

Efficient Farming

FERTILIZER HINTS

Now is the time to consider the spring fertilizer needs on the farm. By placing your order now you will not only be co-operating with your dealer, but you are more likely to get the analysis you want.

When buying fertilizers consider the analysis of fertilizer rather than the brand. A particular analysis may be sold under many brand names. Just because a fertilizer is sold as a "Corn and Wheat Grower," or "Bean and Beet Special," etc., it is no indication that it is best for your particular soil condition. The Ontario Agricultural College is ready at all times to give information regarding the proper fertilization of crops on different types of soil.

Always insist on high analysis fertilizers. A high analysis fertilizer is one containing fourteen or more units of plant food. A low analysis fertilizer contains less than fourteen units. A 1-8-1, containing ten units of plant food, is a low analysis material. A 2-16-2 contains twenty units of plant food and is considered a high analysis fertilizer.

A high analysis fertilizer costs more per ton but less per unit of fertilizing material. Twenty units of plant food contained in one ton of 2-16-2 fertilizer costs \$40.30. Twenty units of plant food contained in two tons of a 1-8-1 fertilizer costs \$58.10. By using a 2-16-2 at half the rate of a 1-8-1, the same amount of plant food will be applied and \$17.80 saved on every ton of 2-16-2 used.

Fertilizers are profitable on most types of soil in Ontario. The points of consideration are: (1) the proper analysis to use; (2) the proper rate of application; (3) the proper method of application; and (4) crops adapted to the soil type.

The use of phosphoric acid is the most important consideration in fertilizing crops on Ontario soils. Both heavy and light types respond to this ingredient. Nitrogen is essential on the lighter types and badly run down heavy types. Potash gives good returns on the lighter types, particularly when used with alfalfa or the clovers.

It is a good practice to top-dress wheat and rye in the spring with sodium nitrate at 60 to 100 pounds per acre, or ammonium sulphate of 40 to 75 pounds per acre just as the plants are emerging from their dormant stage. This practice is particularly good on the lighter types of soil or soil of low fertility. If the soil is alkaline in reaction or has no lime requirement either one may be used. On acid, or sour soils better results will be obtained where sodium nitrate is used.

Acid phosphate at 250 pounds per acre is usually sufficient for oats or barley when seeded alone. If the crops are grown in a rotation with no manure or green manure in the rotation, a 4-12-0 or 2-16-2 will be better. If alfalfa or any of the clovers are seeded with oats or barley, it is advisable to use a fertilizer containing more potash on the lighter type soils, such as an 0-12-6 or 4-8-6.

A complete fertilizer is one containing nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. It must contain all three ingredients. A mixed fertilizer does not necessarily mean that it is a complete fertilizer. It may contain only one or two ingredients.

Fertilizers should be used to cut the cost of production and help maintain the fertility of the soil. It costs no more to prepare the seed bed, plant crop and cultivate a fifty-bushel crop than a twenty-five-bushel crop. Increase the yield per acre and cultivate fewer acres. This will allow more of the farm to be seeded to soil-building legumes.

An April Fool Party.

Use the following rhyme for your invitation:

On April First try for once
To be a really, truly dunce.
And come prepared to do some stunts,
For good news waits for her (or him) who hunts.

Provide each guest with a bag of beans and then explain that everything is to be done with the left hand. Guests shake hands with the left hand, pass to the left and eat with the left hand. A bean is thrown into an inverted dunce cap every time this rule is broken. After refreshments are served, guests should report the number of beans they have left and the prize should be awarded to the person having the smallest number, a decision which will fool everybody. The person having the largest number of beans should be required to do some foolish stunts, for he had not been so efficiently "foolish" to get into the spirit of the evening.

Ask each guest to bring some article (well wrapped and disguised) to be used for a "parcel pass." Seat the guests in a circle, each holding a parcel which has been numbered, then have a lively tune played upon a piano or talking-machine and instruct the players to pass the parcels as rapidly as possible, "round and 'round the circle until the music stops. The person holding the parcel calls out a number and the person holding the parcel having the number which is called becomes the owner of that parcel. The contents of the packages should be as ludicrous as possible—a shirt-waist box containing a dish-cloth and a jeweler's box containing a yeast-cake, are good examples.

Series of refreshments preferred, but mix your April Fool dishes with the other articles of food. Cotton doughnuts, individual pies filled with sawdust, and chocolate creams made of confectioners' sugar mildly flavored with pepper, will fill your guests with apprehension concerning the other refreshments.

The European Corn Borer.

A series of experiments were conducted by the Dept. of Entomology to ascertain what percentage of the corn borer perished while still very small or during the first few days after hatching. In these experiments 8,100 eggs were used. It was found that an average of a little more than 75 per cent. of the borers perished. We think that further work of this kind will prove very valuable in determining the effect of moisture, temperature and sunlight, not only on the borers themselves, but also on the moths, and accurate estimate of the rate of increase and damage likely to take place in a normal year, says Prof. Lawson Caesar, Ontario Agricultural College.

