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REMEMBER our "Educational Special" comes week after next, and no article for it can be considered if not put in the mails before night, June 16.

AS A rule, in planting corn from this date on, it will probably be safest to use the Mexican June variety. This corn seems to be especially fitted for standing the fierce heat of July and August, and has generally given satisfaction.

WE DOUBT if there is any such thing as this season as "catching up with our work," particularly the work of cultivation. If it rains, the cultivators should be started as soon as the ground is dry enough; if the weather is dry, cultivators should be kept running to make a dust mulch and thus save moisture.

RAPID, thorough cultivation is one of the most effective means at our disposal for holding the boll weevil in check. Although native to a hot country, this pest has little liking for the hot dust of a well cultivated field. Texas and Louisiana farmers learned this early in their fight against the weevil, and place much dependence in thorough, frequent cultivation as a means of weevil control.

THE North Carolina Department of Agriculture has this year appropriated \$1,000 more than ever before to help community fairs. If your people will raise \$20 for premiums, the Department will also furnish \$20 in cash for this purpose and give you much valuable help also. Don't wait till too late before applying. With the increased interest in food and feed crops, and in fact in all lines of agricultural effort, a 1917 community fair should be more stimulating and useful than any such fair in previous years.

JULY 14 we issue our annual "Marketing and Cooperation Special," and every reader is asked to send an experience letter for it. Send letters about any form of cooperation with neighbors, and then any ideas or experiences on the marketing problem, no matter whether individual or cooperative. Tell us about grading, packing, shipping or selling corn, cotton, cotton seed, tobacco, hay, potatoes, fruit, vegetables, hogs, cattle, milk, poultry, eggs or other farm products. We offer \$7.50, \$5 and \$3.50, respectively, for the three most helpful letters, and our usual cash rates for all other letters published. Mail to us before June 30.

THE condition of the cotton crop on May 25, according to the June 1 report of the United States Bureau of Crop Estimates, was 69.5 per cent of a normal, or the lowest on record. This very low condition is due in large measure to the frosts of the first half of May. A report on the acreage planted will be issued July 1. Conditions by states follow:

State	Condition		
	1917	1916	1915
Virginia	75	89	88
North Carolina	63	76	76
South Carolina	70	85	72
Georgia	69	73	80
Florida	76	82	82
Alabama	61	76	85
Mississippi	66	83	87
Louisiana	74	82	82
Texas	74	78	65
Arkansas	64	87	79
Tennessee	68	86	80
Missouri	73	87	86
Oklahoma	77	88	68
California	82	97	100
United States	69.5	77.5	74.3

WE HOPE all our farmer readers will encourage their wives to put up record-breaking quantities of fruits for winter use. And if anybody is inclined to discourage preserving on account of the alleged high price of sugar, we commend that per-

son to the convincing figures prepared by Mrs. Lily Haxworth Wallace, National President of the Associated Domestic Science Clubs. She proves that the increased cost of sugar used in preserving as compared with five years ago amounts to only one and one-half cents per quart jar. In comparison with food values in other products, fruit is now certainly worth several cents more per quart jar than then. Save all the blackberries now and the other fruits as they come along.

Summer Cover Crops Are Needed.

A GREAT deal has been said, and very properly, about the need for and value of winter cover crops. At the same time, we believe relatively too little has been said about our need for summer cover crops.

Southern summer sunshine is hot, and Southern summer rainfall is heavy. In other words, because of our climatic conditions, chemical changes in the soil are going on very rapidly, plant foods are being made soluble and, once soluble, our heavy rainfall soon leaches them out unless they are held by growing crops. Over most of the South our soils are sandy and open, and this too greatly favors the rapid loss of fertility through chemical action and leaching.

Still another reason why our soils should be protected in summer lies in the fact that our very high degree of summer heat may on barren soils prove fatal to certain kinds of beneficial soil bacteria. The experienced, observing farmer knows that any piece of land that is left bare to bake all summer in the hot sun is in bad shape for crops the following year—many of the bacteria in it have probably been killed and no vegetable matter to maintain bacterial life has been produced. On the other hand, cover a field thickly all summer with a growth of cowpeas, velvet beans or lespedeza, and note the difference. It is spongy, mellow, moist—in a word, a soil in fine shape for producing paying crops.

This matter of summer cover crops is one to which we must give more attention. Of course with certain crops, notably cotton, it is impossible to keep the land protected as it should be; but we daresay there are few farmers who are using the summer cover crop to the extent they should. Certainly there can be no excuse for leaving the stubble land barren and idle, or the corn fields without cowpeas or velvet or soy beans.

