

# SEAWEED

Comments from Robert Montgomery

Seaweed has been used for cropping in Thanet for a very long time. Within Mockett's Journal there is a reference to seaweed in 1568, when he speaks of Lord Cunningham trying to put a bill through Parliament to prevent farmers from collecting seaweed from the seashore. This indicates that there must have been some considerable activity around this time to cause such a move.

The Channel Islands have used it for a long time. Its high potash content helped the cattle to produce milk of a much richer quality. It is this that has always helped the Channel Island framers demand a higher price for their milk.

It is quite possible that the initial use of seaweed dates back to the Roman occupation of Britain, as they used our farms as the 'bread basket' for Rome, when they could no longer sustain their growing population from their own lands. They needed to increase the yield from our land and may well have already found out about the benefits of using seaweed, without knowing why it worked. Unfortunately, I have no documentary evidence to prove this as yet.

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