

**THE BOLL WEEVIL PROBLEM**

**Eighteen Rules for Beating Mr. Weevil**

INSTEAD of issuing one "Boll Weevil Special" of The Progressive Farmer, we have decided to keep the subject of the best means of handling the weevil constantly before our readers. To this end, we expect to have one article nearly every week under the heading, "The Boll Weevil Problem."

This week we present 18 concise rules for combating the weevil as set forth by Agronomist C. B. Williams of the North Carolina Extension Service. Cut them out and save them. They are as follows:

1. Be calm under the attack and do not become stampeded. Meet his attack with courage and without being frightened if you wish to win out.

2. The most effective means of combating the boll weevil is by the use of generally good methods of farming.

3. Plant cotton only on uplands. One will run a big risk to plant bottom lands or lands near wooded areas.

4. Use at least 600 pounds of fertilizer to the acre, containing a larger proportion of phosphoric acid than is ordinarily used, avoiding the use of fertilizers too rich in nitrogen, especially on soils rich in this constituent.

5. Early breaking of the land for cotton in the fall or winter with a two-horse plow and planting as early as ground in the spring is warm enough to germinate the seed. Cultivate well and frequently after the crop is up to keep them growing vigorously from the start.

6. Keep fields free from rubbish, grass, weeds, and bushes.

7. With early spring infestation, pick up and destroy all squares that have been punctured. These will usually be at end of rows near woods, hedgerows, stumps or fodder stacks. In planting, use a plenty of well-matured seed.

8. Secure and maintain a moderately thick stand of the plants in the rows, not exceeding 8 to 12 inches between hills. This will tend to cause the plants to make smaller growth and to make the cotton mature quicker.

9. Grow plenty of food and feed crops to meet the needs of the farm to make it as self-sustaining as possible.

10. Avoid excessive rank growth of cotton, as this gives a place for the weevil to hide from the heat and get plenty of food for their growth and multiplication.

11. Use for planting purposes early fruiting and early opening varieties of cotton like Cleveland Big Boll, Mexican Big Boll, Express, and Edgcomb-Cook.

12. Field select seed of cotton each year from plants that set and open the largest amount of bolls under boll weevil conditions.

13. Grow more summer and winter growing legumes, like soy beans, clovers, vetches, etc., and use part of them, as far as it is practicable to do so, to improve the producing power of the soil, as this is one of the most effective means found of making cotton with or without the boll weevil.

14. After the cotton is gathered, by immediately destroying the cotton stalks, weeds, etc., chopping up the stalks and other material and plowing them in five or six inches deep in the fall before frost, and putting the land into suitable cover crops. This will destroy the winter homes and food plants of the weevil and other injurious insects.

15. Plant cotton only on well-drained and fairly fertile soils, remembering that those things should be avoided that will tend to promote too rank and late growth of the cotton stalks. If land is too wet at certain times of the year, be sure to plant on ridges.

16. Reduce the acreage of cotton to the plow so as to be able to prepare the land early and thoroughly. Get the crop planted early and cultivate thoroughly at frequent intervals.

17. As far as possible locate the cotton fields in the open, far away from the woods or other places where the weevil may be harboring during the winter.

18. Establish on every farm, a good crop rotation best suited to the particular conditions on and needs of the farm in which suitable leguminous crops growing with the main money crops are utilized after growth in such a way, as far as practicable to do so, that they will aid in building up the producing power of the soil.

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