

FERTILIZATION.

The fertilization of clover is a thing that is often overlooked, especially with white clover, which requires insect life to transmit the pollen just as much as red clover or cow-grass. A good plan is to place a few hives of bees in the paddock which is being kept for white-clover seed; the result will be found well worth the trouble. I once had a 10-acre lot of white clover, and put two hives in it in a sheltered position. When the paddock was reaped I divided it into two 5-acre lots and stacked the crop separately. The division next the hives yielded two more sacks of seed than the other, although it was thinnest in the plant. The conclusion from this result is easy to form. Cold, high winds are bad for clover during the fertilizing-period. I have seen during a strong east wind the pollen rising in thin grey clouds like smoke, the after-result being three-quarters of the heads blank. Fortunately, the conditions are rarely as bad as that.

HARVESTING.

Knowledge of the ripening process is of considerable importance to the novice. I have often seen good crops spoiled for want of knowing when to cut. If the crop is grown on the lines indicated it should ripen uniformly. I generally leave my clover till the heads are nut-brown and the stems free from sap, but when the crop gets to that stage it requires careful watching.

After having tried nearly every machine on the market for harvesting, I find an ordinary hay-mower with two seats the best. To this I attach a small home-made platform with a pivoted wheel to take the weight behind. The clover accumulates on the platform, and is pushed off sideways at the necessary intervals. In this way the clover-heads always stand upwards in the heaps, and thus the heaps should never be turned. This machine will cut clover even if the stems are only 2 in. or 3 in. high.

It is preferable to reap clover before rain than before a north-wester. The shower will do the crop no harm, but the nor'wester may. Turning the cut clover during wet weather should be avoided. I never turn, no matter how wet it is; but as soon as the weather takes up for fine lift the seed with a clover-fork on to a dry place. This is more satisfactory, and the crop less liable to scatter about with the wind.

If the weather is moderately good the clover should be left in the fields as long as ever it safely can be. This increases the ease of threshing, and seldom does the seed any harm. Wet weather before cutting is more injurious to the seed than wet weather