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How To Fertilize Red Clover

Raleigh, N. C. March 21. Red clover is a legume that makes one crop for hay and another for soil improvement. Since the first crop is removed, if the soil is not properly fertilized the second crop will suffer from this depletion of plant food.

E. C. Blair, extension agronomist of the State College and Department of Agriculture, therefore recommends that enough plant food be added to the soil to grow both crops well. When the second crop is turned under, the fertilizer is used twice, once by the clover itself and again by the succeeding crop.

Mr. Blair states that red clover can use nitrogen from the air after the roots become well established and inoculated but before this takes place, it must have nitrogen from the soil like any other crop. He finds that many a stand of clover has been starved out through lack of this nitrogen. The nitrogen from the air is used only in a balanced ration with the other two plant foods, phosphoric acid and potash.

Red clover is especially adapted to the Western half of North Carolina and these soils are nearly always deficient in phosphoric acid. The clover also feeds heavily on potash as one ton of the hay contains more actual potash than is contained in a ton of any 8-2-2 fertilizer.

Therefore, Mr. Blair suggests that where red clover is sown on wheat in the spring it is a good idea to use about 300 to 400 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate per acre when the wheat is sown in the spring from 100 to 200 pounds of acid phosphate and from 40 to 50 pounds of muriate of potash should be used. If the land is poor, both the wheat and the clover will need some nitrogen at this time. In this case, about 50 to 100 pounds of nitrate of soda should be used or the wheat should be topped dressed with stable manure. If less than 300 pounds of acid phosphate was used per acre on the wheat last fall, about 200 pounds more should be used now.

About Time To Spray Apples

Raleigh, N. C. March 21. When the pink of the unfolded apple blossoms is beginning to show and just before the blossoms have opened is the time to spray for "apple scab," suggests G. W. Fant, extension worker for the State College and Department of Agriculture in the control of plant diseases. Mr. Fant states that those apple orchards in which the scab has been bad in previous years should receive a cluster bud spray as a means of keeping these disease in a check during the coming season. A spray given at this time is the most important that could be given in the whole season.

Mr. Fant states that scab lives throughout the winter on old leaves found beneath the trees. It spreads from these leaves back to the new leaves and fruit buds just as the blossom buds have separated from each other and are in the cluster stage. He suggests that these buds must be watched carefully to tell when the spray application should be made. It may be five or six days before the full bloom period or longer, depending on how the weather warms up. In most cases the county agent can advise just when it is time to make this spray.

As to the proper treatment to be given, Mr. Fant says, "spray of the summer strength must be used at this time, since the winter spray is too strong for unfolding leaf buds. When using liquid lime sulphur, apply at the rate of 5 quarts to 50 gallons of water, plus one pound of dry arsenate of lead or two pounds of arsenate of lead paste. If aphids were severe last year, add 2 pint of Black Leaf 40 to every 50 gallons of water. If spray material other than liquid lime sulphur is used, apply at summer strength according to recommendations furnished by the manufacturer."

Spray calendars giving all these instructions may be obtained from the Plant Pathology Department, N. C. Experiment Station, Raleigh.

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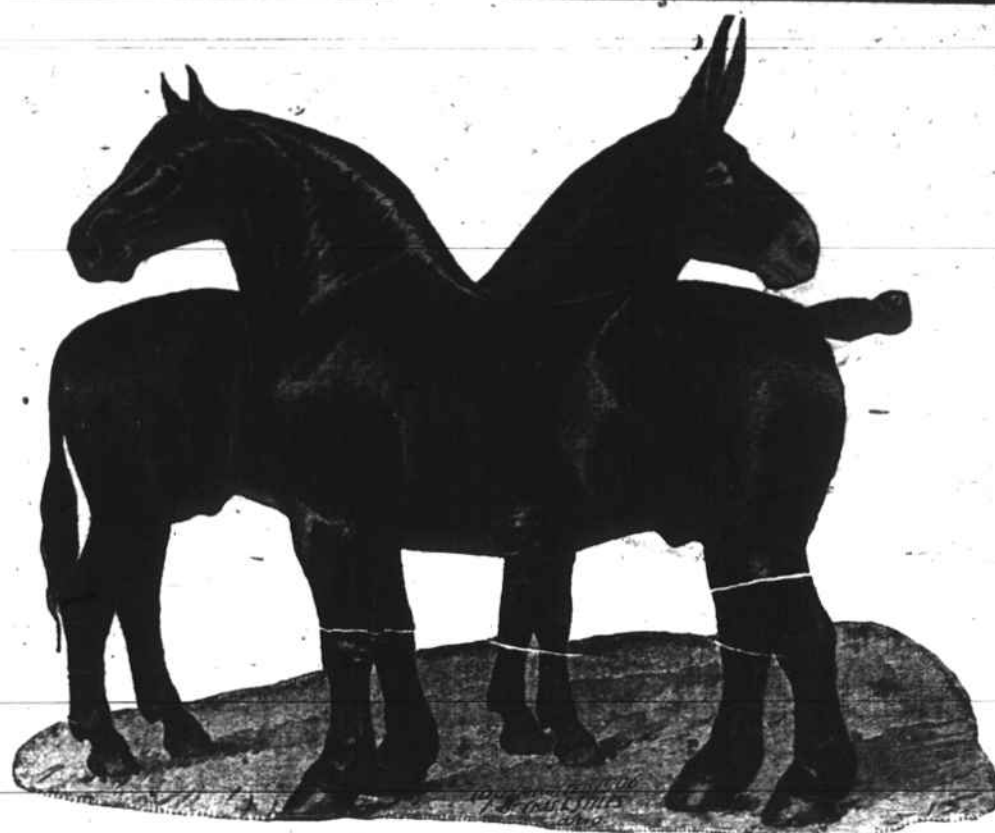
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