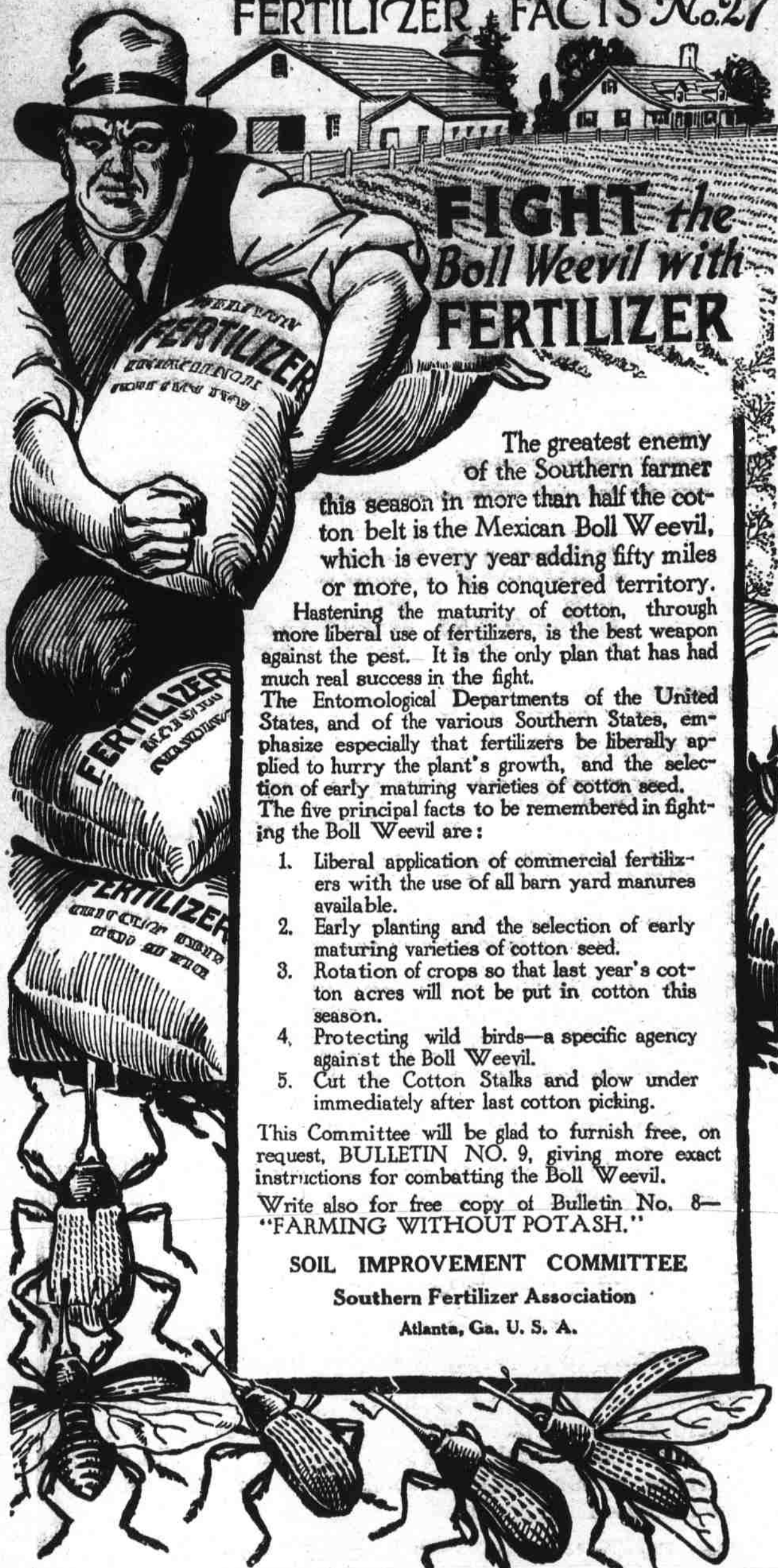


FERTILIZER FACTS No. 27



FIGHT the Boll Weevil with FERTILIZER

The greatest enemy of the Southern farmer this season in more than half the cotton belt is the Mexican Boll Weevil, which is every year adding fifty miles or more, to his conquered territory.

