

INCREASE YOUR YIELDS OF COTTON

You can do it and have better quality fibre, if your soil is well stored with readily available plant food.

POTASH

is needed for Cotton, to produce highest yields and to prevent Cotton Blight.

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FERTILIZING THE CROP.

The primary object in using fertilizer is to produce a larger yield of the crop that is to be immediately grown, or is already growing, on the land to which the fertilizer is to be applied. An acre of soil contains from ten to fifteen per cent. of more or less readily available plant food. In other words, a considerable fertilizer contains in every hundred pounds weight from 10 to 15 pounds of available phosphoric acid, either alone, or in combination with other elements, and is called a "complete" fertilizer. Now, this 10 to 15 pounds in each 100 pounds of the fertilizer is supposed to be used should be, practically soluble and available at once, or within a week or two, for the use of the crop, says Virginia Carolina Fertilizer Almanac.

The remaining portion of the fertilizer, or the 85 to 90 pounds in each 100 pounds is a mixture of insoluble phosphate and sulphate of lime, some sand, water, organic matter and other things that are necessarily incident to the manufacture, and cannot be economically removed. They are of very little immediate value to either the crop or the soil.

So when we apply a high-grade fertilizer to the soil the object is to supply the plants with soluble plant food and increase the yield of the crop, grain, grass, or whatever the crop may be.

Incidentally, however, this fertilizer does hold the land, because it induces a larger growth of stalk, roots and foliage of the plants or those parts that will be returned to, and become part of, the soil. A dose of this fertilizer, for instance, not only increases the yield of seed cotton, but also the yield of the stalk, the foliage, hulls and other parts that go immediately back and form a part of the soil in the shape of humus (decayed vegetable matter). But the principal way to improve the soil itself, is to add vegetable matter to it in the form of excrement, manure, rotting crops, rotation of crops, etc. in a more direct manner.

It would seem manifest, therefore, if we wish to increase the yield of corn, cotton, wheat, oats, grass, etc., that the fertilizer should contain in the three elements of plant food in the proportions that are best suited to the particular crop. This is particularly true in the case of cotton, where liberal amounts of fertilizer per acre, in such cases the deficient supply, in the natural soil, or any one of the three "available" elements (phosphoric acid, nitrogen, and potash) need not be specially considered.

According to carefully conducted field experiments, conducted at many of the experiment stations, it has been found that cotton requires a fertilizer that contains about one part each of nitrogen and potash and 2 1/2 parts of available phosphoric acid. This demand would be met by a fertilizer containing 10 per cent. available phosphoric acid, 3 per cent. nit. and 2 1/2 per cent. of potash, or, as ordinarily expressed, a 10-3-2 1/2 fertilizer. One analyzing 8-2-2, or 8-2-2 1/2, or 7-2-2 1/2, would answer just as well, provided these lower grades be applied in heavier quantities.

So it has been found that corn, sugar cane, sorghum, rice and other crops belonging to the grass family respond best to a fertilizer that shall contain 10 parts of phosphoric acid, 5 parts of nitrogen and 2 parts of potash—viz. 10-5-2 fertilizer. The following formulas are given in the same proportions, only the 10-5-2 or lower grade, and would give practically the same results only when a correspondingly larger application shall be made per acre—viz. 2-15-10, or 2-10-10, or 2-10-15, and so on. Of course, these lower grades can be sold at lower prices than the high grade; but, as a rule, the farmer will find it more economical to buy the high grade, both on account of their cheaper value per unit, and also the saving of freight, the latter being practically the same, per ton, for both high and low grades.

APPLYING FERTILIZER WHEN PLANTING.

While it is certainly true, in our experience, that the greater part of the fertilizer should be applied about two weeks before the crop is to be planted, well mixed in the soil of the bedding furrow and bedded on, there are circumstances that would justify a farmer in making one or more inter-cultural applications, including one at the actual date of planting. The following are such circumstances:

(1) When a farmer has not been able to secure the whole amount of his fertilizer before planting time.

(2) When he concludes, after his crop has been planted and is growing, that he did not buy and apply as much as he should have done before planting.

(3) When the yellowish green color and want of vigor in the appearance of the plants indicate that more nitrogen is needed by the crop.

We believe it more safely accepted as a general rule that a small portion of Virginia-Carolina Fertilizer should be applied to the soil at the time of planting. The effect of this small application is to supply the young plants with available food during the first stages of their growth, inducing prompt and vigorous development. For this purpose 2 1/2 to 50 pounds per acre may be applied of the same fertilizer that had been bedded on two weeks before planting.

A second application of high-grade fertilizer may be made at the second or third plowing of cotton, or at six or eight inches height of the plants up to 18 inches of the middle to last of May, and the middle to last of June.

The inter-cultural applications may be made in the sowing furrow, or the fertilizer may be strewn along in the middles ahead of the plow or cultivator. There is no need to fear that the plants will get the benefit of a high-grade fertilizer if put anywhere, on or between the rows. June 20th is the latest date at which the writer has ever applied fertilizer to any crop, but probably not enough to pay the cost of the fertilizer.

SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS
By F. E. Davison Rutland Vt.
MUNICIPAL SINS.
March 3, 1907—(Gen. 18:16-33.)

