

Sudan grass must be sown late and makes its most rapid growth during the warmer part of the summer. Except for the hazards of prussic acid poisoning, associated with sorghum crops generally, sudan grass makes an ideal summer pasture crop, yielding well and filling in a period when regular pastures usually are very short. The amount of prussic acid present in sudan is not constant. It varies with the stage of growth, and also with the season. Young plants, or new growth, is usually higher in prussic acid than the more mature growth. Thus, where sudan is pastured, livestock are usually not turned in until the grass is fairly well advanced. New growth which may come on following rains after prolonged drouth, or after an early fall frost, is usually high in prussic acid and should be pastured with caution.

The amount of prussic acid present also varies greatly with the season, and the factors responsible are not well understood. In our trials the 1949 crop was generally very low in prussic acid throughout the season. This also seemed to be the case in other places where careful tests were made.

Since sudan is an excellent summer crop, and therefore has much promise as a summer pasture, it deserves to be used. However, because of the hazards involved it is suggested that when used as pasture it be used with caution, perhaps grazing with less valuable animals for a few days to assure that it is safe. Experiment stations have in recent years isolated, and are experimenting with, strains of sudan grass lower in prussic acid and eventually hope to have available varieties of sudan grass relatively free from this hazard.

AN APPRECIATIVE LETTER

An appreciative letter is received from Simon L. Barbadillo of Bangued, Abra, Philippine Islands, who writes as follows:

"I have received every Bimonthly Bulletin with many joys and wishes.

"I read each bulletin with much interest and enthusiasm. I greatly hope that you will continue sending me freely any kinds of free publication. Any free publications that you can spare to send me freely in the future will be greatly appreciated and congratulated by me. I express to you my heartiest thanks for your favor."

Enclosed in the letter was an interesting collection of seeds from the Philippine Islands including the following: Buri Palm Tree seed; Ilacano Bean seeds—a native vegetable; a wild al-lagat seed—a trailing plant domesticated, edible; a domesticated winged pea seed; Sour Safa seeds—trees; wild Bagbagora seeds—used in cooking with vegetables and meats; a native gourd; Lingriga seeds, used in making hard candies; Mungar seeds; Pias seeds, a tree fruit, and many others.

The large selection of seeds has been turned over to the Department of Horticulture and the Department of Botany for study and possible investigation as to their adaptation if at all, to this part of the United States; and if not adapted to this part of the United States to be sent to our warmer southern climatic regions.—(HLW)