

Of Interest to Farmers

Edited by
W. R. GRAY, County Demonstration Agent

Office Phone 247—Residence Phone 188

Results of Some Plant-to-Row Cotton Breeding Work.

Mr. E. E. Hall, Extension Plant Breeding Specialist, and I in co-operation with Mr. D. L. Tindal of near Pinewood this year carried on a plant-to-row cotton breeding test. It is generally recognized that on wilt free lands of this section that Cleveland Big Boll is the best short staple cotton we have. The test was therefore made with this variety of cotton.

The purpose of the test was to determine the highest yielding strain or strains of Cleveland under our conditions. The test consisted of twenty rows, all grown under the same conditions as nearly as possible. I may say here that this test patch was planted rather late and in a comparatively low place; the yields are therefore lower than would have been the case if the conditions had not been so adverse. However, we were chiefly interested in the comparative yields of the different strains, as already stated.

The results of this work are very interesting and clearly demonstrate the value of careful seed selection and breeding. I will not attempt to give the yields of every row, but only enough to show the variation that there is in seed of the same variety grown under the same conditions. The cotton from these rows was all picked at one time and carefully weighed by Mr. Hall and myself, and from this the yield per acre was calculated. Notes were kept on earliness, type of plant, length of staple, etc.

The highest yielding row in the plot produced at the rate of 892 lbs. per acre. The lowest yielding row produced at the rate of 454 pounds per acre making a difference of 438 lbs. or a difference in money value of \$43.74 per acre. Seed were saved from the five highest yielding rows and the balance discarded. The average yield of these five highest rows was 856 pounds. The average of the rows not saved was 649 pounds. Lint cotton from rows saved for seed averages \$20.70 more per acre than that from those rows which were not saved.

This work will be carried on from year to year. We will have sufficient seed from the five highest yielding rows to plant good sized increased plots on Mr. Tindal's farm next year. Seed from certain of the highest yielding plants of most desirable type will be planted in another plant-to-row test in 1923. In this way we can in a short time develop high yielding strains of cotton.

These high yielding seed will then be sold to other farmers in the community at a moderate price, with a view to getting a superior strain of one variety generally used in a community. This will make it easier to keep the seed pure and up to standard. I failed to state that this cotton was all dusted with calcium arsenate and the entire plot averaged 700 pounds per acre.

These rows were checked and the seed planted by hand in order to get the same number of plants per row and the same distance between plants.

FORAGE FOR PORK PRODUCTION

Clemson College, Nov. 21.—Forage is necessary for economical pork production in the South. A recent government survey made in Illinois and Iowa showed the average cost of producing 100 pounds of pork to be \$5.88. Over 50 per cent of this cost was for feeds, which cost about one-third as much as we have to pay for them in South Carolina.

If we try to produce pork by the same method, it is evident that our profits will be very small, says E. G. Godbey, Assistant Animal Husbandman, who reminds us, however, that our climate is such that we may have forage practically every day in the year, and that good forage means cheap pork.

In order to determine the exact relation of cost of pork produced on corn, corn and tankage, and on corn and forage crops, a feeding test was started at Clemson on September 13,

1922. Soy beans were used for forage for the first thirty-six days, and the hogs are on rape and rye at the present time.

During the first thirty-six day period the hogs of Lot 1, on corn and soy beans, made an average daily gain of 1.05 pounds at a cost of 4 cents per pound; Lot 11, on corn and tankage, made an average daily gain of .80 pounds at a cost of 9 cents per pound; Lot III, on corn alone, made an average daily gain of .49 pounds, at a cost of 11 cents per pound.

An acre of soy beans produced approximately 400 pounds of pork. The rye and rape will not be so profitable, but will enable us to produce pork profitably.

THE PIN-HOLE OR THE SHOT-HOLE BORER

Clemson College, Nov. 21.—Among the most important steps in controlling the pin-hole or shot-hole borer in shade and fruit trees is to clean up thoroughly all the refuse material in the grove or in the orchard. All prunings of every description should be removed and burned. These recommendations hold in cases where the pest has not yet appeared, as well as in places where trees are already infested. Careless operation in even a healthy grove or orchard during the summer will attract the pests, and where refuse is allowed to remain during seasons when these pests are abundant, it invariably leads to serious consequences, warns Prof. A. F. Conradi, Entomologist.

Where anyone experiences trouble with pin-hole or shot-hole borer on shade trees at this time of the year, we recommend that he write to the Extension Service, Clemson College, giving full information as to the kind, size, and age of trees, the kind of soil where they are growing, and whether on terraces or on washed hill sides.

In pruning the orchard special attention should be given to the borer. Heavily infested limbs that are hopeless should be entirely removed, and where any trees are infested, they should likewise be taken out. These shot-hole borers have a preference for trees that have been weakened by one or more of the following causes:

1. Scale; 2. borers; 3. lack of nourishment.

Examination for one or more of these causes should be made and proper treatment given. Extension Circular 25, giving information for treating insects and diseases, may be had upon application.

