

# Forage and Grass Plants

## Florida Can Lead the World in the Production of Hay

While all know that Florida, of all states in the Union, has shown the most remarkable growth of fruits, vegetables and tobacco culture, it is not so well known that she is far ahead of other states in her great wealth of forage and grass plants.

Time was when it was not thought possible to grow grass in the state. That seems a great while ago. Certain it is that Florida is the richest grass and forage state in the Union. So many of these grasses and forage plants are, too, perennials—once planted, always planted, and so many are legumes and soil enriching.

Here is a partial list: The velvet bean (legume) has its best habitat in Florida; Speckle Velvets, Whites, Lyons, Early Yokohama and New Chinese. And since the Yokohama ripen in September and mature as far north as North Carolina, Florida should build up a good industry in growing these beans for the latitudes farther north where other velvet beans will not do well. The Speckle Velvet, as is well known, produces more vine and stores more nitrogen in the soil than any other known plant. For winter grazing and for humus making and land upbuilding it has no equal. The White Chinese, a month earlier, and more prolific in beans and equally prolific in vines, may supplant in time the Speckle.

Equally important and valuable in Florida is beggar weed, a legume. Coming up in June in all cultivated fields, re-seeding itself each year and practically a perennial, good for hay, or pasture, or green manuring, growing eight feet high and making more than 40,000 pounds of green stuff per acre, and rich in feeding nutrients, Florida could not and does not want any better crop than beggar weed.

In cow peas the wilt-resistant varieties, the Iron and the early two crop Brabhams do well and serve best. In Florida the peanut (legume) which is as much of a forage as a nut plant, is just as much at home as in North Carolina or Virginia. Johnson grass does well in Florida. So does the legume, kudzu.

A wonderful product whose best habitat is Florida, too, is Japanese sugar cane, a perennial with ten or fifteen stools or suckers from each joint of the stalk as planted, making ten or twelve tons of cane per acre, good for forage or making fifteen gallons of finest syrup per ton.

The African hob goober is also adapted to the state, as also are chufas. Teosinta, fifteen feet high, stooling thirty to fifty stools per seed, twenty tons or more green stuff per acre, making 225 pounds of green stuff from one seed. Florida is the home of this wonderful plant.

The new sensational sweet hay plant, Sudan grass, does well in the state, and it will soon have a large following in Florida. It stools twenty to forty stools per seed, grows six to ten feet high, three or four cuttings of hay which cattle, through its sweetness, eat ravenously, makes four and one-half to six and one-half tons of hay per acre and requires only five pounds of seed per acre, planted in the spring in eighteen to thirty-inch rows.

Bermuda, the perennial, does well too in the state, as do also the remarkable perennial and green-all-the-year grasses, St. Augustine, St. Lucie and Carpet grass.

The two latest arrivals but firmly established hay plants in Florida are Rhodes grass and Natal grass—both from Africa. Rhodes is a perennial, the seeds are fine—five pounds per acre in the sowing has yielded often ten tons per acre and three cuttings. The Florida literature of this grass reads like fiction. Natal grass is called incorrectly in Florida Red Top. It re-seeds itself, stools heavily—sometimes 100 to the seed—comes early and stays late and blooms all the time, good for hay or pasture and the hay is as good and only requires five pounds of seed per acre.

Springfield, Mo., March 27th, 1914.  
Indian River Farms Co.,  
Vero, Fla.

Gentlemen:

I have just finished investigating your lands at Vero, Florida, and find the proposition really better than you represent. We visited a number of fine groves bordering the land on the east on soil not nearly so fertile as yours and find the owners all making money. We also visited the various settlers on the land and find their crops in fine shape.

In fact, it looks so good to me that I am buying a tract to develop for a home.

Respectfully,  
(Signed) N. M. POPEJOY.

March 30th, 1914.

Indian River Farms Co.,  
609 Putnam Bldg.,  
Davenport, Iowa.

Gentlemen:

If it is farming or fruit land in an ideal climate, among sociable people that you are looking for, I don't think you would make any mistake in coming to Vero to live. If you can't come to stay with us, I consider it a good place for investment.

Yours very truly,  
(Signed) GEO. T. CUNNINGHAM.  
Spring City, Tenn.

A great many become dissatisfied with farming because they do not know how much money they handle through the year unless they keep an account. When a checking account is kept the farmer's salary will generally compare favorably with that of any other business man.

## To Thoroughly Squelch a Lie Smother It With Silence— Elbert Hubbard

### COWPEAS FOR HOG PASTURE.

The following timely article by J. M. Scott on the advisability of Florida farmers raising cowpeas for hog pasture, should be read with interest by every man in the state who desires to give this feature of farming industry his attention. Hogs can be raised in Florida as profitably as any other state in the Union and if more attention was given to it, enormous profits could be realized annually by the hundreds of thrifty farmers and stock raisers in the state.

Mr. Scott says:

It will be most profitable for the average Florida farmer to supply his hogs with an abundance of green pasture. Hogs kept on dry feeds the greater portion of the year are not as thrifty and do not grow as rapidly as those that are given a liberal allowance of green feed. It requires from 14 to 24 months for the range hog to grow to market size. A hog of the same size can be grown in 8 to 10 months when properly fed.

The cowpea is a crop that does best in a soil of warm, sandy loam. Hence it is a crop well suited to Florida's conditions. It is a short season crop, requiring from 60 to 90 days to mature, according to the season and the variety. Therefore, it can be planted as a catch crop or as an after crop.

By this we mean it may be planted after the spring and summer vegetables are harvested, or it may be planted in between the rows of corn at the last cultivation.

When grown to be used as a pasture for hogs, cowpeas can be planted at any time from the middle of March until the first of August. To get the best results from cowpeas as pasture, they should be planted at intervals of two weeks. By planting every two weeks, fresh pasture can be had for the hogs at all times during the spring, summer and early fall. When one plot of ground is pastured off it can be plowed and replanted, so that the same piece of ground will grow two or three crops during the year.

### Planting.

Cowpeas should be planted in a well prepared seedbed. This can be prepared by thoroughly plowing the ground and then using a good tooth harrow. When a good seedbed has been prepared, mark off the rows two or two and a half feet apart. Plant the seed at the rates of about one-half bushel per acre. As soon as the young plants are one to two inches high, give good cultivation. Perhaps two cultivations will be all that is necessary. When the crop reaches a height of 15 to 18 inches, it will be time to begin pasturing. Under fa-

vorable conditions, the crop will be ready to pasture in about six or eight weeks after planting.

Some prefer to sow the seed broadcast. If sown broadcast, one bushel or a bushel and a half of seed should be sown per acre.

When cowpeas are planted between the rows of corn at the last cultivation they may be allowed to mature, or kept until about the time the first pods begin to turn yellow. When fed to hogs at this stage of maturity along with corn it will be found that the hogs will make rapid gains and will produce pork of good quality.

### Varieties.

There are many varieties of cowpeas. There are, however, some varieties better adapted to our conditions than others. Out of over 150 varieties tested at the experiment station we found that the Bradham and Iron gave the best results.

"What are you going to select as a birthday gift for your wife?"

"I don't know yet. She hasn't had time to promenade me past the jewelry store windows and murmur her special admirations." — Washington Star.

## HOW TO START A GROVE

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## Rely Less on Fate and More on Faith and You've Set Your Feet on the Ladder to the Stars—Herbert Kaufman

Your competitor's business is smaller than yours because he does not advertise.