

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN



CONDUCTED BY
M. J. WRAGG

(Mr. Wragg invites contributions of any new ideas that readers of this department wish to present, and would be pleased to answer correspondents' queries, and to publish them in this department. Address, M. J. Wragg, 290 Good Block, Des Moines, Iowa.)

SQUABS FOR MARKET.

The keeping of pigeons has become a regular business in some sections, comparing with ten years ago, and a great deal of interest is now being taken in the pigeon as a source of profit. The first essential is to have a good house and yard, and to have the yard wired in order to confine the birds. The house should be arranged to permit of abundant floor-room, the nests to be along the sides. The Homer pigeon is largely used, an excellent nesting being Dragon and Homer. Be sure that the sexes are equal, as pigeons pair and keep the same nests. Mice in the nests must be guarded against, and lice will destroy all profit. Give nesting material for the birds, and include tobacco leaves, which will assist in keeping lice away. Fresh Dalmatian insect powder should be freely used in the nests on the first indication of lice, and cleanliness must be enforced. The yard should be at least ten feet high, of any size preferred, and should have roosting poles at different heights, of which the birds may alight. Keep a salt codfish hung where the birds can have access thereto, supply gravel, coarsely ground oyster shells, ground bone, wheat, cracked corn, sorghum seed, millet seed and a green food of some kind, as this will help themselves to what is desired by them. The squabs are sold when well feathered, are dry plucked, marketed by express and bring from two dollars and fifty cents a dozen, February being the month of highest price. The rapidity of growth depends upon the food and care. About eight pairs of squabs a year may be expected, depending on mode of management.

The time to do a thing is now, not to-morrow. Set a hen when she is clucking. Keep all tools housed when not in use. Everything that represents a cash outlay should be taken care of. Feed all kinds of stock liberally and the returns will usually be satisfactory. Some business men get into difficulties promptly if one has to borrow money to do it. Sell for cash and buy the same way. Keep up to date.

CROP ROTATION.

C. H. H. Round Mound, Kan.—If not too much trouble to you, I would like to ask you to answer the following crop rotation, which is the best to follow each other in these—wheat, corn and Kaffir corn? Would what do as good sowed after Kaffir corn as corn? Of the three crops you named we believe we would start in with Kaffir corn, then corn and after that wheat. For instance, plant Kaffir corn next season, in 1906, and then in the fall get the corn cut as soon as possible and sow your wheat. We recommend this way because we believe you would find that wheat would do better, one year with another, after corn than after Kaffir corn. As a general thing land is left in better shape for growing of wheat after Kaffir corn than after the Kaffir corn, though in this season the Kaffir corn has something to do. Another thing, Kaffir corn is sometimes apt to spoil more in shock than corn if cut as early as one would want it for when it planted at the time in the spring Kaffir corn is usually planted.

No more urgent appeal could be made for the necessity of tile drainage than the conditions to be found on many a level, undrained farm this year where there has been too much rain. The loss of a few crops would go a great way toward covering the expense. Some business men have to come hard. If there ever was a justifiable debt it would be for the draining on a wet farm.

WATCH THE MAPLES.

This is the time of year when the owner of soft maple trees should keep a close watch of them to prevent the spread of the cottony scale. The scale insects that were born last year have now passed through the winter and are mature enough to lay eggs. This is beginning at this time. Little puss of white cottony substance will commence to appear at the end of the next two weeks. The sign of which the males may be located. The cottony substance is the covering for the eggs that are being laid. As soon as this begins to appear, the eggs and scale should be scraped from the bark and destroyed. If this is done on trees not newly affected the check to the spread of the scale will be permanent. Had this been done every year the work of destroying these insidious colonies would be small and the results long lasting. The neglect that is shown the scales is the great reason for the destruction they have been able to do.

One of the best crops to grow to help out the supply of hay is millet. If grown in a reasonably rich soil, prepared in a good tiff, a large amount of good feed may be secured at a comparatively low cost. The soil should be prepared in a good tiff by plowing.

WOLF TEETH.

