



Working Poultry and Strawberries.

When one speaks of poultry in connection with any low-growing plant most people can see only the scratching birds and the ruined plants, but the combination has been and is being profitably carried out. If one selects one of the larger breeds of hens for this combination the scratching part of the proposition will be reduced to a minimum, and if the fowls are not required to obtain their entire living from the patch of strawberry plants, they will do comparatively little damage. It is, of course, understood that the fowls are not allowed on the patch until after the fruit has been gathered, but from that time until they go into winter quarters they will be exceedingly useful, for they will take good care of all the insects, do little damage in the way of scratching which can be readily repaired by going over the plot each day, and their droppings will add materially to the richness of the plot. If the plantation covers a considerable area it will be a good plan to have several small colony houses on the plot so that the hens may have their own quarters and thus work over a smaller area. The profit from this combination is good, and neither will interfere with the other, especially if the fowls are raised for egg production. Try it on a small scale and increase as experience proves it pays.

Keepsake Gooseberries.

The main value of this recent introduction from the other side seems to lie in the fact that the variety is very firm, productive and ships well.



THE KEEPSAKE GOOSEBERRIES.

but whether it can be profitably grown over any considerable territory can only be discovered by experimenting with it. So far, in limited tests, it seems to be better than any other of the English varieties, but its quality is not nearly as good as the old favorite with American growers, the Downing. It shows less tendency to mildew than other European varieties, although it is doubtless susceptible to that disease. It is not advised to plant this variety largely without first testing it through several seasons.

New Seed Wheat Treatment.

J. H. Wright, a farmer residing near Hennessey, O. T., has made a valuable discovery that will be of general interest to wheat growers everywhere.

He soaks his seed wheat in coal oil, using about one-half gallon to every twenty bushels of wheat, covering it over with a blanket and letting it soak over night. He found it equally effective with corn, using one-half teacup to a washtub of corn. He finds that it not only preserves the cereal from rotting, but preserves it from insects. Mr. Wright has practiced this for more than three years, and his yield has been a great deal more than that of those who had better soil for planting.

Much Needed Sweet Potato.

A sweet potato that will keep as well as the white potato is what Professor E. J. Wickson, of the department of agriculture of the University of California, thinks he has discovered. It was picked up in the Ladrone Islands by a skipper, who took aboard a lot of excellent flavored sweet potatoes last April, and, finding them still in good condition upon his recent arrival in San Francisco, gave specimens of them to Professor Wickson. They will be propagated in the hope of working in the commercial world of potatoes a revolution that will be worth many millions of dollars to California and a boon to mankind.

Cut-Worms on Wheat.

Reports from Canadian and Kingfisher counties state that wheat is being seriously damaged by cut-worms. The entomologist of the Oklahoma experiment station has visited fields where the worms are at work, and recommends spraying a strip of the wheat just ahead of the worms with paris green at the rate of one pound to 100 gallons of water. The spraying should be done while the worms are feeding on the wheat, and, of course, no stock should be allowed to pasture on the sprayed wheat.

A Hotbed for an Amateur.

A more ambitious method than that of growing his early flowers in boxes, kept in the house, may be tried by the amateur gardener who is also an amateur carpenter. A hotbed may be built at small expense. Old window sash, or a single sash purchased cheaply, and four boards, one inch thick and one and one-half feet wide, may be put together to form the hotbed, the boards being used for the walls.

Warm stable manure should be put in the bottom, from one-half to three-fourths of a foot deep, and firmly pressed down. The bed should be well drained. Light soil, to a depth of one or two inches should be spread over the manure and after one or two days, when the temperature is cooled down to 70 or 80 degrees, the bed is ready for use.

The plants, in pots or boxes, should be put in the bed. The boxes may be prepared as for indoor use, with ordinary garden soil at the bottom, and lighter soil on top. Large holes should be left to drain the box. The fine seed should be sprinkled on the surface, and fine soil sprinkled over it, and the coarse seed sown in drills, or pressed down into the soil, and covered with a thin layer of earth. The soil should be gently sprinkled with water as soon as the seed is planted and kept moist, without becoming soggy.

The hotbed should be shaded from the hot sun, but there should be plenty of light. The cover of the bed should be kept on until the seedlings have started to make good growth. On warm spring days the plants should be given fresh air by raising the sash slightly.

Points on Pruning Shrubs.

