

## Things to Observe in Planting Cotton.

Have a Firm, Well-Drained Seed Bed, Cover the Seed Very Lightly—Firm the Earth Well About Them, and Plant Only When the Soil Has Been Well Warmed.

By R. L. Bennett.

**G**ETTING and keeping a perfect stand of early cotton is generally regarded as more or less of an uncertainty. The principles involved in planting are generally disregarded, when if they were followed as a guide, better success and profit would be made in cotton growing.

The cost of planting and cultivating the crop is the same whether the stand be perfect or imperfect. Both kinds of a stand occupy the same amount of land, and as cotton is grown only on stalks, the question of getting and keeping perfect stands is of great importance in making a profitable crop. The principles involved indicate so clearly the proper practices that the question of a stand is really one of certainty rather than one of uncertainty.

### The Seed.

The seed contains the young plant and its food. The latter is in the two seed leaves and sustains the young plant until it grows large enough to obtain its food supply from the soil. The food supply in the leaves is intended for the growth of the plant and not for use of the plant in forcing a way through either hard or soft covering of deep earth. Where a diversion of this essential food supply is caused by deep covering of the seed, the growth and strength of the plants are affected to a corresponding extent.

### Don't Make the Young Plant Do Needless Work.

The stem of the young plant comes out of the seed hull with a bend near the two leaves, and this bend of the stem goes upward in an effort to bring the leaves above the surface of the soil where they may unfold to the sunlight. The bent stem and the two folded leaves present a considerable surface against the resisting soil covering, which, if thick and dry and crusted, is difficult for the growing plants to break and force their way through. It is common to see young plants lifting up a heavy crust of hard soil, or to see them straining in an effort to bring up the leaves through the soil. Frequently a rain occurs and settles the soil around the partly unfolded leaves, thus preventing them from ever freeing themselves. The usual remedy for this trouble is to plant a very large quantity of seed, believing that the combined strength of the many young plants may force a way out of the soil. This remedy, however, only partially cures, and brings on other troubles worse than the first.

### Air, Warmth and Moisture Necessary

Seed, in germinating, require air, moisture and warmth. The warmth of the soil is particularly variable and limited in the early season, and only the top soil is warmed by the

limited heat of the sun. Deep covering of the seed at such a time places them deeper than the soil is warmed, and germination is either delayed or destroyed.

Sufficient air in the soil for germination may be excluded by too much water in the soil surrounding the seed. This occurs when the seed bed is very loose and open, as in a freshly prepared bed. A loose, open soil holds water like a sponge and air is excluded from the seed. Hence seed planted 2 to 4 inches deep fail to germinate if a saturating rain occurs just after planting.

A proper seed bed is one that has been prepared and firmed, settled by rains before the time arrives for planting. A firm bed drains promptly, particularly near the surface, and no part remains saturated with water to the exclusion of air. It is, therefore, warmer and drier, especially at the surface, than a loose, fresh bed, and moreover, a firm bed prevents the proper kind of planter from running deeper than a regulated depth.

### The Proper Depth to Plant.

The proper depth of planting is less than an inch, the seed scarcely covered, and when thus planted none of the food supply in the young seed leaves is required in forcing the way through the covering, and, furthermore, the seed are in the warmest and driest part of the soil. They get proper warmth, air and moisture to germinate them properly and they come strong and vigorous and survive any unfavorable weather.

Cotton frequently dies after coming up when the weather is cold and wet. This dying is caused by the plants exhausting themselves in coming through a deep covering. Young cotton coming from seed planted as recommended also escapes serious "damping off," or "sore shin," an affection that seriously injures plants that come from deeply covered seed.

Every cotton grower knows how well seed germinate and grow that fall on top of the soil in filling the planter.

### Firm the Soil Well About the Seed.

The manner of planting suggested by these factors is important if the principles involved are to be carried out successfully.

First, the surface of the seed bed must be clean of all trash and free of clods. The soil must be in a fine state. Trash of any kind interferes with the running of the planter and the shallow covering of the seed. A coarse, cloddy soil permits evaporation of water from the soil below the seed and dries away the moisture before the seed can germinate. The planter should have a roller behind, in order to sustain the planter at a proper depth, also to firm the shallow

soil covering the seed and to press the seed in contact with the firm under-soil, which is moist and supplies moisture to the seed for germination.

A "sled" or "sword" opener to the planter does not tear up and loosen the soil that will surround the seed. This type of opener makes a clean, narrow trench for receiving the seed.

The question may arise as to whether such shallow planted seed will germinate without rain. They will germinate if planted early or following a rain. There is generally more moisture in the soil early in the season than later in the season. But if no rain falls, a heavy roller run over the beds will start germination.

Extra early planting should never be practiced. A normal date in late spring years should be the date of planting every year.

"Don't you know that the destruction of the forests will change the climate?" "I've heard so," answered Farmer Cornstossel. "An', much as we need the woods, if I thought it 'ud do anything to this climate, blamed if I wouldn't go out an' chop down a tree!"—Washington Star.

FREE for the asking. We Pay the Postage



GET THIS VALUABLE BOOK TODAY

Don't buy a Vehicle and Harness until you get our beautiful new 5 color catalog, the greatest money saving Vehicle catalog ever published. Brim-full of Bargains and Valuable Information. It shows

150 STYLES at FACTORY PRICES

We guarantee safe delivery anywhere in the United States, and satisfaction or money back. Every Golden Eagle Vehicle is covered by our binding guarantee.

