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FARM MANAGEMENT

Distance Apart to Seed Corn

When sowing corn in a drill what distance apart should the seeds be dropped for snailage? For husking? Which is the preferable way? For sowing corn in silage, in drills or in hills?—J.D.H., Essex Co., Ont.

The most conclusive experiments ever carried on as to the distance apart that corn should be dropped in the drill were those conducted at the Illinois Experiment Station some years ago. The average results obtained are as follows:

Distance between rows in corn, bushels per acre	Yield per acre of corn, bushels	Digestible substance per acre
3 inches.....	59.....	5,218
6 ".....	59.....	5,200
9 ".....	59.....	5,159
12 ".....	59.....	5,151
15 ".....	59.....	5,151
18 ".....	59.....	5,151
21 ".....	59.....	5,151
24 ".....	59.....	5,151

It will be noticed that when corn was planted three inches apart in the drill, the largest amount of digestible substance was obtained. "Snailage is 'stronger,'" however, and makes better food when the kernels are six inches apart.

For husking, seed corn, to produce the largest number of good ears, should be dropped 12 inches apart in the drill.

Planting in hills three to three and a half feet apart each way has the advantage in that by cultivating both ways, little hand work is needed in the weeded ground. Experiments carried on by Professor Zavitz at the O.A.C. would indicate also that larger crops are obtained from corn so planted—Professor Zavitz obtaining 33 per cent. more of both ears and total weight for snailage.

Information Re Alfalfa

I have a field of sandy loam with a gravelly sub-soil situated near a creek 25 feet above the creek. Corn was planted in rows. Would this soil be suitable for alfalfa? What kind of grass should be sown as a nurse crop and how much? Would you inoculate the seed? How do I use the inoculator? Would you measure before plowing?—H.A.M., Northumberland Co., Ont.

A field such as you describe should be well suited to alfalfa. If manured and plowed this spring, well worked and 20 lbs. of good seed used per acre will be assured. Barley is preferable to other grains for a nurse crop in that it does not stool greatly and can be taken off early. All alfalfa seed should be inoculated before sowing. A bottle sufficient to inoculate one bushel of seed, with directions for using the same, can be obtained from the Ontario Agricultural College for 25 cents.

A Rotation for Southern Alberta

We bought a quarter section of land in the spring of 1910. It was a good piece of land with a fair soil. We intend to start a small dairy business. We are anxious to get better pasture. Would it be good practice to sow, without corn, the spring over with alfalfa? Are any alfalfa seed better than others? Are any alfalfa seed better than others?—McLeod Dist., Alta.

If land cannot be irrigated it will be found difficult to get a good catch of grass, western ryegrass is probably the most likely to succeed. Timothy will do well on irrigated land. If alfalfa is certain to be a good crop to grow. I would suggest introducing a rotation similar to the following on non-irrigated land: First year, fall wheat; second year, fall wheat; third year, fall wheat; fourth year, seed down to grass, —15 lbs. western ryegrass, 6 lbs. alfalfa, 2 lbs. red clover per acre. Sow the grass seed early in the season, using no nurse crop. Do not cut the first

year. Fifth year, hay; sixth year, hay; seventh and eighth year, pasture. Break up the soil for fall plowing in June or July, to be sown the same season. Very little is known as to best rotations to be followed in Southern Alberta. Experiments are being conducted at Lethbridge, but information available is as yet very limited. Anywhere are good dairy cattle, but not such heavy milkers as are Holsteins. The Anyshire gives probably a better carcass of beef than does the Holstein and, on foot, usually sells at a somewhat higher price to the butcher or than will the latter, although the meat from either the Holstein or Anyshire is quite as good as from any other animal of the bovine species when properly fattened.—J.H.G.

Sugar Beet Queries

What kind of a sugar beet would you consider best to grow on sandy loam? I have read in some sandy loam soil that soaking the seed before sowing, then sowing it in damp ground, would give a better result than sowing on the level or on a shallow ridge and using a large roller after sowing?—J.E. Brant Co., Ont.

Sugar beets will not do very well on sandy soil. The best kind of roots to grow on sandy soil or light soil is the Anyshire. Sugar beets can, however, be grown on light soil provided the season be fairly favorable and the roots be handled in the proper way. Well rotted and very fine manure should be used. It should be applied at the rate of about 20 to 25 tons an acre, worked in on the surface with a disc harrow or cultivator, the land well rolled and the seed sown on the flat. Seed should be sown at the rate of about 10 lbs. an acre. Danish sugar beets, and Kleinwants Leber are the varieties likely to give the best satisfaction for forage.

If the seed is allowed to stand in water for about 12 hours it will germinate with considerable more certainty. After taking out of the water it should be spread thinly on a table or floor to allow of partial drying out, when it may be sown from one of the regular machines. Seed should be sown in rows about 28 inches apart and the land well rolled after sowing as well as before.—J.H.G.

His Alfalfa Killed Out

Last year I cut a field of alfalfa which gave me good returns. I cut it three times, the third cutting on September 17th. I got about four tons to the acre in the three cuttings. I did not pasture it or allow anything to go on it. This spring I find it killed out by the frost. The field is a heavy clay loam. What would you advise to be done with it? I feel annoyed at it as being killed out, as I have about 15 acres sown—J. G. Peters, Brant Co., Ont.

The answer to this question was given in Farm and Dairy last week but we will repeat. You do not say if the seeds of the alfalfa are thoroughly inoculated. The alfalfa is a crop of winter-killing is lack of inoculation, but about once in six or eight years we get a season like last winter, which has been particularly disastrous to some old fields that are thoroughly inoculated.

The only thing to do in such cases is the same as when fall wheat or red clover is killed out—sow it over again. If the alfalfa is entirely killed out the only thing to do is to plow the field and seed over again, which is rather more comfort with seed at \$15 a bushel.

If, as is likely the case, there is quite a sprinkling of living plants, I would cut it out thoroughly with a springtooth cultivator and sow more alfalfa seed in the rows between the living plants, and if no nodules are found on them, either treat the seed with culture obtained from the O. A. C., Guelph, or what I like better, sow 200 lbs. of soil from an old successful alfalfa field to the acre and harrow it in well.—Geo. F. Marsh.

Questions

How is soil prepared for sowing? In what directions for sowing?—J.E. Brant Co., Ont.

Land to be sown to alfalfa should be plowed and thoroughly harrowed a little time before sowing this crop. Any opinion in the seed bed is disastrous. If it is far too deep, the seed should be plowed soon as possible, then before seeding to rapeseed. It may be of use to sow alfalfa in or in drills from 20 in. apart. If sown broad require from six to eight per acre; sowing in drills, four to five per acre, as crop results are almost the same.—J.H.G.

Alfalfa on Sand

I have seven acres of sand this spring. Would you advise alfalfa? What time to sow?—A. L.

On your field the alfalfa would be killed out.

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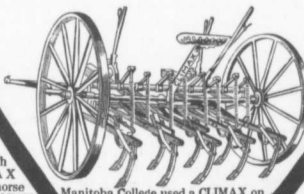
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