



## What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. MASSEY

### Sweet Potatoes for Northern Markets

"PLEASE tell me the best variety of sweet potatoes to grow for the Northern markets."

None of the Southern yam varieties suit the taste of the Northern markets. The best for shipping North are Big Stem Jersey and Gold Skin.

### Neva Myss Peach

"WHAT do you know about the Neva Myss peach. So far as we can see there is absolutely no difference between Neva Myss, Early Wonder and the original Mayflower. What do you say?"

The Neva Myss is simply the Mayflower with a fancy name. This has been positively proved.

### Fumigating for Mites

"I HAVE a small greenhouse and the plants are infested with little mites. How shall I get rid of them?"

Get some tobacco stems and dampen them slightly. Make a small fire on the floor of shavings or paper and place the tobacco stems on them to smoulder and burn, but never let them blaze. Let the house fill densely with the smoke. Repeat the fumigation every 10 days to keep them down.

### Lime and Limestone

"I CAN buy ground limestone for \$1.60 per ton delivered and burnt lime for 65 cents a barrel delivered. Which would be best to use?"

At these prices I would certainly use the ground limestone liberally. You will need twice as much per acre as of the lime, but you can afford to use it at rate of two tons an acre or more. Lime or limestone is very largely a matter of cost, and where limestone is so cheap use it by all means and use it liberally.

### Reeds, Pecans and Soy Beans

HOW are the common reeds started where none naturally grow? Have never seen that they make any seed. What are the best pecans? When is the time to sow soja beans? When is the time to sow soy beans?"

There will be no difficulty in starting reeds on any moist land, by transplanting pieces of the underground running stems that some call roots. The Van Deman and Stuart are as good as any pecans. The soja beans and soy beans are the same thing. Sow from May till July.

### Peas for Hay

"WHAT is best to mix with peas to make the best crop of hay?"

The best mixture I have tried is equal parts of peas and soy beans. We grow these legumes for their high protein content, and the quality of the hay will be injured by mixing sorghum, corn or millet with peas. We can get plenty of the carbonaceous feeds with these by themselves, but we need the peas and beans to make the highest quality of hay, and any of the more carbonaceous plants will merely depreciate the feeding value of the hay.

### Varieties of Fruits and Nuts

FROM North Carolina: "What is the best grape for wine or grape juice? What are the best varieties of strawberries, raspberries and dewberries? What are the best pecans?" If you were in eastern North Carolina I would say that the Scuppernon is the best wine grape, but it will not ripen for wine in your section. For grape juice the Concord is generally used, and of this class of grapes the best wine grapes are Ives and Delaware. The best single variety of strawberries is the Ches-

apeake. For the earliest, the Early Ozark. For a red raspberry, plant Cuthbert, and for black, Gregg. For dewberries for home use, plant Austin, and for market, Lucretia. Van Deman and Stuart are as good as any pecans.

### Rather Unsafe Advice

A WRITER in an exchange tells of a crop of corn and a crop of oats grown on the same acre, the oats sowed in the fall after peas and no fertilizer used but 300 pounds of salt an acre, and it made 30 bushels of oats and a corn crop after, and the writer attributes it all to the salt.

I would be willing to wager something that if a part of the land had been left without the salt the crop would have been as good or better. And the writer winds up saying that "Sense and salt are all that is needed to grow crops." But the poor peas got no credit, and the salt very probably had nothing to do with the yield. Dealers with refuse salt on hand are

### Fine Celery

A SUBSCRIBER in southeastern Virginia sends me a stalk of his celery. It is as fine as I have ever seen, solid and brittle and without the stringiness in most of the celery on the market. If our friend grows celery like this he should be able to make the crop very profitable, for most of the celery on the market is of the self-blanching varieties, and these are always inferior to the green sorts blanched in soil. I have never seen first-class celery made with the self-blanching sorts. Get French-grown seed of the Giant Pascal or other green sort and blanch it with soil and you will have good celery, and good celery is now so scarce on the markets that any one producing a really good article like the stalk our friend sends can make it pay well.

### Climbing Plants

"PLEASE give me the names of some rapid growing, climbing, annual vines. We want to cover an old porch, and must get roots or seed. Where can we get them?"

You can grow the Moon flower from seed. This belongs to the morning glory family, but blooms very large white flowers in the evening. It is a rapid grower and great bloom-

## THE PORCH THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE HOUSE

A case before the city building commissioner for decision hinges on the question whether a porch is part of a house. It is a technical point the official is to decide, involving an interpretation of the municipal building code. Technicalities aside, however, the question almost answers itself; of course a porch is part of a house. In the modern house it is likely to be about the most important part for six or seven months of the year.

Part of a house? Ask an architect or a contractor. The modern man who plans a comfortable residence for himself designs the kind of porch he deems suitable to his comfort and dignity and when that is done gives secondary thought to the rest of the house. The porch must be big enough to entertain on, big enough to eat on in reasonable weather; it must be screened for protection against insect pests. If one wishes for comfort de luxe he may give his porch a fireplace and defy cool evenings to drive him inside.

The sleeping porch, too, has edged its way into our social consciousness in these latter days. It is also a big part of the house. Doctors prescribe and children cry for it.

