

### Clover as a Fertiliser.

Many farmers do not fully appreciate the importance of raising clover expressly to plow under for the purpose of fertilizing the soil. Red clover will grow in almost any soil not too wet; but it yields most abundantly in deep, sandy loam, as the long tap roots penetrate far into the sub-soil, and consequently it will grow in soils too dry to support many other kinds of grass.

Careous matter is an excellent stimulant to cause clover to produce a good crop; and among the many schemes to ameliorate soils and bring them to a high state of fertility, I regard clover and lime to be the cheapest kind of manure, in addition to what barnyard manure is made on the farm. The time and exertion all properly preserved from undue fermentation and waste, with a judicious rotation of crops and a clean and careful cultivation, are about all that a farmer requires to keep his land constantly improving.

Plaster or lime will cause white or red clover seeds to spring up where they must have lain dormant for a considerable length of time, and when these grasses appear to grow spontaneously it is a manifest sign of the improvement of the land. In sections of country where severe frosts occur, clover seeds should be sown in the fall to succeed well, and there is no crop perhaps among which it will grow better than oats. If I wish to grow a crop of clover to plow under for manure, I try to sow oats as early as possible, in March, if I can. I plow cornstubble in lands thirty-three feet, or two rods wide, so that I can know how much grain I am sowing to the acre, by measuring the length of the furrows. I saturate seed oats and clover seed with stale chamber lye, then dry the wheat with one-fourth of its bulk of effete lime. I sow two bushels of oats to the acre, and after it is harrowed in I pass over the ground with a triangular drag to make it smooth and level; then sow a peck of clover seed to the acre, and harrow it slightly with a light harrow, and then finish with a roller. If I have any fear that a dry season may occur, I mix turnip seed among the clover seed, with the hope that I may succeed in getting enough vegetable matter to grow, so as to cleverly shade the ground by the time the crop of oats is taken from off the field. By actual experiment I find that there is a loss of fertility to the soil to allow a bare oats stable to stand in a broiling August sun, without a spear or blade of grass of any kind growing, to counteract or mitigate the burning rays and high and dry winds, that so evidently appear to draw the strength and substance out of the soil. After the crop of oats has been taken from the field, if the land requires manure, I haul and spread it without delay, not fearing that it will waste much by exposure to the atmosphere, if there is a green coat of thrifty clover for it to rest upon. Incredible as it may appear to some, a green sward of clover upon land covered with a coat of unfermented manure, will act in conjunction with each other, in assimilating from the atmosphere to the soil enriching qualities, which is lost by the ground being turned up to dust, that absorbs the dew that falls on the surface only, and that is evaporated by the sun before mid-day; whereas clover shades the ground and retains the dew, and by the aid of the tap-root, which draws largely from the atmosphere, and deposits deeply in the soil elements contributing to fertility, and adds many tons of vegetable matter to restore the loss sustained by the abstraction of crops.

About the middle of September, if the season has been favorable, there will be a fine crop of clover, which I plow under, and as soon as possible, while the ground is fresh and mellow, I sow with wheat one and a half bushels to the acre, wet with chamber lye at least a year old, then dried with a half bushel of the finest bone dust from the button factory; then harrow, drag or roll the ground smooth, after which sow a half peck of timothy seed to the acre, and pass over it slightly with a light harrow. This completes the operation and leaves the ground nearly about as mellow as if the oats stubble had been plowed under and the land exposed to a broiling sun for several weeks. Then wet barnyard manure hauled out and immediately plowed under, to save the strength lost from evaporation, while the moisture of water it contained goes far to sour the soil, and do it for a time a positive injury.

It is a current opinion among farmers that ground should be plowed twice or three times to make timothy seed succeed well in growing among wheat; but this plan militates against raising clover to plow under for manure, and is a loss by having the ground exposed bare and naked; for if you throw down a heap of brush or a pile of stones in a field, and leave them lying awhile, when removed there will be a rich spot, which makes it evident that it is best to keep ground shaded. Timothy seed will grow well among wheat after once plowing, if a little care is bestowed in extra cultivation of the ground. Many farmers sow it on the rough surface, and leave it without harrowing, in which case it must creep down among the clover and grow the best way.

It is a question among farmers in regard to what state of growth clover should be in to plow under, to produce best effects in enriching the soil and producing crops. My experience points to a perfectly ripe state as best, for when clover is in full bloom there is too much saccharine matter contained in it, which by fermentation has a tendency to sour the soil. For ten years in succession I raised wheat on a clover sod. I always succeeded in growing fine crops of clover among oats, and let it stand without pasturing on the fall. Then in the spring I would drag or brush the oats stubble, and dry-cultivate clover, and cut the first crop of clo-

ver early, for hay, which would start the second crop in season to get out of bloom and become partially brown by the time to plow for wheat, which was done with a chain attached to the plow to turn down the clover, that in general was higher than the horses' knees.

By this plan I saved for the corn crop all the manure, which I applied as much as possible in its unfermented state. Under this system the soil improved rapidly, but in consequence of the increase of the mice crop, caused by the decayed clover affording them in the winter warmth and protection to increase and multiply, I was obliged to abandon the plan and resort again to the tooth and the hoof to lessen the evil.

I have repeatedly raised clover among corn and found that it paid for the trouble and expense, and have experimented upon other vegetable matter to have soils plowed under green crops of rye, oats, corn, buckwheat and turnips, none of which, however, were equal to clover, but they have the advantage over that plant as means to improve sterile soil, simply because clover is an aristocratic plant and will not grow in a poor soil.

Mr. Editor: I have not exhausted this subject. I could say more in favor of clover as a renovator of soil. I know it is tedious, but I am a working-man, and address myself to practical farmers. — *German Telegraph.*

**BLANKETING HORSES.**—Most persons who have the care of horses in winter make a serious mistake in throwing a blanket on the animal as soon as he is stopped after becoming heated by long travelling or hard labor. The vapor that steams up from the hot sides of the horse condenses and wets the blanket, and as he continues to cool the cold and wet covering, which keeps him wet, thins instead of warming him. The better plan is to allow the horse to stand uncovered until cooled down to about the ordinary temperature, which of course will depend on and must be regulated by circumstances, and then throw on a dry blanket.

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