

The Giddings News

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A New Crop For Lee County

The writer was invited to visit an eight-acre patch of white sweet clover on the farm of Mr. Herman Kriegel near Giddings. There he received the surprise of his life. He saw a solid mass of succulent green clover, the equal of alfalfa for nutriment, from waist high to six feet high.

This was on ground that would not grow even a small crop of cotton or corn, our staple crops. However, to get a stand of clover, and to insure its growing, it is necessary to inoculate the ground with the germ that causes the nitrogen-bearing nodules to grow on the roots. Mr. Kriegel had done this before planting.

This patch of clover cost \$300 to start. This seems like a lot of money, but when you consider how long the clover will re-seed itself, the cost for each year is small.

The clover plant lends itself to complete utility. The flowers, mixed with bees and a little care, yield the most delicious of honey, as the writer can testify. The seed make one of the finest poultry feeds known. The stems and leaves are the equal of alfalfa for hay. But what we see above the ground is only half of the benefits of the crop. The fibrous roots grow to a great depth and loosen up the soil; then they die, rot and enrich the soil. The nitrogen bearing nodules of this leguminous plant gather the most expensive fertilizer from the air and add it to the soil. A crop of white sweet clover on land is the best preparation for a good crop of corn or cotton. Such a crop as this is a boon to farmers on poor land.

J. T. Longley.