

The Agriculturist :—

As to whether or not periodical stripping of rye-grass pastures is detrimental, this will depend upon the character of the soil and upon the rainfall. If the soil is strong, or moderately so, and the rainfall satisfactory—particularly between the time of stripping and the appearance of the first frosts—the grass is enabled to recover readily after stripping, and as a rule no harmful effects ensue. Nevertheless it is best to refrain from stripping year after year, unless, of course, the soil is exceptionally productive. It is better to alternate the stripping and pasturing processes from year to year, thereby maintaining the vitality of the pasture grasses. A portion of the seed, of course, falls to the ground annually and some takes a hold.

STORAGE OF SEEDS.

FIELD AND Co., Devonport, Tasmania :—

Can you give us information regarding the best method of storage of seeds? The particular question is as to whether air should be excluded or not; for instance: (1) Seeds stored in glass bottles, say, fruit-jars with screwed-down tops; (2) stored in linen or other open-mesh bags; (3) stored in brown-paper bags. The question has arisen as to whether some varieties of seeds, especially of the brassica type, would develop deleterious gases, which would in a comparatively short time kill the germ.

The Biologist :—

The main point to observe in the storage of seeds is that they are stored in as dry an atmosphere as possible. For this reason packing in airtight tin-lined boxes has become popular. Seeds packed in this manner may be kept anywhere for the normal period that the seeds preserve their vitality. The only gas produced by properly dry seeds is carbonic-acid gas, but not in sufficient amount to injure the seed. If seeds are stored in a moist atmosphere they lose their germination very rapidly. One of the dangers of packing seeds in airtight receptacles is that the seeds may not be properly dry and, by giving off water, produce an atmosphere that is sufficiently moist to favour rapid loss of germination.

SHELTER-TREE FOR WET LAKESIDE.

W. DEAN, Waipukurau :—

I will be obliged if you can recommend a suitable tree to act as a breakwind on a lakeside where the ground is wet in winter and is occasionally flooded to a depth of 1 ft. Willows and poplars are too bare in winter for the purpose. I would risk the chance of ground not flooding till trees are established.

The Horticulture Division :—

In such a position as you describe—namely, ground that is flooded in winter—the best tree is the alder (*Alnus glutinosus*). This tree is deciduous, but thrives in wet ground, and would afford a fair amount of shelter even when bare of foliage. The trees might be planted 3 ft. or 4 ft. apart, and would soon close up. A belt or grove of alders when doing well is a remarkably pretty sight, especially when loaded with catkins.

GROWING TURNIP-SEED.

“INQUIRER,” Rototuna :—

Would you please inform me the correct time to sow swede turnips with the idea of saving some seed?

The Agriculturist :—

The best method of growing swede turnips for the purpose of saving seed is to raise them in the ordinary way and season for turnips. In the autumn or early winter outstanding roots are selected, topped somewhat, and stored in a