

be mowed close down; spread the flax just about as thick on the grass for bleaching as grain will be after being cut with a cradle. In spreading it, lay root ends one way, heads facing south, leaving a space of about six inches between each row. In this position it lies for a week or ten days, or until the fibre separates easily from the stems. During this process it must be examined daily. Should a heavy rain occur, it must be loosened from the grass; get a hickory pole 8 feet long, and strip the bark from it to within 2 feet of thick end (the bark on this end lets the operator have a firmer grip of it); run this under the flax and turn it over when thoroughly bleached. When so, tie in sheaves and house. You have, no doubt, mills that will prepare it for market; If not, I shall give you the home system of it, which is winter's work.

After flax, when flax is again to be grown on same soil, sow oats and seed with clover, to remain in clover two years. If this could be well manured at end of that time and a preparatory crop of corn grown, so much the better. If the rotation is followed, as gross a feeder as flax is, it will not hurt your farm; in fact, it will cleanse it, as you will find. What you have grown for seed you will pull when seed is ripe; lay it on ground until capsules are about ripe; when ripe have a tarpaulin or heavy fibre cloth, on which you place your rippling board, somewhat in shape of a cooper's horse; five long iron spikes inserted in a two inch plank; the rippler sits on this and draws the flax, those iron pins separating the capsules from the head of the flax. Bag this up and keep from mice and rats until winter, then thresh. You will have first and second quality of seeds; make both, as your best seed sells best; you can so adjust your fanning mill. Boil second in a Mott farm boiler lined with tin; object of lining with tin is that jelly will stick to the iron and if burnt, cattle will not eat it. Boil those into a jelly, say putting in 1 quart of seed to 8 quarts of water. (1) This is the most fattening food we have for cattle; feed one to two quarts a day in cut hay, bran, &c; this must be used only for fattening. (2) When the seed is taken off, the straw can be soaked and prepared as the other, but it will be only second-class fibre.

Peruvian guano is A No 1 manure for this crop. (3) As I understand your sandy soil it will not be profitable. Muck bottoms are so varied I could not give an opinion except I saw sample. In slavery times in the vicinity of Lexington, Kentucky, I saw large crops of flax cut and saved as we do hay I remonstrated; they said my way was profitable. In their case, if they let their slaves hurt their feet there was a doctor's bill to pay or likely a death, but could they get white labor at \$1 a day—our then general wages—they would make money out of it. What their system at present is I do not know. I have no doubt but what you can make it pay handsomely if well grown.

GERALD HOWATT.

CRIMSON CLOVER AND ITS USES.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMEN.—In answer to the inquiries of Harry H. Stevens, and many others that have reached me, asking further information concerning Crimson clover, I will say: *Trifolium incarnatum* is an annual plant—that is, its seed must be renewed every year—but unlike most annual plants, it will survive *one winter* perfectly, if its seed is sown early enough in the fall to secure a good root before winter sets in. I notice that the seedmen's catalogues advise sowing it in the spring, and state that it grows about a foot high

Now, I think that is just where the mistake has been made by some with this plant. All plants succeed best, and reach their highest perfection, if sown at their proper season—and the proper season for sowing Crimson clover, at least in Delaware, is during the month of August. This plant requires cool, moist weather, and if sown in the early fall, it makes its entire growth and matures its seed during the cool portion of the year.

As I have said, it stands *one winter* perfectly, I have seen fields of this clover in the month of February, when the ground was frozen hard and mercury nearly down to zero, standing perfectly green and unharmed—the only green thing to be seen except evergreen trees and bushes. I have seen those same fields of clover renew their growth during open spells of weather, when the frost came out temporarily, and afford good picking for poultry and young stock, and as soon as spring opened up, those same fields of Crimson clover made an early and vigorous growth, that seemed little short of magic, and by the 6th of May stood not only one foot high, but from two to three and a half feet high, and a perfect sea of crimson bloom intermingled with the luxuriant dark green foliage.

It is the most beautiful of all clovers, and a field of it in full bloom will seldom fail to draw exclamation of pleasure from all observers, and the practical beauty of it is when it comes to be utilized in either of the ways for which it is adopted—early pasture, soiling, hay, seed or green manure—it produces a comfortable and beautiful feeling in the pocket of the grower that is quite refreshing in these times. Its great value for me lies in its use for green manure, (Oh! A.R.J.F. coming as it does to its perfection early enough in the season to turn under for corn, potatoes, cabbage, beans and many other crops. The time for sowing is also in its favor, coming as it does when the farmer is comparatively at leisure, and it is often sown among corn or other cultivated crops about the time they are laid by, so that really almost the whole expense of this crop is for the seed, and that at 10 cents per pound, and say ten pounds per acre, would give the cost for seed at \$1 per acre.

Choose a favorable time for sowing—say that after a rain, when the soil is fresh and moist, and cover lightly. (1) As far north as Massachusetts, New-York and Northern Ohio, I should want to sow it about the first week in August while further could it may be sown later. The seed is sold by the large seed houses in Philadelphia who advertise in the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, or it may be obtained here, where considerable of it is grown for seed. I should be glad if those who are interested in it would procure enough for trial this season and report their success or failure next year. In sections where it has not been tried I would advise treating it entirely as an experiment, and sowing only a limited quantity the first year to prove its value. It may fail in some sections, while it succeeds admirably here.

E. G. PACKARD.

Kent County, Del.

THE POULTRY-YARD.

USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL BREEDS.

LAYING OR NON-SITTING VARIETIES.

Of these there are quite a large variety, all of which without exception have been developed in Western and Southern Europe. The most numerous are known as the Mediterranean family, and include Anconas, Andalusians, Leghorns, Minorcas and Spanish, and these have spread very widely, as

- (1) Crush first
(2) I always use it for milk too.
(3) For seed; but it makes the plant branch out, and ruins the fibre.

A. R. J. F.
A. R. J. F.
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(1) Sow on stubble, harrow, and then roll.

A. R. J. F.