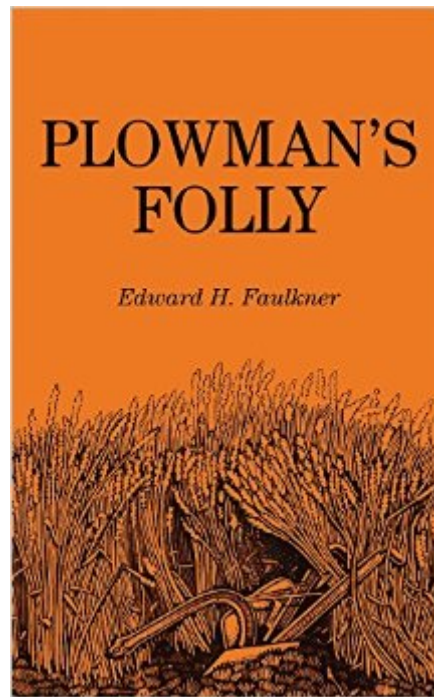


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# Plowman's Folly



## Synopsis

Mr. Faulkner's masterpiece is recognized as the most important challenge to agricultural orthodoxy that has been advanced in this century. Its new philosophy of the soil, based on proven principles and completely opposed to age-old concepts, has had a strong impact upon theories of cultivation around the world. It was on July 5, 1943, when *Plowman's Folly* was first issued, that the author startled a lethargic public, long bemused by the apparently insoluble problem of soil depletion, by saying, simply, "The fact is that no one has ever advanced a scientific reason for plowing." With the key sentence, he opened a new era. For generations, our reasoning about the management of the soil has rested upon the use of the moldboard plow. Mr. Faulkner proved rather conclusively that soil impoverishment, erosion, decreasing crop yields, and many of the adverse effects following droughts or periods of excessive rainfall could be traced directly to the practice of plowing natural fertilizers deep into the soil. Through his own test-plot and field-scale experiments, in which he prepared the soil with a disk harrow, in emulation of nature's way on the forest floor and in the natural meadow, by incorporating green manures into its surface, he transformed ordinary, even inferior, soils into extremely productive, high-yield croplands. Time magazine called this concept "one of the most revolutionary ideas in agriculture history." The volume is being made available again not only because farmers, ranchers, gardeners, and agriculturists demanded it, but also because it details the kind of "revolution" which will aid those searching for the fruits of the earth in the emerging nations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Way back in the day when there was still magic in Radio and Asbestos was GOOD for you, agriculturalist E.H. Faulkner examined standard American agricultural methods (which have changed little since then) with a critical eye. Surprisingly or not (as the case may be), Faulkner found these prevailing methods lacking in efficiency, productivity, long-term viability, and just plain old common sense. "Hey look!", he said (in effect). "Let's examine the NATURAL environment into which plant seeds have fallen and flourished ever since Life came to Earth! Who ripped up the soil with plows back then? If all this ripping up of the soil were really necessary, and was not done, why does plant life survive on Earth to this day? What or who fed the seeds before Humans started meddling with their life cycle? Tractors? Gasoline? Chemical fertilizers and pesticides? Where are the bees, and the earthworms? Then we EAT this abused, blighted, poisoned produce and expect healthy children? HAH! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?" Being a practicing farmer (and no mere theorist), Faulkner then set about devising a sound, sane, Earth-sustaining agricultural cycle and methods to suit. The results of his development work are recorded in his classic account, "Plowmen's Folly". This reviewer, nearly thirty years ago, discovered a rare hardcover First Edition of Plowman's Folly in a health-food store in Fort Wayne, IN. Having access to some land at the time and desiring excellent veggies, but being impoverished and able to afford neither tractor nor chemicals, she set to implementing the Faulkner method.

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