



THE RAPE PLANT.

Popular Ways of Sowing It in Various Regions—Its Feeding Value.

Concerning dwarf Essex rape, one of the most valuable and popular forage plants introduced into the United States in the last quarter of a century, Thomas Shaw of the Minnesota university says in Ohio Farmer: It is probably true that half a million acres were sown in the United States last summer—that is to say, enough to fatten 5,000,000 head of sheep and lambs, and yet the plant has not been before the general public in this country for more than one decade.

It is one of the hardiest of plants. It is not easily injured by drought or wet, by heat or cold (although it endures heat less well than cold), and it has but few enemies. The cabbage worm and the white or green aphid would seem to be about the only enemies that prey upon it. It will grow on any kind of soil that is good and at all friable, but the richer the land the better it will grow. It has a peculiar adaptation for rich muck lands so filled with humus as to be too rich for producing good yields of grain. Usually the more highly ordinary lands are enriched for growing rape the larger will be the yields.

Rape can be sown any time from the opening of spring until the end of July in the northern and middle states, and in the south it may be sown later. It usually reaches a maximum of growth in 75 to 90 days from the date of sowing. It yields from 10 to 20 tons of food much richer than clover and even more palatable, and an average crop will sustain from 10 to 15 head of sheep or lambs for 60 days. It may be sown on land specially prepared for it, or it may be grown as a catch crop after winter rye has been eaten down, after clover has been pastured or mown and in many instances after grain crops have been harvested.

A favorite way of sowing it on prairie lands is to mix one pound of rape seed with every two bushels of grain sown. The seed is then deposited with the drill. Unless in abnormally wet seasons the rape does not harm the grain, and after the latter is cut it springs up like magic after harvest and covers the land with the best of sheep pastures.

On soils with much clay in them it is usually better to sow in rows about 24 to 30 inches apart and to cultivate the crop. On black soils and on ordinary prairie soils in the Mississippi basin this is not usually necessary. The seed is sown broadcast at the rate of three to five pounds per acre and is covered with the harrow. But in the dry and semiarid regions it is better in nearly all instances to put it in more deeply than broadcasting would deposit it.

It makes excellent pasture for sheep, swine, cattle and horses and has adaptation in providing pasture for them in the order named. It is equally adapted to soiling uses for these classes of live stock. There is probably no better green food for fowls, but it cannot be cured for winter use. The important precaution in grazing it down is not to allow the animals to feed upon it at will when they are very hungry, as, like clover, it may produce bloat. The seed cannot be profitably grown in northern latitudes, but it may southward and also in the extreme west. The Dwarf Essex variety, about the only one that should be sown, grows into seed the next season after planting it.

Regulating the Hotbed.

The most common danger in growing plants in hotbeds is that they will "damp off" or wilt when exposed to sudden changes of temperature. Hence having it too hot when the outside weather is cold is more dangerous than to keep it at 40 to 50 degrees, which is sufficient to insure against freezing. It does not require absolute freezing to kill most plants that have been grown under very high temperature. Hence on sunny days the sash should be raised a little, so as to let some fresh air come in. This is always necessary for some time before the plants are to be set in open ground. But, considering the danger of "damping off" or dying from sudden chill in the hotbed, this letting in fresh air to make the plants more hardy had better be continued from the time the plants are up if the outside weather is not too cold, says American Cultivator.

When the Woodchuck Digs No More.

Here is the way a Rural New Yorker correspondent would kill woodchucks: "Materials required are a two ounce vial full of half full of fine powder; insert one yard of fuse, cork and tie the vial to the end of a flexible stick (first find out in what direction the hole runs) and insert it in the hole, cover with a good sized flat stone and touch off the fuse before or after covering, and wise woodchuck will dig no more." It is only fair to add that some people don't believe this will trouble Master Woodchuck in the least. One man says he tried it, and woodchuck came out in his usual health 24 hours later.

Boiling Maple Sap.

Boiling maple sap is always a live question with sugar makers. Just what constitutes the best equipment is hard to say. Two requisites are necessary—first, a large boiling capacity with a minimum amount of fuel and, second, ease of handling and cleaning. These are fairly well combined in the modern evaporator, though, everything considered, I am still inclined to favor the iron pan and heater when properly constructed, says a New England Homestead correspondent.

SMOOTH BROME GRASS.

How to Prepare the Land and Sow. When to Plow Up Brome Sod, Etc.

