

## EFFECT OF MUSTARD AND SALT ON PIGS.

K. S. COX, Putaruru :—

Could you tell me if mustard will kill a pig; and, if so, what antidote would prove successful if used in time? Does salt also affect pigs fatally?

The Live-stock Division :—

Mustard cannot be regarded as a poison in the true sense of the word. In small doses it acts as a stimulant, aiding digestion; in large doses it acts as an emetic, and as such is often used with small animals. Pigs are very susceptible to salt, and many cases of a fatal nature occur from the animals being fed on salted food, &c.

## WINTER FORAGE CROPS FOR BREEDING-SOWS.

“SUBSCRIBER,” Drury :—

I should like some information on fodder crops suitable for breeding-sows through the winter. The land here has become unsuitable for turnip crops and lucerne. Top soil is not deep, with heavy clay subsoil.

The Agriculturist :—

Crops suitable for feeding breeding-sows through the winter and for growing on the class of soil described include the following: Partridge field-peas, seeding 3 bushels per acre; black winter vetches, 2 bushels per acre; Buda kale, 3 lb. to 4 lb. per acre. The peas and vetches could be sown broadcast, while the kale is best sown in drills 28 in. apart.

## PROPAGATING RUBBER-PLANT.

“RUBBER,” Upper Hutt :—

I have a fine specimen of variegated rubber-plant, about 3 ft. high. Will you kindly inform me how to obtain a second plant from it. It is a single-stem plant.

The Horticulture Division :—

The top of a *Ficus elastica* plant may be induced to root by cutting a tongue on one side of the stem below the leaves. In cutting the tongue commence about 3 in. below the lowest leaf, let the knife enter with a slope, carry the knife upward for about 1 in., finishing about one-third through the stem. The tongued portion of the stem is then covered with a good pad of fresh sphagnum moss, bound securely. The moss must be kept constantly moist. An improved method is to cut a 3½ in. flower-pot of soft clay into equal halves. Enclose the pad of moss in the pot, which will fit around it; the hole in the bottom of the pot may need enlargement. Bind the two halves of the pot together with fine wire, and support it, if necessary, with a stick thrust into the soil in the pot. When the moss is filled with roots the stem of the plant should be severed below the pot. The new plant may then be potted up.

## FORTHCOMING AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

Otago A. and P. Association: Winter Show, at Dunedin, 3rd to 6th June.

Waikato Winter Show Association: At Hamilton, 3rd to 7th June.

Taranaki Agricultural Society: Winter Show, at New Plymouth, 11th to 14th June.

Manawatu and West Coast A. and P. Association: National Dairy Show, at Palmerston North, 17th to 20th June.

Rangitikei A. and P. Association: Winter Show, at Taihape, 25th and 26th June.

(A. & P. Association secretaries are invited to supply dates and location of their shows.)