

# The Liberal.

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Fodder and Root Crops.

By AGRARIUS

In this article we will deal with the  
plants that may be fed in a green state  
or cured like hay, and will also men-  
tion the roots as well, both from the  
standpoints of yield and feeding value.  
Perhaps this year, more than ever,  
we realize the value of succulent food  
for the live stock, even hay would be a  
boon, and roots and silage seem to give  
the stock an appetite and keep them  
thriving.

The first and most important is the  
Zea-Mays or Indian Corn. This plant is  
a native of America and its cultivation  
in the United States is very exten-  
sive. The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture  
estimates the corn crop at 2,637,165,000  
bushels and the United States produces  
\$. The next country in order of pro-  
duction was Hungary closely followed  
by Roumania and Mexico. Ontario  
comes ninth with 24,000,000 bushels.  
Indian corn is used for pasture, green  
fodder, dry fodder and silage and the  
grain for ordinary purposes and live  
stock.

There are two hundred and twenty-  
six varieties known and for general  
purposes the Mammoth Cuban and the  
Mastedon Dent are well adapted for  
the warmer soils of Southern Ontario.  
Wisconsin Earliest White Dent for  
Southern and Central Ontario and Sal-  
zer's North Dakota, Crompton's Early  
Yellow and King Philip for Central  
and Northern Ontario.

The Flint varieties are the richer in  
protein but the Dent corns yield bet-  
ter so there is very little difference, if  
any, in the corn. Where you gain in  
richness you lose in yield. Of Silage  
corn the best variety is the one that  
yields the most in stocks and ears, and  
will reach the glazed stage, that is just  
past table use, at time of cutting.

A great many have little faith in silos  
because some have torn their's out be-  
cause they were disappointed in results  
And why? Because they did not fully  
understand the proper methods of  
handling it, both in putting it in and  
taking it out. It's ten years since the  
silos were first used and now we are  
just learning the "how" of silage.  
The one cry was that cattle would  
starve on it alone. Practice proved it  
but knowledge stepped in in shape of  
Chemistry and showed us why. Be-  
cause it was not a properly balanced  
ration and to-day it is fed with grand  
results with other feed stuffs. Its  
analysis is 30.3 lbs. protein and 257.1 lbs.  
of carbohydrates and fats in 1 ton of  
ensilage that is digestible matter. Its  
ratio is 1.9:2 very wide. Now the ratio  
given by Prof. Henry in "Feeds and  
Feedings" is 1.14:3. This shows that  
the ensilage differs in digestible ele-  
ments. The reason may be the differ-  
ent soils and the amount of ears in the  
silage but Prof. Henry's feeding stan-  
dards are now generally accepted as a  
reliable grade on this subject.

Oats and peas sowed in proportion of  
1 bushel of oats to two bushels of peas  
and cut and cured as hay when the  
oats are fully headed out is a grand  
winter feed and will give 2½ tons to the  
acre; is also a grand crop to cut and  
feed when pasture is scarce. The ratio  
given is 1.4:2 richer than clover which  
is 1.5:6. A little corn meal feed with  
green oats and peas to balance it and  
keep cattle in good flesh say at the  
rate of 2½ lbs. per day will tide over  
the summer.

Sweet Corn is also valuable as a suc-  
culent fodder. Winter rye is a good  
early fodder and makes a fair hay if  
cut and properly cared for. The writ-  
er cut a patch last year commencing  
about the 24th May and found the  
cattle did well on it and a light meal  
ration. It was fed before the cows  
were put on pasture and thereby sav-  
ing it.

Millet is extensively grown in por-  
tions of Ontario. The millets was  
originally grown in Siberia, India,  
Japan, and China and the seeds are  
used as an article of human food. It  
is estimated that the seed of the millet  
in some form or another is used as a  
portion of food by fully one-third of  
the inhabitants of the globe. It is  
used here as pasture or fodder crop or  
hay. Its great advantage is it can be  
sown late whether other crops have  
failed and the writer knows where one  
farmer cut his meadow, plowed it up  
and sowed millet.

There are thirty-one varieties of mil-  
let and four distinct classes and I will  
mention the best of the fourteen best  
varieties. Three belong to the class,  
Panicum Miliaceum, or Broom-Corn  
millets. Japanese Panicum gave 5.5  
tons of hay to the acre. White French  
3.1 tons and Red French 2.7 tons, the  
poorest yield of the fourteen varieties.  
The best yield and the lowest yield in  
this class.

The next class is the Choctochola  
Italia or Foxtail Millets. The Holy  
Terror Gold Mine comes first with 5.3  
tons. Japanese Common closely after  
with 5 tons, Golden Wonder 4.9 tons  
and Hungarian comes tenth with 3.8  
tons.

The third class is the Panicum crus-  
tatum or Barnyard Millet. The Japa-  
nese Barnyard gives 5.0 tons per acre.

some years it does well but in 1898 it  
was light all over Ontario. The other  
class is Pennisetum typhoidum or  
pearl millet. The East India Pearl  
yielded 4.9 tons per acre.

The co-operative experiments give  
the following results for two years:—  
Japanese Panicum 6.4 tons; Japanese  
Crus-galli 5.9 tons; Hungarian 4.8 tons.  
The Spermula Maxima or Giant  
Spuney has been highly recommend-  
ed as a soil renovator and for feeding  
sheep and cattle. It grows rapidly  
and soon produces seed but the yield  
was light. I would not recommend it  
but rather caution farmers against  
testing it for at Guelph six years ago  
they sowed some and it ripened and  
there are plants coming up and they  
prove a troublesome weed on account  
of its rapid seed production in culti-  
vated land.

