

OUR FARMERS' PAGE.

ENTERPRISE READERS ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE AGRICULTURAL, HORTICULTURAL, LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, DAIRY OR "BIG CROP" ITEMS FOR THIS DEPARTMENT.

Selling the Hens.

There are many poultrymen who make a practice of selling off their hens at the end of the second year, says the Rural World, yet they profess that the hen has just commenced to make a profit for them, for she is at her best—laying the greatest number of eggs—during the second year. They then fill the places of such hens with pullets. The theory is erroneous, as the first cost of the hen that of raising her from the egg to maturity, must be paid back before the hen can give a profit, and this cost must be added to the second year. It is a fact that the hen herself can be sold and the cost returned, but the longer she is kept the cost of her first year is divided for every year she is on the farm. It is this first cost of the hen that is so frequently overlooked, that makes the profit turn to loss. A hen will last a long time if she is properly cared for, and for egg-producing purposes there is no necessity of selling off a hen just as soon as she begins to lay nicely and regularly. A hen in her second or third year is quite young and the chicks hatched from her eggs are usually stronger than those hatched from the first eggs of the pullets. If the hens are killed off every second year there will soon be a decrease in the vitality of the stock, especially if the eggs from the hens are handed down year after year and used for hatching purposes. Keep the hens until they are 4 years old, and the result will be better layers, stronger chicks, and still you will have the price of the hen when she is sold.

How to Maintain the Fertility.

It is a noted fact that where legumes are grown on land, say two-fifths of the time, which certainly should be the case, the nitrogen supply is held. It is also well known that the feeding of the crops grown on the same farm, the proper care of the barn yard manure, and its application to the lands, will return all the fertilizing ingredients with the exception of such as compose the animal body, and such other products as wool, cheese, and butter as are sold from the farm. They are actually lost to the soil forever. This loss is represented on phosphorus and potassium compounds and can be supplied in three distinct ways only. They can be purchased in the form of feeding stuffs for farm animals, finding their way to the soil through the manure; or they may be secured directly by commercial fertilizers; and again by the subsoil running down to a depth of 3 or 4 ft. from the surface.

Roots of all crops go down into the soil from 2 to 6 feet, and take directly the ingredients from the subsoil, and upon their decay tend to increase its porosity. This assists the capillary movements of water, which reacts as an agent to carry fertilizing ingredients as they become soluble in the lower soils up to near the surface, where they are readily available to the feeding roots of succeeding crops.

The garden plot will be in condition for plowing early this month, and this should be promptly done so that it will not interfere with general field work or become neglected. Should the ground be too wet and soggy for field work, there is plenty to do in the orchard, such as pruning, scraping off loose bark, and examining the trees for scale pests.

In top-dressing or fertilizing the orchard, the manure should be spread out, and not placed in piles around the trunks of the trees, as the feeding roots are out in the rows even with the spread of the branches. A good orchard fertilizer can be made of one and a half parts bone meal and one part muriate of potash.

Get all the barnyard manure out in the fields as quickly as possible. Spread it evenly and thinly.

Asparagus seed may be sown this month, or the roots can be set out. Set out horse-radish plants. For onions, put out sets. Plant early potatoes. Manure the lawn and the strawberry bed. Put nitrate of soda and common salt on the asparagus and rhubarb beds.

Trim out the old canes from the rows of berry bushes, and burn them lest they might be harboring pests. Do not be in a hurry to remove the bees from the cellar, even though a few warm days are given us early in this month. Set all the broody hens early this month you can. Provide them with a sheltered nest, as warm as you can give it.

Peas, beans, potatoes, clover and flax require potash in the soil. Beets, cabbage, oats, wheat, barley and herbs require nitrogen in the soil. Radishes, turnips and corn need a large amount of phosphoric acid in the soil. The soil of the vegetable gardens should be well underdrained, thoroughly trenched or subsoiled, and enriched by judicious application of fertilizing material.

In April early beans, early beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, early cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cucumber, egg plant, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, pepper, radish and tomato seed can be sown in the hotbed.

For 100 yards it will require one ounce of cabbage, cauliflower, collards, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, egg plant, kale, kohlrabi or pepper; or two ounces onions, leeks, lettuce, endive, parsley, canteloupe, squash, turnips, tomatoes or pumpkins; or three ounces carrot, celery, cress, watermelon, parsnip or herbs; or four ounces of cucumbers, rhubarb, asafly; or five ounces beet; or six ounces radish or spinach; or eight ounces corn salad; or twelve ounces okra or asparagus; or one quart sugar corn; or three quarts bush beans or peas.

The finer the soil the better the vegetables, both in quantity and quality. Work the surface soil over after every rain, and thus retain all the moisture. Vegetables delight in a warm, deep, rich and mellow soil. Avoid planting seed when the ground is wet, whenever possible. You will get quicker returns by waiting a day or so and giving the seed better conditions. Whenever possible it is a good plan to apply the fertilizers to the land a week or ten days before sowing the seed. In all cases see that it is thoroughly incorporated in the soil; otherwise injury to young plants may result.

Nitrate.

Salt-peter and nitrate of potash are the same. It is found in dry, hot countries in a natural product. Nitrate of soda is commonly called Chili salt-peter, and is found in large deposits in that country. It contains the same percentage of nitrogen and oxygen as nitrate of potash, only it is united with sodium instead of potassium, and is the case of nitrate of potash.

According to a government botanist at Washington, there is reason to believe that buds share in the growing old of the parent plant. He illustrates his meaning in this way: Suppose the average life of an individual plant—say a tree, to be 100 years, then a bud removed when the parent plant is 50 years old will also be virtually 50 years of age, and if transplanted by grafting will be able to live on the graft only 50 years more.

