

Sowing Timothy and Clover.

In answer to William Ellis, Prescott, about seeding down Timothy and clover alone upon land which has been already seeded down to grain for two years, the grass seeds having missed, we should like before giving any definite opinion to know the state in which his fields are. We seeded down this spring a field of oats; the oats were drilled in, and the grass seed was dropped by a clover sower attached to the hind end of the two-horse drill; the seed was covered with a bush harrow. For some reason the grain drill did not work well, and several of the spouts missed sowing in two or three places through the whole length of the field. In one spot the whole drill missed for some yards. Upon these bare spots the grass seeds have, notwithstanding the extreme dryness of the season, far excelled in luxuriance of growth those upon the land where the oats have grown regularly.

This goes to prove that the clover and timothy will do well when sown by themselves.

If our correspondent's grass is foul he had better not sow grass seeds; noxious weeds will undoubtedly choke them out. The probabilities are that after two consecutive crops of cereals the land will be poor.

If clover and timothy be sowed alone, our correspondent cannot cut a crop the first summer, and therefore loses the use of the land for one year; and if the land be in poor heart or dirty, he need not expect the grass seed to take well.

There are two proper courses open in such a case: One is to put the land in hoed crop next year, putting all the manure that can be obtained—barn-yard or artificial—upon it; sow the barley next year, and seed that down. Another course would be to summer fallow his field thoroughly until about the early part of July, putting such manure as he can upon it; then sow a green crop—corn, millet or buckwheat—broadcast, and plough that under for fall wheat. Seed down the wheat. We would, however, repeat our opinion that if the land be not in good heart and thoroughly clean, it will be worse than useless to sow timothy and clover alone.

Should his land, however, be in a fit state to receive the seed next year, let it be ploughed in the fall and left rough; cross-ploughed or thoroughly cultivated and harrowed down very finely in the spring, and seeded down thickly with equal bulks of timothy and clover.

If manure be used, it must be fine and thoroughly rotted, so that all weed seeds have been killed, and it should be incorporated with the soil by spreading on top, and working in with the cultivator in the early spring. A top-dressing of ashes and plaster will be of great benefit at almost any period of its growth. Or let him plough early this fall and sow timothy seed alone,

and in the spring drag with light harrows; sow clover seed, harrow again, and top-dress with fine rotted manure, plaster and ashes. Of the two courses we prefer the former as the more safe. The only advantage to be obtained from the latter course is that the first year's hay will have a good admixture of timothy in it.

Lucerne as a Soiling Crop.

The following, in the *Utica Herald*, was written by Richard Gibson, the stock manager for Messrs. Wolcott & Campbell, of New York Mills. We will only add that deep tilth in the preliminary preparation, and perfect freedom from weeds, are indispensable to success in raising lucerne. No plant is more impatient of the interference of weeds:

"Respecting the cultivation of lucerne, I will give you my experience with great pleasure, as I feel convinced that it is a soiling crop which has only to be tried to be more generally grown. It is essentially a soiling crop, being ready to cut in the spring before red clover, and continuing to produce heavy cuttings all through the summer, no matter how hot or dry. Last season, though unusually dry, did not appear to check its growth, as we were able to mow over one field five times; and another, only seeded last spring, was cut four.

"There are crops that will yield a greater weight of feed per acre at one cutting—corn, for instance—and which is a crop that lucerne cannot supplant, as it yields a very heavy weight of green food at that season of the year when most of our dairy farmers are requiring such. But as a soiling crop proper, I know of none that can compare with lucerne, and it is one that few farmers can afford to be without. It yields a heavy weight of feed all the summer, of excellent quality, and one that does not require the expense of ploughing and re-seeding after each cutting, nor each year, as by proper management, on suitable soils, it will remain profitable five years.

"Its relative value as compared with corn is decidedly superior, our sheep and cattle not only preferring, but doing much better on it. In fact, corn with me has not proved a very satisfactory soiling crop—cattle fed on it generally losing flesh, until we have all about given over growing it for that purpose.

"The finest hay we have this winter, that is, the hay our calves and sheep prefer, is that with a little lucerne in it. Going on to the hay mow the other day, I saw a hole cut in it. Inquiring the reason, I ascertained that the shepherd had found where a lead or two of hay with a little lucerne sprinkled through it, had been mowed away, and that he had been getting it for his sheep, as they ate it better than good clover hay.

"A rich, dry soil, with an open porous sub-soil, is the most congenial to the growth

of lucerne; but it will succeed well on any soil that will grow red clover to perfection.

"The seed may be sown broadcast, or in drills ten to twelve inches apart. In England we generally followed the latter course, so that after each cutting, or as often as might be necessary, we could run through the horse-hoe to loosen the soil and destroy weeds, &c., and by these means the crop could be grown successfully two years. But here I have generally adopted the former plan, sowing from twelve to fifteen pounds of seed per acre, as early in the spring as the season will permit.

"The soil should be thoroughly prepared in the fall by deep ploughing, and manuring with rich, well-rotted dung, or what would be perhaps better, thirty or forty bushels of bone dust per acre, there being less liability of having foul seeds introduced, as this is a crop that is easily choked or run out by weeds, &c.

"In the spring the soil may be lightened with a two-horse cultivator, or scarifier, making a fine surface mould. The latter is essentially necessary to get a good plant. The seed being very small, will only require lightly brushing in.

"The after cultivation will consist yearly of a good top-dressing of well-rotted dung in the fall, and harrowing and rolling in the spring.

"As I said before, weeds easily choke it; it will therefore be advisable to select a piece of soil free from weeds, and sow after some hoed crops, such as root crops or potatoes.

"The first season will yield a fair crop, but the second, third and fourth will be the best."

The Selection of Seed.

Nearly all the principal varieties of the cereals have been originated from a few ears of extraordinary size and quality gathered by intelligent observers at harvest time, and propagated from until large quantities of seed were obtained. The potato oats, which turned out to be a most valuable variety, was originated by a gentleman of Cumberland, Eng., from a single plant of an extraordinary size and weight found growing in a potato field. The most approved varieties of wheat bear the name of some intelligent farmer who originated them. The Chevalier barley, a most excellent variety of this cereal, was named after M. Chevalier, a French agriculturist, who originated it by selecting the finest ears in a field of barley at harvest time. A vast improvement of seed and a consequent increase of acreable produce might very easily be effected, if farmers would annually select the best ears of the cereals at harvest time and propagate from them. The acreable produce of all kinds of crops may be greatly increased by selecting and using the best seeds.—*Western Rural*.