

# FARM GARDEN

## PLANT GROWTH BY ELECTRIC LIGHT.

Professor Bailey's Experiments with Electric Light on Leaf Plants, Spinach, Etc.



NORMAL SPINACH PLANT.

partments, and one was treated to ordinary conditions—sunlight by day and darkness by night—and the other sunlight by day and electric light by night. In this house numerous experiments were made to note the effect of the electric light on plant growth.

In a report made in the American Garden, to which thanks are due for the cuts here presented, it is told that the general effect of the naked electric light was to greatly hasten maturity, and the nearer the plants grew to the light the greater the acceleration. This tendency was particularly marked in the leaf plants—endive, spinach, cress and lettuce. The plants "ran to seed" before edible leaves were formed, and near the light the leaves were small and curled.



SPINACH PLANT. (Grown with naked electric light.)

These and similar experiments justified the conclusions that while the naked electric light has a damaging influence upon the plants near it, electric light promotes assimilation; it often hastens growth and maturity; it is capable of producing natural flavors and colors in fruits; it often intensifies colors of flowers and sometimes increases the production of flowers, and that periods of darkness are not necessary to the growth and development of plants. Professor Bailey believes it is only necessary to overcome the difficulties, the chief of which are the injurious influences upon plants near the light; the too rapid hastening of maturity in some; and, in short, the whole series of practical adjustments of conditions to individual circumstances to render electro-horticulture a success. Deherain, a French experimenter, says that the injurious rays from the electric light are greatly modified by a transparent glass. Professor Bailey's experiments with an electric lamp, protected by an ordinary white opal globe, gave results much less marked than that of the naked light; in a word, the injurious effects were lessened by the use of the globe. Lettuce was greatly benefited by the electric lights.

Grapes packed in well baked sawdust will keep some time.

### Horses of Various Nations.

Every nation has its prejudices in favor of the horses of their own country as the best in the world; they get educated up to that standard type. In Scotland they think the Clydesdale the best draft horse, while the English are equally as sure that the Shire is the great model draft horse for the world. Across in Belgium every one from peasant to the king and queen believes that the Belgian draft horse is best of all breeds, while the Frenchmen think there is no good draft horse outside of France. America finds much to admire in each of these breeds, which are being so extensively imported and crossed upon our native mares and from which the American draft horse is being evolved—the best of all.—Western Agriculturist.

## OXEN IN HARNESS.

### An Illustrated Account of the Manner Oxen Are Worked on Some Farms.

On many Vermont farms most of the work is still done by oxen. One frequently sees a farmer with a yoke of oxen and one horse hitched ahead. Many of these oxen are high grade Devons, not particularly heavy, but active, fast walkers and very intelligent. Dishorning is not practiced much in New England states, particularly with working oxen, as the horns are needed in keeping the big ox yokes in place. They are cut off at the ends and little brass balls are screwed on. There are hundreds of just such oxen to be found on the hill farms of New England. In Maine and parts of New Hampshire more Herefords are used; they are heavier than the Devons, with better necks and shoulders, but not so active and smart. These working oxen are finally sold for beef. The farmers claim that they make sweeter and juicier beef than the lazy, pampered animals, which do nothing but eat, sleep and grow fat. These working oxen show a greater proportion of lean meat. Does their exercise make the beef tough and stringy? Who can tell about this? The famous "Roast Beef of Old England," which has been made a theme for poets, orators and statesmen, came in a great measure from oxen which did the farm work while they were growing into beef. Nobody praises the present beef as the old beef was praised!

A Manitoba farmer writes as follows to Rural New Yorker: "My team consists of three steers, which in this country are worked in harness. My collars are made of poplar, with a stout hame strap at the bottom and a piece of wood across the top, hinged in front of the hame, on 4-inch carriage bolts; I use good leather lines and bits in their mouths. This summer they worked on the mower and rake and cut sixteen acres with a heavy binder on rough ground. I believe this team is better for any farmer than horses which are not strictly first class. Some may say that cattle were not intended for bits, but if they look inside the mouth of a steer they will learn better. Mine can eat, drink and ruminate quite well. Of course I feed grain when working hard, but when idle they are cheaply kept." A picture of the collar is shown at Fig. 1. This is a front view, A A representing mortised holes for the traces, keyed in front.



AN OX COLLAR.

Fig. 2 shows the head and shoulders of an ox with the collar, traces and lines in place. Breaching and "belly bands" are never used. The trace should draw from a point about half way between the points of the shoulder. We do not know what breeds of steers make the best "horses," but suppose the lighter, active animals, like Jerseys or Devons, are best.

The Rose Bug. Professor Smith, of the New Jersey agricultural experiment station, tells in a bulletin issued that his experiments with hot water proved satisfactory. Heated to 125 degs. or higher the beetles were instantly killed, but great difficulty was found in reaching the insects with a sufficiently high temperature. The bagging of grapes is highly recommended. The author suggests in conclusion that the farmer should, first, prevent the breeding of the insects on his own land by using the heaviest land only for grass and keeping as little light land as possible in sod, while thorough cultivation in May will destroy many of the pupae; second, plant a few rows of blackberries around the vineyards to attract the first hordes—a few rose bushes or spiraea will answer the same purpose; third, use early or late blooming varieties of grapes and stimulate the vines by fertilizers to force the blossoms, and by inducing a heavy bloom get a surplus which will stand some thinning by insects. Keep a man with a collector constantly at work at least once a day for three weeks.



HARNESS FOR OXEN.

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- MULTNOMAH LODGE, No. 1, A. F. & A. M. Holds its regular communications on first and third Saturdays of each month at 7:30 P. M. Brethren in good standing are invited to attend. J. T. APPERSON, W. M. T. F. RYAN, Secretary.
- OREGON LODGE, No. 2, I. O. O. F. Meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock P. M. in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Main street. Members of the Order are invited to attend. By Order of W. A. Middleton, S. G. Thos. Ryan, Secretary.
- FALLS ENCAMPMENT, No. 4, I. O. O. F. Meets first and third Tuesdays of each month, at Odd Fellows' hall. Members and visiting patriots, cordially invited to attend. L. R. JANNEY, J. W. O'CONNELL, Scribe, Chief Patriarch.
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