

18 Feed the Crops with Animal, not Mineral Matter.

FREEMAN'S BONE AND POTASH.

It is unnecessary to speak of the value of Bone, for it has been used from time immemorial upon all sorts of crops, but none more so than fruit trees, grape vines, and all kinds of small fruits. It has been taken out of the soil by animals, and it is one of nature's ways of recuperating the soil by returning it. For that reason, those farmers who think they had rather have bone ought also to have it combined with potash, since potash is fully as essential as bone.

Bone and Potash for Fruit.—J. J. H. Gregory, a leading New England seed grower, who uses from 40 to 50 tons of commercial fertilizers annually on his farms, says: For strawberries, raspberries, peaches, pears, fruit garden and orchard generally, there has been found nothing more satisfactory than the phosphoric acid and potash, with but a small quantity of nitrogen. Bone that has been treated with acid (dissolved bone) will act at once, but steamed bone is more enduring. I have a pear orchard in land that has naturally a good supply of potash, that, being in a sickly condition, I treated to steamed bone eight years ago, with the result of producing a good growth of wood and noble crops of fruit, while I cut two good crops under it annually ever since.

It appears to be settled that the "yellows" on the peach-trees is caused by want of nourishment, there being especially a lacking of potash. Diseased trees have been cured by a liberal application of it.

For Corn.—In the valuable experiments inaugurated by the Connecticut Experimental Station, in the experiments with barn manures and various fertilizers on corn, it was found that the mixture of 350 pounds of superphosphate (dissolved bone) with 150 pounds of muriate of potash, gave the greatest profit, though not the largest crop; the average yield in fifty-three experiments being a little over fifty bushels of shelled corn to the acre, while the cost of the fertilizers was not over eight dollars.

Culture of a Peach Orchard.—A common mistake, the Country Gentleman says, made by many who plant an orchard of young trees, is to set them out either in a grass sod or in hard ground where they receive little or no cultivation of the soil. Three neighbors, some years ago, planted each an orchard of 100 trees. One of them was very particular to procure some trees of the nurseryman. He set them out in a young clover field. The second man took cheaper trees or culls, and planted them in a potato field.

The third man set out his orchard one-half in a winter-wheat field, and the other half in potatoes.

The result:—The first orchard—in clover—was choked by the rank clover, which was allowed free growth, and only three trees were alive the second year. The second man kept his ground clean and mellow among the potatoes; all his trees lived, and afterwards gave handsome crops of Early, York, Barnard, Crawford, and other red-cheeked specimens. Equally successful was the third man with his trees among potatoes, making a growth the first year $1\frac{1}{2}$ to two feet long; but the trees in wheat grew only about three inches. The soil was not stirred in the grain once through the season.

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