THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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AGRICULTURE

HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

CXIV.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

"Trouble has begun in the garden. Cut worms are cutting the cabbage, tomatoes and other plants."

This is the wail that has gone up from nearly every gardener. The gardeners are not by themselves in having this trouble. The worms do not spare the field crops. Long years ago when the branches and ponds were not drained and the toads could raise almost anywhere, we did not have so many worms because the toads kept them well cleaned up. As the cut worm is a nocturnal or night-moving insect it is necessary to have a night-moving destroyer.

GETTING RID OF CUT WORMS.

Where a garden has a board fence around it and some boards or chucks lying on the ground,toads can be carried to it and one toad will destroy more worms in a week than the most diligent person. We had some Plymouth Rock chickens that ate up our toads and we have not been able to get our place stocked like it was a few years ago. Blue birds are good worm destroyers. And every one should place some boxes about the garden out of the reach of cats (and freckled-faced boys, too, if possible) for them to build in. Some writers on the worm say that they raise under trash and that by keeping the dead leaves and other trash well cleaned up that they will give but little trouble. Others advocate using poison, but the trouble about that is that nearly every farmer has some young chickens running in his garden and if they do not eat the poison they will eat the dead worms and get poisoned, so that it is not practical to use it.

FIGHTING THE BILL BUG.

A member of the Experiment Station suggested that we take some spirits of turpentine and mix it with sawdust, about one pint of the spirits to the peck of sawdust, and put it around corn to prevent the bill bug from destroying the corn. We wanted to try his remedy, also to use some kerosene and land plaster in about the same proportion for the same purpose, not with a view of killing the bugs, but running them off. A little salt mixed with the manure for corn and put in the hill will sometimes prevent the worms from killing it while very young. An old remedy for them in black bottom lands is white sand or road dust. We have often seen this used successfully for bud worms. This insect rarely troubles corn on up-lands, especially sandy soil.

A FINAL WORD ABOUT THE INTEREST LAW PROPOSITION

We concluded not to say anything more on the interest matter, but we will say to our friend John McDowell that at the present rate it is hard for business men to borrow money on bankable paper, even United States bonds. If he will notice, the rate in New York runs from 4 to 6 per cent. There is very little demand at present for stocks or bonds. The cause of this is, all of the money is being used in industries that pay a larger per cent, even though there is more risk. We do not regard this as a bad state of affairs; it shows a remarkable development along industrial lines. If those who write about money being so easy to be had will give their addresses, we can put them in correspondence with parties who will give them the best of bankable paper and get them 6 per cent for all their money.

HARRY FARMER.

Sugar Cane or Sorghum for Stock.

Farmers will soon be planting forage feed for horses, mules and cattle. There is nothing better as feed for horses, mules and cattle than cane. Two acres of good land planted in sorghum cane is equal to twenty barrels of corn. Plant in rows 3½ to 4 feet apart, eight to ten inches in the drill. Chop out as you would cotton one to two stalks in hill. Cultivate as you would cotton or corn. One gallon of clean seed will plant an acre. Cut the cane down after the seed and blade have matured. Put up in shocks as you would corn by binding a tight cord around the top just below heads so as to keep the rain water out. It will keep in this condition all winter and will be as bright and fresh as the day you cut it. Haul to the barn as you need it. Ten to twelve good size stalks is enough for one mule. Cut the cane with cutter, four to six inches long for feeding. You need not feed any grain to your stock while feeding the cane and seed. Mules, horses and cattle will stay fat all the winter fed on the cane, fodder and seed. The cane does not scour stock. Horses and mules keep fat on it while at work. with two or three ears of corn.

H. S. JONES.

Wyatt, Wake Co., N. C.

The Cold Snap and the Damage to Truck and Fruit.

Wilmington, N. C., April 11.—The Carolina Fruit and Truck Growers' Journal, in its issue of yesterday printed a symposium of opinions from many of the strawberry and vegetable growers in this district regarding the damage wrought by the cold snap of a few days ago, and editorially says: "Although many of them place the loss at 20 and 25 per cent, we must nevertheless, think the first-named figures will cover the greatest per cent of damage. This statement is predicated upon advices received up to the hour of going to press, and that being true the crop will be fully up to last year's average. The berries in the main were well strawed and covered, and thus protected, they suffered but little. Those bared to the elements suffered considerably. The writer rode all the way from Goldsboro to Wilmington yesterday, and talked with a number of growers at different stations, and in almost every case it was ascertained that the damage is far below the first estimate.

"The fields are all as white with blossoms as ever, and picking, packing and shipping has begun in earnest. Anywhere from fifteen to twenty carloads will go forward by today's express and refrigerator trains, and henceforth activity will be lively in shipping circles as long as there is a berry in sight."

The Foundation Facts About Fertilizing Tobacco.

The salient principles in the use of fertilizers for the tobacco crop may be summarized as follows:

1st. Apply fertilizers with reference to improvement of quality rather than quantity, and never sacrifice quality of tobacco for quantity.

2d. Many things that produce marked increase in yield make tobacco of inferior quality.

3d. Use concentrated fertilizers as the extraneous matter—matter, not plant food, very often has the effect of making inferior tobacco.

4th. Tobacco lands should not be cropped by plants that take out of the soil relatively much potash and little chlorine.

5th. Never apply any fertilizer to tobacco that contains much, if any, chlorine.

6th. Chlorine always causes tobacco to burn badly.

7th. Never apply common salt to tobacco lands.

8th. Do not furnish the potash of a tobacco fertilizer by means of muriate of potash, as it produces a bad quality.

9th. Do not apply kainit to tobacco or tobacco lands, as it produces a bad quality of tobacco.

10th. Do not use low-grade sulphate of potash in tobacco fertilizers, as it causes inferior quality in the tobacco.

11th. High-grade sulphate of potash always improved the quality of tobacco, and generally increased the yield.

12th. The tobacco having the best combustibility was grown with carbonate of potash, but the cost of carbonate of potash often excludes its use.

13th. Never apply lime to land immediately before planting it in tobacco. In fact, its bad effects upon curing will sometimes last for several years.

14th. Phosphoric acid generally increases the yield, but does not affect the quality.

15th. Nitrogen produces in most cases an increased yield; but no marked effects on quality could be detected.

16th. Yard manure is not well adapted to tobacco, as it is apt to contain detrimental chlorine compounds, and contains relatively too much nitrogen and too little phosphoric acid and potash.

Having thus discussed the general principles affecting the production and fertilization of the tobacco crop, we think it may be well to conclude with two or three specific formulae for the fertilization of the crop. These were tested in this State by one of the most intelligent, studious and successful growers, the late Maj. R. L. Ragland, and may therefore be taken to be reliable. He tried six different system of fertilization one year. On Plot No. 1 he applied 50 pounds of sulphate of ammonia, 80 pounds of dried blood, 50 pounds of sulphate of potash and 114 pounds of acid phosphate. This plot produced tobacco of the value of $131.-20. Plot No. 2, fertilized with 72 pounds of nitrate of soda, 80 pounds of dried blood, 120 pounds of sulphate of potash and 114 pounds of acid phosphate, produced tobacco of the value of $127.90. Plot No. 3, fertilized with 160 pounds of dried blood, 120 pounds of sulphate of potash and 114 pounds of acid phosphate, produced tobacco of the value of $146.60. These three plots were the most successful of the six tested. He remarked that where dried blood and nitrate of soda were used, in combination or separately, there was scarcely any field firing, much less than where no fertilizers were used. —April Southern Planter.