

FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN



Mr. Wragg invites contributions of any new ideas that readers of this department may wish to present, and would be pleased to answer questions, furnish information or subjects discussed. Address M. J. Wragg, Waukegan or Des Moines, Iowa.

FRUIT FOR IOWA.

We have received several inquiries from different parties in the state asking us to suggest a list of fruit adapted for planting in Iowa. So much depends upon the soil, drainage, etc., that it is difficult to give a list that will cover the whole state of Iowa.

Iowa is such a big state, with so many variations of soil and climate that it is undesirable to offer a list of varieties for general culture. For those who contemplate planting an orchard the first consideration is that of soil and site. Some of the best orchard lands in the state are situated on the Missouri river bluffs. The preparation of the soil is of equal importance with the selection of the site. Thorough preparation means not only pulverizing the ground by growing some kind of a hood crop on it previous to planting the trees, but also means deepening the cultivation layer by subsoiling.

In regard to selection of varieties this is a matter that should be considered with special reference to locality. It seems to me that there are three principal fruit districts in the state. A northern, a central and a southern area. I would advise the writer of the above inquiry to examine the orchards in his own vicinity before making a selection of varieties. Find out what trees are doing best in those regions, and what treatment in the matter of cultivation appears to bring the best results.

On elevated northern slopes with good drainage and good tillage the following list of apples might prove satisfactory, and would probably be as good as could be secured at the present time. This list is given in the order in which the varieties ripen: Yellow Transparent, Benoni, Duchess, Wealthy, Grimes, Jonathan, York Imperial, Ben Davis, English Golden Russet. This list no doubt could be varied and the variations would depend on the number of fall and winter apples that the grower might wish to set.

With regard to plums, I would place chief reliance on the native varieties, planting heavily of such kinds as Milton (a plum of poor quality, but better than Puttawattamie), Stoddard, Hawkeye and Hammer New Elm is a variety that has come under my notice this year and one that appears to be quite valuable. Among the domestic plums the safest varieties to plant are Shropshire, Damson, Communia and Glass. Some of the Russian or East European plums have made an excellent record this year. Of cherries, Early Richmond, Wragg, Monmorency and Sklanka will fill the season in a satisfactory manner.

When we come to pear growing we have a somewhat more difficult problem, and I would not advise any one to embark in commercial pear growing without first understanding that it is an industry which requires first, especially favorable situations; second, long experience, and, third, much careful study and attention. I do not think that pear growing is likely to prove successful anywhere on the black prairie soils of the state, but on the higher bluff lands along the rivers there is no reason why an abundance of pears of fine quality can not be grown. Mr. B. A. Mathews of Knoxville, Iowa, has studied pear culture very carefully for twenty-five or thirty years and is now making a success of it. He grows his tree in sod in order to check the growth, and in this way prevents blight. He grows only those varieties that are least liable to blight, gives careful attention to spraying and the destruction of insects and fungus pests and overlooks the work of marketing them himself. Flemish Beauty is probably his best paying variety. Birken is a ready variety and has no blight, although the fruit is not very large. Bezi do la Mort is another variety which he prizes quite highly.

It would be well for you to join the State Horticultural Society, and in this way obtain their reports which contain a large amount of valuable information regarding fruit growing in your locality.

One farm writer gives a ration to be fed hogs that are not provided with shelter. We are inclined to the belief that no ration can take the place of good warm quarters for winter.

FALL SHELTER FOR SHEEP.

During the fall of the year, if it is practicable, the sheep should have access to a place of shelter. The cold, wet weather, which is liable to be of frequent occurrence during that season, is very detrimental to the welfare of the flock. The additional comfort will materially increase the profits that is an important part in any business.

We understand that this is the year for the reappearance of the far-famed and much-dreaded seventeen-year locusts. The last time they were seen it is said was in 1888. Although this insect bears a very bad reputation for devastating the fields of all green crops, it is not remembered that the years of their visits were particularly more disastrous for the farmer than some other years which we can recall. Certainly the farmer should not become frightened over the possible coming of this pest, simply from the stories he may hear. It will be time enough for that should they actually make their appearance.

HORSES ON ALFALFA.

Alfalfa is found to be fine to feed to young and growing draft horses, on account of the high per cent of protein in the plant. The Live Stock Journal says that draft horse breeders west of the Missouri river, where so much alfalfa is grown, find that they can grow draft horses on alfalfa that develop large size and fine action cheaper than in any other country or climate. A good draft horse that sells at \$200 costs but little more than a steer to raise. There are several large breeding studs of pure bred Percherons in Kansas, Colorado and the west, that have demonstrated the success of draft horse raising. Alfalfa with a very little oats and corn is producing top horses in the West cheaper and faster than in any other country. They can breed draft horses out there and mature the geldings fitted for market, keeping the mares for breeding as worth double as much as the geldings. And so this plant is found as valuable for growing young horses as for other classes of live stock. These things will cause the sowing of more alfalfa in these central states than heretofore, we say because it has been found wise to first determine suitable soil for alfalfa. When this is settled by trial larger fields may readily be sown.

