

Farm Crop Queries



Conducted by Professor Henry G. Bell

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops.

Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.

H.M.S.:—I would like to learn the value of spring vetch. Can it be sown with peas and oats, the same to be cut for hay? How much freezing will it stand?

Answer:—Spring vetch is a rapid growing legume. It yields a heavy quantity of nutritious feed. It can be sown with peas and oats and makes a valuable addition to such a mixture for hay purposes. It will stand considerable period of cool weather. In fact, there are types that pass the whole winter in a dormant state, just like winter wheat.

E.R.I.:—We have a field which raised a crop of beans this year, it being our last spring. Owing to the lateness of the beans ripening we were not able to get all sowed to rye. It was well fitted and we got part of it drilled to rye. The seed came from a field that yielded about thirty bushels per acre; we sowed at the rate of one and one eighth bushel per acre. We have the seed for the field all cleaned up and in bags. The same field several years ago, so we were told by the man who worked it, was put into rye so late that it did not come up until the next spring and made a fair yield. This field's soil is on the sandy order with some clay and is underlaid with subsoil, and in turn underlaid with a sheet of gravel; it is warm soil. I am informed of several instances of rye being put in so late that it did not come up until the next spring, and doing well, one yielded about thirty bushels per acre. Do you know of instances of rye being sowed early in the spring (winter rye) and it yielding successfully? How much seed would you recommend to sow per acre in the spring? How deep would you drill it?

Answer:—I would not advise sowing winter rye for seed in the spring. Nature seems to have modified the growth of the fall-sown grains so that they seem to require a period of rest between the original germination and the production of grain-bearing shoots. You know if you plant winter wheat in the spring, it grows low and sends up very few grain-bearing shoots. The same is true of winter rye. While late-sown fall rye does germinate early in the spring and produces a good yield, you must remember that the dormant period of the germinating seed has been passed in the soil. It would be much better to obtain some spring rye, of which there are two or three good varieties. Ontario Agricultural College has obtained good yields from Petkus, Common and Prolific Spring varieties of spring rye. A bushel and a half of seed per acre is about the correct amount to sow. It should be drilled about the depth that winter wheat is sown, that is, 1 1/2 to 3 inches deep in well prepared soil. In order to insure a good stand and give your crop a vigorous start, it would be well for you to fertilize the spring rye with approximately 200 to 300 pounds of fertilizer per acre analyzing 2 to 3 per cent. ammonia and 8 to 10 per cent. available phosphoric acid. This can be drilled in at the time

the rye is sown, if the grain drill is equipped with a fertilizer drilling attachment. If not, the fertilizer can be broadcasted like lime and worked into the soil by thoroughly disking and harrowing.

S.G.:—I have a few acres of rather heavy marsh land. Would this grow barley successfully? What variety, when and how much should be sown for the best results? Is barley straw as good for feed as oat straw? Is millet good for dairy cows?

Answer:—If the marsh land is severely flooded till late in the season, it is questionable whether barley will grow successfully upon it. However, barley will do the best of any of the small grains on poorly drained soil, because this crop is shallow-rooted. You would do best to get seed of O. A. C. No. 21 barley. You should sow a bushel and a half to the acre seeding it as soon as the ground is fairly dry. Barley straw is not as good feed as oat straw but is better than wheat straw. Millet hay is not particularly good hay for dairy stock as it is not rich in protein. However, if the millet has been cut early and millet hay well made, it is all right to feed it once a day.

A.B.C.:—I bought eighty acres of level sandy loam last fall which has been somewhat run. I intend to lime this land, and had thought of seeding same to mammoth clover. Would sweet clover be any surer crop on a light soil? Would it be equally good hay for cattle and horses? How does the price of the seed compare with mammoth clover seed and how much should be sown to the acre?

Answer:—Sweet clover would be a good crop on your sandy loam soil. It is not a surer crop than common red, in fact I do not look upon it as so sure a crop. There is a difference of opinion as to the quality of hay sweet clover makes. Stock do not eat it readily until they are trained to use this roughage, because the sweet clover contains an aromatic oil which seems to be distasteful to the stock. However, I know of several farmers who claim good results from sweet clover hay. You should use from 20 to 25 pounds of sweet clover to the acre. In order to make sure of the catch of clover I would advise you to fertilize the soil at the time of seeding, using from 200 to 300 pounds of fertilizer analyzing 1-2 per cent. ammonia, 8-10 per cent. phosphoric acid to the acre. If you have no drill or fertilizer attachment this fertilizer can be scattered on the ground and worked in by harrowing and disking.

