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THE WILLIAMSON PLAN OF CORN CULTURE.

Wonderful Results Obtained from This New Process. The Plan in Detail

The improved method of corn culture was discussed by the Board of Trade at its meeting held January 3, 1907, and the following was ordered to be printed, so as to induce the farmers of the county to fall in line with those who have tried it:

"The most important agricultural discovery ever made in the southern states." So says Prof. Harper, professor of agriculture at Clemson college.

"An amazing discovery destined to revolutionize agriculture in the south." So says Prof. C. Lewis Newman, associate professor of agriculture.

"A success beyond question and too far ahead of existing methods to permit a comparison." So say thousands of farmers from Virginia to Texas, who have tried the plan.

A method that increased the yield of corn from 100 to 800 per cent will certainly work a revolution—not merely a change, but a far-reaching revolution.

E McIver Williamson of Darlington county has evolved a plan for increasing corn yields that has done these things indicated above.

So much has been published about the plan and so many people are talking about it—so much hope rests upon it—that it is necessary to say that the plan has resulted from ten years' careful experimentation. There was no chance in it Parts of the plan had been in use before But as a whole Mr. Williamson has brought it out and while he does not claim it as perfect, nor even yet complete, he does assert and the facts back it up, that the true principle has been found and on this all subsequent development must rest.

IDEA OF STUNTING CORN

This principle rests on the idea of stunting corn. Stunting is the word This may be done on any kind of soil, according to the verdict of the farmers at the recent corn congress in Darlington, although Mr. Williamson himself says that he has no river land and therefore knows nothing of the effect on this kind of soil. Others say that it makes no difference. The principle is the same in every case, although it may be varied according to conditions.

The plan will be described in detail further on in this article. Some of the results as obtained by practical farmers are given herewith, and the testimony was altogher voluntary Any one who has tried to get farmers to talk will recognize how hard it is to get expressions of opinion from them, and these expressions are the more valuable in the light of that fact.

December 13, 1906, a corn congress was held in Darlington, S. C., where quite a number of those who have tried the plan make their report as follows:

R. H. Rogers, one of the staunchest and most conservative farmers on the state was made chairman. Mr. Williamson, originator of the plan explained the object of the meeting, stating that time and money had been spent to bring this plan to a working basis and the world should get the benefit and that all those present should give their experiences. He stated that he had made on one acre this year 101 bushels and 17 quarts. 15,000 stalks on this acre.

J. B Edwards said he averaged 35 bushels to the acre. Did not follow the plan closely. Believes he would have made fifty if he had followed the plan, although extremely wet weather.

E. W. McIntosh made 45 bushels per acre with $6.00 worth of fertilizer.

G. F. Wallace made 90 bushels to the acre with 900 lbs. of fertilizer, after feeding a lot of fowls on it for two months before gathering

Mr. Goodson had made 45 bus. and his land was greatly improved, more than the value of the fertilizer. He was no need to change anything in he plan.

John Rogers said that on 35 acres of and this year he had made 70 bus. to the acre. Said this was the correct way to raise corn. Land had been improved more than value of fertilizer.

David R Coker, an editor, said this discovery was a tremendous thing for the south. No one could form an idea how ugly it looked during the stunting process. A farmer passing Mr. Williamson's field said the corn was the poorest he had ever seen, but four weeks later, said it was the finest thing he ever saw

W. B. McCown said he had made 80 bushels on an average of six acres. He put $13 worth of fertilizer to the acre, and said he would not take $15 per acre for the worth of fertilizer left on the land He formerly made on the same land 10 bushels to the acre. The plan needs no change.

Fred W. Law averaged 40 bushels on 24 acres. Forty acres formerly did not fill his barn although he had used 500 lbs. of fertilizer to the acre.

On 20 acres under this plan, he had made one-third more than on the 40 acres under the old plan. The 20 acres more than filled his barn and he had to build a new one to hold the overflow. This was not a good year for corn and his land was left in better condition.

Wayne G. King averaged sixty bushels on 26 acres.

R S. Grant of Chesterfield county on 40 acres made 76 bushels to the acre. Formerly had made 20 bushels

G. W Abbott, M J. Moody, and others give strong testimony.

TRIED IN OTHER STATES

E D. Smith, of the Southern Cotton Association, says the plan has been tried with success in Texas and the following letter is evidence enough of how it takes in Alabama:

Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 18 06
McIver Williamson, Mont Clare, S C.

