

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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## TRANSPLANTING.

Suggestions to Farmers and Truckers on a Subject of Immediate Interest.

Messrs. Editors: If one were to divide our different important vegetable crops up into groups based upon the way the young plants are started he would have some such arrangement as this: Best sown or planted in the open ground—Irish potatoes, salsify, parsnips, carrots, turnips, radishes, beets, corn, okra, pea, bean, squash, cucumbers, cantaloupes, and watermelons. Best sown in seed-bed and transplanted by digging them carefully and setting them out: cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce and onions. Best grown in pots and transplanted from them—eggplant, pepper and tomatoes.

But who ever saw a grouping of any sort like this, that couldn't be changed? Beets for the early crop, should be started in the seed-bed, then taken up and set out in the field. Do the same with squashes and their near relatives, cucumbers, cantaloupes and watermelons? Oh, no. Whoever has tried it well remembers the howling failure he made. But these last mentioned plants, if early ones are desired, can be put in the group with the eggplants all right and grown to good size before setting out. Again, the onion crop may be started by sowing the seed right where the plants are to remain.

### Transplanting From Seed-Bed to Field.

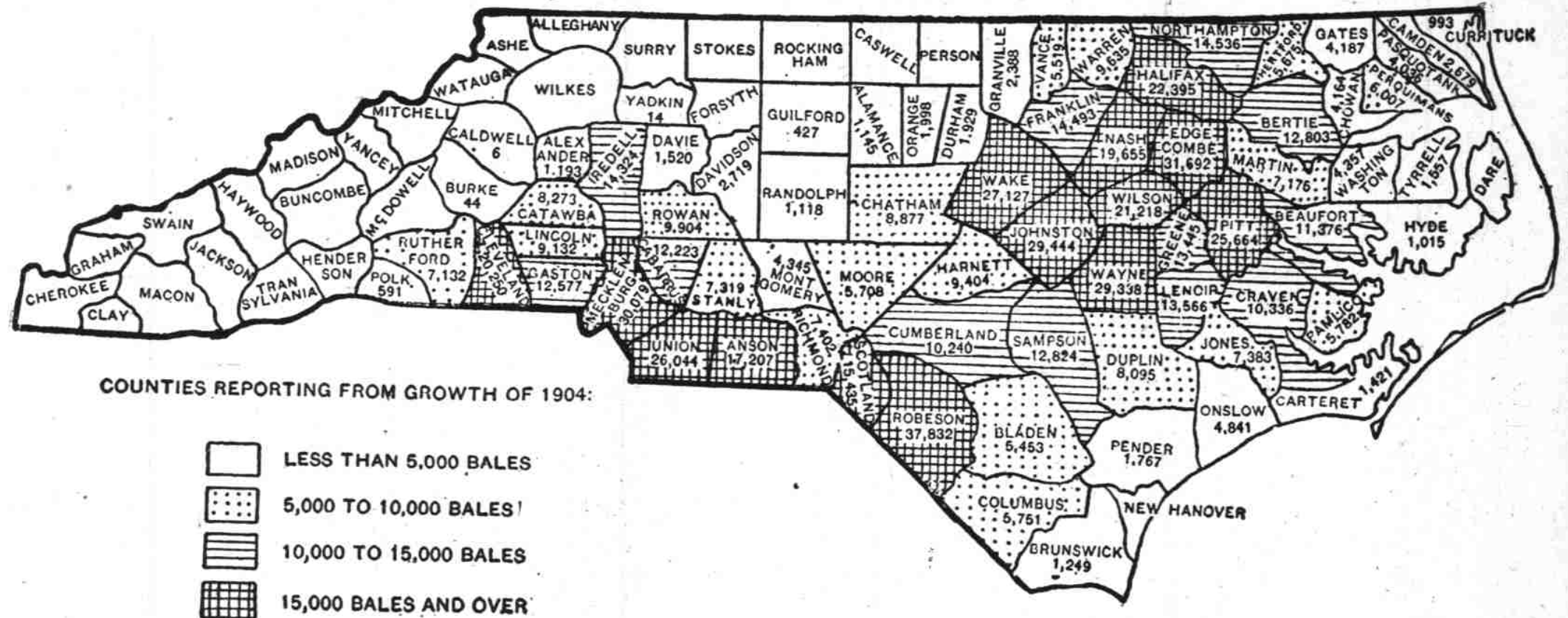
From the plant bed to garden plot or to the field is a short trip, yet it often results in the death of a large number of plants which with a little more care in handling, a little better preparation of the land, and a little more attention to the time of planting, might live and grow in their new quarters.

