

more luxuriant it grows the oftener it is ready to cut down. Its greatest value is for soiling, by cutting it as it is wanted for feeding green to horses, cattle or hogs. When fed to horses or cows, in the early part of spring, it is better to cut a few hours before feeding. Like clover it will produce bloat or swelling in cattle and colic in horses, if fed in a wet state. Too great caution cannot be preserved in feeding green clover or lucerne or other grasses to cattle in early spring, more especially when wet with dew or rain.

Every animal eats it with the greatest avidity; but I prefer it to all other grasses for soiling, because it never salivates the horse, and can be cut from the 29th of May to October, and is always healthy for horses when judiciously fed. All other grasses, within my knowledge, will salivate the horse in wet seasons; but I have never known a single instance where lucerne has produced the same effect on the horse. When the milch cow leaves the pasture, a feed at night with lucerne is always relished, and richly pays for the little trouble of cutting and feeding as it is wanted. It is better to have the field or lot of lucerne, located near the barn or place of feeding. Boys twelve years old, ought to learn to cut or mow all grasses. It is best to provide a short strong scythe for common use, as the slender grass scythe is liable to be broken by inexperienced hands. A good broad scythe, two feet or two and a half feet long, I always found the most serviceable. Make it a rule to keep the scythe sharp, and frequently wash the gum off the blade, which accumulates every day or two. The closer the lucerne is cut, not to injure the crown of the plant, and the sharper the scythe, the quicker will be the after-growth. When the lucerne is from twelve to fifteen inches high, it will do to commence feeding; and in five or six weeks where it was first cut, it will do to cut again; and if seasonable it will do to cut from three to five times during the season, according as the summer is warm and seasonable. When the supply is greater than the consumption, and the lucerne is full of blossoms, it ought all to be cut down and cured for hay like clover. It does not require so much spreading as clover, the stem and leaves being smaller than clover, do not contain so much moisture. One acre of lucerne will feed from four to six cows or horses, from May to October. I would advise every owner of a horse and cow, if he has but one acre of land, to put one eighth or one-fourth of an acre in lucerne. In the absence of flowers and shrubbery in the

garden, I have known the borders and vacant spots to be filled with lucerne, so that the noble horse or the docile cow, could occasionally receive from the master's hand a delicious bite of that most valuable grass. Lucerne is as hardy as red clover, the seed resembles clover seed, but is nearly twice the size. It is a deep rooted perennial plant, the roots often penetrating the soil to the depth of two and three feet. It grows rapidly, sending up slender shoots from two to three feet in height, and bears a purple blossom, with the seed in spiral pods, several seeds in one pod. Under favorable circumstances it will stand from ten to fifteen years without re-seeding. It may become foul with weeds or grass, so as to retard its growth; in such a case, it is better to commence in time, and prepare another suitable piece of ground by heavy manuring and deep plowing, and cultivate some hoed crop where no weeds are permitted to ripen its seed. The preparing of the ground is, perhaps, the greatest trouble; but the benefits derived for several years afterwards, will richly remunerate the farmer for all of his extra labor.

In preparing the ground, my practice was to plow as deep as possible with a double horse plough, and follow with the small single horse plough in the same furrow, which would break the ground from twelve to fourteen inches deep. With a sub-soil plow a greater depth can be obtained; but I always succeeded with my manner of deepening the soil, and would recommend others to try the same plan, when the sub-soil plow cannot be had.

Lucerne is sometimes sown in drills from twelve to eighteen inches between rows. I would only advise this plan where the ground is foul and the lot small, as few farmers have the extra time to spare in hoeing the crop. It is much less trouble to prepare a piece of ground in the most thorough manner and sow broadcast. The quantity of seed per acre, is from sixteen to twenty pounds; I prefer the latter quantity as the lucerne is not so liable to be overrun with weeds where it is thick, and the stock is more tender. As before stated, the seed is mostly imported from France—will cost from thirty to thirty-three cents per pound by the quantity, and can be bought by the same quantity, for 40 to 50 cents per pound. It is always the surest plan to buy seed from some responsible seed store to insure fresh seed, as disappointments in getting good, fresh, clean seed, often discourage young beginners, and retard the introduction of valuable plants to the farming community. The time for