

FARM MANAGEMENT

Oats on Swamp Land

Would like advice re a piece of swamp that I plowed up last fall. This is the third time that it has been plowed, and although it is level it is almost too low to grow grain, especially in a season that is rainy. There are about seven to nine inches of muck on top and clay underneath. Would like to know what would be the best variety of oats to sow to get a good catch.—V. J. B. Hastings, Ont.

The best thing to do in this case would be, if possible, to plow so deeply as to bring up some of the clay to mix with the muck. If say three inches of clay could be mixed with the muck, then a very satisfactory soil indeed should result and good crops might be anticipated.

As to the best kind of oats to sow on such land, I would say that muck

Alfalfa or Lucerne, five pounds.
Alsike clover, two pounds.
White or Dutch clover, two pounds.
Orchard grass, four pounds.
Meadow Fescue, four pounds.
Tall Oat Grass, five pounds.
Meadow Foxtail, two pounds.
Timothy, two pounds.
An annual pasture mixture in proportions suitable for one acre was given as follows:
Oats, 51 lbs.
Early Amber Sugar Cane, 30 lbs.
Common Red Clover, seven pounds.

Handling Cord Wood

By R. H. Flint

Cord wood is an important crop which is often very carelessly handled after harvesting. The wood is usually cut at the proper time of the year, during the winter, because labor conditions and weather are favorable then, but aside from this the crop is

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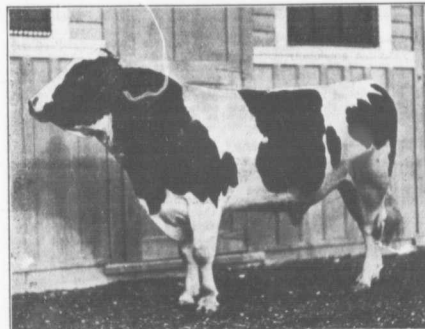
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vary so greatly in their composition and crop-producing powers that I would not like to venture an opinion. To illustrate, I may say that on the Experimental Farm here we have muck areas where oats will not grow at all and barley does fairly well, while we have other muck areas on which oats will do exceedingly well and barley thrives with difficulty.

If oats do well on the muck in question, then I would suggest Joannette, as probably as good as any variety to grow under such conditions, as when oats do well on muck the straw is usually a heavy crop and stand this straw-producing tendency of the soil better than any other I know of.

The question as to the best kind of seed oats to sow to get a good catch is somewhat indefinite and may possibly mean the best kind of oats to sow in order to permit of getting a good catch of grass and clover there-with, in which case I would say that the Joannette is still about the best that could be selected, although the Banner would probably stand up better to the Joannette; but whichever is sown, the seedling should be considerably thinner than where no grass seed is put down with the grain.—J. H. G.

Pasture Mixtures

A permanent pasture mixture recommended by Prof. C. A. Zavitz is made up as follows:

often very badly handled.

In felling and cutting into lengths a saw should be used in preference to an axe for two reasons: (1) the actual waste of wood in cutting with an axe must be considered. If a tree is felled and cut into lengths with an axe the loss in chips will seldom be less than five per cent of the total volume, if the tree is more than three inches in diameter, and it may run as high as eight or 10 per cent. With the use of a saw this loss is insignificant. (2) If the wood is to be sold there is likely to be a further loss in wood cut with the axe because of the rough, uneven appearance of the pile. A discriminating purchaser always prefers the pile with the smooth square ends left by the saw. Care in measuring off the length of the sticks so that all are of just the correct length adds greatly to the appearance of the product.

The practice of piling the wood on the ground where it is cut and leaving it to season until the following autumn or winter is entirely too common. The wood will dry better and have a much better appearance and a higher fuel value if it is piled on skids made of small poles or defective sticks, to keep it off the ground. The pile should be located in a clearing and grass and weeds kept down around it to give a better circulation of air for seasoning and to prevent rapid decay. The danger from loss by fire is also greatly lessened by piling in clearings.

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