

FOR BETTER ROADS

METHODS OF TREE PLANTING

Many People Make Serious Mistakes of Simply Sticking Roots in Bunde in Deep Hole.

(By W. R. GILBERT.)

DEFENSELESS MICROBES.
Humane societies are supposed to protect dumb animals, with no humans interfering, which side is such a society to take? When a humane society takes the part of a dumb beast against mankind, it puts itself on record as defending a lower form of life against a higher. So much is simple, but complications may sometimes arise. For instance, take the problem of the gulls upon the Massachusetts coast. Fishermen insist that sea gulls are a nuisance, since they take a lot of fish which human fishermen should catch. The gulls are so diabolically expert, in fact, that a bill was introduced in the Massachusetts legislature for the benefit of the fishermen. It was to allow fishermen to shoot gulls. And the bill was defeated by the Audubon society. The Audubon society properly concerns itself with the interests of the birds. Unfortunately, there is no "Society for the Welfare of the Finny Tribe. Scientists tell one that the fish came just before the bird, in the process of evolution, with maybe a reptile or so between. Mammals came next. If one protects the domestic brute against the domesticated brute, the wild beast against the tame, the amphibian against the land dweller and so on down the scale, surely the fish should be protected against its descendant, the bird.

"The destruction of the poor is his poverty," wrote the sage of old. He was referring, doubtless, to poverty in character. Mary Antin has elaborated on that thought in her book, *The Promised Land*. "The poor are poor in spirit," she says. "Those who are rich in spiritual endowment will never be found bankrupt." And what is spiritual endowment but character? What is it but the enlarging and enriching of what we know as the spiritual side of human nature? Those who have been rightly instructed when young and have heeded and profited by that instruction have a strength of spirit—sometimes superficially dominated "will power"—which enables them to conquer obstacles, or at least to resist their tendency to pull them down. Those who lack that power may fare fortunately or ill, but the point is that no mere increase of the money paid will save them from their obvious destruction.

A pin broke the other when a high officer in a big corporation was trying to put several papers together. He picked the little sticker up, found that it served his purpose just as well, although an eighth of an inch of it was gone. A little rapid figuring, a call to the pin manufacturers, and soon it was found that several hundred dollars a year would be saved if that concern used pins a little bit shorter than those it had been using. The following week the shorter pins began to arrive, and the economical officer felt he was doing a great favor to the share holders by keeping down expenses.

Experts from the United States to Latin-America will approximate one million dollars for each business day of the current fiscal year or practically three times as much as a decade ago. Uncle Sam has been doing some running preparatory to the jump he expects to make in connection with the opening of the canal.

Some people are born lucky. Note the family in Omaha whose hired girl was blown out of the window and was scared so badly she kept on going, only to have her place taken by another girl who blew into the same house through another window and was induced to stay after the storm was over.

A widow of ninety in New York is suing for back alimony dating back to 1867. In consequence of her taking due time to think about asserting her rights, she will, if her suit is successful, get quite a tidy little fortune, which is another illustration of the benefits of not acting too hastily in affairs.

Down-trodden man will give a smile more in sorrow than in anger at the assertion of a prominent professional woman that women can no longer be treated as a slave. He will wonder with a sickly feeling of utter helplessness, where his chance of escaping slavery will come in.

A Paris doctor contends that he can read character by the hair. Still, often the occupant of the bald-headed row may be a judge or a college professor.

Before the end of the season, possibly, somebody will gain well-earned fame by finding something new to call the umpire.

Although many a tightwad is continually in hot water, he seldom softens up in the vicinity of the pocketbook.

To my mind there is not half enough attention paid to the way trees are put into the hole when planting. Some people think that because trees have roots they should grow nearly on top of every ditch in the country.

For ten years I planted trees yearly. Half the trees I planted the first year failed because I didn't know how to plant properly. I said to myself there was something wrong somewhere, either in the trees or in my want of knowing how to plant.

