



CULTIVATION OF CORN.

Reasons Why Shallow Culture Is Preferred to Deep Culture.

Every year the question, "Which is preferable for corn, deep or shallow culture?" is agitated, and each year the advocates for shallow culture show an increase in numbers. The Farm, Field and Fireside has recently opened its columns to this annual discussion. From Columbia, Mo., a correspondent writes as follows:

Shallow culture has the preference for these reasons: 1. In the average season a larger yield will be obtained. 2. The plants are able to withstand a drought with less damage. 3. Cutting the roots of the corn plant is avoided. 4. An acre of corn can be kept free from weeds and properly crushed on the surface by surface tillage for less money and with less effort than by deep tillage. 5. The land is left in a condition to be better protected from washing and more easily handled the next season, or can be sown to grass, wheat or oats very much more conveniently than if ridged, as will be the case in deep tillage.

A Macon farmer writes favoring a thorough and deep preparation of the soil previous to seeding, after which shallow culture is advised. "It has been demonstrated shallow plowing on lands deeply prepared has a tendency to hold the moisture. In the south rapid cultivation is required, and an implement that cuts a wide slice is used. We use a sweep or scrape that cuts from 13 to 24 inches, that scrapes up the soil in rows running very shallow."

An Ohio farmer says: Shallow, for the following reasons: 1. Deep cultivation cuts off the lateral roots of the plants and thereby weakens their growth and lessens the crop. 2. The ridges turn the water away from the hills when rain does come and the hollows conduct it away from the field, if the ground is at all rolling, or to low places, where it is not so much needed, and the field is left very rough. 3. Shallow cultivation implies that there are many teeth or tongues to the cultivator, and these stir the ground more, break up the clods and crust if any much better, make a good deal better mulch for the corn and leave the ground smooth. Then when rain comes it soaks in all over the surface and is stored up for the benefit of the corn. 4. Shallow cultivation is easier on man and beast and tools and can be continued till the stalks are in tassel with much profit.

Grain Versus Pasture.

It used to be common for farmers who had fine pastures, especially on land that was annually overflowed, to boast that they could fatten beefs more cheaply on grass than on grain. But that time has passed, according to American Cultivator, which says:

The pasture has not been wholly superseded, for the farmer who has good pasture still has the advantage, provided he supplements pasture with grain. In spite of the fact that the pasture supplies food without labor, while the corn crop, if grown and harvested as it should be, requires much labor, the latter is much the cheaper feed. There is comparatively little beef now grown which comes from pasture alone. Even in the blue grass region of Kentucky western grain is largely used to supplement the feed of stock which are still fattened on pasture. There is probably no richer grass in the world than the Kentucky blue grass, which is, however, identical with the June grass in our northern states. But for cheap nutrition, and especially for stock that is being fattened,

it is no match for Indian corn. The grain of a good corn crop has more nutritive value than the grain of any of the smaller grains. And there is besides a great deal of nutritive value in the cornstalks. This is now appreciated by western farmers more than it ever has been before. It is the value of cornstalks as feed that has done as much as anything else to make corn supersede pasture as a means for fattening cattle.

CRIMSON CLOVER.

At the North Carolina Station and Among North Carolina Farmers.

F. E. Emery, agriculturist at the North Carolina station, in a recent bulletin tells of experiments with crimson clover begun at the station in 1889, also of reports from farmers in the state who have grown this clover. Following are extracts from his report:

There are many words of praise and commendation for this crop from different parts of the state for grazing, for cutting to feed green and for hay. Our own digestion experiments have proved the hay from crimson clover, when well made, as was the case in the digested hay, to be richer in digestible food than any other clover which had then been subjected to experiment in that line. It is, however, as a seed crop and a soil improver that we would urge its growth on a large scale. Crimson clover seeds freely. It is capable of adding materially to the incomes of the farmers of every county and at the same time to be helping to increase the fertility of the farms if grown extensively enough to warrant the purchase of hullers to clean the seed for sale. To improve land this clover is probably next to the cowpea in value and should follow the cowpea and not be used on poor land until the cowpea has begun an improvement which this crop can be used to continue. It is being grown regularly at the experiment farm. At Biltmore this spring we saw a very heavy crop of it being fed to the Jersey cows green, and hay was being made of it. The crop is worthy of the careful attention of every farmer in North Carolina.

Little care and no cultivation after sowing is needed to grow this crop. It grows from fall to April or May and may succeed a corn crop and leave the ground in season for corn to be grown on the same land as regularly as if it were left bare between the crops of corn. It can be grown the same in cotton fields if grazed off instead of making hay or seed which could not be harvested from among the cotton stalks. The station advises early seeding, and has had best success with July and August seedings. There is a better chance to secure a stand of clover, and if one seeding is followed by such dry, hot weather as to cause a failure there will be time to reseed the land. The early sown crop may be grazed and will be ready for hay earlier than a late sown crop which requires favorable winter weather or a late spring in order to mature well.

The Sugar Cane Industry.

