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# Yields of the Field Experiments 1898

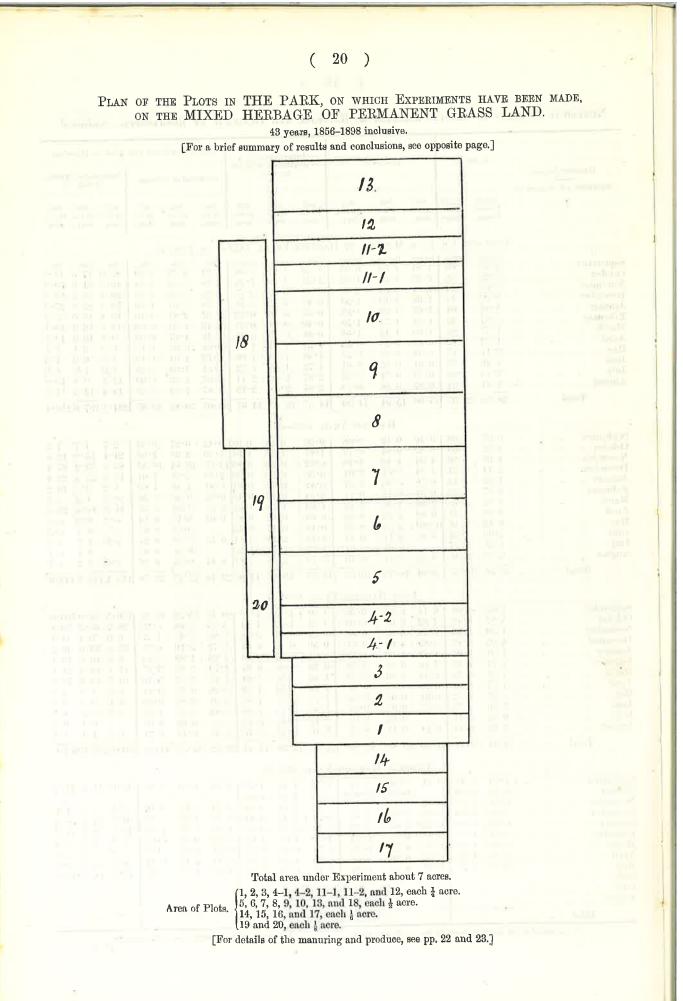


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# **Permanent Grass Land; the Park**

### **Rothamsted Research**

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### RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS MADE IN THE PARK,

ON THE MIXED HERBAGE OF PERMANENT GRASS-LAND.

ON THE MIXED HERBAGE OF PERMANENT GRASS-LAND. These experiments were commenced in 1856, so that 1898 is the 43rd year of their continuance. In the experiments with individual crops grown separately, on arable land, it was found, that those of the same natural Order—Wheat, Barley, and Oats, for example—had certain characters and manurial requirements in common; that those of the Leguminous Order had widely different characters and requirements; whilst crops of other Orders, such as Root-crops, Potatoes, &c., exhibited characteristics differing from the Gramineous, and more from the Leguminous crops. Compared with the conditions of growth of such individual crops grown separately, those of the *Mixed Herbage of Grass-land* are extremely complicated. It comprises, besides numerous Gramineous and Leguminous species, representatives of many other Natural Orders; and of some of great prominence and importance as regards their prevalence and distribution in vegeta-tion generally. If, under the influence of characteristically different manures, there are notable differences in the degree of luxuriance, and in the character of development of closely allied plants when each is grown separately, and much greater differences between plants of different Orders when so separately grown it is only what might be expected, that there should be very remarkable variations of result when different manures are applied to an already established Mixed Herbage of perhaps some 50 species growing together, representing perhaps nearly 20 Natural Orders. perhaps nearly 20 Natural Orders.

