

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Thomas - Phosphate and Wild Mustard.

To the Editor of FARMING:

Would you kindly give us through the columns of your valuable paper any information that you can as to the effects of 'Thomas' Phosphate on mustard in a crop. The writer is under the impression that he saw it advocated in a pamphlet some time ago for this purpose, and would like to know whether he is right or not, for if it will kill mustard it will be a great advantage in this section of the country. Any reply which you can give, or which may arise through discussion, will be much appreciated. We have noted with interest the various lines in the last few issues on this subject.

Thanking you in anticipation, we are,
Yours truly,

King, Ont. A. DAVIS & SON.

Answered by Mr. T. C. Wallace.

Referring to the inquiry of Messrs. A. Davis & Son, Thomas-Phosphate has not been advocated as killing wild mustard, but there are some observations on the subject which point to an important conclusion. Grain fields which produced straw, but comparatively little grain, owing to rich nitrogenous and potash manuring with barnyard manure, being liberally treated with Thomas-Phosphate produced very much increased grain yield and practically no wild mustard, while parts of the same field not receiving the phosphate were full of mustard and other weeds. If it is true that the wild weeds appear and flourish under certain unbalanced conditions of the soil, this is very reasonable and certainly worth a trial. The extraordinary developments of clover under the influence of Thomas-Phosphate on meadows and pastures may be ascribed to a somewhat similar soil action, and on this point there is certainly no longer room for doubting the fact, even without admitting the theory. I certainly recommend the application of Thomas-Phosphate to lands infested with wild mustard, for I have seen excellent results from the treatment, and it is much safer than eradicating the pest with sulphates, as recommended by some scientists, as the general results of sulphating land, on future crops, have not shown it to be desirable. If your correspondent will put his land in good, all-round condition and give it an excess of phosphate in the form of Thomas-Phosphate Powder, he need no longer fear wild mustard, and will increase his grain yield to a point he has never dreamed of.

Mistress (greatly distressed as Bridget awkwardly drops the chicken on the floor when about to place it on the table)—"Dear me! Now we've lost our dinner!" Bridget—"Indade ye've not. Oi have me foot on it!"

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Yours truly,
(Signed) F. W. Houson

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