

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN



CONDUCTED BY
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HARROWING REDUCES LABOR.

The Southern soil tillers are now wisely selecting the best implements to aid them in destroying weeds and pulverizing their lands. The harrow is not found on every farm, and yet it will accomplish more work in one day in putting the crop in good condition than the plow they are using will in two. The harrow is of special benefit in being passed over the Irish potato plants, not even when an inch high, in tearing the surface of soil and yet not injuring the plants. The harrow with teeth sloping backward at an angle of forty-five degrees will do no harm to corn five inches high or wheat four inches high. Try it on a small plot of corn or half the field and observe the difference in thirty days thereafter with the part now harrowed.

The heavy rains after the corn has been planted pack the surface soil, and that prevents the spring suns from warming the soil to the depth of four inches, where the young corn roots are too cold to perform their natural functions. The sloping teeth of the implement will tear up the soil, and the corn plants will put on new life. The harrow will greatly reduce the farm work in keeping the young crops clean. A harrow with seventy-five teeth will clean up the young weeds or grass on fifteen acres in one day. The young corn plant may be laid down on the soil for a day, but it will soon lift its head, and then it will more than make up for the time lost while down. Friends, get out of your old ways and put into your crops better implements and they will increase the yield of corn more than the cost of the new implement.

Chemical sprays in the orchard will do much, but they cannot do everything. For instance, black knot on plum trees cannot be removed by spraying. This disease necessitates an operation with a knife. Cut out the "knots" and burn them.

FERTILIZE THE ORCHARD

A Kansas fruit-grower says: "Orchards will in time exhaust, at least partially, the fertility of the soil, and this exhaustion is especially noticeable on soils which are not very rich at the time of planting the trees. To make young trees grow most rapidly a fertilizer should be used containing a small per cent of nitrogen mixed with potash and phosphate. For older orchards the nitrogen is not so necessary, while phosphates and potash should be increased, especially the quantity of potash. It is frequently a good plan to stimulate the growth by sowing the orchard to crimson clover in late summer and turning it under in the spring.

We would add, that it seems to be the opinion of Illinois, Iowa and Missouri orchardists that the "cowpea" is one of the best orchard fertilizers. It keeps the ground clean and loose, and at the same time supplies it with the proper nitrogenous matter. Then the cultivation of the peas is all that the trees require. Besides all this the peas frequently pay all expenses of cultivation and something more.

The soil after harrowing to receive the plants is as good now as ever. With a favorable season the cowpeas make a large growth, and can be plowed under in time for another crop of grain or grass seedling. The soil is left in much better shape than it would be if in stubble and weeds. The trouble about the plan this year is the difficulty in obtaining cowpea seed. There seems to be little if any left in the country. We are thinking of using white beans in place of the peas.

CARE OF THE PIG.

That close confinement of the pig from birth to time of marketing tends to injure the quality of pork is shown by some experiments noted by the United States Department of Agriculture, says Farmers' Tribune. Hogs thrive on acid products which contain little of dairy products which contain acid tends to compensate to a great degree for lack of exercise in the animals. A compendium of experiments published by the department shows considerable judgment necessary in feeding if firm, sweet bacon is to result. The conclusion is reached that pigs with sufficient exercise and a mixed diet, or if food consists of dairy products until they are one hundred pounds heavy, they can be finished off with corn without injuring the quality of bacon, whereas if corn is fed earlier it produces soft, undesirable meat. A universal trait of hogs alone or in combination with oats and middlings produced very fine bacon. Pigs did likewise. So far as experiments have shown root crops did not affect the firmness of the bacon.

The automobilist is abroad in the land, and this season especially acts as though he owned the whole earth. He is our only citizen who rushes into print to brag that he has beaten the record of other law-breakers in rushing through our streets and along our roads. He seems to take pride in proclaiming that he breaks our laws with impunity and is a privileged citizen. There are hundreds of women to-day in thickly settled communities who do not dare trust themselves and children where in the past they have driven alone with safety. The cancer is not from the degenerate country, but our city consuls and their automobiles. It must be said that for "pure cussedness" and disregard for the rights of the many, their drivers excel any class of our citizens we have ever met.

The United States Department of Agriculture has scored another victory in the horticultural world by the growing of Easter lilies under glass from seeds instead of bulbs. They even surpass, in number of blossoms to the stalk, the justly celebrated Bermuda lilies.

PROTECT THE BIRDS.