10,000 customers have saved \$20.00 to \$40.00 each in buying DIRECT FROM OUR FACTORY

THIS \$75 BUGGY for \$49

Get our prices NOW, while it is on your mind. A postal will do. Ask for Catalog A



GOLDEN EAGLE BUGGY CO. Atlanta, Ga. Station 6

## Everybody Is Reading "A SOUTHERNER IN EUROPE"

By Clarence H. Poe

"A book not only of readable and interesting travel sketches, but even more notable as a vigorous and thought-provoking review of the needs and opportunities of our Southern people as seen in the light of Old World conditions."

Just Out! Cloth, 75c.; Heavy Paper, 40c.

Chief Justice Walter Clark says: "The best travel letters I have ever seen from any European tourist."

Columbia State: "Delightful to every class of readers."

Dr. Edwin Mims: "One of the most instructive and valuable books ever written by a North Carolinian—not the conventional book of travel, but the impressions of an alert, open minded, progressive Southerner with insight and discrimination, a constructive leader in the development of the South."

Durham Herald: "There is not a superfluous line or an uninteresting fact."

Charity and Children: "There has not been issued in recent years a more delightful book of travel."

R. D. W. Connor: "I read it from cover to cover without stopping—a whole day of delightful reading."

C. L. Van Noppen: "Marvelously clear in presentation and really profound in philosophic and utilitarian outlook."

Get It at Your Book Store or Order Direct From Mutual Publishing Com'y, Raleigh, N. C.

## Are You Interested

in raising poultry, live stock, produce, fruit, honey, or other farm products? If so, send ten cents for a 3-months' trial subscription to the "RURAL FARMER."

3 Months Trial Subscription 10 cents

## It Tells You

all about farm cultivation, orcharding, live stock and poultry breeding. How to market crops successfully, informs you how to ship, pack, crate, bill and get returns. "RURAL FARMER" columns are rich in things you should know. Three Months for 10 cents. Published weekly—50 cents per year; 3 years for \$1.00, or \$1.00 per year for club of 3 persons.

"RURAL FARMER," 44 S. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

PRICE Direct From Our Factory Saver You 40% to 50% On Vehicles and Harness

## Hand Forged Wrought Iron Gears

Friend—Let us send you our Big 1909 Columbus Vehicle Book Free and quote you prices that will save you 40 to 50 per cent cash. Pick out just what you want and use it a month.

Every Columbus Buggy is shipped subject to this test—sold straight from factory to you at manufacturers' prices. If not found as represented—and satisfactory in every way—buggy can be returned—all freight charges will be borne by us—and all money paid cheerfully refunded. Long-time guarantee given on every vehicle. COLUMBUS—on a buggy—stands for quality the world over—highest quality possible to obtain in a vehicle—and being now

## Sold Direct On Full Month Trial

Saves you the big profits of dealers or agents. Write us a postal or letter so we can prove the savings that we can make you on high grade Columbus Vehicles and Harness. We will also send our Big Book Free. It will pay you to write

THE COLUMBUS CARRIAGE & HARNESS CO. Station C103 Columbus, Ohio

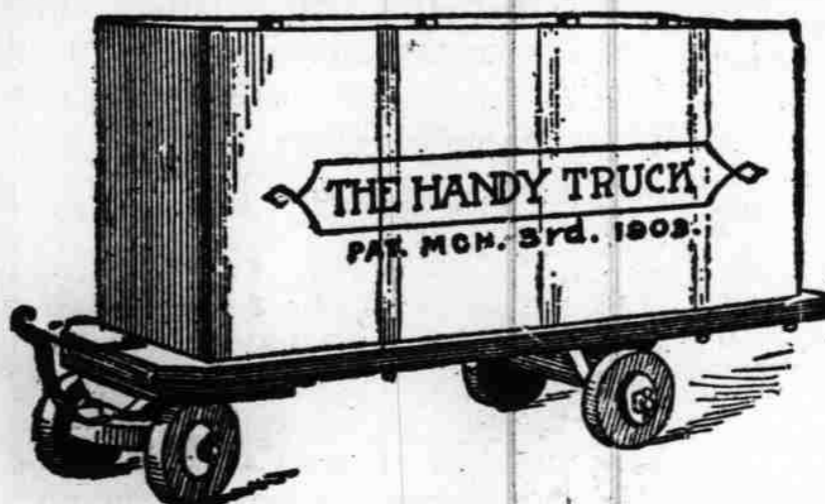


BOOK FREE Send Your Name on a Postal. Shows 75 Styles—102 Pages.

## 90% of Inquiries from The Progressive Farmer

"RALEIGH, N. C., April 16, 1909.  
"Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.  
"GENTLEMEN:—Please state in your next paper to the cotton farmers and readers of The Progressive Farmer that I have no more seed to offer this season, having sold out.  
"I thank them very kindly for the liberal patronage they have given me, and feel sure the results will be such that I shall merit same next season.  
"I must heartily recommend advertising in The Progressive Farmer, as 90 per cent. of the inquiries I got mentioned your paper. Of course you will cut out my regular ad.  
"Yours very truly,  
W. A. SIMPKINS,"  
Originator Simpkin's Prolific Cotton.

## Don't Try To House Your Tobacco Without the Handy Tobacco Truck.



They will save you several times their cost in one season. They are made very durable with best steel axles, and boxes like the buggy box. Twenty-five hundred of these trucks were insufficient to supply the demand last season. Trucks are sold through jobbers and dealers, or you can send your order direct to us. We can furnish best of testimonials on application. Write for prices and circulars at once.

A. G. COX MANUFACTURING CO. WINTERVILLE, N. C.