

Bales, not Acres

No cotton raiser can afford to be neglectful in selecting seed. He should aim at seed that will produce early cotton for the following two reasons:

(1) The cotton that begins to fruit earliest will produce the largest crop.

(2) It is not reasonable, in the light of our present information, to hope that much time will elapse before all cotton growers have to contend with the boll weevil. Since the weevil does the most injury to late cotton, early fruiting varieties will be damaged less by it.

Most farmers do not have enough faith in themselves to think that they can select seed wisely. But that is just what they should do. Cotton produced from seed grown on one's own farm will, if the selection of seed is wisely made, make the best crops, since the cotton will be well suited to the conditions of the soil and other things peculiar to that particular farm. The task of selecting seed and breeding up cotton is not as difficult as it might seem; and if the farmer does not have the information required to do it, he can profit by asking for the information and acting upon it. The following points will be of assistance:

(1) All varieties of cotton will produce some stalks very much earlier than others, others very much later than others, while the main part of the crop is yielded on stalks that fruit between these two extremes. This gives an opportunity to select early fruiting plants from almost all varieties.

(2) Early fruiting stalks have short joints, with the first fruit limbs near the ground; while late fruiting stalks have long joints, with the first fruit limbs farther from the ground. Therefore select seed from stalks in the former class. The first fruit limb should not be higher than five or six joints above the seed leaf joint.

(3) It is sometimes supposed that large bolls will not grow on the early fruiting stalks that have short joints and fruit low; but careful observation has disproved this supposition.

(4) The fruit limbs, especially the first ones, should continue

long in growth for the largest yield in a short time—that is, they should not quit after producing two or three bolls, but should continue to produce bolls.

(5) An abundance of water in the soil, whether due to a wet season or to a naturally moist soil, will make the joints of the cotton stalk longer; and allowance for this should be made in selecting seed. Seed from plants that have relatively short stalks in a wet season or on naturally moist soil will produce stalks with relatively short joints under conditions in which there is little moisture in the soil.

(6) Early opening does not necessarily insure early fruiting.

(7) Seed should not be taken from stalks that have shed much fruit. Selection in this particular should be made relatively, as unfavorable conditions might make the shedding of fruit more or less common.

(8) Cottons that have large bolls and thick hulls come out of storms in good condition, as the burs do not curl backward and leave the locks unsupported; while the cottons with small bolls and thin hulls turn backward so far in opening that the staple falls out when struck by wind and rain, and sometimes even before so struck.

(9) Rapid growth will reduce the time between planting and fruiting. Some stalks in the same patch, with the same kind of soil, fertilizers and culture, will fruit in a much shorter time than their fellows. Give such the preference when selecting seed.

(10) When selecting seed according to the foregoing rules, the practical grower will be quick to recognize desirable and undesirable qualities not mentioned in the foregoing, and should select his seed accordingly.

An ordinary field of cotton that would produce half a bale an acre without any particular attention being given to the seed can be made to yield a bale and a half. This much gain might not be secured the first year, but it can finally be secured and at an immense profit.

The man who raises only half a bale to the acre had better be working for wages. He would net as much money and have less responsibility and wor-

ry. The expense of producing a bale and a half is little more than the expense of producing half a bale, so that he would get his last bale of a bale and a half crop almost wholly in the form of net profit.

To get the best results from selecting seed in breeding up cotton, one should have a patch set aside especially for producing seed to be used a year later. Here only the choicest seed would be planted next year, while most of the seed from the seed patch would be used for planting the field crop. It is obvious that the seed patch should be far enough removed from the main field crop to prevent the main field crop from mixing with that of the seed patch.

Fruit Tree Bark Beetle

EDITOR GAZETTE:

I send you under separate cover a few pieces of bark of a peach tree containing a few specimens of a weevil-like insect that is attacking my peach trees. Will you please tell me the name of the "varmint"; and treatment, preventative and curative? I have lost two beautiful trees.

MASON SNOWDEN,
Woodville, Miss.

Answer by Biologist Glenn W. Herrick, Agricultural College, Miss.: The insect referred to in the foregoing letter are known as the fruit tree bark beetle (*Scolytus rugulosus*). However, it seldom attacks healthy trees, but usually waits until the trees are weakened by borers or by scale insects or some disease. It is quite probable that the trees in question were weakened by some other insect or disease before this borer attacked them.

All infected trees should be cut and burned at once. They will not recover now anyhow, and would simply furnish breeding places for this weevil, which would attack other trees.

Kansas is so interested in promoting sheep raising that wolf scalp bounties are paid by counties. If they can afford to take money from the public treasuries to pay such bounties, Southern states can certainly afford to put money into their treasuries by taxing dogs and thus protecting sheep.

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