applied to an already established Mixed Herbage of perhaps some 50 species growing together, representing perhaps nearly 20 Natural Orders. Accordingly, even in the early years of the experiments, it was observed that those manures which were the most effective with Wheat, Barley, or Oats—that is with Gramineous species grown separately—were also the most effective in bringing forward the grasses proper, in the Mixed Herbage. Again, those manures which were the most beneficial to beans or clover, the most developed the Leguminous species in the Mixed Herbage, and vice versé. There was also great variation in the perdominance of individual species among both the grasses, and the representatives of other Orders. And again, there was very great difference in the tendency to produce merely increased leafy regetation on the one hand, or to develop stem and seed formation on the other, according to the manure employed. Thus, the final product—the hay—was one thing when grown under certain manurial conditions, and quite another when grown under others. For example, the unmanured produce on the average included nearly 50 species—about 17 grasses, 4 leguminous plants, and 27 or more of other Orders ; whilst the hay contained from 65 to 70 per cent. of gramineous produce, about 7½ of leguminous herbage, and 20 to 25 per cent. of herbage of other Orders. Compared with this, the produce by farmyard manure contained fewer species, a higher proportion by weight of gramineous, and lower of both leguminous herbage has been therbage. Again, thereases the unmatures for many years in succession, has reduced the number of species traceable, to only about 15, whilst gramineous herbage has contributed from 95 to 98 per cent, or even more of the total hay, leguminous herbage has been different species in the final product—the hay; whilst there will, according to the conditions, be different proportion of leaf and stem, and different tendencies to mature ind. The solvously, therefore, very difficult to summarise in a few sentences the

It may be said, that the effect of purely nitrogenous manures, such as nitrate of soda, and more still, ammonium-salts, is to reduce the total number of species, characteristically to increase the growth of gramineous species, almost to exclude leguminous herbage, and to reduce the number and proportion of miscellaneous species, but to increase the luxuriance of a few of those that remain. Purely mineral manures, supplying abundance of potash and phosphoric acid, in a less degree reduce the total number of species, do not increase weight of such herbage in the hay. Such manures, however, greatly increase the luxuriance, the percentage by weight in the hay, of leguminous species; whilst they reduce, both the number of species, and proportion by weight in the hay, of the miscellaneous herbage.

by weight in the hay, or negatimous species, while they reduce, both the hander or species, and proportion by weight in the hay, of the miscellancous herbage. It is thus obvious that the weights of hay per acre yielded under the varying conditions of manuring, do not represent the comparative value of the produce grown under the different conditions. For example, there has been an average of only about 1 ton per acre of first-crop hay without manure, the produce being, however, the most complex of all. With purely mineral manures, containing potash, the average annual yield of first-crop hay has been rather more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton; with fewer species, but containing a considerable proportion of leguminous herbage; in fact, the hay grown by such manures, is of better quality than that produced by any other of the manures in the series. With an excess of mineral and nitrogenous manures together, the average yield per acre has been nearly 3 tons of first-crop hay; but the produce has contained no leguminous, and very little miscellaneous herbage, and from 95 to 98 per cent. of gramineous herbage, perhaps 90 per cent., consisting of only 4 to 6 of the most freely growing and coarser species, which have been characterised by great stemminess. Further, it may be stated, that the one ton of the very complex unmanured hay would contain about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of phosphoric acid, about 25 lb. of potash, and about 30 lb. of nitrogen; that the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton of hay grown by the purely mineral manures, with its ripened grasses, and large proportion of leguminous herbage, would contain about 18 lb. phosphoric acid, 75 lb. of potash, and 50 lb. of nitrogen; whilst the 3 tons of almost exclusively gramineous, and very stemmy hay, grown by excessive amounts of mineral and nitrogenous manures together, would remove about 30 lb. of potash, and about 145 lb. of potash, and about 108 lb. of nitrogen. 108 lb. of nitrogen.

