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BERMUDA GRASS

In Many Respects It Is the Most Desirable Grass For the Southwest.

A good deal of interest is being manifested among farmers in regard to Bermuda grass. Very few people, however, appear to know much about this grass, how to plant and cultivate, and how to get it started to grow.

For the information of those who are interested in this grass we insert the following information taken from "A Study of Bermuda Grass," by Charles K. Francis and R. O. Baird, of the Oklahoma Experiment Station, who have given Bermuda Grass special study and experiment for years. If you expect to plant Bermuda Grass it will pay you well to give this article a careful reading:

Bermuda grass was first described by Carl von Linné in 1753 who classified it, but it was not known by its present scientific name, *Cynodon dactylon*, until 1891 when Kuntze reclassified the grasses. This grass has a number of other names, such as Dog's-tooth grass, Scotch grass, Wire grass, Italian grass, Indian-couch grass. It is claimed that Bermuda grass is the Sacred Durva grass of the Hindus, celebrated in the sacred vedas as the shield of India in the absence of which cattle die.

Bermuda grass is a branching plant which puts out creeping stems or runners that have been known to grow over 12 feet in a single season. At short intervals along the stems nodes or joints form. Wherever these nodes touch the ground roots grow and in a few days a young plant is formed which is independent of the mother plant. When this grass is compared with grasses similar in appearance it will be noted that two to four leaves grow from each node of the Bermuda grass while the others support but one. Truly, an average of three blades of grass grow where but one grew before.

Pasture—This grass is without doubt the best pasture grass grown in the Southern States, and is especially adapted to the climatic conditions of Oklahoma. It will grow on almost any kind of soil, but like any other plant, will produce the best yields on rich ground. Bermuda grass will not grow in cold weather, and turns greenish brown in winter, but with a minimum rainfall will remain green in Oklahoma from April to October.

Lawns—It has no equal in the South for lawns, as it will continue to grow when the heat is the greatest, provided it is supplied with water occasionally. A dry spell will not kill it, simply retard the growth. It will not do well in the shade and should not be planted beneath trees.

Feed—The chemical composition of Bermuda grass shows it to rank very high as a cattle food in comparison with other hays. This point will be considered in detail in Part II of this bulletin.

Prevents Washing—Lands well covered by Bermuda grass will not wash to any extent as the thick mat of grass and roots form a covering which is but little affected by running water.

Kind of soil necessary—Bermuda grass does well even on poor soil. It will grow on soils which are so exhausted that they will no longer produce other crops at a profit. It will do best on a rich bottom alluvial soil. It is better adapted to sandy lands than to stiff clays, but will grow in the latter if it once gets a good stand.

Planted on sandy soil Bermuda grass is valuable in preventing wind action, but it is necessary to get the grass set in light shifting soil early in the spring so that a good growth may be obtained before the dry season.

Grown on Alkali Soils—Bermuda grass does not seem to be as easily killed by alkali as other crops. This Station has an excellent pasture of it on land which contains so much alkali that other crops cannot be grown there. Preparation of Soil and Planting—

The best method of preparing the soil is similar to that followed for corn or cotton, and the method of planting similar to that employed in putting in potatoes or tobacco. Have the land as clean and rich as possible and in good mechanical condition. Fall and winter plowing and frequent harrowings together with a dressing of manure will be found worth while.

Seed not Satisfactory—Experience has shown that Bermuda grass seed is low in germinating power and expensive, costing from 50c to \$1.25 per lb. The plants from seed are very tender and grow slowly, so they are easily injured and choked back or killed by weeds. The grass from seed freezes back in winter and often does not begin to grow until May. Small tracts or lawns may be seeded when roots or pieces of sod are not to be obtained. The seed may be sown broadcast or, preferably, in drills.

Planting from Sod—The most practical method of planting Bermuda grass is to set out portions of the sod on the prepared land early in March and not later than June tenth. The earlier the planting the better, providing there is no frost in the ground.

The following method has been recommended by this Station in a previous bulletin, which is now out of print:

Method "A"—After the land has been prepared furrows about six inches deep should be made with a single shovel plow. The furrows should be about six inches apart and pieces of sod about two inches square dropped every eighteen inches. Cover these, either by using the foot as the sod is dropped, or a hoe or a double-shovel plow. The depth of covering will depend upon the condition of the soil. If it is dry a thicker covering may be given than if it is wet. It will not be advisable to cover with a harrow. The small amount of labor thus saved will be more than offset by the delay in getting a good stand of grass.

When but a limited amount of Bermuda grass roots, from which the dirt has been shaken, is available, the preparation of the soil should be the same. But the roots must be planted with more care than the sod, and the soil must be well packed about them with a roller, or tamped. It is desirable to have a little of the root exposed to the air. This is not necessary when the sod is planted; it may be completely covered.