The advice is often given to transplant just before a rain. Good enough advice; but how many of you have done as I have often done—transplanted just before a rain that never came? There is no time like getting right out in the rain and putting the plants out. Then you are sure of them. But before, if you are certain of your rain, during, or after a rain, are all good times.

Rains do not always come to suit us and we cannot wait for them. In this case preference should be given to cloudy days, or to the late evening, in the latter case giving the plants twelve or fifteen hours the start of the sun.

### Shading and Watering the Plants.

Various temporary devices may be resorted to for shading the newly set plants until their roots have taken hold in the soil once more. Shingles are good, one being set up leaning over each plant on the southwest side. Pieces of newspaper may be used in calm weather or sheltered locations. Tear the paper into sheets of the desired size, lay them



[Courtesy of M. V. Richards, L. & I. Agt., Southern Railway.]

### North Carolina's Cotton Belt.

This illustration shows the counties which make cotton and their relative importance in the production of the crop. It is printed in connection with a similar map of South Carolina appearing last week, and one of Georgia to appear next week.

over the plant, and on one corner place two or three handfuls of earth to hold them down. In two or three days remove them.

Watering immediately after planting is good, so is a shallow cultivation of the soil, and if water is applied, cultivation should be given immediately afterward to prevent evaporation of moisture.

### Trim Back Tops and Roots.

In preparing some plants for transplanting, it is a good plan to trim back both tops and roots. Gather the plants in bunches and with a pair of grass shears clip off the leaves half-way back. The plants will do much better for this treatment. This applies particularly to celery, cabbage, cauliflower and similar plants.

Plants should generally be set a little deeper in the field than they grew in the seed-bed. Cabbage and tomatoes, for instance, are best set considerably deeper (cabbage down to the first leaves) and it is a good plan to set them slanting instead of upright: the stems are then covered without putting them very deep in the earth. Tomatoes will throw out new roots along the stem and have a much better root system as a result.

Pack the earth well about the plants. The rule should be to pack so firmly that if you take hold of the plant by the tip of a leaf and give a sharp jerk, the leaf will break before the plant pulls out of the ground. A dibber may be used to make a hole for the plant, but if the soil is well prepared, mellow and in good tilth, the hand is about the best tool for making a place for plants.

### The Cut-Worm Trouble.

If injury from cut worms is feared, take wheat bran, to it add enough Paris green to give it a greenish color and enough molasses to make it sticky, scatter it in little wads or

lumps about over the ground, in the evening a couple of days before the plants are to go out. The cut-worms will feed upon this and be killed off in large numbers. Better keep the chickens away, however.

H. HAROLD HUME,  
Horticulturist, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Raleigh.

### A Word of Warning to Cotton Farmers.

Messrs. Editors: I wish to call our farmers' attention to the cotton crop for this year. I fear there is more cotton being planted than should be.

Friends, if you plant a big crop this year, you may expect only six cents for it; that means your ruin; not only so, it means the destruction of your Cotton Growers' Association. This all means a big back-set to your community and to all our Southland. More than this, you stamp out the only hope of your prosperity and happiness.

Now are you determined to go back from a prosperous condition to the hard times you experienced a few years ago?

You cannot make cotton at ten cents a pound and buy corn at eighty cents and live happily at your home.

I warn you not to do as you see others doing, but think for yourselves and act for your best interest and that of your home. Don't plant a big crop this year, but stand by our Cotton Growers' Association and give it a chance to help us in the future. Better do this now than to weep over your mistake later on.

H. F. FREEMAN.  
Wilson Co., N. C.

The way to consolation lies through submission.—Alexander Maclaren, D. D.

### The Farmer's Advantages in Canning.

Messrs. Editors: I promised to tell your readers why we farmers could put up the finest canned goods in the world. You know this is my "hobby." The reasons are plain, if you will just think a little. Take peaches, for instance. If you want the most delicious peach you can possibly get, let it hang on the tree until thoroughly ripe before you gather it. And every house-keeper knows that to have the best dish of string-beans they must be gathered in the early morning and cooked the same day. If allowed to wilt they are never so good. Now this applies to all fruits and vegetables more or less, and especially in canning them. All we can hope to do in canning is to keep the article just as good as it is. We can't make it any better. So one great advantage the farmer has over the large packer, is that he can let his goods ripen on the tree or vine, and gather and can them the same day. I have learned from experience that this makes a great difference, more than anyone would think who has not looked into the matter carefully.

Another great advantage is, that we farmers do our own work, or give it our personal attention. We do a small business and can exercise more care in preparing the fruits and vegetables, and especially in packing every can full. One can carelessly filled will injure your reputation. Where this work is all done by the different members of the family, all of whom are interested in the success of the undertaking, and are doing their best to win, no large packer need compete, for he will be left if he does.

T. H. RANEY.  
Orange Co., N. C.