

Cost and Service

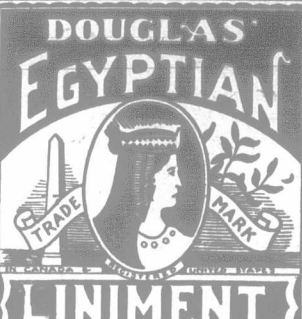
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Questions and Answers.

Miscellaneous.

Alfalfa Seed.

1. Where can I get the best alfalfa seed?

2. Which is the best kind? I shall want five bushels.

Ans.—1 and 2. The Ontario Variegated and Grimm's Alfalfa are the two varieties which have given the most satisfactory results in Ontario. Communicate with some of the seedsmen who advertise in these columns, or else with some of the growers of the Caledonia district who also advertise their seed.

Garget.

We have a cow that is troubled with inflammation in her udder. This inflammation seems only to affect one-quarter of her udder at a time. The udder swells up and becomes quite hard and tender, but after rubbing well it softens, and, when milked, big clots of milk come out sometimes clogging the teat, so that they have to be pulled out. This trouble has occurred in each quarter. When she is kept in it is not so bad, but when let out again on the wet grass it comes back the same as before. We never have had any trouble of this kind before and would like your advice.

A. M. S.

Ans.—The symptoms indicate that the cow is troubled with garget, which is an inflammation of the udder and is brought on by injury, or cold, or the introduction of germs. We are inclined to believe that this case is caused by the cold, and the udder has evidently become susceptible to the trouble. As soon as inflammation is noticed it is good practice to give a purgative of one pound Epsom salts and a teaspoonful of saltpetre, dissolved in a quart of hot water. The saltpetre may be continued for a few days in the feed. The affected parts should be bathed three times a day with hot water, rubbed dry, and then a mixture of spirits of turpentine and goose oil or lard rubbed well in. Milk out the affected quarters at each bathing. Very often the use of a quarter or more of the udder is lost through this trouble. Possibly the udder will come all right when the cow is stabled, but if the trouble recurs frequently it would be advisable to beef the cow.

Improving Sandy Soil.

1. What is my best method to get humus in a sandy soil? I have a field of about six acres which grows practically nothing, this year it was neither worth grazing nor cutting. I have it plowed this fall and have been thinking of sowing vetch and buckwheat the end of May and turning it under as green manure for the following spring. Is there anything that I could sow and get a fair crop in the same year and yet improve the land?

2. What is the best fertilizer for potatoes on sandy soil, and what quantity should be applied per acre?

Ans.—1. Sandy soils have been built up by the use of clover or some other legume. It is doubtful if there is anything better. A legume adds nitrogen to the soil, and if plowed under increases the humus content. Vetch serves the same purpose. Buckwheat is also a good crop to turn under to increase the humus, but it does not add nitrogen to the soil like clover. We have known soils to be so poor that clover would not catch. In such cases rye is first sown and plowed under, and the next year little difficulty is experienced in getting a catch of clover. We do not know of any crop which you could grow and harvest and at the same time improve the soil, unless it is some legume. In the end you would be farther ahead to get humus into the soil by plowing under the first crop, thus preparing the soil for the second year.

2. Potatoes draw heavily on the potash content of the soil, and considerable quantity of it is frequently used on this crop. Acid phosphate and nitrate of soda are also frequently applied. A mixture of about 600 pounds of these substances is recommended in the proportion of about 2.4 per cent. nitrate of soda, 7.4 per cent. acid phosphate, and 10 per cent. sulphate of potash. Barnyard manure applied on a clover sod and plowed under makes ideal conditions for potato growing.

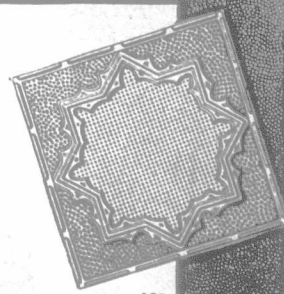
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