

It should be noted that the view is put forward that none of the sorghum family are safe feeds for stock until they have run into seed-head, owing to their liability to develop prussic-acid poisoning. That this has sometimes happened is not to be doubted. The writer has, however, fed all kinds of stock repeatedly and indiscriminately on various sorghums without bad result, and is aware that this is generally done. The Ontario Agricultural College, in Canada, uses sorghum with oats and red clover as its standard summer pasture. Except when the crop has been unusually stunted in its growth from any cause, such as drought or cold, the danger of poisoning would appear to be infinitesimal.

#### MILLET.

Among the same class of forage crops the millets occupy an important position as quick growers under warm, moist conditions. They are favourite catch-crops in districts with good summer rainfall in Australia. Japanese millet is grown to a greater or less extent throughout the North Island. Except for its rapidity of growth and suitability for ensilage this variety has no particular recommendation. The stalks are somewhat hard and coarse, and as mature fodder it is less palatable than any of the crops previously mentioned, while the same characteristics render it not very suitable for hay, although, as mentioned, it makes a good ensilage crop. It, however, stands grazing fairly well, and any one distrusting the sorghums on account of possible poisoning might try Japanese millet.

The common foxtail or Hungarian millet is much finer in the stem, and if cut just immediately after the seed-stem emerges it provides a hay crop which is not to be despised. It is necessary to cut with the mower and cure in the swathe, as the crop is too bulky and succulent to cure in sheaf when harvested by a self-binder. The best of all the millets, however, either for pasturing, green fodder, or hay, is the White panicum, characterized by white inflorescence and seed, which distinguish it from other varieties. White panicum is a great stooler, and is a first-class pasturing crop.

All the millets are seeded at about 12 lb. per acre if drilled, and 20 lb. if broadcast. They flourish under warm, moist conditions only, and are adversely affected by cold nights. They function chiefly as grazing, green feed, and hay crops in place of oats and other temperate cereals, which if sown under such conditions in summer would inevitably succumb to rust.