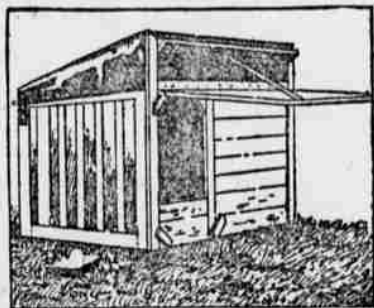
If those who have shrubbery on their grounds would but remember the simple fact of the period of bloom and that blossoms come on the new growth they would remember when to prune. The blossoms on the spring-blooming shrubs are formed on the wood that was grown after the blooming season of a year ago, hence if these shrubs are pruned in the spring we simply cut off the flower-bearing shoots and no flowers are had. The time to prune spring flowering shrubs is just after they have stopped blooming, so they may have the rest of the summer in which to grow the flower shoots for another spring. The fall-blooming shrubs should be pruned in the spring, for they will then grow the flower shoots for the coming fall period of bloom. One can see how simple it is if they will but remember.

Water and Solids in Milk.

When the cream or fat is removed every 100 pounds of skim milk contain about 90 per cent of water and 10 per cent of solids. The solids contain about 3.5 per cent of casein and 4.5 per cent of milk sugar, with small proportions of fat and albumen as the fat cannot be entirely removed. The milk sugar remains in the whey when it separates and the casein in the curds or cheesy matter, though both contain small percentages of fat, albumen, etc. The whey will promote the formation of fat, while the curds supply the elements for growth and muscle. It will be an advantage to feed the two substances together, adding bran and season lightly with salt. If the skim milk becomes very sour and begins to ferment it should not be used at all. The proper plan is to use the skim milk when fresh or but slightly sour.

A Turkey Coop.

A turkey coop which has been used with perfect satisfaction is described in American Agriculturist as having



several distinct advantages over ordinary coops. It is built out of a large packing case. At the top is a ventilator. Suspended by a cord is a drop door of close boards and beneath this is an ordinary door partly of wire netting. Each is hinged and can be opened independently. On cold nights ventilator and drop door may be closed, on ordinary nights the ventilator opened, on hot ones both. In warm weather the drop door suspended as shown in the cut forms a good shade for the birds.

Grass of the Lawn.

Where it is desired to thicken grass, or increase the variety in lawns or dooryards, much may be done by simply sowing seed. The sprouting will be favored by the shade of the grass, and the growth of the young plants by a frequent clipping, so that by late summer or before a good sod will be established. The principle is that cutting prevents shading the young grass and supplies it with sun and air, thus giving it an equal chance with the old grass, if the ground is rich enough, as it generally is in lawns and dooryards.

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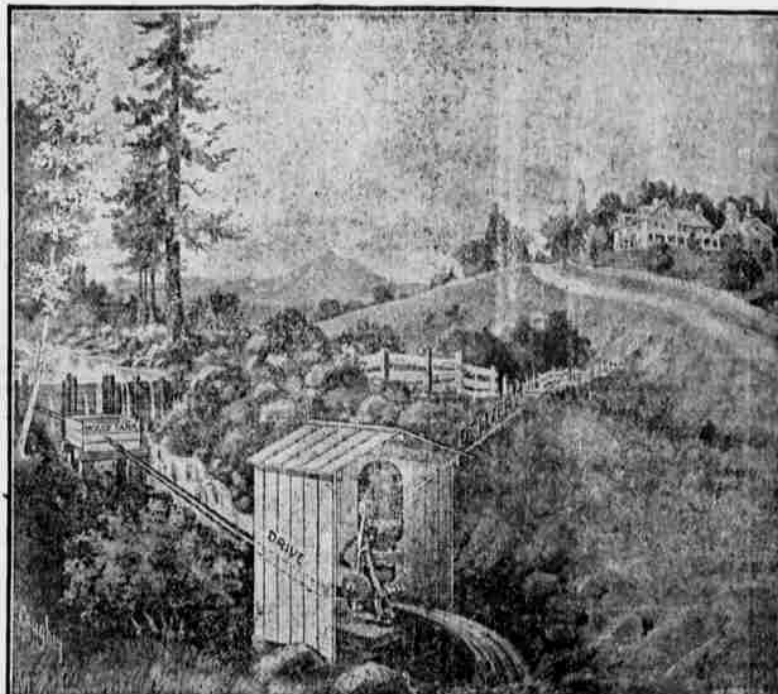
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