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CORN FIELD MOISTURE

MAY BE PRESERVED THROUGH THE DRY SEASON

Cultivation or intertillage, the latter is generally practiced with corn growing that we assume it is necessary for growth and do not stop to ask the reason. But there are several reasons, the most important of which are to conserve moisture and to destroy the competing weeds that the corn may have the best possible chance to develop.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

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Intertillage Beneficial.

Intertillage also assists the freeing of plant food and an open or loose surface soil will, in case of heavy rain, take up and hold more moisture than a hard or uncultivated surface. As fast as moisture evaporates from the surface more water moves up from below. This is as nature intended it should be, and was quite the right thing when the soil surface is covered with decaying leaves and growing vegetation. But under our crop growing systems of to-day where we reduce the soil to an absolutely bare condition, and then plant corn with the object of growing corn and nothing else on the land, we must save the moisture, prevent its escape from the soil until the corn plant develops a root system extensive enough that no moisture may pass from the soil surface. We know that moisture is lost from the fallow field if there is no cultivation during the warm dry weather, and we know that tillage practiced on the bare fallow field will retain the soil in a mellow condition.

How Moisture Evaporates.

If we set a pan of water on the unprotected surface soil it will lose one-half inch of water daily during the dry weather. A similar pan of water set in the corn field or wheat field where it is protected by the growing crop will not lose as much in a week. From the foregoing it will be noted that the most important tillage to save the moisture for the corn plant is done previous to the time that the plant has attained a height of 12 or 15 inches. When the corn is that high it has developed a root system large enough to prevent loss of soil moisture. Tillage done after the corn is 15 inches high has its main benefit in removing the weeds that compete with the corn for moisture and nourishment. All taken by weeds directly robs the corn crop. In experiments that were conducted to determine the influence of weeds on corn yield it was found that shallow cultivation gave an increase of 63 bushels of corn per acre over where weeds were allowed to grow.

Deep Cultivation Not Necessary.

There is no real necessity of cultivating deep, unless it is to cover large weeds. If the work is done in proper time the weeds will not get large and shallow tillage will take care of them, and at the same time the corn roots will not be injured by the cultivator teeth that do not loosen the soil more than two inches deep give conditions most favorable to the full development of the corn plant. The type of cultivating usually spoken of as "Rip her up deep," "Let her down deep," increases the labor and reduces the yield.

Frequent Cultivations a Benefit.

Up to the time that the corn shades the ground cultivate frequently, and not over two inches deep; after that, continue to cultivate shallow principally with the object of destroying weeds.—Department of Extension, O. A. College, Guelph.

Parasites All.

When the dog flea finds the dog, it is happy, so much so that it becomes very active and fleas become numerous. The flea found its host. And so it is with plants; they all have their bacteria. Generations of living together have developed kinds and types with their likes and dislikes. Each particular plant has its associated bacteria which become active when they come in contact with the root. We have long known the close association between the roots of the clover plant and certain bacteria, to the general advantage of both. This discovery was made largely through the bacteria carrying on the work in a way that left large visible nodules on the clover root. It has long been suspected that plants belonging to other orders had associated with them bacteria that carried on a work similar to the clover or legume bacteria. And it has now been demonstrated that the corn plant has associated with it bacteria that do for the corn roots what the legume bacteria do for the legume. It has been a mystery to many agriculturists how the corn belt land could go on growing corn year after year and still have an adequate supply of available nitrogen for the next crop. The secret is now out, the corn plant has its parasite, a nitrogen gathering bacteria that multiplies in the presence of the corn root, just as the flea will thrive only when it finds a suitable host. It is to be hoped that nitrogen gatherers will be found for all agricultural plants.—Department of Extension, O. A. College, Guelph.

Worms Among Raspberries.

If you see any evidence of the arrival of worms among your raspberries use a pound of dry lead arsenate in a barrel of water and cover the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves. This is, use best arsenate up to the time the fruit sets. After the fruit sets use white hellebore.

COWS FOR THE SETTLER

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT IS HELPING NORTHERN FARMERS

The Northland Produces Much Hay It is Best Sold on the Hoof or as Milk—Settlers May Purchase Cattle Cheaply—Wireworm Poison.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Few people in Old Ontario who have not travelled through the northern part of the province realize that there is a territory lying north of New Liskeard and west of Cochrane that will in the near future become one of the most important producing agricultural areas of the province. The country adjacent to the railways is now cleared or being cleared to such an extent that the settlers are no longer dependent upon their timber or pulp wood for revenue, but are now engaged in farming proper. Many farms, especially in the New Liskeard section, are entirely cleared of bush and the white acreage is either under cultivation or in hay and pasture.

