

Crops for Late Planting

By B. L. MOSS

THE man who has food and feed is fortified against hard times. Prices of his sales or cash crops may go to the bottom, but so long as he has plenty for himself, his family and his livestock to eat, there will be no real suffering on his farm. The food and feed problem has always been one of major importance to the Southern farmer, and war-time conditions have served to make it even more important. Wheat

is certain to stay scarce and high, and this means continued high prices for other grains and feeds.

With these facts in mind, it is of the utmost importance that nothing that will go toward insuring next year's supplies of food and feed be left undone. Let us consider some of the crops that may yet be planted.

Corn.—It is practically impossible for the South to raise too much corn this year. It must be our chief bread

grain for the next 12 months at least, and probably for the duration of the war. It must also, as it has in the past, be one of our main feed crops.

In practically all the Cotton Belt, except central and west Texas and Oklahoma, corn may be safely planted until July 1, and in the lower third of the Cotton Belt plantings made as late as July 15 are generally successful, particularly if on a fair grade of land. Any plantings made after June 15 should probably be of the Mexican June variety, if this can be had; but if Mexican June seed are not available, then seed of the ordinary variety best suited to local conditions should be used.

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Good preparation is important, though on most farms press of other work will call for as rapid preparation as may be consistent with thoroughness. On average well drained soils, listing with a turnplow, breaking out the middles with a middle-breaker, and then planting in the water furrow, will make it possible to do the whole job of breaking and planting with four furrows to the row, and will probably be about the best plan the average farmer can follow. Three or four light cultivations will usually suffice to make the crop. If fertilizers are used, acid phosphate at planting time and a dressing of nitrate of soda when the corn is two or three feet high will probably be best.

Sweet Potatoes.—Though widely grown, we do not believe the sweet potato has as yet been appreciated as it should as a producer of food and feed. Highly nutritious, it has the additional advantages of being suited to a wide range of soil and climatic conditions and the ability to make a good crop when planted even as late as August 1. It has few enemies, and is practically a sure crop.

If there is any danger of a shortage of potatoes for the family or feed for the hogs, a liberal acreage of the stubble or other land should be reserved for sweet potatoes, and some of this should be kept ready prepared, so that settings may be made after each rain. If fertilizers are used, cottonseed meal and acid phosphate, varying the proportions to suit different soil types, will be about the best that can be had.

Peanuts.—This crop, besides being one of our best for pork production, has recently come into its own because of the great value of its oil content. Either as a cash crop or for the hogs, peanuts, particularly the Spanish, may be planted as late as mid-July, and even somewhat later in the extreme South. The rows should be made narrow, not over 30 to 36 inches, and the plants should average about 6 inches apart in the row. Any wider planting will mean decreased yields and profits.