Plan Now for an Ample Seed Supply Next Season

THIS spring the demand for planting seeds, especially of food and feed crops, has outrun the supply. Velvet beans, opening the season as low as \$1 a bushel, were finally quoted as high as \$4; soy beans are \$4 and \$5, cowpeas \$3 to \$4, Sudan grass 30 to 40 cents a pound, and other seeds in proportion, on down the list.

These high prices and the general scarcity of high-grade seeds point a lesson that the wise farmer will heed, and heed now, before it is too late. Many a corn field or piece of stubble land will go without peas and beans this summer because of the seed shortage. This is a situation we must guard against another season, and the only way we can guard against it is by making ourselves sure of an ample supply by growing and saving the seeds at home. Beginning now, here are some of the things that should have our immediate attention:

1. **Save plenty of oat, wheat and rye seed.** These crops have just been or are being harvested, and the first aim of every farmer growing them should be to provide an ample supply of seed for planting next fall. Home-grown seed oats of the Red Rust-proof variety have been proved the best for practically all the Cotton Belt, and any farmer saving more than he will himself need is practically certain of a market for the surplus at prices well above those prevailing for feed oats. In the case of seed wheat, high prices for wheat for milling should not keep us from saving plenty of seed. This spring in the spring wheat sections of the North seed at \$3 and \$4 a bushel kept many an

acre from being planted, and it is possible that scarce and high-priced seed next fall may similarly operate to hold down the Southern wheat acreage. Rye, particularly the Abruzzi variety, is another of the small grain crops of which we should make sure we have an ample supply of seed for fall planting, with a surplus for the market.

2. **Select seed corn in the field.** Having planted what we feel is the best type or variety of corn for our particular section, the only possible way to keep this corn up to a high standard is by careful, intelligent field selection. Following this plan, first having detasseled all barren or otherwise inferior stalks to prevent their fertilizing the good stalks, we should have a corn worth \$5 a bushel. Here, too, let us not stop at supplying our own needs; let us save enough for the other fellow who does not have the time or the inclination to do the work.

3. **Plan now for saving big supplies of soy and velvet bean and cowpea seed.** While these crops are used primarily for hay and grazing, a double supply of seed for next year should be planned for, and to this end, if necessary, special seed patches should be planted. There is hardly a possibility that we can save too large a supply of these summer legume seed, for if by any chance the market should be over-supplied, any surplus we may have may easily be fed to advantage.

Food and Feed First: Don't Let the Stubble Lands Loaf

IT WILL be almost criminally wasteful this year to let our stubble lands lie idle, instead of putting them to work again as soon as the small grain crop is off. There are half a dozen good crops to use, and in making a selection the farmer should give careful study to his particular conditions and needs and then plant the crop or crops that best fit these.

Under ordinary conditions, we would hesitate in recommending corn to follow a small grain crop; but the present conditions are extraordinary, and where there is any possibility of a shortage of corn during the next twelve months, this crop should be planted.

Sweet potatoes will do well on most Southern soils, may be planted as late as the latter part of July, and in the amount of human food produced per acre are probably ahead of any other crop we can plant. Vine cuttings should be put out after every rain during the next five or six weeks. Cowpeas are also excellent to plant, providing as they do food, feed, and soil fertility combined. In the upper two-thirds of the Cotton Belt soy beans will prove good.

A Thought for the Week

THESE are perhaps the most momentous times, the most pregnant and far-reaching, that have been vouchsafed to humanity since the coming of Christ. It is possible, indeed, that now is actually the accepted time of the Lord. Other periods have presented the picture of isolated countries, one after another, being thrust into the crucible; but now every morning the newspapers spread before our eyes the awful spectacle of a whole world in a vast fiery furnace. The times are mad with change. Tidal waves of it are sweeping in on every shore of humanity, and no one can say what is approaching on silent feet out of the dark of the future into the white light of the present. But terrible as the times are, and more terrible as they may become, surely no one can fail to be proud to have had granted to him or to her the inestimable privilege of life at this momentous hour. These are no times to breed the "idle singers of an empty day." They are so wide, so vast, so fraught with astounding possibilities, that while, on the one hand, awful dangers lurk within them, still, on the other, no ideal for the general benefit of mankind is too high to hope now for its possible fruition. No American may dare to live lightly in the present; for whether our country rides the waves of change successfully, or is swamped by them, is going to depend not upon this person or that, or upon some high official in Washington, but upon you, upon the backbone of the whole Nation, upon the dedication and highmindedness of every individual within its borders.—Margaret P. Montague, in the June Atlantic.