

SHORT TALKS ABOUT FERTILIZERS.

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obtained in different seasons and the result of any one season's testing is to be regarded as merely a guide, and not as an invariable prescription. Of course, larger or smaller quantities of any of these fertilizer materials may be used than here indicated, but those given are large enough to afford a fair test and to be comparable to the fertilization ordinarily given staple crops.

It must be remembered, too, that the fertilization indicated for one crop will not be at all what is needed by other crops. This point has already been mentioned and will be referred to again in a later article.

Of course it takes some trouble to carry out an experiment like this, but it is time and labor well spent. And when it is remembered that the Southern States spend over \$50,000,000 a year for commercial fertilizers it is not hard to realize that anything to enable these fertilizers to be used with some regard to the special needs of the crops to which they are to be applied is worth while.

Often the farmer who is unwilling to make anything like a close study of the fertilizer needs of his soil is enabled to make a guess of the most simple order which will enable him to use fertilizers with much more economy than he could hope to do if he merely guessed at the needs of his crop without any study at all. He can leave a few rows of average land not fertilized, and compare the yields obtained from that with the yields obtained from the fertilized rows alongside them. If he uses two kinds of fertilizers he can fertilize small plots side by side with these fertilizers and leave one not fertilized, and draw a fair idea as to which of them is the more profitable to use. If he applies a top dressing or makes a second application to his crops, he can experiment on a few rows and note results, or if he is in the habit of doing this, he can make the application and judge pretty well the benefits to be derived from it.

No Plant Food Can Take the Place of Humus.

In short, anything that will enable him to obtain more accurate ideas as to fertilizer needs of his soil is well worth considering and will pay handsomely for the time, labor and money spent in carrying it out. It must be remembered, however, that guess

work is seldom accurate and that one may draw ideas entirely misleading from comparative tests in which there is not accuracy or where the results are only estimated.

The farmer who wishes to use fertilizers on a business basis and get most out of them will not be content with such guess work. He will make a close study of his soil and try to find out just what it needs for each of the crops to be grown on it. Above all, he will realize that no application of plant food can take the place of vegetable matter which the soil must have to produce the best results. The soil is more important than the fertilizer and unless the soil is of the proper condition best results cannot be obtained even from the fertilizers which are most needed by the crop which is being grown.

The primary problem is that of getting the soil to the proper condition. Next comes the finding out of what is really needed by the soil, and the third and last great problem is the economical purchase of these elements which the crop requires.

\$500 MORE A YEAR FARMING.

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the use of implements covering a large area each time across the field.

We have said nothing regarding bedding the land because we do not regard this as essential to the proper preparation of the seed bed and prefer to discuss it in connection with methods of planting.

In one word the proper preparation of the seed bed means PULVERIZATION.

What are you going to do to get more humus into your soil? This is the most important question that comes up for the farmer's consideration. You should think about it day and night until you can answer it satisfactorily.—T. C. Karns.

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