

HOME AND FARM.

Ought Shingle Roofs to be Painted?

If it is an economical practice to paint any other part of an architectural structure, most assuredly it is a commendable practice to paint shingles. We never could understand why certain builders have persisted in advocating not to paint shingles, except we judge them to be influenced by mercenary motives.

The house in which the writer was born was covered with shaved pine shingles in the year 1805, at which time the roof received a generous coat of oil-paint, made of linseed-oil and Venetian red.

Some one once suggested that, if the roof is painted, the paint will cause the water to back up beneath the next course of shingles above, which will thoroughly saturate the two courses, and thus the decay of the roof will be hastened.

The true way to paint a roof is to apply paint of some kind to both sides of the shingles. It is quite as important that the under side of every shingle be covered with paint as the surface, to prevent the water from being drawn up between the courses by capillary attraction.

When it is not desirable to save the water for drinking, coal-tar is an excellent and cheap paint for preserving shingles, and it will pay well to smear a roof with this material once in four or five years.

An agricultural writer furnishes the following conundrums for farmers to consider: Farms and farm hands, with the present prices, are poor property, and return a small interest; but, remembering Portland, Chicago, and Boston, and remembering that there is not a town of 16,000 inhabitants that may not be swept out of existence in a night, and remembering there is no absolute and everlasting investment but in the soil, is not three per cent, in perpetuity better than six or even ten per cent, in the unstable commodities of brick and mortar, bonds and mortgages, insurance policies, and warranty deeds, which warrant nothing at all?

POULTRY YARD.

Feeding Fowls.

Where there is a family, and consequent consumption, there are many auxiliaries, such as bread crumbs, groats that have been used for gruel, etc. But it must be borne in mind that these are in the place of other food, and not in addition to it.

No plan is so extravagant or so injurious as to throw down heaps once or twice a day. They should have it scattered as far and wide as possible, that the birds may

be longer and healthier employed and not hurriedly make way with, in a few minutes, that which should occupy them for hours. For this reason every sort of feeder or hopper is bad. It is the nature of fowls to take a grain at a time, and to pick grass and dirt with it, which assist digestion; but if, contrary to this, they are enabled to eat corn by mouthfuls, their crops are overfilled, and they seek relief in excessive draughts of water.

Asiatic Fowls.

Having devoted much time during the past twenty-five years to the careful breeding of poultry, experimenting with nearly every known variety, I am fully convinced that the light Brahmas and Partridge Cochins excel all others in the production of eggs and as market-fowls. In keeping a very few birds for family use, the smaller varieties may do well; but for breeding extensively for profit, I find them too fastidious, weakly when young and too small for profitable market-fowls.

TALLOW AS A CURE FOR GAPS.—One day I noticed a flock of eleven pure bred Crevecoeur chickens very bad with what is called "gaps."

Breaking up ten acres @ \$6 \$ 60
700 lb seed per acre 140
Plowing after planting 20
Water for irrigation 20

THE SHEEP FOLD.

Mutton Sheep.

The taste for mutton is growing among American consumers of meat. Farmers, too, are learning that a fat sheep is a very convenient source of meat during the summer season instead of the hitherto inevitable salt pork or bacon.

Every gardener has experienced the same trouble with seeds put up for sale. That there are honest dealers in garden seeds is beyond dispute, but so great is the demand upon them that it is almost impossible for them to supply the home demand.

MARKING SHEEP.—For marking, any good linseed oil paint will be permanent, but on the dark surfaced Merinos the principal color should be "Venetian red." This will show at all seasons of the year. It is better to mix Japan varnish with the paint, as it will wear better.

STATISTICS show that there were in 1871 about 32,000,000 sheep in the United States, yielding an average of four pounds of wool each, or 128,000,000 pounds in the aggregate. In addition, the annual importation of wool amounts to about 70,000,000 lbs., at a cost of \$10,000,000.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Potato Culture in the Mountains.

The Amador Ledger puts forward potato culture as worthy the attention of those who want profitable employment. It says:

If men are disposed to labor, a true source of revenue will result from intelligent mountain cultivation. To illustrate our proposition, let us inquire what can be produced say on ten acres of mountain land. Potatoes being of prime necessity and never a drug in the market, we will inquire what the labor of one man may be made to produce in that article alone.

From careful inquiry of men who have had experience in the cultivation of potatoes in the mountains above us we are assured eight tons to the acre can be reasonably calculated upon with fair labor and necessary irrigation. Taking this as correct, ten acres would yield 80 tons. Mountain potatoes have never sold in our market for less than \$50 per ton, and most generally at \$60; and we would be safe in saying all that could be produced would bring two cents per pound, or \$40 per ton.

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Save Your Own Seed.

After the seeds are carefully dried, pick over such of them, like corn, squash, melons, cucumbers, pumpkins, beans, peas, and the like, and select those that are the most perfect and plump.

