

Benefits of Sowing Salt.

SIR,—When is the best time to sow salt before the grain is sown; when it is sown or after it is up?

In the December number, page 282, I see W. C. Fish, of Onondaga, N. Y., sowed after the wheat. Is there no danger of killing the young plant by sowing the salt on it?

We have read the *ADVOCATE* for years and we would not like to be without it. I often find one number worth more than the year's subscription. W. A. A., Castleton, Ont.

[All the reports we have received state 300 to 400 lbs. per acre will not injure young crops, and produce as good results sown one time as another.]

We have given many articles on this subject, and recently made further enquiries of Messrs. Gray, Young & Spaulding, who send us the following letters, which they have received from farmers who have had experience in this matter:

SALT AS A TOP-DRESSING.

SIR,—In reply to your enquiry, I will state results, as far as observation will allow, as to the use of salt as a top-dressing on this year's crops.

Sowed from 250 to 300 lbs. to the acre on spring wheat; variety, White Russian; soil, clay loam. Result: started cutting 31st July a heavy crop; a remarkably well-filled head; clean straw, unaffected by rust; will average at least 25 bushels per acre. A small portion not salted in the corner of field, badly rusted and ten days later in heading. Sowed a small corner of field of Silver Chaff fall wheat with salt. Result: straw brighter and heavier; head better filled and grain brighter than where unsalted. Sowed 9 acres "Arnold's Victor" at same rate per acre; soil, much of it black muck with clay subsoil. Result: a very heavy crop, though had to take off; did not lie down too soon, consequently the heads are well-filled, which I attribute to the salt alone. Sowed a small piece of oats with salt. Result: ready for the reaper at least one week earlier than where unsown with salt. None of these crops are yet threshed, therefore I can only speak as far as my observations will allow.

I am fully satisfied that salt sown on fall wheat at the rate of 300 lbs. per acre, besides producing a better sample of grain, will increase the yield at least five bushels per acre on any variety of soil; and what I say regarding the use of salt on fall wheat, I repeat with greater force as to the results of its use on spring crops generally. E. G., St. Helens.

SIR,—Our experience is that salt on crops of all kinds is beneficial; it increases the yield, hastens maturity, assists greatly in preventing rust, the grain is much plumper and straw stiffer; it appears to benefit all kinds of soil. We apply about 300 pounds to the acre. G. B. M., Uxbridge.

Salt for Wheat.

SIR,—In reply to R. H. in your February number, although not the author of the remarks under the above heading, I may offer some hints on the subject of salt and its effects upon various soils and crops. I will leave the task of vouching for the statements made in the article referred to, to "C. C.," the author, merely remarking that the soil is, I believe, light, sandy loam, with possibly a clay subsoil in parts, land rather flat. I have had extensive experience with salt on different soils and crops, and have from time to time noted its results. There is no doubt whatever but salt is beneficial in all light sandy and loamy and muck soils, but in hard clay I have always found it tends to bake the soil, and is therefore of no value, but rather the reverse. Salt has much the same effect upon light and muck soils that a strong tonic has upon a desepetic person. I do not consider it as a fertilizer in itself by any means, but it helps to dissolve and bring together otherwise dead or inactive substances in soils. Take, for example, a pot of soil from the bottom of a newly dug well; it is dead soil, and if seed is put into it the seed will not germinate, but die. But put salt into the pot and mix well into the dead soil, and then a day or two afterwards put seed into the soil and it will germinate and shoot up rapidly. Put salt into soil, on which there is a crop of any description, and it will discover and bring into action every

particle of matter that is of value, and the crop roots will make use of such matter. It follows, therefore, that continued salting will tend to impoverish land under crop, unless manure is added frequently. Take a wheat field, sow salt upon one-half and leave the other without; it will be observed that the growth is much more rank where the salt is used, and the plants shoot out stronger, the straw is brighter in color, stiffer and clean, and the grain much brighter and more plump generally. I have seen a field of spring wheat where salt was used upon one-half and the other left without. Where salt was not used the joint worm had made havoc, but in the rest of the field almost every stalk stood straight up. When the crop was cut and threshed there was a difference in favor of salt of eleven bushels, and seventeen pounds per acre, and the sample of grain was much finer besides. In dry seasons there is nothing I know of that will give new life and vigor to a pasture field like a light broadcast sowing of salt, and its beneficial effect is easily seen in meadows in the deep, rich, green and mellow appearance of the growing hay. To the intelligent horticulturist the benefits of salt are evident; his apples are more free from worms, they are bright and clear in the skin, and color is brought out more marked. I remember the first time I observed a collection of apples upon an exhibition table from a well salted orchard. No one could help being at once attracted by their fine appearance. I naturally enquired into the whys and wherefores of the case, and the explanation was given of the use of salt in liberal dressings upon the orchard. I afterwards had several orchards tested, using salt upon one-half and leaving the rest without, and in every case convincing evidence of the beneficial results of the use of salt was seen.