A.R.:—What is the best way to prepare corn ground for oats? Would you plow or disk the field?

Answer:—The preparation for your corn ground for oats will depend entirely on the nature of the soil. If your soil is naturally a free and open loam all you will need to do will be to disk it thoroughly. If it is a medium heavy clay, on the other hand, you had better plow it five or six inches deep and work it down by disking and harrowing.

purpose of his mission. Caesarea Philippi was so called to distinguish it from the Caesarea on the coast, the city north of Jaffa, where Paul was imprisoned. It was given the name Philippi in honor of Philip the Tetrarch who had rebuilt it. On the way he asked his disciples—This is the first time that Jesus questions his disciples about himself. Luke tells us that the question was asked when he was alone with the disciples at prayer. It was a solemn crisis in his life. It marks a turning point in his career. Who do men say that I am (Matthew says, "That the Son of man is")? His first question is about the opinion of others. The reply indicates how various were the impressions.

28. And they told him—In this answer we have the explanation, which common rumor, in his own days, agreed that he was a wonderful personage, either the Baptist, or Elijah, or (Matthew) Jeremiah, but none said that he was the Messiah. He wished to ascertain from them, the special witnesses as they had been of his life and daily words, the results of those labors which were now drawing in one sense to a close, before he went on to communicate to them other and more painful truths. Peter answered—All three of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) make Peter the spokesman. We have no report of what the others may have said, perhaps because of its unimportance compared with the great confession now made by Peter. Thou art the Christ (Matthew adds "Son of the living God." Luke, "of God"). There had been earlier confessions by the disciples as "The Son of God" and "The Holy One of God," and Peter recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he first followed him (John 1:11), but this confession is now made by Peter in answer to the Master's own question and in the most explicit terms. Christ or "Christos" is a

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Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah" or "anointed one." In the Old Testament a man who was selected for the great duty of kingship was anointed, or was a "messiah." Even Cyrus the Persian King, who, we are told by Isaiah, was an instrument in God's hands, is called a "messiah" or anointed one. Thus there were many "messiahs," but through the prophets the hopes of Israel became fastened upon One who in the coming ages would be the restorer of his people. To him they gave the title "The Messiah." What Peter now confesses is that in Jesus is found The Messiah, the Redeemer of all Israel, the Restorer and Redeemer of his people, whose full title as it appears in the Epistles is Lord Jesus Christ.

30. Charged them—The times were not ripe for a public and general declaration of the Messiahship. Then, too, while the disciples had asserted their belief in him as the Messiah they were not competent at this time to instruct and persuade the multitude who had deliberately and even passionately rejected him.

31. Began to teach them—From now onward Jesus has much to say concerning his sufferings and death. He now gives a new direction to his teachings. He now dwells freely upon his awful future. Son of man—His favorite title for himself. Must suffer many things—There is here implied a moral necessity in the divine plan. He is to be cast aside by official Judaism, finally put to death, but in three days will rise from the dead.

32. And he spake the saying openly—His first turning point was when he left Galilee, because of the antagonism of his enemies and the falling away of the people. His second is here at Caesarea Philippi, when his Messiahship is clearly announced and his pathway to the cross declared.

Peter took him, and began to rebuke him—Put his hand upon him and would have taken him aside. Peter could not tolerate the thought of a suffering Messiah. He was enthusiastic for Messiah's triumph, but not for Messiah's cross. Matthew gives the words of Peter: "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall never be unto thee."

33. Get thee behind me, Satan—Mark gives the very attitude of Jesus. "Turning about, and seeing his disciples." Jesus uses the very words he had used toward the Tempter in the wilderness, for Peter's protestation tended to veer the Master from his appointed path of sacrifice. The things of men—This meant the human conception of a triumphant Messiah.

