

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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THE COTTON PLANT—VOL. XXII. NO. 27.

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CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

The sworn and proved average weekly circulation of The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant for the year ending December 31, 1904, was 10,509 copies.

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The Progressive Farmer and Cotton Plant has—

1.—A larger circulation than any other weekly published between Richmond and Atlanta, and—

2.—A larger circulation than any other farm weekly published between Philadelphia and Dallas.

THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

A Good Two-Horse Plow.

The reversible disc plow is considered best for breaking and pulverizing land. Any of the two-horse turn plows of best patterns come next. But a Spartanburg farmer who makes his supplies at home prefers a home-made two-horse plow stock to which he attaches a twister or half shovel. He swings two mules or horses to that and plows land six to nine inches deep, according to its condition. At this season of the year when the clay is hard a cast point will wear out in one day. The steel ones will not last much longer. But the twister or half shovel may be sharpened two or three times and thus last as long as three or four points. In some hardware stores there are heavy two-horse plow stocks for sale. Then the largest twisters will cost thirty to thirty-five cents. In turning heavy weeds or stubble, Mr. Walters uses his steel turn plow. But by all means prepare all idle land in August for small grain. The oftener it is plowed and harrowed the better.

Terrace Your Land.

Passing some hillsides on Thickety Creek in the county some time ago, there seemed to be about ten acres of red gullies in twenty acres of the cleared land. It was not only worthless, but clay and soil washed away and destroyed several acres of land that had been producing twenty-five to forty bushels of corn to the acre. Other hill lands on that same creek had washed away and the channel, once deep and broad, had been filled up until land which was very valuable is now almost worthless. Mr. W. S. Herring, of the Agricultural Department at Washington, is now in this county. He is an expert on drainage and terracing. He is ready to give information on this subject and outline plans for improvement. In the first place, let all farmers cease to clear and cultivate hillsides. Plant Bermuda grass and get them well sodded. Where there are many gullies, plant wild plum seed and let the briars grow. These will soon fill the gullies and permit the grass to grow over them. In that way lands will cease to wash and nothing but clear water will flow down to the streams. Let all cultivated lands be well traced and then real improvement of soil will begin.

The Cotton Growers' Association.

This organization is arousing an interest amongst the farmers of this county. For two weeks meetings have been held and fair audiences attend. They see the necessity of organizing and building warehouses. One cotton-mill is now offering 10 cents for cotton delivered in October and November. In Marion County many sales have been made at 10.25, the farmers thinking that to be a fair price. Few are selling here. E. L. Archer, the county president, is urging farmers to make their own supplies, and when they do they will be able to hold cotton. What is needed is an intelligent understanding of the cotton question by the farmers. They are now in position to unite their forces and secure recog-

nition from mill men, bankers and all business men. The outlook is full of hope in this State.

CHARLES PETTY.

Spartanburg, S. C.

OATS FOR FALL SOWING.

Messrs. Editors: Please give me three names of best oats to sow for yield and forage for this section. What is best, small grain for us for yield, forage and high culture for land?

J. H. COOPER.

Sampson Co., N. C.

The Appler oat is a new oat and is receiving much praise from oat growers. As it is yet in the novelty list of oats, the price is high—\$1.10 per bushel. The Virginia Winter is a standard winter oat, and should be grown more largely than at present. On rich land the Red Rust Proof is a very fine oat. For spring sowing, I have seen nothing that would equal the Burt oat. This is a very early oat, tall and a good yielder, but will not stand the frosts of winter.

There is a grain pasture mixture now offered that promises well. This mixture is intended for pasturing rather than for hay or grain. It is composed of wheat, rye, barley, winter oats and vetches, mixed in proper proportions. This should be sown at the rate of two bushels per acre on rich land. September or October will be good months in which to sow it. The price of this mixture is also \$1 per bushel.

T. B. PARKER.

CUTTING AND CURING PEAVINE HAY.

Messrs. Editors: May I ask for a little advice as to cutting and curing pea vines for winter feeding? At what time is best to cut them? Must I let them lie on the ground to cure, or how? Hand this to some of your writers and let me know in the next issue of The Progressive Farmer.