Between the extremes above indicated, the 20 plots afford examples of very great variety, not only in quantity of produce, but also in quality, depending on both the botanical and chemical composition, and on the character of development of the plants. The experiments were not arranged to provide exact examples for practice, but to ascertain the characteristic effects of different manurial agents on the quantity and quality of the Mixed Herbage, and thus to afford data for application in actual practice. The general result has been to show, that if artificial manures are largely or mainly relied upon, certain descriptions of herbage will be unduly forced at the expense of others, and also that the character of development of the plants will be materially affected. In order to maintain a due admixture of herbage on grass-land mown for hay, farmyard or stable dung should be liberally applied; and it is also conducive to the same end to consume the second crop on the land, with eake or corn. The more a good condition of the herbage is induced and maintained by such means, the more safely may some increased luxuriance, and so increased produce, be obtained, by the judicious uso of artificial manures. Provided dung be liberally used it will not as a rule be necessary to apply potash arti-ficially; but phosphates may advantageously be used as basic slag, and nitrogenous manure in the form of nitrate of soda, which, however, should seldom be used at the rate of more than 1 cwt., or at most 1½ cwt. per acre. For details of the manuring and produce of the different plots, see pages 22-23. Between the extremes above indicated, the 20 plots afford examples of very great variety, not only in For details of the manuring and produce of the different plots, see pages 22-23.

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#### EXPERIMENTS WITH DIFFERENT MANURES ON

The Land has probably been laid down with Grass for some centuries. No fresh seed has been artificially sown within the last 50 years certainly; nor is there record of any having been sown since the Grass was first laid down. The experiments commenced in 1856, at which time the character of the herbage appeared fairly uniform over all the plots. The present season, 1898, is therefore the 43rd year of the experiments. Excepting as explained in the Table, and in the foot-notes, the same description of Manure has been applied year after year to the same plot.

the same plot. During the first 19 years of the experiments, 1856-1874, the first crop only, each year, was mown, made into hay, removed from the land, and weighed. As a rule, the second crops were fed-off by sheep having no other food, the object being not to disturb the condition of the manuring. A given number was allotted to each plot, according to the amount of produce, penned upon a portion of it, and the area extended, day by day, until the whole was eaten down. Frequently, however, the animals suffered considerably; and in 1866, 1870, 1873, and 1874, the second crops (and third, if any) were cut, and spread on the respective plots. In the twentieth season, 1875, the second crops being unusually heavy, and the weather favourable, they were, for the first time, cut, weighed as hay, and removed. In 1876 they were cut and spread on the plots. In 1877 and 1878 the second crops were made into hay, weighed, and removed. In 1879, 1882, 1891, 1892, 1894, 1896 and 1897, the second crops were cut, sampled, carted, and weighed, green : the dry matter in the weighed samples was determined, and the produce reckoned into hay by adding one-fourth to the calculated dry matter per acre. In 1880, 1881, 1883, 1886, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1893, and 1895, the second crops were again made into hay, weighed and removed ; and it is intended in future to adopt this plan whenever the weather will permit. In 1884, 1885, and 1887, owing to the dryncess of the seasons after cutting the first crops, there was but little growth; the second crops were therefore again cut, but spread on the respective plots. Owing to the change in the treatment of the crops, the average produce per annum is given, separately, for the first 20 years, 1856-1875, first crops only; and for the succeeding 20 years, 1876-1895, first and second crops (<sup>13</sup>). On January 7, 1881, coarsely broken chalk, in the (Area under experiment,

