

Farm Crop Queries

CONDUCTED BY PROF. HENRY G. BELL
The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops. Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.

H. G.—I have a field I would like to get sowed to alfalfa. It was fall-plowed. Had oats on it last year and corn the year before. It is pretty good sand loam, and nice and clean, but has been cropped quite heavy. I would like to have barn-yard fertilizer that I could cover it with. Will you give me the best method and time to seed this field? Would you advise inoculation of this field?

Answer—As soon as the ground will work well in spring, give it a good dressing of manure. Work this into the soil by thorough disking and harrowing, working the seeded down until it is as smooth and fine as a garden. If you have a grain drill with fertilizer-sowing compartment, drill in about 250 to 300 lbs. per acre of a fertilizer running 2 to 3 per cent. ammonia, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 2 to 3 per cent. potash. This can be done at the same time that you drill the nurse crop (barley, or wheat, or rye) at the rate of about a bushel to the acre and the alfalfa seed. I would advise inoculating the soil of the field if it has not grown clover for some time. In fact, it would be a valuable precaution in putting in the alfalfa. Write the Bacteriological Department of O.A.C. for a culture and follow their instructions very closely in treating the seed. Long-time experience shows that best stands of alfalfa are obtained where inoculation has been practiced.

H. G.—I have a field that is mostly light sandy soil sown to rye very late last fall, that I wished to seed to clover in the spring. I have missed two seedings of clover on this field. Two years ago this field was sown to oats and harvested a light crop; last season had rye in this field and another light crop. Last fall we applied 500 pounds of hydrated lime per acre, and 20 pounds of acid phosphate per acre, and sowed one and a quarter bushels of rye per acre. Now I have two plans for managing this field. One is to seed to clover in the spring, and manure during the summer, and not cut the rye, but let the cattle and sheep eat it. The other plan would be to seed to clover and cut the rye. Which way would I be most likely to get the clover? Could you advise any better way to manage this field? I fail to get clover this year, how would you think best to proceed to get a catch of clover?

Answer—I believe you would be best likely to get a good stand of clover if you would cut the rye this spring and keep the cattle and sheep off the pasture until it becomes fairly well established. If you fail to get a good catch of clover this spring, fall plow the land and next spring seed it with a spring sown crop, at which time put on about 250 lbs. of fertilizer analyzing 2 to 3 per cent. ammonia, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid

HOOBS

When a farmer has just a day in which to build a hoghouse, he doesn't usually want to be bothered with a lot of studying over plans and dimensions before he starts in. I happen to know a man who had a lot of odd lumber on his place that was left from building a corncrib, and so he naturally couldn't expect to construct a shelter with a set design. He did the next best thing, though, and put some of the stuff together into what his neighbors termed a good house, and did it in a single day.

In the first place, he wanted a hoghouse for his spring litters, to move around on fresh ground as he chose. With this in mind, he gathered up all the shiplap left from the corncrib, and after looking around, found an old cellar door, still in good shape. For a dollar he got two fair sized beams at the lumber yard, that had been car stakes in shipping. And in addition to buying more 2x4's to go with what he already had, he bought a pound of eightpenny nails and two pounds of tenns. The rest he furnished from around the farm.

Two frames for the ends were first made, and the car stakes laid down to receive them. The stakes were fastened down solidly with cross-pieces and corner braces after the distance had been determined. With the 10-foot ridgepole cut, he proceeded to set up the ends, and to brace them in place temporarily, then cut 2x4 crosspieces for the middle. The shiplap which he had was 14-foot stuff, so he planned to have the sides run up and down, and cut them 7 feet long. This made the ends have a slant length of 6 feet 8 inches, and the spread at the bottom was the same.

The plan of the structure was to have it large enough to house two litters, and so braces and a partition were next put in, and the ends all boarded up but the doorways. The only thing left to do was to get some nails, leaving a "dash out

one side, where the shiplap only came down halfway. By bending some old tin into a V-shape, and slipping under the ends, a trough was made for the cellar door, which he put on with hinges, to serve as an extra door in good weather. The ridge was also covered with tin.

The place was water-tight from rains, and it could be moved anywhere on the farm in a jiffy. He gave this rough estimate of what the house cost him:

230 lbs shiplap at \$85	\$8.05
75 2x4 pine culled at \$20.	9.00
75 pieces car stakes	1.00
Labor, nails, and cellar door.	4.35
	\$22.40

Poultry

Small eggs stand shipment better than large ones. This is a good reason why we should have better shipping cases if our eggs are larger than common.

