

THE SWEET POTATO-- A MONEY CROP OF IMPORTANCE

F. H. Jeter, Soil Improvement Committee.

Entering the field in competition with the other more firmly established money crops, the southern sweet potato is rapidly gaining in popularity as a field crop of first importance. One of the greatest drawbacks to its successful establishment has been that no adequate means of curing and storing had been advised until the last few years. With the successful operation of these potato storage houses, however, the crop can now be marketed successfully. It is probably one of the most cheaply grown crops of the South and with proper fertilization, the least fertile lands can be made to produce excellent yields. Statistics show that it is an ordinary accomplishment to grow a crop of from 200 to 400 bushels per acre on most any soil of average fertility with proper fertilization.

Possibilities As a Money Crop.
As to the money income from the crop, it must be said that it compares most favorably with cotton. Statistics show that the average return from an acre of cotton amounts to about \$70.87 per acre, while the returns from an acre of potatoes amounts to \$134.19. One grower in South Carolina reports to the college that he made a net profit of \$1216.36 on four acres, which is a return over three hundred dollars per acre. This grower was careful to keep an accurate account of all expenses, including that of curing, marketing and grading his crop, and his experience shows the possibilities of the sweet potato as a money crop for the South. In fact, it proves the value of the crop beyond all question.

Produces Well On Nearly All Soils.
The soil and climatic conditions of the lower South are very favorable to its growth and produce a root much sweeter and richer in nutriment than the harder and more starchy tuber of the more northern states. The potato makes its best yields in the sandy soils. It will do well on most any soil that is well drained, but if grown on soils that are too fertile, produces a larger amount of vine at the expense of the potatoes. A light soil, not too fertile, with a firm subsoil, gives best results. If the subsoil is too loose, and not compact, a large proportion of the roots will be stringy and unfit for market purposes. Preparation of the soil is about as for cotton. The land is broken, laid off, the fertilizers applied in the rows and this bedded upon. The ridge is generally allowed to settle firmly before the slips or vines are planted.

Some Leading Varieties.
As to varieties, the Nancy Hall seems to be the prime favorite at this time. The Porto Rico and Triumph varieties are also very popular and rank with the Nancy Hall as a good yielder and a market favorite. The Southern Queen and Yellow Jersey are two other varieties which have found favor with some growers.

Liberal Fertilization Important.
The question of fertilizers is, of course, related to the kind of soil on which the crop is grown. On the whole the crop needs liberal fertilization and responds well to this treatment. The sweet potato needs a complete fertilizer and an application of at least from 800 to 1,000 pounds per acre. Some manure may be applied, but it should be understood that this is an unbalanced plant food, that because of its nitrogen content will develop the vine to the detriment of the roots if applied in too large quantities. The same thing is true of a commercial fertilizer mixture having a high nitrogen analysis. The crop needs potash more than do general field crops, since this element seems to aid in the elaboration of starch in the roots. It was found, however, that during the shortage of potash, due to the recent war, that sweet potatoes would produce well with a less amount of potash than had been previously thought necessary.

For best results the crop must have a good supply of readily available phosphoric acid. A formula containing all three of the necessary elements of plant food would be, for the coastal plain region, 9 per cent available phosphoric acid, 3 per cent nitrogen and 4 per cent potash. For the Piedmont region, a good mixture will contain 9 per cent available phosphoric acid, 2 per cent nitrogen and 3 per cent potash.

Curing Houses Solves Marketing Problem.

Curing and storage houses are now going up rapidly all over the South. Some of these are established on the individual farm for the individual crop, but many large houses to store the community crop are also being constructed. The curing house saves from 95 to 98 per cent of the crop in excellent condition for food as contrasted to a former loss of from 20 to 100 per cent of the roots under the old system of backing and handling. A storage house may be constructed for about 50 cents a bushel for houses of from 500 to 2,500 bushels capacity and for 40 cents per bushel for larger houses. Plans for these houses may be obtained free of charge from the United States Department of Agriculture.

"EXECUTED" HIS DEAD BODY

Stern Decree of Justice Carried Out on Corpse of Ancient Dalmatian Archbishop.

Dalmatia has made rapid strides in science and literature, the story of her culture, however, being one of personal achievement rather than public advancement. Zara, its largest city, for example, had no printing press until 1796, while Venetian Dalmatia had only one public school in the eighteenth century.

Roger Joseph Boscovitch, one famous son of Dalmatia, was esteemed by scientists for his work setting forth a new atomic theory, but more popularly known because of the adoption of his plan for assuring the uprightness of the dome of St. Peter's at Rome when a crack was discovered in it. He wrote verse voluminously, but not as successfully as he wrote his numerous scientific treatises.

Marco Antonio de Dominis, another Dalmatian of public note, mingled theology and natural philosophy with serious consequences to himself. He set forth the first correct explanation of the rainbow, but his theological career was less fruitful. As archbishop of Spalato he attacked his superiors in his writings, fled to England, returned to Rome, then did penance by writing a book refuting his heretical works. He was tried, but died before the trial ended. The trial went on and he was sentenced to be dragged through the streets of Rome and burned publicly. His body was removed from his coffin and the sentence executed.