Horse Talk.

Start now to get horses' shoulders ready for spring work. Bathing with salt water will help toughen the shoulders. Work horses lightly at first. Wind-puffs, or worse, often come from putting the coat on a heavy pulling job when he is first broken. Careful—the coat must get used to hard work a little at a time.

Harness sores can be prevented more easily than cured. Put the old harness in good shape or get a new set. A poor harness, patched up with wire, is a sign of a poor farmer.

Inoculation of Legumes.

Leguminous plants such as alfalfa and the clovers have on their roots small bunches or "nodules" containing bacteria. These bacteria can take nitrogen from the air and give it to the plant. As a result the plant is more vigorous and has a higher feeding value. This nitrogen from the air helps to build up poor soil.

If a field has grown the same legume with an abundant supply of nodules for three or four years then the field is, in all probability, inoculated with the right kind of bacteria for this particular crop. If it is necessary to bring bacteria from an outside source, a nearby field which is known to be inoculated is a satisfactory source. Distribute this soil over 200 to 300 pounds per acre. Make this distribution before seeding, on a cloudy day, and work the soil in immediately. If such soil is not available, inoculate with pure cultures, which you can get, with directions, from any seed store.

There are several strains of these bacteria. One strain will infect both alfalfa and sweet clover; another infects the common clovers, such as red, alsike, mammoth and white, and garden peas, cow-peas, sweet peas and vetch. A field inoculated for sweet clover will also be inoculated for alfalfa and in the same manner a field inoculated for one of the common clovers will be inoculated for all the various common clovers.

The Rose Bed.

Mr. Wm. Harry, a director of the Ontario Horticultural Association, addressing the annual meeting held in Toronto in January, described his method of making a new rose bed. The bed to be worked was 5 1/2 feet wide and 12 1/2 feet long. The sod was first removed and laid on one side. The good top soil was taken out and placed on the other side. The hard subsoil beneath was removed to a depth of eighteen inches and wheeled away. A drain was laid in the bottom and connected with one that ran through the garden. Next, the sod that had been taken from the top was filled in and this was covered with several inches of well rotted stable manure. The excavation was then filled to the top and above it, layer upon layer of good soil and manure. This work was all done before the roses arrived. The planting stock of twenty-eight roses arrived in the forenoon and were immediately plunged into a tank of water, where they were left until sunset when they were in good condition for planting. The plants were put in about twenty inches apart. The varieties planted were Primer, Columbia, Sunburst, and American Beauty, all of which did well. The following year the planting was extended to forty-eight plants, the new varieties added being Dunlop, Madame Butterfly and Hoosier Beauty.—Ont. Hort. Assn.

Home-Made Yeast for Poultry.

Yeast is becoming an important factor in the growth of poultry and increased egg production. Poultrymen may make their own at a cost less than the commercial product. Place one quart of hops in about two and one-half quarts of water, and boil for ten minutes. Then strain and pour the liquid over one quart of wheat flour. As soon as this mixture reaches a temperature of 100 deg. F. (milk warm), add a cake of commercial yeast, and let it ferment for two days. Keep in a warm place, as a chill will destroy it. After it has fermented, stir in five pounds of cornmeal, and let it stand for three or four hours to rise. Then remove from the pan and place on newspapers to dry. When dried it is ready to be fed.

Care of Grease.

The cans or boxes in which axle or cup greases or lubricating oils come packed, usually become more or less greasy or oily out the outside. In time, the shelf, bench or floor where they are kept becomes greasy-soaked. This is not only unsightly and messy, but also increases fire hazards. To avoid this, cover the shelf or floor with a piece of tin, galvanized iron, zinc, or other smooth sheet metal. Then, if this is wiped off occasionally with a rag or a piece of waste, it becomes easy instead of hard to keep clean.

Four Bee Essentials.

These four things are essential to profitable honey production:

1. Suitable weather for the bees to work in when the season of the main honey flow is on.
2. Honey-producing plants secreting nectar in abundance.
3. A strong force of worker bees—75,000 to 100,000—at the beginning of the honey flow.
4. Colonies that devote all their energies to gathering nectar and storing honey, rather than to swarming. The storing instinct must outweigh the swarming instinct.

Fair or Foul.

"Tis not the Victory you've won;
'Tis not great Wealth nor Fame;
What really counts in Life, my son,
Is how you played the game!"

When all your mortal days are done
And praise and glory are no more,
The Great Unpique knows, my son,
Just how you played the game!

Inside Dope.

"Say, why's the doc pumping out that fellow he thinks poisoned himself?"
"Trying to get the inside dope on his case."

Fair or Foul.

