



What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. Massey

Black Medic

WILL black medic grow on sandy or red land?"

The black medic, *Medicago lupulina*, will grow anywhere, but it has not the value of the bur clover, *Medicago denticulata*.

Second Crop Irish Potatoes

I WANT to grow a late crop of Irish potatoes. Cannot I take the small ones from the crop now being dug and spread them out in a loft for a week or so and plant them whole?"

Cut the potatoes in half as soon as dug and plant and cover lightly. Then cover the whole bed four inches deep with pine straw, and the potatoes will form under the straw and will make a fair crop.

Black Spot on Roses

WHAT causes the black spots on my rose bushes? The leaves turn yellow and fall."

The black spot is a troublesome disease on roses. It can be prevented by spraying with Bordeaux mixture, but that makes the bushes look bad. Better spray with a mixture of 3 ounces of copper carbonate and 1 quart of commercial ammonia, and when well mixed and all the copper dissolved, add 25 gallons of water. This will not discolor the leaves.

Melons Not Setting Fruit

MY WATERMELONS and cantaloupes have been blooming finely but do not set fruit. What can I do?"

Simply wait till the fruit sets. You doubtless see a lot of wide open blooms, and these never make fruit, though they are essential to the fruit-making, for they are the staminate or male flowers that furnish the pollen to set the pistillate or female flowers, which never open so wide and yellow. But while you may not have noticed, they are there all the same and the fruit will come in due time.

Aphis on Cabbage

THE lice are killing my cabbage. Please tell me what to do for them."

Make a strong decoction of tobacco by putting tobacco stems in boiling water and spray with this when cool. Or get tobacco dust from the smoking tobacco factories and dust this liberally on the plants. Or get from a Richmond seedsman some of the concentrated nicotine called Black-leaf 40, and dilute this for spraying. Tobacco in some form is the sovereign remedy for aphides or plant lice.

Apple and Pear Blight

THESE seem to be quite prevalent this season. The only thing that can be done is to watch for the appearance of the blight and cut out the shoots ahead of it into sound wood. The blight seldom goes farther in apples than the twigs, but in the pear it will take a whole branch or the whole tree. But by watching its first appearance near the tips of the branches, as shown by the shriveling of the bark, you can cut out and save the branch, while if let alone it will kill the whole limb.

Growing Cabbage

FROM Mississippi: "Can I make winter cabbage by setting in October? What amount of seed should I use to get plants for an acre? When should they be sown? What kind and amount of fertilizer? How many crates can I expect from an acre?"

In your climate sow seed of the Late Flat Dutch cabbage in the latter part of July. Get strong plants by

never allowing the seed bed to lack for water. Set the plants early in September in good soil naturally retentive of moisture, and use 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of a mixture of equal parts cottonseed meal and acid phosphate. Plant two feet apart in rows three feet apart and cultivate rapidly. Two ounces of seed should give plenty of plants for an acre. October will be rather late to set plants. That depends on the fertility of the soil and the character of the season. Keep off the green worms by spraying with lead arsenate before heading.

Late Cabbage, Rutabagas and Onions

PLEASE tell me about the nature of soil, fertilizers, kind to plant and time for planting late cabbages, rutabagas and onions."

A mellow, sandy loam will suit these crops, but the cabbages will be best suited by a heavier loam that is naturally moist like bottom land. Sow seed of the late Flat Dutch cabbage in July, and see that the seed bed

be nipped out as soon as seen and the onion will be saved. Pull the soil away from the onions so that the bulbs will form on the surface.

Growing and Storing Potatoes

PLEASE write something on growing Irish and sweet potatoes and storing them."

I had thought that I had written so much of these crops that our readers were rather tired of potato talk. To grow a late crop of Irish potatoes I plant either in late June or early July in deep furrows. Cover lightly at first, and then work the soil to them as they grow till level. Cultivate shallow and level, and do not hill up as we do early potatoes, but keep a dust blanket on the soil to retain moisture. These will grow till frost cuts the tops, and they should be sprayed every ten days to ward off late blight, and if beetles appear add 1½ pounds of lead arsenate to 50 gallons of the Bordeaux and spray with this. To keep in winter you can put them in banks and cover with soil enough to keep frost from penetrating, or you can store in a dark place where frost is just excluded. A temperature of 35 to 40 is warm enough.

Sweet potatoes differ in their nature. You know, of course, how to

HATS OFF TO "UNCLE MAT OVERBY"

MR. M. F. OVERBY of Gap was here Monday and paid us a pleasant visit. Uncle Mat is on the shady side of 70, and he has lived and prospered and grown slick and fat with the passing years, right on the top of the ridge of Sauratown Mountain. During his long career he has watched tobacco rise and watched it fall. Some years high, some years low—always uncertain. But he has never yet experienced a year that wheat bread and ham meat didn't taste mighty good, and that corn and fodder didn't fatten stock and cattle. He has always made it an unvarying rule to first produce at home the supplies needed at home to eat, and then go in for tobacco, and make as much of it as he could. And this is the sane and sensible way. So as he sits and ruminates and philosophizes in the sunset of his life, Uncle Mat finds himself a pensioner on no man. On the contrary he owns a comfortable home, a full corn crib, and keeps at all times on his table a stack of apple pies twelve inches high, with the outside made out of wheat bread. His smokehouse is never empty, and the sunshine does not shimmer through the cadaverous proportions of his mules. No biting March wind ever swept away one of his cows. Uncle Mat's name on a note is counted to be mighty good stuff in Stokes county, and he has money in the bank. He owns besides, broad acres of good land, lives at home quietly, and is able to help his neighbors when he wants to. And so there you are.—*Danbury Reporter.*

never suffers for lack of water, and is fertile. Get strong plants to set in middle August. Set them two and a half to three feet apart and fertilize with 1,000 to 1,500 pounds an acre of high-grade fertilizer, strong especially in nitrogen and phosphoric acid. Two-thirds cottonseed meal and one-third acid phosphate will make a good fertilizer for cabbage, and the same will do for the other crops.

