

# Farmers' Gazette,

## AND CHERAW ADVERTISER.

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By M. MAC LEAN.

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### AGRICULTURAL.

Buck Head S. C. Dec. 23rd. 1840.

Dear Sir,—Yours of the 9th, last month I have just received, and hasten to reply to your inquiries, respecting the grass which I have on my plantation. I do not think that it would answer to sow it in any land, that you might wish to put in crop, as when once set, it can never be eradicated; but for a permanent pasture, it would be invaluable. You can pasture it from April to October, and the roots would afford prime pasturage for hogs in the winter. It is not a Rye grass, but more of an Oat grass. I do not think it would do for hay, as you would have cut it when it was too full of juice, and therefore would evaporate too much. I do not speak from experience, never having tried to make hay with it. If however it would make good hay, I am satisfied it could be cut twice in the year.

The history of the grass is this,—my Father, about 50 years ago, imported some hemp seed from the Mediterranean, in which it is supposed some of the seed of the grass was, it never having been observed before; in the field where the hemp was sown, a few heads were carefully collected and sowed by my father; he thinks it a very fine grass. From the small patch sown on the head of Beaver Creek, it has spread entirely along the whole course of the creek to Broad River. And I have no doubt that in time it will reach the Ocean.

If you have any rich marshy low ground, unfit for cultivation, you would find it of great advantage to sow it in this grass, for grazing purposes; but as I have already said, I would not advise it to be planted in crop land, as the labor of cultivating it in crop, is immense; I would freely give \$2000 to have it removed from my plantation. You could make a tolerable crop of corn (say two thirds) on land set with it. It would not do in small grain of any kind, as the seed of the grass and the grains would ripen about the same time, and you would have it scattered all over your whole plantation in a short time. If however, you wish to try it, I will have some of the seed gathered for you. I am sure I can gather 50 bushels. I would be glad to see you at any time, and take pleasure in showing it to you on my plantation; you would be surprised at the luxuriance of it. In July you might almost tie it over your head, on horse back on the river bottoms.

Respectfully,

Should it turn out to be a fact, as the writer seems to fancy, this grass may possibly prove in some degree inimical to the usual practice of the exclusive cotton planter, owing to the remarkable tenacity with which it retains possession of the soil; yet, to the farmer whose object is mixed husbandry, or who produces a general rotation of crops, this property would cease to be an objection; and to the grazier or stock grower, it would be a high recommendation; and on the whole, we have little doubt that it would be a valuable acquisition to our farms.

To our southern farmers, where the various departments of husbandry are combined on the same plantation, as is usually the case with us, the temporariness, which from some cause, seems peculiar to nearly all the cultivated grasses, in our latitude, is a material objection, particularly for permanent pastures, to which this, from the foregoing description appears to be exempt; thus furnishing with its luxuriant foliage a durable and excellent pasturage for other stock throughout the grazing season, also through the winter by means of its large tap roots, an excellent range for hogs. The exception that our friend takes in regard to its unsuitability for hay, in consequence of its succulency or juiciness, causing too much evaporation, is, we think, an objection of little import, except in difficult weather, and even then, by the late modes of curing hay, that difficulty is measurably removed.

This grass it appears, was introduced into S. Carolina, from a country situated in nearly our own parallel of latitude, with a quantity of hemp seed; from which circumstance we would reasonably infer that the same climate was equally favorable to both productions; and as probably no country is capable of surpassing the United States, in the production of hemp, the idea would be naturally suggested, that our climate would be equally favorable to the production of this grass.

We would be pleased to receive further information on the subject from any one acquainted with it, in regard to its properties, its habits, the kind of soil most favorable to its production &c.—Ed. FAR. Ado.

The following remarks are extracted from an address by the late Gen. William R. Davie, President of the Agricultural Society of South-Carolina, before that body, at their anniversary meeting, at Columbia, on the 8th of December, 1818.

