



What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. MASSEY

Red Mites or Red Rust on Cotton

THE long continued drouth has favored the development of the red mite or spider on cotton. This insect thrives in arid conditions and is checked by wet. Repeated spraying with strong soapsuds will help. Dusting with flowers of sulphur has been advised. But nothing is better than moisture in the air. There is hardly any spraying that would be effective but will cost more than it is worth. Rainy weather will do more good than anything else.

Disking Japan Clover

WILL it hurt Japan clover to disk the ground and sow rye for a fall pasture? I have a good stand of the clover which was sowed last spring and I want something to use this winter, but do not want to upset the clover. Will it be better to sow rye and vetch or bur clover and how much an acre?

Japan clover or lespedeza is an annual and dies with the coming of frost. Of course it will do no harm to disk after it is dead, but I would not disk till the seed are mature, for it is the seed dropped that will make the crop next summer. When the seeds are mature you can disk all you wish and harrow in rye and vetch or rye and crimson clover, which I think is better than vetch or bur clover.

Basic Slag

WHAT do you think of basic slag for wheat? My land needs lime, but distance from railroad and labor shortage almost preclude ground limestone. The slag I have in mind contains 19 per cent phosphoric acid and 45 per cent lime. Will this put enough lime in the land to give me a catch of clover sowed on the wheat land, and is the slag a good aid to wheat production?

The slag contains a large percentage of phosphorus, but very little water-soluble phosphoric acid. It would probably show more on the clover following wheat than on the wheat. Even if you used 400 pounds an acre you would get only 180 pounds of lime an acre and that would do very little towards curing soil acidity.

Why Take a Paper and Not Read It?

IT IS evident that there many people who do not read the paper after taking it. Almost daily some one asks how to destroy moles, and how to destroy weevils in grain and peas, about which we have times without number told all that we know. Moles do harm by uprooting things in their track, but they do not eat plants or roots. It is the field mice that follow in the runs that do the damage. Some one has suggested that the calcium carbide used for making acetylene gas, if placed here and there in the runs, will, in contact with the damp soil, generate gas enough to destroy everything in the runs. This looks feasible. Lately I have been using the mixture of wheat bran, Paris green and molasses that is made for cut worms. I make openings in the runs and stuff some of this in where I see the mice are doing damage, and no more damage is done. Carbon disulphide placed in teaspoonful doses along the runs has proved effective. Some use mole traps and catch the mole, but that does not stop the mice in the runs. For the weevils I know of nothing better than the carbon disulphide treatment which has been given many many times on this page. Peas may be packed down in air-slaked lime

and the weevils prevented from hatching and no harm done to the peas. Black-eye peas which I grew last year have been kept in the pods in a cold place, and I have seen no weevils.

Never Plow Corn

I HAVE a field of corn that was plowed the last time about the middle of July. Then it turned wet and I have not been able to plow it again. It is now in full tassel and the middles have not been plowed out yet. Should it be plowed again or let alone?

It should never have been plowed at all. The plow is used for breaking the land. After land is well plowed and prepared for corn, the plow has no business in the field, but the cultivation should be with weeder, smoothing harrow and cultivator, running shallow and level. As your corn has been let alone since the middle of July, I do not think that cultivation now will do any good. But if the small-tooth cultivator had been kept going it would not be amiss to

acre. Now what the "phospho-germ" is I do not know, for I have never seen the article nor any analysis of it. Better ask your experiment station or the Virginia Board of Agriculture in regard to it. Brand names of fertilizers do not amount to anything. It is the contents of the article and the availability of the plant food in it that gives it value in farming. I know what the value of acid phosphate is, but I do not know anything bad or good about the other article.

Winter Squashes

PLEASE tell me through The Progressive Farmer what to do with winter squashes, how to keep them through winter, and how to cook them. I am trying them for the first time. I have the Delicata and the Hubbard. The latter has a very rough exterior. Both kinds look like cyclings. I am afraid I planted too early, for they are now, the last of July, as large as medium-sized pumpkins.

Winter squashes now well grown will hardly do to keep through winter. The keeping is just same as pumpkins, keeping cold but free from actual freezing. If your vines are still growing you may have later ones that will keep. They are cooked like pumpkins, and are also sliced and

sour Elberta peaches. But for home use we want quality.

The general demand in all the eastern sections of the United States is for head lettuce. The western people, on the other hand, want the loose lettuces like the Grand Rapids. This lettuce sells by the pound and not by the head, and planted closely under glass the leaves are crowded and somewhat blanched. I rather admire the Western taste, for the Grand Rapids, when well grown, is certainly excellent. I find that it is a very good variety for the first fall and winter crop in frames. It needs a very rich soil—in fact all lettuce does—and to be grown rapidly so as to come in ready for use from last of November till Christmas. Later, the head lettuces are better.