. or 1.585 Prussian Morgen. 1 acre... = (about) 1 lb. (pound avoir.) ... = (about) 1 cwt. (hundredweight) = (about) 1 ton 0.404 Hectare Kilogrammes. . . . or Kilogrammes . . . . or 0.453 Kilogramme .. 0.907 Zollverein Pfund. 1.016 Centner. 50.8 1 ton ..... = (about) 1 lb. per acre .... = (about) 1 cwt. per acre .... = (about) 1015.6 .. or 20.32 Centner. 1-12 Kilogrammes per Hectare or 0.572 Zollv. Pfd. per Pr. Morgen. 25-6 Kilogrammes per Hectare or 0.641 Centner per Pr. Morgen. PLOTS. 125.6Kilogrammes per Hectare or Kilogrammes per Hectare or 12.82 Centner per Pr. Morgen. .. = (about) 2512 1 ton per acre ... Manures, per acre, per Annum. [In 1897, and since, 400 lbs. Basic Slag used throughout instead of Superphos.] Ł (1856-63, 8) years, 14 tons Farmyuru Mathure, average produce (12 years, 1864-75) 32<sup>7</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts.
(1864 and since, unmanured; average produce (12 years, 1864-75) 32<sup>7</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts.
(1864 and since, unmanured; average produce (12 years, 1864-75) 32<sup>7</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts.
(1856-68, 13 years, 400 lbs. Ammonium-salts; average produce 30<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts.
(1856-68, 13 years, 400 lbs. Ammonium-salts; average produce 30<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts.
(1869-78, 300 lbs., 1879 and since 500 lbs., Sulph. Potash, 100 lbs. Sulph. Soda, 100 lbs. Sulph. Magnesia, 3<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> ewts. Superphosphate; average produce (7 yrs, 1869-75) 31<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts.
(1856-66, 13 years, 400 lbs. Sulph. Potash, 200 lbs. Sulph. Soda, 100 lbs. Sulph. Magnesia, 3<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> ewts. Superphosphate; average produce (7 yrs, 1869-75) 31<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts.
(1856-61, 6 years, 300 lbs., 1879 and since 500 lbs., Sulphate Potash, 100 lbs. (9 Sulphate Soda, 100 lbs. Sulphate)
(1856-61, 6 years, 300 lbs. Sulph. Potash, 200 lbs. Sulph. Soda, 100 lbs. Sulph. Magnesia, and 3<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts. Superphosphate; average produce 36 ewts.
(1856-78, 300 lbs., 1879 and since 500 lbs., Sulph. Potash, 100 lbs. (9 Sulph. Magnesia, and 3<sup>4</sup><sub>2</sub> cwts.
(1856-78, 300 lbs., 1879 and since 500 lbs., Sulph. Potash, 100 lbs. (9 Sulph. Magnesia, and 3<sup>4</sup><sub>2</sub> cwts.
(1856-78, 300 lbs., 1879 and since 500 lbs., Sulph. Potash, 100 lbs. (9 Sulph. Soda, 100 lbs. Sulph. Magnesia, 3<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts. Superphosphate; average produce 30 lbs. Sulph. Potash, 100 lbs. (9 Sulph. Soda, 100 lbs. Sulph. Magnesia, 3<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts. Superphosphate; average produce 53 evts.
(1856-78, 300 lbs., 1879 and since 500 lbs., Sulph. Potash, 100 lbs. Sulph. Magnesia, 3<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts. Superphosphate; average produce 54 evts.
(1856-78, 300 lbs., 1879 and since 500 lbs., Sulph. Soda, 100 lbs. Sulph. Magnesia, 3<sup>4</sup><sub>4</sub> cwts. Superphosphate; average produce 54 evts.
(1856-78, 300 lbs., 1879 and since 500 lbs., Sulph. Potash, 100 lbs. (9 Sulph. Soda, 100 lbs. Sulph. 2 3  $4^{1}_{2}$ 5 (8) 6 - 7 (8) 8 9 (3) 10 34 cwts. Superphosphate, 600 lbs. <sup>(6)</sup> Ammonium-salts 1856-78, 300 lbs., 1879 and since 500 lbs., Sulph. Potash, 100 lbs. <sup>(6)</sup> Sulph. Soda, 100 lbs. Sulph. Magnesia, 34 cwts. Superphosphate, 600 lbs. <sup>(6)</sup> Ammonium-salts, and 400 lbs. Silicate Soda <sup>(7)</sup> (1 11 2 Unmanured continuously 12 13 14 15 Magnesia, and 3½ cwts. Superphosphate (275 lbs. Nitrate of Soda, 500 lbs. (300 lbs., 1858–78), Sulph. Potash, 100 lbs. (200 lbs., 1856–63) Sulph. Soda, 100 lbs. Sulph. Magnesia, and 3½ cwts. Superphosphate 16 275 lbs. Nitrate of Soda 17 (Mixture supplying the quantity of Potash, Soda, Lime, Magnesia, Phosphoric acid, Silica, and Nitrogen, contained in 1 ton of Hay (commencing 1865) 275 lbs. Nitrate of Soda, 290 lbs. Sulphate of Potash, and 32 cwts. Superphosphate (commencing 1872) 18 19 327 lbs. Nitrate of Potash, and 31 cwts. Superphosphate (commencing 1872) ... .. ..