It is not altogether what a hen eats that makes eggs and flesh, but what she digests and assimilates.

POULTRY

Chicken Cholera, caused by a germ known as the bacillus avisepticus, spreads very rapidly. The germs are given off with the bowel discharges and soon contaminate the food and water supply. Birds will also carry infection on their feet.

The disease is accompanied by a high fever, which causes birds to become unusually thirsty, and they will be found hovering near the water trough. It makes itself apparent in from three days to a week's time after the infection, depending on the resistance of the bird and the virulence of the infection. Frequently it acts very rapidly, and the first knowledge that the poultryman will have will be when he finds a few dead birds among the flock.

In other outbreaks the individual bird will be noticed to have loss of appetite accompanied by high fever. Birds are very weak, and reel and stagger as they walk. The feathers are ruffled and a sick bird sits by itself, showing no vigor and a rapid loss of flesh. The comb grows darker in color, and there is a severe diarrhoea of a greenish-yellow color. This condition may last for a week to ten days, and the bird may be attacked by convulsions and die early.

First remove all birds that are apparently healthy and put them in clean quarters. Thoroughly clean up and disinfect the pens, including the runs, which the sick birds are kept. Remember that the attendant can carry infection from one place to another, and be careful to wipe the feet thoroughly on an old sack saturated with kerosene. Dead birds should be deep-frozen in ice blocks, and buried in rows, shallow troughs, in which the birds cannot stand. Remember that sunlight is the best disinfectant possible. Disinfectant with a good dip and whitewash with an antiseptic whitewash.

Use enough potassium permanganate in the drinking water to turn it the color of weak coffee. Give one-half pint of sulpho-carbolic compound in hot mash, for each bird, two or three times daily. You can secure these tablets from any druggist, who keeps them for use of human physicians.—Dr. George H. Conn.

Iceland Poppies in the Border.

No perennial border is complete without plenty of the lovely little Iceland poppies.

My borders had to be re-made last summer, it would be a little larger, and I was discarding some of the plants that spread too rapidly.

The seeds were sown in a peony bed in July, the ground loosened with a rake, seeds scattered, covered with a little earth, firmed with the foot and watered. By the middle of September a lot of fine plants were ready to transplant, but the border was not ready, only one end down by the street that I was making a white, yellow, and purple "corner."

A large group of lilacs that has been thinned out, and forms a background for Helenium, Riverton Beauty, and Bycroft Purple Aster. The telephone-pole covered with Virginia creeper protects Boltonia from the west winds.

On the other side of the "corner" the wire fence is fairly well covered with Virginia creeper, a fine young syringa at one end, between that and the lilacs Helenium, Riverton Gem, Miss Melish sunflower, and the tall white phlox. Along the edge of the border the dainty, dwarf, purple bearded, yellow and purple Iris in June, and purple, Japanese iris in July in the centre.

Purple columbine and the lovely lemon lilies are a charming combination and in between the larger plants I have dotted my Iceland poppies.

I have dreamed of that corner all winter, but one of the certain things about horticulture is the uncertain, as it may not be I hope for.—Miss Anna Moyle, for the Ont. Hort. Assn.

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Send us the name of a Bank or Loan Company that won't assist in Purchasing a good Pure Bred Sire.

BUY BETTER BULLS

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SOME OF THE NEWER ROSES

It will be many years before the old stand-bys in roses, such as J. B. Clark, Hugh Dickson, Mrs. John Lang and Snow Queen, will be entirely replaced, but new roses are constantly appearing and it is well to consider whether or not some of these might be added to one's stock.

Mr. A. J. Webster, an Ontario grower, has made a careful analysis of the newer varieties and has published his conclusions in The Flower Grower. Ophelia, he states, continues to lead the list in sum total of good qualities. So satisfactory is this variety in regard to disease resistance, hardiness, profusion of bloom, conformation, growth and fragrance that it should be included in even the humblest collection.

Mrs. Henry Morse, a pink variety, ranks high. The color is silvery pink on the inside of the petals, deep rose on the reverse side, shading to orange at the base. It has proved to be a constant bloomer.

Richmond, that wonderful red, and Los Angeles, copper shading, battled all through the season for third position on the list.

Chas. K. Douglas, a scarlet rose, produces a wealth of bloom on long stiff stems. It lacks fragrance, however, and its petalage is not dense.

Next in rank in the collection came Souvenir de Claudius Pernet and Geo. C. Waud. The former is a glorious yellow and the latter a beautiful carmine rose. Of the two only the former has perfume. Both varieties are charming, particularly in the bud, and the flowers are produced on fine stems.

Una Wallace, an account of its excellent growth, profusion, shape and fullness of bloom, length of stem,

sweet scent and general excellence, came next in rank. The color is often cherry rose.

Ninth position was awarded to Emma Wright, a semi-double rose of wonderful shade.

