

has been steadily improved from year to year. Land where crimson clover has been fallowed under for several years in succession makes an ideal place for 'spuds.' After selecting the place for the patch it should be broken deeply during the month of December, if possible, if not, early in January. Leave it after breaking, until you are ready to plant, which should be between the first and fifteenth of February in this section of the country, if weather conditions are favorable. We manure the patch broadcast with manure from the hogpen or finely pulverized stable manure. In this way not so much manure will be needed in the row at planting time. When ready to plant, I replot the land and disk with harrow until a finely pulverized condition. Then lay off the rows three and one-half feet apart, using a one-horse turn plow with large-sized mold board. As for seed, "Early Rose" was used. We cut from one to two eyes, using all the potato. The larger the piece the better the germination and the start the young plant will have. Cut two eyes if possible. Drop the pieces about twelve inches apart in the rows, and then nearly fill the row with good rotten manure (manure from the hog pen preferred). Then with the turn plow throw two good furrows on the potato row.

"As soon as all indications of winter are past, drag down these rows until they are level, or nearly so. As soon as the young potatoes begin to show above the rows, sow a good potato fertilizer, a grade that contains a goodly percentage of potash, on each side of the row at the rate of 600 to 800 pounds per acre.

"Cultivate shallow and frequently until the crop is laid by. At the last working, use a larger sized hoe to throw some soil close up to the plants. Never throw great amounts of soil around them."

The above methods can be adapted to conditions in other sections of the country by changing the date of planting for northern or southern

latitudes. The writer points out that in his section earlier potatoes can be secured by planting in February than in March. He says that potatoes planted in February start off and begin to grow, if covered with two good furrows, although the winter is cold. There the ground freezes down to the manure. Although too cold for young potatoes to come up, the pieces sprout and roots and young potatoes begin to form quickly. Try a small patch under this method and compare results with your old way of raising potatoes.

PRUNING THE APPLE TREE

That a knowledge of the structure and nature of a tree is essential to every person who undertakes to prune, when the object of the work is not only to shape the tree, but to directly induce the same to bear fruit of commercial value, is the opinion of Prof. W. H. Lawrence, horticulturist of the Arizona experiment station. An examination of a bearing tree will reveal the presence of branches of all sizes, a large number of dormant buds and many buds in various stages of development. There is a constant strife between these buds and the branches, since there are a much greater number of each of them than the tree has any use for or can support. Unless assistance is rendered the tree by the removal of these limbs and buds, much of the strength of the plant is wasted in the production of parts that are useless, with the results, the fruit will be small, of poor quality, and characteristic of crops. To train trees perfectly they must be pruned at least once a year. The amount of pruning, the number of times and the times of the year that the work must be done, varies with different climatic conditions, soil, culture, varieties and ages of the trees.

To secure the desired results the pruner must be able to study the tree and the factors influencing it, and tell why, how and when pruning must be done to correct the undesirable con-

ditions or characteristics. The most important rules that can be followed are to prune regularly and lightly, the work to be done at least once and preferably twice, a year. In practicing both winter and summer pruning, excellent results are obtained when conditions are such as to require such treatment.

The time to prune varies for different varieties grown under the same conditions and the same variety grown under different climatic conditions. In general, vigorous growers and shy bearers should be pruned during the summer, while the slow-growing and heavy bearing ones should be pruned during the winter.

When pruning at any time of the year the important facts to remember are, winter pruning has a tendency to produce wood growth at the expense of fruit production; both winter pruning and heavy summer pruning, or summer pruning done at the wrong time, has a tendency to make a tree non-productive, while summer pruning, if done at the right time, and judiciously, will tend to produce heavy fruit production with a corresponding decrease in the production of stem and foliage.

CATLEMEN MOST PROSPEROUS FARMERS

In an address before a farmers' institute, W. A. Cochel, chief animal husbandman at the Kansas agricultural college, said that the reason why cattlemen were usually the most prosperous farmers is because they are growing more corn, more oats, and more hay to the acre than the men who grow grain only. It is not necessarily because they are making a big profit on their beef. The reason why they are getting better yields of corn and oats is because they are building up the fertility of their farms, the professor told the farmers. Cattle form a market for the waste products of grain farming. The wheat farmer often burns straw. The best farmer feeds it, and thus puts his straw on the market and also increases the fertility of his land. Prof. Cochel urged the growing of more live stock. There has been a consistent, steady advance in the price of beef for the last forty years, he says, and there is nothing that can be seen which indicates that beef will be any cheaper in the future than it is at present.

WINTER FEED FOR FOWLS

An ample as well as a varied supply of green feed fed to hens during the winter is important for the health of the fowls. This value does not lie in the amount of nutriment it contains, but as an agent of digestion. Fowls will eat more when fed green feed than otherwise. Vegetables induce increased eating, hence the increased egg production. Nearly all of the common vegetables are relished by the fowls, and they should be fed at regular intervals. Mangels are easy to raise and keep well. Cabbage is a good food; the hens like it and it does not flavor the egg. Turnips are an excellent vegetable for fowls when grown right, stored and cooked. Rape is an excellent green food to plant in the runs. Potatoes are good only when boiled, but as a rule they are too expensive to feed to poultry. Onions, when they can be had, are an excellent feed and, like lettuce, are excellent for chicks.

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