Theorizing about hens is all right, so long as you do not neglect them. But to allow the roosters to remain uncleaned, the nest boxes reeking with filth, and to neglect the ventilation—there is no excuse. There should be practice with theory, and then some good may come out of it.

A dust bath prepared in the following way will rid the fowls of the small brown mites, as well as the deadly lice which stick close to the body of a chicken, sucking the vitality and life out of the victim: Place a large, shallow box upon the floor of the scratching pen—a good size is 2 x 3 feet, twelve inches deep. Half fill with a fine dry dirt, and add equal quantities of sifted coal ashes and airslaked lime to complete the filling of the box. Into this stir a small quantity of tar, carbolic acid and turpentine. The box should be placed where the sunlight will reach it a part of the day, and need not be replenished more than twice a season for light under cover.

Why I Think Every Farm Should Have a Garden

It has been my experience that the farm garden can be made one of the best-paying parts of the farm—in fact, for its size, the most profitable plot of ground on the place.

But most farm gardens I have ever seen were away below par. I've had occasion to see many of them, and I've had my own for years. So I know what can be done. I'm not making the mistake of thinking that we farmers can follow the advice of some garden writers, and use the detailed, elaborate plans prepared for us.

I think the biggest mistake with most farm gardens is that they are not given any thought, because it isn't realized that they are worth giving thought. Certainly, the farm garden should supply the farm table as soon as the ground is dry enough to turn over nicely. Our garden patch is a well-drained, sheltered slope that we can plow before the other fields are ready.

We have all the seeds on hand; Henry orders them a month ahead of time, so as to be sure of getting just what he wants. As soon as the garden patch is fitted we take advantage of every odd half-hour or two to go ahead with the planting. As the seeds and garden tools are kept in a nearby shed we can make the spare minutes count.

But we don't attempt a city man's garden, with every square foot cropped and intercropped. The rows are mostly 36 inches apart, so we can cultivate with a horse. Some of the smaller things are put at 18 inches, but even these we get through with our light horse and a 12-tooth harrow cultivator, with the outside teeth removed. We keep a wheel hoe in the tool shed, and much of the work is done with this. It can be used at odd moments when it wouldn't pay to stop and harness a horse. Enough horse cultivation is done, however, to keep the soil loose, and in shape to run over easily with the hand machine.

We put in onion sets, peas, cabbage plants, cauliflower, and parsnips 36 inches apart; onion seed, Swiss chard, lettuce, beets, carrots, turnips, and spinach 18 inches apart. An extra early planting of sweet corn is made just as soon as it's safe to take a chance.

After planting, the vegetable garden doesn't take much time until after the rush of spring work is cleaned up, and potatoes and corn are in. Then we plant another section of the garden to sweet corn, tomatoes, beans, pole beans, summer squash, winter squash, melons, and cucumbers.

We don't plant our garden as a cash crop, but we do sell some vegetables to folks who come and get them.

President: There is a fascinating amount of fun to be had from a combination Pi-and-Pie Party. Here is one that would answer your problem. It was planned by the young folks' society of a small church, many miles away, along the following lines:

In the first place, the invitations were lettered on flaming yellow posters stuck up around the village. A black silhouette of a little boy, carrying a huge wedge of pie balanced on his head, was the center of the words which were in the form of a newspaper paragraph thus:

A pi-and-pie party is to be held on Friday evening next in the Parish House. Everybody interested in either variety is invited to come. The costume de luxe will be newspapers worn as best befits each individual.

There was plenty of fun on the appointed evening in seeing the ways in which newspapers had been adapted to this new use. They were tied and pinned over the ordinary garb, and in some cases were sewed on. Several lads wore cocked hats of newspapers, many ladies wore prim, folded fashions.

The first amusement was a stunt to break the ice, which hardly needed any more breaking in this case. Slips of paper were passed in a basket from which each person selected one. It was announced that this was really a collection of pi, and must be straightened out.

Upon looking at their respective slips the players found that there was a letter of the alphabet on each one. In their normal order these letters would spell a sentence. A company to choose would be a well-known proverb, such as, "A stitch in time saves nine" or "A rolling stone gathers no moss."

If there are enough people, two proverbs or more can be spelled in this way, the letters in each being distinguished by different colors—blue, pink, or green.

Another amusing occupation is to pass out numbered names of newspapers to be acted, charade-fashion, in groups for the rest to guess. All persons drawing slips numbered 1, for instance, upon comparing may

find that their newspaper is The Morning Herald, or The Evening Recorder. A suggested way of acting the former is to get all the group to crowd like a cock. To illustrate the evening Recorder all may pretend to be writing up diaries or casting up accounts. Any number of clever ways to act the following will occur to you: The World, The Sun, The Star, The Times, The Telegraph, The Press, The Journal, The Post, The Observer.