"We hit you hard, Ben Davis, but you stood up to the crank. And every time he hit you you would fire some figures back. You came and shook the money. That the people pay for you beneath our very noses. And there's nothing left to do. For money talks, Ben Davis. As it has since Adam's day. When your forebears broke Eden. And we'll let you break away. For your downfall is coming. We will give you rope enough. When all your trees are bearing. You will find the shedding rough. We like your bluff, Ben Davis. There is money in your cheek. But when we're asked to plant you—No, I thank you, not this week."

CARE OF MARE AND FOAL.

It is quite common for the farmer to turn his work horses to pasture after the harvest is over, with the thought that the work horse can subsist on grass alone if he is not working. This will do fairly well for geldings or mares without colts, provided the pasture is good, but for mares suckling colts it is a very bad policy. The mare should have her oats just as she did when working. If she does not she will run down in flesh and consequently in the flow of milk. This will be detrimental to the growth of the colt. The way a colt is fed the first year of its life determines in a great degree his future value. It is computed that in a general way, every additional 10 pounds added to a draft horse's weight after he passes 1,400 pounds adds \$25 to his value. Hence anything that has a tendency to stunt the colt should be avoided.

When horses are torn by coming in contact with barbed wire and the bleeding is profuse, it may, in many instances be stanchied by folding cotton cloth two or three times and pressing the same against the wound. Where the part can be bound around tightly with strips of the same and kept in place, the pressure will, unless in very bad cases, result in stopping the flow of blood.

LAYERING.

Almost every fruit grower increases his planting of small fruit every year, and it is just as easy to grow a few hundred gooseberry and other small fruits that will layer. The process is very easy and most every fruit-grower understands that by keeping the soil well cultivated about the base of the gooseberry that the lower branches can be laid down and covered with a few inches of earth and the branches will root so that by spring they can be removed and planted out in nursery row and grown to the proper size for transplanting into the fruit patch. Many varieties of our ornamental shrubs, honeysuckles and roses can be layered during the month of August and by winter the branches will have thrown out a mass of fine rootlets. It is best to winter such plants where they were grown and not remove them until spring. In our propagation of these varieties we either twist the branch or vine so as to break the cambium layer so that roots will be thrown out more readily or use a sharp knife and make an incision in the lower part of the limb at the point where it will be buried the deepest in the earth. It is at this point that the roots will be thrown out.

Those hens that moult early in the season and get well feathered out by October or November can be counted as winter layers.

SAND VETCH.

The sand vetch is now beginning to be grown to a considerable extent more particularly in the central and southern states. The dear price of seed prevents many farmers from sowing it who might otherwise do so. It has recently been ascertained through experiment that it can be successfully grown for seed when sown along with winter rye in the fall. The two crops ripen about the same time, in the Northwest, however, it would not likely endure the winter.

Gather and destroy all fruit dropping prematurely. This will diminish insect crop and increase fruit crop or next year.

Plan now to provide comfortable quarters for the poultry during the winter when the price of eggs is the highest.

WHEN TO WATER PLANTS.

A subscriber asks "Should plants be watered during sunshine? Why not if they need it? The watering of the plant should be governed by its condition and surroundings. The whole thing in a nutshell is, water a plant when it requires it. From my own experience I have never had any bad results from watering flowers during sunshine, any more than in dull weather. During sunshine and bright weather the evaporation from most plants is more excessive than in dull weather, consequently plants call for more nourishment in the form of water, and if the plants are growing fast, and the pots are full of roots I often find it necessary to water them three or four times a day. Air, sun and light are important factors in building up the plant, and one is not much use without the other. Water containing soluble matter is absorbed by the roots and travels through the plant as crude sap, passing upward to the leaves, there it forms a combination with carbonic acid gas, derived from the air, then by the action of sun and light is refined and digested. As the sun plays such an important part in the distillation (as it were) of the food of the plant, I cannot see how it would have any injurious effect to water plants during sunshine; but would look at it as a thing essential if the plants needed it. I always aim to have watering done early in the morning or about three or four o'clock in the afternoon.

"When an Iowa farmer is growing grass, grain and hay, and feeding those crops to cattle, hogs and sheep, and selling fat stock, butter, cream, cheese, poultry and eggs, he need not fear competition from any quarter. These are the crops nature has fitted Iowa soil and climate for far above that of any other section of the globe. Low prices and hog cholera may come, but stick to the stock business, and it will come around all right. I have traveled over a good deal of Iowa in the last year, and everywhere I go I find that the farmers who own good farms and good homes are the men who have been in the stock business most of their lives. If I could only recall my life I would go on a stock farm and let all truck business and fruit growing alone, only enough for home use. These are my honest convictions as to the future for Iowa's farmers."