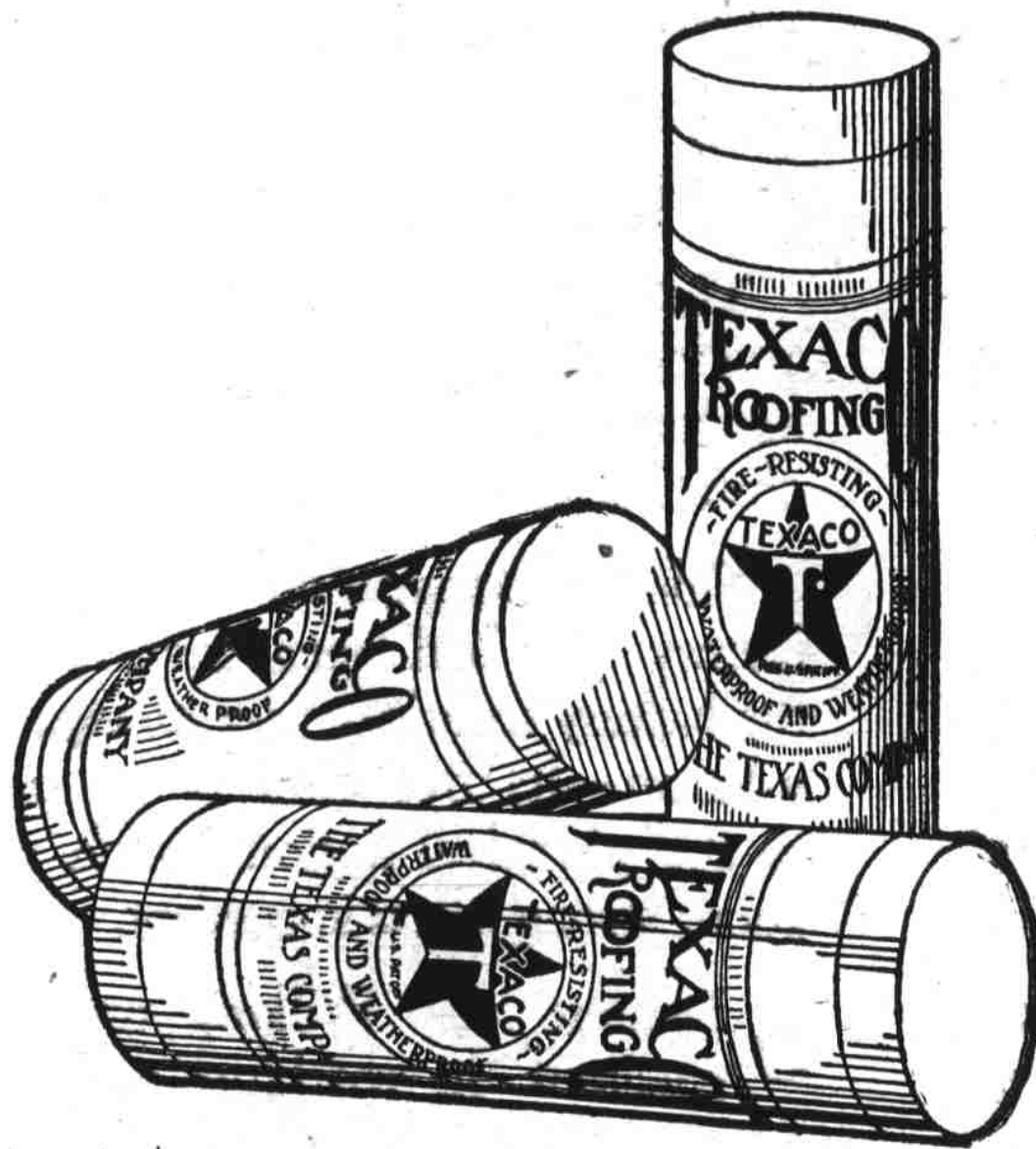
Late Hay and Forage Crops.—Cowpeas have long been and probably will continue to be a favorite with many Southern farmers. Besides being a soil-improver, it is one of our best hay crops and provides a supply of splendid human food as well.

Seed peas are now being quite generally quoted at from \$2 to \$2.50 per bushel, and at these comparatively low prices by August there should not remain in all the South a bushel of cowpeas unplanted. If there is time to prepare and cultivate the crop and it is desired to economize in the use of seed, planting two to three pecks per acre in three to three-and-one-half-foot rows and cultivating two or three times, will probably be the best plan to follow. Where seed are plentiful and it is needful to get the crop in a hurry, broadcast planting at the rate of six to eight pecks per acre will be advisable.

Soy beans keep growing in popularity, and they deserve it. The crop is one of our very best for hay and hog-grazing, and may be planted as late as July 15. To do best, the beans require a rather well prepared seed bed and some cultivation. Two or three pecks of seed per acre in rows three to three and one-half feet wide will be about right. Don't plant soy beans broadcast.

For producing a heavy tonnage of hay, sorghum is probably the best crop we have. To make the best hay and hay that is not so difficult to cure, rather thick broadcast seeding is best,—one to one and one-half bushels per acre. Mixing cowpeas with the sorghum will result in a better quality of hay, though the yield per acre will probably be reduced. The peas and sorghum seed may be mixed in varying proportions, anywhere from equal parts of each to five or six parts peas

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