



What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. MASSEY

Potato Beetles

"PLEASE give a recipe for killing the potato beetles."

Mix 1 part of Paris green in 50 parts of air-slaked lime or dust of any sort. Dust this over the plants when the dew is on the leaves. It will have to be repeated if washed off by rain.

Sorghum

"WHAT variety of cane makes the most juice and is the best to plant?"

The amount of juice is not inherent in the variety but depends on the size of growth made. The best cane for syrup is the so-called Japanese Ribbon cane.

Suckers on Corn

"SHOULD I pull suckers from corn or not?"

I found many years ago that it was a waste of time and labor to pull suckers off the corn. You will make more corn by letting them alone. In fact on strong land in your section the suckers will often make good corn.

Bordeaux Mixture

"WILL Bordeaux mixture lose strength by standing sometime after making?"

I would not say that it loses strength, but it will separate and make it necessary to use an agitator in the sprayer to keep it stirred up. Better make in quantities that are needed at once and not attempt to keep it over. You can buy it in dry shape or canned.

Spraying for Fungi and Insects

"WHAT is the best spray to prevent blight in potatoes and to kill the bugs?"

One and a half pounds of lead arsenate in 50 gallons of a 5-5-50 Bordeaux mixture. Spray every ten days, or if the beetles get a start, spray more frequently. This will ward off the early blight and will destroy the beetles.

Sowing Cabbage Seed

"WHEN should I sow cabbage seed for heading by fall?"

For heading in the early fall sow the seed by the middle of May. For cabbage to head late, sow the seed early in July and put the plants in rapidly and set in late August in strong heavily fertilized soil, and they will head in early December. For the winter crop I would use a good strain of the Late Flat Dutch. The Danish Ball Head is also good.

Alfalfa After Wheat

"MY LAND is now in wheat and I wish to get it in alfalfa. What is the best plan?"

Break the stubble deeply after harvest and sow an early pea like New Era. Disk these down in August and turn them under. Spread two tons of ground limestone an acre and harrow it in. Then apply 400 pounds of acid phosphate an acre, and sow 25 pounds of alfalfa seed an acre in late August or early September and brush in with a smoothing harrow.

Fusarium Wilt in Cabbage

"MY CABBAGE and all in this neighborhood are affected by a wilt disease. The plants turn yellow and die. Can anything be done for them?"

About the only thing to do is to stop planting cabbage in old gardens where the soil has become infected

with the fungus that causes the disease. I know of no remedy. You can get a good deal of information by writing to the Division of Publications in the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and ask for copies of Farmers' Bulletins Nos. 78, 388 and 383.

Bermuda in Upper Piedmont

"I HAVE some steep land near my barn which I wish to make a pasture and thought of using Bermuda grass. What do you think of this?"

I would not advise Bermuda grass in your section. The best pasture grasses for your steep land will be the mixture of 10 pounds Orchard grass, 10 pounds of Kentucky bluegrass, and 5 pounds of reedtop, which I have found to make the best sod on hill lands of the Piedmont section, and which others have found good. Bermuda is the grass for the warmer sandy soils of the Cotton Belt.

Peas and Beans

"I SEND you a sample of peas that we can buy at the grocery, and they are said to come from Cali-

and ripens in June. It makes no seed but produces offsets, and these are used as sets. Onions can be grown year after year on same land provided you sow peas after the early ones and turn these under for the crop again in September and fertilize heavily. It takes several years to get a piece of land in high condition for onions.

Don't Believe All You See in the Daily Papers

SEVERAL correspondents who have evidently been reading the wild statements made by newspaper reporters about the wonderful profit in growing medicinal herbs, ask me how to cure and pack Jimson weeds, horehound, catnip and what not. If there is any sale for Jimson weed I have never heard of it. It contains a powerful narcotic poison and may be used as a medicine, but whether there is demand enough to take any quantity of the weed I doubt very much. Whenever I get these requests for information about the growing of unusual crops about which the inquirers know nothing, I at once assume that here is a man who is not farming well, and thinks that farming does not pay. This class of men are always ready to take up with something they know nothing about, and will pay fancy prices for some seed that a slick agent talks to them about. Here in the South this class of farm-

do more with cowpeas, soy beans and lime and crimson clover than with the lespedeza. The clover will help some the first year and then next year you can use the peas, and turn them under and lime the land and sow crimson clover as a winter cover to turn under for corn in the spring, and then by following a good rotation of crops you can bring the land up rapidly.

Wants to Know More About Kudzu

"CAN the kudzu vine be successfully grown for hay? I have been thinking of planting a piece of black jack land with them. Should the plants be set in spring or fall?"

It matters little when you plant the kudzu, as it is very hardy. I do not know any plant that will furnish more forage. I believe that a plant set in the middle of a ten-acre lot will cover the lot with plants in three years. It seems that the roots run down and clinch on the other side, for I have never been able to dig all of a plant out. It will be a good thing if you can be watchful enough to keep it in one field. But it will send runners right on the ground where the mower will not touch them, and these will run thirty feet and root at every joint, and there is no fence that will stop them but a stone wall.