Now for the Brassica Napus, or rape  
plant, that resembles the Swedish  
turnip in its leaf and a cabbage in its  
roots. There are several varieties of  
rape, such as the Dwarf, Essex, Vic-  
toria, White Flowering Umbrella and  
German Summer. The Dwarf, Essex  
and Victoria are the most extensively  
advertised, and a five years' test in  
similar conditions shows Dwarf Essex  
23.2 tons, and Victoria 20 tons per  
acre. The German Summer, Bird  
Seed Rape, should never be sown for  
agricultural purposes, as it seeds for  
the same season, and proves a trouble-  
some weed and a poor feeding variety.  
Rape can be sown on a moist rich  
loam about the middle of June in drills  
thirty inches apart and one inch deep,  
at the rate of one pound per acre, and  
cultivate frequently. Another way is  
to sow it broadcast at the rate of from  
two to three pounds per acre on a  
field after the spring crops, or even  
wheat crop, is about two or three  
inches high, and cover with the har-  
rows or broadcast just before rolling.  
It could be sown in wheat and harrowed  
and it would give earlier pasture.  
If sown with spring crops the rape  
may get a start and smother the grain  
out. Its a grand feed for fattening  
cattle, sheep and hogs, but gives a  
rank flavor to the milk, something  
like turnips. But cattle should not be  
turned on rape hungry, as they are  
apt to bloat; a pasture run with rape  
is a wise plan. Rape may be cut and  
dried, or plowed under as a green  
crop, and owing to its broad leaves  
has a wonderful power of smothering  
out weeds. Rape grows best in cool  
weather.

Brassica oleracea has been grown to  
a considerable extent in Great Britain  
as a food for sheep and hogs, and I  
don't doubt but that the cabbage  
could be grown in Ontario for the  
same purpose. The Guelph College is  
testing several varieties, and will like-  
ly continue them for some time.  
Three English varieties were imported  
last year—Sutton's Earliest Drumhead  
gives 14.7 tons, and the Sutton Late  
Drumhead 11.5 tons. This compares  
favorably with rape in yield of green  
fodder. How would it do to try a lb.  
or so in one of the fields sown broad-  
cast same as rape when the grain is  
up. The Drumhead seed costs \$1.50  
per lb., and an ounce will give 2,000  
plants. So try its value for hogs and  
lambs.

The Grass Pea is an annual legume,  
which has been grown to a limited ex-  
tent for several years. The stems of  
the plant is flat, and the whole crop is  
relished by animals when used as a  
green fodder. At Guelph for four  
years it has yielded 8.9 tons of green  
fodder to the acre. This is more than  
double the yield of house beans when  
grown under exactly similar conditions  
and over two tons more green feed  
than the Prussian Blue variety. If  
allowed to ripen it yields about 17  
bushels per acre, and is entirely bug  
proof, and the straw is of grand feed-  
ing value.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Carrville.

A very pleasant event took place at  
the home of Mr. James Baker on  
Thursday evening when a number of  
young friends gathered and a pleasant  
evening was spent. An address was  
given by Rev. Mr. Carscadden, after  
which music and games followed. A  
solo was given by Mr. T. Watson,  
which was much enjoyed by all, and a  
recitation by Miss G. Baker entitled  
"You are going to leave the Home-  
stead, John." A violin solo by Mr. B.  
Carson of Elgin Mills. A reading was  
given by Miss Lawnsborough. A dia-  
logue by Miss M. Cook, Mr. F. Graham,  
Miss V. Pleasance and Mr. W. Bone,  
entitled "The Stolen Bride." Miss L.  
Smith gave a recitation, "When I  
lived with Grandmother." Mr. H.  
Hooper of Concord, and Mr. White of  
Michigan, sang a song, "The Man Be-  
hind the Gun." A chorus was given  
by Miss J. Bone, Miss M. Wood and  
Messrs. Mellish. A whistling song  
was given by the Canadian Warblers  
consisting of ten young men. The  
chair was taken by Mr. Tyndall, sr.  
A grand supper was neatly prepared  
by the young ladies of Carrville.

Maple

Owing to increasing trade, Mr. H.C.  
Bailey is having his store enlarged,  
and is extending it out several feet in  
front.

A number of the young friends of  
Miss Nellie Campbell took a surprise  
party to her home last Friday evening  
and had a very pleasant time. The  
residence of Mr. W. Jackson was the  
scene of a similar event on Wednes-  
day evening.

The monthly meeting of the Wo-  
man's Missionary Society was held at  
the home of Mrs. T. Oliver on Wed-  
nesday evening.

The sale at Hulse's hotel last Friday  
was well attended, and a number of  
horses and cattle were sold at a good  
price.

Mr. D. Watson lost a valuable cow  
Sunday from heart disease.

Miss A. Craddock has gone to Park-  
dale on an extended visit.

Mrs. Leeds Richardson was visiting  
friends in Toronto on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Cousins attended  
the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. J.  
Jackson of Norway, last Thursday  
evening.

Mr. C. Chestnut, north left on Saturday  
for Collingwood, where he intends to take  
a situation.

Miss L. Card of Nashville, is spend-  
ing a few days at Mr. A. Duffy's.

Mr. T. McCormack spent last Satur-  
day at the home of Mr. G. H. Powell,  
County Councillor, Vandorf.

Victoria Square

The usual semi-monthly shoot of the  
Victoria Square Off-Hand Rifle Club  
was held on the afternoon of Satur-  
day, March 16. The day being an  
ideal day for shooting some very good  
scores were made as follows:

J. Hood	83
C. Reid	77
T. Reid	72
G. Forester, jr.	72
R. Frisby	71

## SPRING

Into line on April 1st and spend a  
few months from that date in one of  
the departments of our School and  
thus prepare for a better position in  
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Spring term from April 1st.

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