The great cities of the earth are underground. Some of the municipal troubles are known only by their names. Into that graveyard of dead cities Babylon went, and Nineveh, and Jericho, and Tyre and Sidon, and Pompeii and Herculaneum, and Lisbon and Valparaiso and San Francisco. Some of them went by fire, some of them by earthquake, all of them blotted out in whole or in part when the clock of destiny struck.

But among all the catastrophes which the centuries have recorded none have been more complete than that of the cities of the plain, of which Sodom and Gomorrah were conspicuous. The story of the degradation of those cities cannot be told. Human eyes would not endure it.

And one day when the earth could endure the incubus no longer, fire from above, and transformed the place into a seething furnace, steaming with sulphur, choking with vapor, in which the inhabitants were cremated by the heat of God. It was first buried into rain, then incinerated by fire, then disintegrated with sulphur, then powdered with the barbed needles of the waters of the Dead Sea, which still roll fathoms deep over the spot where the drowned city stood. Abraham interceded for the place, but when he found that among all the thousands of Sodom there were not ten men who were righteous in it, his faith broke down and he made his petition no more.

And yet, if you had been in Sodom the day before the catastrophe and asked to be shown the evidence of its prosperity and perpetuity you could have found abundant answer. Corner lots were quoted at their full value, the day before! Wealthy citizens dwelt in peace in gorgeous palaces, the day before.

There was no premonition of coming doom, the day before. Pleasure jostled business, the marts of trade and the halls of mirth were filled with eager throngs, the day before. But in forty-eight hours every palace was gone, every obscene temple was blotted out, every voice was hushed in Sodom, while out on the barren hillside three Hebrew fugitives cowered; all that was left of Sodom—"saved, so as by fire."

And there are many close students and observers of affairs who frankly state their conviction that the iniquity of Sodom was no worse than the iniquity of modern cities. In fact they think we are greater sinners because we know more, and use our wits to invent wickedness they never dreamed of. We have a plague which these ancient sinners had only one. The plague of drunkenness, the plague of gambling, the plague of yellow literature, the plague of lies, the plague of infidelity, the plague of crime, the plague of wars between capital and labor, the plague of licentiousness, the plague of demagoguism, the plague of vagabondage. Plagues worse than the plagues of Egypt have swooped down upon our modern cities.

Every now and then society is startled by the crashing down into ruin of an apparently beautiful character, a bank cashier turns up missing, with the hard-earned savings of the poor in his possession, or two families in high life "swap partners" through the rapid transfer of the divorce court, the children of the severely matrimonial revolutions scarcely daring to address the temporary head of the house, lest they should fall in proper designation. It has become so common a custom to steal that we have lifted it to a fine art in this country and given it a new name. We call it graft, and a grafter is not put in the same category with a low down thief. We send the common burglar to jail and the grafter to the Legislature. If a man steals a loaf of bread we give him the limit of the law, but if he breaks a bank we pardon the offense, upon the surrender of a portion of the plunder.

The tendency of the age is toward the cities. The staple life of the country is well enough to talk about, but most people prefer the society of human beings to stumps. We would rather live half a century in the city than 100 years in merely existing in the country. So we crowd into human bee hives and ant hills. We breathe foul air, and keep late hours, and form evil companionships, and deteriorate body and soul. Not that all the bad people live in cities and all the good in the country. There are farmers who get as drunk on hard cider as their city cousins on champagne. There is more vice in the city because there are more people there, and more people means more temptations, more allurements, more concealments, more freedom from responsibility. Many a man who is honest at home in the country, swings around the circle when he gets where nobody knows him. Municipal sin has always been the despair of the philanthropist, and the staggering problem of the ages. Lot in Sodom vexed his righteous soul with the deeds of its inhabitants, but we do not read that his influence amounted to anything.

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Origin of "Bluestocking."

Burke, apropos of "Evelina," said Fanny Burney this high compliment: "We have had an age for statesmen, an age for heroes, an age for poets, an age for artists, but this"—with a gallant bow to Fanny—"is the age for women." The name "bluestocking" given to these distinguished women, arose, according to Fanny Burney in her "Memoirs of Her Father," from an apology made by Mr. Stillingfleet in declining an invitation of Mrs. Vesey's to a literary meeting at her house. "I am not properly dressed for such a party," he pleaded. "Pho, pho," she cried, taking him and his dress all in at a glance, "don't mind dress! Come in your blue stockings." This he did, and "those words ever after were fixed in playful stigma upon Mrs. Vesey's association."—T. P.'s London Weekly.

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Taste Governs Spelling.
(London Star.)
Shakespeare spelled his own name in sixteen different ways which have survived, and it is evident that Elizabethan spelling "depends upon the taste and fancy of the speller." It is the printing press which made spelling by stereotyping it, and it is, after all, on the printer's reader more than on the professor that the spelling of the future depends.

Habit.
Habit is one of the world's controlling influences. More men are swayed by force of habit, unconsciously perhaps, than any other motive. The habit of doing certain things in a certain way grows from beginnings so small as to be scarcely noticeable until it forms a chain that can scarcely be broken. The habit of right or wrong doing becomes a master, and a more exacting master could not be found.—Broekton Times.

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Winks—Got too many tips before I started.—N. Y. Weekly.

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