

**Farm and Fertilizers.**

**How the Former may be Improved by a Proper Use of the Latter--Views of a Horticulturist of National Reputation.**

W. F. Massey, Horticulturist North Carolina Experiment Station, in Progressive Farmer.

Will our Southern farmers ever get rid of the notion that for every crop sown or planted we must have a special fertilizer formula to mix, and always with a large percentage of nitrogen?

Referring to Mr. Petty's article in the Progressive Farmer of October 3rd, I would say that he is a little off in the figures about wheat. Thirty five bushels of wheat will be 2,100 pounds, and will contain 49.5 pounds of nitrogen, 1869 pounds of phosphoric acid and 1134 pounds of potash. The straw will carry off a larger percentage of potash than the grain, so that the potash and phosphoric acid removed will not seriously differ.

Now it will be safe to assume that a good clay soil suitable for wheat will in our older cultivated lands be more deficient in phosphorus than anything else except nitrogen—which we will not consider, since any good farmer can improve his land and his crops without buying an ounce of nitrogen. But phosphorus and potassium are essential to the perfection of the grain, and must be placed in the soil if they are lacking.

While the clay soil may contain a large amount of potash in the silicate form, it will not be safe to assume that a sufficient amount is available to balance the phosphoric acid (the form in which we use phosphorus), for it has been found that neither phosphoric acid nor potash will have its full effect unless there is a due percentage of both available in the soil or applied in a fertilizer.

There are millions of dollars thrown away in North Carolina and adjoining States every year in the purchase of nitrogen (or ammonia, as the fertilizer men prefer to put it, since the figures look larger) and it is easy, as I have said, to improve the fertility of the soil and to get annually increasing crops without buying an ounce of nitrogen, provided the farmer farms and does not merely speculate on the chances with a formula.

I am perfectly familiar with the finest wheat growing section of Eastern Maryland, and visited there about ten days ago. While riding on the train I conversed with a leading farmer and said that in the long time since I had been there I could see a great improvement in the crops, though good farming had always been the rule there. "Yes," said he, "we used to think that 40 bushels of corn was a pretty good crop, but now we get 75 or more bushels of corn and 40 bushels of wheat per acre." They formerly used Peruvian guano and afterwards the formula mixtures and made 10 to 15 bushels per acre. For the last twenty years the

best farmers there have not bought an ounce of nitrogen and have used nothing but an application of acid phosphate on their wheat and have practiced a three year rotation of corn, wheat and clover. One of the best of these farmers told me that during the last twenty years he has averaged 40 bushels of wheat per acre, and this on similar land no better than any of our red clay uplands, if as good, naturally.

The grain farmer and the cotton farmer have no need for buying nitrogen. This is especially true of the cotton farmer, if he feeds the meal from his cotton seed and the hay he can make from cow peas and the stover of his corn well shredded, and carefully saves the manure to return to the land broadcast for the corn crop. Then if the corn is properly cultivated and is cut and shocked while the fodder is good, and peas have been sown among it before the last working, he can chop these up with the cut-away harrow till fine and all the organic matter left on top the soil, and can with a disk drill seed small grain and have the dead peavines as a mulch and top dressing. Then he will need on the wheat only 300 pounds of a mixture 6 parts acid phosphate and 1 part muriate of potash. Then follow the wheat with peas, and the peas will do more for you in the way of getting nitrogen and making forage if you give them a similar application; both applications costing no more than one of the ordinary complete fertilizer. Then cut the peas and cure them for hay and sow crimson clover and rye on the stubble, the rye to guard against the failure of the clover. Turn these in the spring for cotton without fertilizer of any sort. Sow among the cotton at last working more crimson clover and rye, and during the winter get out and spread on it all the house accumulation of manure and turn all for corn and a new round of the rotation.

A number of years ago a young farmer, not in the cotton district, but whose main crop is wheat, commenced corresponding with me, seeking advice in the improvement of his land. I had not heard from him for a good while till yesterday I received from him a photograph of his twenty-five-acre field of cow peas, all cut and cocked for hay, and he wrote that the field made 100 tons of cured hay. He said that years ago that field was too poor to make a paying crop of anything, but that by following my advice and sticking to the rotation with peas he has made over thirty bushels of wheat per acre and seventy bushels of corn.

