

will plant an acre, and it costs the same to cultivate it as corn, while the amount of feed it will produce is many times as much as the corn would make. I advise all of the farmers who read this to plant a trial plot this year and report their success with it in the fall.

The American Crop Outlook

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued its regular crop circular for June. Returns indicate a reduction of 470,000 acres or 2.5 per cent. in the acreage sown of spring wheat. The average condition of spring wheat is 91.4, as compared with 100.9 on June 1st, 1898, 89.6 for 1897 and 93.2, the mean of the June averages for the last thirteen years. The average condition of the fall wheat is 67.3, as compared with 90.8 in 1898, 78.5 on June 1st, 1897, and 83.4, the mean of the June averages for the last thirteen years.

The total reported acreage of oats is about 169,000 acres, or seven-tenths of one per cent. less than last year. The average condition of oats is 88.7, as compared with 98 on June 1st of last year, 89 in 1897, and 91.2, the mean of the June averages for the last thirteen years. The acreage of barley shows an increase of 3.1 per cent. over last year and the average condition is 91.4, as compared with 78.8 on June 1st, 1898, 87.4 in 1897 and 89.6, the mean of the June averages for the last thirteen years.

The fruit crop prospects are on the whole not as good as last year. In the thirteen apple-growing states where there were 3,000,000 or more apple trees in bearing at the last census, the condition on June 1st as compared with the average condition for the last fifteen years was above in six states, below in six and no difference in one. The peach crop will probably come as near being a total failure as it will ever come in a country of such vast extent and such varied climatic conditions as in the United States. With the exception of California, where the conditions indicate from 75 to 95 per cent. of a full crop, there is not a state that has the promise of so much as two-thirds of a normal crop; few look for even a half crop and in many important peach-growing states there will be practically no crop whatever.

Some interesting information has been gathered in regard to the crop outlook in other countries. A British commercial estimate tentatively puts the world's wheat crop of 1899 at 2,504,000,000 bushels against 2,748,000,000 bushels in 1898, a reduction of 244,000,000 bushels, or nearly 8.9 per cent. In some parts of Russia both fall wheat and rye are almost destroyed by drought and though other localities report more favorably it is thought that the Russian crop cannot be a good one. Next to the Russian wheat crop France is the largest and most important in Europe and the outlook for a good yield is decidedly better than in the former country. The wheat area is about the same as last year, while the condition is about 5 per cent. lower. On this basis the crop would be about 20,000,000 bushels less than that of last year.

The area under wheat in Manitoba is given by the Provincial Department of Agriculture as 1,629,995 acres, as against 1,488,232 in 1898 and 1,290,882 in 1897. A corresponding increase is shown in the acreage in oats and barley. Seeding was later than usual but reports indicate general satisfaction as to crops.

Destroying Canada Thistles

A Michigan farmer gives the following method for killing Canada thistles:

"About this time of the year, or a little later, when the thistle is in bud and before it is out of blossom, thoroughly apply strong brine to the plants. Make a brine of salt and water as strong as can be made, and in order to be sure add more salt than can be dissolved in the water. I then choose a clear, dry day with bright sunshine, such as would be a good hay day, and after the dew is off the thistles take

a pail of this strong brine with a handful or two of salt added, keeping the brine constantly agitated, and with my hand sprinkle the thistles until they are quite wet; look as though there had been quite a shower upon them. If here should be particles of salt adhering to the plants, so much the better. The dryer the day the better, as a rainy day would reduce the strength of the brine and perhaps result in failure. Should there appear a new growth of thistles do not say the treatment is a failure, for the root has eyes from which new thistles grow, and when they come again give a second treatment, and continue as long as new plants make their appearance."

A few weeks ago we made a note to the effect that some authorities claim that rape will kill thistles, and now we have another remedy in the shape of a dose of good strong brine. We cannot say from practical experience whether this would prove effective in destroying Canada thistles or not. The plan followed when we worked on the farm was to cultivate the land well, and when the crop was growing, to use a sharp piece of flat iron attached to a long handle, with which piece of machinery the task known as "spudding" thistles was performed. This is a good plan where the weeds are comparatively few in number, and if the "spudding" is done early, before the thistle seeds, there will not be so many thistles in that locality the following year.

With the advent of the self-binder thistles have become a less objectionable weed than they were when the grain had to be tied by hand. Then the cutting, or "spudding," the thistles was a necessity in order to make the work less arduous in harvest time. When it became no longer necessary to tie the grain by hand many farmers became somewhat careless and began to relax their efforts in regard to this pest, with the result that in some localities Canada thistles are more common than they were ten years ago. This is to be regretted. While the Canada thistle may not be the nuisance it once was in getting the harvest off, it is just as active as ever in taking up nutriment from the soil that should be retained for the growing crop. Hence it is important that every farmer should be as vigilant as ever in his efforts to keep down the thistles. There is no profit in growing them. In fact it is a loss, as every thistle plant in a field replaces a grain plant and takes nourishment from the soil that our Canadian farms cannot afford to lose.

Tomato Rot

A Wisconsin gardener has the following to say in regard to tomato and potato rot:

"The rot in the tomato has been extremely bad for the last three years, in this section of the country fully two-thirds of the crop having been destroyed. In the course of my experiments to counteract this fungus growth in the tomato, I found last season, that setting out late, about the last of June, by which time my plants had attained a large growth, and mulching heavily with straw, setting the rows nearly five feet apart by three in the row and keeping them pruned to from two or three stalks in each hill, proved to be a very much improved condition, not only much less rotted, but also a much better tomato than the other way and not more than a week later than those that were set out the first day of June and planted in rows three feet ten inches apart and two and one-half foot in the row, supported on trellises, two and one-fourth feet high with moderate pruning. This season I have set out a row, a stake for each hill three feet apart, and rows five feet apart pruned down to two stalks in the hill, pruning off the tops to hasten ripening. I find a further improved condition, scarcely any rotting and ripening earlier, whilst those planted in the usual way are rotting worse than other years, for the season is worse, being very hot and dry for the last month. The potato crop will prove nearly a failure from a similar cause which rots the tomato. As soon as the soil was too dry I put on a light mulching between my tomato rows and when it needed further cultiva-