

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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## SOME IDEAS ON CROP CULTIVATION



"Green hills an' meadows sweet,  
Birds where blooms are swingin'."

**F**OR the next three months the cultivation of the crops will demand by far the larger part of the time on most Southern farms. To do this work most economically and most effectively—to do it in such a way that maximum crops with a minimum of expensive labor may result—this is an object that every progressive farmer may well strive for.

Keeping down the grass and weeds and conserving the moisture supply should be the chief ends sought in cultivating our ordinary field crops, and the methods and implements that accomplish these most economically, with the least injury to the root system of the crop in question, should be the ones used. With a field so wide and conditions so diverse as exist in our Progressive Farmer territory, it is manifestly impossible to prescribe particular implements or particular methods. However, we do believe that there are a few practices that are good—or bad—all over the South, and we want to call attention to what we consider a few of these.

First of all, we are sure that the section harrow—or a weeder on light sandy lands—may be

used right now with profit by a very large proportion of our readers. With our beating spring rains and drying winds hard crusts are common, and it is often difficult to get good stands, especially of cotton. Right here, by using it just as soon as the ground becomes dry enough, is where the harrow demonstrates its great value. Don't forget that a good stand of strong, vigorous plants is a long step toward a profitable crop.

Then comes the matter of depth of cultivation. The first cultivation or two, particularly on rather tight soils or after packing rains, may well be rather deep; but thereafter to secure the best results shallow cultivation should be carefully practiced. Nor is it enough to assume that this is being done—for in many cases careful inspection will show that plant roots are being cut wholesale, with a permanent stunting of the crop as a result.

We might say more on this subject, and particularly about the folly of the turn plow in cultivation and the losses that come in most cases from laying by on a high bed; but we expect to deal with these more at length in later issues.

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