

In the Field of Agriculture

GROWING OATS

Every community has some man who is noted as the man who has "the best luck with his oats of anybody," and here and there you will find some man, who despite his locality and the climatic conditions, makes yields averaging nearly twice that of his neighbors.

One of the greatest essentials in growing oats is to get the seed into the ground early. This crop grows best in cool climates and in cool weather, and is often materially injured by a few hot days when it is near maturity. Frosts or even hard freezes after the seed is sown seldom injure it, so that, as a rule, oats should be sown just as soon as the ground is in condition to work in the spring. In fact, a few farmers in the northern states are now sowing the ordinary spring varieties of oats in the fall, just before the ground freezes. The seed does not usually germinate in the fall, but begins growth with the first warm days of spring. The advantages claimed for this practice are that the fall seeding lessens the spring rush of work and that the seed gets an earlier start than is possible with spring seeding. The dangers incident to fall seeding include germination in the fall and subsequent winterkilling, freezing after the seed germinates in the spring, and injury from alternate freezing and thawing and continued cold, wet weather. Some Ohio and Indiana farmers have grown good crops of oats from seed sown broadcast on the snow in February, depending on later freezes and thaws to cover the seed. Seeding in this way can not be generally recommended, as the chances of loss are too great.

All tests conducted at the experiment stations are favorable to early spring seeding as compared with later seeding. In time-of-seeding tests conducted for five years at the Illinois station the earliest date gave the highest yield in three of the tests, while the second and third dates, respectively, gave the highest yields in the other two tests. In these tests seeding was begun as early as possible in the spring and continued at intervals of about one week to May 1. The best dates for seeding seemed to be from March 21 to April 8. Similar results in favor of early seeding were obtained in a five-year test at the Kansas station. The highest yield was from seeding about March 8, and there was a material decrease in yield for each week of delay in seeding. Seeding the first week in April yielded only about half as much as that done early in March. A later test at this station showed better results from sowing in the latter part of March than at an earlier or later date.

The exact date of seeding naturally depends on the locality and the season. Seeding of spring oats begins in the south in the later part of January or early in February, and in the northern states it is not completed until May.

PREVENTING POTATO SCAB

Scabby spots upon the surface of the potato tuber may be caused by a number of factors. The fungus causing the true scab, commonly known to all potato growers, lives over winter in the soil, and if potatoes follow potatoes year after

year, it will be found impossible to secure clean tubers even by the use of treated seed. If the tuber becomes affected when small it frequently becomes so unsightly as to become unsalable, but when the scab spot appears after the potato is well developed it is of much less importance. The method of control is to practice crop rotation. Potatoes affected with scab, or those which have been stored or shipped with scabby tubers, should be treated before planting. One way is to soak the potatoes for two hours before cutting in a solution made by adding one pint of 40 per cent formaldehyde in thirty gallons of water. After removing the potatoes from this solution they should be dried, cut and planted in the ordinary way, being careful not to place the treated seed in containers which have held untreated potatoes. A good plan is to place the tubers in coarse burlap sacks and submerge the sack completely in the solution. The sacks may then be used for the treated tubers.

GARDEN WORK

March is the month to commence garden work in most of the eastern and central states. It is true that a great amount of work can not be done this month, yet it is a month to make a good beginning in certain ways. If the garden has not already been thoroughly manured this work should be done at once, then plowed deeply as soon as the soil is in fit condition.

Lettuce and radish beds can be started in warm spots. Lettuce will stand a good deal of cold weather provided the bed is protected at night with a cover of some kind, and not uncovered in the morning until the sun gets up and frost melted. To grow it prepare a bed in a well protected spot sheltered from the cold north and west winds. Chop or spade the bed up deeply, then work in a liberal amount of stable manure well pulverized. Poultry manure will do equally as well, but be sure and work both kinds in the soil thoroughly before sowing the seed. By this method lettuce may be started in the garden in March, and new lettuce can be had for the table early in April.

WOMEN AS FARMERS

Women are coming to the front as farmers in many of our states, says W. D. Neale, in Coleman's Rural World. While they may not do the work of the farm, they give direction to the hired men. And they are proving themselves efficient as managers of farms. Success is crowning their efforts.

The state of Kansas alone has 1,200 women who are actually managing farms, and they are making good success of their agricultural life work. These women are scattered over the state, and some of them may be found in each of the 54 counties. Some women who own farms do not take part in the active management of them.

The reason these women are reaping success is simply because they have studied farming from a scientific standpoint. At least 98 per cent of these women are members of the farm institutes, and their names are on the mailing lists for all the bulletins issued by the agricultural

college. It is the reverse with men, for not over 20 per cent of them are looking out for something better.

Some of these women were school teachers, who on account of poor health gave up the school room for the farm. A large number of them are widows who were left farms by their deceased husbands. These were not afraid to take the farm into their hands and carve success from it for themselves and their children. Of course, there were some women who bought farms outright, but quite a number who either inherited them or homesteaded.

The one reason for woman's success in farming is attributed to her devotion to the detail of the work. She neglects nothing. During the past season she has demonstrated that it pays to farm along scientific lines. There was corn in many of their fields, while across the fences on the farms of men who paid no attention to farm study no corn came to maturity.

