

turf round the plants with a spade and turn it over. Another is to clear away the grass with a reap hook, slasher, or scythe, but the best I have seen is to scythe the whole area and collect the surplus grass for hay.

In the second year, some farmers have fed off the area with calves, instead of clearing away the grass. This practice will not kill the plants, but is not recommended, as the check given to the young plants makes the difference of at least a year longer before the area is ready to carry full-grown cattle. It has been found that plants established for four years and

fed off in the second year are not as robust and do not throw as much feed as three-year-old plants which have not been fed until the third year.

Another practice which has given good results is to split up old plants into smaller sections, with three or four crowns each and with a fair portion of roots, and to plant these sections straight out into the prepared holes. With this method of planting it is found that the outer sections give much better results than sections from the centre of the old plants.

Carrying Capacity

An example of the winter carrying capacity of areas established by the nursery method is provided by the performance of the following three stands:—One acre of five-year-old plants last winter fed 30 bullocks for six weeks. These bullocks were allowed one hour per day in the plantation, and were in good condition at the end of the period. This stand is in very high country, some of which is dry hard papa and sandstone country, while the lower portions are fairly wet due to seepages.

On another small area fourteen seven-year-old plants, with no other feed at all, fed six four-year-old steers for eight days.

On the same farm, using three- and four-year-old plants, this farmer wintered 21 calves on one acre of pampas



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and some hay from July 17 until the beginning of September. It is interesting to note that half of this stand is the area which was fed off as two-year-old plants, and that to-day, as four-year-old plants, they are no further ahead than unfed three-year-plants on the same area.

Another interesting farm is one on which there are two larger areas of plants which have been fed off with sheep. One of the blocks is 15 acres and the other 14 acres, and the plants are mostly two-year-old plants, along with five acres of four-year-old plants. During last winter these two blocks were fed off with an average of about 300 sheep for five weeks. At this time the bigger plants were only half eaten, but the sheep had to be removed to save the smaller plants from excessive grazing. The farmer estimates that this area would carry at least 600 sheep for 10 weeks if the plants were all five years' old.

Although these figures are not conclusive, they at least show that pampas grass produces a large bulk of good winter fodder, and, as these plantations grow older and plants grow bigger, the carrying capacity of these areas should greatly increase.