The cultivation of the grasses naturally connects itself with this part of our general plan of improvement, and I am happy to be authorized to say, from the experience of several years, that almost all the cultivated grasses of foreign extraction succeed well in the middle and upper ranges of the state, where, fortunately, all the necessary varieties of soil and situation may be found congenial to their culture. For the purpose of being fed green to horses or cattle, I have no knowledge of any grass superior to the Lucerne; under proper cultivation it may be cut eight or nine times in common seasons, commencing in March, and continuing till the hard frosts, in the latter end of autumn. Being cut before it is in full bloom, it immediately springs up from the stumps, and its uncommonly strong and deep root preserves it from the common effects of drought. Its culture is easy and simple; in France it is cultivated broad-cast, with the advantage of irrigation. In this mode I have not succeeded, but it never fails in the drill on any good soil. Lucerne was among the earliest of the cultivated grasses; in Italy it was one of the fruits of Roman conquest; in Upper Egypt it has been used time immemorial, not only as the food of cattle but of man.

Red clover grows luxuriantly in the range of country I have mentioned, on suitable soils. This grass is properly the native of a clay soil, but will succeed almost on any, in proportion to the goodness of the land. The extraordinary success with which this grass has been cultivated in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, for the purpose of food for stock of every kind, and above all, as an improving crop, gives it an unquestionable claim upon the attention of the planter and farmer. There is no danger of wandering in the mazes of theory on this subject; the practical results of thirty years' experience in those states furnish an infallible guide.

Among the narrow leaved grasses, the dog's foot, as it is called with us, deserves particular attention; it appears congenial to our climate, and grows luxuriantly on any rich soil, however dry the situation may be. This grass mixes well with the red clover, supports it from falling when luxuriant, and cuts to advantage, at the same time while it improves the hay, and contributes to its preservation when housed or stacked. The timothy and white-top or feather grass succeed generally on wet meadows; but timothy justly valued as a hay for horses, seems peculiar to a colder climate; it grows luxuriantly, almost spontaneously, on our mountains, while in the lower range of the state, it languishes, and is soon succeeded by the wild or native grasses.

The herds grass might be cultivated with the greatest success in the soft boggy lands in the lower parts of the state. There are few grasses more valuable for hay, while it gives strength and consistency to the surface of the most spongy bog, converting morasses, which are not only useless in their present state, but even a dangerous nuisance in a neighborhood, into valuable and productive land. Drought, the greater enemy of this branch of agriculture, never effects the herds grass when cultivated upon this, which is its peculiar soil. The inland swamp formerly cultivated in rice, and now generally abandoned, would form excellent meadow and grazing farms, equal to any in Europe or America, with the aid of this grass, and the native grasses of the country; I am confident, that these lands thrown into this mode of culture, might be improved tenfold in their value; the profits of the grazier are certain and annual, and secured from those accidents of seasons, which frequently blast the best founded expectations of the planter. I wish it to be understood, that I consider the business of the grazier as perfectly distinct from that of the breeder of cattle.

The white clover yields but little food, and soon becomes dangerous to horses when pastured, and cannot be connected advantageously like its relative with any system of improvement. I cannot, however close this short view of the grasses without recommending to the attention of the society the Sainfoin, a grass so highly esteemed by the French farmers, that they canonized it under this singular appellation. The English farmers speak of it in terms of the highest approbation; it is, they say, the best hay hitherto known for horses; many farmers keep them the whole winter upon it with very little corn, and the horses remain fat and in fine condition; even post horses thrive well upon it, and next to corn nothing will keep them in such order; it may be mowed ten years successively, and may be afterwards pastured with advantage for three years. This is the language of the English farmers, and it requires only a moment's reflection to observe how extremely interesting

ting this grass would be to the planter, subjected to such an immense expense in the support of the horses and mules employed in the culture of corn and cotton. I do not know whether any experiment has been made of its culture in this state; the European farmers all agree, that it is among the first profitable grasses, and far exceeding any yet propagated on poor land—it will succeed on almost any soil which is mixed with rocks, or that has a bottom of firm adhesive clay.