Let the farmer remember that every bird destroyed, and particularly every nest robbed is equivalent to a definite increase in insects with which he already has to struggle hard, and he will soon appreciate the fact that he has a personal interest, and a strong one, in the preservation of the birds. Robert Kennicott, a most careful and reliable observer, ascertained that a single pair of house wrens carried to their young about 1,000 insects a day. At this rate a young brood of wrens probably destroy, before leaving the nest, as many as 10,000 insects. According to the usual proportion in the food of wrens, about 6,000 of these insects that devastate crops, including nearly 600 cutworms. The esthetic aspect of bird life appeals less strongly to the average farmer, but he should reflect that many, perhaps some of his family or neighbors, find pleasure in the presence of birds, purely as regards song, beauty and general interest; and to the absence of bird life would make an important difference in the enjoyment of the homestead. An abundance of birds about the dwelling, like a profusion of flowers, gives much added value in the eyes of all who properly appreciate the charms of nature.

The barbed wire fence is a thing that should go out of every community. If there is any excuse for its use at all it is found on the western ranges, where vast areas of land have to be fenced that do not belong to the man that is paying for the fencing. In well settled communities it is objectionable. Some of our states have laws that forbid it being stretched along the public highway. Many a good animal has been ruined by being caught on a barbed wire fence. In this day of good smooth wire fences, there is little reason for using the barbarous kind.

HOGS ARE GOOD PROPERTY.

One hog-writer sizes up the situation from the farmer's point of view as follows: "Hogs seem to be about the best property a farmer can have nowadays. The farmers know full well that they can get 5 cents or better, and when the price drops below that point, the producers at once hold up and refuse to sell for the country buyers, consequently prices at once rally back to somewhere near their former position. There seems to be a large shortage in the pig crop and there is no doubt but what prices will be considerably higher than now before another crop of hogs can be put on the market. One reason for thinking this is, first, there was a shortage in the crop last year; second, the fall crop of pigs was largely taken off by some kind of an epidemic, which seemed to spread over the country; third, the high price of feed compelled every farmer to put upon the market everything he could, and just as soon as he could.

One of the most valuable of all fodder crops is a mixture of oats and Canadian field peas, and this should be cultivated on every farm where live stock is kept.

Happy the man, whose wish and care Content to breathe his native air On his own ground. —Pope.

If your lawn filled with dandelions and other weeds, if so, it is not the children in the matter and then note the improvement which results. A friend of ours solves this problem by paying the youngsters "so much a hundred" for all weeds neatly dug from the lawn.

BEST HORSE TO RAISE.

There is no doubt that the best horse for the farmer to raise is the draft horse. The farmer needs sometimes to raise roadsters and driving horses; but in the main the draft leads all others. The demand is not so much for an improved kind of horse as for a first-class animal of the kinds we now have. The draft horse can be raised with little expense to the farmer, and he begins to pay his way before the time comes to market him. The draft colt works in easily with the general work of the farm. The farmer may find it difficult to sell a light harness horse for carriage purposes, but he never has trouble in selling a first-class draft horse. In any event it should be remembered that it requires no more labor to care for a good draft horse than for a poor one. The feed of quality will consume no more food than the other, but the margin between cost and selling price is very much greater in the case of the good horse than between the cost and selling price of the inferior horse.

In my vicinity sweet clover is a common weed on roadsides and in waste places. If we need the nitrogen bacteria for our alfalfa fields, it is largely due to the fact that gumption has to do to gather up some of the work of a mechanic or any other laborer who has this desirable trait is twice as valuable as that of the gumptionless one.

POPPIES.

One of the most gorgeous and satisfactory plants for the border is the perennial poppy, of which there are two good sorts, the Oriental and the Iceland poppy. If the Iceland poppy is kept cut and not allowed to form seed pods it will bloom from May to October. The flowers are on wiry stalks and unlike the Shirley are well adapted to cutting. They are found in white, yellow and orange red. It is well to sow seed every year as it is not one of the hardiest perennials and old plants are apt to winter kill. The Oriental poppy has a deep scarlet bloom. Its season is short, however, covering only a few weeks in June.

The best way to double the value of farm lands is to make good roads, secure free mail delivery and beautify the home surroundings. These three things help to make farm life enjoyable.

Remember in feeding horses, that it is the amount of food digested, not eaten, that gives the horse strength.

PROFIT IN PIGS.

