

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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Each of the above-named papers are sent to keep the list standing on the page and add others, provided the price is paid. Any paper failed to appear on the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our aim is to have what papers are read in their interest.

### CROP REPORTS.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
In order to make it an object for the best class of men to engage in making returns to the government of the crop yields of this country, Secretary Morton has re-arranged the system of crop reporting. Formerly there was a State agent for each State whose salary ranged from \$400 to \$720 per year, and it is the Secretary's opinion that one man can gather these statistics from two or three States, arranged and classified as districts, equally as well as he can from one State, and that by concentrating the work in this way the department will be able to offer better compensation for the services performed and at the same time reduce the total expenditure.

The present system of counting the reports will also be abolished and one substituted which provides for a correspondent in every township and the two systems will be combined, or rather each will act as a check on the other. Some of the State agents will be retained, where the crop yields are sufficiently large to require the attention of the agent to one State alone.

The country will be divided into 21 districts, 14 of which will be composed of groups of States and seven will comprise single States. The following is a list of the districts as they have been arranged, together with the names of the agents as recently appointed by Secretary Morton:

New England States—Prof. A. L. Perry, Massachusetts.  
New York and Pennsylvania—S. S. Neely, Pennsylvania.

New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland—Nathan Pratt, Delaware.  
Virginia and West Virginia—Prof. L. M. McByde, Virginia.

North Carolina and South Carolina—W. A. Withers, North Carolina.  
Georgia and Florida—Ex Gov. W. J. Northen, Georgia.

Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana—James H. Lane, Alabama.  
Wisconsin and Minnesota—L. M. Fay, Wisconsin.

Tennessee and Kentucky—Cooper D. Schmidt, Tennessee.  
California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho—Elwin E. Smith, California.

Kansas and Missouri—Harry O. Garvey, Kansas.  
Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico—Frank E. Carstaphen, Colorado.

Michigan—M. E. Marsh.  
Ohio—L. P. Stephens.  
Indiana—Washington C. Duncan.  
Illinois—Frank V. Dilatash.  
Iowa—S. R. Davis.

Texas—Allen Blacker.  
Nebraska—Ex-Gov. R. Robt. Furnas.  
The Secretary has not yet selected the agent for two districts, one comprising North and South Dakota and Montana, and the other comprising Arkansas, Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. These will be announced later.

As can be seen, the new plan makes this office of district agent, average a salary of \$1,000 per year, and it is believed this will insure better reports, and will, at the same time be a saving to the government, in the aggregate, of about \$10,000 annually.

There were formerly 45 agents, and while the reduction to 21 displaces 23 men, still it increases the salary of those now employed, condenses the work, and lessens the expense to the government, and in the long run will no doubt prove a great improvement over the old system of State agents.

### TURNING UNDER GREEN CROPS

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

PROSPERITY, N. C.  
Having been requested by Mr. A. M. Hunter, of Lexington, N. C., to give my views on the above subject, through your columns, I request a brief space for said purpose.

Turning under green crops will be productive of much benefit or injury to the land, owing mainly to the time and manner in which it is done.

The authorities appear to be united on the subject that a green crop, be it clover, peas, weeds, or what not, should be ripe when turned. If turned too green they sour the land, especially if the weather be warm, requiring water slacked lime at the rate of about 30 bushels per acre to correct it. Hence it follows that if the lime be not applied, an injury will be done the land so treated.

To make the matter plainer, I will cite a few cases: Jerome Person, an excellent farmer living near Carthage, N. C., says that a few years ago he

## Goldbugdom,

Is the title of a series of articles which commenced in **The Progressive Farmer**

Last week. These articles are written by Editor J. L. Ramsey, who is now travelling through the

### NORTH AND EAST

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turned under the weeds on a portion of a field while green. The residue of a field was not turned until toward fall, the weeds being ripe and hard like sticks. About this time one of the neighbors came along and said to him "you will not make wheat here, you are too late about turning the weeds." But Mr. Person says that he could tell to the very row where the weeds were last turned, the wheat being much better, although the land first turned was richer than the last. So the story of his neighbor was not correct, and many farmers are doubtless to day injuring, instead of improving, their land by following similar erroneous ideas.