A subscriber asks for information about wolf teeth in horses. Wolf teeth are small supernumerary or extra teeth which often occur in the horse, and are found just in front of the first molars. It has been supposed by many persons that these teeth are the cause of eye troubles in horses, but aside from the irritation incident to teething there is no basis for such a supposition. The colt, however, is just as well without the wolf teeth, and where at all convenient they should be removed by forceps.

Patrolmen your county fair this fall by making an exhibit and attending with yourself and family; you can't afford a few days to better advantage.

NITROGEN-FIXING BACTERIA.

The fact that leguminous crops, like peas and clover, can obtain nitrogen directly from the atmosphere, when certain bacteria are present on the roots has been known for a long time, and many attempts have been made to cultivate and use these bacteria in agricultural practice. Attention has been called in past reports to the progress the department has made in investigating this problem. At the time of the last report the reason for the failure of former work from a practical standpoint, both in America and in Europe, has been determined, and a new, simple, cheap, and thoroughly satisfactory method of cultivating, distributing, and using these nitrogen-fixing organisms for all important crops had been perfected. During the past season the value of these bacteria has been demonstrated in extensive field tests. Good stands of clover and alfalfa, vetch, cowpeas, etc., have been secured in soils where, without the bacteria, these crops were a failure. The field work also demonstrated that soil and seed inoculation are equally valuable, so that either method may be used according to convenience. As a result of these experiments the department is now prepared to furnish in reasonable quantity organisms for all the principal leguminous crops. Patents have been applied for, covering all the processes used, in order to make them secure for general public use. In order to enlarge the scope of this work and to carry on the necessary field demonstrations, an increase in the funds of the plant physiological and pathological investigations has been included in the estimates.—Agricultural Report.

The man or boy who will strike a horse with the halter or bridle when turning him out should have an object lesson given him. It is a bad lesson for the horse. A horse that has escaped from his manger should never be whipped when caught. He should be petted instead and treated kindly. It pays.

FISHING TIME.

I do not know what day it is, I do not know what year, I do not know what month, I do not know what season, 'Cause they mix up so queer. But there's one day you can't fool me, When the sun begins to climb, And the shadows start to stretch, Then I know it's fishing time.

When the breeze is soft and singin' And the clouds are fluffy-white, And the sunshine on the water, Keeps a-dancin' 'ray and light, And you kind of feels that workin' And you feel nothin' sort of crime, Then you know it's fishing time, 'Cause you know it's fishing time.

There is no profit in raising poor horses. Commencing with the colt you will be able to feed him cheap enough when growing, but after he is matured and is ready to be marketed, if he is poorly bred there is no demand for him. He cannot be turned into cash and a trading horse cannot be endorsed as a very desirable piece of property. Good horses are always in demand at fair prices. It costs but little more, if any, to keep and feed them and they can be turned into cash at almost any time and may be considered as valuable property.

RAISE PURE BREDS.

If a farmer will only try pure bred pigs once he will never want to go back to the mongrels again. The pure breeds will take less feed to fatten them and he can sell the choice ones to others at a better price than stock. The farmer who sends the culs to the butchers and get the very top market prices for them and generally at a premium. A strong argument in favor of the pure bred animal is their uniformity of color, which counts for a great deal at the stock-yards. Recently while at the Union stock-yard, at Indianapolis, I met the hog buyer for Kippan's packing house, and he pointed to a pen of hogs that he had just bought and said that they were the best in the yards. I asked him why, as there was a big market of hogs that morning, and he said because they were uniform in size and color and were pure bred.

There are always buyers ready to buy pure bred at a premium and a great many farmers in this section are getting into line and will soon be raising pure breeds. When the average farmer learns how much pleasure as well as profit there is in handling pure breeds, there will be many less scrubs in the country. The farmer who wants to get the most out of the feed raised on the average farm must have pure bred to eat it, as that is the most profitable way to sell your corn, hay, etc.

The practical farmer wants and needs a dry paper, and if he lives on a rural place he can have it brought to his door. He wants the general news for himself and every member of his family large enough to read. The paper that pays strict attention to furnishing the farmer reliable information about his business is the one that he will subscribe for.

