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Sprinkling common road dust on young pear and cherry trees will destroy the slugs that feed on the leaves.

There is no machine on record that seems calculated to work more perfectly than the stomach of a small boy when apples are green and the swimmer's good.

There isn't much excuse for the small boy having a gun, but with one of the latest air guns that have been put out he can make a pretty effective campaign against the sparrow tribe.

Kansas farmers are provided against an outbreak of hog cholera in view of the fact that 1,000,000 cubic centimeters of the cholera serum are on hand at the State Agricultural college.

Scientific farming in a broad sense is merely the application of brain power rather than brawn—and the letting of one's head, so far as may be possible, save labor for hands and feet.

Milo maize belongs to the corn family and possesses both as to stalk and grain about the same feeding qualities. For this reason the milo maize is suitable for silage purposes the same as is corn.

There is nothing that will clean up a weedy pasture or meadow in shorter order than a flock of sheep. They will forage chiefly on vegetation that is useless or worse than useless and convert it into meat.

A rickety fence is a bit expensive when, as in an instance reported in a country paper the other day, thirteen horses were killed outright by getting on to a railroad right of way and being run down by a fast night train.

It is well for those interested in growing alfalfa to remember that if a piece of land has once grown alfalfa it retains the nitrogen-fixing bacteria for a period of from four to six years after the crop has been plowed up.

In one locality with which the writer is familiar, where many pieces of clover were killed out as a result of last summer's drought, a field of alfalfa has at present a fine stand and bids fair during the season to exceed the three ton yield of last year.

Not only do the Buff Orpingtons have broad breasts and yellow skins, but they attain a good size, the cock birds often reaching a weight of thirteen pounds. Besides this, the fowls are quiet and docile, and the hens make the best of mothers.

The Ontario Agricultural college has a plan in operation whereby it furnishes the services of a drainage expert free for laying out a drainage system for any farmer who will pay his ear fare, and for this the roads of the province charge but a cent a mile. The method outlined is one that has a great deal to commend it.

Many a farmer will this summer be helped out in the rush of work by young men who are taking courses at their state agricultural schools, and it is fair to assume that in a majority of instances these farmers will be well served. The students referred to are not only industrious and willing to work, but what is more, are interested in farm work and problems. If you can get hold of one of these lads give him a chance.

There are three tools that every orchardist who has the care of any considerable number of fruit trees should have—namely, the pruning shear which will clip a limb an inch in diameter with ease, the small one hand shear for snipping small twigs and the swivel pruning saw, the narrow blade of which will saw at right angles to the frame when inserted between two limbs close together. The writer has used all three of these tools and has found them a most satisfactory combination.

The first half year of the great International egg laying contest which is being held under the supervision of the Missouri State Agricultural college closed May 1, and some interesting results have been noted. The first prize for best performance of five pullets in egg production was won by a pen of Barred Rocks belonging to O. E. Henning of Mead, Neb. The five pullets laid 137 eggs in twenty days. One week during the period each of the five laid an egg every day of the week, while one laid an egg every day for forty-seven consecutive days. Since the close of the first six months a pen of Black Orpingtons have taken the lead in number of eggs produced, and the Brown Leghorns are fast coming to the front.

According to figures lately published by the census bureau at Washington, the United States produced in 1909 over 900,000,000 pounds of butter, valued at \$405,000,000. In the year for which the figures are given Wisconsin led in butter production, and Iowa was a close second.

It's a sort of strain on the eternal fitness of things to see a woman who ought to be wheeling a baby cab leading one of those little white woolly dogs at the end of a pink string, but one stage more ridiculous than this is seeing a man tipping the scales at 180 pounds doing the same thing.

The primary election system will not make vicious men clean and patriotic or take slyguard voters by the nape of the neck and haul them to the polls, but it will give those citizens who do exercise the right of suffrage a fair and unobstructed chance to express their political preference in the matter of selecting candidates.

A patch of sunflowers will not only furnish the flock of hens refreshing shade during the hot summer days, but the seed from the ripe heads will furnish a most welcome change during the moulting season. If a liberal amount of earth is taken up with the roots the plants may be reset in the backyard after they have reached a height of from eighteen to twenty-four inches.

Where one wishes to force production of strawberries nitrate of soda makes a fine fertilizer. In applying it is best to remove the conner lumps and then sift the remaining portion with a fine sieve so as to remove the powder. The remaining fertilizers will be granular in form, and this should be sprinkled over the plants when the leaves are dry, and any particles remaining on the leaves should be brushed off with a feather duster or old broom.

The many precautions uttered in the matter of the unusual need of testing all seed corn planted, owing to the poor condition of much of the supply saved for seed last fall, seem to have resulted in a stand that in many sections of the corn belt is better than it has been for years. The mere fact that care was exercised in this particular will mean a difference of hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars in the crop that will be harvested next fall.

In the case of both alfalfa and clovers a better quality of hay will be secured if it is cut in the forenoon, left in the windrow until mid-afternoon or a little later, when it should be put in cocks of about eighty pounds each and covered with a hay cap. Under these conditions the hay will cure in four or five days. One advantage of this method lies in the fact that the hay does not become so brittle as when exposed several hours to a bright sun, and hence far fewer leaves break off.

A tract of small apple trees that the writer saw the other day bore persuasive evidence of the fact that it is a physical impossibility for an orchard to serve as a fruit producer and a calf and horse pasture at the same time. The trees were barked and had had the leaves browsed off, and the soil was getting packed and hard from the tramping of the stock. If this condition continues the money put into these trees at the start, as well as any care given them since, will have been the same as thrown away.

