

# ALFALFA CROP ALL IMPORTANT

## PROFESSOR SHAW DESCRIBES METHODS

Noted Expert Tells How to Get the Best Results in Central Oregon, On Both Irrigated and Dry Agricultural Lands Here.

By PROF. THOMAS SHAW.

(Written especially for The Bulletin)

Beyond all question the hay crop of Central Oregon will be alfalfa. The soils of that entire region have special adaptation for its growth. But the shortage in the rainfall will probably limit the growth to one cutting a year on the average, although in some seasons there may be two cuttings in the absence of irrigation. With irrigation present, the number of the cuttings will vary from two to three, dependent upon the elevation. The best time for sowing alfalfa on the bench land of Central Oregon has not yet been fully worked out. It will probably be found, however, that the seed should be sown in the autumn, as soon as the rains begin to fall, or in the early spring. Further experimentation is called for to determine the question. The results will be much influenced by the degree of the maximum temperature in winter.

But whether autumn or spring sowing is preferable, there need not be any doubt as to the best way of preparing the land for alfalfa. It should be plowed deeply when this crop is to be sown upon it. The land should be summer fallowed, or it should be devoted to the growing of corn or potatoes, before it is sown to alfalfa. The object sought in growing these crops is to maintain the moisture in the soil. It is probably true that more moisture will be maintained by the fallow process than by the growing of a cultivated crop, but enough moisture will usually be held by either process to maintain a good stand of alfalfa.

Howsoever alfalfa is sown, it ought to be clean land. When sown on weedy land, the weeds crowd the alfalfa and they take from it the moisture that it ought to have to make its growth completely successful. This explains why alfalfa should be sown on summer fallowed land, or on land that has grown a cultivated crop that has been kept quite clean. If the cultivated crop has been kept thus clean, it should not be plowed but simply disced when preparing the seed bed for alfalfa. To plow the ground would bring up weed seed from below, especially on old land, and these would grow to the injury of the alfalfa.

The aim should be to sow alfalfa with the drill. Many of the older type of drills are not well adapted to the sowing of alfalfa. In the absence of a seeder attachment, they feed it out too fast. To regulate this it may be mixed with dry earth free from grit, or with some other substance. The weak point of sowing it thus lies in the difficulty of determining the rate of the seeding. Drills are now being constructed that will sow the seed through the aid of a seeder attachment which accurately determines the amount of seed sown per acre. The seeder attachment feeds the seed into the drill tubes so that it may be deposited in the soil at such depth as may seem the most suitable. It is usually buried to the depth of 1 1/2 to 2 inches. The drill covers the seed to a uniform depth. This usually exerts a marked influence on the germination and on the benefit from harrowing the crop after it has made 4 or 5 inches of growth.

Where the conditions are quite dry, as where the rainfall is less than 15 inches in a year, not more than 8 pounds of seed should be sown per acre on well prepared land. On irrigated land as much as 15 pounds per acre may be sown. Why the difference? Because on irrigated land there is ample moisture. On land that is not irrigated the moisture is restricted. If the number of the plants is such as to exceed the moisture supply, then all the plants will suffer. But if the relation is proper between the moisture supply and the plants growing on the land, such plants will be able to make a vigorous growth. In dry areas therefore thin seeding is a necessity.

In Central Oregon the alfalfa crop will be greatly benefited by discing in the very early spring. The discing after the plants have reached the age of two years should be severe. It tears open the surface of the land to admit rain and air. It is a great aid in destroying weeds and is usually a great stimulus to growth in the crop. When the crop is once established, it will grow for many years. In Central Oregon it is not likely to be injured by frost in winter after the plants have become rooted in the soil. The winter weather will not destroy it as it does in some instances in the far north.

It is more than probable that Central Oregon will become a great center for growing alfalfa seed. At the present time it is believed that

the seed will be grown by planting the alfalfa in rows and then cultivating it as corn should be cultivated. The seed crop should give more than three bushels per acre. At the present time the price of alfalfa seed on the farm is about \$15 a bushel. Three bushels per acre would be a good return from land that is now covered with sagebrush. Much, however, is yet to be learned about the best way of growing alfalfa under Central Oregon conditions. I have no doubt, however, but that the sagebrush plains of Central Oregon can be turned into alfalfa fields that will give a fair return to the man who tills them.

### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon, July 10th, 1912.

Notice is hereby given that Eliza Pattle, of Bend, Oregon, who, on August 22nd, 1907, made Desert Entry, No. 704 Serial No. 0731, for the E 1/4 SE 1/4, Sec. 21, and W 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 22, Township 17 South, Range 12 East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make final desert proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before H. C. Ellis, U. S. Commissioner, at his office at Bend, Oregon, on the 27th day of August, 1912.

Claimant names as witnesses: Charles Boyd, Adam Kutzman, Neils Anderson, George Bates, all of Bend, Oregon. C. W. MOORE, Register.

### NOTICE OF CONTEST.

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon, July 10, 1912.

To Daniel Blizzard of Bend, Oregon, Contestee.

You are hereby notified that Frank J. Glider, who gives Bend, Oregon, as his postoffice address, did on May 28, 1912, file in this office his duly corroborated application to contest and secure the cancellation of your homestead, Entry No. Serial No. 05400, made October 11, 1909, for W 1/4 NE 1/4, SE 1/4 NE 1/4, W 1/4 SE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4, Sec. 25, T. 19, S. R. 14, E, SW 1/4 NW 1/4, NW 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 30, Township 19, S., Range 15, E., Willamette Meridian, and as grounds for his contest he alleges that said Daniel Blizzard has wholly abandoned and deserted said land and has wholly failed to cultivate said land as required by law to wit one-eighth of said entry has not been continuously cultivated to agricultural crops or any other crops at all beginning with the second year or at any other time subsequent to the second year of the entry.

You are, therefore, further notified that the said allegations will be taken by this office as having been confessed by you, and your said entry will be canceled thereunder without further right to be heard therein, either before this office or on appeal, if you fail to file in this office within twenty days after the FOURTH publication of this notice, as shown below, your answer, under oath, specifically meeting and responding to these allegations of contest, or if you fail within that time to file in this office due proof that you have served a copy of your answer on the said contestant either in person or by registered mail. If this service is made by the delivery of a copy of

your answer to the contestant in person, proof of such service must be either the said contestant's written acknowledgment of his receipt of the copy, showing the date of its receipt, or the affidavit of the person by whom the delivery was made stating when and where the copy was delivered; if made by registered mail, proof of such service must consist of the affidavit of the person by whom the copy was mailed stating when and the post office to which it was mailed, and this affidavit must be accompanied by the postmaster's receipt for the letter. You should state in your answer the name of the post office to which

you desire future notices to be sent to you.

C. W. MOORE, Register.  
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Date of second publication July 24, 1912.  
Date of third publication July 31, 1912.  
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