WHITENESS ON TREES.

Recently in a trip through a farming region, the writer was pleased to see that a good deal of attention had been given to the orchards, even though the community was one devoted to its efforts to growing farming, rather than to fruit growing. The farmers everywhere had got into the notion of whitewashing their trees. This was especially the case with the younger trees. The custom is a good one that has long been practiced in New England and probably in other sections of the country. The white wash does the tree no harm, most certainly, but on the other hand, keeps the beetles that make borers from selecting such a tree as a depository for eggs. It is doubtless a preventive of fungus attacks. We would like to hear from our readers as to the prevalence of this practice in their neighborhoods.

Take an inventory of the different necessities of life that you are buying, that could be produced on the farm, and make an extra effort to produce them this year.

POULTRY POINTERS.

Tarred paper makes a good lining for nests. Vermay do not like the smell and stay away from it. Bunches of Kaffir corn make fine food, and furnish good exercise for chickens, old and young. Don't hurry the old hen in coming off. Let her stay on the nest as long as she will remain content. It keeps the chickens warm and makes them strong.

In an experiment made by the New York Experiment Station with feeding it was found that chickens fed the whole or ground grain, the ground grain proved the more profitable. No difference could be seen in the healthfulness of the chicks, but those fed the ground food grew faster and made the most rapid increase in weight, as did also the capons which were in each lot fed.

Mad holes in the chicken yard should be filled. Also all places which are deep enough for young chicks to get into, and not able to get out. Old post holes are death traps for them. It is the practice of some to sell their fowls as soon as disease appears. This is not right. The merchant may lose, and the consumer may, unknowingly, eat sick chickens. Do unto others as you would be done by.

Geese do not accommodate themselves to each other and to their quarters as readily as chickens; nor do they breed as young. A gander to be effective should be two or three years old. Matings should be made early in the winter.

Wash the horse's shoulders with cold salt water at noon and night, and keep the collars perfectly clean, and you will have no trouble with sore shoulders. Of course this is when the collars are properly fitted, no amount of care will suffice to keep horses' shoulders in condition that are compelled to work in an ill-fitting collar.

WEED KILLER AND RAIN SAVER.

One of the best tools to use in the garden during drought is what we call a boat, writes an Illinois gardener. It is a little boat three feet long and two feet wide. Any man who can use a saw and hatchet can make one in an hour, and the whole cost will not exceed thirty cents. To make it take two pieces of hard wood three feet long, one and a half inches thick, by eight inches wide. Slant up at one end, like a sled runner, and blank crosswise with planks one inch thick and two feet long. Nail on two old plow handles. In the inside nail on a strong piece of hard wood, on the top, at the nose, to attach the clevis to, and the thing is done.

To use it, load it down with stones to suit the case. Toward the last cultivation given put the finishing touches on with the boat. Should there be some light rains, enough to form a crust on top, run the boat again. Any weeds that may have started will be entirely destroyed, and the earth will be so compacted that it will form a mulch on the top of the soil. It seems to make the moisture rise by capillary attraction. This little simple tool, I believe, is used only in southern Illinois, as far as I know. Let any man try it in time of a drought, and my word for it, he will be pleased with it. It can be run within three inches of the plants on each side and will not disturb the roots in the least.

This is the season of the year when no man can afford to make a mistake. A good crop will come from a good stand, other things being equal. No matter how favorable the conditions are a good crop cannot come from a poor stand.

GREEN MANURE.

Green manure is the name applied to a crop that is grown for the purpose of being turned under. Some of the lands that are exhausted to such an extent that they will not bear good crops of grain, yet will be found growing up to some kinds of weeds. Some times this weed crop is the best thing that can be grown on the land, if the farmer is smart enough to turn it under. It adds humus to the soil. We have heard of fields that were practically good for nothing, yet were reclaimed by having the weeds plowed under for three or more years. The fact was that the fields were deficient in humus and nitrogen and needed an application of both of these, which they got in the green manure given in the form of the turned under weeds.