Averting to our conversation at Hot Springs, with regard to my request for a sample of corn grown after your method, I now have to say that I find that I can get such a sample near here from a gentleman who was induced to test same. Suffice it to say that the gentleman in question is delighted, and agrees with me in that yours is the most valuable contribution that has been made in many years to Southern agriculture.

I shall push the matter in this state, and expect to see it generally adopted by our farmers.

The gentleman above referred to tells me that he will make from 75 to 80 bushels of corn to the acre after your method, and on land which ordinarily would not make more than 10 to 12 bushels

Very respectfully yours,
W. H. SEYMOUR,
Pres. Ala. Div. C. C. A.

So many thousands have tried the plan in this and other states that it would be a task to collect even the most of the evidence.

It was tried with notable success at Santuc, in Union county, according to the report of R. R and James Jeter and the farmers are going to adopt the plab exclusively next season.

Dr. R R Jeter of Whitmire, Newberry county, vice president and general manager of the Glenn-Lowry Manufacturing comoany, tried it and made the finest corn he ever made, despite a wet year, and not following the plan closely

Capt D J. Griffith, the well known superintendent of the penitentiary, and one of the best farmers on the state, tried 10 acres on his farm in Lexington county. He followed the plan closely as he could, but on account of the excessive rainfall, was not able to apply fertilizer at the proper time. He made 400 bushels on 10 acres. He made on the same land under the old method 15 bushels to the acre with 200 pounds of fertilizer Capt Griffith says he cut the piece describing the Williamson plan out of the paper last spring. He is satisfied that the plan is the true method of cultivating corn; says there is not a bit of doubt about it.

From every quarter of the state, news has been received of the plan being tried and found O K. Nobody doubts it but those who have not tried it.

I made several measurements in the rows on Mr. Williamson's plantation The first 30 feet showed 34 stalks; the second 39, the third 44, and the fourth 36 This makes a rough average of 38 stalks or about eight inches apart This corn would average 65 bushels to the acre,

ENORMOUS ROOT GROWTH

The enormous root growth is marked. A grown man can hardly pull up the stalks now and cannot do so when they are green.

Weighing the cob and the corn shows that 87 50 per cent. is corn, or against 60 per cent of the old method.

One of the notable features is the large, full ear; there are very few fatty ears and nubbing. I noticed this in every pile of corn I saw while in Darlington county. There is as much improvement in the average ear as in the actual amount of corn made.

AS TO MR. WILLIAMS

So solicitous is he that the plan should be exploited for the benefit of the "one-horse" farmer that Mr. Williamson shuns personal notoriety of all kinds. He has made nothing and expects to make nothing by his discovery, which is destined to change the face of the country and almost as a bound make the South indipendent of the world. When the southern farmer is raising his corn and meat, he can fairly well set a price on his cotton and get it

Owing to the interest manifested in the Williamson plan of culture. The Hustler today reproduces in detail the disovery of a Darlington county farmer It follows:

"For a number of years after I began to farm I followed the old time method of putting the fertilizer all under the corn, planting on a level or higher, six by three feet, pushing the plant from the start and making a big stalk, but the ears were few and frequently small. I planted much corn in the spring and bought much more corn the next spring until finally I was driven to the conclusion that corn could not be made on uplands in this section. certainly not by the old method, except at a loss.

"I did not give up however, for I knew that a farmer who did not make his own corn had never succeeded, and never would, so I began to experiment. First, I planted lower, and the yield was better, but the stalk was still too large, so I discontinued altegether the application of fertilizers before planting, and knowing that all crops should be fertilized at some time, I used mixed fertilizer as a side application and applied the more soluble nitrate of soda later being guided in this by the excellent results obtained from its use as a top dresser for oats. Still the yield, though regular, was not large, and the smallness of the stalks now suggested that they should be planted thicker in the drill. This was done the next year with results so satisfactory that I continued from year to year to increase the number of stalks and the fertilizer, with which to sustain them, also to apply nitrate of soda at last plowing, and to lay by early, sowing peas broadcast. This method steadily increased the yield until year before last (1904) with corn 11 inches apart in six-foot rows and $11 worth of fertilizer to the acre. I made 84 bushels average to the acre, several of my best acres making as much as 125 bushels.

