



What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. Massey

Pimentos

ARE pimentos just any kind of pepper, or are they a certain variety? Pimento is the name for the spice known as allspice. But there is a variety of pepper called pimento grown mainly in California, which they use in making what is called pimento cheese. The peppers are said to be thick fleshed and sweet. I know nothing about them personally, as I have never grown them.

Tobacco Stems

WILL tobacco stems from a cigar factory do to plow under for rye as a chicken range, to be followed by peas in spring? What is the analysis and value per ton?

Tobacco stems are a valuable manure, and plowed under in the fall will probably do more for the peas next spring than immediately for the rye, as they will decay through the winter. They will usually have about 2.5 per cent nitrogen, 8 per cent potash and about 1.5 per cent phosphoric acid. If you can get them cheaply buy all that you can.

Tobacco Barn for Potatoes

COULD a log tobacco barn be used for a sweet potato house?

If the barn is tight I can see no reason why it will not make a good place to cure and keep sweet potatoes. I would put the potatoes into crates in the field and pile them in the middle of the barn, raised off the ground and arranged so that the air can circulate around them. Then start the fire and raise the heat to 85 or 90 degrees and keep it up till the potatoes have dried off from the sweat they go through after storing. After that 45 to 50 degrees will be warm enough, and to maintain that you will need fire only in very cold weather.

Nitrogen in Cowpeas

I NOTICE in "Fertilizing for Profit", by E. E. Miller, that he says in one place that a crop of cowpeas making two tons of hay an acre will have gathered from the atmosphere 130 pounds of nitrogen. In another place he says that a ton of well cured cowpea hay will contain 39 pounds of nitrogen. Therefore two tons would contain 78 pounds of nitrogen. What makes the difference in these two estimates?

There is no difference. In the first statement, Mr. Miller meant all the nitrogen acquired by the whole plant. A large part of this is left in the stubble and roots, and the estimate for the hay is I think fully high enough. In fact I have always estimated it at 28 pounds in a ton of pea hay.

Sowing Flower Seed

FROM North Carolina: "I note that you sow seed of Phlox Drummondii and the Hardy Perennial phlox in September. Can we not sow seed of the sweet williams and hardy pinks at the same time and get stronger plants for spring?"

Yes, there are many hardy things that can be sown in the early fall. I sow pansy seed in late August or early September. Hollyhocks also are sown at the same time. Sweet william and the hardy pinks and the hardy Marguerite carnations can be sown now. The seed of the hardy perennial phlox I do not sow in September, but in late October or early November, as I do not want them to germinate till spring, and the seed are so hard that they are very slow to germinate if kept dry all winter. The hard seed of cannas can be sown at the same time, and they will get softened and ready to germinate with the first warmth of spring. The lit-

tle offsets of the gladiolus can be sown in the late fall and will grow all the better for lying in the ground all winter. There are many hard seeds that will grow better for being in the ground during the winter or kept in moist sand if not convenient to sow them. I sowed phlox of the hardy sort last fall and had fine blooms on them this summer.

One-sided Plant Food

I HAVE a garden which has had a great deal of horse manure put on it for years. It has got so that nothing fruits well. How shall I counteract this trouble?

You have been adding a very nitrogenous manure only, and the soil has got deficient in phosphorus that is necessary for fruitfulness. Your red soil has a great abundance of potash in it and the manure has been helping to release that. Now it will be helped by a good application of lime worked into the soil. Then cover the garden with manure this fall and let

outdoor sorts, and they were in pod when our variety was just in bloom. I believe that at Miami you can grow these outdoors. In fact I intend to try them outdoors here next summer. The pods are just the thing you describe. You can get the seed from Henry A. Dreer, of Philadelphia, Pa., the only house in this country which catalogs them. They are very dwarf and just the size you name.

Salt on Land

I HAVE a small garden space that I intended to make a fall garden on. It was covered by the salt water for 10 days, and I have been told that I cannot grow anything on it this fall. Do you think there was salt enough to hurt the soil? Have been told that the Gulf water is 60 per cent salt. What shall I use to kill the effect of the salt?

I had a good deal to do with soil years ago which had been overflowed by salt water, and I do not think you can grow anything there this fall. The best thing I can suggest is to give the land, after breaking it this fall, a coat of lime and work it into the soil. This will make a combination with the salt and form chloride of lime, which is harmful to plants too, but being very soluble will be washed out

soy bean, and I have thought that perhaps it is the Mung bean noticed in "The Progressive Farmer."

Your plant is the same Mung bean that was sent me last spring, and the plant you send is identical with the plants I have grown. I have sent specimens to the botanist of the Department of Agriculture to find if he can identify the plant, which looks very promising, and certainly makes more seed than the cowpeas. I will be able to test it on a large scale another season. My plants grew about waist high and branched freely and have ripened a lot of seed. It looks like a cowpea with the habit of a soy bean, and the plant must have come here from Australia, as Mr. Ramsey, of New South Wales, saw my plants and said they were what are called Mung beans in Australia.