I experimented a couple of years and found out the 'secret of my failure.' Half of the young trees are nearly useless for planting on account of the ways they are pulled at the nurseries.

Some men, when they go pulling trees in the nurseries pull away just as though they were pulling turnips in a hurry, slapping the roots together and throwing them away as if they were no more than rotten limbs.

Young trees, to my mind, should be handled as carefully as eggs. They



Fine Example of Good Roads and Beautiful Trees.

should be dug out of the ground and not pulled.

When the roots are strained in the pulling they grow the first year badly and then die away. I examined the roots of a dozen young trees; there were two strained and I cut the roots short in two more, for experiment's sake.

The ones that were not strained grew healthy from the start and are growing well. The ones that were strained grew nearly right the first year and died the second year, and the ones that I cut a little of the roots off lived in "decline."

The roots, when planting, should be spread out evenly in a broad hole, not deep, the roots just barely covered. Where some, or most people, perhaps, make the mistake is in sticking the roots in a bundle in a deep hole.

Trees planted in this fashion are bound to fail. At least it has been my experience.

Some people give the trees a pull up after planting. With this method I don't agree. There is no need of any more handling.

It is important to press the roots, secondly, say after a month, because of the air gets down alongside the stem the tree is liable to fall.

I have found always that the fall was the best time for planting. When they were put in late I had more failures.

Another thing I notice in planting is, if the young trees are any length of time pulled they are pretty sure to "go under."

\$1,000,000 FOR GOOD ROADS

Spokane County, Washington, Will Have Million for Building and Improvement of Highways.

As a result of an energetic good roads campaign waged by Spokane citizens the last two years, Spokane county will have \$919,000 for road building and improvement in 1913 and 1914. With an additional \$163,000 appropriated by the legislature for state roads immediately tributary to Spokane, the total is brought to \$1,082,000. The distribution calls for 90 per cent of the amount being concentrated on continuous stretches of standard highway built from trade centers along main traveled roads which are a part of the state primary trunk highway system. In the comprehensive road program a law has been enacted providing for the development of roads in counties whose assessed valuations do not permit of extensive road work. Thus a portion of Spokane's road money will be used in building highways in other counties, thus connecting all parts of the state. Seattle and Tacoma are to take care of the western Washington and mountain counties in the same way. All state road expenditures are made by the state, under direct supervision of the state highway commissioner.

GROWING TREES FOR POSTS

Most Endurable Are Black and Honey Locust and Hardy Catalpa—Set Close Together.

Almost every irrigated farm has some small piece of land which cannot readily be used for growing field crops, but which might be suitable for growing enough fence posts to supply the farm in the future, says a Colorado Bulletin. The most durable timbers, naturally, among trees adapted to this region are the black and honey locust and the hardy catalpa. The hardy catalpa, however, is grown at its northernmost limit in most parts of this state north of Denver and is liable to suffer from winter injury, at least during the first few years.

The most rapid growing trees for fence posts are the willows and the Carolina poplar. Of the two the willow is considered somewhat more durable. The Carolina poplar, however, is capable of making such a rapid growth that it will produce, under favorable conditions, three or four posts in five years after planting. Its straight, single stem, moreover, is especially favorable for this purpose. The timber, however, is so lacking in durability that it is hardly worth while to set it for posts without giving some preservative treatment.

Two coats of gas tar creosote can readily be applied with a brush, after seasoning the posts for six or eight weeks, and thus make them of considerable greater durability. An inexpensive tank arrangement, or even a barrel, may be used for dipping the butt ends of the posts, by which means their durability may be greatly increased.

All trees for posts should be set rather close together, about four by six feet, in rows. Frequent cultivation during the growing season will, to some extent, take the place of irrigation. Some pruning may be necessary during the first few years in order to secure single stems without forks or bad branches.

TO RESTORE PEAR ORCHARDS

Application of Some Kind of Fertilizer Necessary to Renew Vitality—Manure is Best.

After a pear orchard has borne two or three good crops of fruit, the trees should have an application of some sort of fertilizer to restore vitality.

