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THOUSAND HEADED KALE.

Has Proven Valuable for Feed During Winter Months.

By H. D. Scudder, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis.

This kale is chiefly valuable as a green feed for hogs, cows or poultry through the winter from November or October to April. The better types of plants endure the Willamette valley winter weather without injury, yielding from 30 to 40 tons of succulent and nutritious green feed per acre under favorable conditions. It may also be grown for summer green feed, although less successfully.

A deep, well drained, rich loam soil is best for this crop but the ordinary valley clay loam soil, if well drained, thoroughly tilled and heavily manured, will produce excellent yields. If possible a long, narrow, slightly sloping field, running lengthwise of a piece of sod ground, or a wide sodded fence row, or one of the farm lanes is preferable, as this permits easier hauling during the wet winter weather.

The kale ground should be heavily manured and deeply plowed in the fall if possible and replowed once early in the spring and again before transplanting. If the fall plowing cannot be done, manuring during the winter and spring and deep early spring plowing repeated twice before transplanting, will put the ground in good shape. Following the second plowing the ground should be kept clean of weeds and thoroughly mulched to conserve the moisture, by frequent light harrowing until transplanting time.

For transplanting the seed should be sown in drill rows about three feet apart, as early in March as it is possible to get on the ground. If possible a strip of the best drained ground on the farm should be used for growing the young plants and this should be manured and plowed in the fall so that it need only be replowed and worked down at once for the seed in the spring, thus getting the plants started as early as possible. One pound of seed will furnish enough plants for an acre.

Transplanting should be done about June 1st, if possible, when the plants are six to twelve inches high. Later transplanting is liable to be held back by the dry weather so much as not to be ready for cutting in early fall. With the ground in fine tilth, transplanting of small acreages may be done rapidly by hand with a long bladed spade, care being taken not to injure the roots in taking them up from the drill row, and replacing them in the new ground. They should be placed three feet apart each way, covered a little deeper than in the drill row, the soil firmed around them with the foot and later when wilted down, the whole field should be rolled. Plants should be left every three feet in the original drill rows and all extra plants saved for replacing those that may not survive transplanting.

Transplanting of larger acreages may be done by plowing and placing the plants three feet apart in every third furrow, covering the roots but not the leaves, with the next furrow turned and following the day's work with a roller. Missing plants may be replaced later by hand.

Instead of transplanting the seed may be dropped in hills three feet apart each way, several seed to the hill, as early as the ground can be thoroughly prepared. Later each hill should be thinned, leaving one vigorous plant. As a rule this method does not give as good yields as transplanting.

After transplanting or thinning the field should receive frequent shallow cultivation to conserve the moisture until the plants branch out so far as to prevent further tillage.

In October or November after the green corn has all been fed the kale, although not fully grown, will be ready for feeding. The plants should be cut off at the ground with an axe or shash, and the entire plant tossed onto the wagon or sled and hauled to the feeding place Enough may be cut at one time for one or several days' feeding. Frozen kale should be allowed to thaw before feeding. Where it is thought the older plants may taint the milk they should be fed immediately after milking. Forty pounds of kale per day with 20 pounds of good hay, such as vetch and oats, fed in two portions, makes an ideal ration for milch cows, very little or no mill feed being needed. The kale may be fed as needed clear through the winter until April or later. For summer feeding seed may be fall sown and transplanted early in the spring, being ready, under favorable conditions, for cutting during July, August and September. Unless the ground could be irrigated, however, once or twice, the yields are not so heavy at this season.

Stripping of the lower leaves of the kale as a regular practice is not recommended as it is extremely laborious, especially during wet weather, puddles the soil badly and causes the stripped plants to suffer from frost. However, where green feed runs short in September the larger lower leaves of the kale may be stripped off for feeding at this time and later as wet weather comes on and the plants grow larger it pays to abandon this stripping and cut the entire plant with an axe.

