WEEKLY DIGEST

Of Experiment Station Bulletins.

CORN CULTURE.

Bulletin 46, of Illinois Station, 64 of Kansas Station, and 46 of Maryland Station detail experiments in corn culture.

At the Illinois Station some plats were cultivated 1 inch deep, others 2 inches, others 3, and so on up to 6 inches deep, and others were not cultivated at all, but had all grass and weeds pulled out by hand, and others still were mulched 6 inches deep with straw and received no cultivation or weeding. The mulched plats yielded an average of 94 bushels per acre; those uncultivated but hand weeded, 87 bushels; those cultivated 3 inches deep and those 6 inches deep, gave the same yield—86 bushels per acre; those cultivated 1 inch deep yielded 85 bushels; those 4 inches deep, 83 bushels; and those plowed with a shovel plow, 81 bushels. In previous years tests at that station, shallow cultivation has always given best results, but 96 was a year of abundant rainfall, and little cultivation was necessary except to keep down weeds.

In variety tests, of 18 varieties, Boone County White stood first, Leaming second, and Legal Tender third, yielding 107½, 107, and 97 bushels per acre, respectively.

At the Kansas Station, corn planted the last of April and first week of May, has done better for several years than that planted earlier. The number of cultivations giving best results depends on soil, climate and season. In 1896, which was almost an ideal corn season, 4 cultivations gave better results at the Kansas Station than fewer or more and the same was true in '95. At that Station, corn planted in listing furrows has given better results than that planted on surface plowed land, and as to method of cultivating, where the first two plowings given before the roots had extended into the middles were deep and the last two shallow, larger yields were obtained than from all shallow or all deep cultivation. In both '95 and '96 corn was grown on plats that had been subsoiled in the spring and others that had been subsoiled the previous fall, and in all cases these plats gave a slightly smaller yield than the unsubsoiled plats. The bulletin states that this is due to the fact that the subsoil at the Station is naturally porous and both '95 and '96 were characterized by an abundant rainfall. In dry seasons, and on lands having a compact subsoil, subsoiling in the fall uniformly pays well. Five years tests show that seed grains from the butts and tips of the ear give quite as good results as those from the middle. Corn on land broken the previous fall has given better results than that on spring plowed lands. In both '95 and '96 the medium and late varieties gave much better yields than early varieties; but in a dry season, early kinds might do much better than the others. The varieties giving best average yields for 3 years at Kansas Station, in the order named are as follows: Early Thompson, Hartman's Early White, Pride of Kansas, and Boone County White.

At the Maryland Station 3 years tests prove that commercial fertilizers do not pay on corn; but that Crimson clover plowed under increased the corn yield 6½ bushels per acre, and turning under another crop of Crimson clover on the same land the next year gave a further increase of 7½ bushels per acre. Wide rows show slightly a better average yield than narrow rows, and the expense of cultivating is less. In four years tests deep and shallow culture show practically the same average yield. Three cultivations have given slightly better yields than five. Drilled corn has given ten per cent. better yield than checks. Ten bushels of lime per acre proved more profitable than any greater or less quantity.

COTTON CULTURE.

Bulletins 35, of Georgia Station, and 76 and 78, of Alabama Station, detail extended experiments in the culture of cotton—the most popular of all Southern crops, because it is least affected by changes of weather of all summer crops, and it always finds ready sale for spot cash. It is sensitive to changes of weather, but its growing season is so long that it has time to recover. Between April and November it receives good as well as bad weather, and hence it is never curtailed in yield more than one-third or one-fourth. "Only half a crop" is often spoken of, but it is a myth, so far as cotton is concerned. No other crop is so certain of a fair yield as cotton.

At the Georgia Station, as throughout the cotton belt, the season was bad for cotton; yet, the station crop was 17 bales from 16 acres.

