

feed for dairy stock is well known, but its use might be greatly extended in our northern districts.

Sorghum requires higher temperatures than maize for germination and early growth, and should not be planted anywhere before November. On dry soils, on poor soils, and on soils of a refractory nature it excels maize. The occurrence of dry weather and deficiency in soil-moisture delays the growth of sorghum, but does not permanently check it as in the case of maize. Provided a spell of cold weather does not ensue, a most vigorous growth of sorghum takes place with the arrival of rain after a hot dry spell which would suffice to wither up maize completely. It retains succulence in stem and leaves for some time after attaining maturity or even after light early frosts, and this valuable characteristic is of no little service to the farmer who grows it, in enabling him to continue a supply of succulent feed into the early part of the winter.

Only the sweet or saccharine varieties of sorghums have any general utility in New Zealand, and the varieties of these on the local market are Early Amber Cane, Planter's Friend, and Sorghum Saccharatum. Amber Cane and Saccharatum are the varieties for late summer feed, as they reach full maturity as a rule in about four months from sowing. Both are fairly fine-stemmed, and if seeded fairly thick the surplus over forage requirements can be cured as hay, which provides an excellent, nutritious, and palatable chaff for either cattle or horses. Planter's Friend is a late variety of very slow growth at first. Usually a fortnight elapses before the braird is noticed, and for some weeks thereafter the growth is very small. The subsequent growth, however, is of astonishing rapidity. The plant is very drought-resistant, and also frost-resistant when mature.

The cultivation of sorghum is similar to that for maize. On a well-prepared surface the seed is either drilled in the usual way with a grain-drill, allowing the seed to pass through every fourth or fifth coulter, when from 5 lb. to 6 lb. of seed per acre are required; or, if the rainfall is good, the seed may be broadcasted at the rate of about 20 lb. per acre. Broadcast sorghum when not required for green feed may, as already indicated, be converted into excellent hay. The feeding of horses on sorghum chaff supplemented by an allowance of maize is not uncommon in New South Wales and Queensland, and in those States excellent results have been achieved in the fattening of steers in the same way.

SUDAN GRASS.

Sudan grass, a member of the sorghum family, has recently acquired a good reputation as a summer forage. It was tested by