## GREEN MANURING.

**A Southerner's Views in Regard to Turning Under Green Crops.**

Notwithstanding the vast amount of commercial fertilizers used in addition to the home manures many farms in the older sections of the country are failing. The necessity of a different method is imperative—a method which will impart more body to the soil. Stable and barnyard manures give the required body to the soil, but few farmers make enough to supply the demands of their own fields. Thomas D. Baird, writing in The Southern Cultivator, says:

In my judgment, if farmers would practice turning under green crops every season, then all the other manures, we would find our land would improve and goes improving until, instead of twenty-five bushels of corn on the average per acre, we would grow 100, and instead of thirteen bushels of wheat, the present average per acre, we would average sixty-five. What one acre has done certainly two can be made to do.

We have said green manuring was the best way to improve and give body to the soil, still the several elements of these crops are derived entirely from the soil, so that when we plow under a good crop the land will be no richer in potash or phosphoric acid than before, but these elements can be in a condition more available for plant food. Some plants have a better digestion than others, while deep rooted plants can get some food by reclaiming the fertility which has been washed into the subsoil out of reach of most plants.

Again, organic matter is added to the soil when the crop is plowed under, quite a little of which has been dark. From the atmosphere. Another source is derive from green manuring is the vegetable matter turned under, which gives to the soil its dark color, hence they retain more readily and gives easily and more body, besides making the soil warmer and lighter and admitting the air. It is also a source of carbonic acid gas, which acts in some available the plant food already in the soil.

But perhaps the most important effect of green manuring is the addition of nitrogen, which is the element in many fields so lost by hoeing or by escaping into the air, thus making it more costly. It has been shown that certain plants have the power of using the free nitrogen of the air and converting it into vegetable substance, and so affording available plant food for other plants. It is then evident that the best plant for green manuring is one that has long roots to pump up the lowest fertility from the subsoil, and has a bulky root, and which will add a large quantity of humus to the soil. Also one that gathers nitrogen from the air.

Clover answers these requirements perfectly, as does the pea, except that it has short roots. Buckwheat and rye, while they will grow on poorer land than clover, and therefore would better go before, do not really have the power of using the free nitrogen of the air, nor do they have long roots, and where clover will grow they are not as desirable.

**Disagreeable Manures for Cereal Crops.**

In summing up the results of experiments covering many years and conducted by Lawes and Gilbert, Dr. Gilbert said: "Easily assimilable nitrogenous manures have generally a striking effect in increasing the growth of grain crops, such as wheat, barley and oats, although these grain crops contain comparatively little nitrogen and take but little of it from the land. The leguminous crops, on the other hand, such as peas, beans, clover and others, although highly nitrogenized, are by no means characteristically benefited by the use of direct nitrogenous manures, such as ammonia salts and nitrates, though nitrates act much more favorably than ammonia salts. It appears indeed that we may say use phosphates for turnips and such like roots, potash for leguminous plants and active nitrogen for grain.

"It may, to say the least, appear to some somewhat surprising that a manure rich in nitrogen should prove best for a crop that contains comparatively little nitrogen, and takes little of that element from the soil. Doubtless most readers will remember that cereal crops are quite unable to gather their nitrogen from any source other than the soil, and that therefore a supply of available nitrogen must be present for their use in the soil, whereas leguminous crops are able to gather all the nitrogen they require from the unlimited source of free nitrogen—for plants are not, as we require supplies of it to be artificially given to the soil.

**Rentable Fences.**

Two neat, attractive fences were described not long ago in American Gardening. The first consisted of two or three strands of wire, with an embankment of earth drawn up closely underneath. If there were any stones in the ridge they were deeply covered. The ridge was well rolled and a wide, shallow ditch lay between it and the track of the roadway, so that all except foot the embankment itself could be readily mowed with a machine. The roadside presents as neat and trim an appearance as any other piece of meadow land, and to judge from indications the yield of hay had been sufficient to pay a very good interest on every dollar invested in fencing the roadside in shape.

The other plan of fence was a plain, rough, board structure, with the ground around it perfectly level and well cultivated. Black cap raspberries grown from directly beneath it were trained to and set among the boards for support, the canes being allowed to grow quite tall and spreading. On a much traveled highway such berries would doubtless be somewhat injured by dust, but this fence was on a quiet road, where little dust arose, and the result was a most readable, with an abundance of really serviceable fruit for family use.

**Relative Values of Yellow and White Corn.**

The advantages claimed for yellow corn are that it is better than white as food for poultry and for stock, and that it more fattening; that it is more prolific. Southern Cultivator says on the subject: "Our own opinion is that varieties of yellow corn generally are richer in oil, but that there is no foundation in fact for the other claims. Some varieties of yellow corn are much later than some varieties of white corn. In other words, we do not believe that there is any constant relation between the color of the ears and its good qualities as a food. Color is largely or not entirely an accident, and indicates no excellence except possibly the quantity or percentage of oil in the germ."

**The Dog for Pork.**

To most readers the importance of the trade dogs for wool must be long, long and far and in prime condition. The short, sharp snap of a snarling mass of hair is emphatically a bad bite. Actually we have seen men, "While it is true there will always be a demand for half bred, the better type should be encouraged in a breed of pigs that will and either a supplement of the market—a attack of fat and lean, which, if fed 6 or 7 months old and a good size half long when thoroughly matured."

**Agricultural Notes and Notes.**

On Colorado ranges sheep are heavily in debt of from $100 to $500 head.

Dr. William Horne determines determining cattle as a health, good practice.

In the Vermont legislature the house has repealed the bill requiring that a dairy has a given weight of pounds.

The report from the wheat belt of the northwest is that winter wheat entered the winter in fairly good condition.

At the Texas state fair 10 per cent of the attendance or exhibitors is reported to have been cotton manufactory for farm or elsewhere.

Mr. J. H. Moore, of Massachusetts, has had fine success in cultivating cucumbers on light gravelly and by the free use of horse and sections of potash.

**Growing Corn in Texas.**

The following paragraph is from The American Agriculturist: "Texas is going to take to feed less in the winter. It is sometimes done successfully, but it proves a failure in 99 per cent of all cases so treated. There is no practical method, and no feeder by which feeding can be made a success or practical." A correspondent in The American Dairy Journal comments thereon the foregoing:

Brother Alex surely does not mean to let the less succeed and because it is winter! I hope he will excuse me when I say you feed your hens any day out of the 365 if they need it, just the same as you would feed your horse, and if you are any beekeeper at all you will be more successful every time rather than let them starve. It may be more difficult to feed hens in the south during winter than it is here, but I assure you that if I lived in the south I would feed my hens if they needed it. But it is best to have the hens alone in winter unless it is actually necessary to disturb them. I feed my hens (some of them) all winter, and I do not lose any of them either, and any one can do the same, for I use no particular means, only see that they get the food. When the weather is warm enough I use a milkpan feeder on top of not I fill a crash and hang it right up to the cluster.


**Bald Heads!**

What is the condition of scurf? Is your hair dry, harsh, brittle? Does it split at the ends? Has it a tendency generally to fall out? Is it a mass of dandruff? Does your scalp itch? Is it full of dandruff? Does your scalp itch? Is it full of dandruff? Does your scalp itch? Is it full