

EXPERIMENTS IN WEEVIL CONTROL

A. W. McLean Of Lumberton Gives His Experiences During Past Year

(From The Robesonian)

Mr. A. W. McLean of Lumberton, who is a successful farmer of long experience, in response to request gives the following experience in raising cotton under boll weevil conditions during the year 1923:

Mr. McLean said that he had conducted careful experiments on his farms near Lumberton, during the present year, for the purpose of ascertaining the best methods of boll weevil control. He then gave somewhat in detail the result of the experiments, referring particularly to cultural methods, including the use of fertilizer. The most important features mentioned by him in connection with cultural methods were the destruction of old cotton stalks in the fall of the previous year, thorough preparation of the seed-bed in the early spring, the use of fertilizer of a particular quality, and the application of nitrate of soda not later than the first ploughing after the cotton was chopped. Another important feature, he said, was the fact that after the cotton was chopped to a stand, he ploughed it twelve times, instead of eight times, which was his custom before the advent of the weevil.

The use of Poison

Discussing the results obtained from the use of poison, Mr. McLean was very emphatic in expressing the opinion that his experiments demonstrated the fact, beyond all controversy, that poison is an important method of control.

Summarizing his experimentation, he stated that he first poisoned the buds in the top of the young cotton, beginning about the 15th of May, when there appeared to be from one

to three weevils in each bud. He used for the purpose a mixture composed of five parts calcium arsenate, one part molasses and two parts water, applying the same with a small mop. For about three weeks very few weevils appeared. When the young squares began to appear, the weevils came again in increased numbers.

About the 15th of June he applied the poison again using for that purpose a home-made five-nozzle spray, spraying five rows at a time. The liquid used in this case was composed of ten parts calcium arsenate, eight of water and two of molasses. Another application of the same kind was applied in the same way about July 1st.

No other application of poison was made until the last week in July, when the weevils began to migrate. The cotton was then so large and the weevils so numerous that the liquid method was abandoned, and ten pounds of calcium arsenate was applied to each acre in the form of dry dust with a Niagara machine. The work was done this time beginning about three o'clock in the morning and ending about eight o'clock, because the dust cannot be effectively applied unless the cotton plants are covered with moisture. A similar amount of calcium arsenate dust was applied about the 15th of August.

A careful account of the cost of the various application of poison was kept, and it was found that the total cost of the material and labor, in claiming the use of the mules, amounted to \$8.60 per acre, for the five applications. There was also an extra cost for the additional ploughing not necessary under normal conditions, which amounted to \$3.20 an acre. After adding a small amount for wear and tear, and some small incidental expenses, the total additional cost made necessary in the effort to combat the boll weevil amounted to approximately \$12.80 per acre.

The experiments were conducted on the best land, with a sandy loam top soil and yellow clay sub-soil, well drained and in a high state of culti-

vation. He used 700 pounds of ten-three-fertilizer and 50 pounds of soda to the acre. The field was divided into three parts. On one part the poison was used as described, and this produced 1,340 pounds of seed cotton per acre. On another part of the same field where the conditions were exactly the same, he used no poison, and obtained a yield of 1,260 pounds of seed cotton per acre. The total value of the additional cotton and seed obtained by the use of poison was approximately \$32.80, and deducting from this the additional expense of \$8.60 per acre, made necessary by the use of poison, there is a differential of \$24 per acre in favor of the poisoning method.

Florida Method

On a third plot in the same field he experimented with the so-called Florida method. In this case all the first squares were removed from the cotton on the 20th of June and one application of calcium arsenate at the rate of six pounds per acre was applied with a hand duster. The cost of picking off the squares was \$4 per acre, and the application of the calcium arsenate cost \$2.80 an acre.

The yield in this case was 1,540 pounds of seed cotton to the acre.

He said that his experiments emphasized the importance of thorough preparation before planting, careful selection of seed and fertilizer used, intensive and prolonged cultivation, the destruction of the early weevils and the fact that there is, up to the present time, no adequate method of control of the weevil, particularly after the migratory period begins.

