

An Experience of 20 Years in Growing Alfalfa

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30 pounds per acre. I use a seedling with seeder attachments, which sows the seed and covers it at the same time. I sow 15 pounds each way, seeding from the 15th to the 20th of August.

"In cutting alfalfa I watch for the new shoots starting out from the crowns, which states that alfalfa has its growth; then, the sooner cut the better. If cut before the new shoots appear it has a tendency to retard the growth of the next crop. Also, if cut too late, the mower snips the new shoots and dwarfs the next crop. I cure it about the same way you would clover.

Fertilizing the Alfalfa.

"One of the big advantages of alfalfa is when you once get a stand of it, you don't have to re-seed every year; how often is necessary I do not know. I have some that has been mowed three times every year for the past six years, and it is as good as ever, in fact, it has been improving every year. I top-dress every year with at least 600 pounds of high-grade fertilizer per acre. Until a short time ago my farm had on it one cow to the acre, and with the manure from her I felt that 600 pounds of fertilizer when the ground was seeded, and this much each year afterwards as top-dressing, was enough. Without the manure I would use at least half a ton of fertilizer per acre.

"Alfalfa makes the best of hay for all kinds of stock. Some of my horses eat it before they do their grain. Cows will give more milk when fed on alfalfa than they will when fed fodder corn. It's a grand thing for brood sows. When fed alfalfa they will keep in fine condition on half the grain that they would need without it. So many tell me that they cannot grow it, but the most of them admit they never tried it.

"I have 105 acres of my farm of 122 acres in alfalfa, and what I have told you is my own experience. Had I known these things in the beginning, I cannot tell what it would have been worth to me. You that want it, get busy. If you don't make a success of it the first time, try again. Come over and see mine any time from the 25th of May to the 2nd of June, and you will go back home determined to grow it."

The Corn Crop Next Year

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Globe. By intelligent seed selection this Durham County farmer has gotten a strain that matures in his district and at the same time produces a good tonnage of ensilage to the acre.

Now is the time of year to select the seed corn. Go through the field as late in the fall as possible and just before the corn is cut, and choose sufficient ears to supply seed for the next year. Select ears that are large, the proper shape for the variety, that are borne on large, leafy, strong, but not too coarse stalks, and above all, ears that will ripen before frost. In a moderate sized field it should not be difficult to find such ears, if the variety is at all acclimated. Then the ears should be cured in a protected place where freezing will not occur.

Such selection is not possible where Bureks, Big Crop and similar varieties of corn are grown. It is first necessary to start with a variety that in some years at least will mature in the grower's section. The result of too late varieties is much sour smelling ensilage; the stock don't like it and dairy cows won't eat it, unless forced to. These large varieties may be as all right in the southwestern counties of Ontario, but in Central and Eastern Ontario and in Quebec smaller varieties are preferable. Where the dairy

farmer in these sections can find a good, reliable grower in the corn belt of Ontario and get his seed from him, well and good. Most of us, however, will be just as far ahead to select our own seed and make the highest quality of ensilage. As I said in the beginning, however, Canadian corn growers are divided into two camps on this question, and I am willing to hear the other side.

Cultivate the Alfalfa Crop

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was convinced that the alfalfa was all dead. In a few days, however, the plots were green again and the alfalfa starting out to make a vigorous second growth. The same practice has been followed ever since.

It is good practice before cultivating with the disk harrow to scatter eight or ten tons of farmyard manure on from May to February last, Mr. Col-

lum sent to the Borden condensery, 116,669 lbs. of milk, with an average test of 3.6 per cent, fat and this without making any allowance for the milk used by the family or for feeding calves. The cheques received from this milk totalled \$1,835.42. In Mr. Collum's herd there are 15 cows. During the period mentioned, six were junior two-year-olds and the average production for the whole herd was 7,778 lbs. of milk, realizing \$122.36 for each cow.

One of the females in this herd is a pure bred, the others are grade Holsteins. The majority freshen in the spring. The staple roughages are ensilage and clover hay. The grain ration consisted mostly of moultrie, helped out from home grown grains, helped out by two and one-half tons of purchased concentrates. In Maple Grove Dairy Farm there are 204 acres with 105 cultivated.

A Good Quebec Herd

Mr. Chas. Collum of Maple Grove Dairy Farm, Ormstown, Que., is one of the many successful dairy farmers of that district who is always willing to vote for the dairy cow as the best money maker on the farm. During the season of 10 months, from May to February last, Mr. Col-

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"—birds in full feather—flying high—and if I hadn't been sure of the load I never would have tried the shot. Made a double—the deep penetration of the Canuck Shells did it."

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