

crop so extreme a change in methods as those experiments up to date would indicate. We do earnestly urge and advise every Progressive Farmer reader to take all the facts we are here presenting and then do two things:

(1) He should use for his general crop whatever method his own experience and the experiments here reported indicate will be best.

(2) He should then leave certain rows with 8-inch spacing, others with 12-inch, others with 16-inch, and others with 20-inch spacing, and try to determine for his own future guidance just what method of spacing will bring him best results under his own particular conditions, as to climate, soils, varieties, and presence or absence of the boll weevil.

The article by Prof. Pate and Dr. Winters as prepared for this issue of The Progressive Farmer is as given in the accompanying table.

Iredell Test Farm.—Table I

THE Iredell Test Farm is located at Statesville near the western limit of the cotton-growing area of the state. The soil at this farm represents the Cecil Clay of the Piedmont section. On account of the short growing season at this farm, King's Improved cotton was used for planting the distance test. The rows were prepared in three and one-third and four-foot widths, and the seed were planted in the regular way with a cotton planter. At the time of chopping the cotton plants were thinned to four different distances, 12, 16, 20 and 24 inches. Table I, herewith contains the results of six tests on this farm.

During the six years' test on this farm the three and one-third foot rows with 16 inches between hills has given the greatest yields of seed cotton per acre. The 16-inch distance between hills outyielded the 12-inch spacing in every year except two, and in one of these the yields were the same. The four-foot rows with 12 inches between hills came second with an average yield of 56.4 pounds less of seed cotton per acre.

Results from the Experiment Station Farm.—Table II

THE Station Farm is located about two miles west of Raleigh, and the soil represents the sandy clay loam of the Piedmont section. The growing season at this farm is from two to three weeks longer than that at Statesville. In these comparisons the rows were 39.6 and 49.5 inches apart. The plantings were made with King's Improved cotton and later thinned to 12, 16, 20 and 24 inches between hills. Table No. II contains the results of a five years' test with these spacings.

Edgecombe Test Farm Results.—Table III

THE Edgecombe Test Farm is located in the central part of the Coastal Plain section of the state. The soil is representative of much of this section of the state, and consists of a dark gray sandy to fine sandy loam, eight to 12 inches deep, underlain by a yellow sandy to clay subsoil. It classifies as Norfolk sandy loam to fine sandy loam.

This test reported in Table III consisted of eight plats. On four plats the cotton rows were three and one-half feet apart and on the other four plats the rows were four feet apart. The cotton spacing was 12 inches, 16 inches, 20 inches and 24 inches for both the three and one-half and four-foot rows.

This test was run for four years with Russell's Big Boll cotton. The best average yield was secured with three and one-half-foot rows and 16-inch spacing. With four-foot rows, 12-inch spacing gave the greatest amount of cotton. An average of the last three years shows that 16-inch spacing gives best results with both

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three and one-half and four-foot rows, and that four-foot rows give larger returns than the three and one-half foot rows.

Red Springs Farm Tests.—Table IV

THE Red Springs Farm is located in the southern part of the Coastal Plain section of the state. The soil is a coarse sand with a sandy clay subsoil from 12 to 15 inches below the surface. The tests were laid out as were those at the Edgecombe Farm and are shown in Table IV herewith.

Four years' results have been secured at this farm on six different distances and three years' results on

eight different distances. On an average more seed cotton was harvested from three and one-half foot rows when the distance was 24 inches, and with four-foot rows, 16-inch spacing gave the most cotton. The average yields do not show any very great differences from the different spacing.

Some Advantages and Disadvantages of Closer Spacing

TAKING all the tests into consideration, the best yields have been secured from three and one-half foot rows with 16 inches between hills, except at the Experiment Station Farm where three and one-half foot rows with 12-inch

spacing between hills has given best results.

Since the yield depends within limits upon the number of producing plants per acre, closer spacing may be profitable. Closer spacing reduces vegetative growth and hastens maturity. In parts of this state, this is a very important factor. Under boll weevil conditions this would be important for the whole state.

With the use of narrow rows less effort would be made to seed small grain and other cover crops in the cotton. In spells of abnormally wet weather, the closer spaced cotton would be more difficult to keep free from grass. Closely spaced cotton would be more favorable to the spreading the diseases.

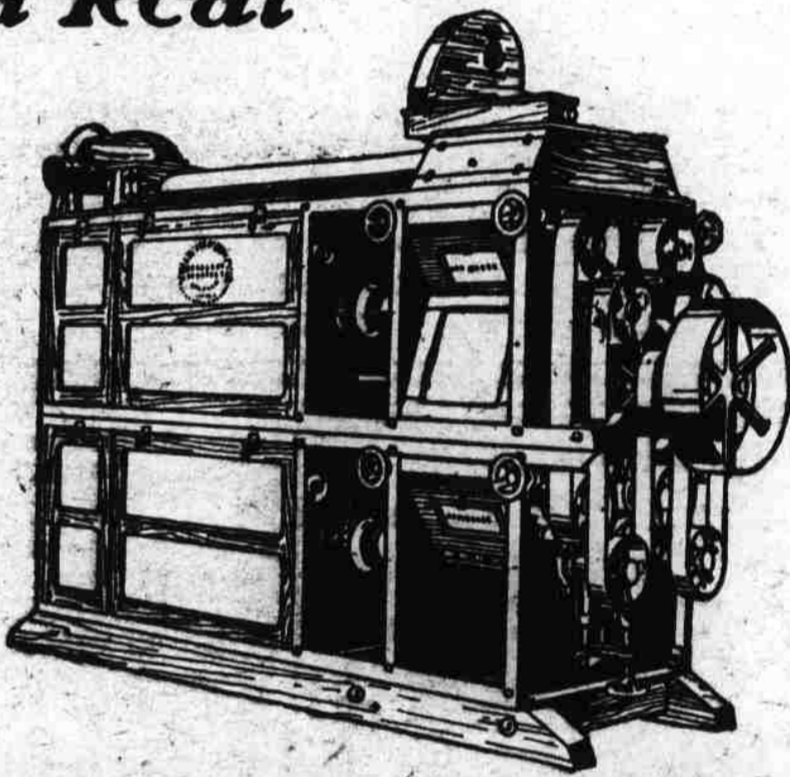
The Farmer Should Make Tests

THERE is probably no doubt but that all the different operations required in the growing of crops could be improved upon to the advantage of the farmer. As soil, climatic and other conditions vary in different localities, the best distance to space cotton may also vary.

Each farmer for his own conditions can determine this point for himself with the loss of very little time and not very much greater expense. A few rows left unchopped and a few rows spaced at different distances should give him the desired information under his conditions.

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