

J. C. Brown Believes Crotalaria Will Grow And Re-Seed In Haywood County

This New Plant Makes Excellent Cover Crop, But Stock Will Not Eat It

(Ed. Note: J. C. Brown, in charge of vocational agriculture in the Waynesville Township High School, has recently moved here from Florida, and has had a wide experience in the field about which he writes.)

Many growers and farmers of Haywood County have asked the writer his opinion of Crotalaria as a cover crop for this section. Being native to a section where this crop is used extensively and having had considerable experience with the crop, the writer believes a short discussion in the columns of this paper might be well worth while at this time, even though he does not consider himself an authority on crotalaria.

This crop is a tropical or sub-tropical plant, the first plantings in this county being made in Florida. The climate there seems to meet the requirements of the plant, and it has proven one of the best, if not the best, cover crop in that state. Crotalaria is used very extensively in orange groves and, to some extent, in the northwestern part of the state on general farm lands. The University of Florida, in co-operation with the extension service, determined some few years ago that an acre of crotalaria is worth about as much as seven hundred pounds of nitrate of soda applied to the soil, while cowpeas and some of the more common legumes were worth a little less. In fact, crotalaria was found to stand at the head of the list of soil improving crops which can be grown in Florida. The writer does not know what the comparison would be with your clovers grown here.

Crotalaria will produce a growth of three to eight feet, depending on the stand and fertility of the soil. When sown thickly the stems are from one-sixteenth to one-fourth of an inch in diameter at the base. The writer has seen stalks, however, produced in isolation which measured two inches at the base. If a good stand is had the plants are close together there is no danger of producing such large undesirable plants.

The leaves of the crotalaria are broader than the leaves on cowpea plants and they are distributed along "limbs" which grow out from the main stalk. The yellow flowers resemble those of the snapdragon. Re-seeding is assured by the pea-like pod bursting open, scattering the seeds in all directions.

In sections having warmer winters than western North Carolina, the plants require about six months for seeding to maturity. The seeds are usually planted in March and begin to scatter their mature seeds during the first cool days of October.

There are two common varieties of crotalaria, the Striata and the Spectabilis. There is very little difference in appearance of plants, but the latter is preferred in orange groves because of its superior height and heavier growth, and also, because it is not bothersome much as the first variety by the green pumpkin bugs. The black seeds of both the Striata and Spectabilis are easily distinguished due to the fact that the latter are heart shaped and much larger than the Striata.

If there are those who are interested in trying this plant as a soil builder for this section the writer suggests the following:

Obtain only a few seeds, ten to twenty pounds, plant after all danger of frost has passed and early enough to avoid the hot sun, and, finally plant very lightly.

The smallest frost would be disastrous and the crotalaria will not tolerate hot sun. After the plants are up eight to ten inches the sun will have no undesirable effect on them.

One of the most common mistakes is planting too deep as some of the best stands the writer has seen were from seeds planted on a prepared soil

Henry Francis Sows Lespedeza Seed On Top 10 Inches Snow

Few farmers in Haywood County work as hard or harder than Henry Francis, and few accomplish more than Mr. Francis. One reason of this is that he takes advantage of the seasons and the opportunities that Mother Nature offers.

This was proven last Thursday morning when he put on heavy rubber boots, and minus his coat, went to his field and sowed lespedeza seed on top of ten inches of snow.

He explained that the melting snow would carry the seed down into the ground, and thus provide an ideal "planting."

Mrs. Ed Bright who saw him working, commented on the fact that his unique method of planting lespedeza was the most sure sign of spring to date.

Large Mule Weighs Almost 2,000 Pounds

What is believed to be the largest mule in the world is owned by R. Falk Carter, near Reidsville. The animal is five years old, and weighs 1,960 pounds. She is well broke to harness, and takes a 26-inch collar, and stands 19 hands high.

Large draft horses sometimes weigh more, but this is said to be the largest Missouri mule to ever be seen in North Carolina. This statement was made by a man who handles 50,000 head of stock each year.

