

Alfalfa as a Cover-crop.

Alfalfa as a cover-crop in the Interior has only met with a limited amount of success. Generally speaking, it has not proved to be a good cover-crop for the average soil and orchardist. Some of the chief reasons for this are as follows:—

(1.) When planted it is usually put in as a permanent cover-crop, and has proved successful on a deep soil with an abundant supply of moisture during the summer months. The success on these soils has led many to sow alfalfa on very light soils where the moisture-supply was already deficient.

(2.) Some orchards have been transformed into hay-fields, the alfalfa receiving more care and thought than the orchard.

(3.) Too much of the crop is usually removed from the land.



A rye cover-crop.

(4.) The land in many of the orchards in irrigated districts was not properly levelled before the orchard was planted, and it is impossible to irrigate satisfactorily, even though there is an abundant supply of water available.

(5.) In districts where water is not too plentiful too many growers have sown the entire orchard to alfalfa.

(6.) Enough care has not been exercised in putting in irrigation-furrows, and many places have them too far apart to even water the trees with clean cultivation. In many cases there are only two irrigation-furrows between two rows of trees, and in others there are no furrows provided.