

Everything for the Garden



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Advantages of Artificial Over Natural Brooding Methods.
Before the development of modern hovers and devices for brooding, the hen was the sole dependence of the poultry raiser for mothering the young chicks. As a hen becomes broody only when she wishes, and that wish usually strikes her after she has laid out her batch of eggs in the late spring, it would mean that chicks could be brooded only late in the spring if we depended solely on her. Hence, because he could not select the time when he would brood his chicks, the poultry raiser in other days had to allow the hen to control his business. It meant in some unfavorable seasons his hens brooded his chicks so late that the young pulllets did not finish in time to give any fall and winter eggs; the times of the year when eggs are highest and most profits are made in the poultry business. As each hen could care for only a limited number of chicks, the poultryman who depended on hens to do his brooding was of necessity limited in the number of hens he carried. He was put to a heavy expense feeding these hens while they brooded the future flock, when these same hens should have been laying eggs and making a profit for him. It meant a loss in feed for the hens as well as eggs that they should lay on which the owner could make a profit. It meant, too, a loss on the money he had invested in the hens that were earning no profit and not laying eggs to even pay for their keep. Hens often take a dislike to some of their own chicks, and fight them off, either killing them or driving them away until these unfortunate chicks starve and die, or grow into poorly developed fowls hardly worth their feed if kept in the flock. The hens often trample their chicks to death. Heavy losses always followed for these reasons where hens were used to do the brooding.

Hens More Care Than Brooders

Hens demanded more care than modern sanitary hovers and brooders, as they broke eggs while hatching, befouled their own nests, thus damaging the hatch and requiring careful watching and attention by their owner. They had to be watched after their chicks were off or else they would wander and drag their frail offspring to death through dewy weeds. When a storm of rain and wind came up the perverse hen usually selected some uncovered spot to spread her wings and hover her brood, resulting in drowned chicks. At least they were badly bedraggled and chilled, and many of them gave up the unequal struggle. All these losses of the hen's feed, eggs, chicks and the owner's valuable time discouraged the raiser who depended on the undependable hen to raise and brood his chicks.

But his greatest discouragement came through the loss of chicks from hen raising, because of lice and mites. The hen almost without fail gave her babies lice. Then they must be greased or dusted. If not noticed early the loss was so heavy as to often kill of those not taken by earlier troubles. This treating for lice, etc., again required more valuable time that the owner should be using to produce and raise more chicks and get more profits.

The first great advantage of hovers and brooders is that they will work any time. The winter is the same as the nice warm spring to them. Thus the poultry raiser can select his own season and control his brooding so as to get his flock out in time to produce eggs when he wants them. Development of modern brooding devices so that they care for from one hundred to five hundred chicks means that the modern poultryman can raise poultry in thousands instead of flocks of a few dozens at the most, as he formerly had to do when hens were his dependence. The hovers and brooders built by reliable concerns run uniformly and, being machines, do their work in a mechanical manner, just as their owner wants them to do. They stay where they are put, and are not missing when a rain comes up, or engaged in the dewy mornings in dragging their tender occupants to death through the wet grass. When they are not in use they can be stored away. They are clean and sanitary, and those of the best makers are simple, easily cared for and very dependable under all conditions.

Perhaps the best proof of the superiority of hovers and brooders over the hen may be found in the fact that before these were developed there were practically no large farms devoted entirely to poultry raising. Today they dot every state and are especially numerous in the east, where eggs bring the best prices. Also, there are today no large farms that do not rely on artificial brooding for raising their chicks. One farm in New Jersey the last year brooded over forty thousand chicks, all by artificial methods, in flocks of from one hundred to seven hundred. One farm on Long Island brooded over fifty thousand ducklings, all by artificial methods of brooding.

Artificial brooding devices do not harbor lice and mites to infect on their chicks. Should other fowls get among the chicks and scatter lice and mites, the brooding device can quickly be dis-



EVERYMAN'S GARDEN

Putting the Home Grounds into Shape for the Summer. From the Country Gentleman.

Work in the vegetable garden and with small fruits will occupy most of this month, but a number of other important jobs can be fitted in between times. These include various little tasks of the spring outdoor housecleaning, such as fixing up the lawn, putting the roads and paths into shape, trimming up the hedges, and so on, according to the particular requirements of the individual place. Not infrequently there are lawns or hedges or paths or some other features to be remade.

