

Corn and Sorghum

AT SAN BENITO, TEXAS

(No. 7)

At San Benito you can grow two crops of corn on the same ground during the same season.

At San Benito you can grow four or five crops of sorghum on the same ground during the same season and from one planting.

These may seem remarkable statements when read by northern farmers but you must remember that we have told you in former announcements in *The Commoner* that there are twelve months of growing season in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Corn

We are not going to tell you farmers of Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana and other states noted as corn growing states that you can come to San Benito and raise more corn each crop per acre than you can raise on the best ground up there, but we are prepared to prove to you that if you will take the time to come and make a personal investigation that you can come here and raise two crops a year and that you may be cribbing corn from one field while that in the adjoining field is just beginning to come up or perhaps only being planted. You can have roasting ears at any time from the first of May until after New Year's Day. The two crops should make you from eighty to one hundred bushels per acre.

Another thing: There is always an unlimited demand for corn in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and at high prices. It ranges from seventy-five cents to one dollar per bushel. At the present time it is selling at ninety-five cents in San Benito.

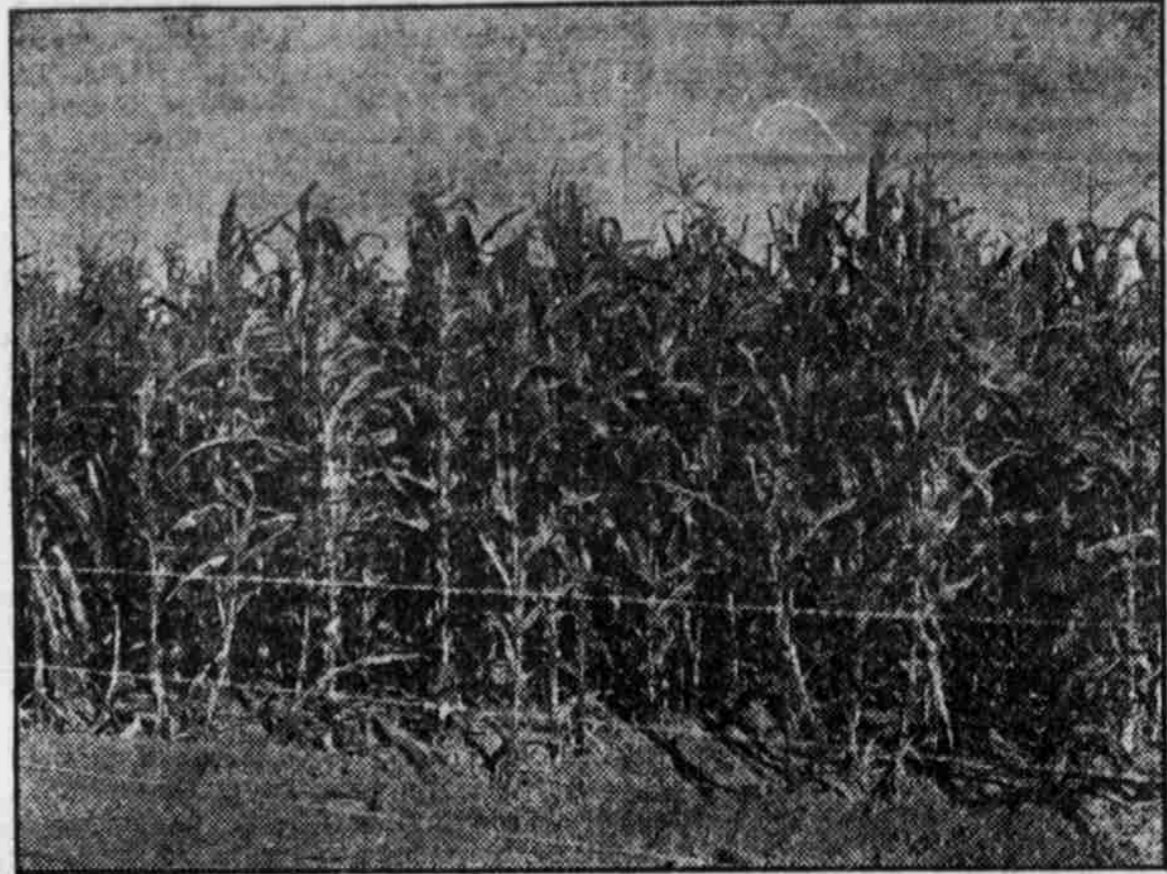
Sorghum

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley sorghum grows like weeds. It lives through our mild winters and grows twelve months in the year. Nor do you have to plant it every year. You cut it when it is ready and it grows up from the stubble and is soon ready to cut again. Sorghum is used in the San Benito country as rough feed for horses, mules and cattle—and there is nothing better. It should be sowed broadcast and very thick. We think not less than three bushels of seed to the acre. It comes up and grows very rapidly and soon the field is a mass of green. Being thick on the ground prevents it from becoming coarse. And the smaller the stalk the better the food.

