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Kentucky bluegrass is the most important and cultivated pasture grass in the United States. This is due not only to the fact that it is palatable and nutritious, but also because it produces a greater yield of plant growth and is more resistant to diseases and injury than any other grasses now widely used in this large region. In general, it is the cultivated pasture grass of the area north of the Tennessee and east of the one hundredth meridian. It is also important in parts of the eastern United States, in regions of the British Dominions of Canada and South Africa, and in parts of Europe.

Description.—Kentucky bluegrass is generally known as 'bluegrass,' and also sometimes as 'Kentucky bluegrass.' It is a perennials, it is a hardy pasture grass, and demands an abundant amount of running rootstocks, by which it propagates readily. It also produces relatively a large amount of long, fine, smooth, cylinder, stems, upon which the seed is borne in an open panicle, or heads, that can be mowed and cut for seed in great amounts in early spring. It forms a thick sod, and while the length of life of an individual plant is not very great, a well-maintained piece of ground is covered with bluegrass.

Bluegrass or a pasture grease.—Bluegrass has been so well distributed throughout the United States that it is now found growing abundantly in the regions about Des Moines, Iowa, and has been known for many years. The common bluegrass is adapted so that it is not seeded to the extent of other cultivated grasses, or, in fact, to the extent that it should be, except where it is used for commercial purposes. It is generally common in the fall, either alone or with timothy and red clover. If grown alone, three or four bushels of seed are generally used; with timothy and clover, one-half to one bushel. In sections where this grass grows readily it is commonly considered more profitable to sow hay and clover than with timothy and clover. This practice applies only in those cases where a pasture of bluegrass is desired. The small amount of seed required can also be sown in the spring, and in the North and West seeding at this time gives best results in many cases.

It is the plant which is most popular in mixture with other grasses as cordgrass, tall fescue, orchard, meadow fescue, fescue, and others. From 4 to 10 pounds of good seed per acre are recommended where it is used in mixtures, and from 1 to 2 bushels of good seed are required per acre where it is used alone. Bluegrass is an excellent pasture grass for all kinds of stock, and is especially adapted to the work of sowing for seed, and for growing good pasture until late in the fall, even after heavy frosts have occurred. During the hot months of the year, it loses much of its value, and is greatly reduced in the amount of grazing, and for this reason, if for no others, mixture with other grasses is advisable.

Uses.—Bluegrass is almost a perfect lawn grass where conditions are favorable. It is probably the most popular lawn grass cultivated, and is grown for its beautiful blue shade, but by the proper use of fertilizers, in which case most will need to be determined by the local conditions of the soil, climate, rainfall, and other environmental factors. The best grades of bluegrass seed may be over a large extent, especially where it is not too dense. A dressing of manure or compost should be given in early spring, and some other fertilizer, a good growth of bluegrass is to be noted before April or May, and the grass is cut off early in the spring is very beneficial. Nitrates of soda, applied preferably in solution, should be used, and at the same time when the grass starts growing in the spring, it is also beneficial. Beaufoy's seed is a high class for the lawn, and lime, when properly applied, are recommended.

Seed.—The best seed for the United States, as far as Kentucky bluegrass is concerned, it is produced in a limited section comprising only about three or four counties in northern Kentucky. It is extensively grown in Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Ohio, and the important counties are Bourbon, Otre, and Montgomery. Kentucky bluegrass is usually sown very lightly, from one to two pounds of bluegrass seed. There are also considerable quantities of seed harvested in Missouri and Iowa, but by far the best is grown in Kentucky, and from these there are other sections where bluegrass seed could be produced successively, but not as a large amount as a commercial product. It is often sown as a component of the pasture grass, especially since the cost of installing tilling and cleaning plants is comparatively high.

In Kentucky the seed is stripped by a machine, in which general appearance is not unlike that used in the wheat harvest, but there are no reapers to cut the heads, the heads, together with a portion of the calyx, are pulled from the grass. The heads are then carried to the shed, where they are open about an inch for a short distance in front, coming close together for the remainder of the length of the head. Two men are required for each stripper, one to drive the horse, the other to cut back the stripped seed from the comb. After stripping, the seed is piled in long rows, and when ready for use, or in the open, and allowed to cure. It usually takes from one to two weeks to cure thoroughly, and constant stirring is necessary to prevent heating. In Missouri a two-wheeled binder, with other States strippers with rotary cylinders are used almost exclusively. On account of the variations in the size of the heads, the finishing of the heads at its base, threshing and cleaning is rather a difficult operation. It requires a specially constructed plant to do this work, and one of these plants is in operation at a cost which is 50 per cent higher than a feeding plant. It is not yet relatively low to ensure that the seed is in a marketable condition. The yield of bluegrass seed per acre is exceedingly variable, and the average can be hard to estimate. It ranges from 5 to 20 bushels per acre, and on account of the unevenness of the field, and what are called "crown seeds," a close average can hardly be obtained. It is, however, a reasonably pure crop and yields a sufficient quantity to leave a surplus to meet the demand, but there is a tendency to plow the land.

It is a deplorable fact that commercial bluegrass seed is very low in vitality and contains a high percentage of inert matter, making it very unpalatable and causing much trouble. It is advisable to test the vitality of the seed, and it is advisable to test the vitality of the seed, and to test the vitality of the seed. In general, it is the manner in which the seed is cured. Insufficiently cured seed is hard to handle, and may be a cause of many failures. For this reason, the vitality of the seed is of the utmost importance. The use of better machines for stripping is highly needed, they are so costly, and the amount of inert matter is very high. The amount of inert matter can undoubtedly be reduced to 10 or 12 per cent with greater care in the stripping. In the case of Kentucky bluegrass, while good seed, each such as should be placed on the market, should weigh from 21 to 22 pounds to the bushel. The best seed is the most uniform, regular in purity and viability, and would greatly diminish the demand for this grass.

Kentucky bluegrass is a most valuable commercial grass and is extensively cultivated and is used in almost all the states of the United States. It is a deplorable fact that commercial bluegrass seed, because it is grown on large scales, may not be sufficiently adapted to the soil on which it is grown. Under conditions where Kentucky bluegrass can be grown successfully, Canada bluegrass is decidedly inferior. Canada bluegrass has not the good qualities that Bluegrass has, and is transplanted and detrimental to both the trade and the purchaser.