

farmer is really to succeed he must pay particular attention to this branch of his farming. New Zealand has grasses and clovers of unrivalled persistency and high production, but these seeds are only to be found in sacks bearing a certification tag and seal. These are the seeds—and these only—which will give high producing and persistent pastures. At the same time, the sowing of first-class seeds will not be a guarantee to success unless equal attention is paid to cultivation and their establishment. It is like making a chain, every link must be sound and able to take its full share of the weight. Point No. 1, then, in developing a farm for irrigation is a good pasture.



(2) Consistent Programme Of Irrigation

After the pasture is sown the next step in management on the dry plains land is to ensure that the pasture is not allowed to suffer reverses through lack of moisture. Without irrigation this is entirely beyond our control, but with irrigation the water can be applied at will. At all times the pastures must be fed with sufficient soil moisture; they must never be allowed to wilt, brown off, and burn up.

A good, dense-bottomed pasture can be established and maintained only if the right species of grasses and clovers are sown and a constant programme of irrigation is carried out.

Heaviest growth is produced by grasses and clovers on light silt loams when the soil moisture is 20 per cent. or greater. Soil moisture surveys carried out in Canterbury during the last six or seven years have shown the moisture content to drop as low as 4 per cent., often for long periods, which must never happen on the pasture

lands when irrigation is available. This means, therefore, that the farmer must adopt a programme of irrigation that is consistent, or, shall we say, persistent.

It is a faulty practice to irrigate a paddock and then leave it until the plants are burnt up and nearly dead before applying further irrigation. This

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