As a general fertilizer for lawns there is nothing better or cheaper than a top dressing of well rotted barnyard manure. Our practice on the lawns at the College is to apply this after the ground freezes hard in the fall, or at any time in the winter when the snow is not too deep. The soluble portion of the manure is washed into the ground with the melting of the snow and the early spring rains, and stimulates an early and luxuriant growth. When the lawn is dry enough to rake in the spring the coarsest of the manure is raked off. The finer parts are thus worked in around the grass roots.

BLACK MEDICK.

SIR,—I enclose a plant growing in our meadows which looks something like Sweet Clover but is much smaller, the bloom is yellow. Is it of any commercial value or is it a dangerous weed. We anxiously await reply through the Horticulturist.

Port Dover. J. E. ANDERSON.

Answered by Prof. H. L. Hutt, O. A. C., Guelph:

The plant in question is Black Medick, sometimes called yellow clover, and botanically known as *Medicago lupulina*. It grows freely in meadows, lawns and waste places, and in none of these cases may it be looked upon as a weed. A weed has aptly been defined as a plant out of place. This plant, or any other, in a strawberry patch, might justly be looked upon as a weed, but on the lawn it forms a thick green mat, and in a pasture field affords good pasture, but it is too short to yield much hay unless supported by other taller growing clovers or grasses.

A CORRECTION.

EXPERIMENTS IN THINNING FRUIT AT THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, GENEVA, N. Y.

The comments on the experiments in thinning fruit, which have been conducted at the Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., published in the June number of the Horticulturist, do not present correctly the conclusions which one must accept after studying these experiments. It is not necessary now to inquire whether I have reported them incorrectly or whether my statements have been incorrectly reported. The important thing is to present the right conclusion to the readers of the Horticulturist.

The experiments referred to were begun in 1896 and continued for several years thereafter. The object was to include enough trees under experiment so that the work might be conducted as a commercial proposition. The same trees had the fruit thinned year after year, while corresponding trees were left unthinned during the same period. Work was done upon apples, apricots, plums and peaches.

Taking all the experiments into consideration, both with stone fruits and with apples, the effect of thinning was seldom shown to any considerable extent in the character of the yield the following year upon the same trees. In many instances there was apparent some permanent advantage as a result of the thinning, but in many other instances no such advantage was apparent. This leads us to conclude that for trees which have reached mature bearing condition, and which are well fed and in all respects well cared for, the effect which thinning the fruit may have upon the productiveness of the tree in succeeding seasons has not been sufficiently great in these experiments to permit us to look for very much profit in that direction from thinning fruit. In this work the profit from thinning fruit, when there has been any, has for the most part come from the superior size and quality of the fruit of the current season. I wish to call particular attention to the qualification made in the previous statement as to the kind of tree under consideration. There can be no