

## GRIMM ALFALFA ACREAGE IN LANE COUNTY PROBABLY 1200 THIS YEAR

**It Has Been Increasing Fast Since 1925—Creamery People and Seed Dealers Have Helped—It Has Proved of High Value in That County—The Average Yield There Is About Four Tons to the Acre, Though Six Tons in Three Cuttings Is Not Uncommon**

Editor Statesman:

In response to your letter of April 5 I am herewith sending you a sketch in regard to alfalfa in Lane county. This has not been prepared as copy for a story for you, but is a copy of material I have prepared to sketch the high points in the development of alfalfa growing in Lane county. You are at liberty to work the material into a story if you so desire. I am sorry that I do not have the time to prepare a story ready for your linotype operator.

The acreage of Hungarian vetch is increasing each year in Lane county. Farmers are growing it principally as a hay crop. They are growing it in place of other vetches because it withstands adverse winters and because it is not subject to injury by aphids. We do not have much sweet clover in this county.

Ladino clover as a pasture crop is spreading rapidly in this county. We grow it without irrigation west of the Coast Range and with irrigation in the Willamette valley part of the county.

O. S. FLETCHER,  
County Agent.

Eugene, Ore., April 9, 1928.  
(Following is the material as sent by Mr. Fletcher.)

### Alfalfa in Lane County

Clarence Koon, who formerly lived about two miles south of Junction City on what is now the Pacific highway; J. N. Hill, Thurston; and W. A. Ayres, of Eugene, all tried common alfalfa about twenty years ago with fair success. Mr. Koon died a few years ago, but Mr. Hill and Mr. Ayres have continued to grow alfalfa at intervals since they first tried it. All their recent plantings have been Grimm alfalfa. Mr. Ayres sowed about four acres of Grimm alfalfa in 1924 and has added to his planting since that time. He will sow about four acres this year. Mr. Hill sowed about eight acres of Grimm alfalfa in 1925, about six acres in 1926, and ten or twelve acres in 1927.

### Survey Made in 1925

During the spring and summer of 1925 the county agent made a survey to determine how much Grimm alfalfa was growing in the county at that time. He obtained records from twenty farmers who had about 46 acres of Grimm alfalfa planted prior to 1925. Thirteen of these plots or fields with a total of 32 acres were sowed in 1924. One was sowed in 1917 or 1918, and most of the others were sowed in 1922 or 1923. Practically all of the farmers who sowed Grimm alfalfa in 1924 followed the recommendations of the Oregon Agricultural college in regard to preparation of seed bed, fertilizers, inoculation, and time of sowing.

### During and Since 1925

When the present county agent was notified, early in January, 1925, of his appointment as county agent of Lane county he was told that there was a strong demand for demonstrations on the growing of alfalfa and that promotion of this crop would be one of his leading projects. When the county agent arrived in Lane county the first of February, 1925, he found much interest in alfalfa and in demonstrations to show how to grow the crop. M. M. Boney, manager of the Eugene Farmers' creamery, reported that he and the officers of the creamery had been considering the advisability of financing a number of alfalfa demonstrations and trials and asked if the county

agent would be willing to cooperate with them if they decided to carry on the project. On February 16, 1925, the county agent and E. R. Jackman, who was at that time extension crops specialist for the Oregon Agricultural college, met with the directors and manager of the creamery and discussed the proposition. The directors voted to purchase Grimm alfalfa seed and lime and sell these to farmers at one-half cost for twenty-five one-acre demonstrations. Details of the demonstrations and the selection of demonstrators were left over to the county agent.

The creamery purchased an especially fine lot of pedigreed Grimm alfalfa seed that was produced in Montana. The county agent received requests for more demonstrations than could be financed on the cooperative creamery plan. He was given the privilege of selecting a limited number of additional demonstrators. Thirty-one farmers living in twenty-five communities planted approximately twenty-seven acres of alfalfa in cooperation with the Eugene Farmers' creamery and the county agent. While the original plan was to purchase and distribute just enough seed for the cooperative demonstrations, so many farmers asked to be allowed to purchase seed at cost in the creamery pool that the creamery accepted additional orders pooled by the county agent and sold a total of 1460 pounds of Grimm alfalfa seed to approximately 82 farmers during 1925.

The Eugene Farmers' creamery has continued to sell alfalfa seed at cost to farmers of Lane county each year since 1925. The county agent has pooled orders for seed and has assisted the manager of the creamery in locating best quality certified Grimm alfalfa seed by the creamery cooperating with the county agent for the last four seasons:

Year	Number of chasers	Pounds of seed	Approximate No. of acres
1925	82	1460	122
1926	90	2226	185
1927	65	2163	180
1928	100	3700	308
Totals	xxx	9549	795

### Seed Dealers Helped

Seed dealers in Lane county have rendered a real service in helping to establish Grimm alfalfa in Lane county by selling seed at a very small margin of profit. The amount of seed sold by dealers has increased each year, and it is estimated that dealers sold nearly a ton of seed in 1927. Because the creamery closed its 1928 pool about the middle of February and before some farmers had decided whether or not to sow alfalfa this season, it is expected that dealers will sell almost as much seed this year as is sold by the creamery.

