

TIME FOR AMERICAN FARMERS TO REAP BENEFIT OF HIGH PRICES FOR CLOVER



Harvesting Red Clover for Seed—Present Indications Are That Clover Will Sell at a Very Good Figure for the Next Two Years, Perhaps Longer.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Clover seed is high priced and scarce, and good samples will command prices that many farmers will be loath to pay. The United States department of agriculture, however, urges the seeding of as large an acreage as possible. The best information obtainable shows that the foreign market is quite as bare of clover seed as is our own. The French and Italian supplies are sold out, and there appears to be no surplus in Germany or in Russia. This means that clover seed will be high for at least two years to come if not more, and those farmers who seeded last spring or who seed in 1920 will have a chance to sell their clover seed crop at a good figure. This is a time to look ahead, and for American farmers to get the benefit of the high prices, before Europe has been able to get back to normal production and the prices fall.

Watch Quality of Seed.

In view of the high price of clover seed, it is especially important that farmers pay careful attention to the quality of seed they buy. The relation between the purity and germination of a sample of clover seed and its value to the farmer has been so frequently discussed that it is not necessary to enter into details. A farmer, paying a low price for a poor lot of seed, may really be paying more for the good seed that will grow than he would have in a sample of higher price. The only way to decide this is to secure samples and quotations from reliable firms, and have the seed analyzed by the state seed laboratory or by the seed laboratory of the United States department of agriculture.

The attention of farmers is also called very especially to the fact that French and Italian seed has been and is being imported into this country and that the experiments so far conducted by the department of agriculture indicate that this seed will produce a plant more subject to disease and less hardy under American conditions than plants from our own seed.

In sections where there is no disease and if the winter is moderate a successful stand of clover may be secured with imported seed, but the chances against success are always greater than when using American seed. Farmers are urged, therefore, to insist upon a statement showing where the seed offered them was harvested.

It is also a time to consider with more than usual care the means necessary for getting the most out of the seed sown. It will not pay to throw expensive seed in poorly prepared ground as was so often done when clover was cheap. The seed bed should be well prepared. The best way is not to sow the seed in early spring on the wheat, but to harrow it in on the wheat or to seed with a spring grain in a well prepared seed bed. Seeding alone without a companion or nurse grain crop will often be better, but not always. If seeding must be done on rather worn soil, it is better to seed alone especially if the field is not very weedy. If a special seed bed is prepared it should be well compacted. A freshly plowed and harrowed field is too open for the best results. The soil must be compacted or the seed bed will dry out before the young plants get their roots down far enough.

Be Sure Whether Lime Is Needed.

Another matter of the utmost importance is to consider whether or not the field it is proposed to seed needs lime. Unless the farmer is sure, he should send a sample of the soil to his state station and inquire. Not far from 75 per cent of the arable land east of the Mississippi and north of the southern boundary of Tennessee needs lime to bring a good crop of clover. This fact can not be too strongly emphasized. If the soil is "sour" do not waste expensive red clover seed on it—let some one else have it. But land need not remain sour. A ton or two of finely-ground limestone per acre will, in the average case, put the soil into condition to grow clover. It is not necessary to put on enough to completely satisfy the lime requirement. The Pennsylvania station has shown that a lime requirement of 500 pounds per acre or less did no great harm, but when more is needed it must be supplied if clover is to do well. Soil with a lime requirement of 1,000 pounds or more per acre will usually not make a paying crop of red clover. If the wheat ground needs lime the clover should be seeded with a spring grain with lime harrowed in on the

plowed ground. If this can not be done the limestone may be put on the wheat and harrowed in with the seed, though it is not so effective when applied in this way as when spread on plowed ground and harrowed in. Farmers looking ahead for several years should consider liming the corn field next spring, especially if this is to be followed by wheat with clover on the wheat in 1921. Corn responds to liming more than small grains do and limestone put on in this way will prepare the ground well for a subsequent clover crop. Used in this way the full amount necessary to satisfy the lime requirement should be used, as some will be lost in drainage water and some will be removed by the corn crop. A coating of manure will help clover, and on some soils phosphates are essential.

Potash Is Scarce.

In some cases, too, potash gives good results, but potash is still scarce and its use will not be warranted unless the farmer knows that it is needed. A word of warning must, however, be added in the discussion of lime. Lime is not a fertilizer, and if used persistently without adding organic matter in the shape of manure or crop residues will eventually leave the soil the poorer. When clover is grown the nitrogen will largely take care of itself, but phosphorus and sometimes potash will have to be added as soils need them. And most of all will they need organic matter.

