

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS.

Large quantities of these are being used, and will be used. Whether they pay or not, depends on the circumstances under which they are applied.

Here are a few points to be considered:—

To get full value from their use, the land must be thoroughly cultivated. Conserve the moisture in the soil, as the fertilizer is no use to the crop only in solution.

The nitrates are very easily dissolved, potash not so much so, and the phosphates only slowly soluble. Look out for leaching.

The proportionate amount of these that you would apply would depend on, first, the kind of crop the soil has already produced; and, second, the kind of crop you wish to grow. If the preceding crop has been a "potash-feeder," for instance, and the succeeding crop of the same nature, the proportion of potash must be increased.

In short, supply those fertilizers that the soil lacks and that the plant needs.

Above all, be sure that the market value of the crop warrants the use of the fertilizer.

SCORE-CARDS TO BE USED IN JUDGING THE CROPS.

NAME OF VARIETY.....

Wheat, Oats, and Barley.		Possible Score.	
GENERAL APPEARANCE CONSIDERING:—			
1. Stand of crop.....	5	..	
2. Type of plant, vigour, and uniformity of growth	10	..	
3. Acreage, method of seeding, absence of lodging	5	20	
Freedom from weeds	..	25	
COMMENTS REGARDING KINDS FOUND IN CROP:—			
.....			
.....			
Freedom from smut, rust, blight, and insects.....	..	10	
Freedom from other varieties and other kinds of grain	..	20	
APPARENT YIELD AND QUALITY OF GRAIN CONSIDERING:—			
1. Proportion of well-filled heads of plump grain of good quality..	20	..	
2. Uniformity of maturity	5	25	
Total	...	100	

NAME OF VARIETY.....

Potatoes.	Possible	Score.
GENERAL APPEARANCE CONSIDERING:—		
1. Method of planting, stand of crop	7	..
2. Vigour of growth	8	15
Freedom from blight, scabs, and insects	..	20
Method and thoroughness of cultivation	..	20
Purity of variety	..	10
APPARENT YIELD CONSIDERING:—		
1. Number and weight of marketable potatoes per hill	15	..
2. Quality, colour, shape, and smoothness	10	..
3. State and uniformity of maturity and freedom from sunburn...	10	35
Total	...	100