Hastening the maturity of cotton, through more liberal use of fertilizers, is the best weapon against the pest. It is the only plan that has had much real success in the fight.

The Entomological Departments of the United States, and of the various Southern States, emphasize especially that fertilizers be liberally applied to hurry the plant's growth, and the selection of early maturing varieties of cotton seed. The five principal facts to be remembered in fighting the Boll Weevil are:

1. Liberal application of commercial fertilizers with the use of all barn yard manures available.
2. Early planting and the selection of early maturing varieties of cotton seed.
3. Rotation of crops so that last year's cotton acres will not be put in cotton this season.
4. Protecting wild birds—a specific agency against the Boll Weevil.
5. Cut the Cotton Stalks and plow under immediately after last cotton picking.

This Committee will be glad to furnish free, on request, BULLETIN NO. 9, giving more exact instructions for combatting the Boll Weevil.

Write also for free copy of Bulletin No. 8—"FARMING WITHOUT POTASH."

SOIL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
Southern Fertilizer Association
Atlanta, Ga. U. S. A.

WEEKLY REMINDERS FROM SUNNY HOME

We Need to Do Better Plowing—Keep More Sod Crops Growing on the Place—Handling the Manure to Best Advantage

LET'S plow better when we do plow! Isn't that a fine resolution to keep in mind, not only at the first of a New Year, but all the year through? I think so, especially in our South country, where are so many sorts and conditions of soil that are very dependent upon good plowing for their maximum production. And by good plowing,

I do not mean simply deep breaking, but careful turning of the furrow slices, and proper width of furrow, to enable us to secure all the benefits of frosts, rains, air, etc., that accompany good breaking of land. I am a great believer in aerating land, that is, getting it in shape so air can get all about among the soil particles and lend its vivifying effect to the soil bacteria that are so necessary to the best growth of plants.

This is one of the reasons I have insisted, and still insist, that we must have a greater percentage of our acres growing sod crops, that by reason of the burrowing of their roots and their decay in the soil, make for splendid soil aeration. If we would have our heavy soils in splendid mechanical condition because of being well filled with organic matter and well tilled, the supplying of the other conditions necessary to the growth of good crops would be a simple matter; for it is the everlasting hard, compact, run-together condition of much of our clay soils everywhere, that keeps down crop yields, because soils in that condition cannot receive or contain much moisture and are deficient in bacteria also, which means that they are dead.

We have 25,000,000 acres of land in our South country that needs nothing as much as it needs to be "busted" up and crammed full of organic matter. This thing alone would make fairly productive soils where it is not now producing crops sufficient to pay the cost of tending.

Some days ago I heard a man using heated language over the fact that broom straw was about to take his place. I remarked to myself that if this plant could have had charge of the place for the past ten years it would have been a far better place than the owner had made it. And could the broom straw and lespedeza have been grazed by good cattle during the six warm months of the year, the farm would have produced more dollars than it has produced for the man who has been patching around over it with a little plow.

Nature generally knows what she is about, and there is no question about this being the case when she is attempting to cover bare land with a sod, and if we do not give her better material to work with we should not find fault if she makes use of the best cover she can lay hold of. And I never saw nature set fire to a broom straw field, but have seen her drop the old crop down on top of the land for a mulch and cover, and shoot the new plants up through this mass of decaying organic matter, and they seemed to like it. I judge from this that nature's idea is to keep a mulch on top of the land, whenever possible.

