

INFORMATION ABOUT CRIMSON CLOVER

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture Urges Farmers to Sow Crimson Clover this Fall--Seed Tested Free by the Department.

The most urgent need of southern agriculture is the enrichment of the soil. To improve southern soils the principal additions needed are vegetable matter and nitrogen. Crimson clover adds both these to the soil on which it grows; in fact, this method of improving the soil, by the growing of crimson clover, is the most generally practicable method that can be put into immediate effect by southern farmers.

This plant is not being grown as extensively as it should be, but its culture is rapidly extending. It is an annual, making its growth between September and May; and, like all other soil-improving legumes, it is able, when properly grown, to take nitrogen from the air and add it to the soil. It possesses decided advantages of covering and protecting the soil from washing and leaching during the winter and of furnishing a green manure for spring crops or a succulent and nutritious feed at a time when such feed is likely to be scarce. It also makes good hay if cut when just coming into full bloom; but it should never be fed after the crop has ceased flowering. The straw of crimson clover raised and threshed as a seed crop should never be used to feed stock, as the hairs in the ripe flowering heads become stiff and, when fed to horses and cattle, form hair balls in their stomachs and intestines. The yield of cotton, sweet potatoes, sorghum, corn, potatoes, and other crops following the plowing-under of crimson clover is much greater than where such fertilizing is not practiced.

SOIL AND INOCULATION.

Crimson clover is suited to a large range of soils and will grow well all over the State of North Carolina. It is very hardy and thrives on soil too sandy for any other species of clover. It also grows well on loams, clays, and humus soils. Acid soils should be limed.

Inoculation is essential to success in growing crimson clover. This is best accomplished by sowing with the seed three or four bushels to an acre of soil from a field where crimson clover, white clover, or red clover has recently grown successfully. If there is an abundance of soil, it is only necessary to apply it immediately after seeding and harrow it in. Always cover the inoculating soil promptly.

If there is only a limited amount of soil, inoculation may be accomplished by the following method: Fill a pail three-fourths full of inoculating soil, fill to the top with water, stir thoroughly, allow to settle, then pour off and use a pint of the clear water to a bushel of seed. Pour the seed on a clean floor and mix the water thoroughly with it. If no inoculating soil is available, cultures may be secured from the United States Department of Agriculture or from commercial dealers.

guard against loss of money

TIME TO SOW AND AMOUNT OF SEED TO USE.

If crimson clover is sown too early, the hot weather sometimes kills the sprouting seeds and the young plants; but if the sowing is delayed too late, the stand is sometimes injured because the plants do not get a good start before the cold of winter. Seed should be sown in the coastal Plain Region from the middle of September to the middle of October, in the Piedmont Region from the first of September to the middle of October, in the Mountain Region from the first of August to the first of September.

It may be sown to good advantage on land where cowpeas have been harvested, in cotton after the first picking, in corn and similar crops, also in the stubble of grain fields, and in any land laying out. If the land is overrun with weeds it will be necessary to plow it before planting the clover in order to get a good stand. It is well to sow the seed while the soil is moist from a recent rain.

From twelve to twenty pounds of cleaned seed should be planted to the acre; fifteen perhaps gives the best results. Forty pounds of seed in the rough is equivalent to fifteen pounds of cleaned seed.

GOOD SEED IMPORTANT.

Good seed must be planted if a good stand is to be secured. The seed deteriorates rapidly with age, and consequently fresh seed only should be used. The fresh seed is highly polished and reddish in color, while the old seed is dull and of a reddish brown color. Dark seed should not be purchased, as it is too old to grow.

All the European countries, with the exception of Spain and Turkey, have seed-testing stations varying in number from one in Italy to twenty-eight in Germany. Through the work of the stations the people have come to appreciate the importance of good seed, and as the greater part of that now used in Europe is sold on the basis of accurate tests for purity and germination, the sale of low-grade seed has been greatly reduced.

A similar condition exists in Canada, where there is a strict law governing the quality of seed sold. At present there are no Federal restrictions on the importation of low-grade and worthless seed. As a result, the United States has become the dumping ground for the poor seed of Canada and Europe.

