

I generally leave the second rolling till the spring, as the roughened surface helps to shelter the young plants, and the rolling in the spring will not do any harm. In regard to quantity of seed and mixture, I usually sow about 6 lb. of white clover, 3 lb. of red clover, and about a bushel of perennial rye-grass. This combination I have found the best, because if the crop is a failure for seed a return is obtained in grazing to set against the outlay.

As regards fertilizers, this depends principally on the condition of the soil at time of sowing. If the land is in good heart I do not generally sow manure, but I often give a top-dressing of fertilizer to a crop that has been laid down a couple of years. The chief manures I use are either Lawes superphosphate or a manure containing a good percentage of potash—about 2 cwt. to the acre, applied broadcast, and chain-harrowed in the latter part of winter or the early part of spring. A dressing of fertilizer is beneficial also after a heavy crop of clover-seed has been taken off the land. Basic slag seems utterly useless as a manure for white clover.

GRAZING.—CLOSING FOR SEED.—SORREL.

Many farmers graze off their young clover too soon, before the roots get properly established. I generally leave mine four months, and even then stock it lightly if it is required for seed purposes.

I find the best time to close off is about October, although one year I had two sacks of seed to the acre when the crop was closed on the 16th December, but that was in an exceptionally favourable season. For the treatment of old white-clover land extensively grazed I run the grass-mower over the paddock to level any tufts, and give it a stroke of the tine harrows and one stroke with the chain harrows early in the season, if possible before a shower of rain. This causes the plants to grow more vigorously.

Sorrel, which is a nuisance in white clover, is easily overcome if taken at the right time. This is as soon as the sorrel flowers, which is about a week or a fortnight before the clover flowers, with the exception of a few blossoms. My method is to get a big No. 4 McCormick mower, set the back part of the cutter-bar down and the fingers on the upward grade, and use a blunt knife, and then run the machine over the paddock. By this means the sorrel bloom is destroyed without damaging the clover, which will smother the sorrel before it can recover. Care must be taken, however, not to cut too deep into the clover. Farmers who have asked for a remedy for sorrel and tried my method have found it a success every time.