Every farmer wants "the best seed," but there is wide difference as to the leading characteristic of the best cotton. One insists on big boll, others on a large per centage of lint, others on small seed, others on cluster fruiting, and so on, but all aim to get the kind that will give the largest profit per acre, and that is the point aimed at in the Georgia tests. Twenty varieties were tested, the seeding obtained from the originators. The tests show that in both '95 and '96 the 9 varieties giving the heaviest total yields also gave the largest per centage of lint, and that they had the largest bolls and, with one exception the largest seeds, and were the earliest. In money value per acre they stood in the following order: Texas Oak, Strickland's Improved, King's Improved, Nancy Hanks, Cleveland's Improved, Jones' Reimproved, Minor's, Truett's Improved, Jones' Improved. Excepting Texas Oak and Strickland's Improved, none of them gave much yield after Sept. 15.

In six years tests at the Georgia Station as to distance, 4 feet by 1 foot gave the best yield 4 times, 4x2 once, and 4x3 once. 4x4 standing last every tive. The conclusion is, that on land of average fertility, with rows 4 feet apart, the plants should stand 1 foot apart in the row, and on rich land two to three feet, while on poor land they should stand 8 or 10 inches apart.

In these tests as to best width between rows, results show that the best yield is obtained when the space allotted to each plant is as near the form of a square as possible, and the lightest yield was obtained from rows 3 feet apart and plants 2 feet apart in the row. Of course the rows require less work, but the difference in yield more than paid the difference in cost. Valuing cotton at 7 cents per pound, that planted 3x2 yielded $5 25 per acre more than that planted 4x1½ and $20 more than that planted 6x1. On very rich land, probably 3x3 would give best results.

It was found that the gain in yield obtained by applying part of the fertilizer before planting and part in the opening furrow at time of planting was not sufficient to pay for the extra work. But small doses of quickly soluble fertilizers like nitrate of soda at time of second working paid. Phosphoric acid in the form of acid phosphate gave much better results than in the form of raw bone meal. Both muriate and sulphate of potash increased the yield up to 36 pounds per acre, but when more than that was applied the yield was reduced in proportion to the excess. The best fertilizer formula was found to be as follows: 468 pounds acid phosphate, 36 pounds muriate of potash and 286 pounds of cottonseed meal per acre, costing about $6 40 and fully doubled the yield of cotton.

At the Alabama Station Hutchinson's Storm Prolific yielded the largest profit per acre, Truitt's Improved standing second, Dickson Cluster third, Peerless fourth, and King fifth. Neither Texas Oak nor Strickland, which stood first and second at the Georgia Station, were in the Alabama test. Seed from different parts of the cotton growing belt showed very little difference in productiveness nor was there any apparent difference in the yield from fresh seed and two year-old seed. The use of the roller after planting caused earlier sprouting and a better stand. In rows 3½ feet apart larger yields were obtained where the plants stood 12 to 18 inches apart than where they stood 24, 30, or 36 inches apart. Subsoiled land yielded $3 50 worth of cotton and seed per acre more than unsubsoiled land. The subsoil was stiff and the season dry. Where all the fertilizer was bedded on the yield was slightly better than where part was kept back and put into the drill. A mixture of kainit and cotton seed meal gave a larger profit than any other combination of fertilizers used. Acid phosphate was superior to Florida soft phosphate. Lime gave no increase on either grey, sandy, or red soil. Nitrogen in crushed cotton seed was equal, pound for pound, of pure nitrogen to the nitrogen in cotton seed meal. In other words, a ton of cotton seed proved equal to 922 pounds of cotton seed meal. Hence, when cotton seed meal is $20 per ton, cotton seed are worth $9 20 per ton, and if exchanged should bring the farmer enough more than $9 20 to pay hauling both ways. In these fertilizer tests, 27 farmers in different parts of Alabama co-operate with the station.

POTATO CULTURE.

Bulletin 76, of Ohio Station, 130, of Ithaca, N. Y., 113, of Geneva, N. Y., Station. 120, of New Jersey Station, 46, of Maryland Station, and 41, of New Hampshire Station, detail experiments in various phases of potato growing.

