

FARM MANAGEMENT

Fertilizers For Potatoes

I have been told that the success of the Maritime potato growers is due to their large use of fertilizers. We have land, a sandy loam, that we think would be ideal for potatoes. This land is in a fair state of fertility. What fertilizers would you suggest that I try on this soil next year?
—A. G. Simcoe, Ont.

The success of the Maritime potato grower is due to climatic and soil conditions rather than to the use of either abundant or special commercial fertilizers. True, many farmers do use considerable quantities of commercial fertilizers of a special kind, but potatoes can be grown successfully in the Maritime Provinces without the use of commercial fertilizers of any kind provided the soil is in good condition, due to the use of clover, barnyard manure, good cultivation and right rotations.

If it is desired to try a commercial fertilizer of some kind, probably the

best to apply would be a fertilizer carrying three per cent to four per cent nitrogen, six per cent to eight per cent phosphoric acid and eight per cent to 10 per cent potash, at the rate of from 500 lbs. to 600 lbs. an acre.

A suitable mixture would be: 200 lbs. sulphate of potash, 400 lbs. acid phosphate, 125 lbs. nitrate of soda.

If 10 tons of barnyard manure, or thereabouts, were applied per acre, the application of commercial fertilizers should be reduced by about one-third.—J. H. G.

Treatment of Muskeg

I have a piece of muskeg land. If the moss is burnt off and a top dressing of lime harrowed in, would it be likely to grow good timothy and clover? The water could be kept down 12 inches below the surface.—H. F. G., New Ontario.

On the muskeg in question it is probable that timothy and clover would do well without lime if the moss is burnt off. Such soils vary so much, however, that it is impossible to say what they will do without trying them. Chemical analysis fails in many

cases to show what treatment is necessary to secure good results from such areas. The only way is to test by cropping. In seeding down be sure to roll both before and after the grass seeding if the soil is very open and dry.—J. H. G.

Sainfoin for Brush Land

I have 10 acres of brush land, clay and clayey loam, on which small poplars and willows have grown. I shall not be able to get this land plowed in the spring of 1912. If I harrowed it with the disc harrow and spring tooth harrow, or with the spring tooth harrow alone, would I be able to get a catch of sainfoin clover? Would it grow high enough in 1912 to cut for hay? What quantity of seed per acre would be required? How would a sainfoin do on land which is all sand or on stony land? How much a ton should green corn be worth in the fall?—G. F. H., Thunder Bay Dist., Ont.

Sainfoin is not likely to do well under such conditions as you describe. Sainfoin does not do well anywhere in Canada, excepting, possibly, in some small circumscribed areas in South-Western Ontario and in some parts of British Columbia. The land describ-

ed might, however, be seeded down in the spring to the following mixture, and a good crop confidently expected the following year: Red clover, 10 lbs.; alsike, two pounds; timothy, 12 lbs. per acre. If it is desirable to get a crop in 1912 off the field in question, then it would be advisable to sow oats, after giving the land a thorough good ripping up with disc and spring tooth harrows. The mixture given above would also be the best mixture for the sandy, stony field mentioned.

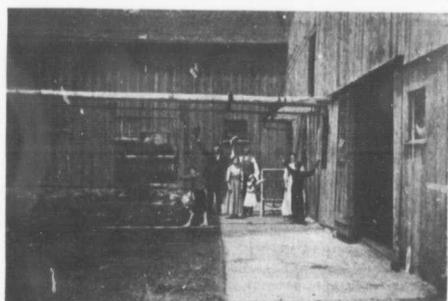
Green corn standing in the field with ears well formed and too far advanced to be fit to cook is, or should be, worth \$1.50 to \$2.00 a ton, according to the price of other feeds that season.—J. H. G.

One reason why a great many people are afraid to try alfalfa is because the process of inoculating the soil is a new and sometimes a difficult one. If a field that has been in alfalfa is near at hand from which soil containing alfalfa bacteria can be obtained inoculation is not very difficult.—Geo. F. Marsh, Grey Co., Ont.

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