

Efficient Farming

WHICH FERTILIZER SHALL I USE?

Every farmer should know what fertilizer to use on his farm and why he is using it. The use of fertilizers has increased greatly during the last decade but this increase is of little value unless the proper fertilizer was used.

Buying fertilizers by the brand name has been a practice long followed by farmers and should be discontinued if he is to get the most out of their use. Such names as "General Crop," "Wheat Grower," "Bean and Beet Special," are often misleading and do not give the farmer any idea of the total plant food present or the amount of each of the important elements. The law requires the analysis to be printed along with the name, brand or trademark, but oftentimes this is not noticed until after the fertilizer is purchased.

Knowing the analysis of fertilizer used, will go a long way toward creating a more favorable attitude toward the use of fertilizer, but it is just as important to know the kind of use under the different systems of farming, and the different types of soil.

A complete fertilizer is one carrying nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. These constituents may vary, but as long as the fertilizer contains all three it is a complete fertilizer. Any fertilizer which has only one or two of these constituents is not a complete fertilizer. Acid phosphate, sodium nitrate, ammonium sulphate and muriate of potash, etc., are not complete fertilizers and should not be used as such. They carry only phosphoric acid, nitrogen and potash respectively.

Much unfavorable attitude has occurred among farmers because some of these fertilizers which carry only the one ingredient have failed as a "Cure All" for their crops.

In using fertilizers the farmer should consider the soil on which the crop is grown and the plant food requirements of the crop. In general the use of phosphoric acid is profitable on all soils and on all crops. This cannot be said of the fertilizing constituents, nitrogen and potash. However, if acid phosphate is used alone on some of the sandy soils, the results will not be as profitable as it would be if some nitrogen were also used.

The results from potash are variable but its use is highly recommended for leguminous crops, particularly alfalfa and sweet clover.

On the silt loam and clay loam soils the main requirement is phosphoric acid. Potash gives some response to sugar beets and beans, but on these crops it is often used in excessive amounts. Nitrogen is seldom needed where the farms are badly run, and green manures are not used in the rotation.

Occasionally, where the soil is poorly drained or of a lighter phase, top dressings of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia, have shown very noticeable effects. These effects are not the same year after year, but will be dependent largely on the spring weather. If the spring is cold so that the nitrifying bacteria are not working to their maximum, then applications of an available form of nitrogen should be made.

Nitrogen is the highest in cost of any single element in commercial plant food and for that reason should only be used when necessary. Fortunately, manures and legumes can be substituted as the source of nitrogen. It is impossible to supply enough nitrogen through the use of farm manures except where large amounts of highly concentrated feeds are purchased, and then only when good care is taken of the manure to prevent leaching and loss of ammonia through fermentation.

With the use of lime and inoculation, however, alfalfa and sweet clover can be grown on most soils, and therein lies the key to the nitrogen maintenance. However, this clover should be grown in the rotation and some turned under. With the use of these legumes and the manure produced, the nitrogen balance should be fairly well maintained. On the sandy soils a top-dressing of nitrates in the spring is advisable in addition to the above treatment.

Where legumes and manure are not used it will be necessary to apply nitrogen each year. This nitrogen should not be applied in the fall in large amounts. In the case of spring crops it should be put on just before planting. On wheat or rye about twenty per cent. of the application of nitrogen should be in the fall and eighty per cent. in the spring when the plant begins to grow. On the heavier soils that are badly run down and no legumes, nor little, if any, manure available, it is sometimes profitable to use applications of nitrogen. Legumes can usually be grown on the heavier types of soil without liming.

Legumes and manure should take the place of commercial nitrogen on these farms. There is usually a large amount of organic matter turned under on these soils, part of which is converted into nitrogen.

On the poorer types of soil a 2-12-2 or 2-16-2 fertilizer should be used for wheat or rye; on the better types of soil acid phosphate can be used just as well. For corn or oats, acid phosphate is usually sufficient. For alfalfa or clover, some potash should be used. If seeding alfalfa or clover alone, or with a nurse crop, such as barley or oats, an 0-14-4 might be used more profitably than the acid phosphate.

