

SUMMARY.

- (1.) Cultivation is necessary to conserve moisture, kill weed-growth, and liberate the maximum amount of plant-food.
- (2.) Cultivation hastens the decay of organic matter, which must be supplied to maintain the productiveness of the soil.
- (3.) Three systems of cover-cropping in the orchard-sod crops, shade crops, and annual cover crops.
- (4.) Alfalfa and red clover sometimes grow with successful results where the moisture-supply is sufficiently large to supply trees and crop with moisture.
- (5.) Gophers, moles, and mice are bad in sod crops.
- (6.) Sod crops may be used as a means of checking growth of too rank-growing trees on strong soil.
- (7.) Where alfalfa is grown, disk deeply every spring with alfalfa-disk.
- (8.) Shade crops are valuable humus-formers, but can be used only in irrigated sections or where there is a heavy summer rainfall.
- (9.) Clean cultivation with annual cover crops is the best system under ordinary conditions.
- (10.) Cover crops serve many purposes:—
 - (a.) They check late growth and induce early maturity, lessening the liability of freezing;
 - (b.) Prevent root-freezing by forming a mulch, preventing deep penetration of frost and holding the snow better;
 - (c.) They prevent the washing-away of soil during heavy rain-storms and spring thaws;
 - (d.) They prevent the leaching-away of plant-food in the fall and early spring by using it in their growth, and where turned under give it back to the soil in the spring;
 - (e.) Where turned under they add humus to the soil, which increases the moisture-holding capacity of light soils and opens up heavy soils, making them easier to work. If it is a legume, nitrogen is added to the soil;
 - (f.) When sown early, cover crops are valuable to check the growth on rank-growing, tardy-bearing trees. A good way to start them fruiting.
- (11.) Rye for all ordinary purposes makes one of the best cover crops.
- (12.) Sow the cover crop from middle of July to middle of August, depending on conditions.
- (13.) Grain-drill the best implement to use in sowing.
- (14.) Plough the crop under as soon as soil will permit in the spring. Do not allow the crop to get ahead.
- (15.) Purchase seed of wheat or rye a year ahead, for the same season's crop is not always threshed at the time for sowing.

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