

FARM, ORCHARD & GARDEN



Conducted by **M. J. WRAGG**

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

THE NEXT FRUIT CROP.

It might seem very early to begin to think of the next fruit crop when the one of this year has only just been gathered. Yet if we do not begin to plan for it in abundant time, we may not have so good a crop as we should. The production of an abundant crop is quite sure to leave the tree or plant in a somewhat exhausted condition and where this has been the case this year it is especially important that steps be taken to replenish the fertility in the soil. It may seem that it is time enough to do this in the spring, and in some cases and with some fertilizers this is true, but there are others with which it is not so.

While there are as many as thirteen natural elements that enter into the structure of about everything that grows, there are four that seem to be more easily exhausted from the soil than the rest. These are nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash and lime. They naturally exist in soils in such varying quantities that it is often very difficult to tell what is or is not present in abundance and in available forms. In most cases only the actual test of applications will tell us what is needed. But we may be sure that good manures wisely applied are almost never amiss.

Nitrogen is such a volatile and easily exhausted manure and sometimes an injurious one, that it requires the most careful and timely application of all. When the trees are pale in foliage and the growth is feeble, it is almost a sure indication that it is not present in the soil in sufficient quantity. But fruits are not so likely to need it as the foliage crops. In case they do need it there is no form in which it is more economically applied than as nitrate of soda. Animal refuse, such as dried blood also contains it. Owing to the rapid solubility of these materials, spring is the preferable time to apply them to the soil.

Phosphoric acid plays an important part in the production of fruit as it gives vigor to the tree or vine. It should not be forgotten that it is found largely in animal bones and from this we can get it quite cheaply. Phosphate rock is partly composed of fossil bones. They give the phosphoric acid up slowly even when well dissolved and this is why we should apply early in the spring or better yet in the fall. This will allow time for the further decomposition in the soil and the chemical changes to take place that are necessary before the roots can absorb the fertility. Five hundred pounds per acre is a good application.

Potash is perhaps the most important for fruits of all the manures. It causes healthfulness and vigor of tree or plant and makes the fruit rich and highly colored. Wood ashes contains it, but the proportions are usually quite small. Muriate of potash contains fully one-half of its weight of available potash and sulphate of potash about the same. Both are excellent and cheap forms in which to apply potash. The sooner either of them are put in or on the soil the more completely they will be prepared for the use of the coming fruit crop. If it is not possible to apply them to the ground this fall, do it early in the spring. But above all be sure to do it, for in most soils potash will pay a good return. One hundred pounds per acre annually is a fair application of either muriate or sulphate of potash.

Lime has a very beneficial effect, aside from being a plant food, in helping to dissolve the elements of fertility in the soil naturally. This is especially true of heavy clay soils, and where humus is in excess it "sweetens" its acidity. About five bushels of quick lime per acre is sufficient for some three years.

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

Skim milk may be fed to young colts with splendid results. Keep the horse stables light. Dark stables make weak-eyed horses.

A quiet voice and a gentle manner are splendid qualities for the live stock breeder to acquire. Bear in mind that young animals that are profitable must be kept growing from birth to maturity.

THE ORIGINAL GREENING APPLE TREE.

The American Cultivator says that the original Greening apple tree is still standing on the farm of Solomon Drowne at Mt. Hysela, in North Foster, Rhode Island. The tree was a very old one when the farm was sold in 1801. The seller informed the purchaser that it was a pity the old tree was going to decay, as it produced the best fruit of any tree in the orchard. The purchaser determined to see how long he could keep it alive and it still survives after almost another century has been added to its venerable years. But it shows signs of final decay, and the parent of all the famous Rhode Island Greenings, which has set its grafts on the orchards of almost all the world, will soon be but a neighborhood memory. It is doubtful if there is a more famous apple tree to be found in all Pomona's groves, from end to end of the earth.

Progression is a vital factor of success. This applies to farm work as well as other lines of occupation.

CHESTNUTS.

It is not long since the chestnut was receiving an undue share of attention, but like many another fad it soon had its day. Yet there are many places where the tree can be grown to advantage for utilizing waste ground.