Often the appearance of the grounds can be improved a hundred per cent by moving a few shrubs or trees, changing the position of a path or drive, or adding a hedge, any one of which may be done with comparatively little work and expense.

Sometimes trimming and cleaning and pruning will make a place that has appeared quite neglected look as well as could be desired. But instead of going at the thing piecemeal, as is usually done, a better plan is to start at one side or in one corner of the grounds and do everything clean as you proceed. Don't overlook the little things. Spading up the soil round an individual shrub in a neat circle, for instance, takes only a few minutes, but adds greatly to the well-kept appearance of a place. When things are not exactly as you would have them, the new work should receive first attention, because the sooner it is done the greater is the chance of success.

One of the first problems for the beginner in landscaping is how to lay out any proposed change that he wants to make. It is quite likely to involve the construction of a curve, a rectangle or a grade. A poorly constructed curve will spoil the looks of any job. But you can easily get it true and of pleasing form by the following simple method. Get a piece of small manila rope or heavy twine and a supply of short, pointed stakes, preferably of even size and length. Mark the ends of the proposed curve and two or three points between, and put in stakes. Go along the line again, putting stakes where you judge the curve should come, and then true the line until the position seems about right. Set your rope round the outside of the curve and this will bring out more clearly any imperfections. The rest of the job will depend upon the person using the edger.

(Continued Next Sunday)

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infected and cleaned, as they are unmanageable, and will stand strong remedies, while a hen will not. But lice and mites are practically unknown where artificial hatching and brooding are practiced. This means a saving of chicks as well as time. Naturally, in developing any appliance or method so revolutionary as artificial brooding the first attempts were rather crude and cumbersome. Many impractical devices were used. Even today new devices are appearing every year. Some of these will stand the test of practical use while others will fall by the wayside. Before purchasing very heavily of any new device the rule of common sense should be brought to bear on the principles involved in the new idea.

The successful brooding devices most widely used today cover a few well-defined principles, those that should be followed to raise not only the largest number of chicks, but the most rugged and healthy ones. A warm even temperature radiated down on the backs of the chicks in a uniform manner all the time is perhaps the first and foremost positive rule in brooding chicks. Too much heat is harmful and so is too little. The same may be said of an uneven heat, now warm enough and then too little or too much heat. From 85 degrees to even as much as 95 degrees in young chicks is generally considered as ideal.

Fresh pure air to breathe is of vital importance and must be obtained at all times both day and night. The fresh air is generally allowed to reach the chicks through strips or curtains of muslin, thus evenly distributing it and preventing drafts. Drafts are to be avoided with chicks just the same as with people and for the same reason, as they bring on colds and similar complaints. This air to breathe should be slightly warm, but not overheated. Fumes or gases from the heating device should not escape under the hover where the chicks must stay when they want warmth.

If You Are Making a New Lawn Use

Trans-Mississippi Lawn Mixture

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The Nebraska Seed Co.

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THE EASIEST WAY

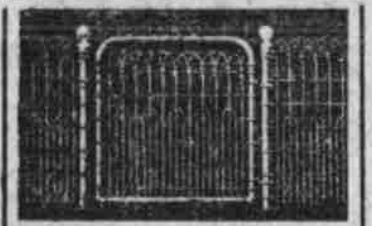
is always the best when it is also the most effective way, and when things have to be done, as in keeping chickens free from vermin and preventing their minor disorders from becoming epidemic or virulent.

Lee's Lice Killer and Germoxone are essential to success with poultry. The former is simply sprayed or painted on roosts and kills all insects there as well as the lice on the bodies of the chickens roosting over it, scaly leg mites, etc. No handling, dusting, dipping or greasing. Germoxone is given in the drinking water. It purifies the water and vessels. It prevents contamination from one to the others. It counteracts mousy or spoiled food. It prevents and relieves bowel trouble. It is a ready remedy for roup, colds, swollen head, canker or skin disease.

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NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLAN YOUR

Back Yard Garden

This page will tell you how to do it and where to buy

Seeds, Shrubbery, Etc.