



## What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. MASSEY

### Texas Bluegrass Roots

SEVERAL parties have written that they can supply the running-root stalks of Texas bluegrass, in response to the query about this grass. Those who wish to sell bluegrass should advertise it and price per barrel in The Progressive Farmer. We give no free advertising on this page or elsewhere.

### Can You Beat This?

MR. A. C. Cureton, Liberty Hill, S. C., says that he has a quarter acre piece of land on which he made 73 bushels of Irish potatoes last spring, and in early July planted six rows of corn which made eight bushels, three rows of teosinte to cut for his cow, and grew sweet potatoes on the remainder of the land and dug 60 bushels. He values the produce of that quarter acre at \$329. Next.

### Alsike Clover

"WILL alsike clover need sowing every fall or will it last longer? Mine is in full bloom and ready to cut now (May 24)."

Alsike clover is far more nearly perennial than other true clovers, except white clover. In moist and fertile soil it will last several years. But if cut every spring and nothing done for the soil the crop will soon be small. One summer's growth turned under in spring for corn or cotton will do much toward the increased fertility of the soil.

### Buffalo Clover

"I SEND a specimen of clover. Please give its name and whether it is a legume and good for pasture."

I have identified this clover for readers every spring. Being a true clover, it is of course a legume. Its big brown heads are very conspicuous and attract attention. It is a native plant in the South, but I have never known it to be cultivated. It is an annual like crimson clover, but not so valuable. Having crimson clover, it is not worth while to experiment with plants of inferior value.

### Mildew on Roses

"WHAT spray shall I use to prevent mildew on roses?"

You can get the dry Bordeaux mixture in small packages now, and this is effective, but it makes the bushes rather unsightly with the blue color all over. Formaldehyde mixed at the rate of 1 pint in 25 gallons of water is also good and makes no blemish on the bushes. I have also used a preparation called "Fungine," which comes in quart cans and is heavily diluted with water. But any of these must be used before there is any appearance of mildew. We must prevent rather than try to cure plant diseases.

### Spring-sowed Wheat

"WE SOWED February 8 five acres of Leap's Prolific wheat on good loam, well drained. It germinated quickly, but soon turned red as though scorched. We used nitrate of soda on it, and it grew green and seemed to take on new life. In a week it turned red again. Another application of the nitrate of soda. We have had continual rains here since it was sowed. Other farmers have the same experience, and are plowing the wheat under. We have wheat sowed in December doing well."

Spring wheat is useless in your climate, and Leap's wheat is not a spring wheat. You had as well plow it down

and put the land in corn. You will hardly make wheat enough to pay for saving it.

### Too Much Paris Green

"ABOUT May 20 I dusted my cabbage over with Paris green, using 1 tablespoon of Paris green to 12 tablespoons of flour. I notice that the cabbage have blighted some since, and have been uneasy about eating it. I read of the mixture in The Progressive Farmer, the mixture being 1 pound of lime and 1 ounce of Paris green. I did not have the lime so used flour. Is there any danger in eating the cabbage?"

You did not find the mixture advised on my page in The Progressive Farmer, for I have never advised more Paris green than 1 part to 50 parts of air-slaked lime. I use this only before the cabbage heads. If your cabbage was well headed when the poison was used there will be none inside the head, and the removal of the outer leaves will clean it all out. The head grows from the inside bud, and the poison will be only on the outside.

## THE BUSINESS FARMER'S CALENDAR: EIGHT THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK AND NEXT

1. GET the stubble land planted to a second crop without delay.
2. Watch the recently harvested grain, seeing to it that none is molding or rotting.
3. Plant some late watermelons this week, before it is too late.
4. Mow the weeds in the pastures, and grub out the bushes and briars.
5. Pick the boll weevils out of the buds of cotton, if they appear very numerous.
6. Keep the cultivators going every possible moment, killing grass and saving moisture.
7. Plant plenty of crops to fill the silo, if you have one.
8. Watch the pigs; don't let them get stunted for lack of feed.

Still I had rather not use the poison after the head forms. I depend mainly on air-slaked lime and salt to destroy the green worms.

### Rather Poor Seed Potatoes

"I HAVE some Irish potatoes, Green Mountain, kept over in a cellar from last fall. They began to sprout this spring and the sprouts have been rubbed off. They are still sound. Will these make good seed for the late crops? They will have to have the sprouts rubbed off again."

The sprouting has used up a very considerable part of the plant food stored in the tubers to make growth till green tops appear. They will grow and make potatoes, but not as heavy a crop as seed that have been in cold storage and kept from sprouting. It would be interesting to get some cold storage seed of the same variety to plant alongside of these and note the difference.

### Sneeze Weed

"I AM sending you a weed we call snuff weed. It is thought to be poisonous. Several horses have died here and this weed was thought to be the cause."

The flowers were badly dried and crushed, but they appear to be flowers of the Helonium Autumnale, or sneezeweed. I hardly think that it is poisonous, though not particularly wholesome. The dry and dusty flowers will cause sneezing, and that is probably the reason for the name snuff weed with you. It is a weed though, and weeds should not have place in a properly made and managed pasture. If the death of the horses could be traced to this plant it would be desirable to know it.

