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The Cape gooseberry

K.T. Whitely

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Station. In each of these cases the soils affected have a wide distribution. It is expected that the deficiency will be found as far north as New Norcia and extensively along the south coast between Albany and Hopetoun.

Symptoms
Since molybdenum is needed in nitrogen fixation, the symptoms developed by an affected clover plant are those of nitrogen deficiency.
The leaves are uniformly pale green, leaf size is reduced, and the petioles, stems and the backs of the older leaves turn red or pink. The symptoms are very marked in winter but plants often recover in spring. The symptoms are very similar to those seen when plants fail to nodulate, the difference being that with molybdenum shortage the plants have numerous small white nodules.

Treatment
Fortunately the deficiency is easily overcome and a dressing of 2 oz. per acre of molybdenum mixed in with the normal super application will last for 10 years or more.

It is interesting that lime increases the availability of molybdenum but decreases the availability of other trace elements.

In some parts of New Zealand an application of 2 oz. per acre of molybdenum has done away with the need to apply one ton of lime per acre.

Effect of Lime
In areas where lime is reputed to benefit pastures the possibility of molybdenum deficiency occurring should be seriously considered. This could easily be the case in the Bridgetown-Boyup Brook area where molybdenum deficiency is found both on the brown and red brown soils associated with the dissected country and on many of the gravelly soils in the Upper Blackwood area.

If you are farming in the districts I have mentioned and have paddocks which "don't do so well," are "patchy" or on which "clover will not grow" see your local agricultural adviser about your problem or try some molybdenum in a carefully marked strip.

One word of warning in conclusion: If applied repeatedly, molybdenum can quickly build up to levels which are toxic to stock. A second application should not be given unless there is positive evidence that it is needed. Make sure the first application is put on evenly, as it may have to last 10 years.

THE CAPE GOOSEBERRY

By K. T. Whitely, Adviser, Horticultural Division.

THE CAPE GOOSEBERRY — which is quite different from the English Gooseberry — is a popular berry fruit which is in good demand on the local market.

Although it is a perennial of bushy habit it can be very successfully treated as an annual and consequently may be useful for inter-cropping on young orchards, as several annual crops can be harvested without interfering with the development of the young fruit trees.
The Cape gooseberry belongs to the same botanical family as the tomato and the potato, and will grow satisfactorily in soils suitable to these crops.

Soils and Climate
It will thrive only in well drained soils. Land with a gentle slope is most suited for planting for this reason.

On flatter ground sufficient drainage can sometimes be effected by mounding the soil along the rows both before and after planting.

Provided drainage is good and the soil moisture reasonably maintained during the summer, Cape gooseberries succeed in a wide range of soil types, from gravelly loams to heavy loams, but they prefer a sandy loam; in fact an area with a sandy to gravelly loam not subject to late spring or severe early autumn frosts is ideal for the plants.

Light frosts in the autumn may often be an advantage, as the maturity of the crop.
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