The next amusement was a pie contest of a different sort from the first one of the evening. A plate full of generous wedges of pumpkin pie was brought in, and contestants were called for to tackle the pie-eating.

At a given signal all the contestants bit into their segments of pie and the first one through in a given time was awarded a prize. Another award was offered to the person who had achieved the cleanest face in the process.

A jolly plan to follow is to appoint a number of editors from the throng—say a sporting editor, a strong editor, woman's page editor, news editor, etc. Each editor then chooses a staff, and leads in a general entertainment stunt.

The sporting editor puts through events of various sorts, such possibly as a saw-horse race, a pirate race, a high-brow race, a standing low jump, etc.

The society editor whispers a bit of scandal to her neighbor, who repeats it in turn to the next person, and so on until it has gone completely around the circle. The last person to whom it is whispered tells what she thinks was told to her, and compares it with the original statement.

The amusement of all ages is a cartoonist contest may be introduced, and a subject given out for illustration. Possibly one person in the group may be able to draw most of them, and the others may cudgel their brains for clever ideas. A black-board makes this an especially jolly entertainment.

Of course, the refreshments of such a social as this must be partly pie, so little lemon pies baked in crinkled party-pans and topped with meringue may be served with hot coffee.

them, in the summer—and there are more of these each year. We take up \$100 to \$150 this way. We put up (or rather "Ma" does), and store for winter, vegetables which, if bought at the store as canned goods would at least cost \$150 to \$160. What we save on our grocery and meat bills during all summer and fall I don't know, but with one man, and sometimes two, besides the family, it is a very considerable amount. And yet, the entire garden occupies a sheltered little spot that's less than an acre in size, and which we formerly used for a night pasture. So, altogether, it looks like a pretty good proposition, doesn't it?

And that is why I believe it pays every farmer to have a real vegetable garden.

Save a few loads of the very best manure you've got for that garden. You can't put it anywhere it will make more money for you than right there. I know it pays, because I've farmed both without a garden and with one.—J. S.

The Spohn's School
INTERNATIONAL LESSON,
APRIL 18.
The Victory of Gideon's Band, Judges 7. Golden Text, 1 Sam. 11: 6.

1. Jerubbaal, Who is Gideon. An interesting story is told in the previous chapter (chap. 6) of the coming of a prophet to teach the religion of Jehovah, and to persuade the people to put away the Canaanite, or Amorite, deities which many of them were worshipping. About the same time the call came to Gideon to be Israel's leader in the fight against Midian, together with the assurance that Jehovah would be with him.

Acting with promptness and decision, on the occasion of the next raid, Gideon called together the men of his own clan and sent messengers to the three northern tribes summoning them to a meeting with him. Then he sought, according to the custom of the times, to assure himself by signs of the presence and favor of his God.

The place chosen for the camp was by the spring of Harod, at the foot of Mount Gilboa, in the eastern part of the great valley of Jezreel. The Midianite camp was three or four miles to the north.

2-3. Too Many. The Midianites far outnumbered the men of Israel and they were trained and hardy fighting men. Under ordinary conditions of battle Gideon's army would have had small hope of success. He determined, therefore, to use strategy, and for that purpose required a small number of men upon whose courage, promptness, and readiness he could rely.

The story, with simple faith in the ever-present help of God, regards Gideon's plan of action as a divine inspiration. It was the Lord's command.

Whosoever is Fearful. Gideon must have picked men for his daring and perilous enterprise.

4-8. Yet Too Many. By a further test Gideon chooses the most wary, alert, and soldierly of those who remained. The greater number threw themselves down upon their knees to drink and put their lips to the water, but there were three hundred who, with the caution and vigilance of the true soldier, held fast to their weapons, while merely stooping and carrying the water with the hand to the mouth.

9-15. The Same Night. Gideon receives another sign which he regards as an assurance of victory. With his servant he went in the darkness into the Midianite encampment, and overheard the telling of a dream which promised him success. It was to attribute extraordinary meaning and importance to dreams, and we do not need to doubt that they have had their place in the all-wise providence of God. At any rate Gideon returned to his men confident and hopeful.

16-21. Three Companies. The plan was to approach the enemy in the darkness from three sides. The signal for simultaneous action was to be the sound of Gideon's trumpet. The approach was made, there was a blare of three hundred trumpets shattering the stillness of the night, the crash of three hundred breaking pitchers, and the sudden flash of as many torches. The startled Midianites heard what seemed to them the shout and noise of attack of a great multitude, they saw lights advancing from three directions. Panic-stricken they rushed hither and thither, in darkness they turned their swords against each other, and were soon in headlong and disorderly flight.

