

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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## ALFALFA IN THE COTTON BELT

**T**IS week we are giving considerable space to discussions of alfalfa, and, as the season for putting in this crop is near, we deem it appropriate here to call attention to the essentials in making it a success.

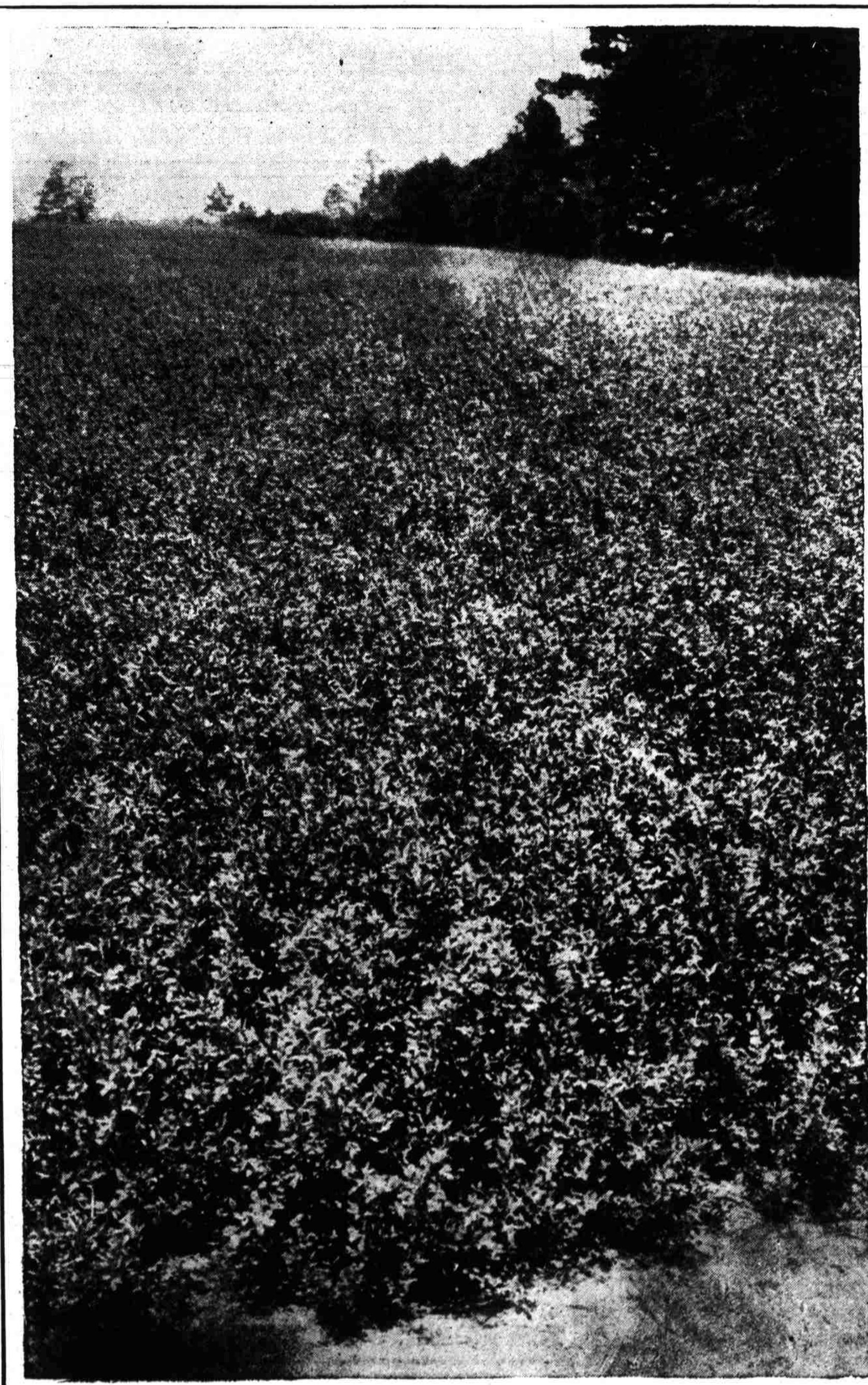
First of all, we advise caution. The Progressive Farmer has often used the term "growing" into the cattle business, rather than "going" into it, and the term applies equally as well to the man who would grow alfalfa. Undoubtedly the crop is a great one, but, as yet, we cannot promise success with it in all parts of the South. For this reason the beginner, if he be wise, will start with only an acre or so, gradually increasing his acreage if he finds he can make a success of it.

Our next admonition to the would-be alfalfa grower is to select rich, well drained land. Land that is not full of humus and rich, capable of making a bale of cotton to the acre, and which is also well drained, with a water table several feet below the surface, either should be put in order or planted to some other crop.

The third requisite is sufficient lime. Soils having less than one per cent of calcium carbonate are not safe for alfalfa. Soils in the Black Belt sections of Alabama, Mississippi and Texas, and in some parts of the Delta, usually have this amount or more; but elsewhere the deficiency must be supplied or failure is fairly certain.

Then comes inoculation, the necessity for which was explained in last week's Clover-Vetch special. Unless planted where alfalfa, melilotus or bur clover has been grown, alfalfa without inoculation is almost certain to fail.

In many sections of the South attention to all these matters will probably result in success; but, as a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, so not a single one of these essentials may be neglected without inviting certain failure. Alfalfa is a great crop, but it is so only for the thorough farmer on rich land.



ALFALFA ON SANDY LAND  
Farm of A. E. Gonzales, Columbia, S. C.

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