Good manure especially from the sheep pens is the cheapest and is better for the soil than commercial fertilizers. Many growers overlook the matter of fertilizing their bearing trees until they actually starve to death for the want of necessary food to preserve life and vigor to enable them to bear marketable fruit. That a tree is straying is easily determined by the size of the leaves and the fruit. In this respect, the dwarf pear is much more exacting than the standard. The dwarf requires high manuring. Fertilizers must be applied closer to the base and roots, as the quince roots do not spread out like those of the standard pear. Of course, the standard will respond to good fertilization as the root system is widespread and deep however, the trees do not feel the necessity of plant food as the dwarfs do.

The fear of pear blight has caused a few growers to abandon fertilization and hence their orchards have been in half starved condition. There is not nearly the danger from fertilization that there is from plowing and digging around the trees or from over-irrigation which forces wood growth and it is these tender shoots that catch the germs of disease every time.

THIN OUT FRUIT ON APPLE TREES

Deserving of as Much Attention as Keeping Away Injurious Insect Pests

(By W. R. GILBERT.)
The proper care and looking after fruit trees constitute one of the best methods of ensuring success.

It might be supposed that this was stating a truism and, indeed, it is doing so; but unfortunately all too many orchards are neglected, hence the necessity for on all suitable occasions recurring to the subject. Now, the thinning of the fruit on apple trees is a matter which deserves quite as much attention as the keeping them free of insect pests, and yet it is very much neglected. It is beyond a doubt that the intrinsic value of apples is often increased by thinning, the fruit being superior in size, color and general quality.

The thinning generally improves the color, and I prefer doing the work when the fruit has grown to about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Whenever the trees bear well, thinning has the effect of increasing the size of the fruit, more especially in the case of the Baldwin.

No exact rule for thinning apples can be laid down as the requirements vary with the different trees and even with the same tree in different seasons. The amount of thinning, however, should be suited to the condition as shown by the ages and states of the tree, and of course by the distribution of the fruit on the tree. All wormy and inferior apples should first be removed. Thinning should be done by hand, as the thinning process produces a better apple it depends upon the grower himself to market such better quality to the best advantage.

Truck Farming Profits.
Some remarkably large profits from truck farming on a small scale in the upper part of Michigan are shown by figures compiled by a refining preserving company which buys and cans much of the truck farm products.

One man raised six acres of tomatoes and received for his crop \$1,090, which is an average of \$181.75 an acre. Another \$343.83 for cucumbers—3-acre crop. For half an acre of wax beans, \$119.50; for a crop of string beans grown on one acre, \$214.

You cannot make money raising little chickens unless you are willing to give them careful and painstaking attention.

