



What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. Massey

Garden Suggestions for August

EARLY in August I make the first sowing of the Savoy Leaf spinach in rows a foot apart and in soil where an early crop has been heavily manured, and give the soil a dressing of a high-grade fertilizer. This crop is for fall use and up to Christmas. For a crop to winter over for spring cutting I sow the seed the last of September or Early October. This late crop is sown broadcast and raked in, for I find it winters better in this way than when sown in rows. But whether in rows or broadcast, the last thing I do in the fall is to cover the whole garden well with manure. Not a mere sprinkling, but a coat that hides all the ground.

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The Green Curled Scotch kale may be sown in August and will come into use after frost has touched it. Late in the month I sow the Norfolk kale. The Scotch is sown in rows and the Norfolk kale I sow broadcast. The Norfolk makes the best quality of boiled greens.

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If you have sown onion seed thickly for sets they will be ripe by the last of July, and should be taken up and cured and replanted in September in rows 15 inches apart. Sets of the Yellow Potato onion are planted at same time for mature ripe onions the next summer.

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You can sow seed now of the Prize-taker onion and the Giant Gibraltar, and later transplant them to rows like the sets for wintering over for early use as green onions or for ripening.

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Seed of the May King lettuce sown early in August will be ready to transplant later and will head well in the fall if transplanted to very heavily fertilized soil. Seed for the cold frames are sown in September and set in the frames as soon as large enough, but the glass kept off till the nights get frosty. In sowing lettuce seed, I always sow them thinly broadcast so as to get single plants that transplant more easily than those that have been crowded in rows. For the sowing in September for the frames, I use the Big Boston variety.

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Do not sow cabbage seed too early for wintering over, as they will run to seed in spring without heading. I will have more to say about this crop later.

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In most parts of the South the best winter cabbage can be grown from sowing seed the first of August in the hills and thinning them out to one plant in a place later. Cabbage to do well needs very strong land and heavy manuring. Plants from seed of the Late Flat Dutch sown early in August will head in late November or early December, and this is as early as they should head to keep well in winter. Soil naturally retentive of moisture (not wet soil) is best for the late cabbage crop.

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Seed of the Chinese Celestial radish and the Chinese rose-colored radish should be sown in August for wintering. With a good mulch of manure between the rows they will winter well and make immense radishes. The Celestial is a white radish, and it is better than turnips when boiled, and also of course can be eaten raw like other radishes.

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The last sowing of bush snap beans should be made early in August, and a good fall crop of English peas can be made by sowing the Sutton Excelsior and the Thomas Laxton in deep furrows, covering lightly till up, and

then working the soil to them so as to get the roots deep in the ground.

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Sweet corn planted the last of July will usually furnish roasting ears before frost. Plant the Country Gentleman variety.

Lawn Grass

FROM South Carolina: "What is the best grass for a lawn here in this Piedmont section?"

Make a mixture of equal parts of Kentucky blue grass, red top and sheep fescue, with a little white clover, and sow 50 pounds of the grass seed an acre.

Sudan Grass

SEVERAL of us are interested in Sudan grass and would like to have information in regard to it, as to whether it is suitable to our soil in eastern North Carolina.

I think there is hardly any doubt that you can grow this grass with

ture will prevent it if done in time, and will check its advance if done after the lower leaves become affected.

Northeast Wind and Corn

I AM planting corn and the wind is northeast, and the old inhabitants say that if corn is planted on a northeast wind the worms will eat it up. Does the wind cause the worms to eat corn?"

This is another of the old superstitions fitting to go along with the moon and the signs. The Bible has something to say about the man who regards the wind in planting. The northeast wind has nothing in the world to do with bringing in the worms.

Shaded Seed Bed

FROM Florida: "I am thinking of putting a rough shed over an old cowpen 20x50 feet and putting seed beds under it for transplanting in the fall. This would let in early and late sun and protect from the mid-day sun. I will water as needed. What do you think of the idea?"

It will not do to make a tight shed roof for this purpose. But you can cover the space with laths nailed an inch apart and thus give varying sun-

TWELVE THINGS TO DO IN AUGUST

1. Continue cultivation in all late planted crops, maintaining a dust mulch to conserve moisture.
2. Go after the weeds everywhere about the farm; don't let any of them make seed to stock the place another year.
3. Select your seed corn from among the best stalks and ears, and plan to have, next year, a special seed corn patch.
4. Make the turnip patch rich and make an extra big sowing for fall and winter greens.
5. Order your clover seed if you did not save them; plant crimson clover in the extreme northern part of the Cotton Belt.
6. Keep the farm canner going on all surplus fruits and vegetables, that grocery bills may be cut to a minimum next winter.
7. Plan now for putting in a big fall oat crop; get seed if you haven't them already.
8. Keep up with the opening cotton; see your local banker about helping you to hold your crop if prices are not right.
9. Watch the livestock, and if pastures get short supplement their feed.
10. Clean up, paint up, repair the rotting fences and buildings, and put the place to rights for another year.
11. Study our Education Special again, and then see if you can't do at least one thing to improve your local school.
12. Keep up the fight against flies and mosquitoes and thus avoid doctors' bills.

success on good soil. I have some of it growing, and will be able to say more about it later.