Hardwood Ashes

HOW many pounds of hardwood ashes will be needed to a ton to make 2 per cent of potash, and how much cottonseed meal to make the 2 per cent of ammonia?

How many pounds of ashes it would take will depend on the quality of the ashes. Hardwood ashes that have been kept dry under cover may possibly contain 5 pounds of potash in 100 pounds, or 5 per cent. If they have lain out exposed to the weather they may have little or no potash. To make 2 per cent in a ton you want 40 pounds of potash, and that would mean 800 pounds of 5 per cent ashes. But it is not well to mix ashes with cottonseed meal or any other organic matter carrying nitrogen, as the lime in the ashes may drive off the ammonia. The cottonseed meal may have 7 per cent or 7 pounds in 100 of ammonia, and 2 per cent will mean 40 pounds of this too. So you can hardly get a 2-8-2 with the ashes and cottonseed meal and acid phosphate. The best way to use the ashes is to spread them broadcast and make a mixture of two-thirds cottonseed meal and one-third acid phosphate as a fertilizer. This will give you nitrogen and phosphoric acid, and a small amount of potash in the meal.

Camellia Japonica

CAN any of your readers tell me how to root Camellia Japonica?

It will be useless for you to try to root cuttings of the Camellia Japonica. It is sometimes done by skillful florists and the cuttings will often stand a year or more before rooting under the most favorable conditions. Florists generally graft them on seedling stocks under glass. You can grow them outdoors very well if in a place shaded from the winter sun, as on the north side of a dwelling. One of the finest double pink camellias is the Sarah Frost. I grew this outdoors for years in Raleigh, N. C. The large red anemone-flowered sorts like Waratah make almost trees in Wilmington, N. C., and bloom finely in February. You can get good plants from a Southern nursery, such as the P. J. Berckmans Co., at Augusta, Ga.

Tent Caterpillars

THERE is a caterpillar making webs on my young pecan trees and eating the leaves, and I believe that sooner or later they may kill the trees. They are later this year than last year, and I will get a few nuts, but last year they all fell off while small. How shall I destroy them?

You have stood by and let the pests increase, as you had them last year, and of course they came again. Spraying the foliage with lead arsenate, 1 pound in 25 gallons of water, will destroy some while eating, but the best way to get rid of them is to make a mop of rags or cotton waste on the end of a pole and soak it with kerosene. Then in the evening, set fire to this, when they are in the webs, and burn all the webs out. If you will burn out every web as soon as made you can get rid of the pests.

Pick cotton quickly and sell it slowly.

GOOD ADVICE FOR THE CROP-SELLING SEASON



"The time will come when your wish will be a new home. Save money now."

—Wachovia Savings Bank Bulletin

it lie on top to rot during the winter, for fresh manure applied in the spring is of little use to the vegetables. Then in spring add acid phosphate at the rate of 1,000 pounds an acre, and I think you will make crops. I have been doing this with success. Now I have secured some very fine ground bone dust and will use that in the spring. But in using manure on a garden always put it there long enough ahead to give it a chance to decay and get ready to feed plants. I find that I get far better results from letting the manure lie on top all winter and then turning it under in spring and adding the phosphate. Apply the lime this fall before putting the manure on.

Early Beans

FROM Florida: "We are in receipt of an inquiry from our commission merchant in Chicago for a very small, tender and slender green string bean. He has had these from time to time, but cannot get enough. Can you suggest a variety that will fill the bill?"

There is but one bean I know that will come up to the demand. This is a very early small string bean that is grown in England under glass. I have grown it with perfect success in a greenhouse in North Carolina, and found it remarkably early, prolific and good. This is the variety called the "Triumph of the Frames." The beans are pea-green in color. I planted them in a greenhouse at the same time with one of the earliest of our

during the winter, so that you can have some chance to grow vegetables in the spring. That has been the practice here, and has proved good.

Sweet Ensilage

IS THERE any such thing as sweet ensilage except in name? I often see the name used, but have never seen any that was not sour as kraut.

The term sweet is used comparatively as regards ensilage. In the early days of ensilage making it was common to plant the corn very thick and to cut a green, immature product, which certainly made a very acid silage. Since we have learned to plant the corn more thinly and let it mature ears to the roasting ear stage, we get ensilage that is far less acid, having more the odor of New Orleans molasses, and as compared with the earlier sour silage it is sweet ensilage, though none is really sweet.

Mung Bean

I AM sending you a specimen of a plant of which a neighbor grew a small patch from seed said to have been gathered from volunteer plants. The roots carry nodules as large as those of the soy bean. I planted them the middle of June on one side of a field where peas and soy beans were planted. The plants have come through the changes of weather from dry to wet better than the soy beans or the cowpeas. It holds its leaves and seed well and none have shattered. The plant grows upright like the