APREL 14, 1910

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.



(Photo by R. R. Sallows.) Spring Seeding in Ontario With a Rush.

Seeding Thick and Even Thicker. Complete Fertilizer for Potatoes.

Mitor "The Farmer's Advocate "

In your issue of March 24th, pages 491 and 492, Foyston Bros., Simcoe, Ont., misquote me, got my figures wrongly, for if my memory of the matter is correct (and I must say my recollection of the matter and the manuscript I prepared for my address at Belleville agree), I gave not 12 pounds timothy, 9 pounds red clover, 3 pounds 20 pounds timothy, 9 to 12 pounds red clover, 3 to 5 pounds alsike, and 5 to 6 pounds alfalfa, per acre, as the right amount to sow.

However, the seeding suggested was intended to indicate what would be best to sow on a field that it was desired to pasture either the first or second year after seading down. If not intended to pasture, the amount of seed might be reduced by about 20 per cent. As your correspondents state, the sceding at which they quote me would mean about two seeds per square inch. At the rate at which I recommend seeding, it would mean about three seeds per square inch. thickly or thinly, a large number of seeds fail to make good as plants. My observations lead me to conclude that, even under most favorable conditions, from one-half to nine-tenths of the seed or plants perish inside of twelve months after seeding. At the lowest rate of loss, there would remain, say, 200 plants to the square foot, twelve months after seeding. This, I submit, is not too great a number, if properly distributed. To insure proper distribution and as good a catch as at all possible, we recommend the following system of seeding-down, the same having on various occasions proven very satisfactory here Mix seeds caread_bed thoroughly. fully. Divide into two equal portions. Sow one part at same time as sowing grain, from grass-Turn spouts to seeding attachment on seeder. seed behind drill. Immediately after seeding grain and the half of the grass, sow the other half of grass seed crosswise. Harrow crosswise with a very light or tilting harrow. If soil is a little on the dry side, or in just right condition to seed (dust flying in small quantities), then roll right after harrowing. If soil is rather light, or very dry, roll twice, or weight roller. If soil is too damp to roll at seeding time, postpone rolling till grain stands 6 to 10 inches high. Or, if dry weather comes on when grain is from 4 to 8 inches high, it would be well to roll, even if rolled twice at time of seeding. The rolling at this stage breaks crust and makes a mulch which brightens crop up wonderfully. Be careful to protect stand of grass and clover from lodging grain. Cut the grain early, if necessary to insure

Editor " The Farmer's Advocate '

Last season I conducted an experiment with fertilizers on potatoes, and thought that the reor else your reporter at the E. O. D. Convention sults might be interesting to the readers of your paper. The land selected was a sandy loam, from which a crop of wheat had been taken the previous year, it having had a top-dressing of barnyard manure. I may say that this field was very bad with spear-grass. I plowed the land in alsike, and 3 pounds alfalfa, per acre, but 12 to the fall, and commenced to work it in the spring as soon as I could get on to it with the springtooth cultivator, and continued at this till June When the ground was cleared of grass, ready for planting, I marked the land with a horse-marker, 30 inches apart, and then sowed the potash and phosphate broadcast. The nitrate of soda was not applied to the crop till later. then plowed out the furrows to a depth of three to four inches, and planted the potatoes about 12 to 15 inches apart in rows, and afterwards covered with the harrows, leaving the ground somewhat rough. Just as the potatoes were coming up, I smoothed down with harrows, this also killing the small weeds, and sowed half of the nitrate of soda, the balance being applied about two weeks later.

The experiment was conducted on three-quarters of an acre, the plots being one-quarter of an acre each. The three plots were fertilized as follows, in quantities per acre:

Plot No. 1-Unfertilized.

Flot No. 2.-Sulphate of potash, 180 pounds acid phosphate, 360 pounds ; nitrate of soda, 140

pounds. Plot No. 3.—Acid phosphate, 360 pounds; nitrate of soda, 140 pounds.

the difference by the foliage, it being of a much healthier appearance. The potatoes on both the fertilized plots were much freer from scab than the unfertilized plot, and were very dry and mealy. The yields on the various plots were as follows

Plot No. 1-1081 bushels per acre.

Plot No. 2-1601 bushels per acre.

Plot No. 3-123 bushels per acre.

Plot No. 2 excelled Plot No. 1 in the yield of potatoes by 52 bushels, and was also ahead of Plot No. 3 by a good margin. The bugs did not affect the second plot (complete fertilizer) nearly so much as the others, owing, I think, to the rapid growth of this plot early in the season. In conclusion, I would say that, before you can take profitable crops off the land, you must return to the soil the plant-food substances that have been removed previously. Commercial fertilizers, used with barnyard manure, will do this.

W. A. MITCHELL. Bruce Co., Ont.

Removing Couch Grass.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

Our attention has been frequently attracted by inquiries in the agricultural press as to what manner of cultivation could be made use of to successfully rid the land of that crop-blighting nuisance commonly known as quack or twitch grass.

The farm we at present occupy was for a term of years rented to a gentleman who had tried in vain to rid a certain section of the farm of quack grass. Year after year this piece of land had been sown first with one kind of grain, then another, but always with much the same results, it being a rare streak of luck to harvest an amount of grain equal to the quantity sown.

The year we took possession, this piece of land was left till the other part of the farm was sown and planted, after which we set to work to try our hand with the quack, and were advised to plow not more than four or five inches deep, and cultivate thoroughly. A gang-plow was bor-rowed, and the land plowed narrow and shallow. The wagon was brought out, and the grass, being in blocks, was loaded directly on to it, and hauled to a stone pile. The remaining fragments were collected with smoothing harrows and garden rake, and also taken to stone pile to be air-dried, after which it was burned, the last operation being a deep and thorough plowing. Although it will soon be fourteen years since this piece of land was experimented on, there has not been a return of the quack.

The task was a very tedious one, but the results obtained have been of the most satisfactory character. We believe the reason our work proved so successful was our not using a cultivator, for, had we done so, the blocks of grass would have been torn to fragments, making work of gathering quack more difficult, besides scattering same over a larger area, thereby increasing the pest, instead of lessening it.

Should the grass appear again, we will let land lie for a season, and seed itself; then harrow following spring sufficiently to get it started well, top-dress with a medium coat of manure, till it reaches a matted state, then repeat operations as previously mentioned. If the quack grass on a field or farm has not reached a finely-matted form, try the plan just mentioned, according to your own judgment, and make the quack mat. In June, before it sets for seed a second time, plow

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Now, why such seeding? Briefly, very much more hay, of much better quality. If you don't believe it, try it, being careful to give proper treatment all the way through. Moderately good soil, so handled and so seeded, will give, at Ot. tawa, from 4 to 6 tons of hay per acre per annum.

Further, this hay, as an article of food for animals, will be worth from 20 to 50 per cent. more per ton than hay from similar fields seeded

at the rate of 8 pounds per acre J. H. GRISDALE, Agriculturist.

Central Experimental Farm.

Note.-Upon inquiry, we learn that, in the int-rests of general credence, our representative, in reporting Mr. Grisdale's figures as to amount of grass seed to be used per acre, gave the minimum amounts recommended in the address. A note to that effect should have been inserted; but, if farmers would sow even the minimum, 28 pounds per acre, there would be fewer missed catches.-Editor.)

excessively dry season, I did not get as good results as I would have had in a nor-Nevertheless, there was a marked mal season. difference in the yields and quality of the pota-Plot No. 2 (complete fertilizer) came up a few days ahead of Plot No. 3 (without potash), and all through the season you could easily tell



(Photo by R. R. Sallown) An Even Distributor of Soil Wealth.