

Practical Talks and Plain Precepts for Farmers.

Edited for the Farmer readers of the MONITOR by an Anna Polla Valley Agriculturist

FERTILIZERS.

Now that our farmers are using so much commercial fertilizer in their agricultural and horticultural operations, it is most important that they take some steps to understand the nature and value of them. In most cases farmers simply buy their fertilizer on the recommendation of an agent and know no more about it and use than they did before buying.

Commercial value of these fertilizers based upon the amount of the three principle elements of fertility, viz: potash, nitrogen and phosphoric acid. The commercial value of these fertilizers is generally misleading. Indeed, very few of the agents who sell them are able to explain what these elaborately printed analysis mean.

For the benefit of our farmers who want to be able to tell the value and proper use of what they buy, we are quoting from two good authorities the following analysis of these commercial manures and what they contain in actual plant food.

Commercial and Agricultural Valuations of Fertilizers. From "Manure: How to Make and How to Use Them." By Frank W. Semper.

A commercial valuation is an approximate estimate of the value or cash cost in unmixed raw materials of the nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash in one ton of fertilizer.

The following elements of cost and expense enter into the total cost to the farmer of a commercial fertilizer: (a) retail cash cost of unimixed raw material, (b) the cost of mixing, (c) cost of transportation, (d) storage, insurance, commission, long credit, and debt, etc.

A commercial value will be seen, however, all estimates are based on retail cash cost of unimixed raw materials. The agricultural value of a fertilizer is based upon its power to produce crops.

A commercial valuation does not necessarily bear any relation to crop producing value. The agricultural value is determined by the amount of the crop to be raised, while the commercial value depends upon the money cost of the essential fertilizing constituents contained therein.

The agricultural value may have a high commercial value and also a high agricultural value for a particular soil and crop, and yet for another soil and another crop, while its commercial value remains the same, the agricultural value may be comparatively low, and conversely, a fertilizer having a low commercial value, may have a high or a low agricultural value according to the soil and crop to which it is applied, or to summarize—

(a) The commercial value is determined by the cost of raw materials. (b) The agricultural value depends upon crop-producing power. As an example—

For General Garden Products. Formula I. Nitrate of Soda.....300 Sulphate of Ammonia.....100 Dried Blood.....100 Dried Fish.....100 Dissolved Boneblack.....200 Dissolved Boneblack.....200 Muriate of Potash.....400

Contains 51 per cent. of nitrogen, 9 per cent. of phosphoric acid, and 11 per cent. of potash. May be used at the rate of from 300 to 1200 pounds per acre. Formula III.

Nitrate of Soda.....150 Dissolved Boneblack.....350 Muriate of Potash.....300 Kainit.....100 Wood Ashes (Unleached).....200

Contains nearly 2 (1.9) per cent. of nitrogen, 8 per cent. of phosphoric acid, and 11 per cent. of potash. Well adapted for use on gooseberries, currants, and all fruit-bearing vines; also for garden vegetables, and for connection with composts and farm-yard manure. Use on fruits at the rate of from 400 to 700 pounds per acre; on garden crops in addition to moderate dressings of compost or farm-yard manure.

On a loam or clay soil, or, in fact, on any soil containing sufficient natural stores of potash, or of a crop consuming nitrogen and phosphoric acid in abundance and potash moderately, the former fertilizer would have a very high agricultural value. The latter has a comparatively low commercial value, but its agricultural value on a soil in need of potash and on a crop of clover would be much higher than the former. On a nitrogen-getting crop its value would be high, on a nitrogen-consuming crop its value would be low.

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The Household. Jokers' Corner.

LET THE GIRLS STICK TO THE FARM. Farmers' daughters who leave comfortable homes to seek uncertain employment in town often make a mistake. There are few cases where the same amount of energy and industry expended at home would not bring equal returns, beside the comforts and safeguards that are retained.

Most girls could obtain the use of an acre or two of land on this they might produce something profitable. Eggs guaranteed strictly fresh, pure honey, fat squabs, plump and tender chickens—all these good things are desired by city people, and many of them are willing to pay a good price for articles that are always kept to the mark in quality. The raising of these may mean some hard work but not so hard or confining as standing all day behind a counter or sitting at a sewing machine or typewriter.

Now Jersey woman some years ago planted one fourth of an acre of Tom Thumb cucumbers, tended them with care, and picked them according to an old family recipe. She sold them first to a retail grocer, but when they became known she was able to sell them to the retail wholesale trade, and makes a tidy sum.—The Farm Journal.

THE SAYING HABIT. Give away what you don't really need in your house. Don't let such things accumulate. They will soon fill attic and cellar and overflow into other rooms, where they do nobody any good. You are not likely to want them again and it is a nuisance to have them around.

Land of Evangeline's Route. On and after MONDAY, JUNE 23rd, 1902, the Steamship and Train Service of this Railway will be as follows (Sunday excepted):

Trains will arrive at Bridgetown: Express from Halifax.....12:04 a.m. Express from Yarmouth.....2:22 p.m. Express from Richmond.....3:30 p.m. Express from Annapolis.....7:30 a.m.

S. S. "Prince George," and "Prince Arthur." 2100 Gross Tonnage, 7000 H. P. by the fleet and fastest steamers plying out of Bridgetown, leave Yarmouth, N.S., for Halifax, N.S., on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Express Trains, arriving in Boston early morning.

ROYAL MAIL S.S. "Prince Rupert." 1200 Gross Tonnage; 3000 Horse Power. ST. JOHN and DIGBY, Daily Service. Arrives St. John.....7:45 a.m. Leaves St. John.....10:45 a.m. Arrives in Digby.....2:20 p.m. Arrives in St. John.....6:20 p.m.

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Jokers' Corner. BRIDGETOWN IDEA OF CHAMOS.

There is a prominent doctor in Georgetown who is busy telling a little joke on himself. It appears that he employed an Irish servant who had just arrived from the "old sod." Starting out one morning, he noticed his office windows were rather dirty and calling Bridget, he instructed her to clean them before he returned. As the man came in, he told her that he had just arrived from the "old sod." Starting out one morning, he noticed his office windows were rather dirty and calling Bridget, he instructed her to clean them before he returned.

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