Following a similar rotation, and feeding all the roughage of the farm and all the cotton seed, it is evident that the farmer in the cotton belt could make profit enough out of these auxiliary crops of corn and small grain and peas to more than pay all the expenses of his farming and leave the cotton crop as clear profit. But it will not be done by the men who want a fertilizer formula for every crop planted, and who merely use fertilizers to

**The Taylor-Steele Nuptials.**

**A Full Account of an Interesting Event, Briefly Noted in a Previous issue of The News.**

Reported for The News.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. M. Steele, of the Jacksonham section of this county, was a place of beauty Thursday, Oct. 26th, when Mr. Goodman Taylor claimed the hand of their beautiful daughter, Miss Pearl, in holy wedlock. The home was beautifully decorated with lovely flowers. The wedding march was beautifully rendered by Mrs. O. A. Gregory of Lancaster. The groom and bride completed the picture.

The bride was arrayed in white Moeresse lace and ribbon. The veil was looped with white daisies. The bride carried a bunch of cape jasmynes. The groom wore a full dress suit.

The attendants were: Mr. H. D. Funderburk, best man, with Mrs. H. D. Funderburk, maid of honor; Mr. James Sarnes and Miss Mary Dunlap; Mr. Joseph Robinson and Miss Ida McMurray; Mr. Thurlow Snipes and Miss Nettie Huey; Mr. C. H. Steele and Miss Rebecca Manes.

After the ceremony was performed, by Rev. T. A. Dabney, the bride and groom received the hearty congratulations of a host of friends that were present.—Then the dining room door was opened by Mrs. Steele, mother of the bride, and all were invited to partake of a bounteous feast.—The table was decorated with flowers, fruits and candies, and everything that could be thought of in the way of nice eatables was there in abundance. After the large crowd had dined the young people enjoyed good music and indulged in pleasant games.

At 12 o'clock the happy bride and groom, amid showers of rice, thrown by Mr. Frank Nesbit, wended their way to the home of Mr. H. D. Funderburk.

They left Friday morning for Kershaw, to visit relatives of the groom. They returned Monday, and upon their return were given a reception at the home of Mr. H. D. Funderburk.

AN ATTENDANT.

Rock Hill papers are requested to copy.

The government of Honduras has prohibited the importation of whiskey, rum and anisado in barrels, casks or demijohns.

get a little more stuff to sell. After a few rounds of the above rotation there will be absolutely no need for purchased fertilizer except phosphoric acid and potash for the pea crop, for the most profitable place for this is on the crop that feeds the land and the stock at the same time. The farmer to whom I have referred says that all the great improvement in his land has been made by the crops raised on it while improving them, and not by any great outlay of money which he did not have.

Why not go to farming systematically and stop this everlasting palaver about fertilizers?

**Cheap Excursion Rates via Southern Railway.**

On account Charleston's Annual Gala Week and Coast Fair Association, November 6-11 1905, Southern Railway will sell tickets from all points within State of South Carolina, including Augusta, Ga., at rate One First Class Fare Plus 25 cents for the round trip, tickets sold November 4th, to 10th, inclusive and for trains arriving Charleston before noon November 11th; with final limit November 13th, 1905.

Southern Railway will provide extra coaches on all trains into Charleston November 5th, to 12th, inclusive and all who wish to take advantage of the exceedingly low rates can do so and feel assured that plenty of room will be provided.

For additional information, call on ticket agents or address,

R. W. Hunt,  
Division Passenger Agent,  
Charleston, S. C.

**Notice.**

To the overseers of the Public Roads of Lancaster County.

I again ask you all to warn out your hands and work each of your sections of the public roads, as many days as the law requires or until you get your road in good condition. I want to find that each section of road in the county is worked good between this and the last day of November. As you all know you can't do much good working the clay roads during the winter months.

The grand jury held a meeting on the first Monday in September last and requested me to give notice to all of the overseers to put four days' work on each section of road by the first Monday in Oct. and for each of you to make a report to me that day. And I did so, but many of you failed to work or to make any report. So I kindly ask you all to read the report of the grand jury at the last term of the court. You will see by that report that they want to have the roads worked better than they have ever been in the past, or have the law enforced against any one who fails to discharge his duty. Let every one do his duty, and the law will not be enforced against any one, but otherwise, they say it must be done. Take due notice therefore and govern yourself accordingly.

Respectfully,  
M. C. Gardner  
Co., Supr.

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