

Leguminous Cover-crops.

Hairy vetch is grown with good results in this Province. It is extremely hardy, will withstand hot summer drought, and is a fast grower. Because of these features and its ability to gather nitrogen from the air, it is, perhaps, the best cover-crop grown. It should be sown at the rate of 20 to 25 lb. per acre.

This crop is not used nearly as much as the benefits derived from it would warrant. This is partly due to the high price of seed. This difficulty can be overcome by leaving a strip of plants between the trees. In the fall they can be scattered about and worked into the ground. As vetch is a heavy seed-producer, this should give sufficient seed for a good cover-crop. A better way still is to let a small patch grow and harvest the seed from it.

Crimson clover where it grows well is an excellent cover-crop, but is not hardy in the colder sections. It should be sown at the rate of 15 lb. to the acre.

There are many other plants that make excellent cover-crops. Any plant that will make a good growth in the fall and early spring so as to give a large amount of organic matter to turn under is a good crop to grow.

Time to sow the Cover-crop.

The usual time to sow the cover-crop is from the first to the middle of August under most conditions. Where trees are not coming into bearing as soon as they should because of excessive growth, sowing down the orchard to one of the sod-crops is a good plan, or sowing the cover-crop earlier in the season. This will tend to check growth and throw the trees into fruiting.

Sowing the Crop.

Many make the objection that the crop will not catch in the late summer. This may be true on soils very devoid of organic matter, but where a proper system of soil-management has been maintained in the early part of the summer there will be little trouble in getting any of the crops mentioned to grow. If a seeder can be secured, the seed can be sown below the mulch where the soil is moist and the percentage of germination will be increased. In irrigated sections the crop can be irrigated to start it if the soil is too dry at the time it is sown.

Ploughing down Cover-crops.

Plough the crop under just as soon as there is a good amount of greenstuff to turn under. Do not wait too long for the fast-growing