#### PARK.

#### 23)

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PERMANENT GRASS LAND. ondition of moisture in which it was brought from the pit, was applied at the rate of 2000 lbs. per acre, for a length of 49 links down each of the Plots 1 to 13 inclusive; and on February 26, partially dried and finely ground and sifted chalk, was applied to the same portion of the same plots, at the rate of 1000 lbs. per acre. In November 1883, each plot (1 to 20 inclusive) was divided, and upon one-half of each 2000 lbs. per acre of fresh burnt lime (slacked), was applied, in addition to the ordinary manures as stated in the Table; and in November 1887, the other half of most of the plots also received 2000 lbs. per acre; the exceptions being, that Plot 5 did not receive any in 1887, and that the portions of Plots 11–1 and 11–2, which had received the Lime in 1883, in 1887 received 2000 lbs. per acre more, and the other half which lad not previously received any lime, received 4000 lbs. per acre. Lastly, in December 1896, the half of Plot 5, which had not previously received any lime, received 4000 lbs. per acre, making in all 4000 lbs., the same as on the other half. It was not until some years after the application of chalk, early in 1881, to small portions of some of the plots as above received to 118 the effects were sufficiently marked to render it desirable to cut and weigh the produce separately; and it received to 11897 inclusive. It was also excluded in 1884 and 1885, in the case of the plots where the produce was separately weighed (Plots 6, 7, and 8, 1884, and 3, 6, 7, 8, and 11–1, in 1885), but included in the other cases in those two years. Again, in the case of the second crops, it was only in those of 1881 (a few of those of 1885, 1891, 1892, 1894 and 1896 (excepting Plots 6, 7, and 8), and 1897, that the produce of the chalked portions was included. In the case of the remaining or main portion of the plots, to one-half of which a dressing of slacked lime was applied in November 1885, and to the other half in November 1887, there has, on some plots, been

about 7 acres.)

