



## What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. MASSEY

### Inoculating With Bur Clover Refuse

"I WANT to sow alfalfa in the fall and my neighbors say I can inoculate it with my bur clover dirt. I say he is wrong. Am I right?"

No, you are not right, but your neighbor is. Scatter the refuse from bur clover on the land after preparing for alfalfa and harrow it in to prevent the sun from striking it.

### Unproductive Pecan Trees

NORTH Carolina: "I have a seedling pecan tree, 35 years old, which produces very few nuts. I have been advised to plant another pecan tree close to the old one. Would this make any difference?"

If the difficulty is caused by lack of pollen in the staminate flowers, the catkins, while there are plenty of pistillate flowers, it might do some good to have a more perfect flowering tree nearby. But as I know nothing of the character of the flowers I would say that the best thing to do will be to head the tree, back and graft a new top on it with cions from a good bearing tree of fine nuts.

### Plants for Shady Places

SOUTHERN Georgia: "What kind of grass or flowers should I plant in a shady place? Our garden lies along a sidewalk on which two water oaks shade an area of 20x70 feet. The soil is fertile and is kept clean".

I think about the best use you can make of that ground will be to plant it in shrubby blooming at different seasons. You can grow any of the Chinese Azaleas and Camellias, Magnolia Fuscata, and Banana Shrub, Oleanders pink and white, and the ordinary Spireas, Deutzias and Forsythias of the Northern gardens.

### A Wet Meadow

GEORGIA: "I have bought a farm with a nice meadow on it, but the bullrushes are getting the better of it. Please tell me how to get rid of them."

I suppose what you call a meadow is a piece of low ground covered by native wild grasses and that the soil is so wet that the bullrushes are getting possession. In such a case the thing to do is to drain the land. Then plow the whole growth down, lime it and prepare the soil and sow a mixture of good grasses. A mixture of meadow fescue 10 pounds, tall meadow oat grass 10 pounds, red top 5 pounds for an acre. Bullrushes demand wet soil and the draining will banish them.

### Worms in Tomatoes

GEORGIA: "Please tell me how to destroy the worms in tomatoes. My tomatoes are as large as hens' eggs and the worms are eating holes in them."

Yes, the cotton boll worm eats into some tomatoes every season till the green corn comes and then they prefer corn or cotton bolls. You could dust them with calcium arsenate, but one does not like to apply poison directly to fruit that is to be eaten. Then you will not eat the tomatoes the worms have bitten and to get the arsenate they must bite the fruit. So I think that it is six of one and a half dozen of the other. Dust the silks of corn lightly with calcium arsenate to destroy the worms before they get into the sugar corn ears and then take the chances with the tomatoes as I do.

My green ones are now nearing the ripening stage and I expect that some will be bored into as usual.

### The Home Garden

THE production of the vegetable crops for home use is a very different thing from farming or even from market gardening. The space is limited and we cannot use the means that can be used on larger areas for the increase of the humus content. We have to depend on the direct application of organic matter in the manures used and the making of composts from the waste material of the garden itself. In this section where trucking is the leading interest, every available accumulation of city manure is contracted for months in advance, and manure is brought from New York in carloads of about 30 tons and over. It is often hard for the owner of a kitchen garden to get what he needs.

My garden is about one-fourth of an acre. For years I was able to buy in the city stable manure at an average of a dollar a good cart load, but of late the price has not only soared but every stable has been contracted for ahead. This puts a garden owner at a disadvantage. Of course I could get more than I want from the local agent for New York manure at \$5.50 a ton in carlots. But what could the owner of a quarter of an acre do with 30 to 35 tons of manure? Hence I had to turn to commercial fertilizer.

For a time one can do very well with high grade fertilizers. But the constant cultivation is burning out the humus and the sandy soil is getting less able to stand drouths. The dried manures made in Chicago stock yards and stock cars seemed to be promising. Therefore, this spring I determined to try the dried sheep manure and used it at the rate of 1,600 pounds an acre with the help of a 200-pound sack of 16 per cent acid phosphate and the wood ashes during the winter from one fire. So far the result has been disappointing. It is evident that for some crops like lettuce I have too little available nitrogen. It is evident that in the preparing of the sheep manure there has been a large loss of nitrogen and I have not had the rapid development of early vegetables expected. Ordinary stable manure applied in the fall and turned under in the spring has usually done

wonderfully well when supplemented with acid phosphate. But the dried sheep manure does not give much bulk of humus-making material and seems too inert to answer the purpose. The question now is, "How am I to maintain the humus in my soil and get the best results from the commercial fertilizers?"

One cannot get a home garden too rich, provided the plant foods in the soil are properly balanced. But in a sandy soil the production depends largely on the ability of the soil to pass through dry weather, and while with favorable seasons we can get crops, for a liberal use of fertilizers the soil is rapidly getting less able to sustain a drouth and must have the humus maintained. I tried the city street sweepings several years ago, but they did not seem to fill the bill for garden manure, but in the present state of affairs the street sweepings have attained greater value, for they are largely rotted leaves from the street trees and of course some horse droppings. They will furnish some organic matter and at least make the soil more retentive of moisture and hence will give better results from the use of commercial fertilizers. What I intended mainly to bring out is that the production of the garden depends not so much on the fertilizers used but on the maintenance of the humus content of the soil which will enable it to retain the moisture and hence dissolve the fertilizers better. Of course on a farm one can use alternate pieces of land for the vegetable crops and grow clover and peas to maintain the humus. But where one has only the one bit of ground that he must depend upon for fresh vegetables, he must maintain the humus by direct applications; and the productive capacity of the soil depends largely on its ability to retain moisture in drouth. Stable manure fortified with acid phosphate will do it but when that cannot be had one must get the humus in some other form.

