

not be planted as thick as the prolific varieties, probably 10 per cent thicker for silage than for grain alone is as much thicker as they should be planted.

The Sorghums for Silage

THE two qualities of the sorghums which recommend them for silage are their resistance to drouth, which especially recommends both the saccharine and grain sorghums in sections of insufficient rainfall for large corn production, and even in those sections of abundant rainfall the sweet sorghums will produce a larger tonnage and more feed value per acre on the average or thin lands of the South.

For many years the sorghums have been largely used for silage in the southwest but in recent years the use of the sweet sorghums has very greatly increased throughout the middle south and the southeast. For practically all lands in the South, except extremely rich soils, and possibly for them also, we are convinced that the large growing, sweet sorghums, such as the Gooseneck (falsely named Texas Seeded Ribbon Cane) and the Honey (incorrectly called Japanese Ribbon Cane) are the best silage crops, not even excepting the best silage varieties of corn.

For silage the sweet sorghums may be planted pretty thick in the rows and a heavy yield of forage produced. The one important condition which must not be disregarded in the use of the sweet sorghums for silage is that the crop must be allowed to mature before it is put in the silo.

Mixtures of Crops for Silage

THERE is a very generally accepted belief that a mixture of two or more crops, such as corn and sorghum, or corn and soy beans, produces a larger tonnage or a better silage than either corn or sorghum alone. It is possibly true that a heavier tonnage and more feed value is produced by a mixture of corn and sweet sorghum than of sorghum alone, but we have serious doubts of this. However, there is no objection to the mixture of these crops in case one thinks a heavier tonnage is produced, provided the sorghum is allowed to thoroughly mature. But as a rule, unless the early, smaller growing varieties of sorghum are used, they do not mature sufficiently by the time the corn is ready to go into the silo. Our observations indicate that where the two are planted together the thick planting prevents the corn from making many ears and the yield of feed is consequently probably inferior to what is produced when corn is grown alone.

There is also a popular idea that the mixing of corn or sorghum, especially corn, with some legume, such as soy beans, improves the quality of the silage and increases the feed value obtained.

There are two facts which tend to prevent the realization of the results which theoretically appear possible in the mixing of corn and soy beans for silage. First, there is difficulty in many cases in getting the two crops to mature at the same time and neither will wait long on the other without loss. The second objection to this mixture of corn and soy beans for silage applies to all legumes. These plants, rich in protein, for some reason do not make as satisfactory silage as corn or sorghum. The silage is black and often appears to have gone through such a fermentation or other process that it appears almost "rotten" with a very strong odor. The stock eat it well, however, and probably the silage has a higher feeding value than that made from corn or sorghum alone, but on the whole little advantage is obtained in mixing legume crops with corn or sorghum for silage. The legumes are probably best cured for hay and fed as dry roughage with silage.

Soiling crops are not extensively

used in America. They have been used more in Europe, where lands are higher-priced and man labor less expensive. Soiling crops are useful where land is scarce or high-priced. A succession of annual crops,—that is, crops sowed so as to be ready for cutting and feeding green to the cows in a manner to supply them constantly with green feed for the largest part of the year will enable land to produce more feed than in any other way. When the acreage is small, much more feed is obtained in this way than by pasturing. But the handling of the green feed and giving it to the cows daily is expensive in labor. The abundance of cheap lands, especially in the South, and the high cost of labor in handling soiling crops have limited their use in the South to short periods of dry or short pastures, generally occurring in the fall, or to fall-sowed crops for use during the early spring before the regular pastures have reached their best stage for grazing. The crop most generally used in the South to help out short pastures is sorghum.

While soiling crops have their place on the Southern dairy farm, for the purposes stated, it is very probable that for furnishing succulent feed for dairy cows, either in summer or winter, the silo should be given first place.

"Cut out that scythe and hour glass," demanded Father Time.

"But," protested the artist, "I have pictured you that way for years."

"True. But this is altogether a different year. You want to portray me with a machine gun and a gas mask."

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