

We notice very valuable comments on the prospects of filbert growing in the United States, by Mr. W. D. VanDeman, United States Pomologist, in an address read before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He says that, so far, these have not been grown in the United States; but there is a great demand for them in our markets, where every pint exposed for sale is imported from the Old Country. He says that he is making it a special point to import the Kentish filbert from England, in order to have it tested in the United States, and he seems very confident of success.

PRICKLY COMFREY.

SIR,—I think you would be conferring a great benefit on your readers by directing their attention to the most productive of all forage plants, Prickly Comfrey.

Mr. Kinard B. Edwards, of Leicestershire, England, a well known authority on farming matters, thus writes of it; "It affords a cutting earlier and later than almost any other plant. If cultivated upon good deep soil it will yield a heavier crop than any other plant, and when once planted it will last forever. It is very hardy. The first year as much as 20 tons to the acre may be obtained, the second year 50, and every year after 80 to 100 tons. Few crops will be found so useful or more easily cultivated."

The writer has known 3 horses and 3 cows fed in the stable from early summer to late autumn entirely upon the produce of an acre of it the second year after planting, and the horses were in splendid condition and the cows yielding more milk and of better quality than if they were on ordinary pasture. From personal experiment I find our climate here suits it well. It is the first thing to show up green in the spring and goes on growing till late autumn yielding 5 or 6 cuttings. It is grown from crowns or root cuttings and a start may be made with a few, as every spring till your plantation is as large as you require; the roots may be raised and divided into about 12 parts and 12 times the area of ground planted. We started here with 20 root cuttings and hope this spring to have about half an acre planted. As a change from winter feed, horses, cows and weaned calves eat it with avidity in the stable and barn yard, but if turned out to pasture first, they do not care so much for it afterwards, so it is especially adapted for farmers' use for early feeding in the stable and enabling them to give the pasture fields a good start before turning cattle out in the spring, and for those who living in towns and villages keep a horse or cow with only a small plot of land, from which they would like to procure the greatest possible amount of feed. From the 15th to 25th April is the best time for planting Prickly Comfrey.

The land to be planted with Prickly Comfrey should, if practicable, be ploughed in the fall, and as soon as you can work it in the spring, harrow it down, and plough furrows from end to end a yard apart; then in the bottom of the furrows, at intervals of a yard, put a small shovelful of rotten manure; cut the Prickly Comfrey roots into pieces, each having one crown or more, and in the centre of each shovelful of manure place one of these root cuttings so that the top of it will be about 2 inches under ground when the earth is levelled; with a rake or hoe pull the earth back again into the furrows, leaving the ground level. In a few weeks the plants will push through a yard apart every way. As soon as they are grown sufficiently to show their whereabouts distinctly, cultivate between the rows both ways to keep the weeds down, and repeat this as requisite during the season. The plants should be cut at about 3 inches from the ground for green fodder when they attain the height of 2 or 3 feet and before the blossom opens. In about a month or six weeks, according to the weather, a second cutting may be obtained, and so on through the summer and autumn, the growth being so rapid that the new growth of plants cut one day is quite distinguishable from that of the next preceding and succeeding day's cuttings. The plantation should every year be treated to a dressing of short manure. If preferred, instead of ploughing furrows, holes may be dug a yard apart and the planting, be proceeded with as before directed. The middle of April is the best time for planting.

N. B.—For convenience the plantation should be as near the stable as possible.

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