"Last year (1905) I followed the same method planting the first week in April 70 acres which had produced the year before 1,000 pounds seed cotton per acre. This land is sandy upland, somewhat rolling. Seasons were very unfavorable, owing to the tremendous rains in May and the dry and extremely hot weather later. From June 12 to July 12 the time when it most needed moisture, there was only five-eights of an inch of rainfall here; yet with $7 91 cost of fertilizer, my yield was 52 bushels per acre. Rows were six feet and corn 16 inches in drill.

"With this method on land that will ordinarily produce 1,000 pounds of seed cotton with 800 pounds of fertilizer. 50 bushels of corn per acre should be made by using 200 pounds of cotton seed meal, 200 pounds of acid phosphate and 400 pounds of kainit mixed, or their equivalent in other fertilizers, and 125 pounds of nitrate of soda, all to be used as side application as directed below.

"On land that will make a bale and one-half of cotton per acre when well fertilized, a hundred bushels of corn should be produced by doubling the amount of fertilizer above, except that 300 pounds of nitrate of soda should be used.

"In each case there should be left on the land in corn stalks, peas, vines and roots, from $12 to $16 worth of fertilizers material per acre, besides the great benefit to the land from so large an amount of vegetable matter. The place of this in the permanent improvement of land can never be taken by commercial fertilizer, for it is absolutely impossible to make lands rich as long as they are lacking in vegetable matter.

"Land should be thoroughly and deeply broken for corn, and this is the time in a system of rotation to deepen the soil. Cotton requires a more compact soil than corn and while a deep soil is essential to its best development, it will not produce as well on loose open land, while corn does best on land thoroughly broken. A deep soil will not only produce more heavily than a shallow soil with good seasons, but it will stand more wet as well as more dry weather.

In preparing for the corn crop, land should be broken broadcast during the winter one-fourth deeper than it has been plowed before, or if much vegetable matter is being turned under, it may be broken one-third deeper. This is as much deepening as land will usually stand in one year and produce well, though it may be continued each year, so long as much dead vegetable matter is being turned under. It may however be subsoiled to any depth by following in bottom of turn plow furrow provided no more of the subsoil than has been directed is turned up. Break with a two horse plow if possible, or better, with disc plow. With the latter cotton stalks or corn stalks as large as we ever make can be turned under without having been chopped, and in pea vines it will not choke or drag. Never plow land when it is wet, if you expect ever to have any use for it again.

"Bed with turn plow in six-foot rows, leaving five inch balk. When ready to plant, break this out with scooter, following in bottom of this furrow deep with Dixie plow, wing taken off. Ridge then on this furrow with same plow still going deep. Run corn planter on this ridge, dropping one grain every five or six inches. Plant early, as soon as frost danger is past, say first seasonable spell after March 15th, in this section. Especially is early planting necessary on very rich lands where stalks cannot otherwise be prevented from growing too large. Give first working with harrow or any plow that will not cover the plant. For second working, use ten or twelve-inch sweep on both sides of corn, which should now be about eight inches high. Thin after this working. It is not necessary that the plants should be left all the same distance apart, if the right number remain to each yard of row.

"Corn should not be worked again until the growth has been so retarded, and the stalk so hardened that it will never grow to large. This is the most difficult point in the whole process. Experience and judgement are required to know just how much the stalk should be stunted, and plenty of nerve is required to hold back your corn when your neighbors, who fertilized at planting time and cultivated rapidly, have corn twice the size of yours. (They are having their fun now. Yours will come at harvest time) The richer the land the more necessary it is that the stunting process should be thoroughly done.

"When you are convinced that your corn has been sufficiently humiliated, you may begin to make the ear. It should now be from 12 to 18 inches high, and look worse than you have ever had any corn to look before.

"Put half your mixed fertilizer (this being the first used at all) in the old sweep furrow on both sides of every other middle, and cover by breaking out this middle with turn plow. About one week later treat the other middle the same way. Within a few days side corn in first middle with 16-inch sweep Put all your nitrate of soda in this furrow, if less than 150 pounds. If more, use one-half of it now. Cover with one furrow of turn plow, then sow peas in this middle broadcast at the rate of at least one bushel to the acre, and finish breaking out.

"In a few days side corn in other middle with some sweep, put balance of nitrate of soda in this furrow, if it has been divided, cover with turn plow sow peas, and break out. This lays by your crop with a good bed and plenty of dirt around your stalk. This should be from June 10 to 20 unless the season is very late, and corn should be hardly bunching for tassel.

