

## SUCCESS IN COTTON FARMING.

### The Four Essentials Discussed by a Highly Successful Cotton Grower— Cultivation, Seed Selection and Soil Management.

There are four things that are absolutely essential to the successful growth of cotton, viz:

- (1) Proper climatic conditions.
- (2) A fertile soil.
- (3) Good seed.
- (4) Manhood.

#### The South's Climatic Advantages:

The cotton plant being a native of a warm climate, will not grow very well further north than the fortieth parallel of latitude, nor further south than the twentieth parallel. And there are other things also to be considered along this line, the topographical conditions, and the very fact that our topographical conditions are the most favorable on earth makes our climatic conditions the most favorable also, for, when a kind Providence placed a great Appalachian range of mountains on one side of our cotton fields and a gulf on the other, the die was cast. The one cuts off the cold winds from the northwest; the other gives us a soft and balmy atmosphere.

#### Soil Fertility and Crop Rotation.

Soil fertility is dependent upon natural conditions and upon soil management, and may be defined as "the ability of a soil to produce in response to a given amount of assistance rendered it in the form of cultivation." In order for a soil to be fertile there are five things that are absolutely necessary, to-wit: A plentiful supply of vegetable matter, nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash and moisture. Without the moisture the most plentiful supply of plant food will fail to produce a crop. There must be sufficient moisture to convey it to and through the plant.

The cheapest way to obtain a plentiful supply of vegetable matter is to grow it upon the soil by a proper system of rotation with leguminous plants, to-wit: by the two year system as: (1) corn and peas one year, and (2) cotton next, or the three year plan of (1) corn and peas one year followed (2) by small grain and the ground sown to peas after grain is cut, and (3) this followed by cotton. Either plan is good, and by the latter plan the peavines may be cut for hay and fed to cattle and the manure returned to soil. "By all means sell nothing off the farm that has any manurial value in it without returning something the equivalent. It is suicidal, you cannot grow cotton upon the intensive system with an impoverished soil."

Of course the cow pea not only furnishes a large quantity of vegetable matter but great quantities of nitrogen as well, thereby lessening the fertilizer bill; and a dollar saved is a dollar made. The phosphoric acid and potash must of necessity be bought, but if we can grow our nitrogen at little cost, the fertilizer bill will be reduced one half.

#### How to Prepare Stubble Land for Cotton.

Take that indispensable tool, the disk harrow, and cut land thoroughly. Sometime in November or December, and any time during the winter when the soil is not too wet, break deep with a two-horse plow. There is a brand new plantation just below the old one that has never seen the light of day. It may be obtained free of cost, so stick your plow in and find it. Turn it up and aerate it and fill it full of vegetable matter, and you have past the first mile post to success. Harrow all cloddy places and lay off your rows perfectly straight where possible, and of even width, and apply in the drill just before planting from 600

to 1,000 pounds of the following mixture:

Cotton seed meal, 600 pounds.  
Acid phosphate, 750 pounds.  
Kainit, 250 pounds.

If a sufficient quantity of good lot manure, say ten wagon loads per acre, has been applied either broadcast or in the drill (broadcast preferred) you can dispense with cotton seed meal. The width of the rows depends upon the strength of the land and the kind of cotton, as for instance, dwarf cotton, like King's Improved, can be grown much closer than large varieties like Russell Big Boll.

#### How to Select Your Seed.

Always remember that good seed has a great deal to do with the output of a crop. According to the great law of nature, like begets like, and the survival is always to the fittest. It is a law that is just as infallible in its workings as the law of gravity. If we plant poor seed, however fertile our land may be, we may expect no great turn out. As the seed is, just so will the plant be. This way of taking cotton seed promiscuously from a pile without any regard from whence they came, has done as much as any one thing you can mention to stick the Southern farmer into the quag mire of poverty. You cannot grow cotton upon the intensive system without giving the proper attention to the selection of seed.

Remember always to select planting seed from as near the center of the stalk as possible, and in order to improve your cotton you ought to go over the field in the fall and select from individual stalks, planting what is thus obtained, off to itself and then select from individual stalks of this. By this plan you will soon have a strain of cotton as near perfection as can be grown.

#### How to Cultivate.

Plant cotton straight and nice and as soon as it cracks the row so as to be seen from one end of the row to the other, use weeder crosswise or harrow with a V harrow with the two center teeth removed and the harrow closed till the two hindmost teeth are just fourteen inches apart. Let horse and plowman both walk on top of cotton and harrow both sides at one going. There will be enough left for a stand and all young grass will be entirely destroyed for the present.

Chop and side as soon as the cotton is all up. The first siding may be done with a double shovel cultivator with small shovels, remove center teeth, straddle the cotton and you can side a whole row at one time. You can use two horses, or one horse will do by fastening a crooked rod to left side of cultivator. There will be very little side draft if hitched properly.

Chop from twelve to thirty-six inches apart according to strength of land and variety of cotton; if the latter distance two stalks to the hill will produce more cotton than one, as I have found by actual test. Cultivate often and lightly and success is yours.

#### And Last, But Not Least—Manhood.

Now I have come to the most important of all, that is: "Manhood." By this I mean an enlightened and cultivated mind backed by energy, vim, industry and perseverance. Every farmer should try to enlighten his own mind and the minds of his family. Knowledge is power! Knowledge is wealth! For where war, pestilence and famine have

slain their thousands, ignorance has slain its ten of thousands. Cotton cannot be grown upon the intensive system of ignorance. There can be no real success in cotton farming without intelligence and organization.