The handling of the stable and lot manure on the farm is a matter that holds a growing interest for our folks because the supply of this valuable farm product is gradually increasing, and the understanding

among our people of its great value to the land in several ways is growing also. How shall we apply the manure to the land? When? and why? are questions that are coming to my desk with increasing frequency. I have always advocated the broadcasting of the manure, and do yet in all cases, unless there is a machine available for distributing in the rows at small cost. It has always seemed to me, however, that the chief function of stable manure should be the strengthening of soil-building crops, especially the soil-building sods of nearly every character. A little stable manure applied to a clover and grass sod for instance, because, probably, of its influence upon the development of bacterial life in the soil, does wonders for the crop, instances having come under my notice where the succeeding crop has been doubled by the use as a top-dressing in winter, of six to seven tons of well fined manure per acre. This would pay \$3 per ton for the manure, taking no account of its influence upon succeeding crops, and in these for two or three years would appear almost as marked difference. I doubt if as great benefit would come from the application of a like amount of manure to the corn or cotton crop direct. I have not had opportunity, however, to test the matter with drilling the product in the cotton rows. Theoretically, though, the sod crop would give opportunity for greater development of bacteria; for it is pretty definitely established, I believe, that bacterial action is more pronounced in sods than in bare soils.

The when of applying manure, if the product be used to strengthen sods, is simple, just any time when the crop on the land doesn't interfere, when we have the manure, when we have the time to do the work, and when the land is in condition that it will not be injured by tramping, and the sooner after the manure is made that it gets on the land the better. Every load of the several hundreds that are made at Sunny Home is spread on some sort of sod crop, winter grain, clover, mixed hay, or grass, and the work is done when other work is not pushing its strongest. 'Tis a fine thing for land though, however it is used. We will all agree upon this point, at least, I am sure.

A. L. FRENCH.

A Gasoline Blow Torch to Burn Out Stumps

I AM a reader of your very valuable paper and note that you are always anxious to obtain original ideas that may be helpful to the farmer.

I am a Northern lawyer who purchased a plantation here and moved into this country one year ago, and am therefore not much of a farmer. I realized, however, the necessity of cleaning up, as The Progressive Farmer has repeatedly advocated, and the place I bought, like hundreds of others, contains many old stumps, deadened trees and logs and debris. I had one deadened portion in particular that contained a couple of hundred old stumps and snags.

The problem of getting rid of these confronted me. I found that if I could get a good fire started in the stumps I usually could burn them out, but this took a great deal of time and trouble, and especially on windy days it was difficult to get a fire started. I then conceived the idea of getting a plumber's gasoline blow torch, which I purchased for \$2.40. This produces an intensely hot blue flame, and by the use of it I found that I could set fire to and burn almost all of the stumps and snags and set fire to and burn the big limbs and logs. The torch works so successfully for me in clearing up my place that I feel the idea may be worth something to many others.

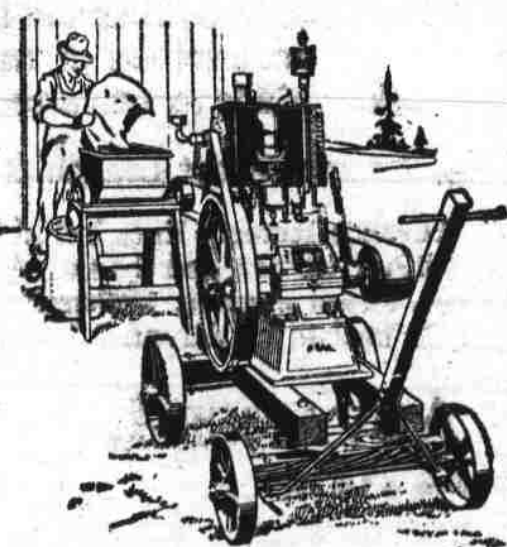
FRANK B. PARKER.
Utica, Miss.

SAVE MONEY!

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PROF. I. W. DICKERSON of the Farm Mechanics Department, University of Illinois, says:—

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