Mabel Morse stood high throughout the season as did Madame Abel Chatenay; then came Ethel Somerset, a shrimp pink, followed by Gruss an Tepitz, Jonkheer J. L. Mock, Christine, Diadem, Geisha, and a number of others of varying degree of charm and usefulness.

This list is sufficiently long to be a guide to those who would make a trial of some additional plants for their rose beds.

For the purpose of helping to establish the relative merits of different varieties of roses for culture in Ontario a rose demonstration plot has been established at the village of Markham. This is one of the official flower demonstration plots of the Canadian Horticultural Council. The Markham plot is supported by the local Board of Trade, the Women's Institute, and the Toronto Rose Society. It occupies an acre of ground and further land will be added to accommodate the additions that will be made. The plot has a sunny exposure and is being given the protection of a boulevard of shrubbery. Ten rose-growing firms in England, Holland, the United States, and Ireland, have contributed planting stock which includes twelve hundred plants, comprising one hundred and fifty named varieties. The Dominion Experiment Station, it is expected, will contribute a quantity of plants for study and demonstration purposes to the Markham Rose Demonstration Plot.—Can. Hort. Council.

Turning to the Hemlock. Eastern hemlock was valueless as a lumber tree twenty years ago, and only the bark was used, but it is now a very valuable timber.

Mangels Have a "Sweet" Tooth.

I once heard a farmer-neighbor say that mangels are the hardest thing to grow on the farm. I think I know why—in the years I have known him my I have never seen him spread a pound of lime. You can't grow mangels without lime any more than you can clover. Lime and manure, good seed and cultivation are the combination needed for mangels. When I drive around and see a field of stunted, stringy-looking mangels struggling to make growth, I say to myself—"Acidosis."

Labels

Labels for cattle, sheep and hogs. Labels for chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, swans, guinea fow, and other fowls. Labels for hives, bee colonies, and other beekeeping equipment. Labels for various other farm and household items. Write for samples and prices.

Seed Potatoes

New Brunswick Grown and Government Certified.

Irish Cobblers and Green Mountains. For sale at the following prices:

Peck, 50c. Bushel, \$1.50

Bag, 90 lbs., \$2.25.

Special price in lots of 5 bags or more.

No charge for bags or packages. Can sell you Ontario Grown, at about 20 per cent. less. You will have to order early as quantity is limited. Cash with order.

H. W. DAWSON, Brampton, Ont.

SIMONDS SAWS

Use "Simonds" Crescent Saws. Their teeth are of even thickness throughout the entire length of the saw, thus making binding and kick impossible. Crescent Grinding is an exclusive Simonds feature.

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BINDER TWINE SITUATION

A Canadian industry in which a good deal of scope exists for development and for new establishments is that of the manufacture of binder twine. Canada is one of the greatest consumers of binder twine in the world, using for an average crop a volume in the neighborhood of 100,000,000 pounds, whilst with the greater acreage coming under cultivation each year and bigger crops, this is steadily increasing. Notwithstanding, however, that this commodity is so essential and the annual demand assured, Canada is producing herself but a relatively small proportion of her requirements. Furthermore, though binder twine is on the free list, its movement is necessarily subject to hitches in transport, and famines in binder twine are not entirely unknown to the farmer. The supply of binder twine is really an important national consideration, and certainly Canadian requirements should be met in the Dominion.

The situation in Canada is a rather curious one, the Dominion importing binder twine to a very considerable extent whilst her export trade in this commodity is by no means negligible. In the last fiscal year Canadian imports of binder twine amounted to \$4,427,211 lbs. valued at \$5,799,586, comprising one hundred and fifty named varieties. The Dominion Experiment Station, it is expected, will contribute a quantity of plants for study and demonstration purposes to the Markham Rose Demonstration Plot.—Can. Hort. Council.

In the twelve months ending Oct. 31st, 1924, Canada imported binder twine to the extent of 30,669,601 lbs. valued at \$3,607,548, which was a decline of approximately 80 per cent. from the previous year. In the same period 10,236,128 lbs. valued at \$1,076,162 went to the United States, Argentine Republic, British South Africa, Denmark and other countries. QUANTITIES RECEIVED FROM HOLLAND. In the twelve months ending Oct. 31st, 1924, Canada imported binder twine to the extent of 30,669,601 lbs. valued at \$3,607,548, which was a decline of approximately 80 per cent. from the previous year. In the same period 10,236,128 lbs. valued at \$1,076,162 went to the United States, Argentine Republic, British South Africa, Denmark and other countries. QUANTITIES RECEIVED FROM HOLLAND. In the twelve months ending Oct. 31st, 1924, Canada imported binder twine to the extent of 30,669,601 lbs. valued at \$3,607,548, which was a decline of approximately 80 per cent. from the previous year. 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