

AGRICULTURAL USE OF LIME

The use of lime as a fertilizer dates from the inception of modern scientific farming. Agricultural chemists have shown that there are five or six different functions which lime may perform to benefit a soil which may be summarized briefly as follows:

1. It is an essential element of plant food.
2. It aids in the conversion of decaying organic matter into humus.
3. It forms compounds with the humic acids which tend to prevent their being leached out of the soil and lost.
4. By producing proper sanitary conditions the growth of injurious bacteria is largely prevented, while the growth of nitrifying bacteria is encouraged. These nitrifying bacteria convert the nitrogen of the humus into such a form that it is available as a plant food.
5. Lime aids in the liberation of potash and phosphorus from inert compounds.
6. It tends to flocculate clay soils, rendering them granular and more porous.

Obviously, permanent results cannot be expected unless care is taken to insure the presence of some organic fertilizer at all times. Lime used along may be temporarily beneficial, but will eventually be harmful; when used with cowpea vines it becomes more efficient for general purposes than almost any other fertilizer. Of course, lime is not beneficial to all crops to the same extent and not all soils need lime. Thus, some of the common plants, which are stated by the department of agriculture to be benefitted by lime, are spinach, lettuce, beet, celery, onion, cucumber, cantaloupe, asparagus, cabbage, peanut, rhubarb, pea, pumpkin, beans, tobacco, alfalfa, clover, barley, wheat, oats, timothy, gooseberry, currant, orange, quince, and cherry. Indian corn is only slightly benefitted.

Plants which are said to be slightly injured by lime are cotton, tomato, cowpea, concord grape, peach, apple and pear, and those really injured are radish, flax, blackberry, black raspberry and cranberry.

Whether a soil will respond to liming or not depends on the amount of available calcium oxide which it already contains. Probably the best indication of the need of lime is the failure to obtain a good crop of clover.

The question whether lime should be applied to the soil as quicklime, hydrated lime, air-slaked lime or ground limestone is still the subject of a great deal of controversy. The advocates of ground limestone claim that the caustic properties of quick

hydrated lime will burn up and destroy the organic matter in the soil, whereas limestone can be applied in large quantities at long intervals and will therefore produce a more or less permanent fertilizer. The advocates of lime claim that one of the main functions which lime has to perform is the destruction of the organic matter and the liberation of the nitrogen in such a form that the plant can use it; that the frequent and judicious use of lime, together with some organic fertilizer, will bring immediate results. Of course the local conditions of each particular case must be considered before a final conclusion can be reached. Thus, it is rational to use quicklime on soils which are exceedingly rich in organic matter, such as peaty or swampy soils. Limestone is safer than quicklime when applied just before planting a crop which is little helped by liming, or when applied to a light sand soil in hot, dry weather.—(The Source, Manufacture and Use of Lime, U. S. Geological Survey.)

WOMAN SUFFRAGE GAINING

There has been a disposition in some quarters to cite the recent election as a defeat for woman suffrage, because, of the six states in which a vote was taken on the question, only two declared for the women. But those who apply the rule of thumb to the suffrage fight forget that every new position won by the suffrage forces is won forever. This is a movement which never retreats. It is the most striking illustration of the maxim that revolutions never go backward.

Montana and Nevada have been added to the white states of the map and they will always be white. No state that ever gave the vote to its women ever took it away again. Nearly every other forward movement has had its instances of reaction. But a position once won for woman suffrage is forever won. Instead of becoming a source of weakness to the movement—a citadel that has to be defended—each new suffrage state is an impregnable base from which the attack can be carried on against the common enemy. This is true not merely because of the demonstrated benefits and justice of suffrage, but because suffrage changes the entire political organism of a community; and the women themselves, once having the right to vote, will never give it up. And it can never be taken from them without their consent. The fact that suffrage failed in four states—Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota—in nowise offsets the victory in Montana and Nevada. For the movement makes a marked and per-

manent advance, while it loses nothing. The states in which women now have political rights equal to those of men are Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, California, Arizona, Oregon, Nevada and Montana, and virtually Illinois.

It is an inspiring showing, and should give the women of Pennsylvania added courage for the fight to take this state out of the black patch on the map of the republic.—Philadelphia North American.

DESCRIBES FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

The foot-and-mouth disease of livestock is now causing apprehension and loss in many parts of the United States. One large shipment of cattle from the East into the Northwest has recently been condemned and destroyed. Because of public interest in the epidemic, the following statement concerning it has been issued by the University of California. It is by Jacob Traub, assistant professor of veterinary science in the college of agriculture:

This disease is very highly contagious, infecting principally cloven-footed animals. Cattle are most frequently affected; next in order come hogs, sheep and goats. Horses, dogs, cats and even poultry have been in rare cases affected, but these animals, especially the last three mentioned, are particularly dangerous as carriers of the disease. Man is not immune to this disease and children drinking raw milk from affected animals may develop blisters similar to those in cattle. The affection in man is not serious and recovery follows promptly.

The disease is manifested in animals by the formation of vesicles or blisters on the lining of the mouth and the surface of the tongue, on the feet, between the toes and above the hoof. In sheep and hogs the feet alone are usually involved. The mortality from this disease is usually low and the economic importance in stamping out and preventing the spread of this disease lies in the fact that it spreads very rapidly and the loss due to the rapid loss of flesh of the animal and the diminution in the milk production in affected animals. During the course of the disease the milk production either ceases entirely or is greatly reduced. The milk secretion, even after the animal has fully recovered, usually does not reach higher than three-quarters of its normal amount.

Animals that have apparently recovered possess only a limited immunity to this disease and are subject to future attacks. It is also claimed that recovered animals act as carriers of the infection in spite of their being apparently well.



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At present the disease is reported to exist in about a dozen states east of the Missouri river. It is claimed to have been introduced by hides coming either from South America or the Philippine islands. The first cases have been found in the vicinity of a tannery near Niles, Mich.

There is nothing that the California stockmen can do except place his faith in the federal bureau of animal industry and the state veterinarian's office. The prompt and effective action of the bureau of animal industry with its corps of trained veterinarians has enabled it effectively to control and suppress the disease when formerly it has made

its appearance in this country. In this outbreak, also, the bureau is out with its strong force of experienced men.

A HUMANITARIAN PUBLIC UTILITY

A very commendable humanitarian spirit is displayed by the new management of the United Railroads of San Francisco in its announced determination to rescue its employees from the thrall of the loan sharks.

President Jesse Lillenthal has just written an open letter to the men in his employ asking those who are indebted to usurers to inform him of

the extent of their liability, so that he may take steps to provide the money necessary to transfer their debts to the company. It is his plan to offer salary loans to United Railroads employes at about five per cent per annum in lieu of the ten per cent per month extorted by the loan sharks and to put into effect a scheme whereby the loans can be repaid in easy installments. His project is attracting wide attention, and if it proves successful will be hailed as a model for hundreds of other corporations throughout the country.—California Outlook.

Despair is the blighted bud of hope.

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