HATCHING WITH HENS

The best results in natural hatching will be obtained when the hens are set on the ground. Repeated experiments have demonstrated that where hens were set in this way stronger, bigger chicks were hatched than from those set in nests off the ground. If it is not convenient to build outdoor nesting coops, or there should be no shed available with a dirt floor and the hens have to set in nests with wooden bottoms, writes J. E. Dougherty, in a recent bulletin of the California experiment station, cut a square of fresh sod and lay it in the bottom of the nest box just before the eggs are put in. They put on top just sufficient straw to hold the eggs in the center. The hens should be allowed to sit on china eggs for a few days before giving them good eggs, in order to let them get used to the coop, and also to see if they are really in earnest about wishing to sit. Just before putting the good eggs under them, the hens should be dusted with an effective lice powder and a little of the powder sprinkled over the nest. As soon as the hens have brought off their chicks, the egg shells and the old nesting materials should be cleaned out.

PLANNING THE GARDEN

With the approach of spring those persons who are expecting to grow a garden can well afford to spend some time in planning it, says R. B. Cruickshank of the Ohio college of agriculture. Almost every farm has a garden and it is profitable to make it go as far as possible in supplying the needs of the table by growing a variety of vegetables. The



Two O.I.C. Hogs

Weigh 2806 lbs.

Why lose profits breeding and feeding scrub hogs. Two of our O. I. C. Hogs weighed 2806 lbs. Will ship you sample pair of these famous hogs on time and give agency to first applicant. We are originators, most extensive breeders and shippers of thoroughbred hogs in the world.

U. S. Govt. Inspected Herd

Write for Free Book, "The Hog from Birth to Sale."

FREE—One 15-oz. can of our celebrated Silver Live Stock Powder for free trial. Send for it today.

THE L. B. SILVER CO.

1539 Vickers Building Cleveland, Ohio

Established 1863—50 Years' Success

One Day's Pay One Man's Work

\$28.50 With This

made by Jos. Hancock, Lamoni, Ia. Schaefer, Montana, made \$22.35 in 5 hours. Miller, Iowa, made \$13.65 in one afternoon. We have proof of this and hundreds of similar reports. No Matter Who You Are or Where You Live, here's your chance to double your present salary or income, working during spare time or permanently as a one minute photographer. No experience needed. A new, live business of big cash profits. You can work at home or travel, enjoy the healthful, outdoor work and become independent in your own business. SEND A POSTAL—ask us for proof of what others are doing—of what you can earn with a

Mandel Post Card Machine

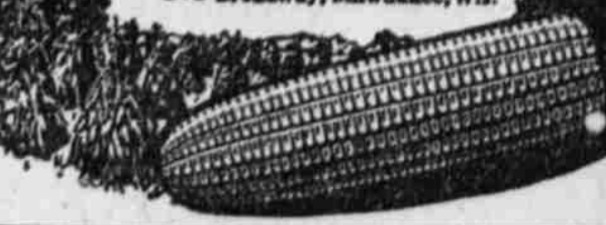
A portable post card gallery. Takes, finishes and delivers photo post cards and buttons in a minute's time—makes five different styles of pictures in 3 sizes. No plates, films or dark room. One minute pictures sell like wildfire. Everybody buys. Picnics, fairs, carnivals, busy corners, small towns and large cities. Big Money Everywhere.

This Picture-Taking Outfit gives you a complete ready-made business that produces profits for you at once. You can make 100 to 200 sales a day, easy. Each sale brings \$5 to \$10 profit. Small capital. Sale of first supplies brings back practically your entire investment. Write at once for full particulars FREE. The Chicago Ferrotyp Co. 211 Broadway, Bldg. Chicago, or Dept. 11, P.O. Bldg. New York



Currie's Northern Crown

does well in all sections. Whatever your soil and climate, we have sorts to fill your needs. All are carefully graded, thoroughly tested, guaranteed of highest vitality and true to type. Write for samples today sure and get our **FREE Instructive Catalog** Tells how to make farming pay better. Offers pedigreed strains of field-garden, and flower-seeds at reasonable prices. Ask for it on a postcard **Right Now!** CURRIE BROS. CO. 481 Broadway, Milwaukee, Wis.



600,000 FLOWER FOLKS

Sow Park's Seeds.

Read Park's Flower Books, and go by Park's advice. Park's seeds are the BEST, and sold at bargain prices. Park's Floral Guide, over 600 flower illustrations, tells all about them. Ask for it. Sent Free.

Park's Floral Magazine is the oldest, widest circulated Monthly of its kind in the world. Entirely floral. Illustrated, bright and practical. The flower-lovers' delight. Do you read it? If not, why not? Only 15 cts. a year's trial, with 10 splendid Bulbs of Gladiolus, in all the finest tints and markings, sure to bloom, beautiful.

100 Gladiolus Free. Send 10 names (\$1.50) and I'll mail you, as bulbs and Magazine a year. Or, I'll mail 10 bulbs for each subscription you get.

Park's Gladiolus are the finest strain. None better. There's profit in the cut flowers. Get your share. 1000 Big Bulbs prepaid \$6.00; 500, \$3.25. (Agent's outfit free.) Address **GEO. W. PARK, B1, La Park, Pa.**

Park's Floral Magazine 1 year and 10 packets Choice Flower Seeds, or 10 packets Choice Vegetable Seeds, only 15 cts. or, both lots, 20 packets, with Magazine a year, 25 cts.

8 GIANT GLOXINIAS, 6 colors, 80c
5 Fringed Begonias, 5 colors, 30c
8 Double Begonias, 5 colors, 30c
The Three Lots, 17 Fine Bulbs, 75c