Good clover crops lie at the foundation of agriculture in the northeastern quarter of the United States. On many farms good clover crops can not be produced without lime, but lime alone will not permanently help the situation. A proper system of rotation with clover as a regular element in a three or four year rotation must be adopted for the permanent upbuilding of the land, and then whatever else the land needs in the way of lime or fertilizer must be added thereto.

JOIN "BETTER Sires" DRIVE

Federal and State Forces Organized in 40 States—Many of Them Now in Full Swing.

In 40 states the "Better Sires—Better Stock" campaign of federal and state agricultural forces is now fully organized and in many of them it is in full swing. Of the few not yet enrolled several have made plans for joining the movement, which promises numerous benefits to the live stock interests of the country. Each of the enrolled states has filed with the bureau of animal industry, United States department of agriculture, the name and address of an official directly in charge of the work. This list will be furnished any inquirer on application. The states enrolled in the crusade on January 1 were as follows: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

CULTURE OF FRUITS FAVORED

Supply of Valuable Food Furnished at Relatively Small Cost—Best for Health.

A more general culture for fruits in gardens and home orchards would contribute substantially to the health and pleasure of the average family besides furnishing a supply of valuable food products at a relatively small outlay of money, says the United States department of agriculture.

PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED

Improved Methods and More Efficient Facilities Are Needed for Handling Products.

Production during the last decade has increased greatly, and as a natural consequence improved methods and facilities for handling the increase have become necessary, says the United States department of agriculture. Keeping pace with increased production has come the demand of consumers for more elaborate and efficient service.

Last Night's Dreams

—What They Mean

DO YOU DREAM OF CATS?

WHILE dogs are regarded with favor by the mystics as dreamland pets, cats are looked upon askance. The chief trouble with them seems to be their occult relation to slander and gossip; which is probably why you call that gossiping neighbor of yours an "old cat." Some people whom you regard as your friends are talking about you when you dream of cats. If the cat appears gentle or sleeping, so much the worse. But don't be alarmed; to be gossiped about is the common lot. Just drive the dreamcat away and all will be well. If the animal makes off in response to your energetic "Scat!" you will triumph over many obstacles. But choose your confidants carefully when you see dreamcats. It is not a good sign to have the cat attack you, for it means that the obstacles you will have to overcome will be great. Dreamcats also, strangely enough, seem to have a connection with robbers. If you beat or kill a cat in your dreams you are going to catch a thief, and if it is a cat you never saw before you will recover all he may have stolen from you. These are only general rules; the mystics are not agreeing at all with regard to the details of cat dreams.

Havelock Ellis, in his book "The World of Dreams," gives an amusing example of a cat dream by a poet friend of his. The poet dreamed of a cat and the dream consciousness, for some reason, suggested the word "tip-cat." The faculty of verbal association got to work and produced the following doggerel:

Call in the tipcat, cut off its tail,
Fold up some eggs in a saucapan;
Sit on the rest like an elderly man
And gulp down the rest as a horse can.

The analysis is an interesting example of the verbal association found in dreams. "Tipcat" suggested a cat's tail—its tip. "Cut off its tail" suggested a cooking recipe and led to "eggs in a saucapan." Eggs suggested "sitting," while "gulp"—which the dreamer noted appeared a gallop—suggested a horse. It is a singular fact that the dream consciousness sometimes gets in a merry mood when it is fond of making the most ridiculous combinations of words and perpetrating the most atrocious puns.

(Copyright.)

Mother's Cook Book

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.
To each man is given a marble to carve for the wall;
A stone that is needed to heighten the beauty of all;
And only his soul has the magic to give it a grace;
And only his hands have the cunning to put it in place.

For the Cooky Jar.

A well-made cooky, if kept in airtight cans or receptacles, will keep for weeks and is always a welcome addition to any meal.

Oatmeal Fruit Macaroons.

Take three-quarters of a cupful of raisins, two and one-half cupfuls of rolled oats, half a teaspoonful of salt, two eggs, well beaten, half a cupful of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of corn sirup and a tablespoonful of melted shortening. Mix the fruit with the oats and salt; beat the sugar, sirup and shortening into the eggs and combine the two mixtures. Shape with a teaspoon and drop on greased baking sheet. Bake in a moderate oven.

Hermits.

Take one cupful of shortening, one and one-half cupfuls of sugar, three eggs, one cupful of stoned raisins, chopped fine, one teaspoonful of soda, one-half a nutmeg, grated, and a teaspoonful of cinnamon; flour to roll. These cookies keep indefinitely and are better when they are a week or two old.

Superior Sugar Cookies.

