

improve the mechanical state of the final product it is advisable to intimately mix it with about one-third its weight of sawdust or peat. Such a mixture when sold as a garden manure should command a good price, and give good results where used with discrimination by vegetable-growers. For field crops and fruit it should be used with extreme moderation, as, owing to the high availability of the nitrogen, it may unduly stimulate growth and produce a rank, weak plant which will be subject to attacks of disease organisms.

HEDGES FOR COASTAL SITUATION.

“BERESFORD,” Makarau:—

Will you advise as to the most suitable quick-growing hedge for shelter on good flat country facing the sea?

The Horticulture Division:—

Taupata (*Coprosma Baueriana*) thrives near the sea better than any other hedge-plant. Plant a double row, the plants 2 ft. apart in each row, and the rows about 10 in. apart; the plants in each row to be opposite the intervals in the opposite row. *Elaeagnus japonica* and boxthorn also do remarkably well in coastal situations, but both are difficult to trim. The thorns of boxthorn are poisonous, and care is required in trimming to prevent injuring the hands.

SUSPECTED MAMMITS IN COWS.

“NEW CHUM,” Kaipara:—

I should be pleased to know the cause and remedy for my cows coming into milk with a very hard swelling, mostly in one quarter only. In most cases it lasts only one day, and then quite a lot of thick curdled milk can be taken away

The Live-stock Division:—

From the description given your cows are apparently suffering from mammitis. It would be as well for you to send samples of milk from the affected quarters for examination at the Wallaceville Laboratory. Directions regarding the sending of samples have been sent you, together with a bulletin dealing with this complaint.

GRASSING GUM-LAND.

W. BROTHERTON, Puwera:—

I have several acres of hilly gum-land in fallow, it having been ploughed since last June. I wish to sow it down in paspalum and *Lotus angustissimus*. Please let me know how many pounds of each to the acre to sow, also what quantities of ground limestone and best manure to use.

The Fields Division:—

Paspalum is slow to establish, and when sown pure takes several years before it begins to give large summer yields. For this reason special paspalum paddocks should not be laid down with paspalum alone, but the seed should be sown with an ordinary type of temporary-pasture mixtures. Such a procedure will result in the production of a profitable type of pasture until such time as the paspalum has become thoroughly established. The following standard mixture is suggested: Italian rye-grass, 20 lb.; cow-grass, 6 lb.; cocksfoot, 6 lb.; paspalum, 16 lb., depending on the variety of the seed, together with 2 lb. *Lotus angustissimus*. The cocksfoot is included to help fill the ground after the rye-grass has disappeared and before the paspalum has formed a continuous sole. A mixture containing paspalum being difficult to sow by machine, broadcasting is necessary. The land should be well cultivated, and the paspalum then sown separately; after it has been tined and brush-harrowed the other seeds can be sown. Use 1 ton of ground limestone and from 3 cwt. to 5 cwt. of manure per acre, the manure to consist of basic super and guano in equal quantities, or 3 cwt. of super and 1 cwt. bone-meal. The lime had better be disked in prior to the sowing of the paspalum. March is a good time for sowing.