A good way is to have pigs come in March or April, and that they enjoy plenty to eat, feed the sows on waste milk with buckwheat meal, bran and oats ground together, or corn and pea meal. A sufficient quantity of this should be in due time put in a shallow trough, set in a separate part of the pen into which the pigs, but not the sow, can go. As soon as pastured to feed, and by sowing as early as possible three pounds of rape per acre on good land, preferably that which needs summer following, the pigs may be put onto this with excellent results along in the latter part of summer, provided a portion is reserved for recovery after feeding, while the rest is fed down. Giving three or four pounds of corn meal apiece per day, will nicely fatten the pigs while on the last of the rape; but if so desired, they may be finished on grain, screenings, corn or peas and oats ground together. The feeding value of these grains, including barley, is improved by having them ground two or three months before using, only in that case the meal must be kept dry, and not allowed to heat in a barrel or set in barrels in a dry store room is the best place for it.

The first acre of ground for public parks in any city in the United States was purchased in 1856, and the last census shows that all but one of the cities in the United States of over 20,000 population now have public parks with an aggregate acreage of 60,832 maintained at a total expense of \$8,304,247, and employing over 10,000.

DAIRY NOTES.

Keep your separator and milk house clean. What is worth doing at all, is worth doing well.

The farm hand who knows how to milk properly is more valuable to the careful dairyman than any other help. As the udder becomes filled with milk she is anxious to be relieved of its contents and will seldom offer resistance without a cause.

Remember when you buy dairy cows that you do not want beef animals, for they are inclined to lay on flesh instead of giving value received for their feed and care, in the bucket. If you have a heifer making udder and one of her quarters is not filling out properly, rub that quarter daily, make it appear better, and if you want a udder of lard and alcohol may be applied and well rubbed in, but rely mainly upon the rubbing.

If you are selling butter to regular customers in town, why not get a set of three, four or five pound jars. You can put up your butter in that way, make it appear neat, your customers will appreciate it. If you are not choosing jars, why not try it, on a small scale? You will like it.

To milk a cow requires time and patience. The milk should be drawn slowly and steadily. Some cows have very tender teats, and if you want a good crop of milk, be gentle in your treatment towards her. A good cow is naturally impatient and does not like rough handling. With constant irritation any cow will fall in quantity of milk.

When shoeing horses be sure that the operator does not pare the frog and sole of the foot too much. Most shoers insist upon trimming down closely, but this should not be permitted. Only the loose portions should be removed. The shoes should be taken off and replaced at least once every two months, otherwise contraction of the hoof will certainly result. Use as few nails as possible and have the shoes as light as may be.

TRUE MULCHING OF THE ORCHARD.

Mulching, as I understand it, implies covering the soil with a medium, as leaves, hay, straw or cornstalks. Many different things are available in the different parts of the country, and all will add to the soil in greater or less degree the three most essential elements present in complete fertilizer, also humus, but most important of all, moisture that falls, and prevents most of the evaporation, not taking up a large proportion of it in growing the cover crop which necessarily occurs in the method that has been so fully elaborated. Further this drain of the soil moisture is the most serious from being the most rapid in the driest and hottest of our seasons here in the West, and when the trees most need it and in greatest abundance, to perfect the crop supposed to be in evidence in the intelligently managed orchard.

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RECIPE TO PREVENT RUST.

For keeping tools bright and free from rust when out of use, brush them with a preparation made by stirring enough red or black mineral paint into crude petroleum to make the mixture of consistency easy to brush. This can be applied with a brush made of a piece of sheepskin tanned with the wool on, or with any ordinary brush. It will prevent rust, and may be rubbed off readily, leaving the face of the tool perfectly bright.

The character of pastures influences the size of animals, the relative development of certain parts of the body, the quality of flesh and fleece, and the health of the animals, where the pasture is made the principal means of the subsistence of the animal.

Good draft horses always bring good money, no matter how the times are, and the man who breeds them is on safe ground. Give all idle horses plenty of room for exercise. A horse that kicks the stall down is in need of work or exercise.

Skirts little Changed.

It is a comfort to many that with all the changes going on in styles, skirts remain almost the same. The six-gored circular cut is introduced and is exceedingly artistic, but most difficult for any but the high-priced experts to make. Thirteen gores put into a broad box plait back and front, with side plaits between, meeting at the hips with an inverted box plait, is very popular and stylish. For everyday washable gowns the new five-gored pattern is the best to follow. It is slightly gathered at sides and back and is trimmed with the old-fashioned deep Spanish flounce, quite straight, but not too full. This has tucks and a hem at the foot line. It is mounted with a gathered heading or with a two-inch band of embroidery or heavy lace. Stretched bands of the material are not among the new fashions for skirt trimmings.