Green crops, properly matured and turned, return to the soil far more than is taken from it, and it is owing to this fact that farmers should in the future rely on turning green crops to enrich their lands. As an illustration, I cite the following:

Two brothers out West opened up farms on lands that their first crop of corn would not average 8 bushels per acre; next spring they sowed to oats and clover, and when the first crop of clover had about half of its heads ripe they plowd under and put the land in wheat; and ever after they raised a crop on a sod, being the first crop of clover turned under, and in twenty years this land was good for 60 bushels of corn per acre.

If about 300 pounds each of acid phosphate and kainit per acre had been applied to the first crop and turned under, the land could have been enriched much sooner. It has been several times set forth, but will bear repeating, why it is that turning green crops increases the fertility so amazingly: During the period of decomposition the oxygen of the air, or of rain water, combines with the carbon in the decaying plants and forms carbonic acid gas, which has great fertilizing properties. The furrows should be run as nearly level as the land will admit of to prevent the escape of the gas, it being heavier than common air.

—————  
BRYAN TYSON  
A Louisiana subscriber who has lived South two or three years, writes that he is getting rich feeding hogs. There is plenty of room for pork production in the South.

### CRIMSON CLOVER.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.  
Crimson clover was introduced in this country several years ago by the late Dr. Hardia. Being a great lover of flowers, he was attracted to this plant by its great beauty, which is hardly excelled by the finest flower that adorns yard or garden. The beautiful deep green, which may be seen all winter, grows deeper and brighter as spring advances until May, when the flowers appear, making a sight to behold, and remember. At first its value as a forage plant was not understood, and as a soil restorer was unknown, and the progress of the plant at first was rather slow. Every one admired its great beauty, and numerous plots were grown for ornamental purposes, but years elapsed before farmers awoke to its value as a regular rotation crop. It has now passed the experimental point and large fields of crimson clover are grown it all parts of the land. It is good for hay, which it yields 2 to 3 tons per acre of the finest quality; is valuable, for seed, which it produces in large quantity; is good for fall and early spring pasture, and the only clover that remains green all through

the winter, and its greatest value is in its ability to store up plant food, and at the same time send down deep feeding roots in the subsoil and bring to the surface elements of fertility that would be otherwise lost. Crimson clover is an annual, and must be sown in its proper season; this extends from the first of August until the last of October; 8 to 10 quarts of seed are required to sow an acre. If any of the readers of **THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER** would like to test a sample of crimson clover seed, I will send a package by mail for a couple of stamps for postage.

### THE ENSILAGE CROP.

How to Handle the Crop—Distributing Device—The Best Covering.

For success it is necessary to have quite a good crop, preferably corn cut at the right time, and a tight silo. When practicable have the ensilage grown as near the silo as possible, so as to reduce the hauling to a minimum. We will suppose that the crop is grown on land within 50 rods of the silo, and that the corn has reached the stage when the husks begin to turn yellow and the grain is denting, while most of the leaves are yet green and juicy. When this stage is reached, the crop should be cut. The cutting may be done by hand, but it is slow, laborious and costly. There are a multitude of corn cutters on the market, all of which are more or less serviceable. Of a number that have been tried at the Kansas station nothing better has been found than a sled cutter with two knives hinged, one to each side of the sled, so as to cut two rows at a time. This machine is pulled by one horse. Two stout boys or young men stand upon the sled, each facing a row of corn, which as the horse moves forward, is cut off and gathered into the arms of the operators, who drop it in bunches behind them. The reins can hang within easy reach upon an upright forked stick in front of the sled, but the horse will soon learn to start and stop without guidance from the reins. In a fair crop two hands on this cutter can easily keep ahead of three wagons hauling it to the silo and help load at intervals.