Northland Produces Much Hay.

With the wonderful producing power of this new land there is an exceptionally rapid growth of vegetation and hay is now being produced in such quantities that it is with difficulty that a market can be found for the entire production. So much is this so that even this year in June, stacks of 1924 hay may be seen as one travels along the railway. Settlers have not been producing hay alone, but have been getting into live stock raising as rapidly as circumstances and conditions would permit. This is evidenced by the fact that between New Liskeard and Cochrane there are creameries at the following points: New Liskeard, Ramore, Earlton, Matheson, Val Gagne and Cochrane.

Ready Money Scarce With Settlers.

As was the case with settlers in Old Ontario so it is in most cases with settlers in Northern Ontario—they have very little ready cash as their earnings have been used in clearing the land consequently the Ontario Government is assisting the settlers financially in the building of creameries and in the purchase of cows. Such assistance is being given on business principles only, that is, the money for the building of creameries and the purchase of cows is being loaned to the settlers at a moderate rate of interest and under certain conditions.

Purchase of Cows.

Briefly speaking, the new policy of the Department of Lands and Forests, through the Northern Development Branch, in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture through the Live Stock Branch, is as follows:—Cattle are to be purchased in car-load lots only.

Settlers are to appoint a Representative to select the animals, and are to authorize him to act on their behalf in such selection and in deciding as to price.

Settlers are required to sign an application form to this effect agreeing to give promissory notes and liens against their farms for unpaid balances.

Government will appoint a representative of the Department of Agriculture to accompany settlers' representative and assist him in selection of cattle.

Government will advance full amount of money to pay for cattle at time of purchase and to prepay transportation charges and to pay expenses of settlers' representative.

Settlers will be charged \$12 per cow to defray the transportation charges and the cost of their own representative. This flat rate will mean a saving of several dollars per cow to the settler, and will give them the advantage of knowing exactly what these costs will amount to.

The total cost to the settler will be the amount paid for the stock purchased for him plus \$12 per head for those other charges.

Upon delivery the settlers will be required to pay at least 25 per cent. of this total cost and as much more as he is able.

Interest at 5 per cent. will be charged on unpaid balances and repayments are required at the rate of \$3 per cow per month, and the settler shall give a promissory note to this effect and a lien against his farm.

Repayments may be made to the creamery or to such other local office as may be designated in the community.—L. E. O'Neill, Live Stock Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture.

Cut-Worm Poison.

Bran, 25 lbs.
Paris Green or White Arsenic, 1 lb.
Molasses, ½ gal
Water, 2 gals.

Mix the bran and poison together dry in a large vessel. Add the molasses to water. Stir well and then pour the liquid over the poison bran and mix until every part is moist and will fall through the fingers. Apply half a teaspoonful near each plant at dusk and see that chickens keep away.—Dept. of Extension, O. A. College, Guelph.

Sweet Clover Hay.

A recent press bulletin from the Federal Department of Agriculture states that where any other suitable crop can be grown it is best not to use sweet clover for hay. As it is a hollow stemmed, coarse growing plant, it is rather hard to cure sweet clover properly. It must be cut at the right moment, which is usually during the rainy period of early summer. As a silage or pasture crop, however, sweet clover is one of our most valuable plants, while few legumes exceed it as a soil builder.

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48th Year.

BRIGADE'S ANNUAL AND DANCE W

Again a large crowd gathered at Peacock's Hall, on 14th, to attend the annual dance under the auspices of the Fire Brigade. The event was a success and appreciated by the citizens of the district.

Players of 34 tables were present and the honors and the capturing the prizes were won by Mrs. H. Peacock, 1st 2nd; Frank McSorley, 3rd; John McSorley, 4th. The former lost in the final round.

After the awarding of prizes, Mrs. H. Peacock, with a few remarks, pressed the sentiment of thanking all who assisted in making the success. Lunch was served which the floor was cleared for a 3-piece orchestra. Jack O'Donnell, John Blake Graham, who mingled until 3 a.m., when they dispersed.

A REGULAR

The U. F. O. annual held in Peacock's Hall, January 13th, turned out to be the most successful of this organization.

Members with their families to the number of 100 enjoyed the full advantage of the program that had been provided. Only called an orchestra of 100 members had the appearance of a banquet, and the evening was spent in this culinary extravaganza. It was certainly to be congratulated. Chefs Henry Jackson and John produced an excellent "Blue Point."

The evening was a moving picture program supervised by Mr. C. Agricultural Representative was generous as well as greatly enjoyed.

THE

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