

**MANURES: THEIR  
RESPECTIVE MERITS,  
FROM AN ECONOMICAL  
POINT OF VIEW**

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Manures: Their Respective Merits, from an Economical Point of View by A. W. Crews

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**A. W. CREWS**

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BY

A. W. CREWS,

Author of "Guano: its Origin, History, and Virtues," &c.



"Science and mechanical improvement have in these days changed the mere practice of cultivating the soil into an industrial pursuit, requiring capital, machinery, industry, skill, and perseverance in the struggle of competition. This is another great change, but we must consider it a great progress, as it demands higher efforts and a higher intelligence."

PRINCE ALBERT.

LONDON:  
HORACE COX,  
"THE FIELD" OFFICE, 346, STRAND, W.C.

1880.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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IN compiling this short treatise, my aim throughout has been directed towards furnishing the reader with the *gist* of each matter placed under his observation; without subjecting him to that unnecessary circumlocution so common with many writers who undertake the manipulation of a work of this kind.

To the practical farmer, I venture to predict, this production will prove of much value, as also to the gentleman amateur agriculturist who is desirous of obtaining every information relative to each species of manure and its fertilising properties in as concise statements as possible.

Passing through such a period of depression as the agricultural community of Great Britain is in at the present time, the farmer is forced to economise as much as judiciousness will permit, and no branch of

his vocation requires more attention, in this respect, than that of "manures;" for, to possess a sound practical knowledge of each class of fertilisers, means a diminution of expenses and an augmentation of his capital.

ST. HELENS,  
Feb., 1880.

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# MANURES:

## THEIR RESPECTIVE MERITS.

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### PART I.

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DEFINITION OF THE WORD "MANURE"—NATURE'S MODES OF APPLYING FERTILISERS—HISTORY—CLASSIFICATION.

THE judicious distribution of manures is of great importance to the practical agriculturist. If he possess a knowledge of their respective properties, he understands what particular class should be employed to produce uncommon efficacious results. We therefore find him applying the peculiar kind wanted, and no other. His ignorant neighbour, on the other hand, undergoes double the expense and labour through utilising *any* species—providing the same comes under the denomination of "manure"—to *any* sort of crop, irrespective of the fact that as the many varieties of plants vary in their constituents, different fertilising compositions are therefore requisite to furnish them with those ingredients so essential to their productiveness. To afford the reader this information is the object of this small work.