In moist rich soils, the native grasses of our country make excellent meadow, with proper attention to eradicate the weeds and drain the boggy parts; the scythe improves the quality of the grass, and where the soil is rich or properly manured, it will yield an abundant crop. It may be observed where the meadows still remain, which were made by the first settlers, the native grasses have generally succeeded to the timothy, without operating any injury to the farmer.

I have dwelt on this subject because an opinion had prevailed, that few or none of the foreign cultivated grasses would thrive in our climate, and from the imperious consideration, that this branch of agriculture must form the basis of that system of improvement, which can alone prove effectual to restore our exhausted lands. "An assured and plentiful supply of wholesome food for stock during the winter, enables them to multiply their numbers, while in their turn they contribute to the fertility of the soil, and the support and comfort of man."

For the S. C. Temperance Advocate. TURNIPS.

Mr. Editor,—Not having failed to raise Turnips from the summer or fall sowing, for thirty years, I have been astonished to hear of so many failures, amongst planters, in a thing so easily made certain.

With many, I suppose the cause is mere neglect or laziness. Such are not to be pitied, and it is fruitless labour to instruct them. But as there are many others who labour earnestly and fail for want of experience, I may confer a particular favour upon such, by giving them the result of my experience. My plan has been not only to make sure a crop of Turnips; but to make the lot of ground rich. For these two objects, in July I fence in the lot for the succeeding year; say one acre for every 10 cows to be penned. Cover the lot with litter. In the winter plough it up deeply. Pen the shucks and straw intended for winter food for the cows upon the lot and feed them there through the winter. In March, plough up the lot again, and in May give it a third ploughing, and July a fourth. By this plan of following, the insects and weeds or grass are not only destroyed, but a moisture retained, so that a drought will not prevent a stand of turnips, scarcely ever. And to make it still more certain you can divide the lot so as to make 3 sowings, thus having 3 chances to one for a crop. And the first sowing will show its failure in time to sow again.

Of all the root crops for cows, I think turnips the most valuable, both as relates to the quantity produced from the ground and their convenience in using. In our climate there is no necessity for housing them, or to raise them, only as usual. And if boiled with a little chopped corn or peas, there is no better food for milk cows. I heard some persons talk of giving a turnip flavor to milk and butter where cows are fed upon turnips. If this be the fact my taste is insensible of it. Neither can any of my family discover such flavor when our milk-cows are fed upon turnips. We however generally boil them with kitchen slop and mix a little chopped grain with them. J. D.

BOTS IN HORSES.

Sir,—At page 177 of the Cabinet for the last year, I see slackened time recommended for the bots in horses, in portions of a table spoonful three times a week; but in cases of violent attack this remedy would be too slow in its operations.

A neighbor called on me with a horse very much affected in this way, and requested me to give him a teacup full of black pepper and a pint of whiskey, which he administered, but without effect, although he promised that the horse would be relieved in a few minutes; he therefore determined to give him more pepper and whiskey, but I remonstrated against it, and strongly recommended a pint of molasses which he at length consented to try; this relieved the horse instantly, and in a few minutes he hitched him to his wagon and drove off.

In another case, a friend had given his horse, while in the most excruciating pain from this disorder, a gill of turpentine, and afterwards black pepper and whiskey declining to try the molasses, as he considered it too simple a remedy; the horse at length appearing in the last extremity, he consented to administer the molasses; the effect was almost instantaneous, and in ten minutes the horse was feeding. Now I cannot otherwise account for the sudden effectual relief obtained from the use of molasses in this disorder, than by supposing that so soon as the molasses enters the stomach of the horse, the bots quit their hold and feed on it, and this gives the horse instant relief, and effect a permanent cure. Would

some of your readers try the remedy, and report through the pages of the Cabinet the result, stating also their opinions regarding this view of the case.

Farmers' Cabinet.