The best of the Tennis Ball type of lettuce is Hittinger's Belmont. Dreyer's All Heart is also good. Any of these will give nice heads in the open garden in the fall if given very heavily manured and fertilized soil and never allowed to suffer from lack of water. Set in beds six feet wide and in the open ground set eight inches apart each way. I sow the seed thinly broadcast so as to get good single plants, for sowed in rows they will invariably get crowded and are not so good for transplanting. But if you are going into the cultivation of lettuce on a large scale for shipping, grow the Big Boston like every one else, for it is the thing to sell. For wintering over outdoors, the Hanson and the Wonderful are best. They seem more hardy than any of the butter type represented by the Big Boston. The Wonderful, also known in North Carolina as the Shellem, makes the largest head of any lettuce. It also has a tremendous spread of outside leaves and needs to be set a foot apart.

It can be set in the open furrows between the early cabbage plants set in the fall, and can be cut out before the cabbage demands all the room. Since I grow lettuce for home use only and use small frames each with three sashes, making a bed 6x9 feet, I plant one frame in Grand Rapids lettuce and two in Belmont and either All Heart or black seed Tennis Ball. The Belmont is rather earlier than either of the others and makes a succession. The seed for growing the plants for these frames is sowed about the middle of September. If old rotten cow manure is available, there is nothing better for the lettuce frames, and it should be used liberally, adding a heavy application of acid phosphate. Then to hurry the growth, make small sprinklings of nitrate of soda between the plants. In setting lettuce plants either outside or in the frames, it is important not to set them too deeply. A plant set with the base leaves in the soil will never make a good head. Some growers make light ridges across the frames on which the hands set the plants. These are later levelled in the cultivation and insure the proper setting. Grand Rapids lettuce makes a very large head of leaves, and set six inches apart the plants crowd and blanch the leaves below and make better lettuce, and the crispest of leaves.

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

THE cotton-picking season is on: do everything possible to save every pound of it in the best condition.

2. Compare local cotton market quotations with those of your nearest large cotton town, and see if coöperative carlot shipments would not pay you.
3. Better order oat, rye and clover seed right away, in case you haven't them already.
4. If you are tempted to pull fodder, don't do it. Save the whole corn plant instead.
5. Sell your cotton slowly, and don't sell at all if prices don't suit you.
6. See to it that you have a dry place to store any cotton held for better prices.

run through now. But never put a plow into a corn field after it is planted.

Insects on Squashes

PLEASE give me a remedy for the insects that destroy squashes. The squash bugs ruined my squashes, and I have more coming on that I wish to protect.

There is more than one insect that attacks squashes. The one that often does the most damage is the striped Diabrotica, which attacks and eats the plants just as they come through the ground. Then there is the large squash bug with a vile odor, which eats them later. Then the Diabrotica lays eggs in the base of the plants and the worm-like larvae eat into the stems and destroy the plant. Keeping the young plants covered with some dusty material will serve to protect the young plants. But the best thing is to destroy the beetles by spraying with lead arsenate 1 pound in 25 or 30 gallons of water. A solution of nicotine sulphate known as "Black Leaf 40" and as aphine-poured around the base of the stems will prevent the larvae from eating there.

Fertilizer for Wheat

I CAN buy "phospho-germ" in bulk in carloads delivered for \$30 a ton. Would this be better than acid phosphate on wheat after peas?

I know that 300 to 400 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate after peas will usually make a good crop of wheat. Two years ago a farmer on the red Cecil clay of the North Carolina Piedmont took my advice and used 400 pounds of acid phosphate on wheat on a well disked pea stubble, and made 30 bushels of wheat an

baked. They are a favorite vegetable in the North, but in the South we have the sweet yam potatoes, which we can grow better than we can grow the squashes, and we can make with these every dish that the New England folks make with the winter squash, and in my opinion make it better. The Northern folks can beat us in growing the winter squashes, but we can beat them a long way in growing the sweet potatoes, and we do not need the squashes. Those you have now mature you had better use up before cold weather.

Growing Lettuce

THE first crop of lettuce for the open ground in the fall is best sowed early in August, but good heads can be had from North Carolina southward from seed sowed any time this month. While the market growers all use the Big Boston, there are a number of reasons why it is not the best for home use.

In the first place, its quality is inferior to many other varieties. Then its widespread outside leaves compel wider planting either in the open ground or in the frames. Especially in the frames is room desirable. I can get more good crisp lettuce from the Tennis Ball or the Belmont set six inches apart each way than from the Big Boston set eight by ten inches, and in fact that is rather close for it.

The city buyers buy by the eye and like big things, and while a head of the Hittinger Belmont looks smaller than one of the Big Boston, it has just as much blanched heart as the widespread Boston. The market growers are right of course in growing what sells, just as the growers of Ben Davis apples and the showy and

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