There are three kinds of chestnuts which are cultivated for their fruit—the American, which is the largest, the European and the Japanese. The first needs a space of forty feet or more. It makes a good shade and is fairly ornamental. It is slow growing. Some of the trees at least have partially sterile blossoms. Generally, more than one tree should be planted if fruit is desired.

The European species needs less room, about thirty feet. The nuts are large, but not of good quality as the American. In Spain and Italy they form an important article of food. The trees have been planted to a considerable extent in this country, but have not met with expectations.

The Japanese chestnut is smaller, having a spread of about twenty feet. The tree is not so easily affected by disease as the others. The nuts are large, but of inferior quality. Some of the lately introduced varieties are as good or better than the European. Japanese chestnuts are noted for early bearing and productivity.

Both Japanese and European chestnuts have been extensively advertised. If early bearing is desired the Japanese is to be recommended, but for a standard tree we prefer the American. However, the most popular of all is the Paragon which belongs to the European class.

WEANING LAMBS.

This question cannot receive too careful attention. If the lambs are not well cared for as soon as weaned they will go backward, and if they go backward at such a time, when the winter is drawing on, it will require quite a time of careful feeding to bring them back again. Happy are they who at such a time have a good patch of rape on which to turn the lamb. With such pastures they can take care of themselves when removed from the ewes. If they have been put upon it before being weaned, so much the better, for then they will take to it at once, otherwise they will require some time, it may be, to get accustomed to it, and in the interval they will lose flesh.

Lambs thus provided for should do well without being fed any grain. Where no rape is on hand, clover will make a good substitute. Even where clover is absent the present season the lambs may get along very nicely on other pastures, they are so abundant. If, however, these should be so succulent as to keep the lambs a little thin, they ought to get a supplement of oats. In seasons when such lambs must be turned on pastures short and scant grain should be fed to them with much freedom. The policy is short sighted which allows any kind of live stock to stand during the time of its growth.

Each morning sees some task begun. Each evening sees it done; Something attempted, something done, Has earned a night's repose.

TREES OF WONDERFUL SIZE.

The Youth's Companion is authority for the statement that on the Island of Cos (or Kos) in the Mediterranean, near the coast of Asia Minor, there stands an oak twenty-five feet in diameter, and which a German scientist believes to be two thousand nine hundred years old.

The largest tree in the United States according to "The Christian Advocate" (New York) is said to be at the foot of Mount Etna, and is called "The Chestnut Tree of a Hundred Horses." Its name came from the report that Queen Jane of Aragon, with her principal nobility, took refuge from a violent storm under its branches. The trunk is 204 feet in circumference. This would mean nearly 68 feet in diameter; about four rods—well high incredible.

The largest tree in the United States (it is said) stands near Bear Creek, on the north fork of the Tule river, in California. It measures 125 feet in circumference. The giant redwood tree in Nevada is 119 feet in circumference. All these are surely wonderful trees.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

Fruit often suffers from rough handling. Ashes and manure make a good fertilizer for orchards.

Good stock creates a good market, ready sale and a good price. There is no better time for setting trees than in the spring.

Many orchardists make a great mistake planting trees too deep. Apple trees should not be planted on low lands subject to overflow. Russian Mulberry trees are said to be the best of all as bird feeders.

It is safe to say that every orchard, well cultivated, can be made to pay. For the first years of an orchard bearing is one of the most important items.

Of all our fruit trees, probably the peach responds most readily to cultivation. In South America chrysanthemums often measure fifteen inches in circumference.

Durable windows cost money, but they are a permanent improvement.

SWINE NOTES.

Under all conditions one service is better than allowing the boar entire freedom with the sows.

In arranging the hog's winter quarters the most important item is to guard against rain, wind and snow.

The farmer should be able to make his own pork cheaper and equally as good if not better than he can buy it. Early breeding the maternal forces of the sow, causing small and weak litters with insufficient nourishment. Give no sour swill and decayed vegetables even to hogs. Because they will eat such stuff is no sign that they will flourish on it.

If the sow is a good breeder don't send her to the butcher, because she may be two or three years old. Keep her breeding a year or two more.

An excess of corn in the diet of the sow and also of the young pigs is apt to produce scours. The pigs should have no corn until six weeks old.