Ribbon Flowers.

The newest table decorations are made of ribbon, which many clever hostesses are fashioning for themselves. Debutante luncheons afford excellent opportunities for the display of ribbon flowers, the centerpiece and rose favors being manipulated out of soft lousine curled in such a manner that it exactly duplicates a la France rose. Artificial leaves are used and the rose stems are wound with green velvet ribbon. Bunches of violets are easily conjoined into shape with narrow velvet ribbon and when combined with natural leaves the effect is exceedingly good. In making these blossoms care must be taken that only soft ribbon be used, as stiff satin would be anything but pretty for such a purpose.

Smart Shirt Waist Costume.



The shirt waist costume has to some extent superseded the tailor suit for general wear, the accompanying illustration shows a natty box-plaited skirt, combined with a side-plaited skirt in round length. Serge, cheviot, or shepherd plaid among the wool materials are exceedingly good for a frock destined to be worn in cold weather, and any of the inexpensive mercerized cottons, which so strongly resemble silk, are suggested for the summer months.

What Gray Haired Women Can Wear. Whilet there are many types of gray haired women, they fall into two general classes; those who are prematurely gray young women, and those whose white hair is quite legitimate and indicates an honorable old age.

For the latter, nothing is more becoming than black, with ornamentation in either black or white laces. Real white hair is usually accompanied by black or dark brown, or dark gray eyes, as the blue-eyed woman grows gray slowly. So the colors suggested are for dark, rather than light eyes.

Green greens in both olive and blue varieties, dark silk blues and purples, as well as quite dark reds are effective.

There is a brown, approaching fawn color that may be worn, but as rule browns are not becoming to those with gray hair.

Creamy white can sometimes be worn, as can white muslins and lawns in the summer time.

Dressy Effects. In thin narrow fabrics the circular top is preferred to a skirt and the rest is all ruffles. One circular ruffle may be used as a foundation, beginning below hips, and the trimming put on this.

Princess gowns are appearing in the thinnest of fine muslins, and handkerchief linen and linen batiste. They are tucked to fit into the waist line and are elaborately trimmed with fine lace and slight designs of hand embroidery.

Many women whose figures can stand this severity are making up such gowns delectable with sleeves ending well above elbow for summer evening wear. They are put over slips of colored batiste at fifty cents a yard.

These slips are also pressed, fitted into the waist a heading of narrow ribbon which is tied in a flat bow in the back and they are ruffled at the foot line.

The passion for hand embroidery has been as strong each week. Whoever can do it, putting it on every possible garment.

For Large Women. A style of bowtie becoming to large women is that made with jacket front, home fitted with rustic or bolero fronts, but a trim, light fitting, single or double breasted, or fastened at the left side. The jacket comes below the waist line in front, and it has a small, shaped basque back; an inner vest with overlapping revers fronts between, or above and below the overlapping jacket fronts. One point that every woman at all inclined to stoutness should remember is to keep the line of her waist long by cutting all her clothes with straight seam and dart lines, and placing the waist line half an inch below where she actually feels the line to exist. A garment cut an inch too short waisted looks in-

Slightly better than one a quarter of an inch too short waisted; especially this to be noticed in the plain tailor coat made with single fly fronts.

When the coat hangs open it rides up in the back when not long enough at the waist, and it gives a most awkward appearance to a woman.

Douair Confidences

Hats are queer. Everything is flowered. Green is exceptionally good. Tulips blossom on some hats. You can't have too many oranges. Both narrow and wide belts are worn.

The black patent leather sailor is nobly. You cannot have too much lace about you. Some parasols look as if the sun would melt them.

Net insertions make a silk sun look wonderfully smart. Very taking is the new envelope handbag in scarlet or green. Buy a stamped hat pattern and embroider your own hat.

Scheme in Hat Trimming. Marvelous shaded effects are secured by employing different tints of the same flowers in hats. A toque particularly becoming to a fair-haired woman is that which is made of fluffy fashion is built entirely from hyacinths. The foundation is pale lavender maline. Brim and crown are overlaid with hyacinths shading from palest to deepest lavender. On the brim the white starts next to the hair, and the crown is the deep shade. On the crown the white is in the center and the flowers deepen as the size of the circles increase. On either side of the hat, close to the hair and extending well up above the brim, are flat rosettes of soft ribbon in the three tints shown in the flowers, and the brim is finished with two delicate blush roses with pastel green foliage.

