

Professor Massey's Editorial Page.

Second Application of Fertilizers to Cotton.

A DAILY PAPER has an article on cotton in which the statement is made that, "The more up-to-date farmers of the country have learned that it is profitable to make a second application of fertilizer to cotton as soon as it is thinned."

If an insufficient amount was used in the first place, perhaps it may pay to apply more. But, as a rule, the full amount of phosphoric acid and potash should be applied at the start. These are not going to get out of the soil till some plant takes them up. If cotton grows off slowly, it may pay to apply 5 to 100 pounds an acre of nitrate of soda along the rows, where the farmer does not farm well and has no clover or peas to furnish him nitrogen. But there is not the slightest advantage in using too little phosphoric acid and potash at the start and then having the labor of going over again with these and waiting for them to become available to the crop as they would be if all was applied at first. Nitrogen will leach from the soil rapidly when in the form of a nitrate, and nitrate of soda should not be used largely at planting, but can be used when the crop is growing to advantage, where the soil is deficient in nitrogen.



PROFESSOR MASSEY.

Farm and Garden in August.

OVER MUCH of the South August is one of the most leisure months, as in the Upper South the cotton picking has not begun while the cultivation is completed.

In Southern Maryland and Virginia August is the time for sowing crimson clover seed among the corn. It is best to go through with a small tooth cultivator lightly and then sow the seed on the fresh soil. Sow fifteen pounds per acre.

Further South September and October will be better, and the seed can be sown among the cotton about the first picking. Those who have grown their own seed are fortunate, for it is about impossible to get home-grown seed on the market, and what there is, is held at \$10 a bushel. The seedsmen are offering imported seed at \$6 a bushel. But even at these prices the clover is cheaper as a soil-improver than any fertilizer that can be bought for \$20 a ton.

Late Potatoes.—Seed of the early crop that have been cut and covered for sprouting should be planted as they show signs of sprouting. Plant in very deep furrows and cover lightly till they start, and then work the soil to them as they grow till level, and cultivate shallow and level to conserve the moisture. Seed that has been kept in cold storage can also be planted, and will make a more certain and better crop for winter use.

Sweet Potatoes.—We now have wire guards to attach to the cultivator so that we can run through and lift the vines as the cultivator passes and drop them behind it. With this arrangement one can go through the potatoes later than otherwise without throwing the vines over the rows as is common.

Make cuttings now about a yard long and make them into a soil and plant the coil in the hill, leaving only the tip of the shoot out. Then every joint will make a bunch of little potatoes that will be far better for bedding next spring than small cullings from the crop.

Curled Scotch Kale.—Now is the time to sow the seed of this for winter use. Last winter this kale sold at retail on our market at five cents a pound, and has been as high as eight cents. I am sowing mine.

Spinach.—The first sowing of spinach for fall use and early winter should be made during August. Then later sowings in September and October will keep up a supply till in the spring. Every garden should have a supply of kale and spinach for winter use.

Turnips.—Strap-leaved turnips may be sown for fall use, but it is better for winter to defer the sowing till September. The larger growing

turnips and the rutabagas may still be sown. The flat strap-leaved and quick-growing sorts may be sown broadcast, but I prefer to sow all in rows, and the late sown ones can then be protected in winter with a furrow thrown to each side.

Carrots.—The Early Horn carrots sown in this month can be left in the ground in winter and will keep nicely with the soil thrown to the rows and are very useful in soups in winter.

Parsnips and Salsify.—South of North Carolina these can still be sown, and as they will grow better in cool weather, and, in fact, will grow all winter, late sowing makes better quality in the roots. Those that were sown in July should be thinned to stand three inches apart in the rows. I sow parsnip seed in little pinches three inches apart so that the light seed can push through better. Then it is easy to thin the bunches to a single plant.

Onion Sets.—My onion sets have just been lifted and placed in the shade in an out-house for

MUST MAKE PROFITS TWELVE MONTHS INSTEAD OF SIX.

UNDER the present system general farm activities cover a period of about six months—four months in preparation and cultivation, and two months in harvesting; the other six months of the year, so far as creating wealth is concerned, business is practically suspended and the farmer and his family become consumers, living off the profits of the six months' period of activity. Is it any wonder, then, that we don't go ahead? Can any business survive that practically shuts down for six months in the year? That some change is necessary, and what those changes are, one only needs to study the front page of last week's *Progressive Farmer and Gazette*. The figures and illustrations on that page are a revelation, and prove to us that along with other changes and improvements that are being made in this country, that we must add live stock; and we will never measure up to our full possibilities as an agricultural region until we do it.—T. J. W. Broom, in *Monroe Journal*.

curing. These are the Early Tait's Queen. I will plant them in late September in well fertilized beds setting the sets deep in the bed so that the soil can be pulled from them in then spring and the bulbs form on the surface of the soil. These are for green bunching onions, for we grow better ripe onions from seed sown in February or March.