PLOTS.	PRODUCE PER ACRE, WEIGHED AS HAV.												
	Average per Annum, 20 Years, 1856–75. (First Crops only.)			Average per Annum, 20 Years, 1876–95. (First and Second Crops.)			Forty-first Season, 1896.			Forty-second Season, 1897.			PLOTS.
	10 Years, 1856-65.	10 Years, 1866-75.	20 Years, 1856–75.	First Crops( <sup>13</sup> ).	Second Crops (14).	Total.	First Crop.	Second Crop( <sup>15</sup> ).	Total	First Crop.	Second Crop(15).	Total.	
1	Cwts, 48 <sup>3</sup>	Cwts. 373	Cwts. 43	Cwts. 26 <sup>7</sup> g	Cwts. 115	Cwts. 38½	Cwts. 16‡	Cwts. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	Cwts. 19 <u>1</u>	Cwts. 25¥	Cwts. ( <sup>16</sup> )	Cwts. $25\frac{B}{4}$	1
2	415	32	367	207	9	$29^7_{\theta}$	11 <u>3</u>	07	$12\frac{1}{4}$	$18^{1}_{6}$	(16)	$18^{1}_{s}$	2
$-3 \\ -4 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$	$22\frac{1}{2}$ $23\frac{1}{4}$ $33\frac{7}{8}$ $30\frac{1}{2}$	$\begin{array}{c} 20 \\ 21\frac{1}{4} \\ 30\frac{1}{2} \\ 22 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 21\frac{1}{4} \\ 22\frac{1}{4} \\ 32\frac{1}{4} \\ 26\frac{1}{4} \end{array} (")$	$\begin{array}{c} 17\frac{1}{8} \\ 17\frac{3}{4} \\ 29\frac{3}{4} \\ 17\frac{1}{4} \end{array}$	84 87 107 10	$\begin{array}{c} 257\\ 26^{5}_{8}\\ 40^{5}_{8}\\ 27^{1}_{4}\end{array}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$ $9\frac{3}{4}$ $10\frac{5}{8}$ 2	$\begin{array}{c}1\\1\\2\\0_{\overline{8}}^3\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 11\frac{1}{4} \\ 10\frac{3}{4} \\ 12\frac{5}{8} \\ 2\frac{3}{8} \end{array}$	$15rac{1}{2}\ 19\ 28rac{3}{4}\ 20rac{5}{6}$	$\binom{16}{16}$ $\binom{16}{16}$ $\binom{16}{16}$	$15rac{1}{2}\ 19\ 28rac{3}{4}\ 20rac{3}{8}$	$\begin{pmatrix}1\\2\\2\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}3\\4\\5\end{pmatrix}$
6	313	30 <u>1</u>	$30\frac{3}{4}$	285	$12^{3}_{\theta}$	41	$16\frac{1}{8}$	4 <u>1</u>	201	$32^1_{\theta}$	112	335	6
7	337	36 <u>3</u>	$35\frac{1}{4}$	29 <del>3</del>	14 <u>1</u>	441	$15\frac{1}{2}$	4 <del>3</del>	197	317	11/4	33 <u>1</u>	7
8	33§	261	30 <sup>1</sup> 8	$19^{1}_{8}$	95	284	12	15	133	$21\frac{1}{8}$	Og	213	8
9	53 <sup>5</sup> <sub>8</sub>	48 <del>1</del>	51	44 <sup>7</sup> 8	15 <del>7</del>	$60\frac{8}{4}$	$20\frac{1}{4}$	8	$28\frac{1}{4}$	$51^1_{\theta}$	17	53	9
10	$52\frac{3}{4}$	39§	46 <sup>1</sup> <sub>8</sub>	$37\frac{1}{8}$	155	523	$17\frac{1}{8}$	61	$23_{8}^{3}$	44 <u>1</u>	078	453	10
(1	613	538	57 <del>§</del>	48	265	$74\frac{5}{8}$	327	$10\frac{1}{8}$	43	587	2	60 <del>7</del>	1,11
11 2	631	617	$62\frac{1}{2}$	577	251	83¦	$44\frac{3}{8}$	125	57	$60\frac{1}{2}$	25	$63\frac{1}{6}$	2)
12	25	227	24	175	103	283	111	$1^{1}_{8}$	$12\frac{3}{8}$	$18\frac{1}{4}$	(16)	$18^{1}_{4}$	12
13	551	59 <sup>5</sup>	57 <u>1</u>	$49\frac{1}{2}$	20 <del>3</del>	697	$18\frac{1}{2}$	81/2	27	$51\frac{8}{4}$	17	535	13
14	53 <u>1</u>	60 <u>1</u>	57	49§	$13\frac{7}{6}$	63 <u>1</u>	$39\frac{1}{2}$	6 <u>1</u>	46	$42^{5}_{\theta}$	07 g	431	14
15	36 <mark>1</mark>	35	35%	265	103	37	234	31/2	263	347	(16)	34 <sup>7</sup> 8	18
16	451	475	461	39 <u>1</u>	$12\frac{3}{4}$	$52\frac{1}{4}$	$27\frac{3}{4}$	31	$31\frac{1}{4}$	41	(16)	41	16
17	341	33 <u>1</u>	337	281	104	$39\frac{1}{4}$	$21\frac{3}{4}$	3	$24\frac{3}{4}$	311	(16)	$31\frac{1}{4}$	17
18	21	331	$32\frac{1}{8}$ (11	$) 29\frac{3}{4}$	$13^{1}_{8}$	427	173	$4\frac{1}{2}$	217	30	$1_{g}^{3}$	31]	18
$\frac{19}{20}$			381 361	37 39	121 117	49% 50%	30 38	51 53	35 <sup>1</sup> 43 <sup>2</sup>	38 <sup>1</sup> 45 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	03 03	$38_8^7 \\ 45_8^5$	19 20