

during the autumn and spring grazing. When a seed crop is to be taken the paddock is shut up at the beginning to the middle of October. As the crop does not shake, direct heading is the usual method of harvesting. The paddock is usually sown to grass immediately after harvest.

Ryecorn may also be sown after a grain crop in March, the seeding rate being the same as that mentioned in the preceding paragraph. A crop sown in March will give less autumn feed, but spring growth is good.

Another practice is to sow ryecorn (at the rate of 1 to 2 bushels per acre) with grass and clover in December-January. A seed crop may be taken after the paddock has been grazed, but it is more frequently grazed right on. Pasture establishment under ryecorn is only successful if the seeding of the ryecorn is reduced to 1 to 2 bushels per acre.

In some districts ryecorn is used as a lamb-fattening feed (one of its attributes is that lambs feeding on it do not scour) when it is sown early in January. After lambs have been fattened the paddock is used for winter and spring grazing.

Grazing Procedure

Ryecorn should be grazed in breaks, because grazing can then be controlled much better. Though growth rate will vary in different districts and from season to season, ryecorn is usually ready for grazing from 4 to 6 weeks after sowing. Grazing must begin early—as soon as the crop has obtained sufficient length—and must be fairly hard.

Maize

Unlike other cereals, maize is grown very little in the South Island, and the most extensive areas are in the warm, frost-free parts of the Auckland and North Auckland Land Districts. Because greenfeed maize does not require as long a growing season free from frosts as maize harvested for grain, maize may be sown for greenfeed in some districts where it would not be possible to harvest a grain crop from it. It is infinitely better to grow maize specially for greenfeed than, as is not infrequently the case when feed becomes short, to make inroads into a maize crop planted for seed.

Cultivation

The ground for a greenfeed maize crop should receive a thorough preparation, beginning early so that the soil can be worked down and mellowed to a fine, firm seed-bed. Except on the lightest soils (the pumiceous soils, for example), where too early cultivation before sowing has been shown to be detrimental to the subsequent crop, cultivation should be started several months before time of sowing. Early ploughing allows winter rains and frost to assist in breaking down the turf and large soil particles.

Sowing

Maize for greenfeed is sown at the rate of 2 bushels per acre and is either drilled in 7in. rows or broadcast and disced in. Best results have been obtained by using a mixture of equal parts by weight of blood and bone and superphosphate or serpentine superphosphate at the rate of 3 to 4cwt.

per acre, the heavier application being used on the lighter land and for all second and third crops. Seed can be sown at any time from mid-October to mid-November.

Varieties

All varieties of maize may be sown for greenfeed, but Hickory King has a good reputation and Marigold is also widely used because of its leafiness. Early Butler, a quick-maturing, sturdy plant, should be used where sowing has had to be done later than is desirable. Pfister hybrid No. 360 is not recommended for use as greenfeed, but it can be sown if other varieties are unobtainable.

Utilisation

Greenfeed maize can be carted out or fed off in breaks. It is used irrespective of the stage of growth, though the "glazed-grain stage" is the most economical time to feed it. Maize is not a good fodder for milk production, but it will keep stock in excellent condition so that milk production can be held.

Millet

Broom corn millet (commonly sold for bird seed) is toxic to stock and must not be used for greenfeed.

Japanese millet can be used for grazing in summer and autumn in the same way as greenfeed maize. It may be broadcast or drilled in 7in. rows at the



Dairy cows on a break of greenfeed maize.