

be justified. It should, however, be remembered that this in itself excellent plant makes only a fair quality of silage, and that it should be fed within a few months after being siloed, particularly if it is put up without an admixture. The addition of some carbohydrate material, such as molasses, cornmeal, green rye, or corn stover, improves the quality of the ensilage and increases its keeping capacity.

Alfalfa is not only a good, palatable and nourishing feed, but, what is more, it is also a cheap feed. Under the same conditions where we may obtain for instance 6,000 feed units per acre of roots (10 lbs. to 1 F. U. ) and 4,000 feed units of corn silage (7 lbs. to 1 F. U.), we can safely count on 3,600 feed units of alfalfa from about four tons of hay. It is self-evident that one feed unit of alfalfa can be obtained at a lower cost than one feed unit of

the others, once a good permanent stand has been secured.

"Well, if this be so, why is it that this wonder crop is not grown more extensively?" There may be several reasons. For one thing it is just possible that these facts have not yet been realized to their fullest extent. However, the chief reason seems to be that alfalfa is a rather tricky crop, under certain conditions, and that it has very pronounced likes and dislikes. It is one of the aristocrats in the plant world, and is rather particular in regard to locality and associations. While alfalfa does not feel at home in such good company as the clovers, it absolutely detests bad company, and considers weeds and grasses as belonging to the same category.

To ensure the best results, i.e., to ensure vigorous growth and a good



*Discing alfalfa prolongs its life by destroying weeds, creating a mulch, and letting in the air.*