

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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The Progressive Farmer

AND THE COTTON PLANT.
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THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

Raise More Grain.

Raise more grain.

If the writer were sent out as a missionary to the farmers of this State the above would be a favorite text. Two others would go along with it. They are:

Plow deep and harrow well.

Sow and plant peas.

But without sowing small grain there will be little room to sow peas. It was our pleasure to ride twenty miles out in the country last August. The lands were nearly level or gently rolling. There was not one acre in a hundred sown in peas, for every thing was cotton. The farmer who has wheat and oat stubble will not sow peas. It is gratifying to know that the farmers of Piedmont South Carolina are sowing more wheat than last year. They are preparing their land better and fertilizing liberally. It is now not too late to plant oats in open furrows. At the Experiment State of Georgia they have been planting oats this way eight years and have not lost a crop by freezing. The Appler or Red Rust Proof oats planted with the drill in deep furrows up to December 20, will come in all right.

Top Dressing Small Grain.

The use of nitrate of soda, which contains 18 to 19 per cent of ammonia in an available condition, generally increases the growth of all the grass family. Sometimes, however, the conditions are such that little benefit is derived. Garner Clarke living on South Paolet, says that he sowed a lot in wheat 15 to 20 years ago, before farmers were well informed on the subject of fertilizers and plant food generally. About the first of April, when the wheat nearly covered the ground he scattered fertilizer over one plat and then put none on the second plat. He divided the lot into several plats and treated them differently. He ran a Thomas smoothing harrow over all the plats but two, one of which had no fertilizer. At harvest time he could see no difference in the yield of wheat on the plat not top dressed and harrowed and the one that received the guano and the harrowing. He says that the soil was quite loose and he now, after learning more about the matter, believes he should have used a roller on his wheat instead of the harrow.

But general experience demonstrates that when wheat and oats have a yellow sickly appearance in the spring, 75 to 100 pounds of nitrate of soda applied March 15 to April 10 will often double

the yield. A light harrow or weeder run over land that is liable to make after the spring rains will also help small grain. Oats planted with a drill in open furrows will be greatly helped by the harrow or weeder. If land is light and spongy, it will be better to use a heavy roller.

Tenants and Contracts.

Farmers cannot be too careful in making contracts with tenants. It is not difficult to make those who pay a money rental or a certain amount of cotton to understand their duty. But every detail should be made clear when a tenant works on the shares. Occasionally the tenants understand that they are to give only a part of the main crops. Then they will plant potatoes, pinders and melons and receive the whole benefit. The tenant should understand before he strikes a lick just what is required of him. Such contracts make easy settlements. The work required such as cleaning out ditches and keeping up terraces should be specified. A well understood contract makes peaceful and satisfactory settlements when the crop is gathered.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.

PLANT POTATOES.

Now is the Time to Begin Preparing for Next Year's Irish Potatoes—A Product Which Should be Abundant in Every Home.

Messrs. Editors:—In most parts of our country there is no single vegetable that a family can rely on for food every day in the year so much as the Irish potato. Boiled or baked, fried or stewed, whole or mashed, hot or cold, it is good and ready for the table and suits the appetites of some, if not all, of every family. Cooked in some way, it may be served with all kinds of meat, fish or fowl, and, to a great extent, is wholesome to people of all ages. "Shall I help your plate to some potato?" "Yes, thank you." It is hardly ever refused when nicely cooked. One may nibble it down as saratoga chips with ham for breakfast or quarter it off with fat boiled beef for dinner or spoon it down as a rich cream stew with sliced cold mutton for supper. As soup or a solid, it is always a go.

Having at this time a fine lot of this tuber stored away in my cellar for fall, winter and spring use, I am feeling that we have a good foundation laid for three meals a day for some months to come. And this brings me to tell how I raise them.

I have had by far the greatest success by planting early and raising an early crop, but in the South a late crop, or two crops a year, may be grown. This (December) is the best month in which to prepare the ground. It is well to fully plow the ground, but if time does not allow, run out for the rows three and a half feet apart with a two-horse plow, going twice in row, throwing the dirt each way. Then take a subsoil plow, or a very long single shovel plow, and run it down in the bottom of each furrow (as deep as two

horses can pull it) once or twice, to be sure of making a thorough job of it. The bottom of the furrows should now be ten inches below the level of the ground. Strew leaves, leaf mold, pine leaves, but far best of all, good barn-yard manure four to six inches deep in the rows, on top of which strew along at least two hundred pounds per acre of fertilizer containing 10 per cent each of phosphoric acid and sulphate potash, both soluble and available. Then turn a furrow from each side onto these rows, plowing out the middles and, if possible, subsoiling each furrow. Have the rows running as nearly on a level as possible, and scatter straw or some other litter to surely prevent washing.

About the last of February completely harrow and pulverize the rows, going length-ways. It may take two or six times with harrow—Clark's double disk cutaway is the best to use—the ground now being almost level with clods (if any) in the middles between the rows, and the top of the rows being nearly down to a level of the land, and the manure cut and mixed in, but not scattered between the rows. Over the rows, with a subsoil plow, throwing the dirt each way, having bottom of furrow four to six inches below level of the land. Strew along in the furrow two hundred pounds to the acre of above fertilizer, with addition of 5 per cent ammonia in it. Use good kinds of potatoes for seed; if large, cut in two, but I prefer rather a small, but not cut, potato planted in the evenly straight row, one piece in a place, from fourteen to eighteen inches apart. I prefer covering with a hoe, making a rounded up hill, covering the potato four to six inches with pulverized dirt and clods. If there are no clods, a side shovel, throwing dirt on the potatoes from each side, four to six inches, may do. The covering on them should now be but slightly above the level of the land, all completed about the first week in March. I may say more next week.

SAM. ARCHER.

Iredell Co., N. C.

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