The best green manure in most parts of the North is the clover plant. But cow peas and soy beans are all excellent where they can be grown. All kinds of legumes are very good for turning under, as they always add nitrogen to the soil. Rye and such things are sometimes used, but they add little or nothing to the soil except fiber, which is not taken up by the roots of the growing plants. It may, however, do some good to the soil mechanically.

If your corn is not a full stand, re-plant a part of it. Sometimes it happens that the tassels of the corn are killed by the drought, and should a rain occur soon after the replanted has tassel it will come on and, to a large extent, do the work expected of the earlier tassels.

CLOVERS ON WET LAND.

Clovers differ greatly as to their ability to live with water at their roots. Thus, the red varieties must be grown on land where water does not stand. A large proportion of the failures in getting catches of clover are doubtless due to the sowing of the seed on poorly-drained land. Where the red clover is wanted and the land is wet, the only thing to do is to drain it, so that the land will dry out well in the spring, and get warm quickly, and so that it will remain warm till late in the fall. Cold land is not suitable to the growing of medium and red clover. But with the alkali it is different, to a degree. That variety will stand more moisture than the other kinds, but not so much as some people give it credit for.

Custard Souffle.

Use two cups of milk, two tablespoonfuls of butter, half a cup of sugar, four eggs, two teaspoonfuls of four one teaspoonful of vanilla. Scald the milk in a double boiler and when hot add the yolks of the eggs well beaten, with the sugar and flour; take from the fire as soon as it begins to thicken, and stir in the butter. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth and mix with custard lightly. Bake in a slow oven for half an hour. Serve immediately.

New Styles in Mohairs.

Mohairs have come out in the prettiest of pastel checks, and mohairs have no end of wear in them. They are made of the finest wool, and so forming becoming folds. The sleeves are in shirt style, gathered into straight cuffs, and the neck is a regulation stock. The quantity of material required for the medium size is 3 1/2 yards 21 inches wide, 3 3/4 yards 23 inches wide, or 2 yards 44 inches wide.

FABLES OF FASHION

There's "Airlines" in Coats. A very light weight suit made in being exploited by some of the French coatmakers, and often with admirable results. In a delicate pearl gray, inset with lace dyed to match, and in a design or huge grape clusters, and trimmed with soft frills of yellowish aleon, this new frock made a most delectable flowing three-quarter coat. The new tulle tulle, too, has been taken up enthusiastically by cloak-makers, but taffeta still holds the first place.

Mousseline, chiffon cloth, and net are perishable materials for the wrap, but, perhaps for that very reason have for some time past been popular with the women who do not count dollars in their pursuit of modish elegance. Models in these sheer stuffs are lovelier than ever, and the flowered mousselines and chiffons so wonderful in design and coloring are often utilized by the artist in coats.

The New Slipper. Perhaps there is no better illustration of how carefully the smart girl considers every little detail of her dress than the new slipper which the girl with the large foot is wearing. She scorns all the gay colored, brilliantly embroidered evening slippers, and wears instead a plain black satin slipper which fits the foot very snugly, has a medium high French heel, and an exceptionally large black satin or black velvet bow in front which really has a remarkable way of apparently reducing the size of the foot.

Useful Gown.

Silk Shirt Waist Suits. Silk shirt waist suits have changed a good deal since last year, and half of them have the chemise in one form or other; the little round and square necks are most popular, although surplus styles make V shapes of the tuckers. Circular founces have come out, and are very popular. They prove an attractive way of getting a graceful little extra fullness about the skirt from the knees down, without accentuating fullness further up on the skirt. The same skirts often show tucks running up and down—on each side of the front and back, giving a sort of panel effect that is very good. With this skirt the shirt waist should be tucked down front and back like the skirt, carrying out the panel effect. Leave the shoulders plain, and put stitched bands of the material in a broken line to define a deep yoke and with the tiny square neck. The yoke and cuffs may be made separate or attached.