The Ohio tests show that changing seed in order to secure improved varieties or seed grown on a different soil or in a different climate are all uncertain in results. The greatest importance is to keep seed till planting time so as to avoid exhaustion of vitality by sprouting. Cold storage is the best means of doing this. Cool storage with good ventilation is next best. In the South, seed from the second or fall crop are used for spring planting and seed from the spring crop are planted in the fall, thus using the seed before they are old enough to sprout in storage. A good crop can be secured in Ohio by planting as late as July 1st, provided the seed are in good condition; and, contrary to expectations, medium and late varieties give better results in late planting than the early or quickly maturing kinds. Potatoes spread one layer deep on a barn floor or in shallow boxes, several weeks before planting, and exposed to strong light but not sunshine, put out short, stout, green buds, and come up in one week, grow with great vigor, and mature early. Late planting usually gives smaller crops, but the advantages are, they may follow early crops of other kinds and they keep better than the earlier plantings. To prevent scab, seed should be sowed not more than one hour in the corrosive sublimate solution sometime before planting, and should be spread out to dry before cutting. Such treatment does no good if the land grew scabby potatoes the previous year. Use fresh land. Insects carry potato blight from one hill to another. Never plant a potato showing a black ring when cut. Spray with 6 ounces Paris green mixed in a barrel of Bordeaux mixture. Of the new varieties tested, the best early kinds were Bovee, Early Michigan, Early Thoroughbred; best late, Carman No. 3, Country Gentleman, Enormous, Uncle Sam. In fertilizer tests superphosphate increased the yield at a cost of 5 to 6 cents per bushel of the increase. Dissolved bone black did no better and slag phosphate not so well. Wheat bran as a fertilizer was better than linseed meal. Superphosphate, nitrate of soda, and muriate of potash mixed gave better results than either alone.

The Ithaca tests show that most New York soils are rich enough for potatoes, and with potatoes at 25 cents per bushel and fertilizers at $25 per ton, it is far better to give the best culture to bring out the full virtue of what is already in the soil. The average yield is only one third what it would be with proper culture. The low yield is more due to lack of moisture than lack of fertility, and good culture will husband moisture. For this purpose, level culture is best. The foliage must be kept free of injury by insects or blight.

The Geneva bulletin is confined to a consideration of the cause and cure of pimples. It was found that the grub of the flea beetle caused the pimples by gnawing the tubers. Spraying the vines with Bordeaux mixture and Paris green protects against both blight and flea beetles.

The New Jersey tests show sulphur and kainit, 300 pounds of each per acre, to be the best remedy for soil rot and scab, increasing the yield of marketable potatoes 125 baskets per acre. Seed pieces from the middle of the potato gave a much better yield than those from either end. Irrigation increased scabbiness. In applying sulphur and kainit, mix them sow in the furrow opened for planting and run a shovel plow through to mix with the soil.

At the Maryland Station, Van Guard, Summit, and Milwaukee gave best yields. In 3 years tests early cultivation give better results than late, and ridges slightly better than level culture. Narrow rows yield more per acre than wide ones, and deep and shallow culture show little difference.

The New Hampshire bulletin states that such varieties as Rural New Yorker, No. 2, American Wonder, Early Rose and White Star do well nearly everywhere, while many other kinds do well in certain localities only, and actual test by the grower is necessary to determine what are best for his locality. Of 80 varieties tested at New Hampshire Station, Reeve's Rose, White Rose, Vick's Perfection, and Gov. Rusk gave best yields in the order named. The highest yield (Reeve's Rose) was 453 bushels per acre, and the lowest (Early Market) but 99. A few potatoes of the 15 best varieties will be sent free to such New York farmers as are experienced potato growers and will agree to report results to the station.

WORDS PEOPLE SPEAK.

Few people realize how limited are their vocabularies, despite the many thousand words in the English language. It is said that a person of education generally gets along very comfortably with a vocabulary of less than 2,000 different words. On the other hand, uneducated people manage to express their ideas all their lives with the use of but a few hundred words, repeating one or two of these, however a great many times. A recent experiment proves how apt our minds are to run in groves. Twenty five men and twenty five women, students in a psychology class, were bidden to write down at full speed one hundred words, all chosen at random. They did so, with the curious result that out of a total of 5,000 words there were only 1,266 words which occur but once; 3,000 of the remainder being repetitions of 758 words. Of the 1,266 written only once, 746 were set down by the men, against 520 by the women. Of the 353 articles of dress enumerated, 224 were found in the women's papers, while of the 237 articles of food, they claimed 169.