PLANT SEEDS.

Nearly all of the best apples and plums which are profitably grown in the northwest, are home grown seedlings of quite recent origin. This fact should be very encouraging to one who is willing to plant seeds, especially apple seeds. The State Horticultural society has \$1,000 hung up as a prize for the party who will produce a tree as hardy and productive as the Duchess, bearing fruit equal to the Wealthy in quality and appearance, and which must keep as well as the Melinda. The prize hangs high, but some one will bring it down with an apple seed. We should test the possibilities of more fruit seeds; maybe that coveted, prize-taking seedling is growing, or can be grown, from seeds now maturing in your orchard. Again, these hardy little seedlings are producing the ideal roots for grafting and budding. The girls and boys who live on the farm should be taught these arts, also, how to grow and save the roots, scions, etc., for future use. The long winter evenings or stormy days could be profitably used in giving instruction and demonstrations in such work. I trust the professor of our school of agriculture will prepare some supplemental readers for our rural schools on these and kindred subjects.

THE CURRANT BORER.

Mr. Pascal of Malverne, Iowa, asks: "Is there any way to get rid of the currant borer?" and that the new growths are mostly dead in my patch, and in many instances the bushes are completely killed!"

We would at once cut out all the young wood and cut the old shoots back to sound wood. It will be easy to detect the infested shoots. All particles of the wood should be removed from the patch at once and burnt. Mature the ground heavy this fall. By this treatment we believe that another year that the bushes will take on a new lease of life and recover entirely from the work of the borer.

Reports from the Northwest say that the present acreage of wheat is considerably lower than it has been for years. Corn is rapidly taking the place of the once so widely grown cereal on western farms, as it did in eastern sections years ago. Such a condition is encouraging, for it shows the progress of the West in agriculture. In the very face of high prices for wheat even the western farmer is coming to see that corn and live stock are better for him and his land than wheat alone ever was or ever could be.

PIG POINTERS.

The market demands the "long sided" pigs, not the short, "dumpy" kind.

Whenever a hog is at a standstill it is a loss of food as well as a loss of time.

In applying the coal oil to swine to kill lice be careful not to blister. It takes hold.

The sluggishness caused by the excessive fat in young pigs is parent of many evils.

Found Source of the Mighty Zambesi

African River Traced Back to Spring from Which Wells Few Drops of Water that Grow to Gigantic Stream.

Major A. St. H. Gibbons followed the mighty Zambesi river from its mouth to its very source and found the spring from which welled the first few drops of water. He writes: "As we progressed the undulations became steeper and higher, the surface being covered for the most part with small deciduous trees fifteen feet to twenty feet high. Here and there the slopes are covered with high bracken. Seven or eight miles brought us to a small pool, which the guides asserted to be the 'beginning of the Yambeshe.' To make certain that this was the true source, I traced the stream back along the eastern bank until it entered another stream 800 yards farther down. Here it became obvious that the Malunda were fraudulently attempting to shorten the journey, as this stream is quite subsidiary to the one it enters. Then, following the course of the latter for rather more than a couple of miles and crossing three or four small tributary streams on the way, I at length found myself standing over the first drops of water which go to make up the mighty river of which I had seen so much."

Continuing, Major Gibbons says: "The river has its origin in a deep depression at the base of steep, wooded undulations rising very abruptly for the first thirty feet, and then with decreasing steepness for another twenty. The water oozes from black, spongy bog, and quickly collects into a definite stream of clear, cool water. Tall trees, thickly interwoven with an entanglement of winelike creepers and undergrowth, spring from this basin and inclose the bed for the first few hundred yards of its course. Such is the character of the Zambesi source and such is the character of the streams having their origin in the district, though the basin from which the main stream of the Zambesi springs is steeper, narrower and deeper than any other of the many I visited."

Ways of Stags in Scottish Highlands

"Soiling Pools" Well Known to the Monarchs of the Glens—Fight to the Death Among Themselves.

"There are certain spots known to and recognized by the deer in most forests called 'soiling pools,' says an English writer. "They are usually peaty pools to which the stags resort, often at night, to wallow and have a good time generally. Here I have occasionally seen them rolling on their backs, though more often black bubbles bursting sluggishly on the surface of the water have told me that I have come just in time to miss the late occupants. It was spying a distant hillside one day last September when some bright object flashing in the sun caught my eye, and looking through the glass I saw it was a stag. He was standing shaking himself by the edge of one of these pools, the water flying off him in all directions. It was the sun flashing on this which had attracted my attention. The pools are much used in the fall of the year, beginning approximately on Sept. 20, known in Gaelic as 'the day of the roaring,' though, of course, the exact date varies very much according to the season. I have heard stags roar as early as Sept. 10, though this is rather unusual. It is more of a belching than a roar, and is quite awe-inspiring at close quarters, more especially if the roarer is himself hidden.

