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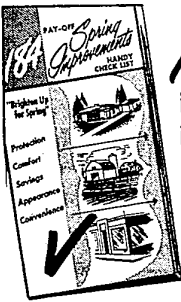
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### Reed Canary Grass Suited To Lowland

Those wet, lowland areas along river or creek flats may be good places to grow reed canary grass for pasture, advises J. F. Davis of the Michigan State College soil science department.

Reed canary grass will produce plenty of green succulent pasture five to six months of the year, he reports. It is particularly well adapted and makes good growth on wet, fertile, mucky soils which are subject to frequent flooding.

Brome grass is sometimes used in these areas, he points out. However, a good rule of thumb is this: If one of these areas is well enough drained so that corn can be successfully grown, then brome grass instead of reed canary grass can be grown. It is too wet to grow corn, then reed canary grass should be grown.

Most areas where reed canary grass can be grown in Michigan are too wet in the spring of the year to get on to prepare a good seedbed. As a rule, the best time to prepare the seedbed on these poorly drained areas is during the dry part of the summer. For this job, regular truck-drawn plows and crawler types of tractors are most frequently used. This operation is then followed by the necessary number of diskings to obtain a good seed bed.

At the time of seeding, 200 to 300 pounds of a 0-10-20 or a 3-9-13 analysis fertilizer should be applied, depending upon how wet and how well drained the area is. A 0-10-20 fertilizer is better for wet areas. In extremely wet areas a 10-10-10 fertilizer might be used. From five to ten per cent copper sulfate should be added to the fertilizer if the soil has an acidity reading of 6.0 or below. If the acidity reading is 7.0 or above, add ten per cent manganese sulfate to the mixture.

Recommended rate of seeding is four to six pounds per acre. Seed should be broadcast or drilled solid.

A cultipacker or roller should be used after seeding so that the seed is pressed in close contact with the soil and will start to germinate quickly, Davis advises.

County agricultural agents can give advice and pointers on the use of reed canary grass in your locality.

Three rats will usually eat as much grain daily as two top-producing laying hens.

### Systematic Work Eases Spading

If you want your garden plot to be well prepared, spade it yourself. Weeks may slip by waiting for a plowman to do a job which, by the proper approach, can be reduced to enjoyable and beneficial exercise.

But first, be sure the soil is in condition to spade. Never work soil which is too wet; and if the soil is heavy, don't wait until it has become too dry. There is a point between extremes when even heavy clay can be easily be lifted, and will crumble under a blow from the spade. You can tell this point by using the "mud pie" test.

Mould a ball of earth in your hand, and pat it to make a mud pie. If the pie holds together, the soil is too wet to spade. If it crumbles, then you can go ahead.

Systematic spading makes the job easier, and more complete. Here is one way to do it: Set a definite task for your first day's work, say a strip six feet wide, running the shortest dimension of the garden. At one end dig a ditch, say one foot wide and the depth of the spade, removing all soil from it. Fill this soil near the opposite end of the strip.

Now begin to spade with the



When soil crumbles in the hand, it is dry enough to work



Push spade straight down its full length.

blade not parallel to the trench, but at right angles to it. This enables you to lift more soil more easily, and deposit it in the trench. The spade should be driven down, not on a slant, but perpendicularly to its full depth. Take a small slice of the soil so your back is not strained. Lift it up, turn the spade over, so that the top soil falls underneath and bottom soil on top. In filling the first trench, you have opened a second.

If you wish to spade under a mature, spread it evenly over the area, except for the top of your initial trench. When the first trench has been dug, clean the manure from the top of the next trench and throw it into the bottom of the first; then proceed with your spading, piling the soil on top of the manure.

When you have finished your day's quota, you will have an empty trench, which should be filled with the soil you removed from the initial trench.

is the best insurance against chilling plants. However, the barn should not be closed so tightly that it becomes damp and invites pneumonia.

If the weather at lambing time is very cold, it is much better to allow for good ventilation and provide a 100-watt electric light bulb and reflector about two feet above the floor to furnish extra warmth for the lamb. Henneman advised that these are similar to pig brooders, and care should be taken that wiring is not overloaded.

A warm barn, free from drafts,

### Lambing Time Means Extra Care

Lambing time is the most important season of the year to sheepmen, says H. A. Henneman, animal husbandryman at Michigan State College.

It's the time of year, he says, when extra time and attention will pay dividends. Loss of a few hours sleep will be well repaid.

He suggests that the barn be well bedded with clean straw. Panels or hurdles 20 inches high and eight feet long and hinged in the middle should be available to pen each ewe and her lambs separately for the first three days. These panels can be set up at needed in the warmest corner of the barn and each one makes a four by four foot pen.

Such pens will prevent lambs from getting separated from their mothers and will help to prevent diseased lambs. The pens allow small lambs to get a good start and it is easier to check on them.

A warm barn, free from drafts,

### Game Law Violators Get Stiffer Penalties

A smaller number of fish, game and other conservation law violators were assessed larger court penalties in February, the conservation department discloses.

Arrests totaled 127 as against 133 in January but fines and costs were \$2,661 as compared to \$2,420 before. And jail terms totaled 230 days while the January total was only 165 days.

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Buildings in which livestock and poultry are housed should be cleaned and disinfected to kill disease germs and parasites, say Michigan State College agricultural authorities.

Before irrigating any farm crop, it is advisable to know whether the water to be used and the soil are suitable to long-time irrigation use, say Michigan State College agricultural engineers.

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