

Another way of encouraging the growth of pasture grasses is to use commercial fertilizers for the purpose of stimulating growth. Where land is cheap and pastures are plentiful, this will not pay; but there may be some instances when it will pay very well. The kind of fertilizer to use will depend upon conditions. It would be impossible to lay down rules that would be applicable in every instance, as conditions vary much; but some general principles may be mentioned which relate to the application of commercial fertilizers. Those of a potassic character—as, for instance, wood ashes—seem specially beneficial to the growth of clovers, whereas those of a nitrogenous character are more helpful to the growth of grasses. Nitrogenous fertilizers—as, for instance, nitrate of soda—should be applied about the commencement of the growing period, or while there is moisture enough to promote growth. If not applied until dry weather has arrived the benefits will not be forthcoming, as moisture is necessary to enable the plants to take up the fertilizer. It would not be well to apply such fertilizers in the autumn, for then the season for growth would be short, and before the spring came the fertilizers would have gone down into the drainage water. Potassic fertilizers may be applied at almost any time. Those phosphoric in character—as ground bone, for instance—had better be applied in the spring, although, if applied in the fall, the loss should be serious only in so far as it relates to the leaching out of the nitrogenous matter which the bone may contain.

fertilizing ingredients to the needs of the plant, and it requires more knowledge to do this properly than the average man possesses. Where we may wish to grow but one kind of crop on a piece of land we can probably succeed for a number of years, but that time is pretty certain to come when we shall not succeed so well.

Handling Manure in Winter.

J. Bradley, Ingersoll, Ont.: Do you think that there is much loss from leaching in manure drawn and spread over the ground in winter when it is frozen?

ANS.—Ordinarily, there is not much loss from the source named, but in some instances there may be considerable waste. When manure is thus drawn and spread upon a side-hill, there may be considerable loss of fertility in a country where thaws and heavy rains are frequent toward the approach of spring. But on level or gently rolling land there should not be very much loss any season. There is no better way of using manure, all things considered, than by drawing it and spreading it in winter. There are obstacles in the way of doing the work frequently, as, for instance, too much snow or too little. The manure is sometimes frozen too hard to handle well, and other difficulties crop out. But whenever it can be done without excessive labor, in the judgment of the writer, it is a good plan to draw manure and spread it on the land in winter.

Go to the College at Guelph.

J. W., Sarnia: How would you advise, Mr. Editor, with reference to the course a young man should take who has no means, and yet wants to live by farming?

ANS.—Most unhesitatingly I would answer, take a course at the Ontario Agricultural College. The wages of a summer will carry a careful young man through the first year's course. Then he can earn about enough the three summer months following to take him through the second year. It will then be necessary, if he is going to remain in Ontario, to engage in farm work on salary. If of the right material, he should get high wages and constant work, and after a while could buy a farm. Or, if he wants to get land cheaply, there is a great wide northwest as yet untilled.



Cropping Land without Rotating.

W. Dunn, Sarnia: Can land be cropped indefinitely with the same kind of crop if it is kept supplied with fertility?

ANS.—Yes, but it is seldom prudent to crop it thus. If but one kind of crop is grown, the diseases peculiar to that crop are likely to be more troublesome than when a rotation is practised. The soil is also liable to become impacted, unless it has an admixture of sand present in it in considerable quantities. Care must also be taken to adapt the manurial or