

MANURES.

Farmyard manures are the most effective fertilizers that can be applied to the soil.

Comparatively small applications at short intervals are more effective than larger dressings applied less frequently; to put in concrete form, five tons of manure per acre every third year will give a better return than ten tons every sixth year, simply because there will be less loss of organic matter.

It is a more profitable practice to keep the manure comparatively near the surface. The larger number of the feeding roots of most of our crops lie fairly close to the surface; at least, that is in humid districts.

A result which is remarkable but nevertheless which must be true since experiment has verified it over and over again is that, weight by weight, fresh manure has given yields almost equal to those obtained from rotted manure.

On the ordinary Canadian farm where the manure is not at once utilized by being put into the soil or on to the soil, the farmer is losing one-third of the initial value of that manure. In the various methods of rotting manure the losses are least where the manure is kept compact and protected from rain.

If manure can be put on to the fields while still fresh there may be returned to the soil seven-tenths of the plant food taken from the soil by the growth of the crop.

It has been found utterly impossible to save all the plant food contained in manure no matter what system of rotting is followed. The sooner, therefore, that it is put on to the soil, the better.

It is important to bear in mind that the growth of clover in a rotation is practically equal to a good dressing of manure of say ten tons per acre of ordinary farmyard manure.

The table below gives the approximate average composition of manure (fresh) from various animals:—