"The end of the season is always the most exciting time for stalkers. Stags then are all on the move, and great fights take place. I have never had the luck to witness a real big pitched battle between two champions. I doubt whether they often fight to the death, but the number of stags with broken and damaged horns which are met with after the autumn season is over show that pretty severe contests do occur. Stags always maneuver, when fighting, to get their opponent down hill. They have tremendous power in their hind quarters, and in this position can use it to the best advantage. Deer do not fight only with their horns, as both sexes will rise erect on their hind legs and strike savagely with the fore feet, the sharp edges of the latter making a very nasty wound.

"A rather curious fact with regard to the fights between red deer, illustrating the toughness and elasticity of their skins, was told to me by a Dorsetshire agent. There was a big park full of red deer on the estate, and a large number of stags had been killed owing to fights. On skinning the dead ones he found that, though in many cases the lungs and flesh were pierced through and through, the skins themselves were comparatively unimpaired."

Foolish Worry Over the Little Things

We down the big things. The little things down us.

If the mortgage must be given husband and wife discuss the subject with grace and forbearance until an agreement is reached.

That same husband and wife quarrel until the dust rises over the proper place to hang a certain picture.

Each thinks the thing is too little for the other to hold out about.

Neither happens to think that the thing is too little to quarrel about.

All through life it is the little things that make the trouble.

All through life we climb the big rough places and fret and sweat because we stub our toes upon the little lumps of clay.

All through life we fuss over little things that don't make a whit's worth of difference one way or the other, that can't be helped by fretting, that can not be remedied by nagging.

"She was always nagging about little things." This is the only excuse that Fred Boyer of Berea, Ohio, can give for murdering his wife.

It's a poor excuse. A man hasn't the right to kill his wife because she nags or for any other reason.

But there is a life of misery painted in that one sentence, "Always nagging about little things."

We meet the big things in life with smiling faces and brave hearts.

We let the little things fret and worry us until we make ourselves miserable, make every one at home miserable, and too often make our neighbors uneasy and unhappy.

A big misfortune never feazes us. A pitcher of milk upset on a clean tablecloth and—poof! we are off like a flash of powder.

Willie falls down stairs, breaks his wrist. Mother sends for the doctor, helps to patch the little fellow up, and nurses him tenderly until he is well.

The same Willie breaks a stone through a six by eight window glass and he is "jawed" until he wishes he had never been born.

Mistake Made by Many Business Men

Imagine Themselves of Much More Importance Than They Really Are—Time Wasted in Constant Rush.

Annie Payson Call, writing in the American Illustrated Magazine, under the caption "Every Day Living," points out very clearly how a great many people, business men especially, work themselves into the idea that they are fearfully busy and rushed, when, as a matter of fact they would accomplish a lot more if they took things leisurely. She says:

The average business man in this country seems always to have an atmosphere of "rush" about him; even when he is sitting down you feel that he wants to take out his watch, if he does not actually do so; many men have apparently lost the art of taking a real vacation. I remember an anecdote of a prominent man whose family begged him to go off for a rest because of his extreme fatigue, who asserted over and over the impossibility of leaving his business, especially at that time of year, because there was one customer in the habit of buying very largely whom he felt that no one else in the office could possibly satisfy. Finally this man became so ill that he was obliged to be absent from his office. Shortly after his recovery he met his old customer in the street and went up to him with diffuse apologies for not having been ready to attend to his purchase. The customer, having finished his business some days before to his entire satisfaction, looked a little surprised and said:

"Oh! Weren't you there, Mr. Smith? I did not know it. I am sorry you have been ill."

The strain of self-importance is greater than we know. Indeed it is often self-importance, and only that, which is the true cause of nervous prostration. The great strain of unnecessary and selfish responsibility is an octopus which, if it gets hold of a man and begins to drain him, cannot often be cast off without great suffering.

Memory's Thoughts of Baby's Tiny Shoe

"Oh, wasn't that baby sweet! How dear the hood of memory is. That rolls the scroll away. And carries heart and soul again. Back to that happy day. Happy in love and hope. That baby's tiny feet Would walk in good and pleasant ways. Down Life's busy street."

Again the little face, upturned. Peers through mists of years; Again the baby voice is heard. Back through the vale of tears; Again the chubby dimpled hands. Reach out to catch your own. When in your power to protect. Implicit faith is shown. O, what a reverie of thoughts Of days when life was new. Flows in upon the soul, because Of baby's tiny shoe.

—A. T. Mayfield in Denver News.

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