

the cream separator is that it must have proper care to insure good work. It should be carefully washed and aired after each separation, and if not properly cleaned it will not only fail to eliminate the greatest percentage of bacteria from the milk, but will of itself become a source of bacteria.

MAKING HIS ORCHARD PROFITABLE

Nine years ago, C. H. Wilgers, a southern Ohio farmer, residing in Lawrence county, offered his 30-acre orchard for sale at \$2,000, but found no takers. The orchard consisted of 1,000 Rome apple trees planted 23 years ago, but for the first fifteen years it failed to pay expenses. When the owner found that he could not make a sale, even at such a reduced price, he concluded to put in some work on the orchard in an effort to make it more profitable. He

pruned, sprayed and started a system of mulching with weeds and dead leaves. The result of his work was shown the first year, when he harvested 2,075 barrels of apples, which were enough to make a nice profit on the year's work. Thus encouraged, he continued to care for the orchard, and it has not failed to produce an excellent crop of apples for the last eight years. During this time the thirty acres have cleared more than \$3,000 a year for the owner which would make a total profit of \$24,000 from an orchard that failed to sell for \$2,000.

GROWING WINTER ONIONS

The growing and shipping of winter onions can be made a profitable side line by farmers in most any section of the country, but very few farmers ever make the attempt. There is always a demand for this early spring vegetable, and farmers within easy access of good market cities will find them an unfailing source of revenue at a time when there is little or nothing else to sell. They can be shipped profitably from 100 to 300 miles, and a ready market. One advantage is that a great amount of them can be produced on a very small spot of ground with but very little labor. Any good, rich, well-drained soil will grow winter onions. It ought to be as free from weeds as possible. The early potato patch is an ideal place if it has been well cultivated. Plow and work the land thoroughly down deep late in August. Plant the last week in August or the first week in September according to the latitude in which you live. When the soil is thoroughly pulverized and the sets ready, take a one-horse turning plow and run a furrow. Take the set between the thumb and forefinger and set it in the bottom of the furrow, root down. Set about four inches apart depending on the size of the set. When a row is set a furrow is turned on it with a plow. The rows can be put as close together as possible and they will mature shipping onions all right. In this manner the sets are placed down deep in the ground and when they come through they are deep enough to have a long tender shank, the part very much desired by the city consumer. Large cloves are all right for this, or the old sets taken up and the hard stems removed. This will make a great bunch of white stems which will be very tender. After planting is done, nothing further will be necessary in the fall. A little growth may come, but there will hardly ever be enough to make any difference. The first good weather that comes in the early spring they are up and doing, ready for business, usually the first half of March, or even earlier in some sections. After the onions are dug the outer blades are striped off, the roots trimmed, and the onions packed in neat boxes ready for shipment.

LIMING THE SOIL

A soil deficient of lime is "sour" or "acid." In the presence of acid it is impossible for the bacteria to properly do their work of taking nitrogen from the air, says M. A. Batchell of the Ohio experiment station. Liming the soil is done principally for the purpose of increasing the clover crop. However, on many acid soils there will no doubt be material increase in the yield of other crops following the application of lime. It will be noticed that they have a greener and more thrifty appearance. This is because the bacteria which cause the organic matter of the soil to decay and those which cause nitrification, the process by which nitrates are formed, are also enabled to carry on their work

more effectively because of the sweetened condition of the soil, due to lime. Notwithstanding this fact, when lime is applied the increase is to be sought in the clover crop. However, increasing the growth of clover may be expected to increase the crops which follow, because, as is well known, that crop has a beneficial influence upon the fertility of the soil. This beneficial effect is due in part to the addition of nitrogen to the soil; the more clover, the more nitrogen. Then if this nitrogen is supplemented with phosphoric acid and potash in commercial fertilizers, the plant food requirements for maximum yields of other crops will be met. Although there are some soils naturally deficient in lime and some by nature well supplied, yet it is only a matter of time until all the soils will be lacking in this important factor of a fertile soil. For various reasons cultivated soils are continually losing some of their lime. First the water which percolates through the soil and drains away beneath is continually dissolving some lime. Second, the practice of plowing under heavy sods and green manuring crops tends to lessen the amount of lime. Third, the use of certain commercial fertilizers tends to remove varying quantities of lime from the soil. This does not mean that it is a poor practice to use green manures and fertilizers, but that if they are used, some attention must be paid to returning the lime which their use has removed.

MULCHING STRAWBERRIES

It is a common practice, especially in the colder climates, to mulch the strawberry bed for winter protection just after the ground freezes hard enough to hold up a wagon. Some declare that it is not necessary while others declare it ought to be done by all means. No doubt in cold climates it is better to mulch for

two reasons. The mulch keeps the plants from freezing out of the ground and also holds them back in the spring so that the frost will not kill the blossoms. In warm climates this is not necessary. A mulch, however, has several advantages besides that of protection from the cold. Straw makes the best mulching material because it is easily handled, rests lightly over the plants, and can be left in the spring between the rows to keep down grass and weeds. It also serves to keep the berries from coming in contact with moist ground. All one need do in early spring is to pull the straw from around the plants.

HE HAD IT ALL

"Can you give me any information concerning the population of this town?" asked the stranger who was looking for a place in which to establish a great factory. "Mister," replied the man with the frayed trousers and the run over shoes, "I can give you all the information there is to be given about the population of this town. 'I've been hangin' around the livery stable for nigh onto thutty years now.'"—Chicago Record-Herald.

Cured His Rupture

I was badly ruptured while lifting a trunk several years ago. Doctors said my only hope of cure was an operation. Trusses did me no good. Finally I got hold of something that quickly and completely cured me. Years have passed and the rupture has never returned, although I am doing hard work as a carpenter. There was no operation, no lost time, no trouble. I have nothing to sell, but will give full information about how you may find a complete cure without operation, if you write to me, Eugene M. Pullen, Carpenter, 721 Marcellus Avenue, Manassas, N. J. Better cut out this notice and show it to any others who are ruptured—you may save a life or at least stop the misery of rupture and the worry and danger of an operation.

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