"NO DEFLATION IN TURKEY PRICES"

"For the few bales of cotton that the farmer this year has raised the State hopes that he will receive the highest possible price and so the State hopes in respect to all of his products, including turkeys. But why is the turkey crop small? It was not injured by boll weevils—the boll weevil, according to reports, should improve the turkey crop—but in the State last Sunday turkeys were advertised at 40 cents a pound.

"Before the war turkeys sold at 12 1-2 cents a pound—why have turkeys been exempt from the frightful results of deflation? Did Governor Harding and the federal reserve board overlook them?"

"The seasons have not been good

for turkeys, the rains have killed many of the little ones—but one can not help suspecting that had 25,000 farmers of South Carolina, who did not strive successfully against the weevils, devoted time and solicitous care to turkeys, the crop would have been five to ten times larger than it is.

"The State congratulates the farmers and their wives and daughters who with diligence and unremitting attention have raised turkeys and now have them to sell at 40 cents a pound—it hopes that they will receive even better prices for them—but is it not singular that so little of the energy and industry that were not given to cotton production has been diverted to turkeys? The cotton crop is "off" about 700,000 bales and turkeys are among the few classes of ultimate consumers of boll weevils.

"Possibly, and probably, more intelligence and perseverance are required to raise a brood of turkeys than to raise a half bale of cotton. Anyway, ten turkeys weighing ten pounds each, are worth in the market \$40 and that is as much as a third of a bale of cotton fetches.—The State.

EARLY VERSUS LATE PLANTING OF COTTON

Clemson College, Nov. 21.—"We continue to advise planting cotton without delay in the spring, using early varieties, and pushing the crop to early maturity," says Prof. A. F. Conradi, Entomologist, in answering a number of farmers who, having observed that in some instances the weevil damages were worse in early-planted cotton this year than on late planted cotton, have asked us in regard to the advisability of planting late hereafter rather than early.

The fact that infestation in some instances was heavier on an early planted field may be accounted for in two ways, as follows, Prof. Conradi continues:

1. The weevil rarely occurs uniformly over a given section, farm or field. The farmer will invariably find that some spots are more heavily infested than others, and this accounts for early cotton in some cases having been more heavily infested than late cotton.

2. In some sections, especially in the Piedmont section, cotton planting was greatly delayed on many fields, because of adverse weather conditions, but due to the mild winter and the very early spring, the weevil began to come out of winter-quarters very early. The result was that a large number of the over-wintered weevils died before cotton began to square. A condition just like this may not occur again for many years and, even if it did, there

is no evidence that it would be worth anything.

Comparatively few of the weevils that enter winter-quarters in the fall succeed in passing the winter and puncture the squares the next spring. Therefore cotton production amounts to a race between the cotton crop and the time when weevils become abundant; or, in other words, it amounts to an effort to get bolls formed and hardened before the weevils become very abundant. Any operation that delays planting and maturing is dangerous, because the squares and young bolls will be lost later in the season by the increasing numbers of weevils.

In short, there is no evidence at hand that anything is gained by late planting, but abundant evidence is at hand that there may be much to lose. We therefore advise planting without delay when conditions have become favorable, and we advise doing everything possible and practicable to keep the plants fruiting and to hasten maturity.

TRIMMING TREES FOR DISEASE CONTROL

Clemson College, Nov. 21.—The time has now arrived for fruit grow-

ers to be thinking of the annual winter clean-up of the orchard for disease control. This should consist of a careful trimming with immediate burning of the brush and other trash, followed by a thorough application of commercial or boiled lime-sulphur spray.

The importance of the spray in the control of fungous pests has long been recognized but the importance of pruning for the same purpose is often overlooked, says Dr. C. A. Ludwig, Associate Plant Pathologist. On this account special care should be taken to remove all twigs and small branches which are dead or cankered, because the dead wood usually harbors destructive parasites. For a similar reason all trimmings should be burned promptly. Often a parasite can live over the winter in the twig or branch, even when it is off the tree. Likewise, all decayed or mummified fruit on or under the trees should be raked together and burned.

Where trunks or large branches are cankered, it may not be practicable to cut them off. In such cases the cankers can be chiseled out, taking care to cut away an inch or so of healthy wood to make sure that every last bit of the parasite is removed. Such cuts, and in fact all

large cuts, should be covered immediately with a coat of shellac, followed in a few minutes with one of coal tar. Or the cut surface can be allowed to dry and a coat of white lead and corrosive sublimate paint applied. The corrosive sublimate should be finely ground and mixed thoroughly with ordinary white lead paint at the rate of one-eighth to one-half ounce per gallon.

The wound covering should be inspected every six months or so and renewed whenever found to be broken until the new growth entirely covers the cut area.

CORN EXPORTS INCREASING

Exports of corn from the United States for the first eight months of 1922 exceeded the exports for the entire year 1921 by 2,488,743 bushels, according to figures compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture. The total exports for 1921 were 128,974,505 bushels and for the first eight months of 1922, 131,463,248 bushels. These figures do not include corn and corn flour, of which 452,766 barrels—the equivalent of 1,811,064 bushels of corn—were exported during the first eight months of 1922.

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