

FARM, ORCHARD & GARDEN



WEEDS—THEIR NATURE AND DESTRUCTION.

A good definition for a weed is a plant growing out of place. A tomato plant, for instance, coming up in a radish bed would be considered a weed to that crop, as it is not the place for it. But more generally the name is most used when applied to such plants which seem to persist in growing where they are not wanted, and are never cultivated for any useful purpose.

To keep a place clear of weeds means continual warfare. But this will be useless unless the neighbors agree to put the same amount of labor on their own places. During a late visit of the editor to a large farm in the east, this weed question was brought up. The farm was visited with care and continually cultivated, but the crop of weeds could not be conquered. There was a reason for it, and that reason was subsequently learned was owing to the fact that the neighbors, a wealthy retired gentleman, with a palace for a home, and spacious lawns and flower-beds allowed his fields to overrun with wild carrot and other weeds. He did not care, and the winds carried the seeds far and wide. A very little money spent would have kept down these weeds and made the place all the better, besides being a God-send to his neighbor. There should be strong legislation against such shiftlessness.

There are two rules which will hold good in the prevention and destruction of weeds, which we quote from the "Illustrated Annual Register," as follows: The first, from the well-known fact that no plant can first grow without starting from a seed, indicates the general caution to destroy all weeds before they can ripen their seed, and to sow for crops nothing but perfectly clean seed. If weeds have already gone to seed, they should be carefully removed and burned. Some of the most pernicious intruders have been widely spread through hay or grass used for packing goods—every careful man will never allow such packing material to be scattered over his land either in manure or otherwise. The second rule is founded on the principle that no plant can live any considerable length of time without breathing through its lungs, the leaves. Hence, all perennial-rooted plants, that creep and extend beneath the surface, like the Canada thistle and milk-weed, and tans form formidable patches may be destroyed completely and totally, if the leaves are never allowed to appear above ground.

Of the 80,000 different species of plants which grow upon the face of the earth, only a few thousands have ever had an opportunity to grow in cultivated fields. Of these few thousands, a very small number have become distinguished for their vigor of growth under neglect, for their tenacity of life, and rapidity of increase. These few have become troublesome weeds. Neglected cultivation and careless management have tested them thoroughly for their bad qualities, and have been the means of selecting them from their thousands of harmless associates, and introducing them into the fields of the farmer.

Annual and biennial weeds mostly increase by seeds, and include wild mustard, shepherd's purse, false flax or bitter weed, cockle-bur, marigold, sticktight or Spanish needles, may-weed or hound's tongue, Jamestown weed or stink weed, lamb's quarter, goose-foot or pig weed, green amaranth, wild tansy, chess, chear, or broom grass, and foxtail grass.

The simple perennial weeds are tall crowfoot or butter-cup, John's-wort, plantain, pokeweed, water hemlock, poison hemlock, ox-eye daisy, mallow, sour dock, sorrel, ragwort, sweet flag or calamus and cat-tail, nettle.

THE ORIENTAL POPPY.

This variety of poppy, taken as a family, is remarkably attractive and shows plants capable of being utilized in gardens and lawns to a much greater extent than they are at the present time. The above variety gives grand color and effect. There are two varieties which should have special attention. They are the Braectatum and the Oriental. The first above variety has the advantage of being a perennial, with its long seasons of bloom in early summer, glorious color and large size. With its full and bold effect, its rich green foliage, the plant is well worthy of a place in any collection of herbaceous plants.

The flower, as we grow them on our place, ranges from six to eight inches in diameter, and a dark and deep scarlet, and generally show deep purple spots on each petal. We want to urge on our readers to try, if possible, to procure a plant of the above species. Some writer in speaking of the great beauty of the flower garden of Ann Hathaway's cottage, the home of Shakespeare at Stratford-on-Avon, dwelt largely on the poppies and lark-spear that grew there, wondering that they combined to create a wonderful "color picture, dazzling yet harmoniously beautiful." The poppy alluded to here is one which we have tried to describe to our readers. So in writing any of your nurserymen or seedsmen, ask for the above varieties, and we will wager our reputation that you will never regret the money spent.

For field culture for the canneries good strong tomato plants should be ready for the field from the middle to the latter part of June, the time which they are usually set in. Keep cows away from weedy, low and wild pastures.

It pays to milk carefully. The cows will give more and the milk will be richer for it. Then go about it as if you had something at stake, and not as if it was a job that you hated.