On the lighter soils the 0-14-4 or 0-12-2 are to be preferred to the acid phosphate for alfalfa or clover seedings. If the soils are very sandy and just limed, two to three per cent. of nitrogen will help the seedings.

As a general rule, applications of potash have not shown profitable returns for general crops on any but the lighter types of sands and sandy loams. Here applications of from two to four per cent. of potash has produced good increases in some of the small grains.

The use of high analysis fertilizer is an important consideration for the farmer. A high analysis fertilizer is one where the percentage of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash totals fourteen or more. In buying a high analysis fertilizer more of the farmer's dollar actually pays for the plant food. The cost of mixing, selling and general overhead expenses is the same per ton of low grade as high grade.

With a 1-8-1 selling for \$29 per ton, \$11.50, or thirty-nine per cent. actually pays for the plant food, while sixty-one per cent. is used to pay other necessary costs. Contrast this with a 2-16-2, just twice the strength. The price of a 2-16-2 is say, \$40.50; \$23, or fifty-seven per cent., is used to pay for actual plant food. We have, then, a difference of eighteen per cent. in favor of the 2-16-2. On the other hand, the cost of handling by the farmer will be lessened. He can use just half as much 2-16-2 as 1-8-1 and the cost on the market is only thirty-nine per cent. more per ton.

It should be evident from the foregoing figures that it is cheaper to use high analysis than low analysis fertilizers. Where the difference in plant food is not so marked, the difference in saving, of course, will be less, but the higher the analysis of fertilizer the greater per cent. of the farmer's dollar that will pay for plant food. The general trend of fertilizer practices is toward high analysis goods. Using the high analysis material does not mean that the right analysis is being used, but it does go a long way in following good fertilizer practices.

The efficiency of fertilizers is dependent largely on the soil reaction. Oftentimes it is necessary to apply lime first and if the soil is strongly acid, lime should be the first consideration.

In using fertilizers it should be kept in mind that they will not overcome seasonal or climatic conditions, but when used with good judgment and other good farm practices, they will prove profitable on most Ontario farms.

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The Sunday School Lesson

SEPTEMBER 14.

Jesus Driven From Nazareth, Luke 4: 16-30. Golden Text: He hath anointed me to preach the gospel.—Luke 4: 18.

ANALYSIS.
I. THE GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF JESUS, 16-22.

II. THE GREAT REFUSAL OF THE NAZARENES, 23-30.

INTRODUCTION.—It might have been expected that in Nazareth, where he had been brought up, the welcome given to Jesus on his first public appearance would have been specially warm, but the contrary proved true. To the Nazarenes, as the lesson shows, belongs the supreme ignominy of not having given no hearing to Jesus, but of having alone, among the Galilean cities, willed and premeditated the Saviour's death.

I. THE GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF JESUS, 16-22.

V. 16. On the first Sabbath at Nazareth, Jesus attends the synagogue service. It was the custom at such times, to call upon any teacher of religion who was present, to speak in the congregation, and this courtesy is here extended to Jesus, about whose recent work in other parts of the country, the Nazarenes have heard.

V. 17. Jesus, at the proper moment, stands up to read, and the attendant hands him a roll of the prophet Isaiah. The roll, written on parchment, would be wound on two rollers, which the reader holds in his two hands, and between them, on the unrolled portion of the roll, is the passage which he wishes to read. It is not certain whether the passage which Jesus here "finds" was chosen by himself or was prescribed by the fixed system of "lessons" for the day. In the latter case, when the roll was handed to him, it would be open at the proper place. All the more remarkable is it that the passage to be read, supposing the lesson to be a fixed one, is one in which our Lord saw his own divine mission prefigured.

Vs. 18, 19. The passage in Isaiah predicts the anointing by Jehovah, of a prophet who should preach glad tidings of salvation to the poor, open the prison of captive souls, restore sight to the blind, free the oppressed, and announce the year of God's redeeming favor. The terms, "poor," "captive," "blind," "oppressed," are to be spiritually understood. We must think of those who in patient loyalty to God's truth, have suffered impoverishment and loss, or who conscious of the burden of sin, are yearning for forgiveness. Such are God's "poor"—the term "poor" in the Old Testament, has a religious sense.—God is their interest and their capital, and they are waiting for God to set up his kingdom, and to bestow on them his salvation. No wealth, no freedom, no sight of the eyes, no wisdom, can compare with the heavenly treasure of knowing God, and walking in the light of his love. Here then we see how the Lord Jesus apprehended his mission to the nation of Israel.

