

Loburn

In the foothills behind Loburn at Whiterock, Mr. G. Gudex is farming on clay downs, and he is a keen advocate of liming together with good strains of pasture plants. He started a

few years ago with three acres of Montgomery red clover, and he has had several harvests of seed from it. This seed has been used in his pasture mixtures, and some surplus has been sold as certified. His comments on it are

that it is the best type of clover he has come across for his type of soil, and he is willing to show anybody around.

(To be continued.)

—A. S. NASH, Instructor in
Agriculture, Rangiora.

Growing of Blue Lupins

In answer to an inquiry from Onga Onga on the growing of blue lupins on clay land, the Wellington Superintendent of the Fields Division (Mr. C. J. Hamblyn) writes:—

Blue lupins are used more in Canterbury and parts of Southland than elsewhere in New Zealand. A number of farmers in both Southland and Canterbury have grown blue lupins as part of the farm crops for upwards of ten years. The lupins are grown for three purposes: (1) As a green manuring and soil improvement crop on light soils or on heavy clay soils; (2) as a seed crop; (3) as a green fodder crop.

It will be best to give some information on each of these three uses for blue lupins.

(1) *For Green Manuring and Soil Improvement.*—The lupin is an excellent soil improver both when fed off and when ploughed in as a green crop. It will give a satisfactory crop on the more difficult type of soil such as poor clays and light dry soils. The growth in the early stages is very slow, the plants taking three or four months to get going. In the later stages growth is quite rapid as the plants shoot up to flower. For ploughing in the lupin is best left to the full flowering stage, when a drag chain is necessary behind

the plough to help cover the green material.

For green manuring the lupin can be sown both in the spring and the autumn. When partially grown the lupin will stand quite heavy frosts. Sown in the autumn in March and April, the lupin is ready for ploughing-in in the spring. When spring sown in August, September, or October, the lupin can be ploughed under during the summer or early autumn.

The lupin enriches the soil to a considerable extent, particularly in nitrogen and also improves the texture.

For green manuring the seeding should be at the rate of 2-2½ bushels

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