

plants left to decay it is useless for a considerable time. Hence the necessity of cutting the weeds before they have accomplished considerable growth, if we do not wish the cultivated plants to be deprived of a considerable quantity of the food to which they are entitled.

A delay in weeding is a serious mistake which may be responsible for a marked decrease in the crop not only because plant food is diverted from its object, but also because weeds, like all plants, consume enormous amounts of water to develop normally. A failure in crop is oftener attributable to lack of water than to lack of food.

This is an aspect of the question which is seldom considered and little appreciated by the farmer.

Carefully conducted experiments have demonstrated that the following ordinary field crops extract from each acre of the soil on which they grow the following quantities of water.