22-25. The Host Fled eastward toward the fords of the Jordan and their native wilderness. The Israelite warriors who were waiting in Mount Gilboa joined in the pursuit, and Gideon sent messengers to the men of Ephraim inviting their aid. These seized the fords and cut off the fugitives.

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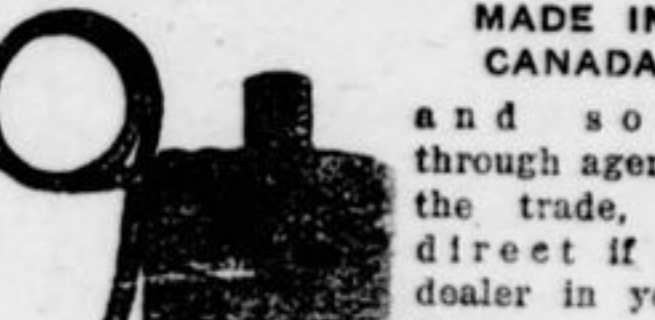
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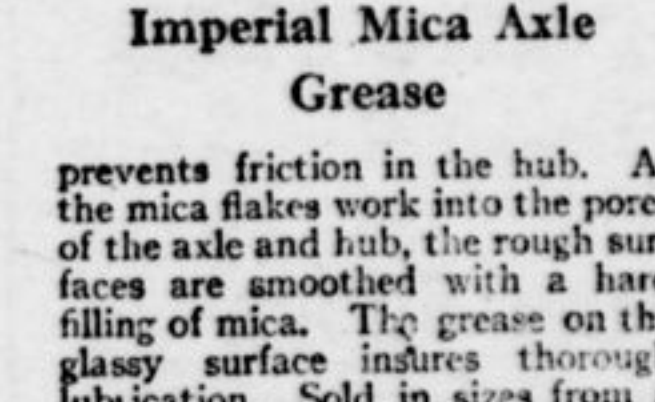
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Bedtime Stories
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A breeze came to the window in a merry mood one day. It tossed aside the curtains and whispered, "Who will play?" And Rags, the puppy, heard it, and Fluff, the little cat. (Those two were always ready for anything like that.)

When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization.—Daniel Webster.

A man who had a fine stand of alfalfa on his farm posted this sign: "Lime, phosphate, conservation of moisture, and inoculation get this alfalfa. Think it over."

Some men are like the stumpy old farmer had in his field—too hard to uproot, too knotty to split, and too wet and soggy to burn. The neighbors asked him what he did about it. "Well, now, boys," he answered, "if you won't tell the secret I'll tell you. I just plowed around it."

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ALLIES OPPOSE FREEDOM OF CI

France Invaded Neutral Zone Allies Would Not Support Action Created—Allies to W

A despatch from London says: Relations between France and the Allies are so strained that the British Government views the situation with apprehension. I am authoritatively informed that France invaded the Ruhr Valley deliberately disregarding the Allies' Government's repeated, urgent, decisive warnings, and that England, Italy nor the United States would support France morally, materially or militarily, but the other hand, use every force of a military one for the present to help France to withdraw her forces from the German neutral zone. For two weeks the telegraph between Paris, London, Rome, and Washington has been hot by communications between heads of the respective Governments. Long before Marshal Foch me

U.F.O.—U.F.W.O.

We were talking about organizing for educational purposes in the letter. "Education" is, according to a private meaning, a leading forth, emancipation word, "instruction," is a building in. These are the two aspects of education. We are not to think of life as we must be content, and those who are wise the least dogmatic—the least that the views they hold are absolutely correct.

Newton, at the close of his life that he had "been gathering up publick, beside the great wisdom." That is true of the good of knowledge in any one of his field departments.

The rural citizen needs to a knowledge of his relation to a nation as a whole. He needs also to realize that every other class of industry has its place, its rights, its value as his own. The dweller needs to learn something about the relative value of his own to others in the life of the nation.

We need to bring into every child the idea of his relation to the world as a whole. We need to develop personal ability for service.

We have been talking of an opportunity to serve the nation when war is declared. It is our duty to be ready for any emergency and we go forth to fight.

That is service—the great, essential part of every citizen's duty. It is not to be a bystander but to be a part of the nation's life.

Do you read only the daily news? Do you know the life of the nation? Do you know the life of the world?

Oh, no. The world is wide. For our tomorrow's generation and it is for us to keep that light upon the path of the nation. Let us be ready to stand by the side of our country when it is in need of our help.

"How that red rain looks!" "And then asks: 'And is this all the world?'"

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