

RYE AND CRIMSON CLOVER THE HOPE OF STOKES COUNTY

The Tremendous Advantage of Incorporating Humus in Our Soils--Interesting Letter to the Farmers From County Demonstrator W. P. Holt, Both Timely and Instructive.

By W. P. HOLT, County Farm Demonstrator

As the time approaches for next year's crop and plans have been agreed upon for this field and that we should pause for a moment and ask ourselves if our proposed system is a constructive system, or is it going to be destructive. Is it our aim to produce profitable crops and at the same time improve our soil, remembering that soil is to be looked to by further generations for their support, or otherwise, is it our aim to produce what we can at present without any thought of the future? In making our plans we should ask ourselves which our system of rotation is going to be, and if we find our system to be destructive, then it is time for us to adopt methods that will make our system constructive. The farmer who does this is the farmer who may be looked upon as a real benefactor to the cause of agriculture. Then we must make liberal practice of the use of those crops which add organic matter to our soils. Organic matter in soils increases their water-holding power and improves their physical condition. This is one of the direct advantages resulting from the incorporation of humus in soils. The organic matter of soils is used up by oxidation during tillage and the soils become out of condition, and run together and cake after heavy rains unless this loss be made good. Organic matter may be increased in soils in several ways, but the quickest and most economical way for us is the liberal usage of green cover crops, or green manure crops, such as we will consider later, but why should we be content with green crops that add organic matter alone when at the same time we can grow leguminous crops, those crops which in addition to humus supply soils with nitrogen, one of the most valued elements of plant food.

Not only does the humus content of soils decrease during cultivation, but the nitrogen does also. It will, therefore, generally be profitable to grow for green manuring a crop that adds this element to the soil. Leguminous crops, such as beans, peas, clover and alfalfa use atmospheric nitrogen thru the medium of bacteria infesting the root tubercles, while grain crops can not use it from the air, but must get their nitrogen from the soil itself. Then leguminous crops used for green manuring will add both humus and nitrogen to soil.

By taking advantage of seasons and conditions of cropping the organic matter and the nitrogen of soils may be maintained

without serious hindrance to the system of cropping, whatever that be, but plans should be made so that each field may bear a nitrogen gathering crop every few years. The desirable succession of crops can be best secured by adopting definite rotations. The particular crops must be determined upon by the local conditions, but the system or rotation must include a liberal usage of legumes.

The two green manuring crops which may be considered best for our county are rye and crimson clover. They are especially adapted to our local conditions, and for a source of organic matter alone, one may be as valuable as the other, but by the fact that rye is not a legume we are compelled to give preference to crimson clover. However, for the fact that rye may be grown more successfully on our poor soils makes it more valuable in many instances.

The fact that we find so little crimson clover grown in this county doesn't necessarily mean that it is not adapted to our conditions. I am glad to say that 95 per cent. of the crimson clover sown last season with proper preparation and seeding was a success.

Now the question is what do we call proper preparation for crimson clover? If we are to sow stubble land we want to break early, work the soil with disc harrow until it is thoroughly pulverized to depth of breaking, then continue the use of a section harrow on this until seeding time, which may be any time from the 20th of July to first of Sept., however, the early seeding is preferable, especially on our heavier clay soils as the better growth assures less danger from freezing during the cold winter months.

On the other hand if we wish to seed land used for hoed crops a good level cultivation makes an ideal seed bed. The 14-toothed cultivator is a suitable implement for putting in clover seed. Seeding must take place while laying corn by, provided, you have season enough in the soil to hasten germination. Seed may be sown same as above, any time from 20th of July to 1st of Sept. Twelve pounds of seed in both cases should give a good stand. Whenever crimson clover hasn't been grown previous to this seeding it might be well to inoculate your seed. Inoculating may be had for the small sum of 1 cent.

I have a number of cards for distribution which entitles you to inoculating materials free and will be glad to furnish same upon request.

THE FOOT-WASHING

Interesting Function Of the Primitive Baptists Last Sunday.

FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Services At North View, to Which Everybody is Invited.

Danbury Route 1, July 8. The annual footwashing was held at Piney Grove Baptist church last Sunday. Services were opened at 10 o'clock by Elder Jesse Ashburn, of Winston-Salem, who delivered to the many hundreds of people a very interesting sermon. He was followed by Elders Collins and Tucker, who spoke equally as well and who took the time up to noon when the announcements were made and a recess for an hour was taken. During this time a delicious dinner was spread in the grove to which every one was invited. This dinner consisted of many good things to eat and drink, which the many people enjoyed after several hours worry from sitting and strolling. This proved to be one of the most delightful events of the season. After dinner the members prepared the circle of seats under the grove where each member had their feet washed while a selected hymn was sung by the surrounding crowd. The bread and wine were next served by Elder Fagg and Mr. Thos. Vaden. Services were closed by a song and a warm hand shaking, after which Elder Luther Tucker pronounced the benediction.

The ice cream party given by Messrs. Gorrell Mabe and Jesse Bennett last Saturday evening proved to be an enjoyable occasion for the large crowd of young people.

Mrs. J. A. Fagg and children, of Walnut Cove, are spending a week with her mother and father-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Fagg.

Mrs. H. H. Reid, who has been suffering from dropsy for some time, is slowly improving, and her many friends regret to see her in this condition.

Services will be held at North View church next Sunday at 11 o'clock. Everybody invited.

Important Advice From Demonstrator Holt

The question is often asked, "When should we lay-by our corn?" I want to say that we are in the midst of the period of our corn growth; that great losses are sustained every year owing to the fact that we cease cultivating our crops too soon. Not realizing the value of the soil mulch to their growing crops, most farmers quit working them at the critical period, and thus greatly lessen their yields. We should be more cautious about this practice, and endeavor to avoid this loss by maintaining our soil mulch so long as possible during the period of rapid growth of our crops, which mulch can be maintained only by the practice of frequent shallow cultivation.
W. P. HOLT.

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