

can develop a taste for and grow very fond of food which they at first refuse to touch. Whether animals, unfamiliar with sweet clover, will like it or not from the beginning also depends upon what time of the year they be pastured on it. If turned on to it early in the spring when the plants are very juicy and tender, they will have less objection to it than later when the plants are better developed. This is due not only to the fact that early in the spring the animals are hungry for green feed, but also because that the young plants contain a much smaller amount of eumarin than the older ones and consequently are less bitter.

SWEET CLOVER FOR HAY AND PASTURE.

As a hay crop, sweet clover cannot compete with alfalfa. Full crops can be relied upon only every second year, whereas a well-established alfalfa field will yield large crops during many consecutive years. In feeding value it is also inferior to alfalfa, holding less protein and less carbonhydrates than the latter. Where alfalfa can be grown with reasonable success, sweet clover should, therefore, by no means be introduced.

The principal advantage of sweet clover for pasture lies in its ability to shoot very early in the spring, to remain green during periods of prolonged drought, to continue growth until late in the fall, and to stand close grazing well. As a rule there is no danger of sweet clover producing bloating. But even with all these good qualities it is doubtful whether it will ever be of general importance as a pasture crop in any part of Canada. It will be useful only on soils too poor for other pastures.

The statement sometimes made that, in Europe, sweet clover has been cultivated for hundreds of years as a staple crop for hay and pasture, has no foundation whatever. As a matter of fact, it is, in Europe, generally looked upon as a weed pure and simple.

OBJECTIONS TO SWEET CLOVER.

Apart from what already has been said against sweet clover, there are a few other objections of a more serious nature, which should be given due and careful consideration by farmers before they decide to introduce sweet clover as a farm crop.

CHARACTER OF THE WEED.

It is often claimed that sweet clover, on account of being a biennial plant, cannot assume the character of a weed, if properly handled. Being a biennial it lives only two years and if the plants are prevented from going to seed the second year, there should be no danger of sweet clover spreading all over the farm.

Theoretically this is perfectly correct and sounds well, but in practice it turns out to be quite different.

The writer goes so far as to say that sweet clover, when once introduced on a farm, will prove almost impossible to get rid of, no matter what precaution be taken. Many a farmer, believing that he had destroyed every sweet clover plant on his farm before it had had any chance to set seeds, has been painfully surprised to discover that, in spite of all, sweet clover suddenly appeared in the most unexpected places. In practice even the most careful eradication methods and the most careful effort to prevent it from going to seed have too often proven in vain. Over and over again it has been discovered that seed, in spite of the most careful attention, has been developed and dropped to the ground. Only a few such overlooked seeds will be sufficient to start a weed crop which very soon will prove detrimental to a well managed farm.

Even granting that sweet clover may be checked or quite suppressed in well cultivated and clean-kept fields, there are always places on a farm where sweet clover, once introduced, is apt to take a firm foothold. Along roadsides, fences, ditches, etc.,