

of snow. This gives winter protection and an extra supply of moisture for the next year.

Two crops are usually obtained the second season. It is important (1) that it be cut early, that is, as soon as the first blossoms make their appearance, if a good quality of hay is to be the result; (2) that the first cutting be high enough to preserve the buds on the lower part of the stem that are to make the second growth. About six to ten inches will be found the best.

Sweet Clover requires to be well cured in the field before being stored in the stack or barn. The plants should be well wilted in the swath but cured in the cock in order to preserve the leaves of the plants.

The essential thing in pasturing the crop is to keep the growth well eaten down. This means starting the grazing early and keeping the pasture well stocked. If the crop is used for pasture only it is sometimes advisable to clip back with a mower the tall growing stems that get ahead of the stock to prevent them seeding and to encourage the development of fresh green shoots. While pasturing on Sweet Clover, cattle crave some form of dry roughage such as hay or straw. It is desirable that such roughage should always be available to the stock.

For some unknown reason Sweet Clover causes relatively much smaller loss to cattle and sheep from bloat than most other green crops such as alfalfa and rape. Hogs do well on Sweet Clover pasture, making gains comparable with other legumes. For this purpose it is used as a two-season crop, but it is a mistake to overstock the first season. For hog pasture it is best to sow the Sweet Clover in rows.

When a crop of seed is desired it must not be cut for hay early in the season. Unless the growth has been exceptionally rank the crop can be handled with the ordinary grain binder and separator. By threshing close enough to hull 90 to 95 per cent of the seed, the seed-coat is more or less scratched in the process with the result that the percentage germination will be greatly increased. Yields of five and six bushels per acre are commonly obtained.

#### *Conclusion.*

Sweet Clover is a crop with which our farmers are not familiar, but one that possesses qualifications that make it well worthy of a serious trial. As forage it will probably find its greatest usefulness for the present as a pasture crop. It may also be made into a good quality of hay, although it is somewhat difficult to cure, especially in bad weather. Its probable usefulness in Western Canada, however, lies as much in its value as a soil improver as in that of a forage crop. To what extent it will be used as a forage crop will doubtless depend very largely on its ability to fill the demand for a legume crop that can be fitted into our system of farming without adding to the cost of production.

Only by trying out Sweet Clover in a sufficiently large and practical way under a variety of conditions will it be possible to correctly estimate its value to the country, and determine the places and circumstances where it will prove of the greatest benefit.