

By J.J. Inskeep

NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE

Improvement in management of our Clackamas County soils has taken a tremendous spurt since establishment of the State Soil Testing Laboratory in 1953. In fact, it seems to us that better understanding of soil management and use of fertilizers represent the greatest advancement in the field of local scientific agriculture during the past year.

During the past twenty years, we think, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been wasted in this county through ill advised purchase and use of commercial fertilizers. This situation was brought about because of limited knowledge available at the time. It is a pretty safe guess that this waste will continue if we persist in using the former shotgun methods. There is no need for it. Two simple suggestions will help clear the way:

1. Obtain an analysis of the soil from every field on the farm.

2. Fertilize the soil accordingly.

These samples do not have to be taken all in one year. It must be admitted that soil science is not an exact sort of thing like engineering a tunnel. There are too many variables. Just the same these steps will get us far better results than anything we have experienced in the past. Oregon experiment station soil scientists are correlating laboratory findings with hundreds of, on the land, experiments like those conducted on the farms of Alton Marshall, Clarks and Walter Fisher, of Carus.

On these farms actual fer-

tilizer applications were made following soil analysis in the laboratory. The crop on these two were pasture .. alta fescue and sub-clover.

As a result of these many analyses and field experiments the Extension Service will soon be able to provide hand-out sheets telling of desired fertilizer levels for most of the common crops grown here. We now have copies telling how to fertilize alfalfa, pole beans, sub-clover pastures, and chewings fescue grass stands for seed production. We expect to receive many others during the month of February.

This is the idea. Have a soil analysis made. Check with the sheet of that particular crop to find how much and what kind of additional fertilizer to use, what formulas, when and how. Pointers on management are also included. It sounds fairly simple and it really is.

For instance here are the key points in management of sub clover pasture as explained in the sub-clover pasture sheet:

1. Heavy grazing or mechanical removal of forage in late summer or early fall. This is essential for establishment of subclover seedlings.

2. Delay spring grazing until the subclover is four inches high. Fall and winter growing conditions will determine when to start grazing.

3. Graze during April and May or cut silage crops by May 10. If the grass is allowed to grow it will shade out the subclover .. this is especially true where spring applications of nitrogen have been used.

4. If possible, avoid graz-

ing subclover pastures continuously. Rotation grazing with short periods of heavy use will increase subclover yields.

5. Rest periods are essential for the improved perennial grasses. Follow the management steps outlined for sub-clover with alta fescue, orchardgrass, or tall oatgrass: (1) utilize through June 1. This prevents the grass from shading out the subclover; (2) a rest period is essential for the grass during June and early July .. allowing seed heads to set will provide the top growth necessary to replenish grass root reserves.

Frequent periods of heavy grazing during the spring growing season is necessary to maintain subclover with turf type grasses.

NITROGEN

Apply 30 to 40 pounds of nitrogen in February or early March to step up the date of pasture readiness and to increase early spring growth. Nitrogen fertilizer will start grass growth early in the spring. The subclover will furnish most of the nitrogen for the grass after good spring growth starts. Nitrogen fertilizer won't substitute for good management.

LIME

Soil Acidity is one of the main factors limiting the yield of subclover in Western Oregon. Lime should be applied ahead of planting and thoroughly mixed throughout the surface 6 inches of soil to neutralize soil acidity. Lime recommendations for all legumes are discussed in Fertilizer Recommendation no. 3.

PHOSPHORUS

1. Apply 60 to 80 pounds of phosphorus per acre when the soil test values are below 20 pounds of phosphorus per acre.

2. Apply 40 to 60 pounds of phosphorus when the soil test values are between 20 and 40 pounds of phosphorus per acre.

3. No phosphorus is recommended when the soil test values are above 40 pounds of phosphorus per acre.

4. Phosphorus rates should be increased about one-third where soils have not been limed as recommended.

Phosphorus should be applied annually in the fall. If the fall application is missed it can be applied in early spring (February 15 to March 15).

POTASSIUM

1. Apply 120 pounds of potassium per acre when the soil test values are below 150 pounds of potassium per acre.

2. Apply 60 to 100 pounds of potassium per acre when between 150 and 250 pounds of the soil test values are between 150 and 250 pounds of potassium per acre.

3. Apply 40 to 60 pounds of potassium per acre when the soil test values are between 250 and 300 pounds of potassium per acre.

4. No potassium is recommended when the soil test values are above 300 pounds of potassium per acre.

Potassium should be applied annually in the fall. If the fall application is missed, it can be applied in the early spring (February 15 to March 15).

SULFUR

1. Apply 30 to 40 pounds of sulfur in the fertilizer program each year. Sulfur can generally be included with other materials. Fall or early spring application is satisfactory.

Whenever elemental sulfur

is applied it will require 100 pounds of lime to neutralize the acidity formed by 32 pounds of elemental sulfur. Soil acidity should be checked with a soil test and controlled with a planned liming program.

BORON

1. Apply four pounds of actual boron (40 pounds of agricultural grade borax) per acre when the soil test values are below 1.0 ppm of boron. Follow with 2 pounds of actual boron per acre annually on these soils.

2. Apply 2 pounds of actual boron per acre annually when the soil test values are between 1.0 and 2.0 ppm of boron.

3. No boron is recommended when the soil test values are above 2.00 ppm of boron.

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THE SANDY POST
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Troutdale Sets Gun Club Meet

TROUTDALE SETS 1 18

TROUTDALE — The Rod and Gun club of Troutdale will meet Wednesday, February 19 at the club house in Troutdale at 8 o'clock.

Lloyd Weiser, club president has secured the picture 'Behind the Trophy', to be shown during the evening. Also Ken Cochran, Biologist of the Sandy River area, will be present to discuss the Fishery Problems.

A large delegation from Corbett is planning to attend. Every member is asked to bring a prospective member.

Attendance prizes will be given and refreshments will be served by Mrs. Lloyd Weiser and her committee during the social hour following the meeting.

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