"Lay by early. More corn is ruined by late plowing than by lack of plowing. This is when the ear is hurt. Two good rains after laying by should make you a good crop of corn, and it will certainly make with much less rain than if pushed and fertilized in the old way.

"The stalks thus raised are very small, and do not require anything like the moisture even in proportion to size that is necessary for large sappy stalks They may, therefore, be left much thicker in the row. This is no new process It has long been a custom to cut back vines and trees in order to increase the yield and quality of fruit, and so long as you do not hold back your corn, it will go like mine so long went, all to stalk.

"Do not be discouraged by the look of your corn during the process of cultivation. It will yield out of all proportion to its appearance. Large stalks can not make large yields, except with extremely favorable seasons, for they can not stand a lack of moisture. Early applications of manure go to make large stalks, which you do not want, and the plant food is all thus used up before the ear, which you do not want, is made. Tall stalks, not only will not produce well themselves but will not allow you to make the pea vines, so neccessary to the improvement of land. Corn raised by this method should never grow over seven and a half feet high, and the ear should be near to the ground.

"I consider the final application of nitrate of soda an essential point in this ear-making process. It should always be applied at last plowing and unmixed with other fertilizers.

"I am satisfied with one ear to the stalk, unless a prolific variety is planted, and leave a hundred stalks for every bushel that I expect to make. I find the six foot row easiest to cultivate without injuring the corn. For 50 bushels to the acre, I leave 16 inches apart for 75 bushels to the acre, 12 inches apart, and for 100 bushels to the acre eight inches apart. Corn should be planted from four to six inches below the level, and laid by from four to 6 inches above. No hoeing should be necessary, and middles may be kept clean until time to break out, by using harrow or by running one shovel furrow in center of middle and bedding on that, with one or more rounds of turn plow.

"I would advise only a few acres tried by this method the first year, or until you are familiar with its application.

Especially, it is hard at first to fully carry out the stunting process, where a whole crop is involved, and this is the absolutely essential part of the process.

This method I have applied or seen applied, successfully, to all kinds of land in this section except wet lands and moist bottoms, and I am confident it can be made of great benefit throughout the entire South.

In the Middle West, where corn is so prolific and profitable, and where, unfortunately for us, so much of ours has been produced, the stalk does not naturally grow large. As we come south its size increases, at the expense of the ear until in Cuba and Mexico it is nearly all stalk (witness Mexican varieties.)

The purpose of this method is to eliminate this tendency of corn to overgrowth at the expense of yield in this Southern climate.

By this method I have made my corn crop more profitable than my cotton crop, and my neighbors and friends who have adopted it, have without exception derived great benefit therefrom.

Plant your own seed. I would not advise a change of seed and method the same year, as you will not then know from which you have derived the benefit. I have used three varieties, and all have done well. I have never used this method for late planting. In fact I do not advise the late planting of corn, unless it be necessary for cold low lands.

"The increased cost of labor and the high price of all material and land are rapidly making farming unprofitable, except to those who are getting from one acre what they formerly got from two We must make our lands richer by plowing deep, planting peas and other legumes, manuring them with acid phosphate and potash, which are relatively cheap and returning to the soil the resultant vegetable matters rich in humus and expensive nitrogen. The needs of our soil are such that the South can never reap the full measure of prosperity that should be hers until this is done.

I give this method as a farmer to the farmers of the South, trusting that thereby they may be benefited as I have been

CONGRESSMAN GUDGER ILL

Washington, Jan. 5.

Hon. Clement Manley of Winston-Salem who came here to investigate the Blackburn matter for Governor Glenn has gone to New York, and no step is likely to be taken until he returns to the state when he will explain to the governor the result of his investigations.

Congressman-elect Crawford of the Tenth District is here and will remain several days. He had a pleasant talk with Speaker Cannon. "Uncle Joe" confided to Mr. Crawford that he would have to cut out a lot of "those damned dinners," as midnight lobsters do not seem to agree with him any more.

Blackburn is here and refers all newspaper men to his attorney.

Asheville, Jan. 5.

Asheville friends and relatives of Congressman J. M. Gudger, Jr., are uneasy about the representative from the Tenth District. When Congress adjourned for the holidays Mr. Gudger and family went to New York to spend the season with Mr. Gudger's son, Emmet Gudger, in the naval service there.