From several years' experience with awnless brome grass (Bromus inermis) at the Canadian experimental farm it appears that to obtain the best results in hay two crops should be taken from the field, which should then be plowed up, unless required for pasture. While this will necessitate a little more work in sowing a fresh field or a few acres each spring and plowing up the same amount of old grass land, various advantages will arise from the adoption of this course—first, good fodder will be supplied each year by the newly seeded land; second, there being a first crop of hay each year, it is likely to be a good one; third, brome sod is easily plowed after the second crop, but is very tough after the fourth or fifth; fourth, the roots of the grass when plowed up afford protection from winds and in this respect are equal, so far as experience shows, to the native sod. This being the case, it is evident that it will be a great advantage to other crops to treat old worked land in this way.

This grass is better sown alone; at least it should not be sown with a grain crop. The grain takes too much moisture from the young grass plants, only the most vigorous of which will survive the dry weather in September, whereas if sown alone all the plants will have an equal chance.

It is also advisable to sow the seed on soil that does not blow. Summer fallow would be the best preparation except on account of liability to drift. Stubble land plowed three or four inches deep in April or May and well harrowed after the seed is sown is found to be quite safe from winds, as the stubble harrowed on top prevents all drifting.

Fifteen to 18 pounds of seed is required per acre. More seed will give a better crop the first year, but less afterward, as the roots thicken up each year and in three or four years makes better pasture than hay.

The seed being light, long and thin, seeding by hand is the only practicable method. To seed properly a calm day should be chosen, so that all parts of the land may be evenly sown.

While the plants are young weeds are sure to make great headway, and it is necessary to keep them at least from going to seed. The quickest way to accomplish this is to go over the field with a mower, cutting just above the grass plants. If this operation has to be repeated, it will be necessary to cut the tops of the grass, but this will not injure the plants—in fact, it is an advantage in the way of giving the roots a better hold.

The first crop of hay can be cut the next year after seeding and will in ordinary years be ready in July. Eight or ten days after being ready to cut for hay it will be fit to cut for seed if so desired.

On this farm it has always been cut in first blossom for hay, and ten days from this time it is considered in proper state to cut for seed.

In cutting for seed a binder is used, and the grass is cut, tied and stooked the same as wheat or other grain. In a week or ten days after cutting it is ready to thrash or store away as deemed best.

For thrashing small quantities the old fashioned flail is suitable, but for large lots a thrashing machine should be used on which the wind has been closed off as much as practicable. From 300 to 600 pounds of seed may be expected from an acre.

Barley as a Money Crop.

We do not have much opinion of barley as a money crop, except perhaps in the arid regions under irrigation and in California. There they can cure the crop without the slightest discoloration, and it can be sold at the top of the market for brewing purposes, but further east very few growers succeed in curing it in such a way that it will sell for anything else than feeding barley and at a much lower price. The farm average price in Kansas was 49 cents in 1894, 23 cents in 1895, 22 cents in 1896, 25 cents in 1897 and 27 cents in 1898. Two bushels of barley per acre is the amount usually sown, sometimes a little less; rarely more.—Iowa Homestead.

Grasses and Forage Plants.

Among grasses and forage plants more or less cultivated in Kansas are: Pasture grasses—timothy, orchard grass, English blue grass, Kentucky blue grass, Texas blue grass, redtop, Johnson grass, awnless brome grass; fodder grasses—millet (Hungarian, German, Italian or common), pearl millet, Texas millet, Indian millet, cane or sorghum; clovers—red clover, white clover, alsike clover, mammoth clover.

One Thing and Another.

It is reported that 1,000 families will be brought into Colorado this spring to engage in sugar beet growing.

Conclusions from experiment at the Illinois station are that where there is a sufficiency of moisture in the early part of the season and where farm practice must tend toward early warmth in the seed bed, listing corn is not advisable.

From experiment the Kansas station arrives at the conclusion that the feeding value of Kafir corn stover is fully equal to that of corn stover, if not greater.

Coal oil is said to be sure death to every hog louse it touches, but it does not always kill the eggs and must be used with caution to prevent blistering the skin of the hog.

A Kansas notion is to mix sorghum with Kafir corn for feeding. The latter is dry and seems to counteract the tendency of the sorghum to cause bloat. A Colorado farmer advises dry alfalfa in the morning before turning on grass as a guard against wet grass bloat.

Shot Out of Turn.

A former member of the Gordon highlanders relates the following anecdote in connection with one of the Gordons who fought in the Anglo-Boer war of 1881: Just before the battle of Laingsnek the highlanders and a force of the Boers were lying under cover opposite each other. The highlanders had been ordered to remain still and hold their fire. Presumably the Boers had received similar commands, for, with the exception of one burgher and one Gordon, who could not refrain from taking pot shots at so much of each other as they could desecrate, the men on both sides were silent.

