

A place should be set aside for Shirley and other kinds of annual poppies, as these yield bounteous supplies of pollen and also help to make the garden gay. Nasturtiums of different kinds also deserve to be grown, as the bees repeatedly visit them.

For the late summer and early fall there are the perennial asters, or Michaelmas daisies, some of the newer varieties of which are a great advance on older kinds, and are rich in both pollen and nectar. The Japanese anemones, or Wind Flowers, bloom at this period and are very pretty and graceful.

THE AGRICULTURAL VALUE OF GROUND LIMESTONE

The favorable influence of available lime on soil fertility is a well established fact and one that is now widely recognized by farmers. This conclusion is the result of practical experience in many parts of the world and is fully supported by scientific testimony. Many soils are naturally well supplied with lime—present as carbonate of lime—and such soils rationally treated in respect to manuring, cultivation, drainage and rotation of crops, are among the most productive known to agriculture. On the other hand, there are other soils deficient in lime, owing to the poverty in lime of the rocks from which they were originally derived, or to depletion through long continued cropping and drainage. It is those soils that profitably respond to liming or application of ground limestone.

Soils in need of liming are usually acid or sour and will turn blue litmus paper red (methods for testing soils are given in Bulletin No. 80, "Lime in Agriculture," Experimental Farm Series). Soils containing a sufficiency of available lime turn red litmus paper blue, and usually give a more or less strong effervescence on the addition of a few drops of any strong acid. Soils of all types may be benefitted by liming—heavy clays, silty and slaty soils, mucks and light loams and especially, poorly drained soils.

Though quicklime or slaked lime are forms particularly valuable for heavy clays, chiefly from their beneficial effect on the texture or tilth of these soils, improving their drainage and rendering them mellow and more easily worked, ground or crushed limestone has proven a most suitable and profitable form of lime for application to soils of many types and is to be generally recommended. Excessive applications can do no harm as may be the case with quicklime. Dressings may be from two to five tons per acre, broadcasted on the prepared soil and harrowed in.

Experiments conducted by the Division of Chemistry of the Experimental Farms in Eastern Canada during the past five years have shown that at many points an application of ground limestone has been followed by increased yields, and particularly has been valuable for the clover crops—the establishment of which may be considered as the basis of profitable farming. The following two instances illustrate the benefits that may be derived from ground limestone applied to soils deficient in lime.

In Experiment 3 at Kentville, N. S., on a sandy loam soil, a plot was treated to

215 pounds of fish scrap, 233 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of muriate of potash in preparation for an oat crop in the year 1914 and yielded 57.3 bushels of grain. Another plot, similarly fertilized, received ground limestone at the rate of 2000 pounds per acre, and yielded 66.2 bushels of grain per acre—an increase of 8.9 bushels of grain due to the liming. In the second year (1915) of the rotation the fertilized but unlimed plot produced 2 tons, 467 1-2 pounds of clover and timothy hay per acre, while the fertilized and limed plot yielded 3 tons, 760 pounds of hay per acre, an increase of 1 ton, 192 1-2 pounds due to the liming. In the fall of 1915 the strong growth of clover aftermath on the limed plot made it stand out

in striking contrast to the others in the series.

At Cap Rouge, P. Q., on a sandy soil, areas in barley, oats, wheat and peas were treated in 1915 to an application of two tons of ground limestone per acre. The following results were obtained, the products being expressed in pounds of grain harvested per acre: Barley, average of 3 varieties, limed 3900, unlimed, 945. Oats, average of 5 varieties, limed 10, 140, unlimed, 8940. Wheat, average of 4 varieties, limed 4200, unlimed 3315. Peas, average of 4 varieties, limed 7080, unlimed, 3495.



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