

PREPARING LAND FOR WINTER WHEAT

Reports from experiment station go to show that yield of grain may be increased by proper cultivation of seed bed.

With a soil of average fertility the preparation of the seed bed by the proper tillage and cultivation methods very largely determines the yield of the crop. Three general methods of tillage for preparing the land for wheat are practiced in this state; namely, plowing, listing and disking. There may be variations of these three methods, as early plowing, single listing, double listing, little cultivation after plowing, frequent cultivation after plowing, etc. Local conditions may determine which is the best.

Tests of several methods of preparing the seed bed for wheat have been carried out the experiment station for the past two seasons and show the following results:

The field upon which this experiment was conducted is upland soil, previously seeded to alfalfa. The alfalfa was broken in the fall of 1904 and planted to corn in 1905 and soy to wheat in 1906. The experiment was started in 1907 on this wheat stubble. Nine different methods of preparing a seed bed have been tried.

Plowing was done July 15, August 15 and September 15. It will be seen from the table that the early plowing does not give the highest yield or the largest net profit. This is due to the lodging of the wheat on this plot. Being an old alfalfa field organic matter rich in nitrogen was abundant in the soil. The early and continuous preparation probably produced a soil in such large amount that a rank growth of weak straw resulted, and the wheat lodged. With a soil lower in fertility in a section further west there less moisture was available this condition would probably occur.

The highest yields were obtained from the August 15 plowing. Upon these plots the grain did not lodge. That plowed August 15 and culled after plowing received the best results before September. Other wise it was worked exactly the same manner as the other August 15 plowed, which was not surface culled until September 15. The two harrowings in 1907 increased the yield four bushels acre, and in 1908 two bushels acre, or an additional profit 50 cents resulted in a profit in 1907 and \$1.50 in 1908.

The late plowing September 15, has each year the lowest yield of any of plowed plots, although an effort was made to prepare a seed bed by surface cultivation immediately before seeding. In 1908 the late plowed plots were harrowed three times, disked and acme harrowed once plowing and before seeding wheat was seeded on all October 9. Thus the seed was done for nearly a month plowing. Yet the large amount of work put on these late plowed plots was not enough to make a sufficiently firm seed bed. The plot plowed shallow and slightly increased yield of the deep plowed plots where plowing was done as late as September 15. The shallow plowed plot could be better down. Double disking generally in the season to be plowed gave a slightly increased yield. This was due to the fact that disking kept the ground better shape for plowing, firming down more readily the undisked ground.

Listing has not been especially successful as a method for

preparing a seed bed for wheat, giving a less yield than early or medium early plowing. Neither has it proved a cheap method at this station during the past two years, due to the heavy summer rains that have made frequent harrowing and disking necessary in order to keep down the weeds.

The same condition has made it very expensive to prepare a seed bed for wheat by disking without plowing. It required 11 diskings in 1908 to prevent the growth of weeds and prepare a good seed bed by this method. Disking has also resulted in a low yield, producing the least amount of wheat and the lowest net profit of any method employed in this experiment.

The soil conditions and environments suitable for the successful growth of a wheat crop are well established and fairly well understood. With good seed, a few simple factors largely determine the stand and the yield of the crop and the quality of the grain.

In order to secure the ideal condition for seed germination and plant growth, a seed bed for planting wheat and other small seeds should not be mellow to too great a depth, but rather the soil should be mellow and well pulverized only about as deep as the seed is planted. Below that depth the soil should be firm and well settled, making a good connection with the subsoil, so that the soil water stored in the subsoil may be drawn up into the surface soil.

The firm soil below the seed, well connected with the subsoil, supplies the moisture to the seed, while the mellow soil above the seed allows sufficient circulation of air to supply oxygen and favors the warming of the soil, gathering the heat of the sunshine during the day and acting as a blanket to conserve the soil heat, maintaining a more uniform temperature of the soil during the night.

The mellow soil above the seed conserves the soil moisture, acting as a mulch to keep the water from reaching the surface, where it is rapidly lost by evaporation, and the same condition favors the growth of the young shoot upward in the air and sunshine.

The too mellow, deep seed bed is almost wholly dependent upon rains for sufficient moisture to germinate the seed and start the young plants. In such a seed bed drouth is very apt to injure the crop because of the rapid drying out of the loose soil to the depth of the plowing. In the loose seed bed the crop is not only apt to "burn out" in summer, but it is also more apt to "freeze out" in winter than a crop grown in the "ideal" seed bed above described.