PLANT OPTER.—A good rule to insure success in getting a good stand of tender crops is to plant often. Take, for example, melons, squashes, cucumbers, Lima beans, and such other products as may be desirable to start early, and which often fail when planted early, and apply the rule at the head of this article, and success would be certain.

AN examination of the amount of gaseous constituents in samples of deep sea water obtained during the Porcupine expedition of 1869-70, showed that both surface and bottom water the more southern than in the more northern latitudes, the examinations thus made embracing samples taken from localities extending from the Faeroe Islands to Lisbon.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Saving Flower Seeds.

Though the gathering of seeds reminds us that the beauty of the flower is gone, it is a pleasing occupation, because it promises us pleasure for another year. As a usual thing it is better to depend upon the seedsmen for your supply, but if you have very fine flowers, choose two or three plants and pick off all the side buds, sending the whole strength of the plant into two or three blossoms at the most; frequently one is quite enough.

A lady can make a small cabinet of paste-board, with as many drawers in it as there are letters of the alphabet, and as she ties up the packets, each can be put into its corresponding drawer; or a paper bag with each letter of the alphabet marked upon it, can hold the seeds until desired for planting.—Every Woman Her Own Flower Gardener.

PLANTS FOR THE WINDOW.—The selection of plants for winter window vases depends essentially upon which side is to be the point of view. If chiefly from the outside, large leaves and large colors show best, such as bulbs, or well grown foliage plants, as begonias, etc., kept under glass shades to preserve the necessary air moisture, with the warmth which they require.

CARE OF HOUSE PLANTS.—A lady in Kansas gives her plan of caring for house plants as follows: "I live in a frame house, and last winter kept fifty pots of different kinds of geraniums, roses, fuchsias, and remnant pinks, all of which received the same kind of treatment, and in the spring my plants were more healthy and the leaves a dark green color.

TRAINING PETUNIAS.—A writer in the London Garden says that a fine effect is obtained by this method of training petunias. He procures a number of hazel rods, each about two feet long, bends them like hoops, and drives both ends into the bed, placing them at suitable intervals all over it.

DIAMOND SAW.—At the American Institute Fair a diamond saw is at work in the machinery department, in the form of a neatly built iron model, one-fifth the size of the more numerous wooden apparatus. The blade, it will be remembered, cuts through the stone by means of carbons or black diamonds which are securely set along its edge.

MILK for butter-making should be handled gently, and put at rest as soon as possible. A reduction of temperature is desirable as soon as the milk is drawn; this should be effected with the least amount of stirring. The more it is stirred the less will be the yield of cream.

THE ORCHARD.

The Cracking of Fruit by Rain.

Almost every one, says an exchange, has noticed that juicy fruits such as plums, peaches, grapes, tomatoes, etc., will be cracked by a rain. The phenomenon has been of painfully frequent occurrence the past season, and the losses to some growers have on this account been heavy. The cracking has been explained in various ways, but we think it is properly attributed by Bousingault to osmose.

For Canning Fruit.

I use mostly glass cans, says A. B. Rogers, knowing they are cheapest and best; cheapest because the cost at first is but little more than for tin ones, and they can be used for a succession of years just as good as the first, while tin cans can be used with safety but one year. The glass cans are better, because we can see every day just how the fruit is keeping; and if any show signs of not keeping good, we can use them first. We often hear people say if the top of the fruit in the can moulds, and forms a thick, solid coating over the fruit, the fruit will not ferment or work, as it is often called, but the flavor of the fruit is injured very much.

KEEPING APPLES.—A correspondent of the Cultivator states that he kept 1,200 bushels of apples, mostly Baldwins, through the past winter and spring in his cellar. He claims that by his mode apples may be kept the year round, without losing their juiciness or crispness. His theory is that the early rotting and decay of apples is due, to a great extent to a vegetable miasma in the air, which is communicated to it by vegetable evaporation under certain conditions.

CARE OF SCIONS.—A writer who is a grafter by profession, says the most successful method he has found to keep scions in a fresh, healthy state is, to layer them down in good, clean sand, slightly damp. He says they do far better than placing the ends in the earth or layering in the sand.

THE TROFSKI.—The early bearing habit, hardiness, early ripening, beauty and fair quality of the fruit, are thought sufficient to render the Trofski worthy of being more extensively planted than in time past.

WRITING MACHINES.—After all, we are inclined to think that the real solution of this problem of rapid and easy writing will be mechanical rather than alphabetic. It is the pen that is inadequate to the work that needs to be done. As an instrument the pen may be perfect of its kind, as the common sewing-needle is perfect. Neither pen nor needle is likely to be ever done away with wholly; yet both fail alone to meet the increasing demands of our quick-moving civilization.

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