SHOWING VALUE OF "FRONT"

Impecunious Author Wise in Expenditure That Less Far-Sighted Friend Objected To.

There is a young author who has arrived, and therefore has only, when he wishes a new suit or a large steak or a set of automobile tires, to sit down at his typewriter and dash off a few careless lines, and eager editors do the rest. Once upon a time, however—and, unlike the fairy stories, that doesn't mean long, long ago—this worthy young man's assets were so near the vanishing point that his numerous creditors became uneasy and threatened a total discontinuance of supplies. Something had to be done, and that quickly. The author did something—he took a famous financier with whom he happened to be acquainted to lunch at the most expensive and conspicuous restaurant in town. When it was over he walked home for lack of another nickel.

"You are not as bright as you might be, my boy," he patiently explained to a protesting friend as he cheerfully borrowed a quarter. "Several of my largest creditors always lunch at that place, and I knew they would recognize the man I was with. Why, that lunch is good for at least 60 days' extension on my accounts."

Showing Rattlesnake's Age.

Another ancient belief is shattered by science. The number of rattles a rattlesnake has is determined not by his age, but by the number of times he sheds his skin, is the decision given out by the curator in charge of the reptiles in the New York zoo. A baby rattler is born with only a button, but soon afterward he sheds his skin and has a rattle. Every time he sheds his skin he gains another, and he usually does this three times a year, although seasonal or food conditions may vary this.

"The rattle is rather a delicate organ," writes the curator. "The snake wears out the older rings dragging them around over rough, rocky ground. A rattle seldom attains a length of more than 10 or 11 rings, as when that number has been acquired the vibration at the tip, when the organ is used, is so pronounced that additional segments are soon worn, broken, or lost."

Through the Soul's Eyes.

Physical eyes may measure the possibilities that return effort in terms of dividends, but it takes vision of the soul to become a benefactor to your fellows. Effort for personal gain must be selfish beyond measure if it does not benefit more than the first actor. Even when it does not seem to be a help to anyone there are reflexes that are sure to reach men in various walks of life. But the world needs the work of the greater man. He may seem mediocre to his fellows. They may even coddle themselves into imagining their own superiority. What he does will show the difference. Intuitively he will sense the need of the times and without seeming to patronize he will make people appreciate him as friend.—Exchange.

Churches Observe Candlemas Day.

Candlemas day, celebrated as the day of Christ's presentation at the temple, is observed in the Anglican, Roman and Greek churches. February 2, this day being the fortieth after the birth of Christ, on which the purification of the mother and the presentation of the son should occur according to Levitical rules.

The institution of the festival is attributed to Pope Gelasius, in the latter part of the fifth century, in many details showing itself to be a Christianization of the pagan Februalia, celebrated in ancient Rome at about the same period. The special services of the day among Roman Catholics consist of a blessing of candles by the priests.

Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic restores vitality and energy by purifying and enriching the blood. You can soon feel its strengthening, invigorating effect. Price 60c.

NOTICE OF FINAL DISCHARGE.

Notice is hereby given that I, Mrs. Mary C. Cleckley, executrix of the estate of Dr. J. J. Cleckley, deceased, will file my final return and accounting of said estate with the probate judge of Bamberg county on Saturday, March 20, 1920, at his office in Bamberg, S. C., and will at the same time make application for my final discharge as executrix of the said estate.

MRS. MARY C. CLECKLEY, Executrix.
Feb. 24, 1920. 3-18n

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All children troubled with worms have an unhealthy color, which indicates poor blood, and as a rule, there is more or less stomach disturbance. GROVE'S TASTELESS chill TONIC given regularly for two or three weeks will enrich the blood, improve the digestion, and act as a General Strengthening Tonic to the whole system. Nature will then throw off or dispel the worms, and the child will be in perfect health. Pleasant to take. 60c per bottle.

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NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS.

All persons having claims against the estate of Dr. J. J. Cleckley, deceased, will please file the same, duly itemized and verified, with the undersigned within the time required by law, and all persons indebted to the said estate will please pay said indebtedness to the undersigned.

MRS. MARY C. CLECKLEY, Executrix.
Feb. 24, 1920. 3-11n

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Every year, millions of Baby Chicks are lost because setting hens are not kept clean and free of lice. Dr. LeGear's Lice Killer quickly rids your flock of lice and vermin.

Through his advice and remedies, Dr. LeGear has helped thousands of Poultry Raisers during his 27 years' experience as an Expert Poultry Specialist. It will pay you also to take advantage of Dr. LeGear's advice just as Mrs. Rose did and increase your poultry profits. Get a can of Dr. LeGear's Lice Killer from your dealer, use it according to directions. If you are not entirely satisfied with results return the empty can to your dealer and he will cheerfully refund your money. —Dr. L. D. LeGear Med. Co., St. Louis, Mo.

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Lumber!

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I will maintain a lumber yard in front of the Chero-Cola building across the street and my office in the building.

I am also building a dry kiln, which will enable me to carry in stock flooring and ceiling at all times.

Your continued patronage will be very much appreciated and will receive as prompt attention as it is possible for me to give. Again thanking you.

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