

# SOME SUGGESTIONS AS TO EXPERIMENT- ING WITH GRASSES.

BY W. J. BEAL.

AS "grass is king among the crops of the earth, and the foundation of all agriculture," the family deserves closer study by the husbandman. The former neglect of the grasses, owing to the great difficulties of learning to distinguish them, leaves a field of great promise, ready for those who are willing to study and experiment, patiently, for many years to come.

1. It will be folly to attempt very many experiments with grasses without they are under the eye of a good agrostologist.

2. Try as many species as possible from every known quarter of the earth, planting in rows three inches apart. Make the plats one by ten rods after they seem to promise usefulness.

3. Scatter the plats as much as possible, allowing none to come next to each other, on account of the liability to become mixed by the scattering of seed.

4. Sow certain combinations of species which thrive well in any place, to compare with each sown by itself.

5. Sow some combinations of grasses which produce no rootstocks.

6. Sow or plant certain grasses, mixed, the species all producing rootstocks.

7. On a variety of soils, in several parts of the country, sow in rows three inches apart, and weed out all excepting grasses, seeds of a large number of species mixed together. Grow these for years, noting the changes that take place.

8. Analyze several species of grasses of the same age and species grown on similar soils; in one case the grasses to be much crowded, in the other, each plant to have an abundance of room.

9. Try to improve grasses by culture and selection, and changing seed. Try some on rich land, with good care, and plenty of room, and compare with the same species neglected on poor soils and crowded. Select seeds of both lots and sow for comparison.

10. Select ground for stations, say in Michigan, Nebraska, Texas and Arizona.

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## A STUDY OF *POA PRATENSIS*, L.

BY W. J. BEAL.

IN noticing the variations of *Poa pratensis* in my recent studies, I am constantly confronted by this question: Are the variations due entirely to the surroundings as we find them at Agricultural College, Michigan, or to some extent to the seeds from which the plants were raised?