

The Field.

Timothy Grass.

(Phleum Pratense.)

An admirable series of papers is now in course of publication in the *Farmer* (Scottish,) on pasture grasses. To one of these articles we are indebted for the following account, as well as the accompanying illustrations, of our most valuable grass, the common timothy grass of our meadows. The species is also known by the English names of meadow, catstail grass, and herd grass.

Although a native of Europe, it is highly probable that all the timothy grass now in cultivation is of American origin, for it was here grown under the name of herd grass about the middle of the last century, and it then acquired the name of timothy grass in North Carolina, in consequence of having been introduced to that State from New York by a Mr. Timothy Hansa. It was introduced by a Mr. Peter Wynch, from Virginia to England, in 1763.

The appearance and general habit of this grass is familiar to most, as it forms the too exclusively cultivated species in this country. It is a fibrous-rooted, slightly creeping, perennial grass, with more or less developed bulb-like swellings or knots at the base of its stems. The accompanying illustrations show this peculiarity of habit, Fig. 5 being a stock of the plant very much diminished in size to show its general aspect; and Fig. 4 a specimen of portions only, base and head, but little below the natural dimensions. The leaves are numerous, long, broadish, flat, rough, and rather firm in texture; the stems are two to four feet high, smooth, with four or five joints, strong and upright. The inflorescence, or flower head, is in dense cylindrical, spike-like, erect panicles, from two to six inches long, varying in color from lightish to dark-brownish green. The seeds are easily separated from the husks when ripe, very small, somewhat globular, heavy, and of a light silvery color. The small figures 1 and 2 represent the seed enclosed in the husk, the first of the natural size, and the second magnified. Fig. 3 shows a single flower, magnified, consisting of corolla, anthers, and stigmas, the seed vessel being enclosed in and concealed by the corolla.

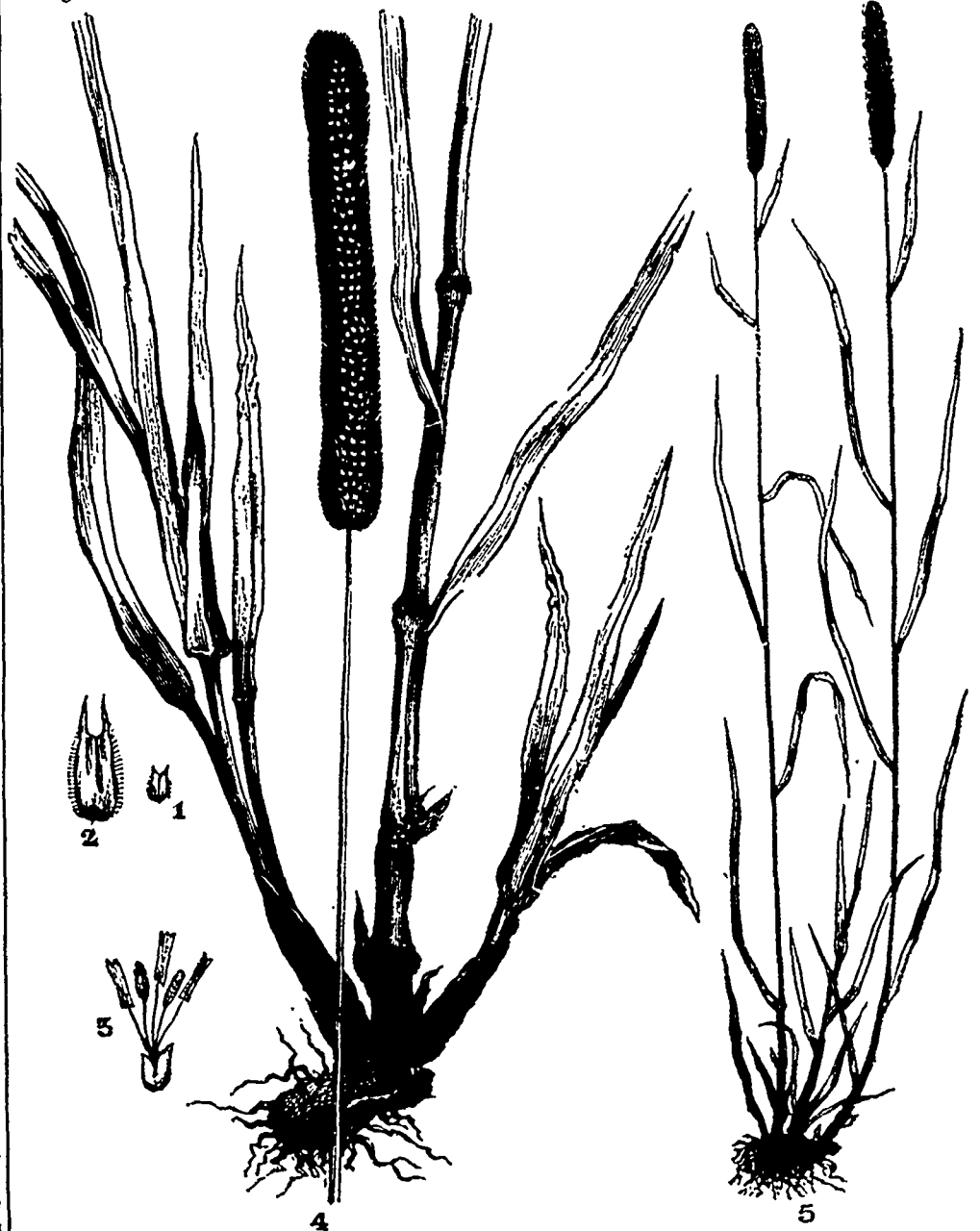
This variety of the very extensive order of grasses is found wild throughout Europe, Northern Asia, and in North America, even considerably beyond the northern limits of the arctic circle; and, although not unfrequent in the settled districts of Australia and New Zealand, its presence in the southern hemisphere is attributed to cultivation. Its natural presence is looked upon as indicative of good substantial, rather moist soils, well adapted for the production of cereals, when aided by proper drainage.

Timothy is neither a very early nor a good autumn

cropping grass, but yields a heavy summer cutting, and may be pastured longer in spring than most others without injury to the hay crop, as its flowering stems are comparatively late in starting. Further, although of a coarse appearance in all its stages, it

of growth in the second year after sowing. It is not suitable for lawns or ornamental parks: in the former especially it can only be considered an intrusion and a pernicious weed.

Timothy seed differs from that of all the other



is keenly deroured by cattle, horses, and sheep, whether green or in hay. Other properties which may be mentioned are, its suitability for a great variety of soils, as well as its attaining to full vigor

grasses in cultivation by its heaviness, globular form, and size. Thus, while that of the somewhat similar *alopecurus pratensis* weighs only 4 or 5 lb. per bushel, *phleum pratense* averages about 44 lbs., and about