When sorghum is properly planted and watered in this country it should make from four to five tons per acre each cutting and should be cut four or five times during the year. It need not be planted oftener than once in three years.

Sorghum has a ready sale at San Benito at from \$7 to \$12 per ton. At the present time it is worth \$12 baled. If you raise from 16 to 20 tons per acre per year and sell it at an average of \$10 per ton you can see that there are large profits in this product. Don't forget that sorghum is a crop you do not have to cultivate. In the Rio Grande Valley all you need to do is to sow it, irrigate it and cut it. Our climate being semi-arid makes it an easy matter to cure the sorghum without danger of rain to spoil it.

We have only spoken above of sorghum as a forage crop but there is no reason why you could not come to San Benito and make sorghum molasses. Many people make good money in other states manufacturing sorghum molasses where they only raise one crop per year. Here you could grind sorghum practically the year around.



Corn on Farm of Joe Roy, San Benito, Texas

Splendid Crops—Pleased With Climate and People

San Benito, Texas, March 30th, 1909.—I was one of the very first settlers at San Benito, coming here in January, 1906. At that time there was not an acre cleared at San Benito and not a single house except the railroad section house. I have seen the big gravity canal constructed, thousands of acres cleared and put in crops and scores of residences built. I am well pleased with the climate here, both summers and winters. One thing that suits me especially is the class of people settling at San Benito. I bought 40 acres here when I first came at \$4 an acre and since that time sold 15 acres of this farm at \$125 an acre. My crops have been good. My corn last year averaged over fifty bushels to the acre. Both my wife and myself are well pleased with San Benito.
(Signed) JOE ROY.