"Black teeth" in pigs was once supposed to be the cause of nearly every trouble they are heir to. It is a myth, and to be classed with "hollow horns" in cattle.

When your hogs are ready for the market sell them. The man who holds his pigs for a rise in price is very often apt to lose money, while he who sells when the hogs are ready usually makes a profit. Hogs will consume food enough to more than offset the expected rise in the market.

"When you're feelin' grouchy Let the sunshine in; When your face gets feelin' hard Crack it with a grin. Don't be 'frail'd' or wrinkles; Tear loose with your mirth; An old face laugher-wrinkled Is the sweetest thing on earth."

WHY NOT HENS?

There is one field of labor that is not overcrowded, and that is the hen business. It is a curious fact that almost every city man or woman who dreams occasionally of "going back to Eden" thinks of getting back somewhere on a farm and starting a henery. Perhaps it is due to the fact that they know from personal experience how difficult it is to get fresh eggs, not "tolerable" eggs, but really fresh eggs not over three days old. It may be due to the many charms of poultry raising, such as limited capital, small area, and the joys of "setting" hens. We've all had the fever, and many have succeeded.

A still more curious fact is that, with the enormous output of the American hen, celloping in annual value many of the grain staples, the egg market is never glutted. If guaranteed eggs could be transported to the city consumer they would bring in summer double the quotations and 50 per cent more than the highest prices in winter. If some enterprising poultry man would date his eggs with a rubber stamp, and by warranting the quality and freshness of his produce, thus establishing a reputation for truth and veracity, he could sell all he could raise at big prices. The broiler, capon and general market offer opportunities almost as remunerative.

It is a mistake to think that lime will take the place of fertilizers or manure and the farmer who is led to so use it will be disappointed.

RHUBARB WHEN YOU WANT IT.

It's nice to have a thing right at hand when you want it. Years ago we had all the rhubarb pies we could stuff each spring for several weeks. Then we used to go without until the following spring.

The next arrangement was to can the stalks, cut it into short sections of about one inch, keeping them for winter use. The plan was successful, and yet the pies did not seem to taste so good as when the stalks were freshly cut from the growing plants.

Now we can have the plants growing "down cellar" ready to order when pies are wanted. It's a good scheme, easy to manipulate, and the pie plant comes up fresh and crisp, while the pie foundation and roof are being prepared.

Dig up small pieces of rhubarb roots, even late as this time of the year, and plant thickly in some soil on the cellar bottom. Cover three or four inches deep and wet down thoroughly.

The temperature should be maintained between 50 and 60 degrees. Make the experiment and see how it works.

When you fret and fume at the petty ills of life, forget not that the wheels which go around without creaking last the longest.

SOFT PORK.

The Canadian and some other expert stations have undertaken experiments to find out what kind of treatment makes soft pork or whether such pork exists only in the reports of the merchants that dock the consignments that are sent abroad. There have been innumerable cases of consignments of pork to England and other countries where the original price was decreased by a certain amount on the plea that the pork was found to be soft. It is suspected that this is only another way of turning a dishonest dollar. It is charged by some of the shippers that feeding on corn is the cause of this. If so it is directly opposed to the general belief of feeders.

In purchasing pure bred stock, beware of unscrupulous live stock breeders who try to palm off "tail enders" on the inexperienced.

MINDS SENT THROUGH SPACE

H. Addington Bruce describes the attempt of an English clergyman named Clarence Godfrey to "project himself" into the presence of a friend at a distance. The attempt was made on the night of Nov. 15, 1886.

The result of his attempt, as described in the account written out at his request by the "percipient," who it should perhaps be added, had had no intimation of the experiment, was as follows: "Yesterday—viz., the morning of Nov. 16, 1886—about half-past 3 o'clock I woke up with a start and an idea that someone had come into the room. I heard a curious sound, but fancied it might be the birds in the ivy outside. Next I experienced a strange, restless longing to leave the room and go downstairs. This feeling became so overpowering that at last I arose and lit a candle and went down, thinking that if I could get some soda water it might have a quieting effect.

