

not in a soluble form—or in that form which fits it to become the food of growing crops.

If the layer of peat is of no great thickness, the land on which it occurs may be drained, its surface pared and burnt, and the ashes scattered over the soil, after which it may be ploughed and sown.

Or, after draining, common earth, scrapings of roads and ditches, yard manure, and lime or ashes may be worked into the surface, and oats, potatoes, rye, turnips, or grasses sown upon it.

Peaty soils, when thus reclaimed remain long fertile, but drainage, liming, and manuring are indispensable preliminaries.

If these materials occupy wet hollows of considerable extent and depth, it is best still to make one or two wide open drains through them, so as to get rid of stagnant water, and allow the acid matters to be washed away, and the sides to become partially dry. When peat is thus partially dried it may be applied to an excellent purpose on the farm.

1st. It may be carted to the barn yard and spread all around, so as to absorb all the liquid manure, which it will do like a sponge; not only will it thus soak it up and fix liquid and gaseous matters, which would otherwise be lost, but it will thereby take on a state of fermentation itself, which will result in its becoming soluble and proper for the food of crops. When one layer is soaked and fermented, more or less, it must be renewed, or replaced by fresh stuff from the bog, which will thus become a permanent benefit to the farm.

2nd. The peaty substance may be very advantageously composted and brought to a soluble form thereby. If three loads of half-dried peat earth be mixed with one of stable manure (green) there will be formed four loads of manure equal in value to cow dung itself, for the ordinary root and grain crops. A layer of dry peat should form the base of the compost heap, then a layer of green manure, then alternate layers of peat and manure, ending with a *thick* layer of peat. If lime or ashes be added, or if the heap be occasionally watered with urine, decomposition will be more rapid and the compost will be more fertilizing. In six weeks, more or less, according to the season, the heap may be shovelled over and then carried on to the field, where its effects are equal, if not superior, to the same quantity of common dung. It may be applied to any soil deficient in vegetable matter, and in any way, exactly as if it were so much well rotted yard manure. By ashes alone, and by quick lime alone, or combined with ashes, the peaty earth may likewise be converted into the food of plants, but I believe it is best to use them as above directed.

3rd. The peat may be burnt in the fields for their ashes, which are applied with very good effect, as a top dressing to meadows, at the rate of forty or fifty bushels per acre.

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Mr. DATTON.

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