

cut and removed, is generally sufficient. This is best done with an ordinary spring tooth harrow drawn across the rows to tear out any grass or weeds. After cultivating, any stones or rubbish should be gathered and the area rolled. Injury to the alfalfa plant is not likely to occur through tillage. The green crop should be cut for hay or green forage, either immediately before, or as soon as the new shoots start growth. This is generally when the first blossoms appear. If left until the new shoots have grown more than two inches, injury may result and the following crop be reduced. The average dates of alfalfa cutting at the experimental station have been May 21, July 9 and August 24. Cutting after September 15 is not advised. Any green top that may have developed as a fourth crop should remain uncut for winter protection. The lime requirement of alfalfa is large, and must be kept up by applications of



Alfalfa seed sown in May, photo taken in September of the same year. Experimental Station.

ground limestone or air-slacked lime at intervals sufficiently frequent to keep up the vigour of the plant. One thousand pounds per acre of air-slacked lime every third year is generally sufficient for island soils. Top-dressing of alfalfa areas with the various stable manures is a good practice. This is best done after the third cutting of the season has been taken off. Horses and sheep should not be permitted to graze on alfalfa at any time, unless it is desired to destroy the stand. Cattle and swine can be successfully grazed if reasonable judgment is used in limiting the number of animals to the producing capacity of the tract. Care should be taken to prevent overgrazing. The repeated nibbling off of the newly-formed buds will quickly kill alfalfa. It is not advisable to permit an alfalfa area to produce a seed crop more frequently than alternate years. Favourable weather conditions at the time of alfalfa haying are the most important factor in making good hay. In the humid coast air it is generally advisable to leave the hay in swath for two days, then rake into