Garden Corn.—Grow your own seed of sugar corn and you will find that it can be grown in the South. The seed from the seedsmen is all grown in Nebraska and does not do well in the South. Plant Stowell's Evergreen and the Egyptian sweet corn and save the seed, and you can soon acclimate it. Keep something growing in the garden all the time, and keep the weeds down and you will have fewer cut-worms in the spring. If you are bothered with nut-grass, keep at it and do not let it go to seed now, for thousands of plants come from seed for every one that comes from the roots. I have nearly banished it in one season from my garden by simply going for it every day.

Celery.—The latter part of the month will be time enough to set celery plants in their permanent quarters in North Carolina, and September, further South, while in Florida the celery growers will be just starting for their winter crop. I set celery plants in beds six feet wide. Plant in rows across the bed, sitting the plants six inches apart and the rows a foot apart. Leave plenty of space on the sides for earthing. Begin earthing when the nights get cool in October. Straighten up each plant and pack earth around it by hand to keep it erect, and then you can fill in between with a shovel and carry the bed up six inches outside the ends of the rows, just keeping the growing leaves above the soil at each earthing till December, and then earth the bed all over and cover with pine straw to keep out freezing, and you can dig the celery all winter. Use the most moist soil you have and fertilize heavily.

Notes and Comments.

MAKING A PASTURE of woodland terminates its value as a renewing forest. Down in one of our coast counties I was driving along a road and noted that the woods on both sides had been burnt over. I remarked to the driver that they had had a bad forest fire. "That was done purposely," said he. "The idea is to destroy the ticks so that cattle can range in the woods." Cattle ranging the woods will not only keep up the supply of ticks, but the burning and the cattle together will destroy the value of the forest for timber production. Hence, Mr. French is right in what he says about woodland pasturing.

Dr. Butler's advice as to crimson clover is well given, and \$500 a year will not count the profit this clover will make on any man's farm. Just now we want to advise the Southern farmers to wait till the imported seed is in in August, for the home-grown seed is now held at \$10 a bushel, and it will be easy, I think, to get the imported seed at \$6, and, perhaps, at \$5 a bushel. But whatever the price, sow it, for it is far cheaper at \$10 a bushel than 2-8-2 fertilizer at \$20 a ton. Anywhere that any clover has been commonly grown it will succeed without any inoculation. Where there are no clover bacteria in the soil, get some soil from where it has grown and scatter it over the field.

We have too much, or rather use too much, human labor in the South. So long as every mule takes a man in the field no farmer should complain of lack of labor. It is rather a lack of machinery and mules, for one man riding on a cultivator will do more and better work than two each with a mule and a single-horse plow or cultivator. The Iowa farmers have always had a lack of human labor and have been compelled to use teams and machinery, and hence one man's labor there produces far more than one man's labor does in the South. Four-legged laborers are cheaper than two-legged ones.

Keep your cows dry in the stable and sigh for the good old times when you had a free range over the country like the man quoted on the first page of the July 25 issue, and some one else may free the county from ticks. But let the cows out on the range, and you will never get rid of the ticks. Clean your own pastures and have good pastures, and read what Dr. Butler says about the ticks, and you will not want to abolish stock laws. The saving of fencing alone is reason enough for shutting stock off the range, for under such conditions every one must fence all the land he cultivates, or have his crops pastured on by other people. Down with the fences and starve the ticks out.

If you will use the basic slag or Thomas phosphate, you will not need to buy lime for your peanuts, for you will get in it 40 pounds of lime in every 100 pounds. Four hundred pounds of this and 50 pounds of muriate of potash will be what the peanuts need, for pops are not caused by lack of lime but by lack of potash, and the lime is used for releasing potash in the soil. Lime is useful to sweeten and acid soil, but it is not properly a fertilizer. You will get 200 pounds of lime free in the Thomas phosphate.

The first of this month I sowed my first spinach and curled kale and will make two more sowings for winter and early spring. Then the second week in August I will sow some lettuce seed for the fall crop. I will set these plants in the frames so as to have them where they can be protected if necessary, but I hardly expect they will need the sashes. I never monkey with cloth covers on my frames, and am even doing better, for I am now using sashes with two layers of glass five-eighths of an inch apart. With frames well banked, these sashes will keep out any frost we have, and I can head lettuce and bloom some flowers under them all winter through. I will have over thirty sashes the coming winter, and expect to increase the number by degrees. Even the double-glazed sashes, which cost nearly twice as much as the old style, are cheaper in the long run than cloth, and immensely better. Cloth covers are a very poor substitute for glass, and in a series of years, cost more than the glass.

Do not fail to reap the full fruits of your labors by depending upon barn selection of seed corn, but rather select your seed in the field this fall.—C. B. Williams.