

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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Push the Crops by Thorough, Rapid Cultivation

OVER most of the South, planting is now well advanced,—nearly finished, in fact, in many sections. The big job just ahead now is to do everything in our power to insure maximum harvests next fall.

In doing this, in insuring in so far as is possible the biggest possible yields on the acreage planted, thorough, frequent cultivation is one of the first essentials. This cultivation should begin early—actually before the little plants have come through the ground, and continue



A ROW AT A TIME

Labor-saving Machinery Will Prove a Mighty Help in Increasing Our Output of Food and Feed Crops

er rewards were offered the farmer for diligent effort.

The second great essential in cultivation is the conservation of moisture. Water in the soil is a solvent for the plant foods used, and without it, however plentiful the plant foods may be, crops must fail. Hence anything we can do to conserve the moisture supply during the growing period has a very direct value in increasing yields and profits. Here, too, methods and practices must in a very considerable meas-

so long as there is any possibility that increased yields will result.

Probably the first object of cultivation should be to keep down grass and weeds—those robbers of the plant world that take plant food, water, sunlight and air from our cultivated crops. The methods and implements that best hold these pests in subjugation are of course the ones that should be used. Different weeds and grasses must be fought by different methods. Varying soil conditions will necessitate variations in farm practice; and even seasonal variations—wet weather and drouth—will make it necessary that we adapt our plans and procedure to meet them. The essential point is to keep the crop clean and growing, never letting the grass get a start. This calls for rapid, continuous work, but there has seldom been a time when farm products were higher-priced, seldom a time when great-

ure be determined by the varying factors of soil and season, the essential thing being to make a dust blanket or mulch of the top two or three inches of soil and maintain this to save the life giving moisture below.

A precaution that every wise farmer will take in killing the weeds and making the dust mulch will be to see to it that as few plant roots as possible are broken. On an average, cultivating around two inches deep should be about right. Anything much deeper will be too severe on the roots, while anything much shallower will fail to make a mulch that will save the moisture.

Intensive effort on the most extensive scale possible should this year be the watchword on every Southern farm. This calls for pushing every crop to the utmost—for the very best tillage we can possibly give. Let every man do his part.

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