



GOOD FODDER CROP.

Hairy or Sand Vetch Is Said to Be a Hardy Plant and Adapted to Our Climate.

The scientific name of this plant is *Vicia villosa*. A government report says of it: This annual leguminous plant is a native of Asia. It has been cultivated for about 10 years in some parts of Europe, especially southern Russia, Germany and France, and was introduced into this country for the first time about 1847 under the name of Siberian vetch. Excellent reports as to its drought-resisting qualities and its adaptability to our climate have been received from Washington, Nebraska, Georgia, New Mexico, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Penn-



HAIRY OR SANDY VETCH.

sylvania. It has been grown on the experimental grounds of the department of agriculture at Washington, D. C., and has proved to be thoroughly adapted to and valuable for this locality. The seeds germinate poorly when they are more than two years old. Most of the seed used in this country is imported from Europe, so that particular care should be taken by importers and dealers to handle none but such as can be sold under guaranty as good, fresh seed.

Cultivation.—Hairy vetch may be sown in autumn, from about the middle of August to the middle of September, or in spring from the latter part of April to the middle of May. It should be sown broadcast or with a grain drill at the rate of one to one and one-half bushels of seed per acre. The drill method of sowing will require a less amount of seed. When the seeds are put in broadcast, a bushel of rye, oats or wheat should be sown at the same time so as to furnish a support to keep the vines up off the ground. If it is sown in drills in the latter part of August, the crop should be cultivated several times. It will furnish some forage in autumn, and where the winter is not too severe will start to grow again in the spring, thus producing forage in late autumn and early spring, at the two periods when it is most needed.

DANGER IN MILLET.

When Fed Indiscriminately to Horses It Produces a Disease That is Hard to Handle.

In many sections where millet is largely grown for fodder and hay horses are troubled with a so-called disease that is characterized by a derangement of the urinary organs and symptoms resembling rheumatism. The action of the kidneys is increased, often being accompanied by a suppression of the urine. The joints, particularly of the hind legs, are swollen and infused with blood, the texture of the bone is destroyed, becoming soft and less tenacious, in consequence of which the muscles and the ligaments are easily torn loose. In all cases lameness, and in many instances fever, also occur, and a considerable number result fatally.

That the trouble is caused by millet has been proved beyond question by many experiments, such as changing the animal's diet from millet to hay and then back to millet after a few weeks. In every case, unless too far advanced, the symptoms disappeared when ordinary hay was fed, and returned when the change was made back to millet. The specific property that causes the trouble has not yet been discovered. But experiments show that the affliction is not due, as in the case of crimson clover hairballs, to the age of the crop when cut, since the symptoms appear as often when the plants are harvested mature as when immature. The only recommendation that can be made is to feed millet sparingly, either in alternation with other hay or mixed with them.—M. G. Kains, in Farm and Fireside.

SHEEP ON THE FARM.

The latest reports indicate no increase in the country's supply of sheep. No fear of overdoing the industry right away.

It don't want to be forgotten that sheep are great grubbers of brush land; but if sheep are not there to do it man must be.

Shortage of grass and hay on the farms this summer and fall is giving sheep owners many misgivings about the late winter.

The sheep industry will be popular in proportion to its profitability, and the skill and intelligence devoted to the industry.—Rural World.

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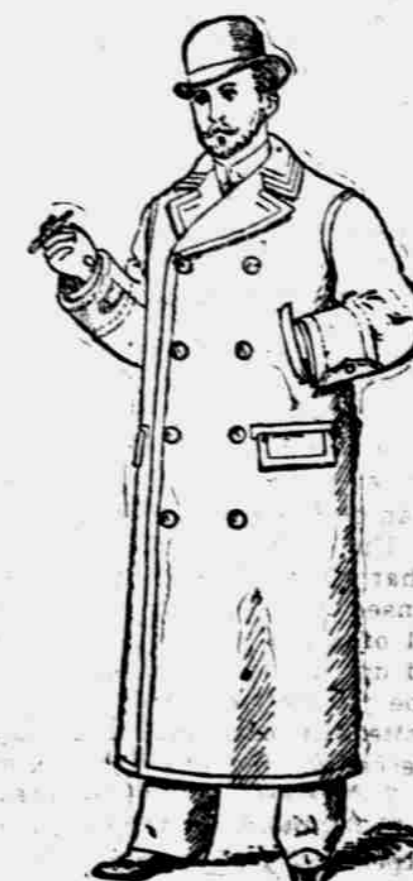
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