The Yellow Globe is about the best rutabaga. Run out furrows two and a half feet apart and in these place the fertilizer and bed on it. Flatten the beds about half way and sow the seed rather thinly on the beds in July. For table use there is a similar turnip that is far better than the yellow rutabaga. This is the Long White French or Rock turnip. It grows with tops like the rutabaga and is sown at same time. It is the sweetest of turnips, and keeps all winter without getting pithy.

Of onions I have written till every one is probably tired of reading it. I plant onion sets of the Norfolk Queen onion in September in rows 15 inches apart and mulch them heavily between the rows with stable manure. These are for early green onions. At the same time I plant sets of the Yellow Potato onion for ripe onions and seed, for this onion makes sets at the root and never makes seed. It is the earliest ripe onion. I note further that you say that you have one-quarter acre of onions planted from sets in February, and that they are just forming and going to seed. If you allow the seed stalk to grow you will have no onion. The seed stalks should

set the plants on slight ridges and cultivate them as long as the vines will allow, finishing with a good sweep. As soon as the tops are nipped by frost clean off the vines and dig the potatoes on a sunny day, and leave them along the rows in the sun during the day. To keep them in winter, the best way, where a quantity is grown, is to have a house made for the purpose, with double walls packed with sawdust and a ventilator in the roof that can be opened or closed. Then have a furnace like a tobacco barn with flues running overhead to a chimney at the farther end. When the potatoes are all in, open the ventilator and fire so as to raise the temperature to 85 or 90 degrees till the potatoes dry off from the sweat they always go through after storing. After this a temperature of 45 to 50 will be warm enough, and this you can maintain in your climate by managing the ventilator, and will seldom need artificial heat.

Killing Weevils in Peas

PLEASE tell me how much carbon bisulphide to put in a quart of English peas. Last year I put an ounce in a quart jar and sealed the same and killed the weevils, but when I planted the seed this spring none of them came up."

There is no wonder that none of them came up if you sealed up the peas in a jar with the chemical mixed with them. To destroy weevils the liquid is set in a vessel on top the peas and the fumes allowed to sink

through. But why should you try to keep seed peas grown in your climate? They will not do as well as seed from the North, and a quart of good Northern-grown English peas costs so little that it is hardly worth while to try to save the home-grown ones, which will always grow taller and later every year and less productive. I would not plant home-grown English peas if they were given me in spring, for I know that I can get a better crop and earlier by buying the seed grown by the regular seed growers in the North.

String Beans

WILL it pay me better to sell my string or snap beans green for 40 cents a bushel, or let them ripen and sell the seed?"

Sell them green, for that is the only way you can sell them. The seedsmen have all their beans grown by professional growers in the North on annual contract, and they will not buy stray lots and in any case would not buy seed beans grown in your climate, for they will be full of weevils. Certain climates are best for certain seeds, and the snap beans are grown in New York state and the Northwest on contracts made in advance.

Black Rot in Sweet Potatoes

I AM sending you a sample plant taken from my sweet potato field. The whole patch died out, hardly a good plant being left of the Nancy Halls."

The trouble is black rot from bedding diseased potatoes. The best way to get good bedding stock is to make cuttings of the ends of the vines in late July. Make them a yard long and coil them around your hand and set the whole coil in the hill except the tip of the cutting. They will all grow and make bunches of small potatoes, which will keep more easily than the early plants and will be healthy and better for bedding. Then do not bed in the same place every year.

Early Cabbage

FROM Mississippi: "Can I grow cabbage to head about April so that I can sell to the strawberry buyers?"

You should be able to make cabbage in your section by April. Sow seed of the Early Jersey Wakefield cabbage about the 20th of September. Getting good strong plants, set them in November in open furrows two and a half feet apart and running east and west, setting them deep enough to cover the stems. Use 1,500 pounds an acre of a mixture of equal parts of cottonseed meal and acid phosphate. Set the plants 15 inches apart in the furrows. Work them out well the first of March and add some nitrate of soda as a side dressing and in this way urge the rapid growth, and they should head by April.

Pruning Tomatoes

I HAVE been advised to write to you for information in regard to pruning and topping tomatoes to get the best yield. I have been told they should be pruned and topped at a certain stage."

To get the heaviest yield give the plants plenty of room and let them take their natural growth and tumble on the ground and do not do any pruning at all. In small gardens where room is scarce they can be planted in rows three feet apart and two feet in the rows trained to stakes about five feet high, keeping them pinched to a single stem and stopping them when they reach to top of the stake. Of course they must be kept tied to the stake. This will give early fruiting and keep them off the ground. There are thousands of acres of tomatoes grown around me here, and they are set about three by four feet and allowed to take their natural growth, and no one ever thinks of pruning in any way.