

mixed with some coarser material to prevent too thick seeding. For this purpose ground wheat crushed as coarsely as possible is generally used. The alfalfa seed is mixed with the crushed wheat and the drill set to put on the amount wanted. For instance, 20 pounds of alfalfa mixed with 40 pounds of crushed wheat, and the drill sowing one bushel per acre will mean 20 pounds of alfalfa sown to the acre.

Whatever method used, the ground should be harrowed and rolled immediately after sowing and then the surface of the rolling lightly broken with a brush harrow, a weeder or a tilting harrow.

If the land is deficient in plant food, alfalfa may be sown in rows about eighteen inches apart. By this method, however, a crop is obtained which, though it may be satisfactory as to quantity, is somewhat inferior in quality to the crop obtained when the seed is sown broadcast or in drills from the seeder.

Depth of Seeding.

How deeply the seed should be covered, depends on the soil conditions. On average soils the depth should be about one inch or a little less. On light sandy soils with a dry surface, the seed should be covered about an inch and a half.

Quantity of Seed to be Sown.

When sown broadcast or in drills with the ordinary seeder, about 20 pounds of good seed of strong vitality should be used to the acre. If sown in rows eighteen inches apart, a third of this quantity will be ample.

TREATMENT DURING FIRST YEAR.

Young alfalfa plants are very tender and must be given every chance to establish themselves firmly. During the first season they should be treated in such a way as to be able to enter the winter in the best condition possible.

With Nurse Crop.

In the case of the alfalfa being sown with a nurse crop, careful watch must be kept to see that the young alfalfa plants are not being smothered by lodging grain. When harvesting the nurse crop the binder should be set to cut 5 or 6 inches from the ground. Sheeks should not be allowed to stand for more than two days on the same spot, as they would smother out the young alfalfa. Should weeds appear after the nurse crop has been harvested or the alfalfa grow tall and rank it would be advisable to clip the field as high as the mower will allow, though not later than the middle of September.

Without Nurse Crop.

In case of the alfalfa being sown without a nurse crop, broadcast or in drills 7 inches apart or thereabout, it is necessary to mow the field at frequent intervals throughout the season. The plants should not be allowed to go to bloom the first season but the field should be clipped as soon as the plants reach a height of from 8 to 12 inches. The clippings should be left on the field as a mulch. The last clipping should be timed so as to allow the plants to reach a height of about 8 or 10 inches at the end of the growing season. This growth should be left uncut for winter protection.

If these directions are followed, the weeds will be kept down and the alfalfa itself will enter the winter in good condition.

If the alfalfa is sown in rows 18 inches apart or more, it is necessary to cultivate at intervals, between the rows, especially early in the season. Otherwise the growth should be encouraged by frequent clippings as advised above.

Under no circumstances should live stock of any kind be allowed to graze upon an alfalfa field the first season.