S. H. HOBBS.

Sampson Co., N. C.

### SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OPEN FURROW METHOD OF SOWING OATS.

#### I.—What is It?

Messrs. Editors: The "Method" consists in sowing the oats in the bottom of a furrow. When oats are sowed broadcast and plowed under the surface of the land is practically smooth and the oats will be exposed to freezes and cold winds. If sowed with the large grain drills, the rows are close together and the furrows very shallow so that the land is soon almost perfectly level.

In order to get sufficient furrow the oats must be sowed in rows 14 to 18 inches apart, thus providing a furrow 6 to 8 inches wide and 3 to 4 inches deep.

#### II.—To What Extent Has This Method Been Used?

The Open Furrow plan of sowing was first brought to the writer's attention about five years ago. It was then being practiced with great success by a few leading farmers. This method has been constantly recommended by Director Redding of the Georgia Experiment Station. Indeed, I think the plan was discovered or originated by him.

Thousands of farmers are now sowing oats in the open furrow and the unanimous verdict is that they get a better yield and a safer crop than by any other method.

#### III.—Are Special Machines Necessary?

You can use cotton planters or guano distributors of certain makes and get fair results. These machines do not usually carry a shovel plow large enough to make the required furrow, and if you want to use some guano it requires two trips to each furrow. Another objection to planters and distributors for this purpose is that you cannot gauge the quantity with accuracy.

It is wise to get a machine for the purpose. Such a machine will be fitted with the right kind of plow, it will have a double hopper and will distribute guano and oats at the same time, and it will have gauges that will accurately regulate the quantity of guano and oats.

Perhaps the best machine for this purpose is made in this State and is advertised in this paper. It is very cheap, durable, and efficient.

#### IV.—What is the Use of the Open Furrow?

Oats in the bottom of a furrow being below the surface are protected from cold rains. The soil in the bottom of a furrow will not freeze so hard and deep as the tops of the ridges or a level surface. The oats are not "spewed up" so much, if any. If pulled up by the freeze the process of thawing will cause the soil to roll to the bottom of furrow and thus reset the oats. The gradual filling in of the furrow acts as a mulch and a cultivation of the oats. These open furrows catch the rains and hold the water till it sinks into the subsoil. On hilly land the furrows should run with the terraces, or on a level if there are no terraces. Oats in the bottom of a furrow stand the spring draughts splendidly.

In the spring just before the oats begin to run up, a pike tooth drag harrow should be run over them. The teeth will not damage the roots in the bottom of the furrow, but will fill in the soil around the oats

and give them fine cultivation. This work pays splendidly.

The open furrow method has made oats a sure and profitable crop in sections where the farmers were not able to raise oats successfully by the old methods. The open furrow method in oat growing sections has increased the yield and made the crop certain.

The only objection to this method is that it takes more time than with the large wheat drills. On the other hand, the oats sower costs about one tenth as much, and requires only one horse and one hand to operate it. But it pays to use the oat sower and thus make sure of a fine crop. The writer is personally acquainted with large farmers, having five or six horses and the best Northern grain drills under their sheds, who sow all their oats in the Open Furrow one row at a time. They believe it pays to take more time and make sure of a crop.

#### V.—How Can I Sow Oats in Cotton?

Many farmers would like to sow oats in cotton land in the fall, but the cotton is seldom off the land early enough. The oat sower enables the farmer to sow oats in a field of cotton any time in the fall. Run the oat sower twice in each middle just behind the pickers and you will not damage the cotton. The oats will come off early enough to plant corn or to sow peas. The cotton stalks should be cut or "knocked" down in the winter or spring. It will pay to harrow the oats just before they begin to stalk.

The oat sower will give good results on cotton land without any preparation. But if there is no crop in the way it pays to prepare the land thoroughly. The land should be broken deep, (most lands would be better if subsoiled also) and harrowed. Many farmers believe it pays to run a disk harrow over the land twice.

Special preparation of the land is not necessary in using the oat sower, but it will always be profitable.

The Open Furrow Method is the best yet found for sowing oats. The oat sower is the cheapest and best machine for doing the work. The small farmer can afford an oat sower, and the large farmer cannot buy anything better.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

### Judge Bennett Tells About His Rye Crop.

(Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer.)

To whom these presents may come, greeting:

I grew five acres in rye this year and threshed it yesterday. We got 66½ bushels of as good seed rye as ever grew. Not a drop of rain on it from the cradle to the thresher. The straw is as white as the shirt of an old fashioned merchant's bosom. This rye is worth \$100. The straw is worth 60 cents a hundred pounds. The land is in good heart—part of it is in buckwheat; the greater part of it is in grass and a feeble presentment of Indian corn.

I shall seed down to rye next autumn 20 acres of my best land.

Ye that have ears to hear, give heed.

R. T. BENNETT.

August 1, 1906.

There is now going to waste in South Carolina enough wild Lespedeza clover to produce wool and cotton sufficient to supply every inhabitant of the State with this class of food and clothing. The worthless dogs and their owners are standing guard, keeping back this important industry!—J. C. Stribling.

The one power that cleanses is His blood for pardon, His spirit for holiness.—Maclaren.