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Save the Clover Seed This Spring

THERE WILL BE A FINE MARKET FOR CLOVER SEED THIS FALL

(Prize Letter)

THE importance of every farmer saving his own clover seed this coming spring cannot be over-estimated. In fact, if the farmer would just take time to consider he would at once realize the fact that he could not afford not to save his own clover seed. Not a single farmer can advance an idea in favor of not saving his clover seed, but on the other hand, there are many reasons why he should grow and save his own seed. One of the most important reasons is because he has them on hand, and can seed at the right time, which almost insures him a stand. The majority of failures are due to not sowing at the right time.

Usually the farmer waits until his clover should be sown before he thinks of buying seed, and by the time he is able to get the seed it is getting late, consequently he fails to get a stand and is ready to say that his land is not suited to clover growing.

The price of clover seed is also a big item in favor of saving the seed on the farm where they are to be sown. We can grow and sow our seed for less than half what they cost, besides we leave the land in an improved condition where the seeds are grown.

Again, if we grow our own seed we will seed much larger acreages to this kind of cover crops.

I have for a number of years been saving my own clover seed and since then have seldom failed to get a good stand. I try to save as many as I need and if I have more than I sow I always find ready buyers for the surplus.

JOHN A. BOONE,
Franklinton, N. C.

DON'T WAIT TOO LATE TO SAVE THE CLOVER SEED

(Prize Letter)

THERE was more crimson clover sown in the South last fall than ever before. A large proportion of these sowings were made by persons trying it for the first time in the way of experiments, and therein lies no inconsiderable part of their value.

Now when these farmers find out that it is a good thing they will want to sow again. Yet, because of the most probable reduction in the amount of clover seed imported from Europe, they may find seed high in price or not to be obtained at all. In such case, to save our own seed will be much better than to pay a greatly increased price, not only from an economical standpoint, but because it will both increase the supply of seed and lower the price of seed to those who must buy, because of decreased demand by the saving of such home-grown seed.

Since he can help both himself and his neighbors at the same time, every man, or group of men near enough together to cooperate, whose crop is large enough to justify the use of the best machinery, should make arrangements to save the crop most economically.

But what about the man who has only one-half of an acre or one acre? He, too, can save enough seed for his own use another year, with very little trouble and expense. I know because I have tried it. I made a success despite the several serious mistakes in the operation—mistakes that could have been easily avoided.

Last spring I left a small plot, about one-fifth of an acre, to ripen for seed. About one-half the plot was so poor in soil that the clover made almost no growth.

Mistake number one was in letting it get too ripe before harvesting. Be-

cause of its being a small patch, I waited till I took the mower near it to cut some oats for hay. When the oats had been cut the dew was all gone and the clover, which was dead ripe, was very dry. The feet of the horses and the wheels of the mower and rake shattered at least five-sixths of the seeds. By the time I got the hay into the barn it looked like straw only. The leaves had fallen off before harvesting; the seed, in harvesting.

Yet, when last fall I threshed it, which I did by putting an armful or two at a time on a sheet and beating it and rolling it about a few times to separate the seed from the straw, I found that I had a three-bushel basket packed full of seed. The threshing took not over one hour.

When time came to sow clover last fall I had my own seed. I of course had to sow it by hand; yet by using a handle basket holding about a bushel I sowed it almost as quickly as I could have sown the same land with cleaned seed in a sower. I think every seed must have germinated. I got an almost perfect and regular stand.

Seeing my mistakes, I said to myself: "To prevent shattering of the seed, I will cut it, rake it, and haul it when it is somewhat damp with dew."

Now just a word to the editors: If, as a result of devoting one issue of The Progressive Farmer to this subject, you shall get only 1,000 men to save their own crimson seed—that you will influence several times that number, I do not doubt—you will have made a great contribution to the "New Agriculture of the South."

JOHN H. DAVIS,

Ripley, Miss.

A CLOVER SEED STRIPPER THAT IS CHEAP AND EFFECTIVE

Study the Illustration on the Front Page of Last Week's Progressive Farmer and Make Your Stripper Now

WE BEG place in your columns to call the attention of farmers to the importance of saving all the clover seed possible during the spring. Heretofore we have been purchasing yearly some \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 worth of these seed from European countries. This supply will not be available for this fall's planting, whether the war continues or stops. Further, much of the clover sown in this country last fall has been killed by the freezes we have had during the winter. Seed necessarily will be high-priced this fall at planting time.

