

Farm Crop Queries



Conducted by Professor Henry G. Bell.

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops.

Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.



Henry G. Bell.

MOST OF THIS IS MISSING PAGE

Question—S. H. (1) How can I best get humus into a sandy soil? I have a field of about 5 acres which is unproductive. Last year it was not even good for grazing. I ploughed it fast fall and have been thinking of sowing it in the spring, and turning it under the following spring. What would you suggest that I sow and get a fair crop the same year, yet improve the soil?

Answer—You would do well in the spring, as soon as the ground will work, to harrow it down to a smooth seedbed, first having given it a dressing of from two to five tons of manure to the acre; then seed it to an early variety of oats, such as O. A. C. No. 72, or Daubeney, using about 1½ bus. of seed to the acre. Seed this with about 10 lbs. of Common Red Clover and 4 lbs. of Alsike to the acre. The oats will harvest early, and the clover should get a pretty good growth by fall. As soon as it has made a satisfactory start in spring, instead of cutting it, plow it under, and you will have enriched your soil by a good addition of organic matter.

Question—(2) What is the best fertilizer to use for potatoes on sandy soil, and what quantity should be applied per acre?

Answer—Potatoes on a sandy soil

should receive a fairly high-grade fertilizer. You will do well to use one carrying from 4 to 5% ammonia, 8 to 10% available phosphoric acid, and as much potash (up to 3%) as you can get this year. If you cannot buy a fertilizer with a high amount of potash, you will do well to apply wood ashes, up to ½ ton to the acre, working it into the soil before you apply the fertilizer. If you do apply wood ashes, be sure to treat your seed potatoes with formalin in order to kill the spores of the scab which is likely to thrive where wood ashes have been applied. In applying the fertilizer, if you are putting on 500 lbs. or more to the acre, apply one-half through the fertilizer attachment of the grain drill, if you have a grain drill with fertilizer attachment, or spread it broadcast over the potato field before the last harrowing if you do not have a drill distributor. Thoroughly harrow this fertilizer into the soil and apply the rest of the fertilizer through the fertilizer dropping attachment of the potato planter. It is not advisable to apply more than 300 lbs. to the acre through the fertilizer attachment of the potato planter; hence any excess of this amount should be worked in broadcast when preparing the potato seedbed.

MORE DIVIDENDS FROM GARDEN CROPS

This Year, If Ever, the Opportune Time for Making Money From Vegetables.

Five acres of Ontario soil near a good market can be made to easily support a family in comfort. In potatoes alone the returns would run, under ordinary prices, at from \$100 to \$200 per acre. From \$400 to \$500 per acre can be made from cauliflower. Many people will be inclined to regard these figures as exaggerated, but they are facts, and many cases can be pointed out to substantiate our statements.

With proper soil treatment, the average garden will produce at least a half more than it now does. Several things must be borne in mind, however, to make a success with garden crops, such as onions, potatoes, cabbage, etc. The soil must be suitable, cultivation must be thorough, varieties the best for the district and the market, and good salesmanship.

The plot selected for the garden should be well drained, and must not be shaded to any extent. Drainage takes away surface water rapidly, and keeps the soil water away from the surface, thereby allowing the roots to grow deep and the air to enter the soil and aid in decomposing it. Fertility is another most important feature. The need for fertilizer is shown by low growth and pale color in the plants. Stable manure, bone meal, or good commercial fertilizer should be used to renew the elements required by the soil.

Germination.

Crops are often lost through the failure of the seeds to germinate. Don't blame your seedsman for this. It is usually because in planting the soil is left loose about the tiny seeds, and the dry atmosphere penetrates to them, shrivelling them up until all vitality is destroyed. Vegetable crops as a rule are sown in rows, and

in every case, as soon as the seed is sown, it should be pressed down in the drill with the foot, then covered up level by the back of a rake, drawn lengthwise of the drills, and again firmed by the roller or back of a spade. For want of this simple precaution, perhaps one-quarter of all seeds sown fail to germinate. Again, for the same reason, when setting out plants of any kind, be certain that the soil is pressed close to the root. We have seen whole acres of cauliflower, cabbage and strawberry plants lost solely through neglect of this precaution.

Value of Rotation.

In order to secure maximum yields, and to keep down weeds, the systematic rotation of farm crops is an acknowledged necessity. Why not, therefore, plan the varieties of vegetables and their planting time so as to secure a continuous and abundant supply of good, fresh green things? It is just as easy as any other method of garden management, and it is much more satisfactory.

For example a crop of radishes, turnips, spinach or lettuce sown in April, will have ripened so that the ground can be cleared, dug up, and manured, and again used by the first of June, when such crops as cucumbers, peas, tomatoes, or sweet corn can be planted, and so on all through the list.

The crops should be moved around from year to year, so as to give the soil a chance to recuperate. Where a number of successive plantings are desirable, as with peas, it is an excellent plan to plant a third or fourth crop between the rows of the first crop, removing the vines of the first crop as soon as the peas have been picked.

The observance of the foregoing

RECRUITS FOR NAVAL SERVICE

The Women of Canada Are Asked to Support Campaign for Royal Navy Volunteers.



The Pendant Offered by Lady Gwendolen Guinness

arrangements to have a specially designed souvenir pendant distributed through the various recruiting centres to the Mothers, or Wives, or Sweethearts whose influence had helped to secure recruits.

This pendant is a very pretty one of silver gilt and bears the motto "I helped to serve."

The badge is now, we are informed, being distributed by the Committees and will doubtless be worn by many women as a badge of honor, as well as a souvenir of their loved ones. The illustration gives some idea of its general appearance.

Captain the Hon. Rupert Guinness, A.D.C., C.B., C.M.G., R.N.V.R., Senior Officer of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and his wife, Lady Gwendolen Guinness, sailed a few weeks ago for England after having spoken in almost every town of any size in Canada from Sydney and Halifax on the Atlantic, to Vancouver and Victoria on the Pacific.

Their aim was to organize Committees to secure recruits for the Overseas Division of the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve, and the work which they launched and which was unreservedly helped along by the Hon. Mr. Hazen for the Canadian Government, has already had splendid results, and hundreds of good recruits have joined the Navy under the auspices of the R. N. C. V. R.

Before leaving, The Lady Gwendolen made arrangements to have a specially designed souvenir pendant distributed through the various recruiting centres to the Mothers, or Wives, or Sweethearts whose influence had helped to secure recruits.

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following prescription is right for a pig weighing about 100 pounds: Santal, five grains; calomel, two grains; arca nut, two grains; sodium bicarbonate, one dram. Keep the hogs off feed for about twelve hours and give the dose in a slop of middlings. The evening of the same day give a mass of wheat bran. This will flush the bowels. Gather all worms and burn them.

Worms often are the forerunner of disease.

If hog or pig has a big appetite and thrifless condition, with dry dead hair, it is a good indication of the presence of worms.

Pursued.

Girl's Father (sharply)—What are you driving at?

Nervy Sutor—I don't see why you continue to misunderstand my meaning; I have tried to make it plain enough. I want to marry your daughter, that's all there is to it. Do you follow me?

But there was no need of this question, for as the young man turned to leave, he had tangible evidence that his prospective father-in-law was following him closely.

now made so as to be practical