

*Pennsylvania, June 1. 1790.*

"I wrote to you some time ago, respecting our manuring with the Plaster of Paris : I have now experienced it upwards of three years ; others have used it upwards of fifteen : it exceeds any thing ever known. Pray prevail on some person to sow a small quantity of red clover in a dry soil ; a few days will evince its power. Six bushels to the acre I use, and it is preferable to fifty loads of the best dung. This you must think extravagant ; it is so, and yet true. I have contrasted it for three years with dung in that proportion, and the result is my assertion : I have upwards of one hundred acres now under plaster, applied in various ways, and on different soils ; it has in no instance failed ; the last I made, I shall relate as follows :

"In April 1789, I ploughed the end of a poor sand hill, which by long and bad culture had been totally exhausted ; it contained no grass, but was covered with wild onions ; the next day, after ploughing, I sowed it with oats, clover, and timothy ; when the oats were a few inches high, I sowed a strip through the middle of the field with plaster ; the ground being poor, the oats were not knee high at harvest ; the clover where the plaster was not sown, was very small and poor ; but the strip on which the plaster was sown, produced clover near as high as the oats. As soon as the oats were cut, I sowed all the stubble with plaster ; in October the ground produced upwards of a ton and an half per acre ; and I now think the crop superior to the best acre you ever saw.

"The land I sowed three years ago, I mow twice, and pasture the bad crop ; not the least failure yet appears : I intend to renew a part of it, by way of experiment, with three bushels of plaster per acre, after my first mowing, which will be in eight days.

"It is generally esteemed to continue good from five to seven years ; it is much used in this country, and is travelling Westward and Eastward. I saw last week several fields done with it near Reading, in this State, about sixty miles from the river. A spoonful on a hill of Indian corn, will increase the quantity about ten bushels per acre, and it is found to ripen two weeks earlier. The grass as well as hay raised from it, is found more nutritive than any other ; so much so, that cattle fatten in near half the time. Were I to write a volume, I could not tell you all its advantages."

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