Growing interest in regard to co-operating with the TVA in better farm management demonstrations has been shown by the increase in inquiries received by county agents of Western Carolina.

Just after a rain, the seeds being carried in this manner to a sufficient depth to insure germination. The writer suggests, furthermore, that several plantings be made on small plots, beginning about the middle of April, or after danger of frost, and make three or four plantings each week.

The writer is of the opinion that crotalaria will grow and re-seed itself here and that it would be an excellent cover crop. However, by no means plant it with any idea of forage since no variety has been developed that will be eaten by any stock. The writer also states that any quantity of seed can be secured for ten to twelve cents per pound, and, although not in the seed business, names can be furnished of dealers selling for these prices. So far as the writer knows, there is little or no literature published on this plant as handled in the United States.

COUNTY AGENTS' COLUMN



W. D. SMITH

Application for emergency crop loans for 1936 are now being received at the County Agent's Office by S. S. Williams, field supervisor of the Emergency Crop and Feed Loan section of the Farm Credit Administration.

The emergency crop loans will be made only to farmers who cannot obtain credit from any other source, as provided by regulations issued by the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration. The money loaned will be limited to the farmer's immediate and actual cash needs for growing his 1936 crops and in no instance may exceed \$200 to one farmer.

Farmers are not eligible for emergency crop loans if they can borrow from an individual, production credit association, bank, or other concern. Farmers will also be considered ineligible if they have an application pending with Resettlement Administration, have received assistance from the organization this year or are indebted to the Resettlement Administration for an unpaid loan.

As in the past, the security for an emergency crop loan will consist of a first lien on the crop financed. Landlord or others having an interest in the crop to be financed will be required to waive their claims in favor of the Government of the Farm Credit Administration until the emergency crop loan is repaid.

Checks in payment of approved loans will be issued by the Regional Emergency Crop and Feed Loan office at Columbia, S. C.

A good mineral mixture for hogs consists of the following:

- Limestone 5 pounds
 - Steamed bone meal 5 pounds
 - Salt 5 pounds
- If a large amount is desired:
- Limestone 50 pounds
 - Steamed bone meal 50 pounds
 - Salt 10 pounds

Mr. Rufus Page, assistant Extension Forester, was here last week visiting a number of farmers in the county.

What To Plant This Week

Compiled by Editor Farmers Federation News

Edited by W. D. Smith

FLOWERS

SWEET PEAS—Spencer Mixed.

GARDEN

CABBAGE—Set frost-proof plants, Early Jersey Wakefield, Charleston Wakefield, Early Flat Dutch.

BEETS—Early Blood Turnip, Crosby Egyptian.

LETTUCE—Seed in cold frame or garden: Grand Rapids (curled.) In cold frame only, N. Y. Wonderful, Iceburg.

GREENS—Kale, Scotch or Siberian, Mustard.

ONIONS—"Potato onion" seeds are to be preferred.

POTATOES—Green Mountain.

RADISHES—Cal. Mammoth, Icy, Saxon.

SPINACH—Bloomsdale, for spring and early summer.

TURNIP—White Egg, Early Mild.

FIELD SEEDING

LESPEDEZA—Korean, Common, Kobe, Tennessee 76.

CLOVERS—Red, Sapling, Alsike, White Dutch.

GRASSES—Kentucky Blue, Red Top, Orchard, Rye Grass.

Fall Garden Contests To Close 31st

March 31 marks the closing of the fall and winter garden contest sponsored for the home demonstration club women in the state by the Extension Department. The contest began October 1, 1935. The extremely bad winter this season has curbed garden activities decidedly, but it is expected that some good records will be in the office of the home demonstration agent before April 10, by which time the two high scoring contestants, in each county must be decided upon.

Monthly records giving list of vegetables growing in the garden and the number of times served on the family table during the month are required, and a story of the garden is to be included with the records.

Following is the statement in part sent out over the state as a reminder to the contestants and the garden leaders and president in the various clubs at this time by Miss Mary E. Thomas.