The cow that will give a good flow in the hot weather when flies are thick is the one that can be banked upon.

LIVE STOCK NOTES.

Growing pigs should be provided with a good dry bed kept clean and free from dust. Remember that filth breeds disease.

It is a mistake to think that hogs or any other animal can shift for themselves while they are young, and then expect that you can make up for such a neglect in the end.

Do not think that good cows are produced accidentally. They are man's improvement, and it is up to you as a breeder to understand how far traits and tendencies can be counted upon for transmission in offspring. Pedigrees do not make butter or beef, but oftentimes makes sales. It is the individual that counts.

The growing pigs may be helped along in two ways; one is by feeding sows liberally on those feeds that tend to produce milk; and the other is by giving the pigs clean food of the right kind, such as clover and alfalfa.

A pedigree is a good thing to refer to but the individuality of the animal must not be lost sight of. The story is told of a duke who went in his automobile to call on a country lass. During the conversation with the young lady he said, "I can trace my forefathers for seven generations." The reply came from the girl: "Why that is a remarkable performance. What else can you do?"

May is a good month to buy pigs and shoats for feeding for the fall market, provided there is plenty of pasture on the farm. It will require only three or four weeks of strong feeding at the end to produce a good animal.

A flock or sheep will get more substance on poor land and at the same time do it more good than any other stock on the farm.

If the farmer is looking for quick returns in live stock and for a large percentage on the money invested there are no animals on the farm that will beat the sow and the ewe.

One of the causes for weak lambs is the result of compelling the ewes to live on coarse food.

Much lameness in horses is due to improper shoeing. Horses should be shod by competent blacksmiths. Is yours one?

A wide range in summer feeding may be used at the start of the feeding period with profit, but it must get narrow as the feeding period advances.

There is no stock about the farm that will not eat good silage. If care is exercised working horses may be fed on silage.

CULTIVATING CORN.

I think the cultivation of corn should commence before it is up, by running over it with a fine tooth harrow, writes an Indiana correspondent. This will kill all weeds that have commenced to sprout. Then harrow once after the corn is up. Just go ahead and pay no attention to it while it is up, but not enough to notice them. It may seem like you are covering it all up, but it will be out again the next day. Don't cultivate too deeply. I think shallow cultivation is the thing. If the weather permits we should cultivate every week, especially if the weather is dry. By shallow cultivation we form a dust mulch which prevents evaporation. We should continue our work with the cultivator until the corn gets too large to get through it, and then if we "lay it by," don't put on large shovels and ridge up the ground, because you will break the roots of the corn and allow the ground to dry out more by exposing more of its surface to the air, besides leaving the ground in poor condition for sowing wheat. The last plowing should be shallow and leave the ground level. I believe it would be better to continue going through the corn with a one-horse harrow or drag until the first of August. This is something that not very many people do on account of other work crowding just at this time.

POULTRY NOTES.

Select your stock of pullets as soon as they are well developed; select more than you expect to use, so you can reject those that develop objectionable features.

Chickens should never be allowed to roost till ten or twelve weeks old. If allowed to perch too young their breasts often get crooked and their growth and appearance at the table spoiled.

With laying hens it is a comparatively easy matter to overdo the feeding when given too much whole grain, especially of corn and fat producing food. If the hens become too fat they will cease laying.

While it may be possible that old hens are too fat to lay, it is rarely so with pullets. Feed them abundantly. Even with old hens in a majority of cases less laying goes on as a result of under than over feeding; unless well fed, hens cannot lay well.

Never refuse a fair price for a bird you do not want to keep for breeding purposes. At the same time never sell a good bird that you need yourself. To be most successful you must keep the best and do not be tempted to sell even at a fancy price.

PLANNING AND PLANTING THE GARDEN.

In the winter I make out a plan of my next season's garden, shifting from year to year each variety of vegetable to a place it has not occupied for several years. I am persuaded that however much you may fertilize, few plants do well in the same place year after year. Some, like cabbage and cauliflower, must have new ground every year. When planting time comes, with my plan before me, I measure off the spaces between the rows and drive a short stake at the end of each row ready for the garden line when the time comes to plant each particular row. As I plant the rows I check off on the plan so as to avoid mistakes.

CULTIVATING ORCHARDS.

