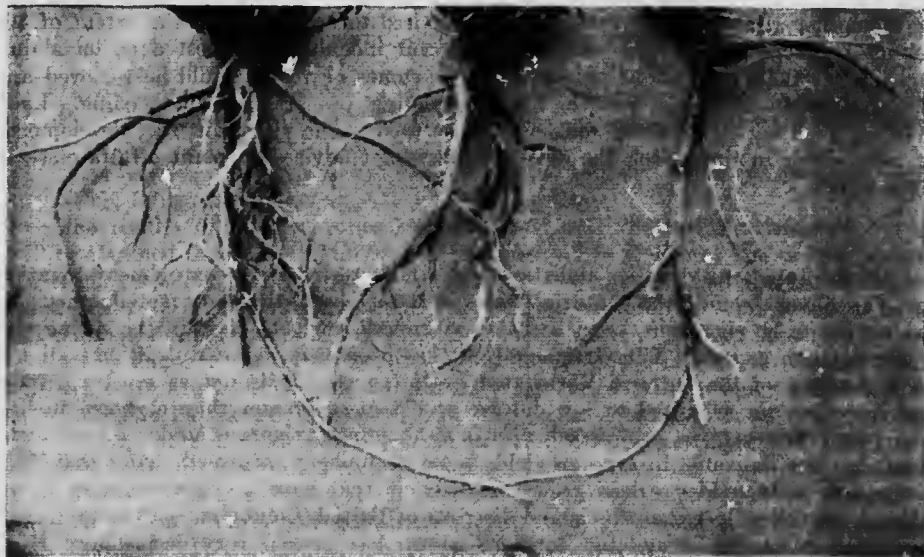


ALFALFA GROWING IN THE ISLAND DISTRICTS

Alfalfa can be successfully grown in the island districts of British Columbia. Failures have followed neglect or faulty practice, success has always followed the approved methods applicable to the island districts. Weed grasses and the very limited rainfall during the summer period are the factors that have held the development of alfalfa growing in check. Failure to obtain good stands of alfalfa from the practice of scattering seed on the land in the early spring, spread an impression abroad that alfalfa did not do well on the islands. Experiments at the experimental station for Vancouver Island indicate that all who are capable of labour and good management, may succeed to the extent of three to five tons of dry hay per acre each year.

FEEDING VALUE.

Valued from the standpoint of animal nutrition, alfalfa has but few rivals among the forage plants. Compared with oat hay, one of the most common forages, which contains approximately 535 pounds of digestible nutrients per ton, alfalfa holds its own with 1,035 pounds. Compared with red clover, alfalfa contains 100 pounds more digestible protein per ton. The only rival among the coarse fodders that alfalfa has is the common or spring vetch. There is no question about the palatability of alfalfa, all animals are fond of it, pigs, chickens, cattle and horses.



Root development in soils that become very hard during July and August.

VALUE AS A SOIL IMPROVER.

The early-growing habit of the alfalfa plant and its ability to develop a wonderfully strong root system, make it especially valuable as a soil improvement crop. The early spring growth enables extensive root activity in the season when the island hard-pan subsoils are most easily penetrated. Alfalfa will, through its early-growing