For some time the Boer and the highlander referred to conducted a duel. First the Boer would bob up from behind his shelter, fire at the highlander's cover and drop out of sight. The highlander would jump up, reply and then hurriedly hide himself. About 20 shots had been exchanged in that way when an exclamation of pain burst from the lips of the highlander. His left hand had been shattered by one of the Boer's bullets.

"That serves ye right, MacKenzie," said his sergeant. "Ye waur tell'd tae be quiet."

"Hoot mon!" replied the highlander. "Hoo did I ken he was gaen tae shoot oot o' his turn?"

A Conjurer at Colombo.

Our conjurer's appearance placed him at once above the suspicion of concealing anything up his sleeve, for sleeve he had none. His dress was a scant white drapery which began at the shoulders and ended at the knees, leaving both arms and legs uncovered. Placing himself on the deck directly in front of us, with his boy assistants a little way off on either side, he began operations.

First he spread on the deck a small cotton pocket handkerchief. Thereon, in the form of a small block, he put two handfuls of loose friable earth, in which he planted the mango seed. This accomplished, he dispatched a boy with a flat tin for water, in the meantime taking a hooded snake from a shallow basket and waving it—the while it hissed angrily and enlarged its neck—over the little mound of soil, as he did so chanting on a strange pipe. The water fetched, he sprinkled a few drops on the earth, then covered the heap with a small square of fringed turban cloth.

After again repeating his incantations he lifted the top covering and revealed a tiny green shoot, not unlike the first appearance of a bean above the ground.—Blackwood.

A Master of Silence.

Among the few who have a perfect genius for silence is a certain well known artist whose reticence is the amusement and wonder of all who know him.

A friend who had dropped into his studio one day was vainly endeavoring to draw Mr. H. into conversation, when the artist's brother appeared in the doorway.

"Hello, Tom!" said the brother. "Hello, John!" returned Tom, looking up from his easel with a smile.

John wandered about the room for 15 minutes, turned over his brother's latest work and then, going toward the door, stopped long enough to say, "Well, goodby, Tom."

"Goodby, John," was the hearty rejoinder. Tom painted on for some minutes, and then in an unwonted burst of confidence he said warmly to his amused friend:

"I tell you, I was glad to see John! Haven't seen him before for a month!" —London Answers.

Say Nice Things.

We do not like to be told of our faults.

We do not want to hear references to occasions when we appeared at a disadvantage. Yet we deplore the prevalence of flattery. We make all manner of fun of our friends who display a weakness for that social pest. And yet there are few of us who, if the flattery be not too freely administered, as "with a shovel," do not imbibe it greedily and pine for more.

Every one remembers the anecdote of Dr. Holmes when he was enthusiastically applauded and to a somewhat exaggerated length.

"Don't you get awfully tired of this sort of thing, Dr. Holmes?"

"Not at all," said the dear old man, frankly. "They never clap quite hard or long enough to please me. I presume that I could stand it for hours." —Montreal Herald.

Born to Lead.

"You remember young Carpley, who used to have an ambition to be an actor, don't you?"

"Yes."

"Well, he's playing a leading role now."

"You don't say so! By George, I never thought he had it in him!"

"He's with the 'Uncle Tom' company and leads the bloodhounds in the street procession." —Chicago Times-Herald.

One Grateful Descendant.

"This," said the guide, "is the grave of Adam!"

Historic spot! With reverential awe—nay, with a feeling of deep thankfulness—the wealthy merchant tailor on his first trip to the orient drew near and cast a flower on the tomb.

"Erring ancestor," he murmured, "I should be the last man on earth to revile your memory. To your sin I owe my prosperity." —Chicago Tribune.

Subtleties of Phrase.

"Do you think your new production is in for a long run?" asked the friend.

"It is impossible to state at this early day," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "The members of our company are still in doubt as to whether they are in for a long run or a long walk." —Washington Star.

DO YOU GET UP WITH A LAME BACK?

Kidney Trouble Makes You Miserable.

Almost everybody who reads the newspapers is sure to know of the wonderful cures made by Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney, liver and bladder remedy. It is the great medical triumph of the nineteenth century; discovered after years of scientific research by Dr. Kilmer, the eminent kidney and bladder specialist, and is wonderfully successful in promptly curing lame back, kidney, bladder, uric acid troubles and Bright's Disease, which is the worst form of kidney trouble.

Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root is not recommended for everything but if you have kidney, liver or bladder trouble it will be found just the remedy you need. It has been tested in so many ways, in hospital work, in private practice, among the helpless too poor to purchase relief and has proved so successful in every case that a special arrangement has been made by which all readers of this paper who have not already tried it, may have a sample bottle sent free by mail, also a book telling more about Swamp-Root and how to find out if you have kidney or bladder trouble. When writing mention reading this generous offer in this paper and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Birmingham, N. Y. The regular fifty cent and dollar sizes are sold by all good druggists.

A Twice Fallen Idol. There are to be seen in Munich and Vienna, probably in many other places fragments of a meteorite that has had a rather curious history during its comparatively brief residence on this planet.

It fell in 1833 at Duruma, in east Africa. The natives regarded it as a message from heaven and hastened to pay it appropriate honors. With great solemnity it was anointed with oil wrapped in costly fabrics, adorned with pearls and installed in a temple, which had been specially constructed for it. Thenceforth it was looked upon as the palladium of the tribe, lent to it by heaven, according to the priests.

In vain did European missionaries offer tempting sums for the stone. It was not to be had at any price.

But three years later the tribe was attacked and almost wiped out by the warlike Massal. Thereupon the eyes of the survivors were opened to the impotence of their idol, they lost faith in its divinity and soon parted with it for cash.

Its fate was identical with that of a great many gods and idols which have been promptly deserted by their worshippers as soon as their uselessness was proved.

A Word to Doctors

We have the highest regard for the medical profession. Our preparations are not sold for the purpose of antagonizing them, but rather as an aid. We lay it down as an established truth that internal remedies are positively injurious to expectant mothers. The distress and discomforts experienced during the months preceding childbirth can be alleviated only by external treatment—by applying a liniment that softens and relaxes the over-strained muscles. We make and sell such a liniment, combining the ingredients in a manner hitherto unknown, and call it

Mother's Friend

We know that in thousands of cases it has proved more than a blessing to expectant mothers. It overcomes morning sickness. It relieves the sense of tightness. Headaches cease, and danger from Swollen, Hard and Rising Breasts is avoided. Labor itself is shortened and shorn of most of the pain.

We know that many doctors recommend it, and we know that multitudes of women go to the drug stores and buy it because they are sure their physicians have no objections. We ask a trial—just a fair test. There is no possible chance of injury being the result, because Mother's Friend is scientifically compounded. It is sold at \$1 a bottle, and should be used during most of the period of gestation, although great relief is experienced if used only a short time before childbirth. Send for our illustrated book about Mother's Friend.

THE BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO. ATLANTA, GA.

Correctly dressed men insist upon FRIEND BROS. CLOTHING CO'S Perfection CLOTHING Sold by first class dealers look for this label inside the collar. FRIEND BROS. CLOTHING CO. MILWAUKEE, U.S.A.



Advertisement for Gold Dust Washing Powder. Text: "Housework is hard work without Gold Dust". Washing Dishes. Gold Dust Washing Powder. The N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Boston.

Advertisement for Anti-Kawf. Text: "A Severe Cold Destroys". The delicate coating of your lungs and opens the way for Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Consumption. ANTI-KAWF. Soothe the irritated membranes, promotes expectation, and by removing the cause, STOPS THE COUGH.

Advertisement for Wm. Marshall Furniture. Text: Church, School and Platform FURNITURE. And Supplies. Natural Slate Blackboards a Specialty. American Flags, School and Factory Bells. The best goods. Estimates furnished. Bids made. Save money by addressing Wm. Marshall, POSTOFFICE BOX 139, DENISON, IOWA.

Advertisement for Luney Bros. Land and Investment Company. Text: Luney Bros. Land and Investment Company. We have for sale the Colorado Colony Co's. Irrigated Lands, situated in the beautiful South Platte Valley, Colorado. Denison, Iowa.

Advertisement for a Splendid Bargain in a Finely Improved Farm. Text: A Splendid Bargain in a Finely Improved Farm. 80 ACRES Splendid land. New house, good barns. Farm all under cultivation, no waste land. Will be sold for \$45.00 per acre—\$2,300 cash and balance in four years. Inquire at Review Office.

Advertisement for Denison Brick Works. Text: FREE. DENISON BRICK WORKS. A Five Foot Step Ladder. One Pint William's Paris Cabinet Varnish and 1 1/2 inch Bristle Brush with each purchase of William's Carriage Varnish Renewer, or William's Electric Cleaner, or H. H. Klinker, Furniture Dealer. P. Hillebrant Weaver of Rag Carpets. Two blocks east of Stand Pipe. DENISON, IOWA.

Advertisement for Hog Cholera Cure. Text: HOG CHOLERA. Positively Cured. The F. BAUMGARTNER CO., Dubuque, Iowa.