

## Farm, Home &...

**Advantages of the use of Lime.**

An English writer sums up an exhaustive article upon lime by detailing the advantages of its use, thus:

The advantages of use of lime are so many and so great that it is almost impossible to enumerate the whole of them. Their effects may be described as being both chemical and mechanical, and as being exercised both on the organic and inorganic constituents of the soil. The following may be taken as a summary of the principal benefits:

1. A large produce of cereal crops of superior quality. This is especially the case, with wheat, which becomes thinner skinned and yields more flour. The peas grow upon limed lands are better boilers.

2. Upon deep alluvial and clay soils it increases the crop of potatoes and renders them less watery. Sprinkled over potatoes in the store heap it preserves them, and when ridged over the cut sets, it wonderfully increases their fertility.

3. Lime eradicates the blight and toe disease in turnips, and gives great soundness and more nutritive qualities to the bulbs.

4. It gives, when applied to meadow lands, a larger produce of nutritious grasses, and checks the foot-rot in sheep pastured upon them. It also exterminates beet, as well as coarse and sour grasses, destroys couch grass, and acts powerfully upon the rye grasses.

5. Upon arable land it destroys the corn-maggot, and weeds of various kinds.

6. It rapidly decomposes vegetable matter, producing a large amount of food for plants in the form of carbonic acid gas.

7. It destroys or neutralizes the acids in the soils, hence its adaptability to our soils.

8. It acts powerfully upon some of the inorganic parts of soils, especially on the sulphate of iron found in peaty soils, and sulphate of magnesia and alumina.

9. It proves fatal to worms and slugs, and the larvae of injurious insects, though favorable to the growth of shell-beans.

10. It destroys the germ of smut upon the seeds of wheat, barley and oats, and is especially acceptable to the barley crop, which is generally of good quality upon chalky soils.

11. Slackened lime added to vegetable matter causes it to give off nitrogen in the form of ammonia. Upon soils in which the ammonia is combined with acids it sets free the ammonia, which is directly seized upon by the plants.

12. Its solubility in water causes it to sink into and ameliorate the subsoil. When the soil contains fragments of granite or trap-rocks, lime hastens their decomposition and liberates the silicates.

13. Its combination with the acids in the soil produces saline compounds, such as potash, soda, etc.

14. It exerts a marvelous effect upon rape, though it is said to injure flax which in Belgium is not grown for seven years after liming.

15. Sowed over the young plants, it destroys or drives away the turnip fly.

16. Worked in with grass seeds the beneficial effects of lime, chalk, marl and shell sand have been visible for a period of thirty years.

17. It has a powerful pulverizing effect upon the wealden clay, on the sandstone formation, and on the granite and slate rocks.

18. It is generally supposed to hasten the ripening of grain crops.

19. It promotes the formation in the soil of what are called the double-silicates. This process starts with the clay, or silicate of alumina, and it is afterwards continued through the S. of alumina and lime, the S. of A. and soda, A. and potash, and A. and ammonia.

20. Applied to the rot-heaps, lime effectually destroys the seed of weeds.

To sum up its advantages—when properly applied to the soil, it purifies and stimulates its action, thereby promoting the growth of healthy vegetation of all kinds."

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Aug. 14, 1870.

1853. 71. 1873.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW,

Lewisburg, Union Co., Pa.

Can be consulted in the English and German languages.

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