The Southern farmer is just learning the value of leguminous winter cover crops. It would be a calamity for our supply of clover seed to be short at this stage of our development in the growing of this valuable crop. Therefore it behooves every farmer who has even a small patch of clover, to save from it all the seed he can. It has been found that home-grown seed have more vitality than imported seed. They can be saved at a cost of from 50 cents to \$1 per acre.

The picture on the front page of last week's Progressive Farmer shows a machine, the body or box of which is three feet wide. This will easily harvest three acres per day. It can be cheaply made by any farmer who can handle tools, and can be made of any size desirable. It consists mainly of a wide box without top, with teeth of good oak or hickory and a handle behind for adjusting the height of the teeth according to the height of the clover. This is swung on an axle on old wagon or buggy wheels, with shafts attached. A two-wheeled cart would answer well for this purpose by removing the body or cart bed. The bottom of the seed box should be about six inches above ground. The teeth should be one and one-fourth inches wide on top and one-half

inch wide at the bottom. They should be one-fourth inch apart at the top side. This will make them one inch apart at the bottom. As may be expected, these teeth will clog more or less, but they are easily unclogged, and will save many seed in a day if kept going. If covered on top with a sheet of iron they will last longer and also do better work.

Those who have a large acreage of clover might find it economical to make a much wider seed box and suspend it on the axle and wheels of a hay rake. A double team could handle this larger machine easily. A four-foot box could be placed on the cutter bar of a mowing machine, thus allowing the team to walk on clover stubble instead of where the clover is standing.

The important thing is for every farmer who has any clover to make a seed saver now, and be ready to save the seed at the proper time. If he waits until farm work is on with a rush, the chances are he will not be ready when the seed ripen, and consequently will not have any seed to plant this fall. No doubt several farmers who have small areas will cooperate in making a machine, thus reducing the individual cost to a minimum.

C. R. HUDSON,
Raleigh, N. C.

Important to Potato Growers

THE Department of Agriculture has sent out the following telegram to experiment stations:

"The rapid spread of powdery mildew in Aroostook County, Maine, and the difficulty which has developed in detecting by any practicable inspection the presence of slight infection with this disease has led the Department to discontinue further certification of seed stock from the infected districts of Maine and New York. The public should be warned that all seed potatoes hitherto shipped from the infected districts of Maine and New York may contain powdery scab, whether certified or not. The only Federal certification of potatoes as a condition of interstate movement from the infected districts hereafter will be as table stock potatoes."

The certificates that have been issued are: First, a white certificate. This denotes that the seed were from clean land and no mildew found on inspection. Second, a blue certificate, denoting that the seed are from a district in which the powdery mildew has not appeared. Third, a yellow certificate. Potatoes with this certificate are not guaranteed and should not be used for seed purposes.

W. F. MASSEY.

Get These Books and Bulletins

- You may get any of the following bulletins free by applying to the address given; while books may be had of The Progressive Farmer at prices mentioned.
- Alabama Experiment Station, Auburn, Ala.—Bulletin No. 163, Irish Potatoes.
 - Tennessee State Department of Agriculture, Nashville, Tenn.—February, 1915, Bulletin, Analysis of Commercial Fertilizers.
 - Ohio Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio—Bulletin No. 266, Labor Cost of Producing Corn in Ohio;
 - Bulletin No. 267, The Value of Soy Bean and Alfalfa Hay in Milk Production;
 - Bulletin No. 270, Experiments in Winter Lamb Production;
 - Circular No. 148, Spraying Farm Orchards by the Club Plan;
 - Circular No. 149, Spraying Program for Orchards With Combinations Recommended;
 - Circular No. 156, Tree Fillings and Wound Dressings for Orchard and Shade Trees;
 - Circular No. 151—Methods of Soil Sterilization for Plant Beds and Green Houses.
 - United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.—Farmers' Bulletin No. 646, Crimson Clover: Seed Production.
- Books**
- Practical Talks on Farm Engineering, by R. P. Clarkson, E. S. Price \$1. This book treats of the following subjects: Farm Buildings and Building Materials; Farm Water Supply and Sewage Disposal; Farm Power; Drainage and Irrigation; The Cost of Road Building; Useful Tables for Engineering Calculations.