

**Plowhandle Talks**

**CRIMSON CLOVER 18 YEARS.**

**Some Hints and Ideas From a Farmer Who Has Grown It Successfully on Many Soils.**

Messrs. Editors: I saw a very interesting article in last week's paper from J. F. Duggar on Crimson Clover. I have grown it for eighteen years, successfully, on every grade of land, from stiffest clay to light sand. It succeeds best on light loamy soil, but will grow anywhere. The land should be broken in time to sod, then put in fine tilth by shallow harrowing. I have raised splendid clover on woods pasture by harrowing the land and sowing. Do you want to try it? If so, take any grove or woodland pasture, harrow with a sharp-tooth harrow, with teeth turned back so that they will pass over roots. Run harrow several ways till you pulverize the top of the ground. Sow one bushel of orchard grass and 15 pounds crimson clover seed. You will have a pasture all summer. Of course land must be freed from undergrowth.

The inoculation is to me what religion is to the Greeks—foolishness. I have sown on all sorts of soil, and have never failed if I got the plant started time enough to make good growth before frost, and no amount of inoculation will avail unless this fall growth is had.

If you have not broken your land before this, don't plow it. Crimson clover will not succeed on fresh plowed land. Disc the land shallow both ways, harrow fine, sow and run a brush over the land.

J. H. PARKER.  
Perquimans Co., N. C.

**How to Cure Peanut Vines.**

Messrs. Editors: In this week's Progressive Farmer some one asks how to save his peanut hay for feed. Plow up peanuts, vines and all. After letting them stand one day, shake clean of dirt; then stack in tall, slender stacks as high as can be reached standing on ground and not more than length of one vine from pole to outside. In this way your peanuts will cure bright and hay will be fine.

J. H. PARKER.  
Perquimans Co., N. C.

**In Regard to Mr. Worman's Cotton Disease.**

Messrs. Editors: The decay of cotton leaves referred to by Mr. E. S. Worman can be attributed to one of three causes:

1. To lice, which feast on underside of leaf, by sucking, and cause the sap to ooze out on the top-side,

**Three Cents an Acre Will Kill Smut.**

Loss of 15 to 40 Per Cent From Smut in Oats, Wheat, and Rye May be Easily Prevented by Formalin Treatment.

Messrs. Editors: All country people are familiar with a peculiar blackened condition of oats, wheat, rye, and barley at harvest time, commonly known as "black heads," "smut," or "bunt." This is a disease and it prevails wherever oats and other grains are grown, and often to a very serious extent, much more always than the farmer is aware. It is frequent to observe a loss of as much as 40 per cent of the value of the whole crop from this disease in fields in North Carolina. Throughout the State the average loss is probably about 15 per cent. In one case which I visited last summer the loss was more than 10 per

producing an oily appearance erroneously called heavy dew.

2. To insufficient potash in the soil. Enough potash is needed to produce in the plant sufficient firmness of texture to sustain it through gradual development, to natural maturity. Lack of potash is a very common cause of premature decay on all dark soils, either fine or coarse.

3. To excessive moisture, or insufficient drainage.

J. W. HALL.  
Wayne Co., N. C.

**Blue Grass for Groves?**

Messrs. Editors: Mr. Tomberlin asks about grass that will grow in shade. What about "blue grass" for his grove? We had it in our yard, 40 miles from Chicago, where it grew under the pines and they made dense shade.

MRS. E. H. MILLER.  
Columbus, Co., N. C.

**Pure Food Law and the Home Canners.**

Messrs. Editors: Please publish in your next issue what effect the pure food law will have on the canning of tomatoes, etc., on the farm; also any information in regard to the law that will effect the farmer.

R. L. MEADOWS.  
Mecklenburg Co., Va.

(Answer by B. W. Kilgore, State Chemist.)

In reply to inquiry of Mr. Meadows, regarding the effect of the pure food law on the canning of fruits and vegetables on the farm, we think that it will exert a beneficial influence. The law prohibits the use of chemical preservatives in canned goods and other food products. These have been used but little in home canning, as the products could be put up in a fresh condition as fast as they ripened. Under these conditions, where care and cleanliness are observed, preservatives are not necessary, and products put up without them are far better and more wholesome than where they are employed, and should ensure the farmer a good price for what he is able to put on the market. Practically all manufacturers are discontinuing the use of preservatives and only used them in the past because they had large quantities of materials to handle in a very short time and they could do this more easily by the use of artificial preservatives.

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the oat plant is susceptible to attack only when it is very young, only prior to the attainment of the length of a half inch by its first leaf. It thus happens that if the farmer can protect the oat plant in its infancy, he can save it from disease. It is further true that only those spores which are on the seed and are consequently planted with it are able to infect the young plants.

**Formalin Treatment Kills Smut.**

The method of preventing oat smut, based upon these facts, consists in so treating the seed before planting as to kill all of the adhering spores. This treatment is an exceedingly simple one and consists in soaking the seeds in formalin, a chemical which may be had from any a druggist at small cost, diluted to the strength of one ounce to three gallons of water. After so treating, the oats are allowed to remain wet for several hours, and are then dried and planted. This treatment is absolutely perfect, preventing every single grain of smut. It applies equally well to wheat, oats, rye, and barley. It costs less than three cents per acre and in view of its great efficiency can be applied to these crops with great profit.

F. L. STEVENS,  
Professor of Biology A. & M. College, Raleigh, N. C.

The Charlotte Observer is to be congratulated upon securing Mr. Joseph Wardin ("Uncle Jo") as agricultural editor. Mr. Wardin is a pleasing and forceful writer and is deeply interested in agricultural progress.

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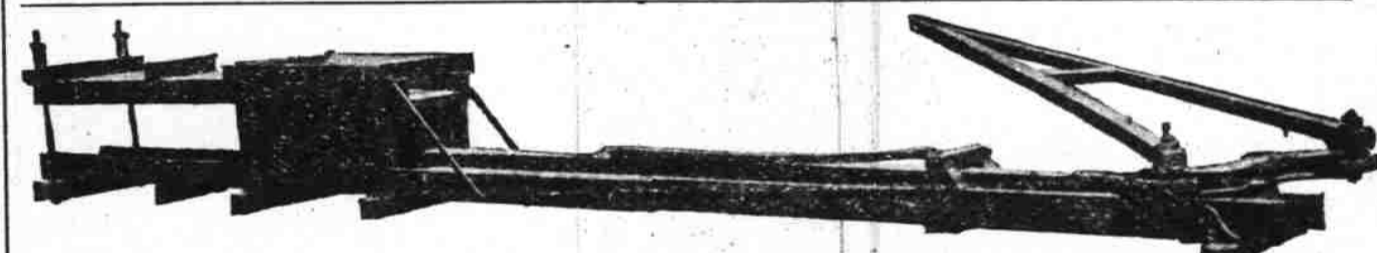
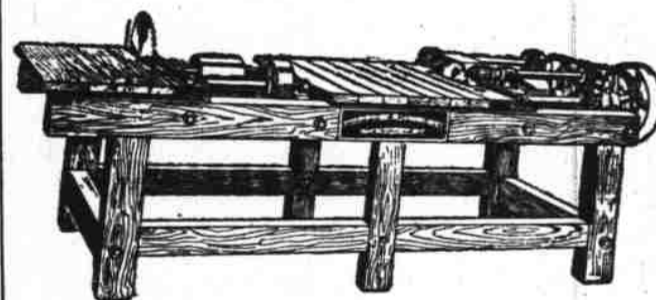
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