If the distress of the horse was really caused by bots, the manner in which the molasses relieved him was doubtless that suggested by the correspondent of the Cabinet. But the cure cannot properly be said to have been permanent. So long as the bots remain in the stomach of the horse there is danger of their renewing the attack on it. Has calomel ever been tried as a remedy for bots? It is often an effectual remedy for worms in children. The juice of elder leaves, combined with a bottle of castor oil might be worth trying. The larvae of most flies have an invincible repugnance to the elder leaves; and so have the flies themselves.

Ed. FAR. GAZ.

From the Farmers Advocate.

SAVE YOUR ASHES.

Take leached ashes and drop a handful on the corn when planting; dry ashes is better but after the soap is made, the contents of the ley-hopper should be saved for corn planting. Dry ashes should be sowed two or three bushels on an acre of wheat, two or three times. In the Spring, either in heavy dews or misting rain.

The manure of ashes or lime used as a top dresser, is not near all the benefit; there are several kinds of insects materially interrupted in their ravages, on the green growing grain. If you have not a roof and a floor for keeping ashes, please to make them, and preserve all dry that does not get used for ley.

Sandy ground will show a greater difference in produce from their use, than sterile clay, so far as I have tried.

Manure should all be taken to the field from the barn-yard, then plough up one, two or ten acres that cannot be manured, according to circumstances—sow some with corn broad cast—and some with oats, when the corn tassels, and the oats heads, turn them in with a plough; this course will greatly assist the soil.

Times are generally too busy when shocks are taken off the ground, or I would say—turn in the stubble, moderately deep, there will come a growth to turn in for manure, before the coming of frost—or an excellent pasture for milk cows.

A SUBSCRIBER.

11th 2nd mo. 1841.

From the Maine Farmer.

REMARKS UPON ORCHARDS, AND NOTICE OF A NURSERY.

In looking over the Maine Farmer, Vol. 8th, No 48th, I find an Editorial article, headed, why not raise more apples? The subject I think is worthy the attention of every farmer, as I believe that enough has been stated, and upon good authority to satisfy the minds of nearly all, that apples may be raised so as to be much cheaper food for cattle and hogs than potatoes. But are not farmers growing to remiss in paying proper attention to their orchards, and in setting out young ones to take the place of old and decaying ones? and there are many of this class in Maine, which in my opinion have suffered premature decay on account of mismanagement in pruning, as well as from other causes. Heavy pruning, I believe at all times to be very injurious. It is said that experience is the best school master, and I think I have some in this respect, for I have nearly ruined one small orchard by pruning heavy, and not so heavy as I have seen many others. But as far as my observation has extended, I think it is almost as sure a way to spoil an orchard to cut off large limbs, and sometimes a number as I have seen, from the same tree, with an axe or a coarse saw and apply nothing to the wood to shield it from the air, as it would be to cut it up by the roots.

As many of our orchards are past cure would it not be worth taking some pains to rear up more trees before the old ones are entirely done. And I believe there are but few farmers but might with trifling expense set out a sufficient supply of choice fruit trees, to furnish fruit for family use, and then I would not recommend the poorest kinds for stock.

I believe it is allowed that most kinds of fruit trees do best set in single rows, as along road fences and fields, in which situations they are generally most productive, and much more convenient than to fence out some acres of our best land for that purpose.

From the Winyah Observer.

Mr. Editor—I send you the following, which will be of considerable interest to all farmers. In the spring of 1825, Mr. — of — District in this State, was very much pestered with rats. They collected in such numbers about his barn and stables, as to give, at a distance, the sound of a parcel of pigs in the shocks, &c. They destroyed nearly twenty bushels of corn and peas before any stratagem

could be fallen upon to destroy them; at length he was told by a friend that the Jasmine blossom would effectually take them all away. Accordingly a large quantity of vines and blossoms were procured and thrown in the corn house, stables, &c. and in less than two weeks there was not a rat or mouse to be heard on the place. These blossoms have quite a pleasant and agreeable smell, but are very poisonous. This is fact, for it came under the observation of OBSERVER.

