AMMONIFICATION IN YAHOLA SOILS

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Ammonification studies have been carried out by many investigators. Such studies may or may not have a great deal of value, yet no doubt they are of certain value in that they show the rate of decomposition of some of the cruder nitrogenous materials. The ammonia produced from this bacterial action is a simpler form of nitrogen and one that comes nearer being usable by plants than the original material, therefore ammonification studies are not without interest. No attempt will be made to review the extensive literature on this subject, although a short review can be had by consulting a previous paper by the writer.

PLAN OF EXPERIMENT

One of the outstanding bottom land soils found in the Red Prairies is known as Yahola. This soil is quite productive as a rule where the water table is not too close to the surface or where it is not subject to too much overflow. It has more or less loose subsoil as a rule, the looseness increasing with depth. The surface soil is heavier than the subsurface, and the subsurface heavier than the subsoil. Overflow conditions no doubt have brought this about. The surface soil is chocolate red as a rule and, as depth increases, the color grows lighter until there is found as a subsoil a light salmon-colored sandy material with increased coarseness. This soil was formed and is being formed from the eroded material from the red lands (Vernon series) of the Red Prairies.

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