Other Crops—OATS—White Spring Burt, Rust Proof, Fulghum, RAPE.

Spade or plow in all manure available on rest of garden. Lime garden if possible, but leave lime and manure off potato land.

Finish all fruit tree pruning and dormant scale spraying, spray oil lime sulfur with arsenate of lead or nicotine sulphate. Follow the state recommendations.

Number Of Places In Civil Service

The United States civil service commission has announced open competitive examinations for the following:

Junior astronomer, marine engineer, agriculture engineer, junior veterinarian, clinical director (female.) Details may be obtained from the local post office.

Lespedeza growing is on the upswing in Wilson County. About 20,000 pounds have been ordered by growers in that county this season.

Described as one of the quickest plantings ever seen in Pamlico County, about 75 per cent of the potato crop is now in the ground.

Haywood county home demonstration club will be that of the Allen's Creek Club on Wednesday of next week. Other club meetings will follow on their regularly scheduled dates.

The subject for the April demonstration is Eggs and their various uses in the diet. Good attendance at the meetings is expected. Despite the disagreeable weather during the early part of March when the clubs held their last meetings the six clubs in the county had an attendance of 71. With April and what is hoped may be fairer weather the attendance should increase considerably.

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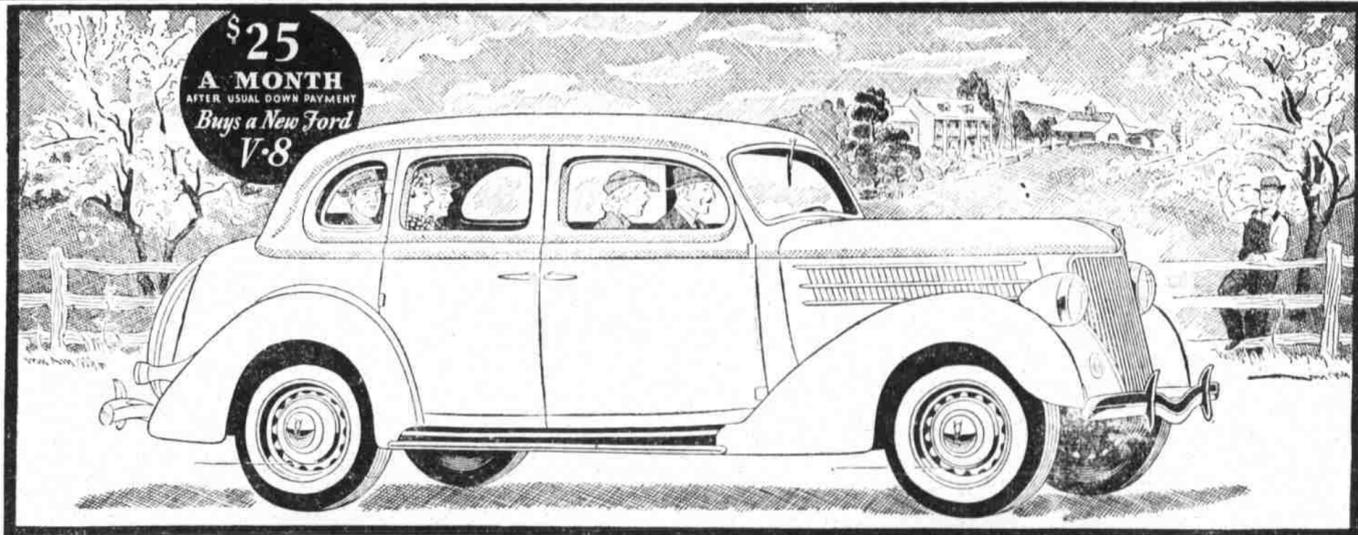
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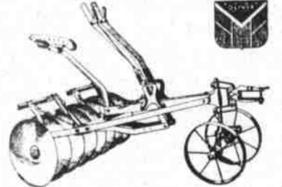
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