The next step is the loading. For this purpose the wagons should be provided with low, broad racks, on which the corn is piled crossways. Two men can handle the bunches left by the cutter up to the driver on the rack about as fast as he can pile them. The number of teams engaged in hauling should be adjusted to the distance and the capacity of the ensilage cutter. For the distance named and with a small machine it takes two teams and three wagons to keep things running smoothly. One wagon is left at the cutter to be unloaded, the team being at once hitched to the wagon just emptied and goes off to field again, while the third wagon will have finished loading by the time the team returns to the field.

At the cutter it takes one man to unload and one man to feed. The man who unloads drops it handy for the feeder upon the table set against the cutter. Reference is here made to a small machine such as average farmers require. Such a cutter, with average steady running, can cut about two tons of green corn an hour. It is provided with an elevator attachment, which lifts the cut material over the silo walls. It may be run by steam, electricity or horsepower. The whole force necessary then, is two men to cut, two to load, two to drive, one to unload and

one to feed. If green and juicy, the weight of the ensilage is so very great that it will firm itself about as well without tramping, but some device is necessary to distribute it well in the silo. A sack filled with chaff, straw or a similar light bulky material should be hung so that the stream of silage from the elevator is discharged upon it. This will scatter it to the sides of the silo instead of dumping it in a heap in the middle. It is not necessary to salt the silage.

Lastly, it is poor economy to use a silo that is not tight. Whenever the air gains access to the walls the silage will spoil. When the silo is full, a layer of green grass is the best covering, and to compact this layer it is well to put a few loads of earth on top. This is the plan that has been adopted with success at the Kansas station and reported to the *Prairie Farmer*. As it is of general interest it is here reproduced for the benefit of readers in many sections of the country.

### WEEKLY WEATHER CROP BULLETIN

For the Week Ending Monday, Aug 31, 1895.

CENTRAL OFFICE, Raleigh, N. C.

The reports of correspondents of the *Weekly Weather Crop Bulletin*, issued by the North Carolina State Weather Service, for the week ending Saturday, Aug. 31, 1895, indicate another very favorable week. The temperature was above normal the entire week, averaging about five degrees above per day in the Central District; the maximum temperature reached 93 degrees, which is as high as has before occurred in the last decade in August. There was abundant sunshine. The rainfall was below normal, but showers occurred at various places from the 27th to 31st. Cotton has improved, is opening now in several counties, and picking will begin the first week of September. Tobacco crops are bright. Pea vines are making heavy growth. Fodder pulling, preparation of land for wheat and sowing oats have progressed favorably.

**Eastern District.**—Nearly all correspondents from this district report the weather to have been very favorable during the week. The temperature was high; there was plenty of sunshine; there were good showers nearly everywhere on the 27th and 30th. Some light hail occurred, but no damage is reported. Saving fodder was probably the chief work of the week, and the weather was as favorable for this as could have been wished. The week was a fine one for cotton, and the crop has steadily improved; cotton is opening in some places. Tobacco growers have been quite successful with their cures. Peanuts have needed more rain and have suffered some on account of the rather dry weather.

**Central District.**—A very warm, generally favorable week, except at a very few scattered localities where it was either too wet or too dry. In the northern portion it has been too dry for turnips and for second crop of Irish potatoes and late gardens. In general, the week was very favorable for saving fodder, which is nearly over in the south, and for plowing and seeding oats. Tobacco maturing on the hills and curings are bright. Peavines making large growth of foliage. Cotton is now opening in several counties and picking will begin first week of September.

**Western District.**—The week was warm, with occasional showers. Heavy rains occurred at a few places. In Yancey county a severe storm of wind, rain and hail occurred first of the week, prostrating many trees and doing considerable damage. Cotton is reported to be improving; the weather has been reasonable for this crop. Peas and turnips are doing well. Fodder-pulling is going on pretty generally. Land is being broken and prepared for wheat. The early corn crop is now generally considered safe, except in places liable to overflow from streams.