The department of agriculture at Washington, under direction of Secretary Wilson and Dr. Galloway, head of the bureau of plant industry, has started in the northern states the "demonstration farm" work which has gone so much for southern agriculture in recent years under the supervision of the late Dr. Knapp. While a smaller appropriation was asked for, a total of \$300,000 has been appropriated by the present congress for this farm demonstration work in northern and southern states. The service rendered along this line has been of inestimable benefit to southern farmers, and there is reason to believe that it will be alike beneficial to the farms of the north.

In view of the high prices prevailing for most of the things we eat, it is interesting to note a menu that was served by a domestic science class of the Oregon Agricultural college on the occasion of a recent visit of Dr. Lane, a representative of the United States department of agriculture. The cost for serving six people was \$2, and this covered every expense. The repast consisted of fruit cocktail, creamed peas, lamb chops, rolls, rice, potatoes, asparagus, a salad of cucumbers, radishes, pimentos and nuts in little boats made by hollowing out the cucumbers, with mayonnaise dressing, a lemon sherbet, cheese straws and strawberry shortcake.

It is remarkable in how short a time the trees about the house will fairly swamp it in shade. For this reason they should be kept trimmed up, and if the trees are too thick as they increase in size some of them should be taken out. Shade is all right in its place, but too much of it is a good deal worse than too much sunshine. In fact, from the standpoint of health, there could not be too much of the latter. One summer some seasons ago the writer remembers an instance of a house that was so surrounded with shade and conditions about and in it so damp that books mildewed on the shelves. Abundant sunshine is needed to overcome just such conditions as this.

THE THINNING OF FRUIT.

Those who are engaged in the fruit growing business in a serious way—for profit rather than pastime—consider the thinning of fruit as essential a part of the enterprise as pruning, spraying and cultivation. In times past, when in many an apple orchard the fruit was shaken off the tree or knocked off with a rake or pole, the points of quality and size of fruit were not so important, and the thinning of it was therefore quite superfluous. But in these later days, with box fruit retailing at from \$1.50 to \$4 per box, quality is of prime consideration, and thinning is made necessary. The thinning process not only results in a larger and more uniform size of fruit, but makes it possible to eliminate in the process fruit that is defective or injured. Besides this, it relieves the trees of an overload and makes it easier to get them into the annual bearing habit. The work of thinning should be done when the apples are about an inch in diameter, and they should not be left on the trees nearer than seven inches apart. This will seem pretty thin just after the job is done, but when the apples are full grown the trees will have all they should bear. It is quite natural the first time the job is done to remove only about half of the fruit that needs throwing on the ground, with the necessity arising later of doing the job again when the apples are half grown. What is said above of apples applies with equal force to peaches and pears, with the exception that the latter fruits need thinning to but from four to six inches, depending somewhat upon the size of the variety.

THE BORDEAUX MIXTURE.

No spray has proved so satisfactory for checking potato blight as the Bordeaux mixture. This is made by slaking carefully, so it will not bake and lump, five, ten or more pounds of fresh stone lime. The equivalent of five pounds of the lime in its original form should then be diluted so as to make half a barrel of limewater. Next dissolve five pounds of blue vitriol in four or five gallons of water, and after diluting the amount dissolved in about twenty-five gallons of water add slowly to the lime solution, stirring carefully the while. It is well—in fact, necessary—to have the lime in excess in the solution so that it will not burn the foliage of the plants. To determine this take half a pint of the solution as made after thorough stirring and add a few drops of prussiate of potash (a deadly poison, which will throw a chocolate brown precipitate if the lime is not in excess. If this should be the case enough more lime solution should be added so that this precipitate will not be formed. If it is desired to hit the potato bugs at the same spraying commercial arsenate of lead should be added to the solution at the rate of two and a half pounds to fifty gallons. During the spraying operation the solution should be kept stirred every few minutes.

A GREAT STRAWBERRY CENTER.

Judsonia, Ark., is one of the great strawberry shipping points of the south. The business there is run on a stock company basis so far as the marketing end of it is concerned. The association includes 340 stockholders, and the tracts which these have in berries vary in size from a few rods square to forty acres. In 1911 the berries produced by the members sold for \$300,000. And on May 13 of the present season the berries marketed represented a cash value of over \$19,000, the prices ranging from \$2.50 for the best grades to 82 cents per crate for the lowest grade. The soil of the district is light and sandy and is free from stones. The crop rotation followed by the best growers is cowpeas, potatoes or oats and strawberries. The land is given a liberal application of fertilizers rich in potash and phosphorus.

BUTTER FAT AND FILTH.

When the small sample of cream contained in the Babcock testing tube at a creamery is so odorous that it offends the nostrils at a distance of several inches it is high time for the butter-maker or manager to inquire into the conditions existing on the farm from which this cream comes which are responsible for the smell. It is highly important that the Babcock test should be used to determine the per cent of butter fat of the cream contributed by different patrons, but it is just as important that the cream furnished should be produced under conditions which will insure its being sweet and clean. There is a whole lot of missionary work to be done along this line, and there is especial need of it in those localities served by gathered cream factories.

SHOULD HAVE ONE.

There is no reason under the sun why the man who owns a quarter section farm and has money in the bank besides should not own an automobile. Both he and his wife and quite likely other members of the family have worked hard to acquire the property, and it is entirely fitting that they should take this method of realizing some tangible pleasure and comfort from the result of their labors. They will be able to enjoy many a trip abroad, visit with neighbors and friends more often than before, and, besides this, the very change that the automobile will give them will serve to make the farm and its various interests no less attractive.

*J. E. Trigg*



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