



The county agent explains the effect of phosphorus on the development of corn in Cherokee County, S. C.

Pest Control Prescribed for Better Corn Yields

THE corn plant is heir to numerous insect and fungus pests, reasonable control of which is essential to profitable yields. This is true particularly in southern fields, where corn stalk borers, billbugs, budworms, corn ear worms, smuts, and root rots are likely to take heavy toll at various stages of the plant from seedling to maturity. The total damage done to the corn plant by these enemies is enormous.

Remedies suggested by entomologists and found valuable by practical farmers over the South include crop rotation, fall and winter cultivation, soil improvement, seed selection, delay in planting dates, and destruction of diseased stalks—any or all of these practices to meet varied conditions. These control practices are, in the nature of the case, preventive rather than curative.

Advice Summarized

The most important preventive has

to do with the soil-rotation, fertilization, time of plowing, destruction of stubble. The best advice on these points for southern farmers seems to be:

1. It is dangerous to plant corn where corn grew the previous year, or even, for safety sake, in fields adjacent to corn fields of last year.
2. Fall and winter plowing is an important check against corn stalk borers and corn ear worms, and stubble destruction is a further check against the corn stalk borers.
3. Soil improvement and liberal fertilization result in more vigorous plants that are less susceptible to the lesser corn stalk borer injury and root rot infection.

On this third point, important new light has recently come from South Carolina likely to prove important to corn growers everywhere. Experiments by Dr. H. P. Cooper, Experiment Station agronomist, show that coastal plains' soils in the eastern part of South Carolina may have almost complete corn crop failure because of root rot due to potash deficiency. Similar conditions will probably be found in other states.

Planting Dates Important

Planting dates for corn are important to guard against losses from the larger corn stalk borer and the bud worm, especially on land where bud worm damage has been severe. South Carolina entomologists advise delaying corn planting until May 5 for lower, May 12 for middle, and May 19 for upper South Carolina.

U. S. Department of Agriculture entomologists have suggested that planting be delayed for South Georgia and Western Florida until April 20 to May 1; for Central Georgia and southern half of South Carolina May 1 to 10; for North Georgia and northern half of South Carolina and all of North Carolina May 10 to 20. In lowlands of these states they advise no corn planting in April. Alabama is comparable to Georgia and Tennessee is comparable to North Carolina. However, it is wise to learn specific advice from each state agricultural college.

Disease Indications

Two bits of advice on seasonal activity include:

(a) Destruction of corn stalks affected with smut, during summer before smut balls burst.

(b) Planting of an extra allowance of seed to better insure a good stand.

As a long-time precaution field selection will aid in reducing damage by corn ear worm, weevils, and root rots. Long close fitting shuck coverings help prevent ear worm and weevil damage.

Fallen stalks, small stalks, broken earshanks, ears with exposed tips, discolored, moldy, and smutted ears are all indications of disease, and ears from such plants should be rejected.



This is photographic proof that this sow and little have had good feed and proper care, necessary to good hog production.

Hogs are Chief Cash Crop of Young Piedmont Farmer

AN excellent illustration of successful hog production in the Piedmont area, where most farmers pay little attention to commercial hog production, is the experience of a livestock-minded young Newberry county farmer, Warren Abrams, whose chief cash crop is hogs.

So well has this young South Carolinian learned hog farming that Prof. L. V. Starkey, chief of animal husbandry at Clemson College, says he can offer no criticism of Abrams' plans and practices; and so successful are these methods and systems that hog sales from the farm in 1935 reached the total of \$2,200.54 in late November.

The Abrams' farm fertility had been rather depleted with cotton farming. When Warren took charge after his father's death in 1923, he soon decided that under existing conditions a continuation of cotton farming would lose the farm for the family.

Real Money On Farm

A visit from the county farm agent and J. R. Hawkins, extension livestock specialist, stimulated Warren's interest in a few pigs he had and turned him toward hog as a principal cash crop. The result is that in the 10 years, intervening pastures have been developed, a system of fencing has been built, a knowledge of feed production and feeding practices has been acquired, and now cash from hogs is the real money of the farm.

With 12 Poland China grade sows and a purebred sire as his breeding herd, Abrams produces each year over 200 hogs. Some are sold as pigs, most are fed out for the high markets in early Spring and Fall.

As to cash returns, Abrams is more than satisfied—he is sure the farm could not produce the 40 more bales of cotton needed to equal the \$2,200 hog income. With a big feed crop produced in 1935 he will go still higher in hog production this year.

Home-Grown Feeds

Practically all feeds are home-grown. Fifty-six acres of cultivated land are fenced into four connecting fields. One in crimson clover is followed by late corn; two in grain, one cut and the other harvested by hogs; a fourth in corn and soybeans.

Only protein feed is bought—chiefly buttermilk, some fish meal, and a little bone meal for mineral mixture. Fifty acres of corn will supply the needs usually, although if corn fails, the interplanted soybeans will go onto a good crop.

Through livestock and legumes, the farm land is so greatly improved that 13 acres of cotton last year made 10 bales. The cotton crop helps balance the labor scheme, but Abrams says that except for the tenants he would grow no cotton.

The 1935 returns from lespedeza were over \$1,000.

Good farm buildings and equipment are being secured through satisfying cash returns.

Still another important result is the influence toward more hogs among neighboring farmers—from force of example and from good breeding stock secured from the Abrams' farm.

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