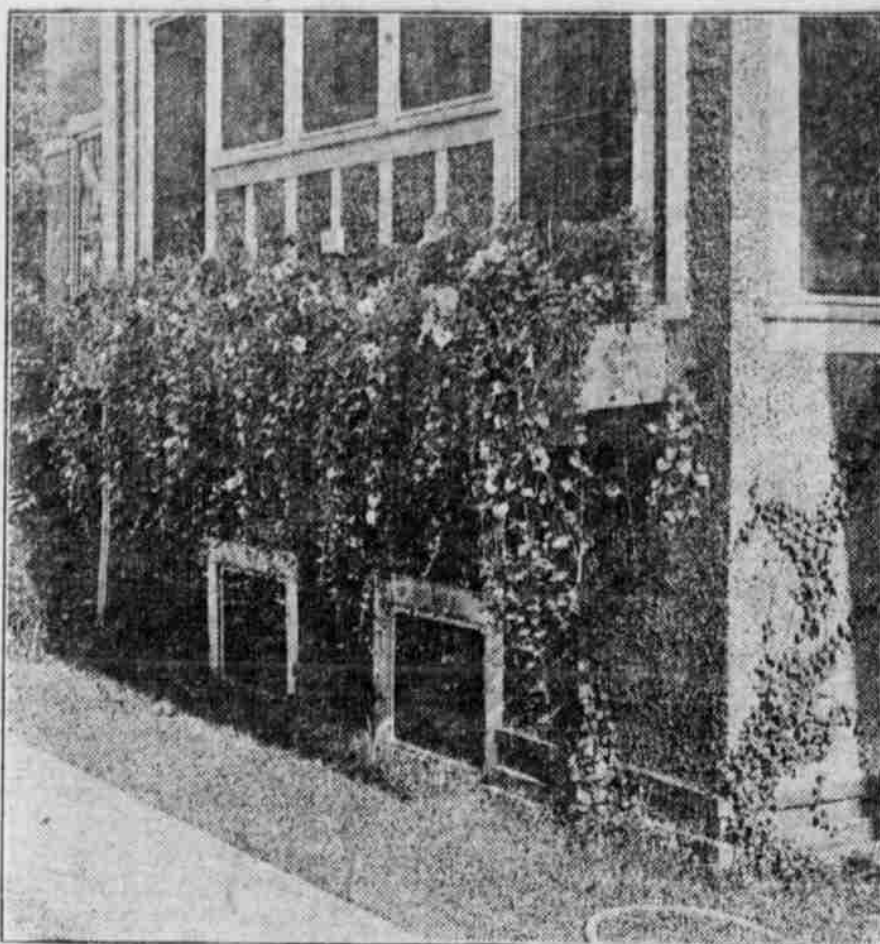
Let the chicks fast for 48 hours after leaving the shell. A dead chick is valueless, but a sick one is worse than that. Many poultry houses are merely poor roosting rooms. The young turkey, to do well, must have plenty of exercise. To thrive best, fowls need plenty of bulky food as well as grain. Corn makes fat and heat. Oats, wheat, bran and middlings make eggs. The reason for unprofitable hens is often not so far away as the hen house.

Baled oats make fine straw for scratch pens. Feed all grain in a deep litter.

It's a wise poultryman that can tell from the cackle of a hen whether she has laid or lied. No man would try to run a corn sheller with as little attention as some people give their incubator.

Cold storage men claim that brown eggs, being heavier and thicker, preserve better than white shelled ones. Fresh air and clean drinking water are easy to supply and there is plenty of both in the well regulated poultry plant.

DELIGHTFUL SETTING FOR GREEN LAWN



Beautiful Effect of Window Boxes.

(By E. M. BENNINGTON.)
We would suggest that you keep the formal flower beds out of the lawn. No flower can add to the beauty of a well-kept greenward.

Mass the flowers and plants around the house and along the edges of the lawns and walkways. They make a most delightful setting for the rich green lawn.

Simplicity in the laying out of home grounds should always be kept in mind, and any tendency to fancy shaped flower beds and grotesque wood or metal flower stands should be firmly suppressed.

The woman who loves her flowers always has somewhere handy a heap of compost from which she can draw as needed—and she always needs it.

Kerosene emulsion will kill plant lice more effectively than hellebore.

Kerosene emulsion is easy to make. Cut up a half pound of soap and boil in a gallon of water. Add two gallons of kerosene while the water is hot (but remove the kettle from the fire before doing so or you may not live to use the mixture). Churn briskly for five minutes. For spraying, dilute this with seven or eight parts of water.

When you see the little ghostlike winged creatures rising like tiny clouds from your rose bushes be sure it is the aphid. Get after them with the spray.

Rose mildew is almost as troublesome as lice. It covers the leaves with a sort of white powder. It may

be kept down by spraying with a solution of three ounces of potassium sulphide in six gallons of water.

The reason that so many of our beautiful plants and vines are destroyed by bugs is because we are too lazy or unable to fight them all the time.

We must remember that the bugs, mildew and blight work while we sleep; but if we keep after them while we are awake they cannot last long.

A garden pond is sometimes a thing of beauty and it is certainly a joy to the birds all summer long, but it brings mosquitoes.