In the flower garden, too, salt will work wonders, especially in giving prominence to the blending of colors, and in a more rank growth of plant. Pansies raise up their heads and show a brighter countenance, as if joyful at their own good looks. Some flowers look double, that otherwise would appear small and indistinct in blending of shades in color. But I might go on to tell of the benefit of salt on a bed of strawberries and other fruits, or in the field on corn and barley or other crops. I could give very many actual instances of careful experiments upon various crops, but think enough has been said now to induce farmers and others to make a more liberal use of salt upon all soils excepting a stiff clay, upon which I have no hesitation in saying it should not be used. LAHRAX, Goderich, Ont.

HOW TO SAVE MANURE MOST PROFITABLY.

SIR,—The best method of taking care of the manure made on the farm is one of the most important subjects we can study. My plan at present is this:—I have a large covered shed, built like a barn, between the cattle and horse stables, so that I can wheel the manure into it from each without going out of doors, and I let some young cattle and the pigs run loose there. This, of course, keeps all the manure under cover, and is considered as good a plan as any in this neighborhood.

But I am not quite satisfied. In the first place I lose a large part of the liquid manure that runs away from the cattle stables, and this amounts to a great deal if you feed roots, and then there is the everyday's work of cleaning out the stables (of course I am referring to the plan of tying all the cattle in the stables as I do at present.)

Now, my idea is that if we had box stables for each animal, without tying them, and kept putting in fresh bedding, without cleaning them out as long as they had room to stand over it, we should save every particle of the manure, and it would be more convenient to clean out the cattle stable once or twice in the season when you could get a man or two to help, than it is to be working at it every day.

I have kept my calves this way, running loose in a close house, for many years, and never cleaning them out until spring, and then I have always from two to three feet of manure under them, solid as a cheese, and apparently of as good quality as any made on the farm. I can see no objection to this plan, except that the cattle would require more space, as each box must be large enough for the animal to turn round easily.

But as experience is a surer guide than theory, however plausible, if any of your numerous subscribers have tried this plan I should very much like to hear how it answered and what they think of it. H. A., Westminster, Ont.

SIR,—We appreciate your paper, which is ever full of valuable information. It is four years since we moved into this wildwood, which is rapidly changing into comfortable homes by the hands of industrious and persevering men—yes, and boys, too. I always like to say a word for the boys, as the future of our country depends on them. We are eight miles from the village of Wagnetawan, which is our post-office as yet. There are two churches, a grist and sawmill, three stores, two taverns, a blacksmith shop and a crown land office, and numerous dwelling houses, &c. We are only one mile from the river, which we find very convenient in summer, as it saves our teams so much. Burk's Falls is eight miles up the river, and promises to be a thriving town as soon as the P. J. Railway is completed, as it is expected to cross in its vicinity. There is also a grist and sawmill five miles east of us, which has just started operations. There is a government road from Wagnetawan past our place to these mills, so we can go to whichever we like. The crops were very good last season. Some people complain about the frost; but it is only late crops that have been damaged in this vicinity. I have hardly lost anything by the frost since I came here. W. F., Wagnetawan.

WHERE TO BUY A FARM.

SIR,—I have recently arrived in this country from England, where I was a farmer. I have \$20,000 in cash; would you advise me to go to Manitoba or to the southern or western States.

J. S., Kingston, Ont.

[Our advice would be to buy a farm in Ontario. Any one with half the capital you have would do well here and enjoy greater privileges than could be obtained in the places you mention. In this issue there is advertised for sale by H. H. Spencer a very superior farm. We have often been on this property, and know it is all Mr. S. recommends it to be, and is in every way a very desirable property. See advertisement.]

SIR,—I have a valuable cow, and shortly after calving warts grows upon her teats, which cause them to crack and makes her almost unmanageable in milking. I would be very much obliged for any information with regard to their treatment. D. W. D., Collingwood, Co. Grey.

[Dress the teats well before and after milking with equal parts of tincture arnica and glycerine.]

SIR,—I have had my horses all laid up with an itchiness on the skin, and they rub their hair off badly. Do you know of any cure? Z. B., N. W. T.

[Your description is not sufficient to determine what is really wrong with your horses. In the meantime it would be well to give a dose of purgative medicine, say about six or seven drachms of aloes with a drachm of carbonate of soda and a little ginger, in a pint of water, and follow with a powder every night, in bran mash, of one drachm each of nitrate of potash and sulphur. You will examine them and see if there are any lice on them.]

HOW TO HEAT A GREENHOUSE.

SIR,—What percentage will bones lose by burning with wood fire? Which is the most economical to heat a greenhouse, hot water, steam or brick flues? Would you advise hot water or steam? Who is the best manufacturer of such apparatus? J. M., Sherbrooke, P. Q.

[Bones only lose animal matter by being burned; all the phosphate of lime remains after burning, which is the most valuable part of the material. Hot water is the best and most economical method. There are many different kinds of boilers in use, the makers in each case claiming some advantages over their competitors. Garth, of Montreal, and several English and American firms manufacture.]

T. C. R., Ottawa, and J. L. Holton.—Berberry plants should be secured from nurserymen. The seed is best when sown in the Autumn; they will not germinate as well if left till Spring. We know not who has the artichokes you speak of for sale. Apply to Mr. James Gregory of Marblehead, Mass., as he generally secures any novelties of that kind, procurable in the States.

For want of space we have been obliged to hold over considerable correspondence until next issue.