### Growing Roses

SEVERAL of our women correspondents asked me to give an article on the propagation and growing of roses.

There are many species and varieties of roses and the various kinds need different treatment. Some are evergreen and bloom continuously on the young shoots. Others of the more hardy kinds like the Remontants, the Ramblers and numerous others are deciduous and are grown from the ripened wood while the everblooming sorts like the tea roses and the Hybrid Teas and Bour-

bons are best rooted from the green shoots. The time for the rooting will also differ. For growing roses to perfection, the Tea roses and Hybrid Teas and the Remontants, it is essential to have a strong clay loam. The hardy Ramblers and the rampant prairie roses will thrive in a sandy soil and any of them will live after a fashion in sandy soil, but will never attain the growth and beauty they do in a clay soil.

To root the usual everblooming Teas and Hybrid Teas the best time is in August and September. Take a shoot that has just made a flower and make cuttings of three buds. Cut right under the lower bud and half an inch above the upper one. Leave the whole leaf attached to the top bud for if that leaf is lost the cutting will be of little value. Now fill a pan with clean sharp sand. Make it into a loblolly state with water, and insert the cuttings thickly in this and keep in a window that is half shaded. Keep the sand moist and the cuttings will show short white roots in about four weeks. Then pot them in small two and one-half to three-inch pots and pack them closely in a frame, and, if possible, on a layer of coal ashes to prevent the roots from getting out. Carry over winter in these pots protected with glass sashes and you will have fine little plants for the garden in the spring.

Then remember that a rich soil is needed for good growth and bloom and whether your soil is sandy or clay keep it mulched with rotten manure. From the Ramblers like the Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins and the White Rambler make cuttings in the late fall after the wood ripens. Make them of the same season's growth. Cut right under the lower bud and an inch above the top one and make them about eight to ten inches long.

Tie them in bundles and bury them in the garden upside down. In spring take up the cuttings and set them in a row for cultivation the first season. Set them six inches apart in the row and set them so that only the top bud is above the ground and pack the soil tight to them. Of course you can set a cutting right where it is to remain, but you can get better plants by putting them where they can get a season's cultivation, and in the fall move them where wanted to remain.

The Banksia roses, both white and yellow, the first roses to appear in spring, and only to be grown in the South, are best grown from layers. Take a shoot that can be bent to the ground, and of last year's growth. In spring make a sloping cut nearly half way through. Now bend this to the ground and bury the cut, and tie the remaining part of the shoot to a stake to hold it in position. Roots will be formed at the cut and in the fall you will have a good plant that can be cut from the vine and planted elsewhere.

The Hybrid Tea roses will always bloom better if budded on the Manetti rose stock and florists, as a rule, grow all their roses for winter forcing on this stock. But the amateur must be continually on the watch or the rampant Manetti will sprout and smother the good rose out. But the budding on stocks or pots is a matter that demands skill and a greenhouse.

## INDEX TO THIS ISSUE

Alfalfa, How to Succeed With.....	29	Legislature and Taxation Problems....	18
Automobile, Has Purpose, Make It Serve.....	8	Legumes, Fertilizers for.....	27
Automobile, How I Made It Pay.....	8	Livestock—Percherons.....	16
Automobile, Testing by Ledger.....	8	Machinery, Use and Care of in August	12
Automobile Helps to Better Rural Life	8	Meadow, Wet.....	4
Beauty and Profit, Farming for Both..	6	Neighbors, Which Ones Are You Like?	24
Bee Yard, August in the.....	17	Nitrogen, Commercial, Profitable, Legumes More Economical.....	3
Bible, More, and Less "Bubble".....	18	Orchard and Garden Notes.....	26
Canning Hints.....	22	Order Early, Seed, Lime, Fertilizers and Supplies.....	18
Calves, Prevent Their Sucking Each Other.....	3	Pecan Trees Unproductive.....	4
Car, How I Made Mine Pay.....	8	Prices, Fertilizer, Increasing; How about Cotton?.....	19
Children, Are You Condemning to One-teacher School?.....	19	Products, Farm, Working Up Near Home.....	18
Clover, Bur, Inoculating With Refuse..	4	Roses, Growing Them.....	4
Creek Bank Problem, How to Solve....	3	School, Getting Ready for Fall Opening of.....	19
Drudgery vs. System and Labor Savers	22	Shady Places, Plants for.....	4
Eggs, How to Put Down.....	24	Suggestions, Farm, for August.....	10
Excursion, Agricultural, How About One?.....	19	Suggestions, Timely.....	24
Fairs, Community, Last Call for.....	19	"The Marshes of Glynn".....	19
Farmer, His Road and Motor.....	1	Ticks Still Taking Toll.....	3
Games Teaching Observation.....	24	Tobacco Market Opens in South Carolina.....	28
Garden, the Home.....	4	Tomatoes, Worms in.....	4
Grass, Sudan, Too Fast for Cowpeas..	3	Veterinary Problems—Care in Handling Hogs.....	3
Hay, New, Feed Springly.....	3	Work, August, in Georgia.....	14
Health Talk—Keeping Well in August.	24	Work in the Piedmont for August....	27
Hens, When They Lay.....	28		
Home Grounds, Beautifying.....	21		
"Jitney" Pays Its Board.....	8		



COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ADVERTISING OR SUBSCRIPTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO OFFICE NEAREST THE READER. ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT BIRMINGHAM, ALA., UNDER THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF MARCH 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
 One year .....\$1.00  
 Six months .....50  
 Two years .....2.00  
 Three years .....2.00