

MILLET AND ITS CULTURE.

MR. EDITOR,—Of the millet there are three distinct genera: the *Polish* millet, the *Indian* millet, and the *Common* millet.

Of the *Common* millet there are three species: the *German*, the *common* or *cultivated*, and the *Italian*.

The *German* millet grows with a reed-like stalk, from two-and-a-half to three feet high, with a leaf at each joint about one-and-a-half feet long, and about one inch broad at the base, ending in a sharp point, rough to the touch, surrounding the stalk at the base, and turning down about half the length. The stalks terminate by compact spikes about three-fourths of an inch in diameter at the bottom, tapering to the top, six or eight inches long, and closely set with small roundish grain. It is an annual, and soon perishes after it has ripened its seeds. Of this kind of millet there are three varieties, the *white*, *yellow*, and *purple* grained.

The *Italian* millet rises also with a reed-like stalk, four feet high; the stalk is thicker, and the leaf broader than the preceding; the spikes are from eight to twelve inches in length; they are not compact but are composed of several roundish clustered spikes. There are also two or three varieties of this, distinguished only by the colour of the seeds.

The above described species of the common millet being the only kinds cultivated in this section, I shall omit giving a description of the other kinds; and proceed at once to give my readers the benefit of my practical knowledge in reference to its culture.

In consequence of my meadows being destroyed by the severity of the winter of 1854, I was of necessity compelled to substitute something for the hay crop, and finally decided upon millet. I found it very difficult to procure seed, but much more difficult to procure reliable information with regard to its culture; consequently, my first year's experience was in reality a year of experiment.

The field upon which I sowed my millet was a wheat stubble. The soil sandy loam, the higher portions of the field being quite sandy, and in a medium state of cultivation: the surface undulating. During the latter part of May it was ploughed ten inches deep, with a Polly plough, No 2, which is one of the best stubble ploughs in use. The first week in June the ground was harrowed twice, lengthwise of the furrow, with a heavy double scratch harrow. The millet seed was sown immediately, at the rate of 12 quarts per acre, and followed with a light seed harrow and roller. I commenced cutting my millet in the middle of August, with a common grain cradle: let it lie in the swath one to two days, according to the temperature of the weather: bound in sheaves and shocked up the same as wheat. Judging from the number and size of the loads, the yield was two tons per acre. Had the season been favourable the produce would have been one-third more.

From my limited experience I have come to the conclusion that millet is peculiarly adapted to light, warm soils, but will grow on almost any soil which is not too wet; that the soil should be ploughed deep and well pulverized; that the time to sow the

seed, if intended for hay, is any time during the month of June—if intended to ripen, the last week in May; that the quantity of seed if intended for hay should vary from 16 to 20 quarts—very rich soils requiring most seed to prevent the stalks from growing too rank—but, if intended to ripen, 8 to 10 quarts per acre will be quite sufficient; that the proper time to harvest if for hay, is when the grain is just filled and the top of the head or spike is beginning to turn yellow, but if intended for seed it should fully ripen; that the best mode of harvesting is to cut with the cradle or reaper and bind into sheaves when sufficiently dry; and that the yield per acre on good soils well cultivated, will be from 3 to 4 tons of hay or 30 to 40 bushels of seed. It leaves the soil in a loose, friable state, consequently grass and clover seeds do well when sown with it.

As to nutritious qualities, it is a regular panacea for the craving of all hungry stomachs, whether of biped or quadruped. Horses will work hard and keep in fine condition by being fed on green millet, finely cut with a straw-cutter and mixed with four quarts of ground millet seed per day, to each horse. Feed in the same way to milch cows, it will keep them fat and sleek, and cause an unusual flow of good rich milk. Colts, calves, and sheep fairly luxuriate in the green fodder. The seed fed to hens will make everlasting layers of them, whether Dorkings, Shanghaes, Poland, Spanish, or native, other necessities being provided.

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SOWING CLOVER SEED.

Clover takes a place so important in the system of rotation by which the fertility of our wheat farms is kept up, that we may be excused for recalling some hints heretofore given upon the subject. The season for deciding and acting in the matter is here, and remarks upon quality and quantity, manner and management, will neither be mis-timed or uninteresting.

It is only about eighty-five years since Clover—and with it Gypsum or plaster of Paris—was first introduced into this country from Germany. These together had worked wonders in Flemish and English agriculture, and have now come to be pretty well known and appreciated in our own. Clover is grown very extensively for hay and pasture and for plowing under as a green manure, wherever the wheat crop is the staple product. Several varieties, known as the large, small, and medium kinds, are cultivated, but in this section the latter prevails most extensively, and is generally preferred, as making better hay, and being equally valuable as a fertilizer. As to the quality of the seed, great care should be taken that it be pure, for some of the worst pests of the farm have been more widely disseminated by being sown with clover seed brought from a distance.

The true economy as to quantity of seed, is to sow liberally, for by saving five dollars here, a loss of twenty dollars is often sustained in hay and pasturage. One-third of a bushel is the least amount, even when mixed with other grass seeds, which