POULTRY YARD

EARLY CHICKS.

It is coming to be more generally understood that profitable poultry keeping demands early hatched chickens. Unless the pullets can be got to laying in the fall, any subsequent returns from them during their first year will be seriously handicapped by the expense of keeping them through the first winter without any production of eggs. Then, too, it is necessary to set the chicks out early in order to get the cockerels off to market while prices are good and before they have a chance to "eat their heads off." In these days of incubators early hatching is a very simple matter, so far as the mechanical part of the work goes; but when it comes to sitting early chickens out of early eggs—ah! there's the rub. The early eggs have a provoking way of flatly (and odorously) refusing to hatch. The trouble is generally with the hens that laid the eggs—they were out of condition. In our zeal to make the hens lay well during the winter when eggs are high we are likely to overfeed them and to get them fat. Then the germs become weakened and fail to hatch. Again winter layers are not apt to take sufficient exercise to make the germs of the eggs strong and fertile.

PROFITS OF PURE BREEDS.

A good many times it may seem like a sinful waste of money to pay the prices that are asked for high-class poultry or eggs from yards of high-class fowls. Whether it is or is not depends altogether on the purpose the breeder has in view. If he is going to raise fowls just because his neighbor does, and is not going to give them the best care he can, it is worse than a waste of money to pay anything above the market price for eggs or breeding stock. The man who thinks one hen as good as another has no use for pure breeds, for he would be out of his place with them, and they would not be any more profitable than the scrawniest mongrels that ever hunted a scanty living in the manure piles of the careless farmer.

While pure bred poultry is much better than mongrels when well cared for, it is not as good if neglected. The native hen whose ancestors for untold generations have had their combs frozen off during the first winter of their life, has become hardened to that sort of thing by inheritance, and can live out of doors when a better bred fowl would die. With ordinary good care the pure bred fowl will return a profit on its cost, and this makes the care of it profitable. With the very best possible care the average mongrel of our farms will never lay enough eggs to half pay for the feed she consumes, and, therefore, is not profitable under any circumstances. It has been a good many years since the writer was laughed at for paying $2 for thirteen eggs, but it was not many years after that time before he was selling all the eggs his hens would produce for that price and getting about eight times the market price for all the fowls he could raise that were good enough to sell as breeders. The culls brought more in the market than the best mongrels sold for, because when they were sold they were all alike in weight and color of skin, so the pure bred stock was a big investment.

The man who breeds pure bred poultry will never lack for a market for his breeding stock if it is really good and has been well grown. The market for "fancy" poultry, so called, is as regular and as reliable as that for poultry for food. It has been getting better every year for ten years and the outlook for the future is as bright as it ever was. The farm where poultry is kept will be more profitable if that poultry is one of the recognized pure breeds.—Farmers' Voice.

Every year many people begin poultry keeping with a vague notion that it is an easy way to get a living, all the work being done mainly by the hens. But such persons inevitably fail, as they ought. There is no easy way to success in anything. To keep fowls free from vermin and disease needs constant attention and a good deal of dirty and very disagreeable manual labor.

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It is slow, tedious work to cut the potato seed for planting large fields. Yet with most kinds of potatoes the cut seed is a necessity, for if the seed is planted whole there will be too many small potatoes from crowding of so many stalks in a hill. It is true not all the eyes on a whole or even of a cut potato will grow, but if seed is planted whole there will be far too many for profit. It is dirty work cutting potatoes, not so much from the soil adhering to them as from the potato juice, which discolors and rusts the knife and stains the hands. This discoloring is easily removed by wetting the hands in pure water without soap, and then holding them over one or two burning sulphur matches. The fumes of sulphur are excellent to bleach anything.

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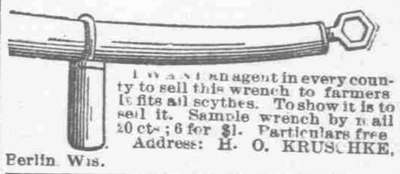

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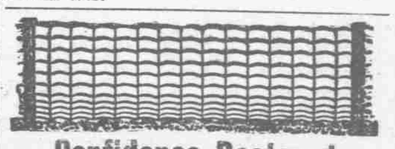

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Schedule in Effect February 7, 1897.