### Growing Beans

"I AM interested in bean-growing, and am a new-comer here and do not know the best variety for this high mountain country. How much land will a bushel plant and where can I get them?"

I suppose that you want to grow the dry white beans. You can grow in your cool and elevated section the dry white beans better than in the warmer parts of the state, but you will have more hand-picking and more trouble from weevils than in the North. The best bean to try will be the pea bean or navy. I think that if you are from the North you will find that beans are less profitable as you come south. A bushel and a half will plant an acre in close rows, and a bushel will do it in three-foot rows. You can get the seed from any of the leading seed houses in Baltimore, Philadelphia or New York.

### Lime in Fertilizer

"IN THIS neighborhood the cotton crop was very short and our supply of cottonseed meal is short. I saw a bulletin last spring giving formulas for mixing fertilizers with lime or limestone. I have mislaid the bulletin and would like your opinion on the matter."

It is very well that you mislaid the

bulletin, and is the result of soil infection, and no remedy or preventive is known. But it is far better to have advice based on actual examination and study than to adopt my guess.

### Better Have Thought of This Earlier

"PLEASE tell me how to get rid of the green worms which are eating up my cabbage and collards."

Why did you defer seeking a remedy till the green caterpillars have done all the damage they can do? I have often advised about this matter in The Progressive Farmer, and many would be saved the trouble of writing if they would read the paper. Before the cabbage start to head spray with lead arsenate, 1 pound in 30 gallons of water. As they head, drop the poison and keep the cabbage dusted over with air-slaked lime in which a small amount of salt is mixed. Deluging the plants with the soapsuds from the weekly wash will also do good and help the plants. But it is too late to lock the stable after the horse has been stolen, and nothing you can do now will have much influence on the saving of the cabbage.

### The Potato Prospect

A CORRESPONDENT in the trucking section of South Carolina near Charleston, wrote that they have a large area in early Irish potatoes, and he is anxious to know when the crop of eastern Virginia will be going to market, as their shipping began the week ending May 20, and of course they do not want the Virginia crop on top of them. I have not been down in the Virginia counties recently, but judging from the state of advancement of the crop here, about 20 miles north of the Virginia line on the coast, I would judge that early potatoes from Northampton County, Virginia, will be moving early in June. I am afraid that my opinion made last winter, when I urged the Southern farmers to go slow on early Irish potatoes is coming true, and that there will be no profit to anyone from the early potato crop this spring. Old potatoes are selling at from 50 to 75 cents a bushel, and May 24 Florida new potatoes in crates were selling at \$1 a crate. This means a positive loss to the grower.

Last spring the early crop of potatoes from the South was very profitable. Then, too, there was a heavy planting in the great potato-growing sections north, and an immense crop was made. Then the fearfully cold winter prevented shipping, and an unheard-of quantity of potatoes have been rushed on the spring markets, as it is absolutely necessary that they be disposed of. Knowing this condition last winter, I urged the Southern farmers to forget the early potatoes except for home use. But an immense area has been planted. It is not pleasant to say, "I told you so," but I did all that I could to prevent the loss that now seems inevitable.

Now I would like to suggest what I believe will be a profitable crop of potatoes. This is the late crop planted in July of the early sorts from seed that have been kept in cold storage, or even the second crop from the early potatoes of the present spring, though the cold storage seed are better. Evidently the discouragement caused by the heavy and unprofitable crop in the North last year will have the effect of causing a reduced planting there this year. With only a moderate or a normal crop in the North, the Southern farmer can expect a good profit from early potatoes in the season of 1919. This is the way it looks to me. But this is only preliminary, and I may see reason for changing my opinion next winter. As a rule the next season following a very unprofitable crop is a good time to plant early potatoes, and vice versa.

bulletin. If you had read the paper more carefully you would have known what my opinion of the limestone fertilizers is. Aside from any damage that the lime will do to the other ingredients, the formulas were ridiculously low grade. Never use lime or limestone in mixed fertilizers. Just now, when products of the farm are at their highest point, is no time to stint in fertilizers. Cottonseed meal and acid phosphate are high-priced and so is cotton and corn and wheat and oats and potatoes and cabbage, and the man who wants to get the benefit of the high prices must farm well and be liberal with his fertilizer applications. The thing to do now is to get the largest crops. You can afford to use fertilizers liberally.

### Diseased Irish Potatoes

"I HAVE some disease in my Irish potatoes, and would like to know what it is and how to prevent it. It begins by the plant having a few wilted leaves, and spreads over the plant, finally killing it."

And you want me to make a guess as to the disease and tell you how to prevent it. Now I would like to suggest that in all cases of this sort guesswork is poor help. You have in your state, as in every state, an experiment station. These stations have men, microscopes and laboratories for the special purpose of studying these troubles and the remedy or prevention. They are there and paid for helping farmers and are ready and anxious to do it. Then it is easier to send specimens of diseased plants to the experiment station of your state than to depend on any guess I might make. I think that it may be the same wilt disease that affects the tomato