

*** The Farm. ***

Soil and Manures for Lettuce.

Lettuce-growers who have held that sandy soils were the only suitable medium for forcing this salad crop will doubtless be surprised at results reached in experiments at the New-York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, and announced in Bulletin No. 146. In a series of tests, continued through four crops of head lettuce grown in the forcing-house upon soils of different textures, it was found that the best results were secured upon a soil of rather compact nature (a clay loam basis) which contained a good proportion of fine sand, clay and silt and was moderately lightened with fairly well rotted horse manure.

In fertilizer tests carried on at the same time the same factor, texture of the soil, exerted more of an influence than did the source of plant food. That is, upon sandy loam soils the commercial fertilizer plots did better than the stable manure plots, while upon the clay loam plots the lightening of the soil by the stable manure gave better results upon the manured plots than upon those treated with chemicals. Little gain came from use of both manure and chemicals. With one good supply of plant food it is a waste to supplement it with another.

The bulletin will be sent free to all who apply to the station for it.

How Weed Seeds are Scattered.

Another method was suggested to me by a snowstorm we had about five years ago. It was accompanied by a heavy wind coming down from the northwest, blowing and snowing from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m.; then it was calm all night. The next morning the snow was covered with a layer of dust, sand or red dirt one-eighth of an inch thick. The following night we had a quiet snowfall of about one inch. When one took up a block of this snow it was very clean at the bottom and top, but between it resembled a fritcake. This condition suggested a new idea to me. So I got half a dozen half-gallon fruit jars and filled them with snow from various places in the neighborhood, on the farm and from the tops of houses. I then melted the contents and strained off the water through a fine cloth. The dirt left in the jar was thoroughly dried and then poured out on clean white sheets of writing-paper. With the assistance of a small magnifying-glass I discovered more than twenty-five different varieties of seeds. Among them were timothy, clover, jimson, morning-glory, wild sunflower—almost every weed known and unknown. The paper informed as that on "that day the wind in Nebraska and Northwestern Kansas, blowing from the northwest, blocked the trains with sand and dirt. This hard wind brought this dust and these seeds in an upper current which at night, when it was calm, settled down. It is safe to conclude that this same thing may happen whenever high winds prevail and weed seeds are ripe, and that these will come from whatever quarter the wind comes from. To successfully combat this kind of an enemy surely will require much vigilance.—(Granger, in Colman's Rural World.

Absorption of Odors by Warm and Cold Milk.

In the February issue of The Weekly Tribune, in answer to a question by B. S. H., you say that milk just warm from a cow will not absorb odors, as the escaping gases drive all odors away.

This has always been my theory in regard to the matter, and it is no doubt the popular belief generally among dairymen that milk has to become relatively cold before it will absorb odors to any extent. But I note from a recent article in "Hoard's Dairyman" that Professor H. L. Russell, of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, has just concluded a thorough course of experimentation relative to the subject, and, strangely enough, has found just the reverse to be true. Professor Russell does not assert that cold milk will not absorb odors, but he did find that milk at blood

heat absorbed odors much more readily than cold milk. Trials were made with corn silage, horse manure, oil of cinnamon, oil of wintergreen, oil of peppermint, urine of cows, etc. Professor Russell says: "It seems strange that definite opinions of practical men on this question of odor absorption should be at variance with the facts experimentally determined."

In the light of this discovery it will be well for readers to be a little careful where they leave their milk, whether warm or cold, and we are thankful to Professor Russell for bringing this fact to light.—(W. A. Bassett, Farmer, N. Y.

Clover with Winter Wheat.

The value of clover in making the soil better fitted for wheat is becoming better understood in those regions where successive crops of wheat have reduced the fertility of the soil perilously near the point of exhaustion. It is probably too early yet to say that very soon fertilizers will become an important question to all of our wheat farmers. At present there is plenty of land that will produce a good crop of wheat without fertilizing the soil. But that cannot last much longer. Our virgin soil is rapidly becoming exhausted, and the farmers must resort to modern methods of replenishing it with fertilizing substances.

Clover will thus come more prominently to the front of the wheat-growing sections. Many farmers get as much value from their clover as they do from their wheat, but it is not this alone that clover is raised for. It is for the mechanical and nutritive effect it must always have upon the soil. The necessity of applying lime for the wheat holds also for clover. Usually the land is dressed with the lime at the time the clover is sown. The clover plants avail themselves of this lime just as much as wheat. It has been found that lime is a distinct friend to clover, and if it is not exactly a plant food it has such a beneficial effect on the clover plants that one would not be far wrong in classifying it as such.

Lime spread over hard clay soil has a wonderfully mellowing effect that is very beneficial, and in the end one may produce a permanent mellow loam out of the stiff hard clay. This process is hastened and improved by using clover with wheat. The roots of the clover plants penetrate deeply into the soil and break it up. In the course of a few seasons the most obdurate soil can be reduced to something like good tillable land in this way. Such a soil will not dry out in dry weather, nor will it flood the plant roots in stormy weather.

It is difficult to say which does the greater amount of good—the clover or the lime. But one thing is certain, used as a combination they work wonders for the wheat land.—(A. B. Barrett, in Wisconsin Agriculturist.

A Dyspeptic's Release.

Suffered from this Distressing Malady for Many Months—Found Only one Medicine to Help Him.

The farming community at Port Robinson, and many miles around, are intimately acquainted with Mr. Harvey Horton. He is a young man, only 23 years of age, who farms in summer and follows a steam thrasher in autumn and winter. While yet so young he has had his share of pain and sickness. Our reporter hearing of Mr. Horton's affliction sought an interview with him. When he learned the reporter's errand he readily consented to impart full details, which are given practically in his own words:—"I do not court newspaper notoriety," said he, "yet I am not afraid to say a kind word for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. In the summer of 1897 I was sadly afflicted with stomach trouble, a deranged liver and general debility. My entire system was in a morbid condition. I felt as though I had an oppressive weight on my stomach and eating was sometimes followed by nausea. My nights were made hideous by unpleasant dreams. I tried a good physician. He doctored me for liver trouble and dyspepsia, but without avail and for a year I could find no remedy that could cure me. I felt perfectly worn out, had no strength, appetite or energy. I was prevailed upon by a friend from a distance to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I purchased two boxes in June, 1898. Although I thought myself beyond cure, yet the first box had such a surprising effect that I took courage as my strength began gradually to return. I continued taking the Pills and now after using nine boxes I feel as good a man as ever and am in splendid flesh. I can eat, digest and sleep well, while before all food soured on my stomach and caused awful distress. I can now enjoy life and am satisfied that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have saved me from untold suffering.

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