

The A. B. C.'s Of Soils And Proper Fertilizers

(By C. C. YONGUE)

Dear Mr. Editor:
As you were so kind as to print a piece for me a week or so ago, I believe I'll try you on another short piece. It is possible that I may write a piece once in a while. That being the case, guess I had better get some system to it by taking a definite subject. Of course my subject will always be farming but will try and confine myself to some particular branch.

This time my subject will be soils and fertilizers—what you might call the A. B. C.'s of the farming game. Ever since the Lord, while making a little inspection in the Garden of Eden and found old Adam in some devilment and put him to work, man has been dependent on the soil for his living.

On down through the ages, man has tilled the soil for his daily

bread, not knowing or caring anything about the ground he worked, for there was plenty of it. When he got the best of a piece of ground, mostly by letting it be hawny, he would just move over a little and plant a new piece. It is only recently that he has begun to study it to make it produce more crops of a better grade with as little work as possible. Notwithstanding the fact that we are all absolutely dependent on it for our existence, it has never been studied by the scientist or the farmer as the manufacturer studies his business.

For the last few years the people in large areas are studying the soil as never before.

Only last summer there was held in Washington the first International Congress of soil science. This meeting was attended by several hundred people and thirty-odd countries were represented, which shows that this

whole world is becoming interested in a better knowledge of the soil.

Many a poor farmer has made a partial, and sometimes a complete failure of a crop through ignorance of the soil. The making of any crop is the joint effort of the farmer and the soil, so you see how essential it is that we know the soil. It is often the case that a field or possibly a whole farm will be out of lime and the farmer be at a loss to know what is wrong. Send for the Farm Agent. He will advise you and if he doesn't know, will send a sample of the soil to Raleigh and have it analyzed; this tells you what to do. I believe a farmer ought to have each field he has analyzed to see what they are short on, then he will know what kind of fertilizer to use to correct the trouble. Every farmer knows that sandy land and clay land has to be treated different. Of course, just as different kinds of land needs different treatment, different crops need different fertilizer. You would surely not use the same fertilizer under corn that you would under beans. Why? Farm Agents will explain this to you in a minute. Some crops, of course, need practically the same fertilizer. Potatoes and onions can be fertilized from the same bag. Still you would not use this fertilizer under beans. Why? Farm Agent will tell you.

Brother Farmer, the best friend you have on the farm is clover and soybeans, either of which can be grown very successfully here, with, in some cases, the use of ground lime. You get your farm full of clover and lime and the demonstrator can tell you in a minute what kind of fertilizer to use for each crop. I would rather have one good heavy clover stubble turned under than have half dozen little old dried up frost killed rye stubble. You often hear some farmers say they are afraid to turn a green stubble for fear it will sour the ground. I have often turned heavy clover in May as thick as cat hair and made a dandy garden with it, but believe me I thoroughly mixed it with the soil.

The mineral matter of the soil contains lots of plant food but it is practically insoluble, and well it is, or it would have all been washed away and bleached out of the soil long ago. It is our job to make this plant food available by adding organic matter of almost any kind, some better than others of course. One ton of oak leaves is worth considerable more than a ton of rye stubble. In fact forest leaves are pretty good fertilizer. Any organic matter serves to conserve moisture makes the land light and pliable so that plant roots can spread out and get the benefit of a wider range. So you see it will pay to put any kind of organic matter on the soil, the more the better. When once there do your best to keep it there. There is a constant drain on the fertility of the soil all the time. Every rain gets a little of it if it washes a bit. Every plant that grows on it gets some of it if it is taken off. All the fertilizing elements it took to raise a plant remains in the plant when it is taken off the ground. The larger the crop the more plant food is taken off. So you see it is the natural tendency of the land to become poorer and poorer. So for every pound you take off you must put one back in some form, and to improve the soil put back more than you take off.

