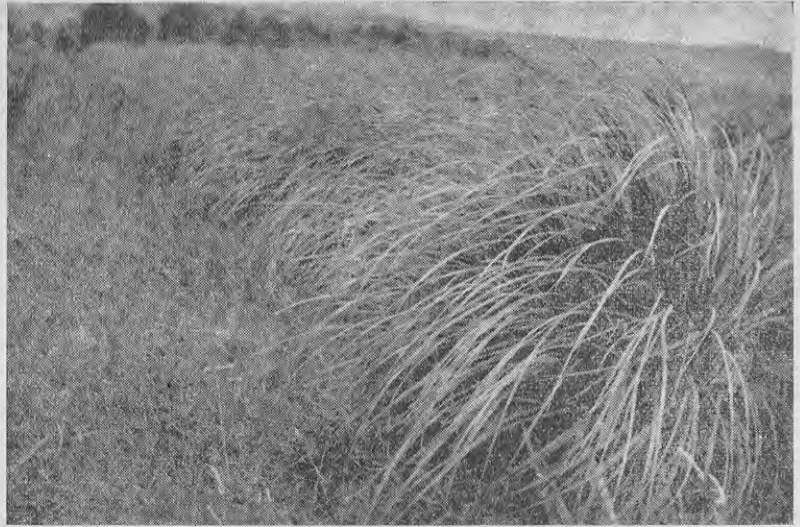


In successful plantations, one of which is shown in Fig. 3, the cleaning and keeping down of the rough growth between the plants until they are well established proves worthwhile. Further, grazing is harmful until the pampas plants have attained size and root development. When a mixed-age plantation is grazed the replants used to fill the gaps never make the recovery or attain the size of those plants successfully established at the time of the first planting.

Depending upon the soil fertility and whether seedlings or cuttings were used, it may be three or even four years after planting before it is safe to graze the newly-established pampas plantation. The less fertile the soil, the slower will be the establishment and the longer the period before the initial grazing. Just as poor soil will not grow good pasture unless top-dressed, so a poor soil untreated will not grow good pampas grass.



A successful pampas grass plantation. Rough growth was removed during the period of establishment. The area is summer-grazed by sheep, and the seed heads are removed each year.

Palatability of Pampas Grass

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At first approach, one wonders why cattle will eat such a plant as pampas grass, with its coarse, jagged-edged leaves. Having had some experience with the feeding of cattle on this plant, and after noting how it is relished by them, one is surprised to find on certain farms that the plant is entirely neglected by cattle.

Two such farms have come to my notice—one at Clevedon and one at New Lynn. On both of these farms pampas grass has been planted for fodder for dairy cattle.

Fig. 1 shows pampas grass on the New Lynn farm which has been cut



Fig. 1.—Pampas grass which was cut back.

back some time previously. The young, fresh growth on the plants is more succulent and more palatable than the old growth, but the cows were not tempted and refused to eat it.

Strain appears to have little or nothing to do with the matter. The plantation, a portion of which is shown in Fig. 1, has been derived from several sources (at least three). At

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