SOUTHBOUND.

			No. 403.	No. 41.
Lv. New York, Penn. R. R.			*11 00 am	*9 00 pm
Lv. Philadelphia,		"	1 12 pm	12 05 am
Lv. Baltimore		"	3 15 pm	2 10 am
Lv. Washington.		"	4 40 pm	4 30 am
Lv Richmond,	A. C. L.	"	8 56 pm	9 05 am
Lv. Norfolk,	S. A. L.,	"	*8 35 pm	*9 05 am
Lv. Portsmouth,		"	8 45 pm	9 20 am
Lv. Weldon,		"	*11 28 pm	*11 55 am
Ar. Henderson,		"	*12 56 am	*1 30 pm
Ar. Durham,		"	†7 32 am	*4 09 pm
Lv. Durham,		"	†5 20 pm	†11 10 am
Ar. Raleigh,		"	*2 16 am	*3 34 pm
Ar. Sanford,		"	3 35 am	5 05 pm
Ar Southern Pines,		"	4 22 am	5 55 pm
Ar. Hamlet,		"	5 10 am	6 53 pm
Ar. Wadesboro,		"	5 54 am	8 11 pm
Ar. Monroe		"	6 43 am	9 12 pm
Ar. Charlotte,		"	*8 30 am	*10 25 pm
Ar. Chester,		"	*8 10 am	*9 47 pm
Lv. Columbia, C. N. & L. R. R		.....		*6 00 pm
Ar. Clinton	S. A. L.	"	*9 45 am	*12 10 am
Ar. Greenwood,		"	10 35 am	1 07 am
Ar. Abbeville,		"	11 05 am	1 40 am
Ar Elberton,		"	12 07 pm	2 41 am
Ar. Athens,		"	1 15 pm	3 45 am
Ar. Winder,		"	1 59 pm	4 30 am
Ar. Atlanta. (Central time)			2 50 pm	5 20 am.

NORTHBOUND

			(Central time) No. 402.	No. 38.
Lv. Atlanta,	S. A. L.		*12 00 n'n	*7 50 pm
Lv. Winder,		"	2 40 pm	10 42 pm
Lv Athens,		"	3 16 pm	11 26 pm
Lv. Elberton,		"	4 15 pm	12 33 am
Lv. Abbeville		"	5 15 pm	1 40 am
Lv. Greenwood,		"	5 41 pm	2 09 am
Lv. Clinton,		"	*6 44 pm	*3 05 am
Ar. Columbia, C.N & L.R.R.		.....		*7 00 am
Lv. Chester,	S. A. L.		*8 13 pm	*4 33 am
Ar. Charlotte,		"	*10 25 pm	*6 30 am
Lv. Monroe,		"	*9 40 pm	*6 15 am
Lv. Hamlet,		"	*1 23 pm	8 15 am
Ar. Wilmington		"	$5 50 am	*12 50 pm
Lv. Southern Pines,		"	*12 14 am	*9 20 am
Lv. Raleigh,		"	*2 16 am	11 35 am
Ar. Henderson,		"	3 28 am	*1 00 pm
Ar. Durham,		"	†7 32 am	*4 09 pm
Lv. Durham,		"	†5 20 pm	†11 10 am
Ar. Weldon,		"	*4 55 am	*3 00 pm
Ar. Richmond,	A. C. L.,		8 15 am	6 50 pm
Ar. Washington	Penn R. R.,		12 31 pm	11 10 pm
Ar. Baltimore,		"	1 43 pm	12 48 am
Ar Philadelphia,		"	3 50 pm	3 45 am
Ar. New York.		"	*6 23 pm	*6 53 am
Ar. Portsmouth,	S. A. L.		7 30 am	5 50 pm
Ar. Norfolk,		"	*7 50 am	6 05 pm

*Daily. †Daily Ex. Sunday. ‡Daily Ex. Monday.

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