



Subterranean Clover Hay

How 57 Tons of Hay Were Obtained From a 23 Acre Paddock In Canterbury



Subterranean clover is not usually regarded in New Zealand as material for hay, but this article tells how some 57 tons of hay were obtained from a 23-acre paddock in Canterbury.

IN Australia large areas of subterranean clover are cut for hay each year, and experience has shown that this is a very valuable fodder for both cattle and sheep. This product is somewhat rare, however, in New Zealand, and the following details of a very successful subterranean clover hay crop which was cut last year on the farm leased at Kirwee by the Department of Agriculture for the study of hogget mortality will be of interest.

A paddock of 23 acres which had been ploughed out of old grass and sown with rape in 1935 and cropped with oats in 1936 was sown with subterranean clover in 1937, 1½cwt. of superphosphate being applied with the seed. The next year, following a poor germination of clover, the paddock was top-cultivated and sown with grass seed. Grass grub caused damage in 1939, and this, with the dry autumn and late spring, resulted in little feed being obtained.

The picture above is a close-up of the hay just before baling.