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GROW MORE ALFALFA—SAVE THE GIRDLED TREES

IT BUILDS UP THE SOIL AND MAINTAINS FERTILITY.

Enriches the Soil of Wooded and Pastureland Great Abundance of Rich Hay For the Live Stock.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

In a survey covering an investigation on 900 farms, those that were growing alfalfa showed an average net profit of \$1,200 per farm against \$728 per farm profit for those that were not growing alfalfa. This difference of nearly \$500 in profit was due to the alfalfa and farm practice that goes with it.

Use Hardy Strains.
Ontario Variegated and the Grimm varieties are more winter proof than the common or southern grown. These alone should be used in Ontario. The seed may cost a little more, but when everything is at stake against King Winter, the additional cost of good seed is your insurance for a return in crop. Hardy varieties last longer, and when once established and given rational treatment, remain vigorous and profitable for many years.

Alfalfa's Greatest Need is Lime.

Alfalfa is a lime hungry plant; it cannot succeed where lime does not exist in abundance. Each ton of hay produced requires approximately 100 pounds of lime. So the alfalfa growing on soils that are sour or lacking in lime, in time, money and labor thrown away. Correct the lime deficiency first, if the soil needs it apply up to two tons per acre every five years. Most Ontario soils do not require more than a ton per acre every five years. With a yield of four tons of alfalfa hay per acre over a period of five years a ton of lime will be removed from the soil. So you see the need of returning lime to the medium in which the plant grows.

How to Apply Lime.

Apply lime to the surface of ploughed land. Do not plough it under; work it in with the harrow. Lime may be spread over the surface of the land by using a lime distributor, the manure spreader, or shovelling from the wagon box by hand. Autumn is the best time, after the fall ploughing has been done.

Vigorous Growth Follows Inoculation.

Areas on which alfalfa has not been grown should be treated through the application of 200 pounds of bacteria carrying soil per acre. Soil obtained from successful fields fulfils this requirement. Seed may be inoculated to accomplish the same result. This is generally the easiest way, unless soil is close at hand. The O. A. C. Guelph, will supply for 50 cents sufficient culture to treat a bushel of seed, the requirement for three acres.

Seed Bed Should Be Well Prepared.

Select reasonably rich soil and prepare it well. Do not waste time on worn out land unless you realize the necessity of applying lime and manure to feed the crop to a point of vigorous establishment. Land that has both good surface and under drainage is best. Avoid heavy, flat areas, with hardpan or tight clay subsoils. Alfalfa is a deep-rooted plant and must have root room. Prepare for the seeding by working up a surface on a firm seed bed. Autumn ploughing worked down in the spring with cultivator, harrow, and corrugated roller will give the desired condition providing that the weather is right for work on the land.

Use Plenty of Seed.

On land in good condition and adapted to alfalfa growing 15 pounds of good Canadian grown Ontario variegated seed is sufficient. Timothy may be mixed with the alfalfa seed as an agent of security to hold the blue grass in check until the alfalfa is well established. Its presence ensures a hay crop should the alfalfa winter kill the first year. It is a good practice to use three or four pounds of alfalfa seed in the general hay mixture over the farm. Such a practice will bring the entire farm into condition for successful alfalfa growing without very much effort or cost.

Alfalfa needs a protective covering over winter. Eight inches or more of growth to hold the snow is provided by the alfalfa plant in its September growth. Those that cut or grass alfalfa after September 15th kill all chances of future profits from alfalfa growing. Two good crops taken at the right time should satisfy, then give the plant a chance to recover for winter.

Early cutting weakens the plant, late cutting gives a coarse, poorer quality hay. Cut when the crop has nearly reached the full bloom condition. Cut but twice a year, leaving the third growth for winter protection.—L. Stevenson, Director of Extension, O. A. College.

Rotation of Crops.

It is highly important that the soil be given a rest, oats following oats, or corn following corn is not good farming, it is soil mining. If the soil is rich the evil day will be delayed, but the time will surely come when those who do not give the soil a chance must pay the price and suffer in reduced crops, plant diseases, insect injury, and weeds.

No one rotation is the best under all conditions, but to all accepted crop rotations, certain principles can be applied, so that each particular farm can be fitted with a definite plan suited to its peculiarities. Give the matter of crop rotation some consideration, it will pay you. The staff of the Ontario Agricultural College will be glad to help you with any farm problem.—L. Stevenson, Dept. of Extension, O. A. College.

HERE NO DESTRUCTIVE WORK UNDER THE GROW.

Bridge Graft to Save the Tree—Also a Word or Two About the Diseases of Crops.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The field mouse is the most destructive rodent orchard pest that we have to contend with in Ontario. With the passing of the snow each spring the girdling work of Mr. Mouse is brought to light, and many a tree owner gets quite a shock when he sees destruction, where everything promised so well at the beginning of the winter. Hundreds of trees die each year, many of which might be saved if a little timely work was done to enable the tree to make repair and carry on.

The effect of mouse injury in girdling is to destroy or restrict the downward circulation of elaborated foodstuffs to the roots. The problem is therefore to re-establish the bark connection immediately, either by means of bridge grafting or inarching. Earliness in treatment is without doubt the most important factor in determining success or failure.

Bark Regeneration.

Trees injured by mice will sometimes make recovery without treatment, providing that the injury is limited and does not completely encircle the tree. These minor cases can be assisted by coating the injured area with warm grafting wax or asphaltum paint, these protect the wound and encourage the regeneration of bark.

Bridge Grafting.