In commenting on some recent publications by Professor Hilgard on the beet sugar industry the Louisiana Planter says:

"The recent enormous development in cane farming in Louisiana shows that it is a successful industry. Any one familiar with it and now surveying the sugar horizon in this state will be much impressed by the increased preparations making everywhere for cane growing. Unless our industry is affected by adverse legislation, it is practically certain that the cane crop of Louisiana will be doubled within the next five years. And the bulk of the cane to do this will come from the cane farmers producing cane on comparatively small acreages."

"The last statement that we quote from Professor Hilgard is also very incorrect, as 1,600 pounds of raw sugar

from an acre of cane land in Louisiana would now realize little other than disaster either to the cane grower or the sugar manufacturer. The Louisiana statistics obtained from the department of internal revenue showed that the average crop was about 18 tons per acre and the average yield of sugar over 140 pounds. We thus reach, as evidenced by these statistics, an average of over 2,500 pounds of sugar per acre, and many of our cane farmers are now realizing 25 to 30 tons of cane per acre, and the sugar houses buying the cane rarely get less than 160 pounds of sugar per ton, the sugar per acre thus reaching from 4,000 to 5,000 pounds."

Bermuda Grass.

There is but one grass and only one that will take full possession of our lands and hold its own through summer's heat and winter's cold, wet or dry, and that is bermuda grass. It is perennial, and if not choked out by rank vegetation will endure for all time. It is as a permanent pasture, however, that we wish to advocate it. Every farmer should have sufficiency of it near his house for all his stock and should set to work now and prepare for its setting next spring by leaving unplanted or unutilized all the ground he wishes to devote to it. It will feed more stock to the acre than any known grass, and for a longer period. All kinds of stock are fond of it. The value of an acre of good land sowed with it is unknown. It is useless to try newfangled annual grasses so much valued in other sections or by the agricultural press. Get all the bermuda your stock requires. You will never regret it. With this grass for green pasturage, spring, summer and fall, and cowpeas for hay in winter a farmer has all the needs in this line. Oats for winter grazing fill the bill completely.—Louisiana Farmer.

What Others Say.

The advantages of sowing cotton lands with winter forage plants are being urged by southern agricultural authorities. Winter turf oats and hairy vetch combined are reported as doing admirably at the Mississippi agricultural college.

A Florida grower tells in the Florida Farmer and Fruit Grower that camphor seed should be planted directly from the tree, if possible in the berry.

Southern Cultivator says: Rye is a profitable crop in the mountain sections and on rich land as far south as Piedmont foothills. Still farther south it is very valuable for grazing lots, for covering naked land in winter and for turning under in spring to supply humus.

A Pineapple Disease.

The malady known as "sanding," which is caused by sand blowing into the apex of the plant and collecting around the young leaves, is of frequent occurrence. If the sand is not removed, it checks the growth of the plant. There is not much danger from sanding after the plants have become well rooted and are growing vigorously. It is a very common practice in Florida to put a handful of cottonseed meal in the apex of the plant shortly after setting to prevent it from becoming sandied. The advantage of this is that the cottonseed meal catches the sand, and when wet by rain or heavy dews the mass becomes more or less cemented together. When the plant starts to grow, this mass is carried up on the ends of the new leaves and is finally washed off on to the ground, where it serves as a fertilizer. This is a cheap and apparently a very effective preventive. If plants become sandied, they may be taken up and the sand removed, or the same result may be accomplished by directing, with considerable force, a small stream of water into the heart of the plant. Close planting, shedding and wind breaks are other preventive measures.—Herbert J. Webber.

BUY OUR - - -

WHITE ASH

OR

RED ASH.

Gas. . . . COAL

PITTSBURG

And

ANTHRACITE COAL

For Domestic Use.

No Slack.

All Lump.

Best Coal on the market.

Prompt Delivery.

Full Weight Guaranteed.

Telephone your orders to

Gas Works.

Mechanics' Exchange,

H. LINMAN, Prop.

Fine Wines, Liquors, and Cigars. The only Faust Celebrated Anheuser-Busch beer always on tap, fresh and cold.

LODGING 23c.

AUGUST ABERT,

HARNESS MAKER
AND REPAIRER.Dealer in Harness, Horse Collars, Etc.,
First class workmanship, Moderate
Prices, Quick Service.

810 TEXAS STREET.

NASH & BAIN,
TINNERS.Sheet Metal Workers, Tin Roofing Guttering,
Elevator, Blow Pipe.Copper Smithing,
Galvanized Iron
Cornish and... Cisterns.

900 Texas ave.

SHREVEPORT

Commercial and Academic
INSTITUTE.

The course will be two fold; to fit pupils of both sexes for Business and for College. Book-keeping, Arithmetic, Penmanship, English and Stenography will be practically and thoroughly taught. Pupils can enter any day or evening. For terms, etc., address

J. V. CARLIN,
SHREVEPORT, LA

OAL

All Kinds

For All Purposes

Telephone 272

Quick Delivery.

SHREVEPORT ICE

and

REFRIGERATOR CO