Use of Sweetclover for Deep-placement of Phosphorus

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In large areas of Texas, soil moisture is generally a limiting growth factor during part of the season. When the water content of the upper soil zone approaches the critical moisture point, the nutrients within this layer become relatively unavailable to crops. Under these soil conditions, the growing plants must derive their water and nutrients from the subsoil. It seems necessary, therefore, to place the fertilizer in the soil in order to provide desirable nutrition to the plants.

Many soil series in the Texas Blackland Area are calcareous, heavy clay soils. Downward movement of such as phosphate under these soil conditions is negligible (2, 9), and deep placement in the subsoil should

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