

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Good Farming Is Impossible Without Winter Cover Crops

RECENTLY we have had a good deal to say about cover crops, clover particularly, and until the time for planting them has entirely passed, we expect to continue emphasizing the very great importance of these crops. A truth that Southern farmers, sooner or later, must come to realize is that saving our soils for ourselves and

the corn crop to follow; (2) the seed required to sow an acre costs much less than similar quantities of bur clover and rye; and (3) the crop is well suited to practically all well drained soils in the Cotton Belt. However, if for any reason crimson clover cannot be planted by all means cover the cultivated fields with a crop of rye. About the same particu-



CLOVER CROPS LIKE THIS MEAN RICH LANDS AND PROSPEROUS FARMERS

If You Have Not Already Done So, We Suggest That You Get Your Clover Seed Now, Before It Is Too Late, and Put in at Least a Small Patch This Fall

our children is one of the greatest of all the tasks confronting us, and that the intelligence and energy with which we tackle the job must in very large measure determine our individual success or failure, as well as the success or failure of the whole agricultural South.

Undoubtedly the most serious drain on our stock of soil fertility has come, not through the crops grown, but rather because we have allowed our plant foods to leach and wash away. Any good farmer knows that level land, however over-cropped it may have been, can be put back in good shape by a few crops of legumes plowed under or by an application of stable manure; but once our rolling hill lands are gullied and stripped of their best soil, the task of remaking them is a long and trying one. The wise farmer, then, is he who saves his fields, and on our rolling lands the surest and best of all ways of doing this is by means of cover crops, kept on the land winter and summer.

We have particularly emphasized the value of crimson clover as a winter cover crop because (1) it is a legume or nitrogen-gatherer, maturing in ample time to plow under for

larly is proving itself a remarkably fine winter grazing and cover crop, and we would like to see every farmer in the South try, at least a small area of it this fall. If neither clover nor rye is planted, then oats put in in September or October, even if the crop is plowed under in March for corn or cotton, will be an excellent investment for saving our lands and furnishing winter grazing.

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The great point is, have a cover crop, preferably a legume, growing on every acre every winter. Too long have we been letting the winter rains carry away the cream of our soils, foolishly expecting to offset our losses with commercial fertilizers. Such a practice is too much like trying to fill a barrel at the bung hole when the head has been knocked out; it will bankrupt us in the end. So let's prepare, *now*, to become real farmers by putting a carpet of green over our farms this winter and every winter hereafter. Doing this will save our soils, reduce our fertilizer bills, and enable us to grow better crops than we have ever grown before.