Fall Irish Potatoes in the South

WHILE the early crop of Irish potatoes is largely grown in the South for Northern shipping, and in some favorable seasons is a very profitable crop, there is too little attention paid to the production of the crop for winter use in the South, and the supply in winter comes very generally from the North and the prices paid are such that a good home crop should be a very profitable one. In fact, for the general farmer, the production of the late crops will generally be more profitable than the early shipping crop, which should generally be left to the regular trucking sections and the organized stations, for isolated growers seldom succeed in making it profitable.

But there is always a home demand all over the South for winter potatoes. Then there is another reason for the growing of the late crop. Our growers have been depending too much on the North for seed potatoes for planting the early crop, and the prevalence of diseases in potatoes in the North has made the planting of the Northern stock an uncertain matter. It has been abundantly proved that the late crop of the early varieties grown in the South make far better seed for the spring planting than the potatoes from the North. The Northern seed potatoes, dug earlier in the fall and fully mature, very generally sprout in the cellars and have the sprouts rubbed off. Then when they grow it is with the clusters of side buds and they come up with a number of shoots. The late crop potatoes from the South do not sprout in winter, and in spring grow with the strong terminal bud, and a potato plant from one stout stalk will always make a better crop than the bunch of shoots from the weakened tuber.

Early potatoes that have been kept in cold storage can be planted in July and make a fine crop for winter use, and make the best seed than can be had for planting the early crop. I have frequently detailed the best methods for growing this late crop, and will have them again on this page at the proper season.

EAGER FOR HIS RIGHTS

As little Freddie had reached the mature age of three, and was about to discard petticoats for manly raiment in the form of knickerbockers, his mother determined to make the occasion a memorable one. The Bristol Times tells what happened. The breakfast-table was laden with good fare as the newly-breeched infant was led into the room. "Ah," cried the proud mother, "now you are a little man!" The fledgling was in ecstasies. Displaying his garments to their full advantage, he edged closer to his mother, and whispered: "Mummie, can I call pa Bill now?"

THE BUSINESS FARMER'S CALENDAR: SEVEN THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK AND NEXT

STUBBLE land left idle means waste. Put it to work making food and feed.

2. Save oat and wheat seed for fall planting. These may be scarce and high-priced when we need them.

3. If boll weevils are in your cotton, it will pay to pick and destroy the early ones, likewise the punctured squares.

4. Don't neglect the cotton you have planted, for prices will probably be good this fall.

5. If velvet or soy beans are not in the corn, don't fail to plant plenty of cowpeas between the rows. Otherwise, you will not be getting from your land what you should.

6. Have the ground ready, and after each rain make a liberal planting of sweet potato slips.

7. Don't forget that dust mulch—it will save moisture and thus save the crops during the critical period just ahead.

fornia. Will they do well here? When is the best time to plant? Are Pinto beans bunch beans? Will they do in this country? What other sorts of beans and peas will do well in Tennessee?"

The sample sent was smashed in the mail. But they are evidently the Early Large Blackeye pea, which is now often called the California, because it has been largely grown there of late years, though I grew it thirty years ago. Sow them now. I know nothing about any "Pinto" beans. You can grow the Mammoth Yellow soy bean. The Blackeye pea is valuable for table use and should be largely grown.

About Onions

"I WOULD like to know what kind of fertilizer to use on onions. I have some now up about three inches high. Land is not rich but in fair shape."

With onions only three inches high the last of May you cannot make more than sets, no matter what fertilizer you now use. Onions should be planted in February or March so as to have as much cool weather for growth as possible, as they are going to ripen up when the weather gets hot. Planted without fertilization and planted late, you cannot make onions of any size. We plant early and give the land, no matter how rich it may be, 1,500 pounds an acre of a good grade fertilizer. Some nitrate of soda applied now alongside the rows may hurry them up. The earliest ripe onions we get from planting the Yellow Potato onion. This variety is always planted in September

ers have been investing in Chickasaw Jack beans at \$1 a quart, and in the North they have been paying another agent two cents apiece for the English Broad Windsor bean, which the seedsmen would sell to them for 50 cents a quart. There is today more money in proper farming with corn, wheat, cotton, cowpeas and soy beans and cattle than in Jimson weeds, catnip, horehound or sunflowers. We need food for humans and animals, less tobacco and no grain to be made into whiskey or beer. This country can easily feed itself, but we have got to help feed our allies in Europe, and help them to maintain the fight against military despotism and kaiserism.

Japan Clover

"I NOTICE that Japan clover is recommended for the improvement of run down land. I have an old field recently come into my possession, which is literally worn out and covered with broomsedge. I cannot cultivate this field this year, but thought of cutting it over with a disk harrow and sowing the Japan clover seed in the spring. Please tell me if it would be worth while to make the investment."

Japan clover, *Lespedeza striata*, has spread all over the South, and is probably plentiful along roadsides in your section. It will to some extent improve the soil, but does not grow heavily enough with you on high land to amount to much. Still you can sow it as you suggest and it will tend to run out the broomsedge and will make a summer pasture. But for the improvement of the soil you can