

In winter with straw will do more harm than good in the South. Scatter about 100 pounds of nitrate of soda along the rows as the new growth begins. But carefully avoid its touching the leaves, especially if they are wet with dew. Better apply it when dry. I have had the plants killed by a careless hand spreading the nitrate on top the rows in my absence. Too much nitrate should be avoided, as it is apt to make the berries too soft to ship well. The heaviest fertilization of a strawberry plantation should be made in midsummer, to grow strong crowns for the next crop. And the whole should be plowed under after the second season's cropping.

**Preparing for Peanuts and Sweet Potatoes.**

What is the best way in which to prepare land for peanuts and sweet potatoes, the best commercial fertilizer and the best kind of manure, dirt, woods mould and such as can be gotten at home for fertilizing the crop?

C. S. CARR.

Pitt Co., N. C.

It is a simple matter to prepare the land for peanuts by plowing six inches deep and then harrowing in 500 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of muriate of potash per acre, half in the furrows and half broadcast. Bed on the furrows and flatten the beds and plant the nuts. Then cultivate shallow and often till blooming.

Sweet potatoes need about the same preparation, but should have some nitrogenous fertilizer which the peanuts do not need. The best preparation for sweet potatoes is to sow crimson clover in the fall and have the matured crop to plow under for the potatoes. In that case you would only need the same fertilizer advised for the peanuts. But if there is no clover on the land, get out during the winter all the rotten trash and pine straw you can from the woods and spread it on the land, and turn it under deeply. Then lay off the furrows shallow three feet apart, and put in them 400 pounds of acid phosphate, 200 pounds of cotton seed meal and 100 pounds of muriate of potash per acre. Bed on this and set the plants on the beds. Then cultivate nearly level and lay by with a sweep and a shallow ridge.

**Some Sweet Potato Formulas.**

Will early sweet potatoes do well after corn and cowpeas on a sandy loam? If so, what commercial fertilizer would be most suitable for the potatoes on that soil?

W. PAT NORTHERN.

There is no better preparation for sweet potatoes than a crop of cowpeas the season before. After peas I would use a mixture of 400 pounds of acid phosphate, fifty pounds of nitrate of soda and fifty pounds of sulphate of potash for the potatoes. After corn I would change the mixture to 350 pounds of acid phosphate, fifty pounds of nitrate of soda, fifty pounds of cottonseed meal and fifty pounds of sulphate of potash.

**Selfishness and the Garden.**

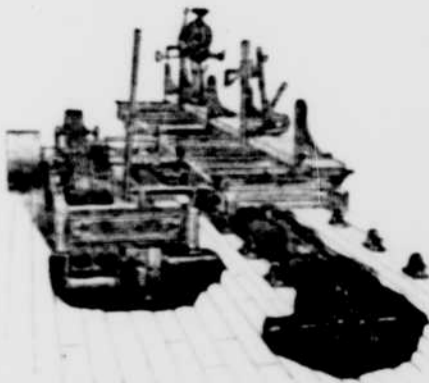
The horse and plow in the garden—ends of rows a sad mess of breakdowns and bruises, the grass growing faster than a busy farmer can calculate—my experience would be given in a prescription for a wheel hoe, the only thing I know of capable of making a man selfish about a garden, so selfish as to insist on doing all the work himself.

W. A. B. HEARNE.

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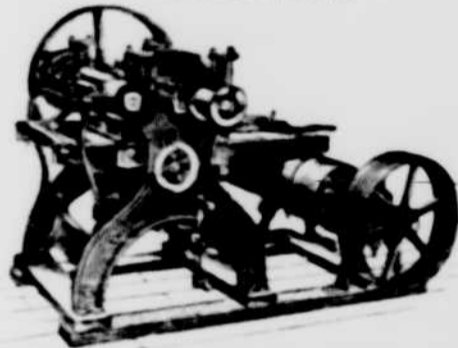
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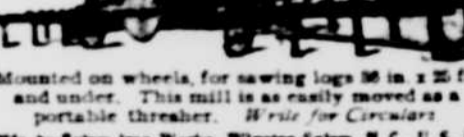
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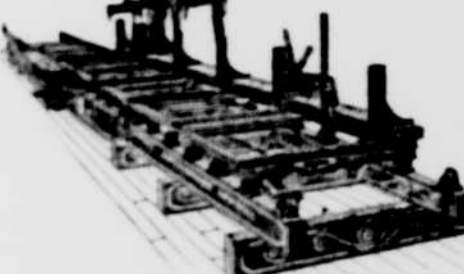


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