

## MARSH MUD

Is also a valuable manure. That at the heads of creeks and ravines has been used with a general benefit, second only to stable manure. The large marshes on many of the rivers on the Eastern Shore are invaluable, and at the same time exhaustless sources of fertility. I have examined the "mud" from many of them, and have always found it competent to furnish in large quantities, many of the necessary constituents. Many specimens are easily burnt, which affords great facility and saving of labor in its application.

This mud should be dug up and put in heaps, and at any suitable time should be burnt, and the ashes immediately applied to the land. When it will not burn it should be made into a compost with quick, or water slaked lime, and applied to the soil.

This mud is very rich in all of the necessary constituents of soils, as may be seen from the following analysis:

Marsh mud from Chickamacomico river in Dorchester county.

Specimens being dried was composed of :—

Vegetable matter,	90.80
Sand,	7.40
Clay and iron as per oxide,	.60
Lime (ox. calc.),	.65
Phosphoric acid,	.15
Magnesia,	.13
Potash and soda,	.12
Sulphuric acid and Chlorine, (a trace.)	

Specimens examined from the marshes of the Transqueken and Blackwater, in Dorchester, from the Nanticoke and Pocomoke, from the Wicomico and Monie, in Somerset, and from the Chop-tank, in Caroline county, all proved to be valuable as manures. It exists in very great abundance, particularly in Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester counties. On the borders of the rivers, the *marsh* sometimes presents an unbroken level surface as far as the eye can reach, affording a rich pasture for large herds of cattle. It is composed mainly of vegetable matter, in every stage of decay. Its texture is so very soft and yielding, that in many places a pole may be thrust down to the depth of ten or twelve feet, without meeting with any obstruction, and can be shaken by the weight of a man for many yards around. This is peculiar to the marshes on the fresh water streams. On the heads of the salt water creeks, it is much more firm, having a much less proportion of organic matter, and always a large per centage of soda. This marsh should never be hauled in its wet state, as a large amount of labor is incurred, without any profit. It should always be burnt when it is susceptible of combustion, and when this is not the case, it should be mixed in compost with water slaked or quick lime. But the farmer, if he cannot burn, nor cannot mix it with lime, should not fail to use it by itself. When applied alone, it will be found a valuable application to all the