As well bred seed cannot as yet be secured upon the market it is important that the grower should select five or ten of his very best plants and let them go to seed. From 20 to 50 different types of kale plants have been grown from one small packet of commercial seed, the majority, however, are worthless. To get good seed the grower must select a good parent plant; those of good size, weighing from 40 to 50 pounds each, with a medium sized, smooth green leaves, the main stem branching out close to the ground into innumerable stems and leaves in all stages of growth. Only plants which go through the severest frosts without any injury should be selected. These plants selected during the first year should be transplanted early in the spring the second year in some fertile spot where they will not be cross pollinated by other kale plants, wild turnips, rape, mustard and similar closely related plants. The seed will be formed this second year and should be harvested when the plant has dried out and the seeds are brown and threshed out by hand over a canvass. One good plant will furnish sufficient seed for about an acre of kale plants.

A report of your success or failure in growing kale, with a description of your method and conditions, would be greatly appreciated by this station. Kindly address such report to the Department of Agronomy, Oregon Agricultural college, Corvallis, Oregon.

Notes on the A.-Y.-P.

Enough electricity will be used in the decorative features of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition to supply all the needs of a city of 40,000 inhabitants.

Eight hundred thousand eight-candle power incandescent lamps are used in the decorative features of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition, which opens in Seattle on June 1.

The Great Northern railroad estimates that not less than 1,000,000 persons bound for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition in Seattle this summer, will be handled through St. Paul alone.

The government is spending $600,000 that it may give due representation to Alaska, Hawaii and the Philippines at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition which opens in Seattle June 1.

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition will be ready to open on May 1, one month before the day fixed for its formal opening. It is the first expsition to make good upon its original "first day."

Canada is spending $100,000 for a building at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition and for the installation of its famous permanent exhibit, which is now en route from the Franco-Britsih fair in London.

The sockeye salmon run will be on in Puget Sound during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition and a fully equipped cannery will show why it is Washington provides the world with most of the salmon.

The Alaska shaft, which towers eighty feet in the center of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition, will be covered with gold leaf hammered from Alaskan nuggets contributed by enthusiastic "sour doughs."

The United States government will carry on experiments with submarine torpedo boats at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition in Seattle. The work will be done in one of the beautiful lakes upon which the exposition grounds lie.

The California Promoion committee has completed the California state building, a modified Mexican hacienda, which will be one of the most remarked buildings of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition, which opens in Seattle June 1.

Query. Why cannot black powder be substituted for dynamite in blasting work?

Answer. Black powder may be and frequently is used for blasting purposes. The chief disadvantage, however, lies in the fact that it is not nearly as strong as the higher explosives and consequently more of it must be used to do the same amount of work which necessitates the drilling of a larger hole. In some cases a small hole is put down, the bottom of which is enlarged by exploding a small charge of dynamite and the cavity so made loaded with black powder.—F. S. Thomson Washington State College, Pullman.

Q. I have a cow that has an abscess on her side, due to some cause not known to me. I wish to have this animal tested before using the milk. The abscess was opened four weeks ago, but is not healed yet. Will you please tell me what course to pursue to protect my herd against any such disease as tuberculosis?—J. S.

A. From the description you give me I do not think that the cow has tuberculosis. I am rather inclined to think it is a case of local inflammation. It is likely that the cow will be all right as soon as the abscess heals.—Washington State College, Pullman.

Q. Are there any high explosives which do not need thawing before being used?

A. Yes; but so far their use has not been general, due to the common belief that such powders are unreliable and that "missed holes" are likely to result from their use. If you will write me privately I will give you the names of some of these.—F. S. Thomson, Washington State College, Pullman.

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Per Salzer's catalog page 120.

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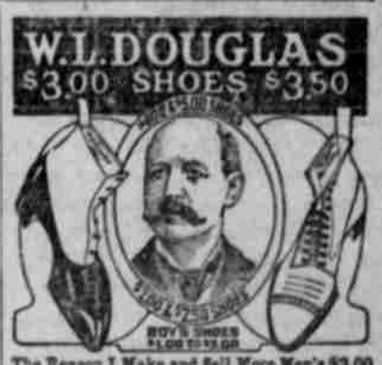

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