



At Raleigh, N. C., present matters of interest to agriculturists.

His Publications Are Free to Those in North Carolina Who Really Desire to Read Them.

January 27, 1904.

No Distribution of Plants, Seeds, etc.

The Experiment Station has no supply of seeds, plants, etc., for general distribution, and correspondents should remember this fact and not write for them. It does not attempt to keep a supply on hand for the reason that it is not in the province of its work to distribute common seeds, and besides there are nurserymen and seedsmen who make it their business to keep these stocks and can fill your orders. Occasionally the Station distributes one or two varieties of new seeds or plants, when they are promising, but unless you see a distinct announcement of this fact, please do not make application to the Station.

The Experiment Station Bulletin.

The standing order is made to send the bulletins of the Station to all in the State who really desire to receive them. Thousands of farmers have already taken advantage of this offer. Unless you really want to be benefited by them, please do not apply for them. If you desire to read them, write on postal card to Dr. H. B. Battle, Director, Raleigh, N. C.

Formulas for Composts and Home-made Mixtures for Cotton and Corn.

- 1. Stable manure, 600 lbs.
Kainit, 200
Acid phosphate, 800
Cotton seed, 400
2. Kainit, 2,000 lbs.
Acid phosphate, 500
Stable manure, 600
Cotton seed meal or fish scrap, 500
3. Kainit or ashes, 2,000 lbs.
Acid phosphate or bone meal, 800
Stable manure with yard scrapings and leaves, 3,000
4. Acid phosphate or bone meal, 500 lbs.
Ashes, 300
Stable manure, 600
Rich earth or yard scrapings, 600

These are given as suggestions. Individual requirements may need somewhat different proportions with a change of ingredients at hand. Composts should be laid down under shelter if possible, and on stiff clay foundation and level so that no leachings may run off. About six weeks before ready to use, put down a layer of stable manure three or four inches thick, then a thinner layer of coal feed (if this is used) then a layer of acid phosphate, and finally a layer of kainit. Each layer should be thoroughly wet after it is put down. Repeat layers until heap is built up three or four feet. Then cover with a layer of dirt or wet earth and prevent leaching from rain. Examine from time to time and wet the heap if there is undue heating. At the time for hauling to the field, the heap should be cut down from top to bottom and mixed thoroughly as possible. When ashes are used it is best not to allow them to come in contact with the stable manure, as there might be some tendency to decompose it.

A dry mixture about equal to the ordinary complete ammoniated fertilizer would be:
Acid phosphate, 1,200 lbs.
Kainit, 400
Cotton seed meal, 600

These can be easily mixed at any time before using; a large, tight box or wagon-body is very suitable. Have two men stand on opposite sides and mix with hoes. If materials are dry, they can be easily and thoroughly mixed at a nominal cost. Do not expose to weather before use. H. B. BATTLE, Director N. C. Experiment Station.

Soy Beans Ought to be Planted.

A correspondent writes: "When is the right time to sow (or plant) soy beans? What kind of soil and how should it be prepared for sowing? How do they compare with black peas as a feed and land improver? By giving this information you will greatly oblige."

The North Carolina Experiment Station will issue in a few days complete analyses of samples taken during the spring and fall seasons of 1903. This will give the standing of the various fertilizers on sale during 1903, together with the comparative value of the various samples taken during the season. These analyses will be printed every two weeks, but will only be sent to those who specially apply for them. One application only is necessary for the whole series of bi-weekly editions. Those who are interested in these fertilizer analyses are advised to make application on postal card to Dr. H. B. Battle, Director, Raleigh, N. C.

QUESTIONS AND REPLIES. The Station will be glad to receive questions on agriculture topics from any one in North Carolina who may desire to ask for information. Address all questions to the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station, Raleigh, N. C. Replies will be written by the Station staff most competent to do so, and, unless of general interest, they will also appear in these columns. The Station expects to be able to enlarge its sphere of usefulness and render immediate assistance to practical farmers.

Notes. In a recent paper in referring to saltpetre as a fertilizer, the writer had in mind Chile saltpetre, or nitrate soda. There is another saltpetre, the nitrate of soda, which is of other origin, and is not a fertilizer. It is a common salt, and is not to be confused with the nitrate of soda. The nitrate of soda is a valuable fertilizer, and is not to be confused with the nitrate of soda.

Change Trees. Will you please furnish me with information about the various other trees at your station? M. W. C. Ellington, N. C. Experiment Station. (Answered by W. F. Massey, Horticulturist, N. C. Experiment Station.)

Lathyrus Sylvester or Flat Pea. The so-called Flat Pea, or Lathyrus Sylvester, is closely related to the Vetches, but is a perennial. The other species of Lathyrus are commonly called vetches, and have little agricultural value. All contain a poisonous alkaloid, but the introduction of the Flat Pea claims to have improved or bred out the poisonous principle. The most extravagant claims have been made for this plant by its introducer. The improved plant originated in Germany.

In the spring of 1900 a small package of Lathyrus seed was received at this station from the English disseminator, about three-fourths of an ounce, which was soon on a trial plot adjoining the plots of Lucerna, Spotted Medick and various clovers. The soil was a gravelly red clay made of red sandstone and was enriched by a heavy dose of complete commercial fertilizer. At the end of one month only a few very feeble Lathyrus plants were alive, and these were soon smothered by the grasses and disappeared wholly. During the same time the neighboring plots of Lucerna, etc., grew fine.

Plants that you suggest of planting in oil barrels and covering with dry packed earth with a covering of straw. The loss resulting from absorption of water and the loss of the atmosphere, exposure, and causes similar.

What are the best clover and grasses for light lands? Are points or cuttings better for light lands or in the fall? (Answered by H. B. Battle, Director, N. C. Experiment Station.)

You will find orchard grass the hardest and most vigorous grass you can use for hay. To thicken the stand and improve the hay, Kentucky blue grass is a favorite, while common red clover flowers near the time of both grasses. These make fine hay, and will grow well if treated to an occasional coat of stable manure. You will hardly make grasses profitable without this manuring. Probably you could get much more clear cash out of annual clover grown in the fall than in the spring in August or any time in the fall when there is likely to be moisture enough to give the little plants a fair start, so that early winter frosts will not pull them out of the ground. This clover will ripen in May. You can feed the straw, and the seed should sell for \$5 or \$6 per bushel.

My experience with chufas is that there has been too small a yield to compare with peanuts, though we have not turned logs on them. Some of our farmer friends have had experience with them and have been beaten by neighbors growing peanuts. They will harvest growing up peanuts for hogs.

The Cultivation of Onions and Irish Potatoes. I have planted in fifty leads of good stable manure in a row, which is 1 1/2 inches deep. With more manure, please give me best time and method of cultivation, also when to plant, and what to do with the best way to grow and cultivate Irish potatoes. (Answered by W. F. Massey, Horticulturist, N. C. Experiment Station.)

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Leave Petersburg, 10.10 a.m. 3. Leave Stony Creek, 10.52 a.m. 4. Leave Jarratts, 11.11 a.m. 4. Leave Belfield, 11.32 a.m. 4. Arrive Weldon, 12.15 p.m. 5.

No. 33, going South, leaves Petersburg 3.15 p. m., arrives at Weldon 9.5

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

Leave Weldon, 1.01 a.m. 3. Le Belfield, 1.10 a.m. 3. Le Jarratts, 1.29 a.m. 3. Le Stony Creek, 1.48 a.m. 3. Arrive Petersburg, 2.32 a.m. 5.

No. 134, going North leaves Weldon by 9.20, arrive at Petersburg 10.5

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