Grimm alfalfa has proved its

value on the fertile, well drained lands of Lane county and is past the trial stage on such lands. This year six farmers purchased more than 100 pounds of seed each in the creamery pool, the largest order being for 200 pounds. Dealers report several sales of more than 100 pounds to individual farmers. We estimate

that there were 800 acres of alfalfa in the county on January 1, 1928. It is certain that the acreage will be increased more than fifty per cent this year.

The acreage yield of alfalfa in Lane county is about four tons per acre, although yields of six tons in three cuttings are not uncommon.

is warm enough for fairly prompt germination. If the seed bed is weedy it may be better to harrow the land a few more times and sow a little later. Seeding should take place preferably from about April 15 to May 15, although successful stands have been secured with later sowing, even as late as June 15. Fall sowing is unsafe. Early sowing is preferable on clean land in good tilth.

### Fertilizers

Usually it is a good plan to put on 50 to 75 pounds of land plaster per acre previous to sowing the alfalfa seed. This may be done any time during March or early April. It appears to give the alfalfa plants a better start.

### Care of Young Alfalfa

Simply let it grow. Do not mow it unless weeds begin to crowd it out. Let it grow to a good bloom stage, if it will, without weed injury, and then cut it and make hay of it. Too early cutting tends to weaken the plants.

Summary: Use only good Grimm seed. Sow plenty of seed on a fine, firm, well prepared seed bed, alone and rather early.

Order choice dahlias and gladioli early. They sell out fast.

Cooperation is not sentiment—it is an economic necessity. — Charles Steinmetz.

We resent any truth that threatens our mental, social, or financial condition. — Elbert Hubbard.

Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom. — Thomas Jefferson

Little Girl: What do you think, auntie? There's something without legs running across the bathroom floor."

Auntie: "Good gracious, child! What is it?"

Little Girl: "Water, auntie." The Pathfinder.

If milk is kept in a large shallow basin instead of a deep one, it will remain sweet much longer.

## HOW TO GET A START WITH GRIMM ALFALFA, BY COLLEGE AUTHORITY

**Proper Soils, Seed Bed Preparation, Inoculation, Amount to Sow, How and When to Sow, and All the Other Questions of One Contemplating Growing This Legume Answered—The College Will Furnish the Necessary Culture for Starting**

The Oregon Agricultural college experiment station has a bulletin entitled, "Circular of Information 6: Directions for Starting Alfalfa in the Willamette Valley," by G. R. Hyslop, agronomist, that furnishes very complete directions for the man beginning with Grimm alfalfa. The circular, in full, follows:

### The Proper Soils

The soils best suited to alfalfa are those that are mellow, warm, well drained, fertile, sweet and deep. Alfalfa grows on heavier soil types that are well drained and sweet, but in the past many failures have been recorded with the crop on sour soils that are unlimed and on heavy, run-down and poorly drained soils. On soils that are at all sour an application of ground lime stone at from one to four tons an acre is probably necessary to make the crop successful.

For some conditions, as where heavy lime applications are needed and where the crop serves no special purpose, this may be too expensive. For poultrymen or dairymen who need green feed badly during the dry season, the expense of even a heavy application of the ground lime stone may be justified.

There will probably be less disease if the alfalfa can follow a cultivated crop or a grain crop rather than clover or vetch, especially if there has been any stemrot in either of those crops. Stemrot has been present in a good deal of the clover and some of the vetch during recent years, and occasion-

ally it may do some damage to the alfalfa, although usually not killing out the Grimm alfalfa as extensively as it injures clover.

### Seed Bed Preparation

The object is to make a seed bed free from weeds, firm enough to assure moisture and prevent too deep planting, and level enough that the permanent meadow may be handled satisfactorily. The land should be plowed early. Any disking or deep working should be made as early as possible. If the land needs leveling, this can usually be best done with a float. If the floatings are made between workings and while the ground is loose, it usually is pretty successful in scraping off the high places and filling up the low places. Subsequent rains settle it and show if re-floating is necessary. The seed bed should be firm and fine. In many cases rolling is a good practice, on loose soils. The later workings of the alfalfa seed bed should be light surface harrowings to kill young weeds without digging up a lot of new weed seed from below.

### When to Sow

The alfalfa should be sowed as early as possible after the weather

## Lawn Fertilizer

Lawn grass is a heavy feeder, and the constant mowing of the lawn removes the plant food which must be replaced with a complete, balanced fertilizer that does the work without introducing any weeds. A lawn will respond to yearly applications of fertilizer very noticeably. Invariably such treatment causes the grasses to grow so vigorously as to crowd out undesirable weeds and causes them to disappear,—moss grows only on soil that is starving.

**LILLY'S**

**MORCROP**

A COMPLETE FERTILIZER

A sack of Morcrop Fertilizer applied to the lawn will result in an immediate improvement in color and growth. A 100-lb. sack will answer for the ordinary city lot, and it is desirable that this be applied at two different periods during the season; once early in the Spring as soon as the grass shows signs of growth, again late in the Fall. It is easy to apply, has no objectionable odor and the result of a healthy, well-fed lawn will be to crowd out weeds and moss. Beneficial results from the use of Morcrop are guaranteed.



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