Statistics indicate a general lowering death rate among Americans, rural and urban. One wonders whether the advent of the ubiquitous porch has had an appreciable influence in bringing about this result. The gospel of fresh air owes some acknowledgment to this part of the house which lures men, women and children out of stuffy rooms and fills their lungs with fresh air. The porch knows no social caste; it is not a rich man's privilege alone. The humblest home may possess it and, in fact, usually does. More power to it.

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

urging the farmers to buy, and in fact are selling a great deal, and the concentrated lye folks are trying to get the farmers to use their form of soda to make compost, and many thousands of pounds of the stuff are being sold to farmers who had rather take the word of the dealer than to consult their experiment station officers, who could save them from throwing their money away.

### A Young Orchard

"I HAVE a young orchard which I have been cultivating two years in corn and potatoes. I wish to improve the soil, but have been told that clover would injure the trees. What would you advise?"

I would never plant corn in a young orchard, as it smothers the trees too much and holds the land too late. The best thing for a young orchard is to plant it in some early, low-growing vegetable crop that will be off the land by July, for the cultivation of the trees should stop then and give wood a chance to ripen. Then sow an early variety of cowpeas and turn them under in September and sow the land in crimson clover. In spring turn under the clover for another vegetable crop like sweet potatoes or cantaloupes, and follow these with crimson clover again, and you will rapidly improve the soil and the growth of the trees.

er. You can plant roots of the Madeira vine, and they, too, will soon cover the porch, and in the Cotton Belt section the roots can be left in the ground and will come again the next season. One of the prettiest climbers is the Cardinal Climber, a cross between the Cypress vine and scarlet morning glory. This is grown from seed where it is wanted to grow. It is covered all summer with bright scarlet flowers. Then the Cypress vine itself is a good climber and very pretty in foliage and bloom. You can get these from any of the leading seed houses.

### Potato Beetles and Watermelons

"PLEASE tell how to destroy the potato bugs on Irish potatoes. I tried Paris green and killed the bugs and the potato tops too. Also tell me how to prepare a watermelon patch."

If you used pure dry Paris green there is no wonder that you damaged the vine. Paris green can be used safely, but is not so safe as lead arsenate. One pound of lead arsenate in 30 gallons of water can be used as a spray as soon as the old beetles are seen crawling around and laying eggs. They do not eat much but do eat some, and every one of these killed will mean hundreds prevented from hatching. Then if the young hatch out spray again and repeat it

several times as long as any remain alive.

Our large growers of watermelons here prepare their patches in January and check off the land 8 by 8 feet and put a good peck of stable manure in each check and let it lie to rot till spring. Then they mix a handful of good fertilizer with the manure and make up the hills and plant in April. They thin to two good plants in a hill and scatter a tablespoon of nitrate of soda around each hill and cultivate till vines are in the way. As the melons set they sow crimson clover over the whole patch for a winter cover.

### Growing Grapes

FROM Alabama: "I am contemplating the growing of grapes for the market, and would like to have some advice as to the culture. Any information in regard to their cultivation, varieties, etc., will be appreciated."

Well grown and well packed grapes from your section should be made a paying enterprise, since you can put them in early. Do not attempt too many varieties. Use high, sandy soil and fertilize liberally. As to varieties to grow, the Niagara and Delaware will probably pay the best. The Niagara is the finest white grape, and the Delaware, though small in fruit and cluster, is of high quality and popular in the market. It is a red grape. Of black grapes, the Concord is the most popular. Some still plant the Champion, as it is early, but it is of such poor quality that when people buy it thinking it is Concord they get disgusted and want no more black grapes. For an early black grape Moore's Early is better.

Set the vines in rows 10 feet apart and 8 feet in the rows. The first season set a good stake to each vine and train up a single cane, pinching out all other growth. Keep well cultivated and well fertilized during the summer and encourage a strong growth of the cane.

The second year make the permanent trellis. I prefer a modification of the Munson trellis, for horizontal training is better than the vertical. Set good stout posts of lasting wood midway between the vines in the rows and six feet above ground. Across the top of the posts bolt a piece of 2x4 scantling two and a half feet long, projecting equally on each side. Stretch a galvanized wire along the top of the posts, and two other lines of wire from the ends of the cross bar. This will give you three horizontal wires. Cut the canes to the height of the middle wire and train out two arms in opposite directions along this central wire. These are to be the fruiting canes the following year, and at the spring pruning are each shortened to four feet. The side shoots that bear the fruit hang over the outer wires and the fruit is underneath, sheltered from storms and the hot sun. During that summer train out two more arms from the top of the main cane to take the place of those fruiting, and at next pruning cut out the old arms and prune and tie out the new ones, and in this way constantly renew the arms. Clean cultivation and annual fertilization will be needed.

Spray the vines every spring with Bordeaux mixture before the buds swell and again after the bloom is over to prevent rot. Pinch the tips of the side shoots after two or three bunches are set. The fruit is packed in four-pound baskets with covers for shipment. Special scissors are made for cutting the bunches. These scissors are made so that they cut the bunch and hold on to it and thus prevent rubbing the bloom off, as would be done by taking hold with the hands. In packing you should use special pains not to rub the grapes and soil the delicate bloom on them which makes them more attractive in the market.

Pollyanna: The Glad Book, the story you've been waiting for—don't miss the opening chapters in this issue.