

Agricultural.

Growing Clover—Is there Danger of its being Overdone?

Some farmers are now waiting for some reason to their clover, in regard to how long clover may be grown in Western New York. To this (last vol. page 48) about Syracuse, where it has been grown, and so far as we are aware, on the west lands in the western counties generally, clover sickness is as yet unknown. If we are wrong, we would be glad to be informed by any one of our friends who has made their appearance. Now I have heard and expected that if any signs of "clover sickness" or of any kind of "clover rot" had appeared in this part of the State, or in the west-growing sections of the Western States, that it would have been reported by your columns. For as clover is considered of great and increasing importance in this part of the State, it can be believed that any symptoms of failure to have been observed. The fact, however, has been something about it.

I have resided in this country something over twenty years, and during the year 1847, I have constantly taken and read an agricultural paper—the Genesee Farmer, and the Rural New Yorker, and have seen, in each of these, the centre of one of the best west-growing sections of the United States, and where clover is probably more largely and generally grown than in any other section of the country, and to the best of my recollection I have never heard of any kind of "clover sickness", or "rot", or failure to grow clover, where the crop would be said to have any kind of a fair chance. On most of this land clover has been grown more or less from forty to sixty years, and great considerable portions of the main crops have been "heat and clover" grown alternately, the clover being sown in the fall, and the main crop being wheat, to be sown in the spring, and so on, and so on, the land being followed with clover; thus sowing clover three times in six years, instead of twice, as I remember to have done when young, making it "clover sick", or causing any difficulty or trouble of any kind, the inevitable effect of which is, that the best clover has been grown, and that has been in the best condition. And instead of there being the least danger of "clover sickness", that there may be too much clover raised, there is abundant proof on every hand, that there is the greatest need of increasing many fold the amount grown.

Consequently it will be seen that your Prussian correspondent's "contradiction" (last vol. page 44) cannot apply here. But referring to L.'s article it will be seen that he does not suppose "sowing twice in six years' rotation", because it should not be done, but because, as he argues, it cannot be done, or as he says, "in Germany we have no land that will bear it". Hence his argument, "If it can be done, if the land will bear it, why do you not sow it more highly than you now do?" On sowing such land "Now in answer to this I believe I am fully justified in saying that any farmer who knows or can learn to the contrary, we have here in Western New York, and perhaps some of the best west-growing sections of the West, just such a land. And though the Prussian correspondent tells us to a certainty that we may expect in future the fact that clover can be grown so much easier, cheaper and better than in Germany—that our soil and climate seem to be so much better adapted to its cultivation, would certainly seem to show that there is any danger of raising too much of it. In fact, judging from the experience of our farmers there is no danger of raising too much of it. If any danger of raising too much of it, in fact, judging from the experience of our farmers there is no danger of raising too much of it.

And I wish to have it distinctly understood that in advising the growing of more clover I am not going on the one idea principle of improving land solely by plowing in clover. But on the contrary, one of the principal objects in view in advising the growing of more clover is to secure a more frequent crop of clover to have a great deal more clover hay to feed, in order to make more and better manure, and to strengthen in the belief that to continue the making of a large amount of rich manure, is not only the easiest, cheapest and best course, but also the most profitable. American grain-growing farmers can take to improve and enrich his farm, and vastly better than by growing clover, and by using it as manure or growing and plowing in clover.

But admitting the time may come when our land may raise more clover, if it is sown too often, when we can get a crop of clover by sowing but once in a period of six, eight or ten years, yet in fact that long before the land will be brought to a high condition, or become "clover sick", it will be brought to a high state of fertility—that by the frequent growing and feeding of heavy crops of clover, the land will be put in an excellent condition to produce any other crop—would seem to be an abundance sufficient reason as why we should sow clover as rich as we can. For with a rich productive soil, there are plenty of other crops that may be grown for the use of the farm, until the land has become sufficiently rested to again produce clover.

But, instead of there being the least danger of growing too much clover, the reason, which I brought out during the discussion of this subject in your columns, incontestibly proves that the amount of the west-growing sections of the Northern and Western States, cannot do clover than to largely increase the amount of clover grown on their farms. And, in view of the large amount of land that is not only improving, but being more or less run down, as it is more or less farmed on the skinning system, and also in view of the fact that there are considerable sections of country that formerly produced good crops of wheat, that have long since failed to do so; and that there is too much reason to fear that this may be the case in regard to much, if not the most of our west lands—I say in view of these facts, it seems to me that I cannot too strongly urge all who are engaged in raising west lands, not in condition to produce heavy crops, to largely increase the amount of clover grown and fed on their farms.—P. in Country Gentlemen.

For the Country Gentleman.  
Sure Remedy for Onion Maggot.  
I have noticed lately several inquiries—"How to destroy the maggot in onions?" For two seasons past I have practiced an exceedingly discovered expedient, with perfect success. When the plants begin to form the bulb, after the first weeding, and before the second weeding, as possible as to get the soil as dry as possible, leaving the small roots below the bulb unharmed; they support the plant, and in a day or two it is erect again; the bulb grows in the top of the soil. My opinion, the result of experience, is that the sun is the antagonist of the maggot; I have tried lime, lime and soil, &c., without success. Having received no little benefit from the various communications in your journal of this character, I feel under some obligations to do what I can to reciprocate as far as in my power; hence these remarks for what they are worth.

THE EASIEST WAY TO PULL STEER.—Mr. Carpenter, in reply to an inquiry, said that he had tried several plans for getting rid of stump, and the one he found the cheapest and most satisfactory is to let the tree pull its own stump at the time it falls. Instead of chopping off the tree above the surface, the ground is dug around the tree and two or three of the principal roots are cut off at sufficient depth to escape the blow; then the first moderate wind blows the tree over, stump and all. I think the expense is no greater than that of chopping the tree in the usual way, and I get an increased yield of wood.

How to KEEP CROWS FROM PULLING UP CORN.—Take half a dozen eggs and take the white out. Put in a very little straining, and set the eggs around in the corn field. If they eat it before they get anything to eat in the morning, you will find them in the field. Stick a pole in the ground and run the corn down, and keep them back again. There have been found living dead beside one egg.—JOHN AYRES, Columbus, Mich.

SIZES OF CABBAGE HEADS.—It appears from a recent trial made at Bologna that carriage pigs can still compete in speed with wild ones. Last week one hundred and forty-five pigeons were liberated from cages at five o'clock in the morning to decide a wager. One made the distance—three hundred and seventy-five miles—in less than eight hours, and another in less than nine.

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