Where the injury completely encircles the trunk the problem is to re-establish the bark connection by bridge grafting. This can be accomplished successfully providing that the bark both above and below the injury is sound. Shoots or scions ¼ to ½ inch in diameter should be selected and cut slightly longer than the distance to bridge. These shoots or scions should be bevelled at each end with both bevelled surfaces on the same side. The beveling should be long to give a wedge-shaped end that is thin enough to insert easily. The scion is set by making an inverted T-shaped cut above the injury at the point where it is desired to insert, and a similar T-shaped cut is made below. The ends of the scion are slipped into the incisions and it forms a slight arch. It is held in place with a small brad driven through and into the wood of the tree.

If the wood of the scion is brittle drill a small hole in each end of the scion to avoid splitting. The scions are set 1½ to 2 inches apart, according to size of tree. After insertion, all surfaces of attachment and the body of the scions should be coated with warm grafting wax to prevent drying. Further protection against extremes of temperature can be provided by mounding up soil around the tree to cover the bridged area, until union takes place. Remove this soil covering in six weeks. Burlap or old sacking can be wrapped loosely over the bridging for the same protective service.

Shoot Bridging.

Should strong shoots of suitable size exist, attached below the injured area, such may be shortened and the free end inserted above the injury.

The subject of grafting is fully treated in the bulletin on Orchard Grafting published by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. If interested a postcard will bring it to you. Try and save all injured trees—there is a way to do it. Don't let the field mouse beat you out. Repair your injured trees by the practice of tree surgery this time, but next time provide protectors. The mouse can not eat wire netting.—L. Stevenson, Dept. of Extension, O. A. College.

Mustard is a Robber Bold.

Iron sulphate or copperas can be successfully used to destroy mustard in standing grain without injury to the crop, so says Prof. J. E. Howitt of the O. A. College.

Preparation of Solution.

A 20 per cent. solution should be applied. This can be prepared by dissolving 80 pounds of iron sulphate in 40 gallons of water, or 10 pounds of copper sulphate to 40 gallons of water.

The solution should be strained through a cheesecloth as it is put into the spray pump tank. This will remove the dirt and small particles that are apt to clog the nozzles.

Time to Apply.

Apply on a calm day just as soon as the first few plants in the fields show flowers. It is very important to spray early. If the plants are left too long the treatment is not nearly so effective. If a heavy rain comes within 24 hours after the solution is applied it will be necessary to spray again.

How to Apply the Solution.

An ordinary hand pump barrel sprayer, such as is employed to spray fruit trees, may be used, or a potato sprayer can be used to do the work. Care must be taken to see that each mustard plant is covered with the solution in the form of a fine spray. The work must be thoroughly done and at the right time.

Chickweed.

Chickweed is a very troublesome weed in moist or sandy places. Some seasons it is much worse than others as climatic conditions favor its growth or otherwise. Constant hoeing will keep it in check, and hand weeding is also often necessary.

Sweet Foss and Pansies.

If well-rotted manure is thoroughly mixed with the soil, sweet foss and pansies may be planted in same place each year.

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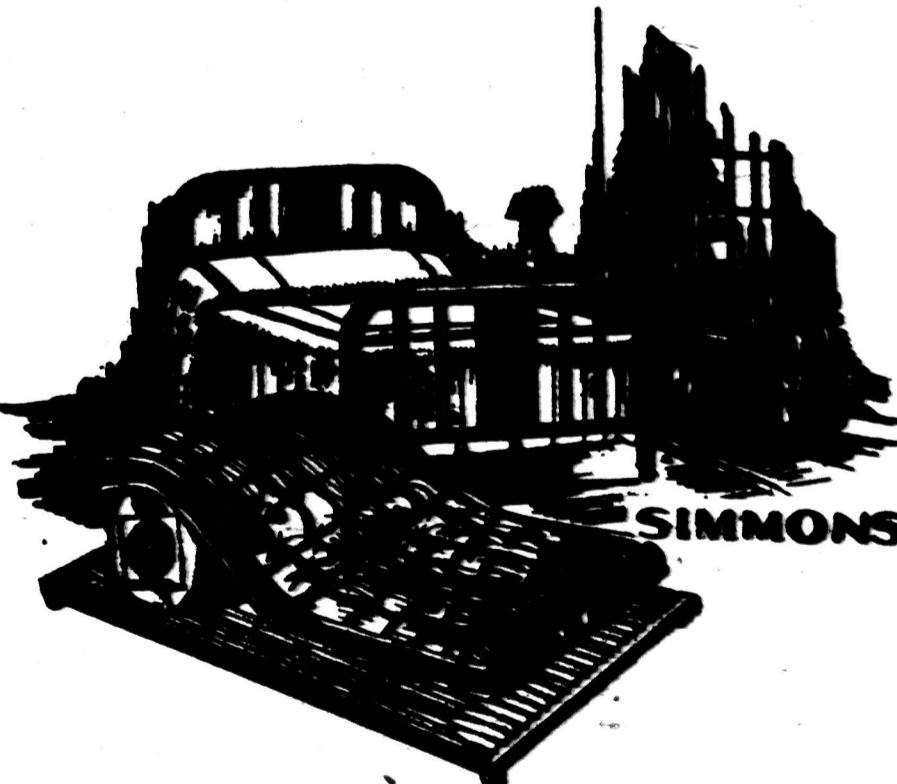
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The fire was first paint shop by 1235 Beardi Ave., a who turned in the returned to the show new cars, which other been destroyed.

Officials of the plant would be back next day.

Joseph Montague Montague who lives Village of Jarvis.

AN INTERESTI

Mr. Charles A. Canada's Indian base, assisted by mem gave one of his entertainments on Wednesday in the Wesley United

Mr. Cooke is an English, brought did the bachelor try needle and sew on songs were well received. Miss Doris Kindsist and also sang pleasing manner, was appreciated.

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