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## Use Commercial Fertilizers Liberally But Wisely

**T**HE answer to the question as to whether we should use commercial fertilizers wholly depends upon the answer to another question: Do they pay? That they do pay and pay well when rightly used is abundantly proved by experiment station evidence. On the

inland, on the Piedmont, mountain or other clay or loam soils, the need for nitrogen is not as a rule so acute, though there are many areas where the use of commercial nitrogen is highly profitable. This is particularly true of thin lands and those that have long been in cultivation.



FINE SHORTHORNS ON MEADOWBROOK FARM, EUTAW, ALA. W. L. SMITH, OWNER

other hand, there is also much evidence that Southern farmers every year waste millions of dollars through the unwise use of commercial fertilizers.

In using fertilizers, the great problem is to fit them to our soil and crop needs. Soils vary greatly in their composition and hence in their fertilizer requirements, and different crops likewise require plant foods in varying proportions. Here let us lay down some basic principles that will help guide us in buying and using fertilizers.

**1. Where nitrogen is needed.** Roughly, the nearer we are to the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, the greater the need for nitrogen. In fact, over practically all the sandy and sandy loam soils of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal plains, nitrogen is the great plant food need. On such lands, applications of nitrogen for such crops as cotton, corn and oats will usually pay well. Fifteen pounds of nitrogen, per acre, or the equivalent of that found in 750 pounds of a 10-2-2 fertilizer, 250 pounds of cottonseed meal, or 100 pounds of nitrate of soda, will usually give excellent results on any of the average thin lands of this section, and there is evidence that considerably heavier applications of nitrogen may be profitably made. Farther

**2. Where phosphorus is needed.** Next to nitrogen, phosphorus or phosphoric acid is the element most needed by Southern soils. In fact it is needed practically everywhere from Virginia to Texas, except on the lime soils of the Mississippi Delta regions and the Black Belt

areas of Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. It is particularly valuable on lands that tend to make too much stalk or leaf growth and too little fruit. Fifty to 300 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate, is usually the most profitable amount to use.

**3. Where potash is needed.** We believe that Southern farmers have wasted more money on potash than on any other plant food element. Draw a line, roughly, from about Mobile, Ala., northeastward through Macon, Ga., Columbia, S. C., and Raleigh, N. C., and the soils to the east and south of this line, as a rule, need potash, especially when planted to cotton or tobacco. West and north of this line, we do not recommend the use of potash, except possibly on some fruits and on deep sandy lands where cotton tends to rust. If you do not live in the territory needing potash, it will pay you to leave it out entirely in buying fertilizers.

For the man who studies his soil and crop needs and then knows what he is buying, fertilizers will pay well this year. In fact, under such conditions we advise that they be used liberally.

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