

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER



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## LET'S LAY BY ALL CROPS CLEAN

THE two main purposes of cultivation being to save moisture for the growing crop and kill grass and weeds, it follows that cultivation should be kept up so long as these objects are attained. If there is to be an error, let it be a tendency to cultivate too late rather than stop too soon.

A grassy, weedy cotton field at picking time is an abomination. It means that moisture and plant food that should have gone to the production of twenty-five cent cotton have been wasted; it means cotton hard to pick, samples stained, grades lowered. Likewise, a corn field overgrown with weeds instead of peas or beans means waste, and waste at a time when we can least afford it. And the same is true of every other cultivated crop we grow—weedy fields mean decreased yields and trouble in harvesting.

Still another phase of this problem, and one to which too little attention is given, is the matter of re-infesting our fields with weed seeds that will prove troublesome next year. Crab grass that matures seed this fall means millions of plants next spring, and this means trouble if we have a wet spring. Every cocklebur plant maturing this season means dozens and hundreds of plants to make cultivation more expensive next year. The best of all ways of keeping these pests in check is to never let them make seed.

Just how late cultivation shall be kept up must of course be determined by the circumstances in each particular case; but it is safe to say the job is not done until we have made sure that no weeds will have a chance to mature seed before frost.



A ROW AT A TIME

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