

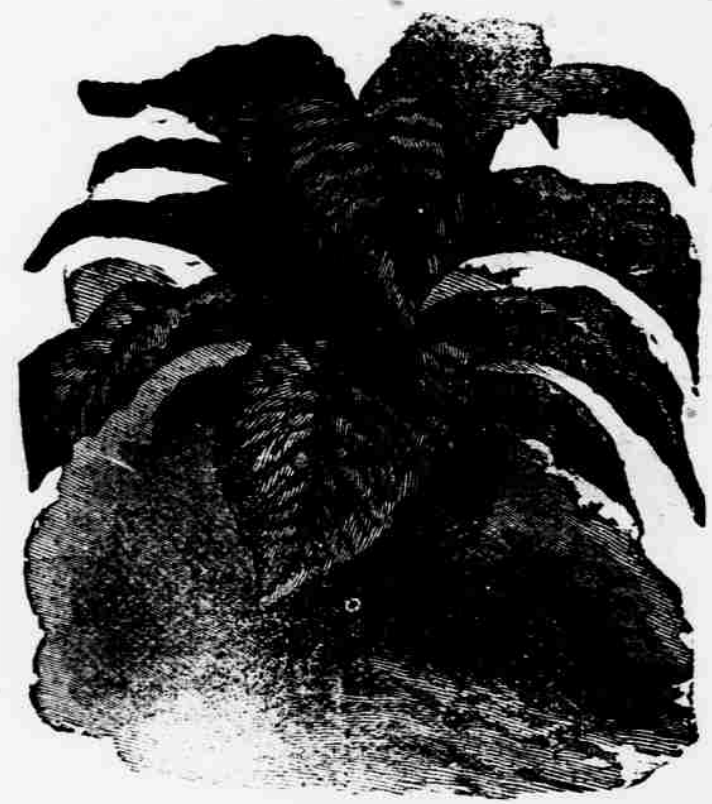
TOBACCO CULTURE.

Valuable Treatise on the Subject by one Who Knows.

How to Prepare the Plant Bed and Cultivate and Manage this Greatest of all Money Crops to the Farmer--A Paper of Interest to New Beginners.



ONE ENJOYS Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.



son to transplant, should the plants begin to parch from drought, the bed should be well watered and again covered with green boughs laid upon a scaffolding two or three feet above the growing plants. I have never known this protection to fail even in the severest drought. But after a rain this shelter should be removed in order to accustom the plants to the heat of the sun.

SELECTION AND PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

A soft, deep, sandy soil is preferable, which before planting should be always put in the finest tilth, it being an adage with good farmers that a "crop properly planted is half worked."

liberal hand. Stable or barn yard manure is every way the best, but when not to be had in sufficient quality, must be substituted by some good commercial fertilizer, of which there are countless varieties upon the market possessing more or less merit.

PLANTING.

The tobacco plant requires usually 100 days from the time it is transplanted to grow and ripen properly. To secure the best results, therefore, the planting should not be earlier than the 10th of May, and if possible later than the 20th of June.

its growth does it no harm, but is beneficial rather in keeping the lower leaves from being sanded. But to the eye of the genuine farmer it is unsightly, and is disadvantageous if a wheat crop is to follow--it had better be kept down to the last.

TOPPING.

In topping tobacco the end aimed at is to secure the greatest weight consistent with the desired texture, color and body of the leaf, which last means its toughness, oiliness and sweet flavor.

it is always to be found near the hole it has made in the leaf. But if it is neglected in its youth and allowed to grow until it begins to change its positions upon the plant, it is harder to catch, and it then becomes important to know something of its habits in order to hunt it successfully.

SUCCESSOR.

As soon as the plant is topped, it begins to put forth succors at every leaf, but more rapidly at the top, each plant bearing two and only two crops of them.

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The Genus of Henderson--The Plant that has been the Making of the Town.

[By Capt. R. B. Davis, of Hickory, N. C.] PREPARATION AND CARE OF PLANT BEDS.

To the planter an early and abundant supply of tobacco plants is the thing of prime importance. To secure this the seed may be sown at any time between the 15th of December and the 15th of March, the earlier the better, and allowing 100 square yards of seed-bed to every 10,000 plants that will be needed.

The ground selected for this purpose should be virgin soil, of sandy texture, rich and moist, with full exposure to the sun, but sheltered to the North and West by rising ground or growing timber, against the cold wind of early spring.