TO KILL BED BUGS.

Mr. Jonas Bacon of Unionville states to us that gun-camphor and bar-soap will effectually destroy that midnight robber, the bed-bug—he mixes one ounce of the camphor, well pulverised, with two ounces of the soap—this mixture is easily applied to the crevices where the bugs harbor.

From the Frankfort Commonwealth.

SOMETHING ABOUT AN OWL.

A man ought not to be hooted at, if he does tell a story about an owl, provided the anecdote tends to the promotion of the great interests of agriculture. And we may as well promise here, that we do not mean to talk about one of those little screeching things that sits on the eaves of houses during the live-long night, watching for mice, and uttering the most piercing lamentations all the while. No indeed: we are alluding to one of those whapping big fellows who sometimes raises a war-hoop right over your head as you are riding through the dark woods, and makes you feel for a moment, as if your scalp was gone. Speak of your hair standing on end, at tales of ghosts, and all that sort of stuff! Those are mere fire-side affairs and don't last much longer than you are toasting your shins. But if you wish to know something of a shock that will drive through your bones into the marrow, just go by yourself through a beech flat of a dark night, with your mind running upon Indians, robbers, and other such sweet fancies, until you feel as if you had half an inch of breath any how—then let one of those night eagles thunder—whoo hoo, whoo-hoo, whoo hopagh into your lugs, and you'll think that you've become an eternal fixture in the shades. It does to laugh at when you get home, but for the moment it is capitally horrid. There are many people who never saw one of those big owls, or heard one either, and we will therefore for their benefit, say he is a large bird with a huge head, a profusion of rusty feathers, a round grey eye that seems to look everlastingly ahead and right through every thing that is before it, has very formidable talons, and, in a word, is the king of all things that fly in the dark. He is carnivorous in his appetites, and walks into young rabbits, partridges, and that kind of fry, with remarkable unction. He does not make friends of many living things, which probably arises from his habits of midnight assassination, and skulking when the rest of the world is not in motion. He moves like a shadow, not making the least noise in his flight, and he is, upon the whole, a most excellent pattern for a cut throat. Yet with all his advantages of size, position and profession, he is not suffered to be the sole marauder upon the great common of the poultry yard, for he has an enemy of a most determined and implacable character. The enemy is not as might be supposed, armed with weapons of war equal to himself, nor with the same awful voice, nor even with the same fierceness of the eye, yet he makes up a combination vigilance what he wants in strength, and just let an owl show himself in the light of the sun, and forthwith a legion of Crows will be upon him such a clatter about his ears that he will find the very day hideous, and ignominiously fly before the black regiments that are charging upon him. And this brings us to our story.

A farmer living in this county, has been so exceedingly annoyed with crows that he was willing to hunt them by militia companies—to offer rewards for their heads, to poison them or kill them off by a legislative tax. Year by year he was molested by those depredators, who would tear up his corn by the acre, pick out the eyes of his lambs, fly off with his chickens, and annoy him in every conceivable way. It was in vain that he took up his gun upon his shoulder and went in pursuit, no caution that he could devise could bring him in shooting distance.—The rascals would caw at him, and caw at him, and snigger to see how he "larded the earth" as he walked along of a hot day, vainly following on their provoking banter. Neither he nor his man of straw in the field, was the least terror to the evil doers, and they plundered with perfect impunity. Our Franklin Farmer meditated long and deeply upon the manner in which he should redress his wrongs and like a true philosopher, he sat himself diligently to the study of the nature of crows. He soon found out all their system of sentinels, their notes of alarm, their sounds of encouragement, &c., but from these he could gain no knowledge that would avail him.