An old fruit grower says it is the safest plan to cultivate an orchard at least five years after it is planted. "But," says the general farmer, whose main interests are in other crops, "I do not raise fruit for sale except incidentally, and I cannot afford the time from my more important money crops to regularly cultivate my orchard, unless there is some crop besides the fruit which will pay me for the time and labor." While cultivating the orchard per se, is the ideal plan, there are certain minor crops, which might be denominated orchard crops, whose cultivation does not interfere with the development of the trees, and under the above conditions which the farmer urges, it is highly advisable to plant them between the tree rows rather than leave the orchard entirely without cultivation. Deep plowing too near the trees should be avoided, but until they attain their full development, there is ample space in the middle of the rows for corn, cotton, ground peas, sweet or Irish potatoes, melons—any crop in fact which requires constant cultivation. Grain of any kind should never be sown in an orchard, on penalty of permanent injury to the trees, not only because these crops prevent cultivation just at the season the trees most need it, but because they take from the soil the very elements most needed for their proper development. Any of the crops named may be cultivated without injury to the trees, provided always that the young tree roots are protected against injury from deep plowing; the plowing near the trees should always be shallow, and the limbs protected, as far as possible from mutilation or other injury. After the trees have attained their growth, a crop of late cow peas is an excellent enricher of the soil. When the trees reach the bearing stage, the orchard may be sown in grass or clover, if the sod is not allowed to stand more than three or four years. Hogs and poultry are good scavengers of the insect enemies, and also the fallen fruit, which is often a harbor for protecting and developing myriads of these pests. Cattle and horses should never be allowed to run in an orchard. We have seen one horse destroy in a few moments enough in value to pay for his food for a month.

"These beautiful days should be an inspiration to every one, and especially to those of us who are fortunate in living them out of doors and having an opportunity of taking in their delicious air and rich color. We have always found it hard to be patient with those who could not enjoy farm life. 'The work is hard.' Oh, yes—and so is any work that a man or woman has a right to be satisfied with. 'Lonely,' with the companionship of wife or husband and children and with the infinite variety of life that represents the mind of God all about us? What better company? Of course there is wretchedness in the country as well as in the city and it is mostly of our own making in both cases. The writer lived in town till he was 'of age' and on a farm since that time. He has not yet had a moment's regret for his choice, nor had a wish that his children might enter a higher calling. There is no higher.

It is now the busiest time of the year for the farmer and his horses and the care of the horse should not be neglected. A proper currying and brushing daily pays. It removes the filth from the surface of the skin, and improves the coat, and most of all the horse needs in proper food. Corn, when fed exclusively, is unfit for a horse's horse. There is nothing better than good oats. When the farmers learn the difference in the values of different grains, this country will have better horses. For horse hay, timothy with a little clover is just what is wanted. The horse should be watered regularly and not worked to excess. Do not try to do three days' work in one, for it never pays.

May is the best month for corn planting in this latitude. It is best not to be in too much of a hurry, as the earlier, the damper the ground will be, the corn is liable to rot and will grow more slowly. But if planted when the ground is thoroughly warm and warm weather presides it will grow very rapidly. The ground for corn should be very finely cultivated. Corn is our main crop and any point of cultivation should not be neglected. Do not be in too much of a hurry. It does not pay to plow the ground when too wet, as it injures the land and slow progress is made. There is no profit in working in the mud.

Many farmers fail to realize how much easier and cheaper it would be to do more of the required cultivation before the crop is planted. Begin your preparations early enough so that when you have land ready to plant you can leave it alone for a week or more, and then harrow and cultivate the surface ever again. One crop of weeds will thus be destroyed at a light expense and the surface will be brought into finer tilth and better prepared to receive the seed. On lands liable to suffer from drought this process may be profitably extended for weeks or months before planting the crop.

Nothing wastes so much time on a farm as a lack of system. No matter what sort of work is to be done it pays to plan it all beforehand and make provision for everything that may arise. Don't wait till the last minute to know that machines or tools or harness or whatever else is needed, are ready. Get ready before you are about to start, and no time will be lost.

The "harrow cart" is becoming, and deservedly so, a very popular tool. Why walk and wear yourself out when it is possible to ride? Horse muscle is cheaper than man muscle. Harrow carts are made with almost any sort of wheels.

A reader says that prior to getting a separator it took 20 pounds of milk to make a pound of butter. With a cream separator he made a pound of butter from 17 pounds of milk.

Young farmers almost universally make the mistake not to set out trees and shrubbery, and when they are old and it is too late they see wherein they failed of doing their duty.

