

Some Successful Plant Introduction and How Best to Maximise Their Production.

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A short account of the successful plants has been given and how these can be multiplied on a large scale has been indicated under each crop. Recently a Scheme to maximise production of green leaves in dry areas of the State has been formulated and most hardy plants suitable for these tracts have been recommended; the object of this Scheme is to maximise production of green leaves in these poor rainfall tracts so that each Research Station can be self-sufficient in the matter of compost requirements. A scheme has also been taken on hand to grow extensively cover crops such as *Calopogonium muconoides*, *Centrosema pubescens* and tropical 'Kudzu' in the Nilgiris, Malabar Arakuvalley and other heavy rainfall tracts so that all slopy lands can be quickly covered with vegetation to prevent soil erosion. Seeds of these crops have been distributed to these centres this year for starting the trials. To ensure rich and nutritious pasture on the hills, seeds of Clover (*Trifolium* spp.) obtained from Africa have been distributed to the Research Stations in the Nilgiris for trial and introduction. During Botanical surveys in the Nilgiris *Trifolium* spp. particularly, *Trifolium repens* and *Trifolium subterraneum* have become naturalised on the hill slopes and already they have been observed to form good mixtures with local grasses such as *Paspalum* spp., Kikyu, etc. In addition to the natural spread, if propagation by seeds and cuttings is taken up practically all available pastures on the Nilgiris Hill tops can be covered with this rich and nutritious fodder.

A short account of the successful plant introductions and the efforts that are being made to maximise their production are given.

Under fodder grasses, the introduction, performance and methods for multiplication of water grass, Giant star, *Panicum antidotale*, 'Blou-buffel' and Thin Napier are indicated.

Similarly under legumes and cover crops, the multiplication of important introductions like *Glycine javanica*, *Centrosema pubescens*, *Calopogonium mucnoides*, *Pueraria phaseoloides* and *Indigofera endecaphylla* are given.

The section under green manure deals with *Tephrosia Crotolaria* and *Tithonia*.

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Trial of scented geraniums, *Vetiveria zizanoides*, *Eucalyptus citriodora*, *Beta vulgaris* (white), *Canna edulis*, *Mentha-piperata*, *Boehmeria nivea*, *Hibiscus sabdariffa* and Balsa, in different Agricultural Research Stations and the possibilities of increasing their production are given.

The Schemes now on hand to maximise the production of green-leaf for composting, cover crops for soil erosion and Clovers for pasture are indicated.

Production and Development of Improved Strains of Vegetable Seeds *

By

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Introduction : The role of vegetables in human nutrition needs no emphasis. As per latest standards of nutrition, each adult requires 6 oz. of non-leafy vegetables and 4 oz. of leafy vegetables per day. Therefore an annual per capita production of 228 lbs. is required to maintain normal health of the people and prevent malnutrition. But the present 'per capita' production in our State is miserably low, as low as 37 lbs. Thus we are confronted with a huge deficit which has to be made good by a more intensive and planned scheme of cultivation.

Importance of Good Seed: Among the various methods of increasing the production of vegetables, improved seeds play a vital part. Production of vegetable seeds has not been an organised industry

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