The following methods have been suggested:

Method "B"—In the fall while breaking the land with a turning plow, drop small pieces of sod in every third furrow behind the plow, one to two feet distant, the next furrow slice being made to cover these. Then sow rye on the land and in the spring graze down to aid in removing the shade from the crop and to firm the land. Horses and sheep should not be thus grazed while the grass is setting, because they bite off too many of the creeping stems and thus prevent the grass from spreading.

Method "C"—In the light furrows made between the rows of corn when ready to be laid by, drop several pieces of the sod one to two feet apart and cover with a plank leveler, such as may be run between the rows of corn.

Method "D"—In making a new pasture where the land is more or less covered with broom sage, sasaparilla, etc., pieces of sod may be dropped into shallow holes made with a hoe and the earth pressed down with the foot. The holes should be from three to six feet apart. The closer they are the more rapidly will the grass get possession of the land. Help the grass along as much as possible by cutting down the sasaparilla and other objectionable growth, or grazing according to conditions and the season of the year. This method is adapted to the planting of large areas of run-down land when it is desired to change them into pastures at a minimum expenditure of labor.

Hay—Bermuda grass should be cut for hay just before the tops break out, because after the plant blossoms the lower leaves fall off and the upper portion dries. The grass should be cured the same day that it is mowed. On account of the fineness of the grass it is necessary to use a fine fork for handling it.

Improving by Cultivation and Fertilizer—After four or five seasons Bermuda grass may become so thickly sod bound as to hinder further growth. Then it is advisable to revive the plants by harrowing with a drag or roller to smooth the surface. An occasional tearing up of the pasture will materially improve the quality and quantity of the grass.

It is perfectly reasonable to assume that in a few years after planting the grass will be improved by an application of fertilizer. For this purpose a dressing of nitrate of soda is suggested, eighty to a hundred pounds per acre should be ample. This may be previously mixed with dry rich soil to facilitate through distribution.

Bermuda grass does not enrich the soil in the same way that clover does, but its roots and the mat-like character of the sod are favorable to earth worms. It is a well known fact that earth worms appreciably improve the soil in which the live. The improvement on the composition of the soil effected by Bermuda grass is caused by

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humus added. That is to say, it aids in the formation of more plant food through the effect of its decaying leaves, etc., upon the insoluble mineral matter in the ground.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
 1. Bermuda grass grows rapidly, is the best pasture grass grown in the Southern States, and is particularly suited to the climatic conditions of Oklahoma.
 2. It makes a good lawn, prevents land from washing, and grows on almost any soil.
 3. The most practical method of planting Bermuda grass is to set out small pieces of the sod.
 4. This grass makes a hay which is remarkably high in protein, being exceeded by but few hays.
 5. Bermuda hay is easily digested and has no equal as a cheap food for cattle.

Ridgeway.

Another good rain fell Sunday night in this part of the country.
 Mrs. Hallie Ridgeway is able to be around again after a two weeks illness.
 Mrs. Ben Ridgeway is out and around again after a sick spell.
 Miss Pearl Doble has been working for Mrs. Harry B. Wright the past week.

The all-day meeting at O. D. Husted's grove Sunday was reported a decided success.
 Mrs. Tom Doble and Mrs. J. M. Hewitt and little children got a good soaking last Thursday while going to Clear Lake, but they did not get any sugar.

Harry Wright and family were absent from Sunday School last Sunday on account of visitors from Decatur, Ill. The latter being Mrs. Wright's aunt and uncle.

Next Sunday there will be a Methodist minister at our Sunday School.
 Archie Rancier is making a new barn; getting ready for winter.

There was a deaf and dumb man going through the country selling Queen Anne lamp burners a time.

There was a horse race at Caleyville last Saturday with a good attendance.

A good nine-year-old horse for sale Broke—single or double. Will sell on time. See
 6-22 tf
 A. G. THOMAS.

Riverside

A nice shower visited our vicinity last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wise spent Sunday with Hays Coleman and wife.

Crops are looking nice and green since the rains.

Mrs. Clyde Coleman picked a tomato from her vines last Sunday weighing 1 1/2 pounds.
 Miss Pearl Doble visited Miss Eeta Bennett Sunday.

Putting up plums is the order of the day.

Archie Wycoff has locked his house and went away. We wonder why.

Mr. Monroe has returned from harvest.

Hays Coleman is building a new barn.

Mr. Pickett is building a new addition to his house.

Thanking you for your kind attention we will ring off.

JOLLY FOLKS.

Ridgeway.

(Crowded out last week)
 Mrs. Hallie Ridgeway, who for the past two weeks has been quite sick but was improving, is worse at the present writing.

