



Careful attention to the covering of the stacks pays handsomely.

a controversial subject for many years and is likely to remain so. The fact that it is a controversial subject can, in itself, be regarded as an indication that farmers in various localities secure successful stands of Montgomery red clover by either one or more of the following methods:—

- (a) Sown at the same time as a cereal crop;
- (b) Sown at the same time as a "feeding off" crop (for example, rape, kale);
- (c) Sown in the spring on top of autumn-sown cereal crop;
- (d) Sown without an accompanying crop.

The general consensus of opinion and experience is that, on the whole, sowing with an associated crop is not as satisfactory as is sowing without one.

The sowing of Montgomery red clover with a crop such as rape or kale cannot be recommended because of the punishment the clover receives while the crop is being fed off.

In South Canterbury, where the greatest amount of Montgomery red clover seed is produced, the spring sowing of the clover on top of autumn-sown Cross 7 wheat or oats (preferably Gartons) is a common practice. For successful establishment under these

conditions the land must be free from weeds and in such a condition that a good seed bed can be secured with the use of the roller or the harrows.

In other districts satisfactory stands have been secured by sowing the clover at the same time as spring-sown oats, wheat and linen flax.

The question of sowing clover with an associated crop may be summed up by stating that the practice is satisfactory provided the "cover crop" does not turn into a "smother crop," and provided the clover does not interfere with the harvesting of the cover crop. This latter trouble is liable to occur in the case of late sown wheat. The farmer's past experience with regard to cover crops on his own property should be a valuable guide.

### Time of Sowing

Both autumn and spring sowings are practised in most seed-producing districts with satisfactory results. On the whole, late autumn sowings are not advisable, particularly in districts which experience hard and continuous frosts. Spring sowing, on the other hand, should be late enough to miss the frosts and yet early enough to enable the plants to become thoroughly established before the dry weather sets in.

Another point to be borne in mind is that spring-sown Montgomery red clover will not produce a seed crop in the subsequent autumn, whereas an autumn-sown crop may produce a satisfactory crop in the following autumn.

Other things being equal, early autumn sowing may be recommended, provided experience, has shown that

a seed crop in the following season is possible in the particular district.

Summer sowings are very satisfactory in parts of Otago and Southland where the rainfall is fairly evenly spread.

In Central Otago, autumn sowings are recommended, as spring sowings are likely to fail during the very dry summer months except in isolated localities and on irrigation areas.

### Lime and Fertilisers

On the second class soils which are suited to the production of Montgomery red clover seed experience has shown that the use of lime and phosphate is desirable. Land which has been limed for a previous crop is to be recommended, although in some districts crops establish quite well without lime. Periodical liming in subsequent years should be carried out.

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