### HORTICULTURE

#### INSECTICIDES.

If the reader would cut out these recipes for the preparation of insecticides he would find them of great utility: Ammoniacal Copper Carb-nate.—Copper carbonate, one ounce; ammonia, enough to dissolve the copper; water, six gallons. The copper carbonate is best dissolved in large bottles, where it will keep indefinitely, and it should be diluted with water as required. For same purpose as Bordeaux. Copper Sulphate Solution.—Copper sulphate, one pound; water, 15 gallons.

Dissolve the copper sulphate in the water, when it is ready for use. This should never be applied to foliage, but must be used before the buds break. For peaches and nectarines use 25 gallons of water for fungous diseases.

**Paris Green.**—Paris green, one pound; water, 250 gallons. If this mixture is to be used upon peach trees, one pound quicklime should be added. Repeated applications will injure most foliage unless lime is added. Paris green and Bordeaux can be applied together with perfect safety. The action of neither is weakened, and the Paris green loses all caustic properties. For insects which chew.

**London Purple.**—This is used in the same proportion as Paris green, but as it is more caustic it should be applied with the lime or with the Bordeaux mixture. Do not use it on peach or plum trees. For insects which chew.

**Hellebore.**—Fresh white hellebore, one ounce; water, three gallons. Apply when thoroughly mixed. For insects which chew.

**Kerosene Emulsion.**—Hard soap, one-half pound; boiling water, one gallon; kerosene, two gallons. Dissolve the soap in the water, add the kerosene, and churn with a pump for five or 10 minutes. Dilute 10 or 15 times before applying. For insects which suck, cabbage worms, and all insects which have soft bodies.

**Bordeaux Mixture.**—Copper sulphate, six pounds; quicklime, four pounds; water, forty gallons. Dissolve the copper sulphate by putting it in a bag of coarse cloth and banging the same in a vessel holding at least four gallons, so that it is just covered by water. Use an earthen or wooden vessel. Slack the lime in an equal amount of water. Then mix the two and add enough water to make 40 gallons. It is then ready for immediate use. For rots, moulds, mildews and all fungous diseases.

### INSECT TRAPS.

Having found out an easy method in which to trap insects, I wish to teach others. It is easily done by suspending in the garden wide-mouthed bottles or jars, half filled with thin molasses or very sweet water. I have tested the efficacy of the insect trap, and have found it all that can be desired for trapping the butterflies, moths, millers and beetles of every species of insects that infect fruit trees and vines, vegetables and flowers. The worms on grape vines, worms on tobacco, on tomatoes and Irish potatoes, can readily be trapped in this way. Every fruit tree, every evergreen and deciduous tree, every berry bush and fruit bearing vine, and every vegetable cultivated in the garden is attacked by a species of noxious insect which flourish only where their appropriate species of trees or fruit is cultivated; and strange to say, every one of these foes spring from parent insects in the form of butterflies, moth, millers, beetles or bugs, every species of which will hazard life for the sake of getting a taste of the contents of the bottle. You will readily find that in this way the insect ravagers can be most successfully fought.—E. J. Rayburn, Coffeeville, Miss.

### A WORD ABOUT ONION SETS

The seed is sown early in the summer, either broadcast or in rows, and so thick that the onions have no room to grow large. Gather the little bulbs in the fall, leaving the outer husk undisturbed, and keep in a dry place. A woman who was particularly successful in raising onion sets for market always kept them where they froze in the winter, but under no consideration would she allow them to be disturbed until thawed out lest it should set them to rotting. I dare say freezing was no advantage, but state this to show that under the restrictions indicated it was seemingly not a disadvantage. When the weather became warm she rubbed off the loose, dry outer covering, and her onion sets were bright and ready for market.

There are two other ways of growing onions save direct from seed. The potato onion grows in clusters under ground. These little bulbs are planted in spring to produce large onions; the large onions are planted in the next spring, and instead of ordinary seed, clusters of little onions on top of the stem. These may be planted in spring like onion sets. The old root is a perennial, and besides increasing by top onions, also sends out new bulbets at the root. A bed of this species once established will remain year after year, furnishing onions for the table earlier than any other kind.—Bessie L. Putnam, in *Epitomist*.