Three-Founce Skirts. Three-founce skirts have swept back into form—the kind where the three founces make up the whole skirt. The top founce is tucked to fit closely over the hips, and the other two founces filled on. Those circular ruffles make attractive three-founce suits—almost prettier than the full founces and more becoming to a stouter figure. Shaped circular founces—come for setting on petticoat foundations of soft white stuff or silk. The founces are made of sheer lawns and linens, embroidered elaborately or simply, according to purse and taste.

For the Dust Cloak.

For midsummer wear when a wrap is worn more for protection from dust than for warmth, the pougee and silk coats are by far the best, and fashion has pronounced in favor of light rather than dark colors. Tan, gray, all pale colors and white—an ivory white—are thought far better than the dark blues and blacks that at first were thought the more practical. Fortunately common sense does play a prominent part in fashions nowadays, and when, as in this instance, it is discovered by actual test that light colors are best, as they shed the dust, then light colors are worn by the majority. The blues and reds in bright shades are very smart also, but these colors require to be carefully chosen if they will be too conspicuous.

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leads. But chambray and gingham, and, by the way, those dark plaid gingham, make stunning suits, relieved from too somber a style by chemises, and a hundred other materials are used, trimmed or plain. The broderie Anglaise suits are stunning, and the embroidered ones, and a severe little kind of plain suit that is just coming in—more mannish as to style, yet anything but masculine. Only a few have been made yet, but they're too fascinating not to be repeated.

The Newest Colors. Pervenche, a delicate lilac tinted with blue, snuff brown and raspberry are some of the smart new shades of the moment. It would appear that the kitchen garden has been closely observed by the eyes of the designer for gooseberry and try, two good shades of green, are the favorite ones of the moment. There are still some exquisite sequined robes (old favorites never to be disposed of) to mention, one shining mother-of-pearl disc, and another with paillettes that gleam like tempered steel and look lovely over billowing masses of gray blue tulle. Seen the other night at a very smart restaurant was a brown gown covered with nut-brown sequins. Brown is only rarely used for an evening dress, but it is certainly very effective when worn, as it was in this case, by a blonde whose hair answered perfectly to the French term centre.

"Le Dernier Cri" in White. Several of the newest ideas are here expressed: The tunic fashion of the skirt, leaving a flat front; the deep tuck to the corsage, and the elbow sleeve with the turned-up gauntlet cuff. The material is white, and the collar and cuffs are embroidered.

Orange Sherbet. Put a tablespoonful of gelatin in a little cold water to soften, and then pour over one cupful of boiling water to dissolve it. Turn all into a bowl with the juice of ten large oranges, and add two breakfast cups of sugar and three of water. If there is a tendency to insipidity, add the juice of a lemon, also of a pineapple, if desired.

Shirt Waist Innovation. A shirt waist, with a tiny vest showing below the yoke, is an innovation. The shirt waist is tucked down the back and the puff of the sleeves, and trimmed with straight bands down each side of the front and a shaped one around the yoke. Cuffs and yoke may be made of lace or embroidery insertion, or both—the newest way in making cuffs being of rows of narrow valenciennes insertion, finished at the hand with a row of batiste insertion as sheer as possible and in as open a design.

The skirt shows a panel effect in front, and is trimmed with three bias bands, starting from the panel. The back is pleated into the belt. All shirt-waist suits are cut walking length—a little shorter than just touching.

Child's Tucked Frock. Kids are always charming in frocks of dainty material simply made. The very pretty little model shown is tucked to form a yoke, and can be finished plain or with the bertha as preferred. The original is made of fine nainsook, with trimming of embroidery, but all fabrics used for the dresses of little children are appropriate. With the bertha the frock comes suited to dress occasions; without it is adapted to the hours of play and to simple materials. The dress consists of front and back, the tucks forming the yoke, with full sleeves that are tucked above the elbows in conformity with the latest style. The bertha is circular, and arranged over the dress on indicated lines, and at the lower edge is a gathered frill.

The quantity of material required for the medium size (2 years) is 2 yards 27 inches wide, 2 3/4 yards 32 inches wide, or 2 yards 44 inches wide, with 5/4 yards of embroidery to trim as illustrated in the medium size.