Take two cupfuls of sugar, one cupful of shortening, four eggs, one teaspoonful of soda and two teaspoonfuls of cream of tartar, one teaspoonful of lemon or vanilla. Bake quickly, with flour enough to handle.

Coconut Macaroons.

Beat the whites of two eggs until stiff; add one cupful of sugar, lightly, a little at a time, then fold in one cupful of cornflakes and two tablespoonfuls of flour, with vanilla to flavor, a dash of salt and a cupful of coconut. Drop on buttered sheets. This makes 24 small macaroons. Bake in a moderate oven until brown.

Sour Cream Drop Cookies.

Melt one-third of a cupful of shortening in one-third of a cupful of boiling water; add one cupful of molasses, one teaspoonful of soda, one of ginger and one-half teaspoonful of cinnamon, a little salt, and wheat flour to make a drop batter. Have the cakes thick enough not to spread too much and bake in a moderate oven.

Nellie Maxwell
(Copyright, 1920, Western Newspaper Union.)

"LOOK" IS RIGHT.
Now one of the saddest visions that come to a soul distressed
Is the look woman gives to a woman who she thinks is better dressed.

Horticultural Points



MAKING STRAWBERRIES SURE

Ample Supply of Moisture Is Essential During Both Growing and Fruiting Seasons.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Strawberries must have an ample supply of moisture not only during the season of bearing fruit but also throughout the growing season. For this reason irrigation is necessary to make the crop reasonably sure in most sections of the western United States.

As strawberries have a shallow root system the surface soil must be kept moist and irrigation must be more frequent than for many plants whose roots penetrate the soil deeply. The number of irrigations, however, will depend largely on the character and frequency of the tillage used in conserving moisture and on the type and condition of the soil. If the furrows are thoroughly cultivated as soon as the moisture conditions permit after each irrigation the number of applications of water can be materially reduced, as compared with the number required when cultivation is neglected. In the lighter soils, during the bearing season, the fields may be irrigated as often as every four to six days, and in heavy soils every week or two. During the months when the plants are not fruiting only enough water to keep them in a thrifty, growing condition is necessary.

During the picking period the usual practice is to irrigate immediately after each picking. When there is danger that the water in the furrows may not be absorbed before the following picking the field may be covered by two applications, alternate furrows being irrigated in turn.

In many parts of the western states the soils contain alkali, and alkaline salts are brought to the surface in such quantities as a result of irrigation that the strawberry plants are injured and even killed. Usually the first indication of alkali injury is yellowing of the leaves in the lower spots in the field. In selecting a site for a strawberry field places where the soils are known to contain alkali should be avoided.



Hill System for Strawberries as Practiced in the South Is Conducive to Rapid Maturity.

Another limiting factor in growing strawberries in some localities in the West are nematodes, a parasite also known as eelworms and gallworms. Their effect, which is usually manifest first on the roots, is commonly called root knot, because of the knotted enlargements they produce. Nematodes occur widely in soils where the winter climate is so mild that the ground rarely freezes more than a few inches deep, or does not freeze at all. Strawberries should not be planted in soil known to be infested with nematodes, and plants should not be used which have been grown in infested areas.

GRAPE CUTTINGS FOR FUTURE

Profitable Practice to Get Them Ready for Spring Planting—Prevent Freezing.

Farmers wishing to set out vineyards will profit by making grape cuttings and getting them ready for spring planting, according to horticulturists at the Ohio experiment station. A number of cuttings may be made from one vine, and after one year of cultivation in a small nursery lot the young vines are ready for planting. Cuttings should be taken from new wood, each cutting having two to three buds upon it. The cuttings are from 8 to 12 inches long, the bottom being trimmed close to the first bud, while the top of the cutting has 2 or 3 inches of wood above the top bud.

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These are tied in bundles and placed in damp sand in the cellar or buried out of doors and covered to prevent injury from severe freezing. In the spring the cuttings are set in rows 3 feet apart and 4 inches in the row. Only the upper bud is allowed to extend above the ground, so that the other buds will develop roots.

Style Show at Paris Theaters

The Parisian theaters are beginning to be an expression of the late fashions, both from the standpoint of the artist appearing on the stage and the audience which gathers nightly to witness the new plays, writes a Paris fashion correspondent. A premier, on first night, in Paris always brings a fashionable crowd. When Ventura made her debut in a new role in "La Voile Decibre" she wore a charming dress made by Jenny, one which has also been chosen by small Parisiennes in private life.

