's song.

It's here the tall and many,
Green mountain boys are seen,
(So called because the Mountains
They're all green.) They're
They'll always fight to the right,
Or to resist the wrong.

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