While, however, he was one day watching a large flock, his attention was arrested by an unusual commotion among the black scoundrels, and forthwith they all darted in one direction. He beheld in his surprise a simultaneous attack upon a large owl who had imprudently ventured forth into the light, and such another battle he never did see until at last the owl was fairly vanquished by the crows, and made rather a precipitate retreat. Our farmer was too interested a spectator of the combat not to reflect much upon its character and result, and all at once it occurred to him that, if by any means he could get possession of an owl he could make him decoy the crows within a reasonable distance. Luckily for him, he was soon enabled by a successful shot, to break the wing of one of the largest of the tribe, and he lost no time in putting his scheme in operation.

Accordingly, at early dawn he sallied forth with dire intent, and surcharged with the spirit of extermination and venom. He selected a tree near to his fence but conspicuous in the field. A lad was sent up the tree put the owl upon his perch and the farmer ensconced himself in the corner of one of the panels. Scarcely were these completed before a distant and well known caw, broke upon his ear, and anon the air was darkened with a flight of crows, all making like the Cuirassiers upon the Scotch Grays, a furious onslaught upon the wounded enemy. "Ha, Ha, Ha," cried the farmer; "I've got you at last!" and bang went his gun, and down tumbled a couple of crows. But the fire of the gun had no effect upon the rest. They still continued in furious rage, to fly at the owl, and ever anon the farmer would fire away and at every crack he brought 'em. Faith, but it was a goodly sight to see how soon the owl got into the hang of the game. For, at each dreary pause, while the farmer was reloading—the sagacious captive would ruffle his feathers and snap his bills together, and manifest to his enemies the most aggravating and insulting behaviour. This would exasperate them beyond bounds, and at him they would come again—bang would go the gun, and at every crack the owl fairly chuckled with delight, giving one of those knowing winks, which was as much as to say "don't we nicker 'em."

The slaughter was continued until the farmer desisted, from mere weariness. He then went home like a conqueror with his heaps of slain, and gave his new ally a stupendous feast on the bodies of his slaughtered foes. Every day was this manoeuvre repeated, and with the same success, until nearly every crow about the plantation had been killed. The fame of this affair soon spread to the surrounding plantations and every neighbor borrowed the owl and put him to the same successful and profitable purpose. As may be supposed, good care was taken of the owl, and for two seasons he was the greatest benefactor of the neighborhood, and had been the death of as many of his foes as Ghen Gish-Khan or Napoleon. Unluckily on one occasion he sallied forth alone from his confinement, and not being able to fly, he attempted to swim across the Elk horn. This was a new and untried element to him, and like other renowned warriors and statesmen he was lost in venturing upon an experiment. That he was put to a great public use, there is no doubt, and if ever a bill is again introduced into the Legislature "Providing for the killing of crows," it would be but an act of justice to put in a section directing a monument to be erected to Joe Davis's Owl.

Whoever doubts the truth of the story has only to try the experiment with an owl, and he will soon find that there is no joke in the matter.

RIGHT OF VOTING.

AS EXERCISED IN THE SEVERAL STATES. In New Hampshire, every male inhabitant 21 years of age, three months in the state—Students, Paupers, &c. excepted.

In Massachusetts, every male citizen, Paupers, and persons under guardianship, excepted, one year in the State, and six months in the Town where he offers to vote, having paid a tax within two years, unless exempted therefrom by law.

In Rhode Island, no Constitution—By Charter of Charles II. all freemen vote.

In Connecticut, every white male citizen, having a legal residence of six months, with a freehold of seven dollars per annum, and every white male enrolled in the militia one year, or being exempted from military duty by law, having paid a State tax within the year, and of good moral character.

In Vermont, every man of quiet and peaceable behaviour, one year in the State.

In New Jersey, all inhabitants with 12 months residence, worth a clear estate of 50l Proclamation money.

In Pennsylvania, every freeman who has resided two years in the State, and paid a tax, and the sons of such, between twenty-one and twenty-two, without the payment of tax.

In Maryland, all free white males 21 years of age, having resided one year in the State, and six months in the county.

In North Carolina, all freemen with a freehold of 50 acres, and a residence of 12 months, and all f