E. J. Clough of Arlington was a business visitor here Saturday.

W. H. Garrish was in Condon the latter part of last week from Rock Creek.

James Stewart, the popular and well known editor of the Fossil Journal, was a passenger on the Inland Limited for Portland Saturday morning to hear Harry Lauder the great Scotch comedian who was in the Rose City Monday night giving a performance.

The clubbing price of the Condon Globe, the Oregon Semi-Weekly Journal and the Pacific Monthly is now \$2.75—the biggest \$5 worth of reading on the market.

ADVICE TO HUSBANDS

Give Up Your Barren Scepter as Master of the House.

JOHN HAY'S FIRST SPEECH.

A Witty Response to the Toast "Our Countrywomen" at a Banquet in Paris When He Was Secretary of Legation in the French Capital.

By official proclamation President Johnson set apart the first Thursday of December, 1905, as a day of national thanksgiving. The American residents and visitors in Paris deemed it an occasion to be celebrated with more than usual ceremony. The result was that at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 7th of December some 253 of our countrymen sat down to a dinner in the spacious dining room of the Grand hotel in Paris, then regarded by travelers as the most elegant public dining hall in Europe.

After a succession of speeches the chairman closed the entertainment with a toast to "Our Countrywomen" and asked Colonel John Hay, then secretary of legation in Paris, to respond to it. As this was probably the first public speech Mr. Hay had ever made and though nothing he then said could possibly add any luster to his subsequent career, it may justly be said that it was more successful than the first public effort in oratory either of Sheridan or of Beaconsfield. He replied in part as follows:

"My Countrymen (and I would say my countrywomen but that the former word embraces the latter whenever opportunity offers)—I cannot understand why I should have been called upon to respond to this toast of all others, having nothing but theoretical ideas upon the subject to be treated—In fact, I must be presumed never to have handled. [Laughter and applause.]

"I have been called up, too, by a committee of married men. I can think of no claim I have to be considered an authority in these matters except what might arise from the fact of my having resided in early life in the same neighborhood with Brigham Young, who has since gained some reputation as a thorough and practical ladies' man. [Great laughter.] I am not conscious, however, of having imbibed any such wisdom at the feet of this matrimonial Gamaliel as should justify entitle me to be heard among the elders.

"So I am inevitably forced to the conclusion that these husbands cannot trust each other's discretion. The secrets of the prison house are, too important to be trusted to one of the prisoners. So ignorance of the matter in hand has come to be held an absolute prerequisite when any one is to be sacrificed to the exigencies of this toast.

"I really do not see why this should be so. It is useless for husbands to attempt to keep this thin veneering of a semblance of authority. The symbols of government they still retain deceive nobody. They may comfort themselves with the assurance of some vague, invisible supremacy, like that of the spiritual mikado or the grand lama, but the true tycoon is the wife. A witty and profound observer the other day said, 'Every husband doubtless knows he is master in his own house, but he also knows his neighbor's wife is master in hers.' [Laughter and cheers.]

"Why should not you, husbands of America, admit this great truth and give up the barren scepter? Things would go much easier if you ceased the struggle to keep up appearances. The ladies will not be hard on you. They will recognize the fact that, after all, you are their fellow creatures, and you can be very useful to them in many little ways. They will doubtless allow you to pay their bills, take care of their children and carry their votes to the ballot box just as you do now.

"You had better come down gracefully, and, above all, let no feeling of discovered inferiority betray you into evil speaking of the domestic powers. There have been recent instances of distinguished gentlemen, no doubt instigated by rebellious husbands, who have recklessly accused these guardian angels of your fireside of being extravagant and frivolous. These things are never uttered with impunity. I would not insure the life of one who libels the ladies for less than cent per cent.

"Dixite justitiam morit et non temerere Divas, which, as you may not understand the backwoods pronunciation of the classic warning, I will translate with a freedom befitting the day we celebrate:

"Now, all you happy husbands, Beware the rebel's fate! Live in obedience all your lives, Give up your latchkeys to your wives And never stay out late."

[Laughter and cheers.]—From John Bigelow's "Retrospections of an Active Life" in Metropolitan Magazine.

The Alternative. Constituent—Say, Bill, the salary that goes with my job isn't half enough to live on. Can't you use your influence to have it raised a little? Alchemist—I'm afraid not, Jake. But I'll do better than that. I'll use my influence to have a cheaper man appointed to the place.—Chicago Tribune.

A Quick Thinker. Dittersdorf—Here come two evil looking rascals. I shouldn't wonder if we were held up. Heinz—I'm afraid so. By the by, here's that dollar you lent me this morning.—Meggsdorf Blatter.

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