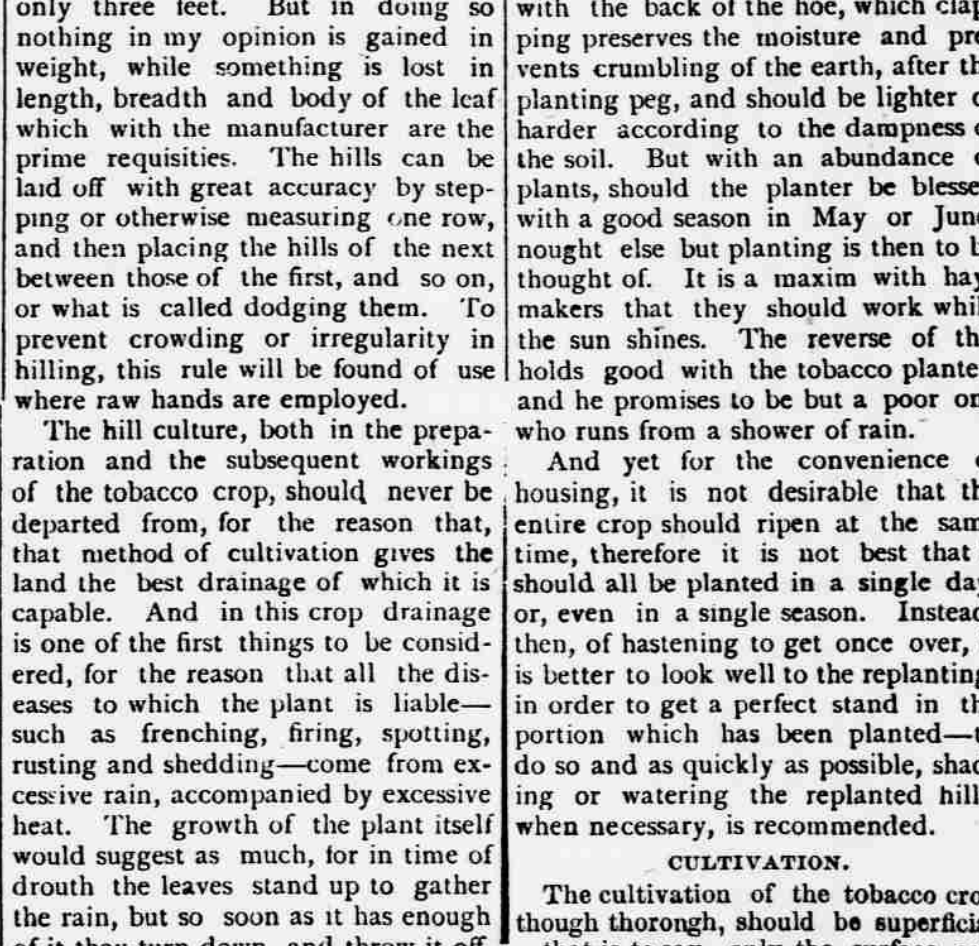
The ground having been well chosen, the next thing is to rake it cleanly and then burn it thoroughly so as to kill all germs of vegetation. The burning can be done at a single blast, it done with dry brush, heaped upon the entire bed a height of some four feet.

A better but costlier method is to burn with wood laid upon green poles, which serve the purpose of ventilation, which case the wood should be piled the whole length of the bed, and of convenient width, say six feet, and after the pile has been well kindled, it should be allowed to burn some two hours, or until the poles underneath are burnt up.

The bed is now ready for seeding. The variety of seed recommended is Yellow Orinoco. The quality sown should be one and a half table-spoonfuls to every 100 square yards. Great care should be taken to sow the seed as regularly as possible, so as to prevent some spots from being too thin, and after the pile has been well kindled, it should be allowed to burn some two hours, or until the poles underneath are burnt up.

For the three fold purpose of warmth, moisture and fertility, the bed should now be top dressed with a covering half an inch thick of good stable manure broken fine, the fresher the better, but in any case free of grass-seed.

Map of the Famous Yellow Tobacco District Tributary to the Henderson Market.



Map of the Famous Yellow Tobacco District Tributary to the Henderson Market.

Note.--Since this map was made a railroad has been built from Henderson to Durham, while a number of country roads have been opened throughout the county.--Edron.

to make the fence bug proof. Such a fence or cold frame does the additional good of keeping the bed warmer and moister and should never be omitted.

Ordinarily and after early seeding the plants will begin to show themselves about the first of March, at which time an additional half table-spoonful of seed for every 100 square yards, should be sown as at first.

When the plants have covered the hills--say a breadth of twelve inches--they should be worked thoroughly with both plow and hoe. This plowing should be with bull-tongue or shovel, using short single-trees, and running it close to the plants, and throwing out the row with four or five furrows.

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WORMS.

There are three varieties of the worm which prey upon tobacco plants--the cut-worm, the bud-worm and the horn-worm. Of these the first selects as the point of its attack the stalk of the young plant, and is but the ordinary earth-worm of our gardens, and is best gotten rid of by early weeding.

This is as common a variety, making its appearance about the time the plant is coming into top, and feeds upon the bud, cutting it into minute holes which enlarge with the growing leaf. It is found in greatest numbers upon new ground tobacco showing that the woods are the habitat of the parent fly.

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Against the ravages of the horn-worm there is no remedy short of extermination. A partial preventive is to destroy the fly by distilling a solution of Paris green or of colalt into the flowers of the Jamestown weed.

Another device is to place in the tobacco field, at night, lanterns set in pans filled with some viscid matter, such as coal-tar or molasses. I have found that to throw the crop as much as possible into a single field is some safeguard, and a better one still is to plant it forward as rapidly as possible, for the reason that in August when the fly is doing most mischief, it selects only young and tender plants, and will even choose other vegetation rather than ripe or ripening tobacco upon which the newly hatched worm will not thrive and can hardly exist.

At every stage of the crop a first-class outlook should be kept upon the horn worm, but after the first of August the entire crop must be worked over once a week, using whatever extra labor is needed for the purpose, or otherwise the planter is overcropped.