A dozen goldfish placed in the water will take care of most of the mosquitoes and will also add to the attractiveness of the pond.

A border of well-selected stones next to the water and inside of them a few aquatic plants will also help.

Very often frogs are attracted to these little ponds and will help the fish to take care of the mosquitoes. Sometimes they become quite tame and make their winter bed in the mud and are ready to greet us in the spring with their songs—if you like to call them that.

Keep the flowering plants from maturing seeds, both the perennials and the annuals, if you want them to bloom late.

When you water your plants do not merely sprinkle a little with the watering pot. It is better to take off the spout once a week, perhaps often and give the ground a thorough soaking.

SPRAYING MACHINE IS BIG NECESSITY

Common Water Sprinkler for Applying Mixtures Does Very Little Good.

A spraying machine is as necessary for the garden as the orchard. Some folks use a common water sprinkler for applying spraying-mixtures; but this does little good, because it is not only a great waste of material, but the plants are not fully covered in this way.

The liquid should be put on in a fine mist, not as a heavy rain. To apply Paris green in water various cheap hand sprayers are on the market now.

They need not be of copper for this purpose, as Paris green will not corrode iron any more than does water; but when Bordeaux mixture is used as a carrier for the arsenical poison (and we would strongly urge that this be done in every case, as it must be done if we put our potato growing operations on a safe basis), then the sprayer must be made of copper and brass—iron would be eaten up in a short time.

The modern knapsack sprayer, which is possibly the best implement by far for spraying smaller patches of potatoes—up to three or four acres—cucumbers or other vines, and for general use as a spray-machine in the garden and small vineyard, will involve a first expense of from \$12 to \$15, but it will pay in any large sized garden.

New Agricultural School.
The new agricultural school of the Columbia university will be located on the Hudson river—Fishkill-on-the-Hudson. It is announced that William Blodgett has turned over to the university in memory of his mother, a farm of about 750 acres for this purpose. It is planned to put up an engineering and mining station in connection with the agricultural equipment.

Damage by Ground Squirrel.
Report says that the ground squirrel in California is destroying every year over \$10,000,000 worth of fruits, nuts and cereals and worse still is a menace to public health. The ground squirrel has become infected with the bubonic plague through the rats of San Francisco.

Womanliness.
Perhaps it would not be so easy to lose "womanliness" as some people seem afraid it would be. Perhaps all the pow-wow about becoming desexed is superfluous. Weinger calls attention to the fact that while there are people who are anatomically men and psychically women, there is no such thing as a person who is anatomically woman and psychically man. However masculine her appearance, a woman's psychic qualities remain distinctively feminine. At least, Mr. Weinger says so.

Just as Effective.
Wigg—Oh, I'm tired of life. Have you a pistol you can lend me?
Wagg—No, but I can let you have a chafing dish.—Philadelphia Record.

What Then?
"I want you to go with me and look at a futurist canvas."
"Suppose we are both overcome?"

No thoughtful person uses liquid blue. It's a pinch of blue in a large bottle of water. Ask for Red Cross Ball Blue, the blue that's all blue. Adv.

New York is now planning popular opera. It will probably be ragtime in three reels.

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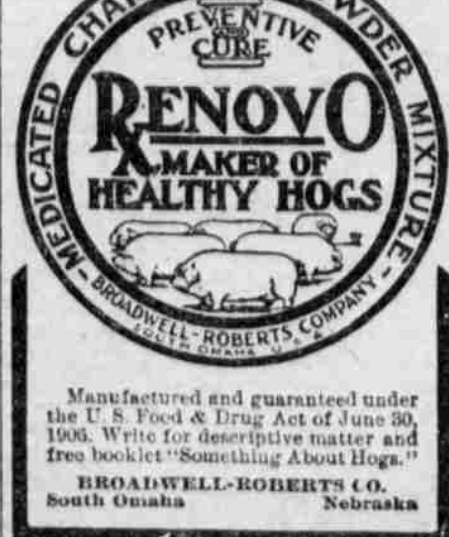
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