Vinegar Pie. Put together in a saucepan a heaping tablespoonful of flour wet to a paste with a gill of cold water, a cupful of vinegar and two quarters of a cup of sugar. Stir until melted, then add three-quarters of a cup of cold water. Cook, stirring steadily until thick, then pour into an open crust and bake at once in a very hot oven. When done cover the pie with a mixture made of the whites of eggs beaten to a stiff froth, with a teaspoonful of powdered sugar, and bake to a light brown. Serve cold.

Dainty Sandwich. Here is a sandwich filling that may prove available with a cup of hot chocolate at a dinner party. Use one part chopped almonds and two parts shredded or grated celery, with a little salt. The mixture is moistened with mayonnaise and spread between thin round slices of sandwich bread or oblongs of brown bread, a stiff froth, with a teaspoonful of powdered sugar, and bake to a light brown. Serve cold.

Blouse of Silk or Voile. Blouse of plain light silk or voile, with fronts slightly draped and crossed and bordered with silk braid. The plaited chemise is of white muslin, the plait trimmed with lace and braid and bordered with narrow ruffles of the muslin. The collar is trimmed with lace.

The full sleeves are shirred at the top and finished at the elbows with cuffs trimmed with the braid and frills of muslin.

Padded Laces Still Popular. If anything, the new laces are padded more than those which came in last year for the first. Roses, lilies and other flowers are stuffed with cotton batting, so that the design stands out from the lace almost like real flowers. A clever dressmaker gives a hint worth knowing about these laces. She removes the cotton padding and puts chiffon in its place, so that the flowers are more delicate and life-like than before, and the design is still realistically raised.

Fashion in Sashes. Some of the new sashes are made of the loveliest shaded ribbons—not the filmy shaded ribbons that came out a couple of years ago and flourished for a little while—but a new ribbon, the softest, richest satin which shades from white to a clear turquoise blue, yet when crushed up into a girde seems only seen in a number of tints, from a very pale one to a deep, rich shade, which comes out beautifully in cloth.

The Plaited Skirt. Seven and nine gores cut to make plaited skirts are still used by a great many people. Everything is still done to conceal seams. When a five-gored or six-gored skirt is made the seams are flattened and pressed by every method so that they will not stand out from the material.

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Filmy Laces.

An effort that assuredly means business this season runs in favor of filmy laces, headed by the ephemeral blonde. The fresh varieties are exceptionally numerous and at present appear to be collectively gathered together under the safe and vaguely embracing term of French. Towards the fashioning of Jabots together with the prevailing ruffled and wrinkled effects, there is no question as to the superior services of this finer dentelle, and under its auspices one is the more inclined to overlook certain extravagances of pattern. Nor will the furor for the firmer and more costly varieties of embroidered lawns, as a decorative accessory, be any less pronounced than last season.

Veal Cutlets with Tomatoes. Wash two cutlets and season them with pepper and salt. Have ready some hot lard and butter in a pan; put the meat into it, and fry it on both sides until a nice brown; when done place on a hot platter.

Stew a quarter of a peck of tomatoes, or if these are not in season, a can will do as well. If fresh they must be drained and mashed. Season with pepper and salt, pour the tomatoes in a pan with the gravy, after the cutlets have been dressed, and stir them well together. Pour them over the cutlets and send to table hot.

New Ruffie Trick. A new ruffie trick seems to have accomplished the apparently impossible task of getting still more fullness into the skirt about the feet. The ruffie is of embroidery, shaped and gathered into half circles, which join at the tips. Under this ruffie is an outer, with all the material pleated into it that could possibly be disposed of. The pleating only shows in between the sections of the ruffie in the strictest way imaginable.

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Blouse of plain light silk or voile, with fronts slightly draped and crossed and bordered with silk braid. The plaited chemise is of white muslin, the plait trimmed with lace and braid and bordered with narrow ruffles of the muslin. The collar is trimmed with lace.

The full sleeves are shirred at the top and finished at the elbows with cuffs trimmed with the braid and frills of muslin.

Padded Laces Still Popular. If anything, the new laces are padded more than those which came in last year for the first. Roses, lilies and other flowers are stuffed with cotton batting, so that the design stands out from the lace almost like real flowers. A clever dressmaker gives a hint worth knowing about these laces. She removes the cotton padding and puts chiffon in its place, so that the flowers are more delicate and life-like than before, and the design is still realistically raised.

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