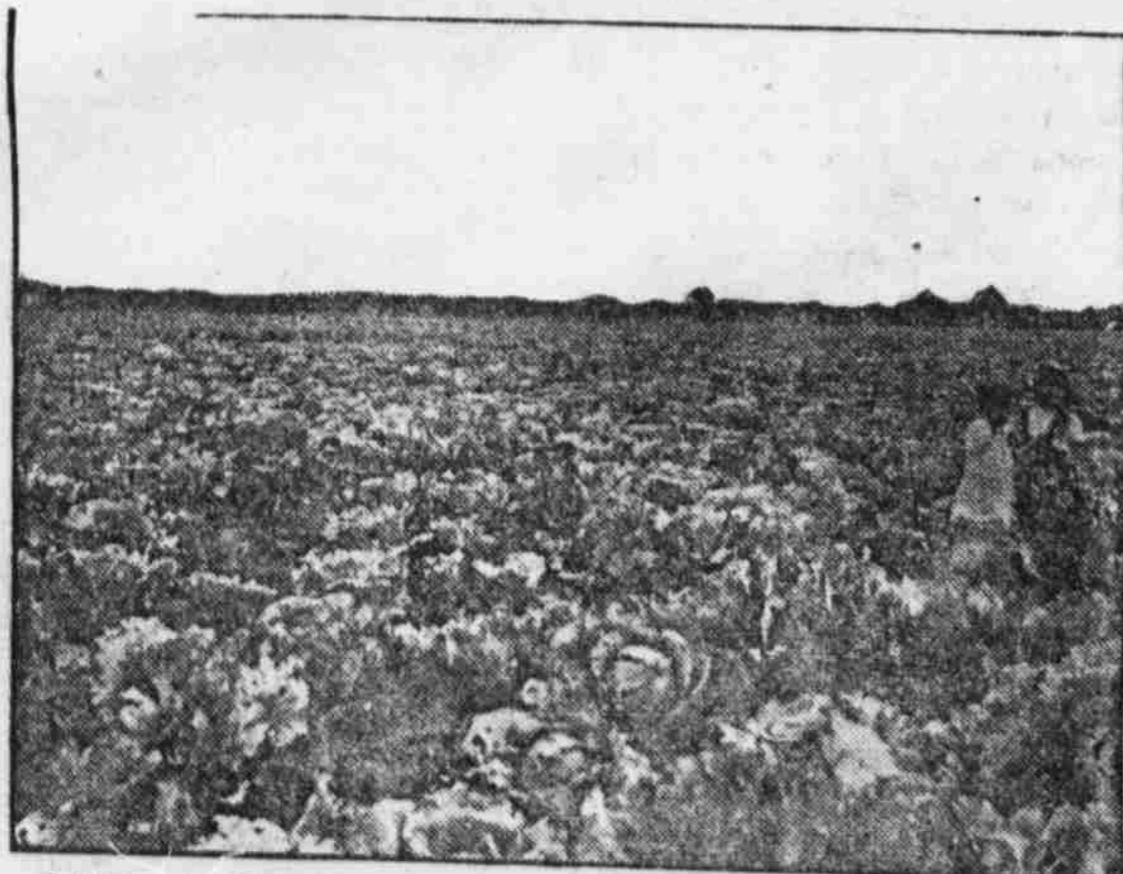
Sorghum molasses retails in Texas at about 75 cents per gallon. Suppose you get fifty cents per gallon and grind 16 tons to the acre and each ton makes 14 or 15 gallons of molasses. The expense of grinding sorghum and making it into molasses is very little and there is undoubtedly a big profit awaiting those who go into this industry at San Benito.

We do not want you to forget what has been said in former announcements about cabbage, onions and other truck crops which are now being harvested at San Benito. We are pleased indeed to inform you that Mr. Grow, Mr. Kiser, Mr. Powell, Burrell Brothers, Prof. Woodward, Mr. Landrum, Mr. McCarroll and many others are making more on their cabbage and onions than they expected to make. We are printing on this page a copy of a photograph made of Mr. Powell's cabbage after he had harvested about \$2,000 worth from this patch. In a former announcement we stated that Mr. Powell had ten acres in cabbage. We find that this was a mistake and that his cabbage patch consists of only eight and one-half acres. From the picture you will see that the ground is still covered with cabbage. Mr. Powell himself estimates that only one-third of the crop has been harvested.

Since the price is not only keeping up but advancing it seems probable now that several of our cabbage growers will make as much as \$500 and some of them as much as \$600 an acre. In a future announcement we will publish letters from a dozen or more of our truck growers, giving the exact figures.

For further information about San Benito and the Lower Rio Grande Valley write the

San Benito Land & Water Co.,
San Benito, Texas, P. O. Box B



Cabbage on farm of Mr. Powell, San Benito. Photo made after Mr. Powell had sold \$2,000 worth of Cabbage off of this 8½ acre patch. Can you beat this? Photo made April 15.



Mexicans crating Onions on farm of Burrell Brothers, San Benito, Texas. These Mexicans pick and place the onions in crate at 5 cents per crate.