

ON THE LAND

GENERAL.

To destroy dandelions cut the tops off in the spring and place a pinch of salt or a little gas-tar on the fresh wound. The root of the dandelion, when boiled, makes an excellent tonic, especially useful in liver complaints. Further, the young shoots of the dandelion are delicious in salads. The flower itself makes excellent wine, picked in full bloom in dry weather. The juice from the stem is very good for warts on the hands.

Now that afforestation is occupying a good deal of attention in New Zealand, the following information, given in the *Journal of Agriculture* will prove useful:—"Seeds of pine-trees may be sown in spring in clean, well-prepared friable soil in the open. Sow in drills about 1in deep. It may be necessary to cover the beds with canvas-covered frames to protect the seedlings from frost or fierce gales, but this is a matter depending on local conditions. In the autumn, about March, when the young trees have grown sufficiently, the tap-roots should be cut by thrusting a sharp spade under the rows of seedlings from each side. The seedlings will be ready for lifting about a month later, when they may be planted out permanently or into nursery rows. The seeds do not require any treatment."

Prairie-grass pastures have been sown in New Zealand for many years past, and the great wealth of winter herbage they produce makes them particularly valuable. The chief objection to prairie-grass is the fact that it will not endure continuous stocking, and under such treatment soon becomes eaten out and disappears. Prairie-grass is best sown in February, using about 3 bushels of seed per acre. As the seed cannot be satisfactorily drilled the best method is to broadcast and disk in the seed, harrow and roll, and then sow 20lb Italian ryegrass and 5lb cow-grass per acre, lightly harrowed in and rolled if necessary. In this way the paddock acts as a temporary pasture until such time as the prairie-grass is well established. Such paddocks should be stocked with cattle, and at no time should be continuously grazed with sheep. Prairie-grass succeeds on a variety of soils, but prefers a well-drained sandy loam.

Sudan grass has only been grown in New Zealand during the past four seasons (says the *Journal of Agriculture* in reply to a correspondent). It is an annual, and can be used either as a summer forage-crop or as a seasonal pasture for grazing during the summer and autumn. Sudan grass should be sown in October and November (after all danger of spring frosts is over) in 7in drills, using from 15lb to 20lb of seed, depending on the quality. It gives a good yield of palatable green fodder, or may be made into hay, or grazed three or four times during the summer. The ground should be ploughed in the latter part of April, and would then be available either for winter cereal fodders or for oats—either for chaff or grain. Sudan grass grows well on most soils, but where the fertility is low it requires considerable amounts of phosphatic manures.

The longest continuous fence in the world is that which stretches from the South Coast of Western Australia, at Starvation Board Harbor, to the North Coast at Banningarra, a distance of over 1200 miles. This wonderful fence, of woven wire netting, is designed to

stop the inroads of rabbits from the eastern desert and semi-desert regions into the more westerly agricultural districts, which are as yet comparatively free from the pest. The fence, which not only forms an impassable barrier to the rabbits, but which is also sheep and pig proof, runs for hundreds of miles through waterless regions seldom visited by man in the ordinary way, though inspectors, appointed and paid by the Government, patrol its entire length at intervals, in order to see that everything is all right, and to carry out repairs where necessary. In addition to this main barrier fence, there are also similar fences inside the agricultural areas it protects, which connect up with the main fence, and with one another, the whole forming a protective network designed to keep the rabbit pest well within control, the total length of the entire system being over 2000 miles. Occupiers of land within the fenced districts are compelled by law to destroy all rabbits on their holdings.

A FERTILISER.

When the garden waste is burnt, only the potash and the phosphate are preserved. The ammonia (or nitrogen) is lost. Nitrogen is the leaf-making food. Moreover, if the refuse is burned, the soil is not furnished with the invigorating "humus" (old-decayed vegetable or animal matter). Phosphate induces the earlier productions of blossoms and fruit—the tree comes into full bearing at an earlier age. Phosphate also assists the edible development of the root crops. Gardeners who want to have the best results with root vegetables and with fruits and the fruiting vegetables (peas, tomatoes, etc.) must have potash, although they may manufacture their own. The ash of the garden bonfire is a rich potash fertiliser. Potash has the effect of improving the size and the quality (flavor and texture) of roots and fruits. Heavy ground holds considerable potash, which is gradually liberated by the action of air, and more quickly with the help of lime also; but potash is a necessity in light ground for root and fruit crops. The first essential to a successful bonfire is a dry day. Some dried material will be wanted to keep the pile alight. A quantity of new grass or other damp stuff should be kept handy for stifling fierce flames, since the "wood ash," as it is called, contains the highest percentage of potash in a "smother fire."

THE MOST OBSTINATE

Corn must quickly yield to BAXTER'S RUBY CORN CURE. Once this remedy is applied there is no escape for the corn—it must give in. Price, 1/-, post free, from Baxter's Pharmacy, Theatre Buildings, Timaru.

WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD READ

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