There now follows Jesus' teaching that self-denial is the condition of discipleship and the secret of gaining the true life. 34. Called unto him the multitude with his disciples—Even here, in these heathen regions, there were not wanting spectators. He now calls all to him and speaks the larger meanings of life suited to them all. Take up his cross—We have no record that Jesus had previously spoken to his disciples of the cross, though it must have been implied in several instances. A Roman punishment, it must have long been the symbol of extreme suffering. 35. Whosoever would save his life shall lose it—This sounds paradoxical. There is the lower life and the higher life. He who would save his higher life must deny the lower. He who would gain the world of things—money, position, power, gratification of self—will lose or forfeit the higher life of the spirit. 36. Who doth it profit a man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life?—Mere lust and ambition for

success in the accumulation of the world's treasures and emoluments is dust and ashes compared to high achievements in character.

37. What should a man give in exchange for his life?—That is, after he has bartered the higher life for the lower how can he buy back the lost life. The question answers itself. The wasted life can never be won back.

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Your Problems

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed. Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 238 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Mabel:—Now that everyone is knitting, a knitting set would be a useful and pretty gift. Purchase a yard and a half of some delicate and fast-colored cretonne. From part of this shape a dainty bag with cretonne handles. Do not make the mistake of making the bag too small, as it is always better to have room to spare than that one's work be crowded. From the rest of the cretonne, shape a dainty little apron with a pocket across the entire lower half of the front. Make a band of ribbon or of ribbon covered elastic. Fold the apron and put inside of the bag, then when the busy knitter works, the apron will always be at hand to slip on and to hold the ball of yarn and anything else needed.

Perplexed:—Color stains from perspiration are very difficult to restore. The perspiration from under the arms is alkaline, but that from the most of the body acid. To counteract the action of the acid apply a weak solution of ammonia to the stains, making it a little stronger if this is not effective. If this is not satisfactory there is nothing to do, I am afraid, but have the dress dyed. To take out the varnish stains rub with a solution of one part chloroform, one part alcohol and one part benzene. A druggist will prepare this for you. 2. To remove wax from cloth, hold a red-hot iron within an inch or two of some blotting paper laid on the cloth over the marks. 3.

To renovate black lace, wash it in strong vinegar and water, rinse it in coffee, and iron while damp with a piece of flannel laid over it. 4. To polish grained wood, soak a flannel in a little linseed oil, rub the wood well, then polish with a dry, soft cloth. 5. The creaking of a door may be stopped by rubbing the hinges with a piece of soap. This does not spoil the look of the paint as when oil is used. Mrs. R. E. S.:—Here is the recipe for steamed brown bread that you ask for: One cup standard flour, two cups Graham flour, two cups cornmeal, one teaspoon salt, one teaspoon baking powder, one cup molasses, three-quarters cup milk, three-quarters cup water. Sift dry ingredients. Add molasses and milk and water. Beat thoroughly. Put into a well-greased mould and steam for three or four hours. To make fish soup proceed as follows: Put the bone, in a pan just covered with water and stew gently for some hours. Strain the stock and put it back into the saucepan. Cut up a large onion, a large carrot and a large turnip or a parsnip and put all into the fish stock with some pepper, salt, and chopped parsley. Cook until the vegetables are tender, then rub through a sieve back into the stock. Add the same quantity of milk as there is fish stock and add the thinly peeled rind of a lemon. Bring almost to a boil, but not quite, or the soup will curdle, and pour into the tureen over some boiled potatoes or boiled rice.

Danger in the Grass. A patch of ground grown up to grass or weeds may look harmless, but an unextinguished match, cigar or cigarette stub carelessly thrown aside, or children playing with matches in the vacant area may lead to disastrous results. Fire will run very rapidly in this dry material, and surrounding wooden fences or buildings may easily be ignited. Callas, azaleas, spiraeas, etc., now require more water.

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GOAL OR GAOL?

A look of disappointment spread over the face of Joseph-Marvin as he came home from work one evening and found his son William there already. He knew that it could mean only one thing: William had left his position again.

"Quit work again, William?" he said, trying to be casual.

"Yes," replied the boy. "I chucked my job at noon. I'm not going to work for a slave driver like Nelson any longer."

"How many jobs have you had in the six months since you left high school, William?" asked the father.

"This is the fourth," said the boy uncomfortably.

"And in every case you threw up the position, didn't you?" his father asked.

"I guess so," replied the boy sulkily.

"That's better than having been discharged four times. But I must say I'm beginning to feel pretty anxious about you, my boy. It doesn't speak