

What Farmers Want to Know.

Answered by Prof. W. F. Massey Unless Otherwise Stated.

ADOPT A SUITABLE ROTATION.

The Only Safe and Economical Way to Build up the Soil.

I have some land of dark soil with red clay, that with using guano, has been making one-half bale of cotton to the acre. I sowed it in rye last fall and have broadcasted manure on it this spring. Will you tell me what is the best fertilizer I can use on it now for cotton? Also I have some fresh land with black loamy soil with red clay, and would like for you to advise the best fertilizer for that for cotton. Also some mixed red land I planted in peas last year in rows, gathered the peas and cut the vines for hay; have broadcasted manure over it, and am asking what is best to use under that of corn. W. L. Granville Co., N. C.

Where you have spread manure for corn or cotton I would use mainly acid phosphate. While your land about Franklinton has a good deal of potash in it, it is in an insoluble state and is very slowly available to plants, and it will pay to use a little potash. It is always cheaper to get potash in the muriate than in kainit,

as the kainit has but 12 pounds of potash per 100 pounds and the muriate has 50 pounds per 100 pounds, and you have to freight but one-fourth as much to get what potash you need.

If the dark soil with red clay bottom makes a good weed, I would use here only 400 pounds of acid phosphate and 25 pounds of muriate of potash per acre. The same for the fresh land, and for the corn where manure has been spread. Put these broadcast, for cotton and corn roots run far and wide over the land and soon get away from a little in the furrows. Then adopt a regular rotation of crops, and do not follow cotton after cotton. Sow crimson clover in the cotton and corn every fall and have a winter cover on the land. Every corn field here is now green with crimson clover.

With a good rotation of crops, growing plenty of forage and feeding it for manure, and the use of only acid phosphate and potash, you should soon be able to get a bale or more of cotton per acre and 75 bushels of corn, or more.

Some More Cotton Formulas.

I would like to know how late rye can be turned under for cotton. I have three acres that were in cotton last year. After cotton was all picked I plowed it up and planted rye. It was planted late and has just begun to grow. What would be a good fertilizer for this plot? I have another plot of six acres that was in corn last year and peas sowed last plowing. What would be a good fertilizer for this plot? I have another plot that was in corn and peas and peavine hay. I cut off the hay where there was no corn. After peas that grew in corn were picked, I sowed it down in rye about first of December. What would be a good fertilizer for this plot? All of this land is fairly good land with clay foundations.

H. C. W.

Plow the rye down as soon as it is necessary to plow for cotton. It would have been better had you sown some crimson clover with the rye, and it would be still better if you practiced a good rotation of crops and stopped planting cotton after cotton. Mix 1,200 pounds acid phosphate, 700 pounds cottonseed meal and 100 pounds of muriate of potash for a ton and use 400 pounds broadcast for the cotton. For the cotton after corn and peas, increase the acid phosphate 200 pounds, decrease the cottonseed meal 300 pounds and increase the muriate of potash 100 pounds and use the same amount per acre. Same for the pea land where the hay was cut.

Two Bales of Cotton to the Acre.

I have some fine land that I want to plant in cotton, which has been making a bale per acre. Last year it was sown to oats, and these followed by peas for hay. I am now turning the stubble, and would appreciate your opinion as to the best fertilizer to apply? I am thinking of using a mixture of 300 pounds of acid phosphate and 200 pounds of cotton seed meal per acre, and of top dressing with 100 pounds of nitrate of soda. It is clay land. This would make 600 pounds per

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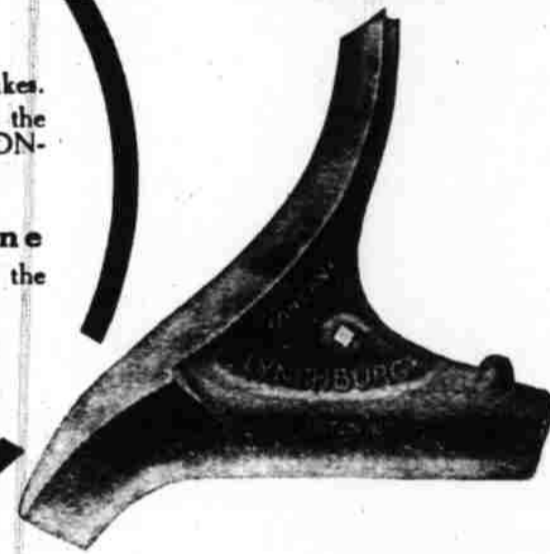
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