"On returning to my room I saw Mr. Godfrey standing under the large window on the staircase. He was dressed in his usual style and with an expression on his face that I have noticed when he has been looking very earnestly at anything. He stood there and I held up the candle and

gazed at him for three or four seconds in utter amazement and then as I passed up the staircase he disappeared. The impression left on my mind was so vivid that I fully intended waking a friend who occupied the same room as myself, but remembering that I should only be laughed at as romantic and imaginative I refrained from doing so.

Arguing from analogy, it was held by those advancing the telepathic hypothesis that the mind of a dying person in reverting to a distant friend conveyed to the friend's mind a distinct impression which took the form of a vivid visual hallucination. To the reply that the apparitions were by no means uniformly coincident with the moment of death and not infrequently occurred only after a lapse of several hours it was deemed sufficient to point to such cases as that of Rev. Mr. Godfrey as illustrative of similar deflection of experimental hallucinations. In the Godfrey case the "willing" began at 10:45 p. m. on the night of Nov. 15, and lasted only eight minutes, after which Mr. Godfrey fell asleep; whereas, it was not until 3:30 a. m. of the following morning that the hallucinatory vision appeared to the "percipient."—Public Opinion.

HAVOC WROUGHT BY SILKWORM

A thrifty woman of Augusta began experimenting some time ago to learn what effect the Georgia climate would have upon imported silkworms. A room in her house was given up to their use and mulberry leaves in abundance were supplied to them.

Later, when they began to increase in numbers and to escape to other parts of the house, whatever spot they chanced upon became sacred to them. No one was allowed to interfere with a silkworm in its pursuit of happiness, no matter where it might have established its cocoon. This was strongly impressed upon the servants.

All the while the worms were growing, Mandy, the colored cook, was making preparations for her wedding. In order to take advantage of every minute she could spare, she brought the materials for her wedding dress to the kitchen, and there constructed a thing of beauty with which to bedeck herself. At last her day of happiness arrived, and her mistress consented to allow a substitute to cook dinner while Mandy was away for a day to celebrate the event.

That evening, however, Mandy appeared in the kitchen as usual, and set about getting supper. Her eyes

were swollen and her face gave evidence of long weeping, which was supported by the persistent convulsive heaving of her shoulders.

"Why, Mandy!" exclaimed her mistress. "I'm right glad to see you back. Did the wedding go nicely?"

"No, ma'am," said Mandy, then burst into a storm of tears. "No, ma'am, it just didn't go at all. I ain't been married."

"Not married, Mandy? Why, that is too bad! What was the matter? Didn't Henderson come?"

"Ya-as'm, he done come. Eve'ybody done come. The whole church was plumb full of people. I reckon some of 'em is there yet. Eve'ybody was there but me."

Sols again shook her and interfered with speech.

"Well, what was the matter, then?" finally inquired her mistress. "Did you change your mind?"

"O, lawsy, no, Miss Sally. I wanted to git there bad enough. But, Miss Sally—Miss Sally—" sobs again—"Miss Sally, one of dem plaguy, squishy white wome done—done—coccooed in my weddin' dress!"—Youth's Companion.

SUMMER UNDER IRON ROOF

"I had scarcely thought," said the middle-aged man, "that I should ever again hear the patter of the rain on the roof as I heard it in my youth, when I slept in the garret in the home of my boyhood. But now it has been brought back to me most vividly.

"In the summer just past I lived for a time in a one-story cabin built of corrugated iron. The little house had a nice little veranda across the front and was very comfortable within. And besides these distinguishing features, the little iron house had some other characteristic traits. For one, it was the most sensitive house I ever knew to changes of temperature.

"It was a lovely day on which we struck the place. As we sat on the veranda and looked out through an opening in the trees in front upon a broad and varied landscape of water, woods and mountains and then up at a fleecy summer cloud we thanked the good luck that had landed us there. And then, as that light cloud floated on across the face of the sun, we

heard coming from behind us sounds which we realized in a moment came from the house itself. It was the iron roof, now in the shadow of that cloud, contracting when the heat of the sun was withdrawn. And then in a moment, as the clouds passed on, we heard from the house again the roof expanding as the sun once more fell upon it.

