

A light harrowing, followed by a light rolling is all that is necessary after sowing.

Weeding

Linseed does not smother weeds as effectively as other straw crops, and consequently the land should be clean to start with.

Harvesting

Linseed ripens somewhat unevenly, but as it will mature in the stook it is cut when the earliest bolls are ready, which is usually when the stems have turned yellow and the lower leaves have fallen. At this stage, the seed in the oldest bolls are bright, plump and uniformly pale-brown in colour. If left too long, the crop loses much by shedding.

It may be cut by hand, or with the reaper or binder provided the knives are kept very sharp and the finger-bar is in good condition.

Small sheaves are made, and these are carted as soon as dry. It is possible to set up loose linseed like stooks, for the plant mats together.

Yield

A crop of 20 cwt. per acre has been grown in this country, but the average is about 10 cwt., with rather less chaff. The straw amounts to 20-30 cwt. per acre.

Threshing

The ordinary threshing drum is used with the finest riddles, and with the concave drum set very close. The straw is unsuitable for feeding; it makes a good bottom for a stack or bullock yard, but it is too wiry and slow in rotting for ordinary litter. As thatch, it is useful for covering clamps, lasting much longer than either wheat or rye straw.

The CHAFF consists largely of leaves and broken seed pods, and may be used in the making of linseed jelly, as described below, or it may be fed to stock in the same way as other grain chaff. Ewes are very fond of it, and it was once very popular

for sheep on roots, but the high fibre content of linseed makes it unsuitable for very young stock, especially lambs. It contains about 3½ per cent. of protein, but because of its high oil content (3-5 per cent.) it should be fed carefully.

The ordinary grist mill with steel rollers, or the oat bruiser, may be used for grinding, but some difficulty occasionally arises in mills using stones through the mill clogging owing to the large amount of oil that is pressed out. Some absorbent material must be added. Chaff, oat husks or previously crushed grain may be used.

Use in Stock Feeding

The following notes deal exclusively with the complete original seed, either crushed or boiled, and without the removal of oil or husk. Although occasionally done, it is wasteful to feed untreated linseed, as a considerable portion of the seeds usually passes through undigested by the animal.

Linseed, once known as the sheet anchor of the stock feeder, is still largely used for animals that are being "finished off," and for imparting a healthy "bloom" or gloss to the coat. A very rich food, linseed is somewhat laxative, although it has a soothing effect on the bowels that makes it especially useful for sick animals.

FATTENING. Linseed can replace beans on the following basis:

2½ lb. linseed will replace 2 lb. beans + 2 lb. dried beet pulp + 2 lb. good oat straw;
or 2 lb. beans + 20 lb. swedes + 1 lb. good oat straw.
3 lb. linseed will replace 2 lb. beans + 2½ lb. barley + 2 lb. good oat straw.

DAIRY COWS. When making up milk-production mixtures containing linseed, it is necessary to balance the linseed with foods that are less rich in starch equivalent but richer in protein than the cereal grains. For this purpose, therefore, the by-products of the cereal grains are very