

Farm Cro



Conducte



Henry G. Bell.

The object of service of our fringed authority crops.

Address all care of The Wil ronto, and answer order in which t it is advisable w a stamped and a question, when t

Question—E. L. S.:—I have a piece of sandy land which is practically unproductive. Would it be wise to sow it to sweet clover this spring with cover crop of rye? I want to build it up, but do not know the most practical and quick method.

Answer:—Sweet clover would be a good crop to put on this thin soil. Under normal conditions it can be sown with rye, however, I question if the rye has not grown too rank for this spring's sowing, unless you are seeding it with spring rye. If so, you should prepare the seed-bed well as in preparing it for wheat, and before harrowing the ground spread on top of air-slaked burnt lime over the ground. Work this in thoroughly in order to sweeten the ground. This should be done, if possible, a week before the seed is sown. At the time of seeding, sow about three-quarter of a bushel of unhulled seed to the acre, or if hulled seed is obtained about twenty pounds to the acre. In order to make sure of a catch, I would advise the application of 200 to 250 pounds per acre of fertilizer, in order to give the young crop quickly available plantfood, which will cause it to make an early vigorous start. If you are sowing this seed on top of fall sown rye, follow the seeding by harrowing the rye, being sure that the harrows run with the rows and not across them. This harrowing will bury the sweet clover seed and should give it a good start. If you are fertilizing the rye at the time of seeding sweet clover, I would advise drilling or broadcasting the fertilizer before you harrow the crop. The second year's growth of sweet clover should be plowed under as soon as it has made maximum growth in early spring. Sweet clover will add considerable organic matter and some nitrogen, since it has on its roots, nodules where the sweet clover bacteria live. These bacteria have the power of taking nitrogen out of the soil air and incorporating it in the roots of the sweet clover plants so that the soil is richer in nitrogen after growing sweet clover than it was before.

Question—S. J.:—I would like to know how to get a sure catch of clover and how to test seed. I work 20 acres, keep two horses and two cows. I sowed four acres of rye on wheat stubble last fall and pastured it. Good stand of rye, and now I want to seed this rye with clover and a little alsike. How would you do it to get best results? Would you harrow it a little and seed and then go over it with a weeder? I also want to know how to seed in barley. Which is the best barley? Which is the best barley to sow, and where can I get it?

Answer:—The answer to question No. 1 covers the answer to the first part of question No. 2, granted that your rye crop has not made too great a growth. If it has made too great a growth already to allow harrowing, do not attempt clover seeding until next season. Clover seed should be sown on top the winter wheat or rye as soon as the frost is out of the ground in the spring. It should be immediately harrowed in.

Barley is sown in the same way as wheat or oats; that is, if you have a grain drill suited to the sowing of wheat or oats, it is also adjustable to the seeding of barley. If not, prepare the seed-bed well and then scatter evenly broadcast a bushel and a

Poultry

Hints on Goose Culture.

While geese live to a great age, the ganders are usually unreliable as breeders after about nine years old. Females, however, have been bred at from fifteen to eighteen years of age. An indication of advanced years is an abdominal pouch of considerable size.

Geese do not reach maturity until their second or third year, and their eggs do not show strong fertility.

Being naturally a grazing animal, the goose is provided with a bill that has sharp interlocking serrated edges, designed to cut and divide vegetable tissues easily, and the tongue at the tip is covered with hard hair-like projections pointing toward the throat, which serve to convey the bits of grass and leaves into the throat quickly and surely.

For a start, a gander and two geese are sufficient. Their eggs being very fertile, as a rule, quite a number can be hatched each year.

It requires a full month to hatch a goose egg, and incubation is performed by either a hen or a goose. A good-sized hen will cover five eggs, and a goose can take care of as many as fifteen. It is seldom that any of the goslings are lost, except through accident or exposure to hard storms while still very young.