Food Note.

He was a kindly old clergyman, and he hated to have to suspect the honesty of his tradesman. But at last it was impossible to ignore the quality of the milk, and approached the milkman.

"I merely wish to remark," said the good man in his kindest, mildest manner, "that I require milk for dietary purposes, and not for use at christenings."—Judy.

Keeping a cow for her good looks may be fine esthetics, but is not good business. Business demands that a cow give at least 6,000 pounds of milk a year; make \$60 worth of butter; that she furnish one calf worth \$5 or more; \$10 worth of sweet skim-milk and manure enough to pay for her feed. In this way a farmer can eat his cake and have it at the same time.

PAPERMAKERS BEAT ALBINA WANDERERS

TRI-CITY LEAGUE TEAM WINS AT CANEMAH PARK BY SCORE OF 6 TO 3.

Owing to a drizzling rain that fell Sunday, a slim crowd of the faithful journeyed to Canemah Park Sunday afternoon and watched with intense interest the manner in which the Paper Makers administered a trouncing to the roaming Albina aggregation. The score stood 6 to 3. The field was a sea of mud, and taking this into consideration, the players handled themselves well. The entire contest was played during a drizzling rain, which at the end of the second chapter, was so disagreeable that the players, notwithstanding their being webfoots, were forced to take shelter in the grandstand for about fifteen minutes. Havernicht the local slasher was in fine form, although he issued four passes to the initial sack. He also showed up well in the fielding game, and at the end of the season, had one put out and seven assists to his credit. Kelt the other member of the miniature battery played his share of the game in grandstand style. Broughton, another man whose head is in no danger of striking the clouds, pitched for the wanderers, and was steady in all innings but the fifth, when he was touched for two two-baggers and a single. The Nomads started the scoring in the third canto. Broughton reached first on a fielder's choice and went to second on Burke's duplicating his performance. Burns the next man up, hit to Sater, and although the local shortstop stopped it, the slippery condition of the ground brought him to his knees, causing him to throw wild to Kruger, and allowing Broughton to register. A moment later, Ray reached first on Havernicht's error and Burke scored on the same play. Guild made the desired connections of a double, bringing in Burns. Ray was put out at the plate while trying to score, and Patterson ended the inning, and also the scoring for the visitors on his grounder to Havernicht. The Paper-makers also "got busy" in their half of the third. Sater reached first on Burns' error, stole second and went to third on Northwick's hit to left. Van also stole second. Kruger hit to short, and the ball was whipped to the plate, retiring Sater, and allowing the fast little third sacker to rest on the initial sack. Kelt was issued a pass to the first station and all on bases moved up a notch. With the bases full, Chapin smashed the spheroid between center and left, scoring all three, and himself resting on the keystone cushion when the second baseman dropped a thrown ball. Hill and Adams were retired, and the inning passed into the archives of the Tri-City League. Kruger started matters in the fifth by tapping a hot one over second, landing him on first, and he was advanced to third by Kelt's two sacker. Chapin was struck by the pitcher, filling the bases. Hill flew out to left, and the trio on bases were brought in by Adams, who smashed a two bagger into right field.

Griffith and Havernicht ended the scoring, the former hitting to short and the latter striking out. The score: Oregon City ... 0 0 3 0 3 0 0 0 6 Hits 0 0 2 1 3 0 0 0 3 Albina 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0 3 Hits 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 2

Base Ball Notes.

Ennon Califf and Charley Moore are making good with the Aberdeen Black Cats of the Northwest league. Both players are stars in their positions.

McCredie's pitching staff will include Kinsela, Groom, Garrett, Indian Pinnance and Chubby Pernoll. Portland is strong in the box. Babe Danzig is reputed to be a second Hal. Chase and is hitting the ball at a terrific rate.

Columbia University is at the top of the ladder in the Portland interscholastic race.

John Shea, a product of the Tri-City, is said to be making good with Tacoma in the Northwest league. Shea caught for the Vancouver team in their opening games here.

Boise, Idaho, will probably organize a Twilight City league.

Claude Schmeer, who was formerly with Portland in the Coast League and with Helena in the Northwest league, will cover short stop for the West Portland team.

MUSIC AT CHAUTAUQUA.

Summer School at Oregon City and Gladstone Park.

Plans have been worked out by Secretary H. E. Cross, of the Willamette Valley Chautauqua Assembly, and Dr. R. A. Heritage, dean of the school of music of Willamette University, and musical director of Chautauqua, for the Chautauqua Music School for the Summer of 1908. The school will open June 22 in Oregon City for a two weeks' session, and will then be transferred to Gladstone Park, where it will continue until July 18. The course is free to members of the Chautauqua chorus and the opera, and the first two weeks will be used in getting ready for the opening concert, at which time the operette, "Rose of Savoy", and the comic opera "Trial by Jury" will be given. A class in applied music will meet every morning at 9 o'clock, and one lecture and one recital will be given each week. On July 7 the regular music classes will begin and meet in Gladstone Park on the following schedule: 8 a. m., Chautauqua Chorus; 9 a. m., Sight Voice Culture; 9:40 a. m., General Voice Culture; 10:20 a. m., Elementary Harmony Class; 11 a. m., Applied Music in Class. This is the fifth season that Dr. Heritage has conducted the music at Gladstone Park.

Letter List

Letter list for week ending April 17. Jackson, Miss Ida; Baker, W.; Childers, Johnny; Davis, Harry B.; Jones, Ira; Leary, John; Manderscheid, Tom; Rich, J.; Smith, Frank; Titeria, H.; Ward, Geo. A.

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25c

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