

Agricultural College, Michigan, April 8, 1907.

Dear Editor:

The topics covered by the bulletins to be sent you will be of great and immediate importance to your readers. Will you kindly give them space in your columns?

THE DIRECTOR.

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MICHIGAN EXPERIMENT STATION.

Press Bulletin No. 17.

SUCCOTASH AS A SOILING CROP.

In February, 1906, the Experiment Station issued a bulletin written by Prof. R. S. Shaw, on the subject of Succotash as a Soiling Crop. The attention of farmers is called to this bulletin since it suggests various mixtures to be sown early in the spring for use during the summer when the pastures dry up. A weight of forage equal to 12.16 tons per acre was secured from a mixture of grains such as suggested below. Moreover, this weight of forage was secured early in the season, 70 days from the date of sowing. The forage was cut when the oats were badly lodged and the peas in a cooking stage. The mixture sown consisted of oats, peas, rape, clover and corn. The later growth of the clover and rape was fairly good although hindered by the lodging of the first crop. By October first the clover and rape were one foot high.

After the ground had been prepared for seeding a mixture of rape and clover, equal parts, were sown broadcast on the land by hand, using one pint of each to one-third acre. The corn, peas and oats in equal parts, by measure, were then mixed and sown with an ordinary grain drill at the usual depth, which operation covered the rape and clover lightly. The seeding was made on May 1st and the second seeding on another part of the area on May 20th. The second sowing was harvested July 22, 62 days from date of sowing. The amount of green food removed was equal to 12.62 tons per acre. This material showed by analysis, on the fresh basis, 1.70% of protein, 6.28% nitrogen free extract and .5% of fat. This mixture or one similar to it is recommended to those farmers who need some crop to supplement their pastures in July, August or early September.