Vs. 20-22. After the reading of the lesson, the roll is wound up and given back to the attendant. Jesus sits down to the usual posture of the teacher, and while every eye is fixed attentively on him in a breathless silence, he begins his sermon with the words, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." What followed is not recorded, but is left to our imagination. The Nazarenes are astonished at the "words of grace" which flow from Jesus, but inwardly in their hearts they are measuring him all the time by human standards, and saying, "Is not this Joseph's son?" They are unwilling or unable to realize that "the son of Joseph" may also be God's Son.

II. THE GREAT REFUSAL OF THE NAZARENES, 23-30.

Vs. 23, 24. The admiration, the astonishment, are momentary. The words of Jesus provoke the inward comment, "But what are the 'signs' of his calling?" The Nazarenes share the common view, that the spirit of God announces itself only in the extraordinary and the miraculous. They cannot see that God's spirit is supremely revealed in holy thoughts and deeds, which produce the sense of God's presence. Jesus is at once aware of this negative attitude, and this disposition to "Physician, heal thyself," and he recalls to his hearers the reception which Elijah and Elisha formerly met with among their own people.

Vs. 25-27. No prophet is accepted in his own country. When Elijah was fleeing from persecution, there was no home in Israel to which God could safely send him, and he was directed accordingly to the house of a widow at Zarephath in heathen Sidon. When Elisha was in Israel, the only leper Naaman was a heathen Syrian, named Naaman. Naaman alone had faith in God's word, spoken through the prophet Elisha, and came to God from idols. God's messengers, the prophets, found no faith among their own people, but had to turn to the Gentiles.

Vs. 28-30. This prediction that God will look past the Nazarenes in sending the word of his salvation is regarded as unpardonable, and the Nazarenes at that moment would have brought on themselves the guilt of murder. Jesus, however, protected as by unseen hands, passes unharmed through their midst. They are overawed by something in his bearing, and till Jesus' work is done, no evil can befall him. He passes serene and calm through all dangers, because God is with him.

EMITY.
The Jews and their kinsfolk, the Arabs, have always been eager persecutors of any "new way" in religion. Many marks of that spirit are left in the Gospel records.

When Mohammed, permitted no longer to speak within the city of Mecca, preached repentance and judgment to the crowds gathered at fair time, his steps were dogged by Abu Lahab, his uncle, who made sport of the eager prophet. When the persecution became intolerable, the prophet turned on him with a fierce curse, which, finding a place in the Koran, holds Abu Lahab up to execration, as the Gospels brand Judas.

When the religion of Mohammed got the upper hand, it was just as intolerant as its persecutors had been. "Throughout the land there shall be no second creed," was the prophet's behest on his death bed. And the early Moslems went forth in a religious frenzy offering to all, "Islam, exile, or the sword!" To Abu Bekr, the mildest of the prophet's successors, even Moslems complained of the severity of Khalid (surnamed "The Sword of Allah"). "The sword of Khalid," they said, "dipped in violence and outrage, must be sheathed." "Nay," replied Abu Bekr, "the sword which the Lord hath made bare against the unbelievers, shall I sheathe the same? That be far from me."

Better Fruit Shows.
We are just entering the fruit-show season, and from now on until December, one is likely to encounter them anywhere.

They are always interesting to the fruit enthusiast, and usually to the general public, and have certainly had an important influence in molding and developing our fruit industry; but one sometimes wishes that they might be managed differently in some respects.

The two main objects in a fruit show ought to be, first, to educate the producer, enabling him to grow better fruit and prepare it better for market; and second, to interest the consumer in fruit as an article of diet, convincing him of its value and educating him as to ways in which it may be used.

It is seldom that one finds either of these objects very fully carried out in a fruit show.

In the writer's experience and observation, the following are some of the most common ways in which the average fruit show falls down:

The exhibits are not sufficiently well labeled. The visitor wanders past the show of apple varieties with