Onions Ripening

PLEASE tell me about my onions. They were beginning to fall over and turn yellow, but the wet weather seems to have started a new growth. What should be done?"

Pull and cure the onions at once, dry them under cover in a warm airy place till you want to sell or use them. Better sell as soon as possible, for the price will fall when the Northern crop comes in.

Tomato Blight

I HAVE some fine tomatoes almost ruined by the blight. What shall I do for them?"

If you had read what I have written frequently about tomatoes you would have seen that I have advised spraying the plants with Bordeaux mixture every 10 days from the start. This is to prevent leaf blight. There is another blight, however, which no amount of spraying will prevent. This is the Southern bacterial blight. In this blight the plants loaded with green fruit will suddenly collapse and die. This comes from soil infection, and the only thing to do is to plant in uninfected soil. Something may be done by careful breeding, taking seed from plants that live while those around them die, and thus breeding a resistant strain. But for the ordinary leaf blight spraying with Bordeaux mix-

shine and shade, and this will work all right. You must have some direct sunlight, and the laths will give shade as the light moves. The lath house in your climate can be made very useful in winter and summer, and will be a sufficient protection in winter.

Growing Potatoes Under Straw Mulch

THE Nebraska Station reports that successive trials have shown that Irish potatoes grown under straw mulch and used for seed the next season, will make nearly double the crop that potatoes cultivated will make. It would seem then that this method could be well applied to the making of the second crop in the South. Cut and plant the potatoes in rather shallow furrows and then cover the whole plot with pine straw four inches deep and the job is done. I hope that some of our readers will try this mulching method, and learn what it will do for us.

Tomato Rot

A CORRESPONDENT asks: "What is the matter with tomatoes when they rot before they get ripe, and what will prevent it?"

There are several rots that affect the tomato. Most of these are of fungous origin, and spraying with Bordeaux mixture as soon as the plants are set, and repeated every 10 days till the fruit is nearly grown, is the best preventive. This, too, as I have said, will prevent the blight of the leaves and keep the plants heal-

thy. There is one rot that does not seem to be of fungous origin. This is the rot at the blossom tip. It is usually more prevalent in dry weather, but also occurs under more favorable conditions, and no amount of spraying seems to affect it.

Killing an Orchard

FROM North Carolina: "I have a young orchard of peaches and pears which I want to put in permanent grass for a pig pasture. Please tell what kind of seed to sow and when."

You can make a pig pasture of a peach orchard, but you cannot have both with equal success. Putting a peach orchard in grass is about the best way to destroy it. To get peaches you must cultivate the orchard clean every summer till July. You can then sow peas in it and hog these down when mature, and turn under what is left and sow crimson clover in the fall to turn under in the spring for the benefit of the trees. Or you can sow the orchard down in orchard grass in October and get a good sod if you use 25 pounds of seed an acre, but the peach trees will probably be ruined by this method.

Rooting Rose Cuttings

IN ROOTING rose cuttings the method used will depend on the kind of roses to be grown. The Tea roses are naturally evergreen and tender in winter, while the Remontants and the Ramblers and other hardy annual roses, that is annual bloomers and not perpetual bloomers like the Teas and some others, ripen their wood in the fall and lose their leaves.

To root the Tea roses make cuttings with three buds. Cut immediately under the lower bud and half an inch above the upper one, and leave the entire leaf on the upper bud. The kind of wood to use is that which has just developed a good bud. Reject the softest tip and make the cuttings of the shoot below which is neither hard nor very soft. The best time to make the cuttings is in August and September. Prepare boxes three inches deep filled with clean sand. Insert the cuttings in these in rows, with the leaves all turned one way. Put the boxes under shaded glass in a frame or under a shade of cheese cloth, and keep the sand soaking wet at all times. As soon as the cuttings have shown small white roots, pot them firmly in pots of the two and one-half-inch size and pack them closely in a frame under glass or cloth and attend to watering regularly. They will have filled the little pots with roots by cold weather, and it is best to plunge them in coal ashes in a frame for the winter and set them out in the spring.

Any cutting that loses its leaf is not worth potting, even if it roots, for it will never make a good plant.

The hardy roses like the Remontants and Ramblers can be treated very differently. Let these completely ripen their wood and lose their leaves. Then in November make cuttings eight or ten inches long with a bud at the base. Set these full length in the soil in rows, so that the top bud will be just about at the surface of the soil. Mulch between the rows with a thick cover of pine straw for the winter, and in the spring most of them will root and grow and can be lifted and planted in the fall where wanted. I have also taken these cuttings in November and tied them in bundles and buried them in the soil till spring and then set them in rows and they did very well.

Young plants of the tender Tea roses got in the fall will be better kept in pots under glass or cloth for winter and plunged to the rim of the pot in coal ashes to keep them from rooting out of the pot. Then plant them in the spring. The hardy annual bloomers can be planted at once.

If J. W., Pritchardville, S. C., will send me his name I will answer his letter if a stamp is enclosed. I cannot answer unsigned letters.