

FURROW SLICES

Cultivation of Soy Beans

IN LOOKING over last summer's issues of The Progressive Farmer, I noticed in the issue of July 25 where Dr. Tait Butler asks if soy beans will stand the section harrow. I am in a position to say that I know that they will stand it all right, because I tried it last year. I sowed a piece of ground that was rather poor and devoid of humus. The season was extremely dry. When the beans were about six inches high they began to turn yellow and to drop some of their leaves, looking as though they were in need of nitrogen and wanted inoculation. I pulled up a few plants and found no nodules on the roots. I ran a section-harrow over them. I believe that I would be safe in saying that the horse tramped down many more than the harrow injured in any way.

Now it stands to reason that the harrowing conserved the moisture and let the air into the soil more freely. And while I cannot prove it, I believe that the harrowing caused the bacteria to become fixed on the roots sooner than if the beans had not been harrowed. The bruising of the roots might have given the bacteria a better chance to attach themselves to the roots. At any rate the subject is well worthy of more study and experimentation.

This spring I planted cowpeas and soy beans on well prepared soil on slight ridges about two feet wide. A rain came soon after I had planted them, and when the peas had come up to a stand and the beans were just up but had no leaves upon them, the ground was literally blue with crabgrass. Just as the slightest crust began to form I ran a section harrow diagonally across the rows, almost completely cleaning the field without at all injuring the peas and beans. Since then I have run the harrow across them again, going across the other harrowing. This time the peas and beans had five or six leaves on them. The beans stood it much better than the peas. Frequently the harrow would uproot a pea plant, but very seldom a soy bean.

Of course there might be many conditions when such cultivation would not be at all feasible. If there are clods they will lodge against the teeth and drag down the plants. It is the same way with trash. And if the soil is extremely loose or there is too thick a crust formed the harrow will cover up many plants. I find that though the soy bean is very weak during and just after germination, after it gets four to six inches high it is much tougher than cowpeas.

JOHN H. DAVIS.

Ripley, Miss.

Alfalfa, Rye and Clover Pay

I TOOK your advice last fall about boiling the bur clover seed when I sowed a seed patch, and I believe it helped a great deal, although my stand was not perfect by a good deal—the trouble was in sowing too late, I think—about the first of November. So many of the farmers around Rock Hill have been successful with alfalfa, I thought I would try some too, so I sowed an acre and a half in October, 1913. It did so well I put in two more acres and now have about 3½ acres of good alfalfa and am satisfied that my land, a sandy loam with red clay subsoil, will produce fine crops of alfalfa.

My Abruzzi rye has given me as much satisfaction as anything I have tried. I started with \$5 worth of seed year before last and sowed all I made from this—some with a one-horse drill in my cotton and some broadcast during the last cultivation. I let some calves and the hogs have about two acres of my crop this year, and I think I will get at least \$150 worth of seed rye. There is bound to

be a better profit in growing this Italian rye than there is in growing cotton, even at 10 cents a pound.

JAMES S. WHITE.

Rock Hill, S. C.

Bur Clover as a Soil Builder

A YORKVILLE gentleman who recently spent a short time at White Oak, in Fairfield County, has been telling the Enquirer something about the experience of Mr. R. A. Patrick with bur clover. Mr. Patrick is the owner of large tracts of land, much of it the best in the country and much of it badly abused and washed away. During several years past he has been sowing bur clover on a large scale and his testimony is that on some of his poorest lands, where previously it was almost impossible to get a stand of any crop that was worth while, after he had sown and turned under a crop of bur clover it was comparatively easy to get a stand of anything. Where the clover had been growing continuously for several years the soil had become richer and richer. One sowing of the clover is all that is necessary, as it reseeds itself indefinitely. Mr. Patrick does not use the clover for anything except soil building. In collecting seed he rakes over the field with a many-tooth rake and then has the seed swept into piles with brooms.—Yorkville Enquirer.

Clover Seed Stripper a Success

ONE of our county agents has just completed a practical test of the efficiency and capacity of the clover seed harvester, which we have been advocating. He says it is a perfect success, and by actual test will save enough seed in one day to plant 20 acres.

In making his machine, he used two wheels of a one-horse wagon, and the cash outlay amounted to only \$3. Of course, however, the whole cost of the machine was probably \$10 to \$15 altogether. Many farmers have discarded buggy or wagon wheels with axles and other unused material which can be used for making the machine. They can be constructed on rainy days when farmers cannot get into the fields, so the actual outlay for these machines is very small in most cases.

C. R. HUDSON.

Raleigh, N. C.

The Nut Grass Problem

IN YOUR good paper of June 5 you have an editorial headed "Nut Grass—A Problem for Our Southern Experiment Stations." Now I wish to commend you for bringing this much needed problem to their attention. I have this pest upon my own farm and have been trying in vain to eradicate it for a half dozen years. If some practicable means could be worked out to destroy this grass it would be worth many thousands of dollars to my county (Robeson) alone, to say nothing of our state and the South.

A. H. WHITE.

Maxton, N. C.

Squash Vine Borers

ABOUT the first signs of the presence of squash-vine borers is their yellowish excrement found beneath the vines. Later the leaves suddenly wilt and die and the burrows of the borers cause the vines to rot. These borers work their way from the roots of the plants to the stem of the leaves and sometimes they work into the leaf stems. A full description of the Squash-vine Borer is given in Farmers' Bulletin No. 668. This bulletin may be secured free by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

"When water becomes ice," asked the teacher, "what is the great change that takes place?"
"The greatest change, ma'am," said the little boy, "is the change in price."—Ladies' Home Journal.

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