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Natco Everlasting Silo

need no insurance—because it is permanent. It cannot burn; will not blow over; lasts a lifetime.

Built of Hollow Vitrified Clay Blocks

The most lasting material known. Blocks are air tight and moisture proof. They are glazed and keep silage sweet and palatable. No hoops to tighten; no staves to settle. Never swells or shrinks. Attractive in appearance—a silo that will improve the looks of your farm.

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FARM MANAGEMENT

The Culture of Alfalfa

Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O.A.C., Guelph.
Many of the soils of Ontario which have not grown alfalfa previously do not contain the alfalfa bacteria in the soil. It is wise to introduce this bacteria either with the seed which has been inoculated, or with the soil obtained from a field on which alfalfa has been grown successfully, and in which there has been an abundant development of the nodules on the roots of the alfalfa. If the proper bacteria are not present the alfalfa must secure its nitrogen from the soil. With the proper development of the nodules on the roots of alfalfa the plants have the power of making use of the free nitrogen of the atmosphere as well as the nitrogen which is already in the soil. As the seed can be so easily and so cheaply treated it is usually wise to treat the seed unless it is known that there is an abundance of the proper bacteria in the soil. For further information regarding the inoculation of alfalfa seed, inquiries should be made to Professor S. F. Edwards, Bacteriological Department, Agricultural College, Guelph.

Times and season of sowing.
Under average conditions in Ontario the alfalfa seed should be sown at the rate of about 20 pounds of seed an acre, and the seeding may take place at any one of three different times of the year as follows:

1. Alfalfa seed may frequently be sown in winter wheat in the early spring either on the old snow or on fresh snow of one or two inches, and no harrowing or cultivation is necessary. When this method is followed the soil should be free of grass and weeds, and the wheat should not be very thick on the land.

2. On a suitable seed bed, and as soon as the land is sufficiently dry in the spring, alfalfa seed may be sown from the grass seed box placed in front of the grain drill. About one bushel of barley or spring wheat per acre sown from the tubes of the drill makes a very good nurse crop. After the seed is sown the land should be harrowed lightly. This method usually gives very good results providing the land is in a good state of cultivation and is in a clean condition.

3. Alfalfa may usually be sown alone to good advantage in the month of July on a summer fallow, providing there is sufficient moisture for good germination. This is a good system to follow providing the land produced a crop of grain or was a seed in the year previous to the sowing of the alfalfa seed.

It is nearly always wise to leave the alfalfa undisturbed the first autumn. If there are weeds, however, that are likely to go to seed or if the crop is so heavy that there is danger of smothering in the winter a mowing machine can be run over the field so as to cut the tops of the plants, which could lie as a mulch on the field.

USES OF THE CROP

The alfalfa should be cut just as it is starting to blossom, and great care should be exercised to cure the alfalfa so as to retain as many of the leaves as possible, and to protect the crop from rain. The exact method to be used depends largely upon the amount of crop and upon the conditions of the weather. The second crop in the one season may be used for hay or allowed to ripen for seed production. If the second crop is used for hay there is frequently a third crop which may be converted into hay, or in some instances used to excellent advantage for mixing with corn when filling the silo.

At the Ontario Agricultural College for the last 15 years we have obtained an average of three cuttings of alfalfa a year, with an average total yield of a little over 20 tons of green crop, or 4.5 tons of hay an acre, per annum. The average for Ontario is usually about two tons of hay for the first crop, one ton per acre for the second crop, and from one-half to three-quarters of a ton per acre for the third crop. Where seed is produced from the second crop the yield usually varies from about one-half to seven bushels, the average being fully two bushels an acre.

If alfalfa is ever pastured it should be done with great caution as the pasturing frequently ruins the crop. On those farms of Ontario where alfalfa can be raised successfully it is undoubtedly one of the most important crops that can be grown.

Land for Hoe Crops

I have a piece of land on which we put stable manure this winter. Also have the best for corn, also for potatoes. I have a silo. What kind of corn would you advise to sow? Would it be advisable to plow in the corn in every furrow in the soil or drill it in?

We would plant the potatoes on the land that has been manured and the corn on the clear land. If manure is not too plentiful it would be well to manure the potatoes rather lightly in order to have some manure for the corn land. In lieu of manure we would give the potatoes an application of commercial fertilizer, 300, 400 lbs. sulphate of potash, 150 lbs. acid phosphate, and 100 lbs. nitrate of soda an acre. If possible, get the manure on the corn land before plowing.

After plowing, disc and roll the land alternately and cultivate till it is in 1 shape. In almost every case it is advisable to plant corn on the level. Mark the land off and sow in rows 3½ feet apart or in hills three feet apart. Early Leaming, White Cap Yellow dent, or Longfield are good varieties for Ontario. By closing intermediate tube seed, in grain drill it may be used in planting corn.

Queries re Alfalfa

I am thinking of sowing some alfalfa. If sown July let will give me a crop this year? Please give me information re closing intermediate tube seed, in grain drill. I get a pure bred Angus comb white horn cockerel—G. J. P., Peterboro Co., Ont.

Alfalfa sown in July will give a good growth the same year, but it is advisable not to cut it as it leaves the plants unprotected for the winter. If the growth, however, is very rapid it may be cut, providing it is cut early enough to allow the plants to make new growth before winter sets in.

Land that raised a crop of corn or roots last year would best suit your purpose. Commence cultivation early this spring and summer fallow to keep down weeds and conserve moisture. Sow early in July without a nurse crop and use plenty of seed, 20 to 30 lbs. to the acre, depending on the condition of your soil. The material for inoculating, with instructions for using, can be procured from the University Agricultural College, Guelph. Sow the seed while it is yet damp, as the bacteria become weakened if allowed to get too dry. For the same reason harrow the field immediately after sowing.

You will find in the Poultry Department of Farm and Dairy advertisements of reliable poultry men who have this breed of poultry. By writing them you should be able to obtain what you require.

The high headed horse can best be bridled by having a snap in the bit. Put the bridle on then snap the bit in place.

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