The stocks of crimson clover are about exhausted all over the country. Seed dealers say that they have never known a season when stocks have been so nearly exhausted as they have been during the past year, so that almost the entire supply of home grown seed will be the crop of 1910; but there will be nothing like enough to supply the market and there will be a large importation. This imported seed may be good, but it very likely will not be; and to

from poor seed, and the still greater loss in the failure to obtain a crop, and the probable introduction of serious weed pests on the land, only good seed should be purchased.

The usual price of crimson clover is from \$3 to \$4 a bushel of sixty pounds, but, due to the scarcity, the quotations now are from \$8 to \$9.50 a bushel. This, however, should not keep farmers from planting crimson clover—only make them more careful to secure good seed.

That there is a great difference in the quality of seed sold in the State is shown by the analysis made at the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. The tests ranged in purity from 20 per cent to 98½ per cent, and in germination from 2½ per cent to 90 per cent.

It is urged that farmers plant crimson clover this fall, and that they have the seed tested before purchasing it. As it takes from seven to ten days for a report to be made on a test, the seed should be sent in good time. Half an ounce is enough.

All samples sent for testing should be addressed to the Seed Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C., and should be accompanied by the following information: Name and address of seller, price, quantity offered for sale, and address of sender.

Seed will be tested for any farmer free of charge.—W. A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

Tobacco Curing Season Opens—Mr. Brim the First to Cut.

Mr. Alex Brim, who farms between Danbury and Piedmont Springs, was the first to cut a barn of tobacco in this section. He began housing last week, and was followed by Mr. R. C. White, near Flatsheel. This week Mr. Osa Smith, of Danbury Route 1, and Mr. J. M. Fagg, of Red Shoals, will cut a barn each.

The work of housing and curing the tobacco crop will begin in earnest next week in all sections of the county. The crop is generally reported good.

Campbell Route 1.

Campbell Route 1, Aug. 8.—The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Hill died Sunday, and was buried at the family burial ground Monday.

People are done threshing wheat in this community, and crops were very good.

The tobacco crop is very good, and the outlook for a corn crop is the best for years.

Miss Agnes Smith, of Mayodan, who has been spending two weeks with Mrs. Govie Smith, has gone to Francisco to spend a week. But we are afraid she will stay longer, from the way Dixie was smiling. We are sure there was something in his smiles.

Mrs. D. M. Martin, of Greensboro, and Mrs. Ola Gilbert, of Richmond, Va., are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Brown, of this place.

Mr. Ben Jessup, who holds a responsible position in Spray, is at home on his vacation.

Mr. Walter Smith and family, accompanied by Miss Winnie Tatum, returned to their home in Spray yesterday, after several days visit with friends here and in Virginia.

THROWN AND KICKED.

W. E. Hartman Painfully But Not Seriously Hurt By Mule.

Last Thursday Mr. W. E. Hartman, of Hartman, was thrown and kicked by a mule, receiving injuries which were quite painful but not serious.

He was grazing the mule near his home, sitting on its back, and allowing the reins to fall loosely about the animal's head. A bee or insect must have stung the mule, for it suddenly jumped and plunged, dismounting the rider, and in the fall an iron hoof struck Everett a glancing blow in the forehead, raking the bone, and knocking him winding. He was not hurt by the fall.

Dr. McClesless, of Danbury, was summoned and dressed the wound, and at this time Mr. Hartman is about recovered.

Ice Cream Supper at J. Wesley Morefield's.

Sandy Ridge, Aug. 8.—An ice cream supper was given by the young people at Mr. J. Wesley Morefield's home Friday night. Quite a number of friends were present, and all seemed to have a jolly time. Among them were Misses Gracie Wilkins, Esco and Nina Sheppard, Lucy and Annie Priddy, Vera Young, Lilla Young, Nettie Nelson, Alpha Wood, Roxie Taylor, Zilla Sands, Bettie, Lester and Hester Morefield, Minnie and Lilla Mabe and Mittie Shelton, Messrs. Terry and Roy Oakley, Rex and Percie Sheppard, Mallie Taylor, Lin Wilkins, Willie Sands, Charlie and Walter Priddy, Richard Morefield, Gilmer Mabe, Homer and Luther Adams, Rufus Woods, Van Mabe, Wesley Priddy, Roy Martin, ——— Lawson and others.

JAY.

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