

SOIL REHABILITATION

Mr Mulrenan (Tea Quart. Vol. 33, Part 3) has described a technique of pre-rooting stumps of Guatemala grass.

As an alternative method of achieving the same result, namely, that of establishing Guatemala grass as quickly as possible to enable the land to return to more economic tea, may I suggest that there are sufficient clumps of material available in order to plant Guatemala along the contour as thickly as possible, say 4 inches apart. Care should be taken to see that the clumps are not topped and tailed as if they were leeks, but heeled in roots and all.

A useful natural terrace is formed against earth subsidence at the time the bare uprooted area most requires such protection. As Officers of the Institute will bear out, I have grown Guatemala to a height of over 6 feet in 6 months from planting by this method, manuring twice within this period. I would have no hesitation in planting this particular area in tea after 14 months rehabilitation.

My alternative suggestion seems an obvious one but it is surprising to see the number of clearings still planting single grass cuttings at the spacing recommended on page 2 of the notes on the Tea Replanting Subsidy Scheme, namely, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ft.

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