THE LAXATIVE OF KNOWN QUALITY

There are two classes of remedies; those of known quality and which are permanently beneficial in effect, acting gently, in harmony with nature, when nature needs assistance; and another class, composed of preparations of unknown, uncertain and inferior character, acting temporarily, but injuriously, as a result of forcing the natural functions unnecessarily. One of the most exceptional of the remedies of known quality and excellence is the ever pleasant Syrup of Figs, manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., which represents the active principles of plants, known to act most beneficially, in a pleasant syrup, in which the wholesome Californian blue figs are used to contribute their rich, yet delicate, fruity flavor. It is the remedy of all remedies to sweeten and refresh and cleanse the system gently and naturally, and to assist one in overcoming constipation and the many ills resulting therefrom. Its active principles and quality are known to physicians generally, and the remedy has therefore met with their approval, as well as with the favor of many millions of well informed persons who know of their own personal knowledge and from actual experience that it is a most excellent laxative remedy. We do not claim that it will cure all manner of ills, but recommend it for what it really represents, a laxative remedy of known quality and excellence, containing nothing of an objectionable or injurious character.

There are two classes of purchasers; those who are informed as to the quality of what they buy and the reasons for the excellence of articles of exceptional merit, and who do not lack courage to go elsewhere when a dealer offers an imitation of any well known article; but, unfortunately, there are some people who do not know, and who allow themselves to be imposed upon. They cannot expect its beneficial effects if they do not get the genuine remedy.

To the credit of the druggists of the United States be it said that nearly all of them value their reputation for professional integrity and the good will of their customers too highly to offer imitations of the

Genuine—Syrup of Figs

manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., and in order to buy the genuine article and to get its beneficial effects, one has only to note, when purchasing, the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—plainly printed on the front of every package. Price, 50c. per bottle. One size only.

PE-RU-NA STRENGTHENS THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.

Mr. Chas. L. Sauer, Grand Scribe, Grand Encampment I. O. O. F. of Texas, and Assistant City Auditor, writes from the City Hall, San Antonio, Tex.:

"Nearly two years ago I accepted a position as secretary and treasurer with one of the leading dry goods establishments of Galveston, Tex. The sudden change from a high and dry altitude to sea level proved too much for me and I became afflicted with catarrh and cold in the head, and general debility to such an extent as to almost incapacitate me for attending to my duties.

"I was induced to try Peruna, and after taking several bottles in small doses I am pleased to say that I was entirely restored to my normal condition and have ever since recommended the use of Peruna to my friends."

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Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c cigar made of rich, mellow tobacco. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

Fundamental Difference. Teach—"In what way do the Quakers speak differently from us, Johnny?" Johnny—"They don't swear."

Evidently He Had Two. Little Tommy was very quiet during the first courses, and everyone forgot he was there. As the dessert was being served, however, the host told a funny story.

When he had finished, and the laughter had died away, his little son exclaimed, delightedly: "Now, papa, tell the other one."—Exchange.

Rest in Billville. "Bill," said the man in the ox cart to the Billville postmaster, "ain't you goin' to open the office to-day?" "No, I ain't; what do you take me for?"

"The postmaster." "No, you don't. You take me for one of those perpetual motion machines that kin run the government for you six days out the week, an' no rest on Sunday—that's what you take me for!"

"Bill," said the other, "I've come five miles and better to git my mail!" "Well, if I open up for you all the res' I'll want their'n, an' I've done notified the postmaster ginral that it's my week off; 'sides that, thar ain't no mail fer you—'cept a letter from a lumber man sayin' that if you don't pay up he'll sue, an' another from your wife tellin' you to send her money to come home. So go 'long an' enjoy yer honeymoon."—Atlanta Constitution.

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Two packages of "On Time" will cost you 10 cents and are equal in weight to three packages of any other brand for which you will pay 15 cents.

The extra nickel is worth as much to you as to the manufacturer of the seven cake package. Use On Time Yeast and get Ten Cakes for 5 cents instead of seven.

Ask Your Grocer for On Time Yeast

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Annual Meeting, November and Progressive Order of Elks, at Denver, St. Joseph & Grand Island Railway will sell on July 14th, inclusive, Round-Trip tickets to Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo at exceedingly low rates. Tickets good to return until August 1st. For further information call on nearest agent or address:

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W. W. U. OMAHA, NO. 20, 1908.

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