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Your Questions Answered

DEPTH OF WHEAT ROOTS

Q.—What is the depth to which wheat roots have been known to go where the soil is so soft as not to obstruct the growth?—SCOTTIE, Hanna, Alta.

A.—Positive information concerning the depth to which wheat may send its roots is not available. In the central western states Ten Eyck found wheat roots at a depth of four feet. It has been reported from the arid portion of Utah that they extend six feet into the soil. In humid countries two feet is possibly the average depth to which they descend and on soils with a heavy impervious subsoil they may not go more than one foot.—Prof. J. Bracken, Agricultural College, Saskatoon, Sask.

LADOGA WHEAT

Q.—Would you be kind enough to tell me what you know about Ladoga wheat. I understand it is a soft wheat, and about 100 days earlier than Marquis. Are these true facts, or not. Also how does this wheat sell compared to Marquis. Any information you may give me in this line will be very much appreciated.—CHAS. J. KALLAL, To-Red, Alta.

A.—Ladoga wheat was imported into Canada, in the spring of 1887 from Lake Ladoga, north of Petrograd, in Russia, which is by latitude about 600 miles north of the city of Winnipeg. It was imported in the early days in the hope that because of its earliness it would find a place in Western Canadian agriculture. It was found to be considerably earlier than Red Fife. Ladoga is not a soft wheat; neither is it a hard wheat. It is perhaps more correctly described as a semi hard wheat, producing a flour high in gluten, but low in elasticity and yellowish in color. Ordinarily this wheat would not grade as well as Marquis. We consider that Marquis is far superior to it in all essential characters and in localities where Marquis does not mature, Pioneer would seem to be much more to be desired than Ladoga. In the years 1887-88 Ladoga averaged in many tests 10 days earlier than Red Fife.—Prof. J. Bracken, Agricultural College, Sask.

SUB-SURFACE PACKING

Q.—I intend using a six-wheel sub-surface packer attachment on my breaking plow this season. Will it be necessary to follow this immediately with the harrow to prevent the soil from drying out?—F.H., Winnifred, Alta.

A.—The sub-surface packer used immediately after the plow in summer-fallow compacts the soil sufficiently in the bottom of the furrow slice to prevent it from drying out, and at the same time on sandy and sandy-loam soils leaves sufficient mulch to prevent evaporation. On clay and clay-loam soils, it will probably leave the soil too compact at the surface allowing moisture to be lost by evaporation. On soils of this kind, better results will be obtained by following the packer with the drag harrow.—Prof. T. J. Harrison, Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg.

LEAKING ROOF

Q.—Could you tell me through the columns of your paper how to prevent moisture condensing between the ceiling and roof of my house?

The attic is papered and boarded but where the valley rafters of the gable on the north side of the house come down the water always drips into one of the bedrooms in mild weather in winter and is loosening the plaster. I might say the attic contains two water tanks. Would sawdust used between attic rafters prevent this or could you suggest something?—F.D., Chances, Alta.

A.—The information as given in your letter would indicate that the trouble is not with moisture condensing between the rafters, as if this were the case, wet spots would not be confined to any particular place, but would appear at different points; but if moisture does collect in the valley, a small ventilator placed on roof will prevent this. We are inclined to the view that snow collects in the valley on the north side of the house, and the alternate thawing and freezing forms ice in the valley, causing the water to back up under the shingles and leak through. It will be necessary to keep the valley clear of snow, and also examine the metal valley to see if it is of sufficient width, which should be at least 12 inches wide, and the shingles brought down over the metal not less than four inches.

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