The dress of beige brown chiffon, with a hooping tunic which extends across the sides and front only, leaving the back very flat, according to a certain phase of the newest fashions. The tunic owes its buoyancy to the bands of sable which pass in seven rows around it. The bodice is in simple, slightly bloused form, with kimono sleeves which turn back in deep cuffs just below the elbow, but, remaining transparent, reveal the graceful lines of the arms. A band of sable passes around the half-low neck at the back and outlines a sort of vest at the front. A slight touch of color is given through the grille of copper rose and the addition of tassels of this same burnished color down the front.

Tulle of Pink Over Gold Cloth.

Another theater dress, from Lanvin, which is proving very interesting to private customers as well, is of pink tulle over a cloth-of-gold foundation. There is a hoop frame made of artificial flowers which passes around the hips, holding the tulle out with the fashionable bouffancy. This effect is further exaggerated by rose ruchings of tulle, which girdle the skirt twice between the hips and the knees. Underneath, the gleaming gold foundation skirt clings tightly to the figure of the wearer. Thus the pink tulle skirt forms only a hooplike transparency and leaves the figure of the wearer svelte and graceful.

Lanvin is emphasizing black and white for spring and summer. This was evidenced in her mid-season models, prepared for the Riviera season, and is again apparent in spring opening models.

She is making much use of white Kascha, Rodier's cashmere serge, in combination with black satin for simple street dresses of the tailored type, many of which show the black and white Moravian pattern embroideries, plus the fine hand-run stitches in brilliant crimson. So tremendous has been the success of this Czech-Slovak embroidery that Lanvin, who launched it last summer, was practically forced to continue its use for spring.

Russian Dress in Redingote Style.

Thanks to Lanvin's system of organized effect this house always launches exclusive new materials as well as new embroideries. It is said that her orders are often placed three years in advance of her needs and are of sufficient size on certain specialties to make it worth while for the French manufacturer to give it to no other house during the lifetime of the vogue.

The oriental touch is not lacking in Lanvin's new spring line, for she has just brought out two wonderful models with cuff trousers. This may

and the skirt thus becomes a pantaloons. That these cuff-pantaloons should not escape the attention of observers, they are embroidered elaborately in high colors exactly to match the embroidery on the dress. A further striking note is added when the wearer has slippers embroidered in exactly the same pattern.

Sleeves That Flare; Pantaloons Cuffs.

Two charming robes of this character, one for afternoon and one for evening wear, have been big successes; both are developed in black satin and the embroideries are in ruby-red beads



Another Charming Gown of Beige Brown Chiffon, Encircled With Bands of Sable.

and silver threads. The afternoon dress is in the chemise type and passes over the head. Like many other Lanvin models, it is arranged to button high about the throat with a straight collar band, or to be worn open in a deep V point. The sleeves and the pantaloons cuffs are of the strikingly new features. The former are in bell shape with massed embroidery covering almost their entire length. The bell flare is about eight inches wide at the bottom, the sleeve itself being a good three-quarters length. The dress girdles in blouse effect at a normal waistline, the belt being also richly embroidered, and there are two slender pendant panels on each side of the skirt, also embroidered. To the hem are attached the pantaloons cuffs, which are brilliantly embroidered.

The evening dress, also in black satin, is embroidered in exactly the same colors, red and silver of very elaborate and extensive pattern. Almost the whole front of the skirt has an apron pattern of the embroidery. The pantaloons cuffs are embroidered. The bodice is in semi-decolletage style, slightly square neck at the back and very deep surplice V point at the front. It shows elaborate embroideries at the front outlining the crossing decolletage. The very short sleeves, perhaps five inches long, are entirely covered with embroidery and there is an embroidered sash.

Umbrella is an Adornment.

Dressmakers are showing great interest in umbrellas as accessories to their costumes. This is the first time that umbrellas have been considered adornments. The newest of them, like the French shoes, are clumsy and stubby in appearance. Brown is the fashionable color. The novelty in umbrellas is the clublike stick, most elaborately ornamented through wood, ivory and tortoise shell carvings and other forms of decoration.

These umbrellas have made their first appearances through exclusive shops, as well as the Paris dressmakers. Therefore, many of the designs are exclusive to the individual house selling them. Among the most notable are the carved ivory handles which are at least three inches wide and from one and a half to two inches thick. On these handles graceful Egyptian figures are cut, the silhouetted figures being in ivory with a background of celestial blue. A handsome one has a handle of brown wood carved to imitate the joints of bamboo. The tips, ferrule and ornaments on the handle are carved coral; the silk cover is brown to match the wood.



Dress Worn at the French Theater—Pink Tulle Over Cloth-of-Gold Foundation.

sound very funny, but it is just what they are. There is a straight, slightly draped skirt and below this are attached two rather stiff cuff bands three or four inches deep and sufficiently large for the feet to pass through. These are sewn inside the hem of the skirt. The feet pass through