

Farm News and Reviews

By
J. R. SAMS, County Agent, and P. C. SQUIRES.

Iceberg Lettuce.

Nearly half of the month has past and all lettuce plants should be in the field and growing. If you have more plants to set, get them out by the last of this week if possible. We are not especially anxious for an extra early market for our lettuce as Iceberg shipments made from the middle to last of May usually find the best market of the season, as you will note by letters published in last week's News from Providence R. I. California, and eastern North Carolina lettuce is about out of the market at that time, which means a light supply, and in marketing the head lettuce crop as in marketing other commodities the great controlling factor in price fixing is supply and demand. Quality and grade always count in making sales—but happy is the sales manager who is so fortunate as to have his goods on the market when such commodity is in light supply.

Sales under such conditions are often followed by boquets from delighted growers. Such kind expressions would be more highly appreciated if they came at a time when an overstocked market and generally unfavorable conditions were trying the very soul of the sales manager, and causing him to sit up nights calculating how he could best serve the grower

whose commodity happened to be in over supply. Usually after such nerve racking conditions the disappointed farmer feels more like shying a brick, or ancient hen fruit to the manager in the place of boquets.

Weather conditions may warrant setting lettuce plants the very first of next week but it is important that the lettuce make close and firm heads before excessive warm weather reaches us. Let us hope for ideal head lettuce conditions as lettuce delights in cool nights, moderately warm days, with sufficient moisture.

Cultivation.

If soil conditions are right begin cultivation as soon as the plants have recovered from the transplanting, and started growing. A small tooth cultivator is the best implement at this early stage, as it allows close working without covering the outer leaves of the young plant. Sometimes cut worms trouble plants in old soils. They can easily be found burrowed in the ground, just under the surface close to the plants cut off the previous night. I hardly look for much cut worm trouble in the field, but its best to be on your guard, and if you discover any considerable damage by worms, mix a dose consisting of calcium arsenate wheat bran and molasses water. Make into pellets and place at

intervals in the rows.

Early Potato Planting

Completing the early potato planting is the next work of importance following Iceberg lettuce. Get your acreage of the certified Cobbler potatoes in the ground as quickly as conditions will permit.

Cut the seed down thru from the seed end, planting one or two eyes to the hill. I have found by experience that one eye planting gives a greater percentage of No. one potatoes at digging time, and the No. ones always sell first and best. Plant only certified seed and let me remind you again that if you are not prepared to pay spot cash for your seed the Federation will supply you with sufficient seed for your acreage and collections for same will be made when the crop is sold. We will also supply insecticides and barrels to the growers on the same liberal terms. For the information of some who fail to understand why certified seed potatoes are different from ordinary field run seed. We will explain that Certified seed potatoes are grown under perfect condition and the tops kept almost entirely free from any and all forms of disease. The growing crop is inspected at frequent intervals by disinterested experts. They also inspect the crop after it is dug to see that none of the potatoes show sign of disease.

The extra cost of certified seed is insignificant compared with the extra yield always obtained from the certified hill selected potatoes. Some growers who have made comparative tests have found that the increase where certified seed was used almost paid the expense of their total acreage. Climate conditions afford Polk County potato growers an advantage over counties north of us, as we should be able with our early planting to sell early shipments north, and later on supply the trade of some of the cities of the extreme South and Cuba in advance of the northern counties. Jacksonville, Tampa, Birmingham are fine markets for the latter part of our potato season, and Cuba is another outlet for western North Carolina Cobblers. With these advantages possessed by Polk County growers every farmer who can give potato proper soil and attention should plant his bit and help swell the carload shipment to these markets.

Roasting Ears

Every farmer must admit that roasting ear corn is the safest money crop on earth and any farmer who lacks the courage to plant this safest of all crops, should dig a hole in one of the clay banks, then crawl in and draw the hole in after him, so we can see just how many red blooded farmers there are left in Polk County. Of course we will plant this crop with the intention of gathering the corn when at the roasting ear stage, but should the market happen to be off at shipping time the corn may be allowed to mature, and may be fed right at home to the farm stock.

The refrigerator car people have already called on the manager and we are assured of the finest kind of iced car service, far superior (if plans mature) to any refrigerator car service the manager has had any thing to do with in other sections of North Carolina where he has been located in co-operative work. As with the potato crop, this matter of planting roasting ear corn should be decided upon quickly as the seed must be secured of growers in Virginia before the supply has been taken up by other parties. Don't delay this matter for a minute, but report to Mr. Sams or at the Federation office how many acres you will plant.

Early Garden Beets

It was suggested when preparing the lettuce beds in the fall that Early Garden Beets might be planted in the beds after the lettuce plants had been removed. The manager will agree to attend to shipping of the crop, so if you care to use your vacant lettuce bed for this purpose it should be planted quickly if you have not already done so. Work some fine well rotted manure, or fertilizer in the soil beds before planting the seed. The rows in beds may be planted 12 to 15 inches apart and the plants when thinned should stand 2 to 3 inches in the rows. Plant seed about 1 inch deep. One kind of seed only should be planted and

you will find it at the Federation. If you will follow these directions closely your beet seed will come up in half the time. Place beet seed in bowl of earthen dish and cover with water hot enough to bare the hand. Allow the seed to soak (in a warm place) for two nights, then drain off the water stir the seed from the bottom of dish two or three times a day until you see the tiny purple sprouts showing. They will then be ready for planting.

By P. C. Squires

Ovid knew.
A field becomes exhausted by constant tillage.—Ovid.

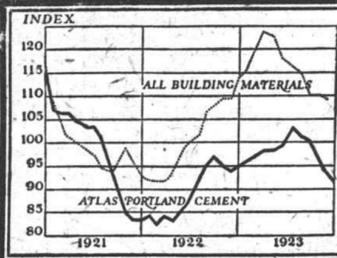
Out of His Element.
Jud Tunkins says with a million-aire runs for office the man who is liable to do is to cause a lot of curiosity as to why a man who could make all that money wasn't smart enough not to pick himself for a statesman.

Which Fork, Please?
When American industry is extended to good manners, the hostess will serve a sheet of instructions with each course.—Akron Beacon-Journal.

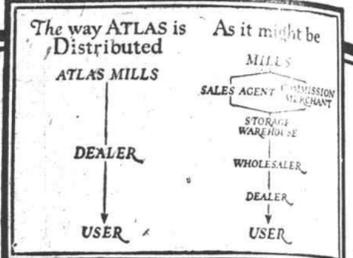
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