

FARM MANAGEMENT

Manuring New Meadows

"As a result of several years' experience, I am strongly of the opinion that one of the best places to apply manure is on the new meadows," said John Fixter, the manager of the Macdonald College Farm, at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que., to a representative of The Dairyman and Farming World, who recently visited the College. "For several seasons," said Mr. Fixter, "I had considerable trouble getting a catch of clover and grasses. The thought came to me that were a mulch applied to the fields immediately after the grain crop was harvested it would help the newly-seeded fields."

"I have tried this for four years with splendid results. Last year I applied manure in this way on 35 acres, and this year we harvested two splendid crops, that I expect will turn out at least four tons to the acre. This hay is in stack and will be weighed as soon as our barns are ready. The more I see of this top dressing the more I am inclined to think that it would be a far better plan for those farmers, who have difficulty in getting a catch of hay and clover seed, than applying the manure to corn and root fields."

"When spreading the manure, put on as light a coat as possible. If you have a manure spreader, set the spreader to spread eight to ten tons an acre. A light dressine is much better than a heavy one, as it allows the young plants to get through and it leaves more manure for the other fields."

"When I have followed this plan, I have secured about a ton to the acre of hay, and I have had a heavier sod for pasturage purposes. This heavier sod, also, provided more plant food to be plowed under for the growing crops. The extra hay secured about paid for the manure used while the extra sod turned under benefitted the hood and grain crops that followed."

Crop and Fertilizer Grown in the Same Year

Edward Lane, Waterloo Co., Ont.

Many a "soil-tiller" living in towns and cities finds himself up against problems which do not bother his country cousin. Two of the advantages which the country man has over his city brother in soil cultivation is ready access to the manure pile and to a rotation of crops. No matter how much he may wish to carry out a system of rotation of crops, it is often impossible for the city man to do so as oftentimes more than one-half of his lot is planted to potatoes and sometimes they will be grown on the same spot for several years in succession with no manure applied to the land.

Eight years ago, I made up my mind to see if it were possible to make the land grow its own manure and a crop of potatoes also. Having a piece of ground about 60 x 40 feet, which had grown potatoes for eight years out of 12 and which seemed to be sick of this crop, as the yield was becoming smaller every year, I started sowing clover seed as soon as the crop could be taken up. In the first year of the following year, I had a crop of clover a foot high. I dug this in and planted early potatoes that already had sprouted. The crop came up and yielded a better crop than I had had for several years. I continued doing this for five years in succession, during which time I did not use a bit of manure. The fifth crop was the best of all.

I finally came to the conclusion that

it was possible to make land grow its own fertilizer and a crop besides. At the present time, I have a fine crop of potatoes, the being the 16th crop in 20 years. On two occasions, I did not wait till the crop was taken up but sowed the clover between the rows. I was able to do this as I always work on the level system. It pays every time to turn under a good crop of clover.

Producing Seed Grain

W. L. Davidson, Shafter Co., Que.

In my experience as a seed producer, one of the first essentials is to have well-selected soil, which must be well cultivated, but in good condition and free from weeds. A good rotation is necessary. Mine is as follows: First year, clover or pasture sod turned under in the fall and well manured during the winter or spring. This is worked into the soil as early as the weather and the condition of the soil will permit. This makes the best possible seed bed for corn, potatoes and roots. These crops must be well cultivated and kept free from weeds. The land will then be in good condition to produce seed grain the following year without further fertilizing although a fair dressing of wood ashes will make a wonderful difference in the yield.

In selecting seed a variety best suited to the locality and to the kind of soil where it is to be grown should be chosen. The system adopted by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association is to select in the field sufficient heads from the best plants to sow a quantity of an acre each year, thus one keeps up a good standard of pure seed. All seed should be thoroughly cleaned as soon as threshed and kept in a dry, cool place, separate from other grains. This saves any trouble at seeding time.

With seed corn, it should be husked as soon as harvested and placed in racks in a dry, airy place, free from frost until the entire cob is thoroughly dry. The corn should be left on the cob till planting time.

Butter and Eggs or Toad Flax

A weed with which I am not familiar has recently made its appearance in my permanent pasture field. A neighbor informs me that he believes it to be the weed commonly called "Butter and Eggs." Would you kindly give me a description of this weed, together with some means of eradicating it?—E. A. T., Leeds Co., Ont.

Butter and eggs, more properly called toad flax (*Linaris vulgaris*), is a persistent, deep-rooted perennial weed. It is quite common in pasture fields in Prince Edward Island and is quite common and injurious in all parts of the eastern Canadian provinces, gradually spreading westward into Manitoba. The showy, pale yellow flowers, with orange lips, nearly an inch long, are borne erect in dense racemes; the two-lobed corolla is closed, and mouth-like, but by gentle pressure at the sides, it opens and closes like the muzzle of an animal. The flat, black, scale-like winged seeds are about one-tenth of an inch in diameter, and are often found in grass seed. They are easily recognized from other seeds amongst which they occur both by their shape and color.

Where this plant has established itself, a short rotation of crops is essential. The following short rotation eradicates this weed, is recommended by Mr. J. C. Craig, Agricultural Expert, Central Experimental Station, Ottawa. A rotation of the following rotation, including clover and alfalfa, followed by roots or turnips, and then plowed in fall, followed by grain the next spring, will reduce the red clover and 12 lbs. of clover an acre. (When the land is heavy or clayey, the red clover may be replaced by 6 lbs. of red clover and 2 of alsike.) If a portion of the arable

land must be used for pasture, then the land might be allowed to remain under grass or hay for two years instead of one year, the second being used for pasture, thus reducing the 1 year into a 4 year rotation. The pasture land in the four year rotation, or the hay land in the three year rotation, should be broken up early in August and cultivated at intervals to destroy the successive growth of weeds as they appear. The land should again be plowed or preferably ridged in the fall. This rotation may be expected to give good results with this weed anywhere in Canada east of Manitoba.

Sand Flies in Houses

How can I rid my house and cellar of sand flies? They have been very troublesome for the past month.—J. H. S., Norfolk Co., Ont.

In order to get rid of sand flies, the

house or cellar should be tightly closed and fumigated thoroughly with tobacco or pyrethrum. This will kill the flies. In a cellar or other semi-closed room, the flies always crowd to any window or other source of light. Great masses of them can be killed in such situations by a fine spray of kerosene emulsion diluted ten times.

The kerosene emulsion may be made as follows: Hard soap, shaved fine, one-half pound; water, one gallon; kerosene, two gallons. Dissolve the soap in boiling water, warm the kerosene and add the boiling hot suds to it. Then churn with a force pump for a few minutes until it will result in a milky appearance in the mixture, which yields rapidly to cream and finally to a soft, butter-like mass. When cold, this will adhere to glass without oiliness. The emulsion thus made containing 66 per cent. of kerosene may be readily mixed with water to any extent.

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