Cotton has averaged in value during the past two years about 35% of the total value of all the crops grown in North Carolina. There can be no doubt that the welfare of a larger number of the people of this state is vitally involved in the profitable production and handling of this crop than any other crop grown in the state. It is estimated that during 1924 at least $12,000,000 were expended by farmers of the state for fertilizers to use in bettering the production of this crop.

Notwithstanding the fact that North Carolina cotton growers are using commercial fertilizers as efficiently as farmers of any state of the cotton belt, it is believed there are great possibilities even yet in the improvement of the kinds of fertilizers to be bought and used for the production of this crop. No one conversant with the facts can question that there has been a gradual improvement in the better adjustment of the fertilizers used to meet the requirements of cotton grown on the soils of different sections of the state. For a number of years, North Carolina growers consistently have obtained larger average yields of lint per acre of cotton than has been secured on an average by the growers of other sections of the cotton belt. One of the biggest factors which has contributed to this condition has been the better knowledge and judgment which North Carolina farmers have exercised in the selection and use of the commercial fertilizers they have used. They have learned that the wise selection and use of these will pay well during a normal season and when the prices for the cotton are satisfactory. In 1924, they used them in North Carolina at the rate of 450 pounds per acre.

FACTORS DETERMINING THE EFFICIENCY AND VALUE IN THE USE OF FERTILIZERS

In order to have fertilizers serve most efficiently when used in the growth of this crop the following factors must be carefully looked after by the growers: (a) A suitable soil must be selected. It must be well prepared and the crop cultivated in the most effective way.

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