W. K. F.

Greenville Co., N. C.

It is especially gratifying to all those connected with The Progressive Farmer to note the growing interest in hay from pea vines and other leguminous crops. This is so because in pea-vine hay our farmers have one of the very finest hay known to the stock feeder. It is worth very much more per ton, actual feeding value, than timothy hay. In addition to this, peas are great soil improvers and should be grown on an increased scale by all our farmers. The time was when it was considered almost impossible to cure pea vines so as to make good hay, but experience has proven to our farmers that pea vines are as easily cured as the clovers or any of the grasses—in fact, much easier cured than some of the grasses. The method employed by the writer is as follows: Select, if possible, clear weather and cut the vines after the dew has dried off. Allow the vines to lie undisturbed until the following day when they can be raked into windrows and put into tall cocks for a day or two. (If the weather is threatening they can be stacked earlier than this.) Then stack as follows: Procure ordinary stack poles about twelve feet tall and plant firmly. Nail two cleats about four or five feet long each firmly at right angles to each other some eight inches above the ground. These will prevent the vines from laying on the ground and will permit the free circulation of air underneath the stack. Put vines around the pole until they are about two and one-half feet thick; then nail on another cleat, and put on vines again until two and one-half feet thick; then nail on another cleat at right angles to the first, and so on until the stack is finished. Put the vines on with a fork and do not tramp

them with the feet. The cleats will prevent the vines from settling into a solid mass and will permit ventilation, thus insuring nicely cured hay. Let these stacks stay in the field until the hay is thoroughly cured, then haul to barn. For the cap to the stack, I put a large forkful of vines immediately on top of the stack-pole, not permitting the pole to project through them. That acts as an umbrella and causes the water to shed instead of running down the stack-pole to spoil the vines. In real cool weather I have cut the pea vines and stacked them the same day, as above directed, with good results.

Curing pea vines, like many other things, require experience to succeed best, but no one need be kept from sowing peas on account of fearing they cannot make good hay from them.

If one prefers, he can bore one and one-half inch holes through the stack poles and put rods through them instead of using the cleats spoken of above. The holes and rod process is really the best, but the cleats are easiest and quickest put on.

T. B. PARKER.

Setting Bermuda Grass.

I have some hillside land that I cleared last year and cultivated in chufas this year. It is a sandy loam soil. I want to stock it with Bermuda grass for pasture. Will you please tell me where I can get the grass, and what time of year is the best time to put it out and also the best way to put it out? I have a mulberry orchard that I put out this last spring on some of the same kind of land that I want to make my pasture of. Will it hurt my trees to stock that with Bermuda? If it will, please tell me what would be the best way to manage it. The orchard is on a pretty steep hillside and will be hard to cultivate without washing; in fact, you can't cultivate these sand hills without washing.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Robeson Co., N. C.

Bermuda grass can be grown from seed, but the seed are costly and have a low germinating power, so that it is far better to get the creeping stems of the plants and run them through a feed cutter. Prepare the land well in the spring and scatter the stems along furrows made about two or three feet apart and cover with a harrow. I suppose there are hundreds of readers of The Progressive Farmer that can furnish you with the grass in barrels in the spring, and probably some of these may write to you. Bermuda is a hot weather grass and should always be started in the spring, as the cut roots or stems may be damaged if planted in the fall. The Bermuda grass will not hurt your mulberry trees, though it is probable that the mulberry trees may hurt the grass, for Bermuda is a sun-loving grass and will not thrive in the shade, but it is the best grass for your sandy soil for a summer pasture.

W. F. MASSEY.

Agricultural Experiment Station, Raleigh.

Value of Cotton Held for Higher Prices.

The Monroe Journal congratulates the farmers of Union County on their success as holders-back of cotton. It says that "at Monroe, Wingate, Waxhaw and Marshville during July they have sold in the neighborhood of 3,400 bales. The price has averaged fifty dollars a bale. This would give the big sum of \$170,000 that has been turned loose in cash in the county in a little over three weeks." It has been the same way in the other cotton-growing counties of this State. It would be interesting to know the exact amount the farmers of North Carolina realized by holding back their cotton.—Charlotte Chronicle.