Jim Huff's baby that was quite sick is better.

J. M. Culver and wife have both been under the weather for the past week.

The recent rain made Duck pond raise until Lewis Hoffman and family had to be helped out last Thursday.

Mr. Wright's oldest little boy got quite a bump on the nose last Sunday while playing with little friends.

Plum picking and fried chicken is the game of the day. Everybody is busy.

Messrs H. A. and John Husted went to Englewood one day last week and just came in ahead of the shower.

Most all of the crops show the effects of the showers lately.

A King Who Left Home

set the world to talking, but Paul Matulka, of Buffalo, N. Y., says he always KEEPS AT HOME the King of all Laxatives—Dr. King's New Life Pills—and that they're a blessing to all his family. Cure constipation, headache, indigestion, dyspepsia. Only 25c at Fred C. Tracy's.

Lodge Directory

Oklahoma Post No. 4 Grand Army of the Republic. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 2:00 p. m. Visiting comrades welcome.
 J. R. QUINN, Com., I. S. DRUMMOND, Adj.

Beaver Lodge No. 269, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Meets 1st and 3rd Saturday nights of each month. Members of the order always welcome.
 W. G. FIELDS, W. M. L. S. MUNSSELL, Sec.

Pioneer Lodge No. 171, Independent Order of Odd Fellows meets every Monday night. Visiting members of the order invited.
 W. H. PALMER, W. G. FIELDS, N. G. Clerk.

Beaver Lodge No. 7, Knights of Pythias. Meet in Castle Hall every Tuesday night. Visiting brothers welcome.
 T. G. DOWDA, C. O. W. T. QUINN, K. of R. and S.

Camp No. 7788 Modern Woodmen of America meets every 2nd Thursday night. Neighbors in good standing welcome.
 G. H. RUSH, V. C. W. T. QUINN, Clerk.

Beaver Rebekah Lodge No. 159 Meets every 2d & 4th Saturday night. Visiting brothers and sisters cordially invited.
 MISS MAE MAPLE LAURA DEGRAW N. G. Sec.

Laurel Camp, No. 3991 Royal Neighbors of America Meet each First Thursday night of the month. Visiting Neighbors invited to come.
 JENNIE SAVAGE, Oracle. MAUDE O. THOMAS, Recorder

Elmwood.

Plenty of rain for the last two weeks and crops are looking fine. The farmers are happy and busy plowing for wheat.

Mrs. Keever, who has been very sick for the last month, is improving, but Miss Della is very sick.

Fred Plain left for Kansas last week, he went overland taking four mules expecting to plow when he gets there.

Miss Cleo Goucher is working for Mrs. Perry Kile. Mrs. Kile is slowly improving but far from being well yet.

The Sunday School at Mt. Vernon school house is well attended and good interest manifested. Almost every Sunday there is some question for discussion. Last Sunday it was, "What is Sin?" Come everybody and enjoy the Sunday School.

Will Garrett made a trip to Gate last week to do some surveying.

During the storm Thursday evening lightning killed one cow and two calves for Perry Chilcott and one horse for Tom Chilcott, all on the farm of Perry Chilcott.

Mrs. Fred Plain visited Mrs. Perry Kile Wednesday last.

Mrs. Wm. White of Balko, spent Wednesday of last week at the home of Mrs. Keever.

Phil Egbert and family spent Sunday at the home of Willie Kile.

Asa Kile and family spent Sunday at Grandpa Kile's.

Perly Johnson is still nursing his boils on his neck. He says they are not very good company.

The heavy rain Thursday evening raised Clear Creek so the mail hack could not get across, but they carried the mail across on horseback.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Kile of Beaver, spent Sunday at Elmwood.

South Side Items.

Everything looks fine since the recent rains, hence everybody is happy in the hopes of good crops.

Messrs Wright, Willmouth and Gregory made a trip to Liberal with broom corn for Rance Little, which brought a fair price.

Mr. Willmouth had a well drilled on his farm last week. He is digging a cave and making other improvements.

Mr. Burnum is having a well drilled on his claim this week.

Mr. Dinger and family, Walter Busch and family, John Wilson and wife and Mrs. Fain have gone to Zelma to attend camp meeting.

Fred Wilson is taking care of John Wilson's place while they are attending camp meeting.

Mrs. Pearl Brown and family went to Beaver Thursday and when returning was overtaken by the rain and had to stop over night and did not get home until Saturday on account of the rise in Clear Creek.

Mrs. Landers is enjoying a visit from her brother, Mr. Marshall, of Wisconsin. He may locate here permanently.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster and Earl Sumner went to the sand hills to gather grapes one day recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Jacobs visited the latter's mother, Mrs. Wright, one day last week.

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Attack Like Tigers.
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