There are thousands and thousands of dollars thrown away every year by the farmers who don't know their soil nor the needs of the crops they plant. If a farmer would only take the time and trouble to experiment some himself, he would soon find out just what to use.

Suppose we try this when you start to plant a crop—on the first four rows don't use any fertilizer at all; on the next four use 200 lbs. per acre of 16 percent acid; next four rows use 400 lbs. same; next four rows 600 lbs. the same; next four rows 200 lbs. 8-2-2; next four rows 400 lbs. 8-2-2; next four rows 600 lbs. 8-2-2; next twelve rows use in the same way 8-4-4; next four rows 10-0-4. If you will take the trouble to do this it won't cost you much, then you will have some idea after counting the cost of the different grades of fertilizer, then weighing or measuring the crop pretty well, what to do from then on in that field and with that crop.

My experience is that with just a little fertilizer I generally get just a little crop. I generally use from six to fourteen hundred pounds per acre of the high grade, all at one application, then a top dressing of Nitrates later on to crops that need it. One bag of high grade contains more plant food than two bags of low grade and cost a little less and you save the expense of handling the extra bag.

Stable manure is of course the best fertilizer of all, but it is not worth

PRESENT PAGEANT AT THE INSTITUTE

Students of Brevard Institute presented a Christmas pageant of unusual interest and impressiveness Sunday night in the Institute chapel at the regular Epworth League hour. About 20 of the students participated in the program.

The pageant portrayed the Christmas story in song and pantomime, and was most effective throughout, and well rendered by the various ones taking part. Included in the characters represented were the Shepherds, the Wise Men, the Virgin Mary with the Baby Jesus lying in the manger, all appropriately dressed in costume, depicting in a vivid manner the age-old story of the birth of Jesus, and its meaning to the present-day world at this Christmas time. The story was further told by a chorus of young girls, dressed in white robes and wearing tinsel headbands, who marched in pairs down the chapel aisles, singing the Christmas carols, and formed in a group on the stage, singing at intervals during the program the songs pertaining to the Nativity.

A vocal duet "Gesu Bambino" by near so much when used alone as it is when the right kind of fertilizer is used with it. Stable manure and acid phosphate mixed is hard to beat for ordinary crops.

I want to see every little farmer in this county interested in trucking and poultry and the big ones in cattle, hogs and sheep. We have all got to live and pay tax here, raise and educate our children, so let us get busy and find out how to do real farming and get at it. Nature has favored us with this garden spot of the country to do all these things, and if we hang around and don't do it the day will come when an outsider will see the advantages we have, come in, buy our lands, and show us how to make thrifty paying farms and happy contented families and tell us to get to — out of here. Look in Sunday's Citizen and see what the farmers of our sister county, Jackson, are doing with cows sheep and chickens. They have awakened up over there. If you will take the trouble to look it up you will find that there are between four and five hundred dogs in this county and between seven and eight hundred sheep.—Quit farming and gone to coon hunting.

Will tell you soon just the exact figures on my chickens for the past four years.

NOTICE

This is to notify that I, R. J. Carland, have dissolved partnership with J. J. Sullivan and J. F. Carland in the contract of chestnut wood on W. A. Baynard's land.
R. J. CARLAND. p D1-8-15-22

Mrs. Winton and Miss Bartholomew was highly enjoyed.

The pageant was directed by Miss Lemons and Mrs. J. F. Winton, of the Institute music department, the dramatization scenes being original by Mrs. Winton.

Quite a delegation of young folks from the League of the Brevard Methodist church was in attendance at this service, at the invitation of the Institute Leaguers.

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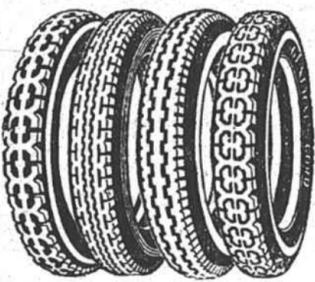
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