"It was the most responsive house, by far, in a rainstorm that I ever slept in. On the first night we were there we were wakened by the sound of what we thought at first must be a buckshot cataract falling on the head of a giant drum. But in a moment again we realized that this was the sound of rain falling on our corrugated iron roof. And talk about the patter of the rain drops on the old, moss-grown shingles! Why, on this roof the rain came down like—like buckshot! Like grapeshot, cannon balls; innumerable, countless, continuous millions of cannon balls pounding with a constant roar."—New York Sun.

EXPLORERS KEPT IN MEMORY

Lieut.-Col. C. Delme-Radcliffe, late governor of the British Nile province, recently gave to the Royal Geographical society this account of the memories of former explorers still existing there: "The natives we found remembered Emin Pasha well, but regarded him with indifference or dislike. He had left, perhaps unavoidably, a great deal of power in the hands of native subordinates, and their abuse of it had made the unfortunate people dread the pasha's authority. Of Gordon only a few natives seemed to know anything, though most of those living near the river had heard of 'Gordon,' as he was called. I secured one interesting relic of Gordon in the shape of an Austrian bentwood chair which he had given to the chief Gimmoro. I bought it from the latter's son, Aoin, who had fixed a patch of leopard skin on the seat.

"Sir Samuel and Lady Baker, however, seem to have inspired the natives everywhere with the greatest possible affection. They never ceased to tell us wonderful stories of the do-

ings of 'Murrdu,' or Lion's mane, as they called Sir Samuel, and of 'Anyadue,' or Daughter of the Moon, which is their name for Lady Baker. Watel Ajus, a very aged man now, got himself carried from his village a long way to my camp. On hearing that Lady Baker was alive in England he took an elephant's hair necklace from his neck and begged me to give it to her when I went back. This I did, and the old chief was delighted to receive a return present of photographs of Sir Samuel and Lady Baker, with an ivory-handled knife. This he acknowledged by sending back a leopard skin to Lady Baker.

"Our best recommendation to the natives we found to be the statement that we belonged to the same nation as Baker and that our government would be like his. Shooli gave me one of the scarlet shirts which had been worn by Sir Samuel's famous 'Forty Thieves.' He had treasured it carefully all those years in an earthenware jar, as a sort of credential of his connection with Baker."

THE WORLD GROWS BETTER

Tell me not, in your doleful way, that the world grows ever worse; That we cannot escape from the drear, old way of the drear, old primal curse; Tell me not that there is no hope except in the grace of God. For, though it be true, He sets that grace in the veriest human clod. The world is sweeter than e'er it was; I read not far or deep Till I know that out of the slough of sin the multitudes upward creep. Our right may be dim while we walk our time on this misty, earthly shore, But we clearer see what the right must be than ever man saw before.

The world is better, ay, better far, than it was in the days of old. When they might take who had the power, and they might keep who held; When the beited knights rode to and fro, their cruel will to do, And the king was lord of his subject's brow, and e'en of his spirit, too; When a woman's name was a thing to boast and her virtue a thing to own. When a serf and a bondsman bore the

mark of the tyrant upon the throne— Ah, sigh if you will for "the good old days," the fabulous days of yore. But we clearer see what the right must be than ever man saw before.

I know that the problems that vex us now are sore to our errant view, But we've gained the sight, as we've gained the might; that our grand-sires never knew: We have swung from the day when right was right to the day when right reveals. Some part of her face, divinely fair, to the veriest cod who feels; Through the long, slow aeons we've upward pressed, as ever our God hath willed. And here has the Right been wronged by the king, or there has the Wrong been stilled.

There is much to do, there is much to win, for the ages have taught their lore. But we clearer see what the right must be than ever man saw before. —A. J. Waterhouse.

Lost Use of His Head. "I've got the cutest kid story," declared a charming woman who has just returned from Niagara Falls. "On the train we met George E. Kitttridge of this city and his wife and little son. The ingenious George 3d at length came over to my chair, and we embarked upon a long conversation of a very serious nature. I spoke of a scar on his forehead, and

he explained to me just how he had fallen when he received it, how it had hurt, what had been done for it, and all the particulars. I sympathized in every detail as if I had felt the shock and every succeeding twinge of pain, commenting: 'It was very bad, wasn't it?' To that he replied: 'I should think it was. Why, I was out of the use of my head for a week.'—Chicago Inter Ocean.

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