The fight on the weevil, he said, resolves itself into a race between the farmer and the weevil, the result depending largely upon the ability of the farmer to produce a fair crop of mature bolls before the weevil begins to migrate, for when this takes

Suggestions About How To Prune Apple Trees

Raleigh, N. C. Nov. 30.—This is the time of the year for orchardists to be planning necessary things to be done in the orchard to increase fruit production for next year. Of these, pruning the trees is one thing demanding first attention. R. P. Payne, extension horticulturist for the State College and Department of Agriculture, gives some simple suggestions for pruning the apple trees. He states first that this pruning must be done after the leaves fall and before the buds open in the spring. During this dormant season the tree is bare and it is easier for the operator to see just what he is doing.

Mr. Payne's suggestions about how to prune are as follows:

"The primary object of pruning is for fruit production, therefore the proper amount of wood must be placed, no method now known is reasonably effective.

In considering the results of the experiments, he said that it must be remembered that during the present year, with a dry June and July, the conditions were extremely favorable, not only for the production of a good crop generally, but also for the application of remedies in connection with boll weevil control.

He called attention to the fact that conditions may be, and no doubt would be, entirely different another year.

In conclusion, he said that no effective method of controlling or controlling the boll weevil under ordinary weather conditions has yet been discovered; that poisoning by calcium arsenate and use of cultural methods provide partial control, with the degree of effectiveness varying with the weather and other conditions.

After the tree has reached bearing age, no attempt should be made to shape it as the period of training the tree is the first four years after it is planted. Heavy pruning should never be practiced during the period of fruit production. This practice will throw the tree out of the production of fruit into the production of wood, which is very undesirable.

"In pruning apples, all dead and diseased limbs should be removed, crossing branches should be removed or headed in, closely parallel branches should be taken out, rangy branches should be cut back, and the new growth that is not needed should be removed.

"The ends of the branches should not be stubbed back as this causes an excess of laterals on the branch in the vicinity of the wound, and less sunlight will be admitted. Where a whole branch is to be removed it should be taken back to the parent branch. If the branch is growing too long and it must be headed back, the end should be taken out back to a lateral.

"Moderate dormant pruning is recommended as it gives the proper balance between the carbohydrates, nitrates and moisture which are essential to maximum fruit production. All fruiting wood should be conserved as fruit production is the main object now. Pruning wounds should not be painted or treated in any way as they heal more quickly if left untreated. Stubs should never be left as this will often result in loss of the tree by decay."

which by strict economy might have been saved. Now according to a table recently published in The Progressive Farmer, \$300 a year invested at 6 per cent and compounded would very quickly give any young man a competence, as is illustrated by the following figures showing what this saving would give in five, ten, fifteen, twenty or twenty-five years:

\$300 for 5 years\$1,792.50
\$300 for 10 years\$4,191.60
\$300 for 15 years\$7,401.90
\$300 for 20 years\$11,607.90
\$300 for 25 years\$17,446.80

As will be seen from this table, \$300 a year invested at 6 per cent will give one at the end of twenty-five years \$17,446.80—only \$7,500 of which has been paid in cash; the other \$9,946.80 has been accumulated as interest.

"Remember that when you spend a dollar needlessly now you are throwing away not only the dollar, but also throwing away the interest on that money every year as long as you live. Suppose you would invest your wasted dollar so it would bring in only 5 per cent a year compounded. Very well, before you are an old man, your \$1 would be \$10. Before you are seventy years old (assuming that you are yet in your teens), our \$1 would have become \$14. Or in other words, if you, before you are seventy years old, wasted \$100 that you might have saved, you have wasted what would have become \$1,400 to you in your old age. Or \$1,000 saved now would become \$14,000 in your forties or \$15,000 before you are seventy. Whenever you are tempted to waste a dollar, therefore, remember that you are wasting not only \$1, but the five, ten or fifteen additional dollars which that one dollar would make you if you only gave it a chance—if you let it breed."

—Clarence Poe, in The Progressive Farmer.

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"Every time you spend a dollar, you have not only spent that dollar but all the interest on it for the rest of your life. Suppose that the interest rate where you are is 6 per cent, then every time you spend \$1 now, you have not only spent 100 cents of 1923 money, but you have spent 6 cents of 1924 money, 6 cents of 1925 money, 6 cents of 1926 money—and so on for the rest of your life. Every time you spend \$100 now, you have not only paid out \$100 of 1923 money, but you have paid \$6 of money coming to you, in 1924, \$6 more coming in 1925, \$6 more in 1926, and so on for the rest of your life.

As a matter of fact, the real story is even stronger. For you not only spend the interest for all future years but you spend the interest on that interest you spend the interest on that interest.

The average family probably throws away \$300 a year—\$200 each year

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