With the Household. Soaking prints in salt water before washing fastens the colors. Ink stains on linen should be soaked out in milk and the soomer this is done the better for, though wet ink comes out readily, it takes a good deal of soaking to remove it if it has been allowed to dry in. Never neglect small repairs—

stitch in time saves not only nine, but ninety! Don't let buttons hang by their last thread, darn small holes, never wear dirty linen or tumbled lace, brush off mud, and bind frayed skirts.

After washing, silk lace should be allowed to lie for half an hour in a little warm milk, to which a very little gum water has been added. Then squeeze nearly dry and iron on the wrong side on a board covered with several thicknesses of clean flannel.

Shaded stockings, the color paling toward the top, are new.

Patent leather ties are procurable now in both mauve and white.

The open-work shoe, has come. It makes its initial bow in white kid.

Short black coats with light skirts is a combination that will be much's seen.

Burlingham silk is making some of the most approved coat and skirt costumes.

Gloves with open embroidery up the back, showing contrasting kid beneath, are new.

Tan shoes, tan gloves and a brown hat give most any dress an air of completeness.

Newest in Coiffures. Fringes—as known in the nineteenth century—are now things of the past. Smart women wear a light, straight, rouleau of hair on their foreheads, or wave the hair into an artistic frame for their faces, with one or two soft curls to break any harshness in the outline. And sometimes one curl is worn drawn to a point in the middle of the forehead. A few women, tall and with long, swanlike necks, dress their hair low, with a loose knot in the nape of the neck.

Fichus and Peterines. The small fichus, peterines and capes that are in any sense of the word wraps are most attractive this season. Made of chiffon, silk net lace and feathers they add very much to the finished appearance of a smart gown and are most becoming. The fichu with pinked ruchings of taffeta made to cross in front and with big ends that can be left to fall to the hem of the skirt at the back is worn with afternoon gowns, and is also made as trimming for evening gowns. The fashion is picturesque and very attractive, and when the hat is in the same coloring a white gown gains new virtues and added distinction.

Yorkshire Pudding. One pint of milk, two-thirds of a cupful of flour, three eggs and one scant teaspoonful of salt will be needed. Beat the eggs very light. Add salt and milk and pour about half a cupful of the mixture on the flour. When perfectly smooth add the remainder. This makes a small pudding—about enough for six persons. When the roasting beef is almost ready lay the pudding bake in the oven for half an hour. Then cut in squares and place it on the platter under the squares and place it on the platter under the meat to catch the dripping.

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Yorkshire Pudding. One pint of milk, two-thirds of a cupful of flour, three eggs and one scant teaspoonful of salt will be needed. Beat the eggs very light. Add salt and milk and pour about half a cupful of the mixture on the flour. When perfectly smooth add the remainder. This makes a small pudding—about enough for six persons. When the roasting beef is almost ready lay the pudding bake in the oven for half an hour. Then cut in squares and place it on the platter under the squares and place it on the platter under the meat to catch the dripping.

Soaking prints in salt water before washing fastens the colors. Ink stains on linen should be soaked out in milk and the soomer this is done the better for, though wet ink comes out readily, it takes a good deal of soaking to remove it if it has been allowed to dry in. Never neglect small repairs—

stitch in time saves not only nine, but ninety! Don't let buttons hang by their last thread, darn small holes, never wear dirty linen or tumbled lace, brush off mud, and bind frayed skirts.

After washing, silk lace should be allowed to lie for half an hour in a little warm milk, to which a very little gum water has been added. Then squeeze nearly dry and iron on the wrong side on a board covered with several thicknesses of clean flannel.

Shaded stockings, the color paling toward the top, are new.

Patent leather ties are procurable now in both mauve and white.

The open-work shoe, has come. It makes its initial bow in white kid.

Short black coats with light skirts is a combination that will be much's seen.

Burlingham silk is making some of the most approved coat and skirt costumes.

Gloves with open embroidery up the back, showing contrasting kid beneath, are new.

Tan shoes, tan gloves and a brown hat give most any dress an air of completeness.

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