

Horticultural.

Clover.

We cannot urge too frequently upon farmers the paramount importance of this greatest and best of hay crops, which, all things considered, has no rival. As a soiling crop, it is vastly superior to any other that has yet been tested. For improving worn and wasted lands, giving rest to that which has been overworked and restoring life and vitality to that from which fertility has been exhausted, next to the pea it has no equal in all the countless experiments made by practical and scientific research; and with all of its many excellencies and rare merits, there is no crop so universally neglected. A wheat, rye or oat field should never be sown without seeding to clover. If either should produce only a partial crop, the clover, if it "catches," will make good all losses and in any event, the benefit to the land, derived from the clover, will amply repay for the extra cost and labor.

In addition to seeding wheat, rye and oat crops to clover, we would also urge that clover be liberally mixed with all other grass crops for the meadow. It goes well with any and all of them and it is a benefit in every instance.

We consider spring seeding the best and safer, as when sown in the fall it may not get sufficiently rooted to stand the freezes of winter. Our experience, if it is desired to seed down to a wheat field, is to wait until the ground is settled in the spring and the hard frosts have passed, then sow six or eight quarts of clover seed and four quarts of timothy well mixed, followed by harrowing and then roll the ground. When the clover plant begins to leaf, sow 200 pound of plaster to the acre. With oats the same quantity of seed should be used, but after the oats are dragged in, immediately put on the roller, which is beneficial to both oats and clover. The application of plaster must not be omitted, as it is of special benefit to the oats on dry land. Clover roots strike deep and bring up the fertility of the sub-soil. It is considered one of the best crops in the rotation to keep up the land. In most cases the first crop is cut for hay and the next crop plowed under in the green state. The roots of well established clover contain more weight of dry matter than the crop above ground, and this is the reason for the increase in fertility by plowing under. Let the farmer neglect the clover crop.—Nashville Southern Industries.

Early Peas.

There are two distinct classes of peas, those with small round seeds and others with much larger, irregularly shaped peas, the surface of which is wrinkled. The wrinkled seeded, or marrowfat peas, are as much better than the others as sweet corn is superior to field corn. The round peas, while not so good, are much harder and earlier than the others. Unless the soil is warm and they germinate quickly, wrinkled peas will decay before they can come up. The round peas are vastly better than no peas, and are very acceptable until the others come. To have early peas they must be sown early—the earlier the better. After the soil has thawed for the first four inches, even if it is solid below, sow peas. If the ground was manured and plowed last autumn, all the better; if not, select the richest available spot and open a drill four inches deep. Peas should be covered deeper than most other seeds. For varieties see Early Kent is one of the best; it has almost as many names as there are dealers. Daniel O'Rourke is one of the names of a good strain of this pea. Carter's first crop is another good variety, and every spring new extra early sorts are sent from England, which usually turn out to be the old Early Kent with a new name. The peas should be sown in the bottom of the drill rather thickly, at least one every inch, and at first covered with about an inch of soil. It is well to put about four inches of coarse stable manure over the rows; this is to be left on in cold days, but when it is sunny and warm pull it off with the rake and let the soil over the peas, replacing it at night. When the peas sprout, gradually cover them with fine warm soil, placing the coarse manure over them as needed until the soil reaches the level of the surface. If a ridge of soil, a few inches higher than the peas, be drawn up on each side of the row, it will greatly protect them from cold winds. When the soil becomes dry and warm, the main crop of wrinkled peas may be sown.—American Agriculturist.

Pruning at Different Seasons.

Winter pruning should be practised only on hardy trees, except it be the removal of small twigs, which, if few, may be cut away at almost any time. Hardy bearing apple trees may safely have small branches removed at the present time, the cut surface soon drying, when paint or grafting wax may be used for covering the wound. It is better not to do all the work in a single year, if there is much to be done. The tree may remain a little one sided or dense headed for a year or two, till gradually brought into shape.

As to the best time, the same rule is not always to be applied to all places and circumstances alike. Many prefer early summer pruning, because the wounds soon heal over at that season, if large branches have not been cut away. This will answer well with young and vigorous growth, the check always given by the removal of much foliage not doing great harm. The result, however, from summer pruning is not always so favorable as at first it appears to be. This was tested some years ago by an orchardist in Iowa, who cut off a branch in every month in the year, and at the end of five years, when all had healed over, the wood on cutting into it was found the least decayed after the late winter pruning, and the most decayed after the early summer pruning; the latter being about three times as great as the former. In this case, the sudden check in the rapidly growing trees, by cutting away large limbs, to the flow of the sap through them, deranged the currents of sap in the wood, while it expended itself in a more rapid formation of new wood near the outside.—Country Gentleman.

Flax as a Fall Crop for Wheat.

In many parts of the West, flax is raised for the seed with profit, and since the introduction of flax machinery, the straw has become a marketable article. Flax seed is rich in phosphates of lime and magnesia, but aside from this, it takes but little from the soil. The straw being unglazed, it takes no soluble silica, and but little potash, from the soil. It is, therefore, a good preparation for a wheat crop. If ground is designed for seeding in wheat next fall, a flax crop may be put in as early in April as will be safe from the danger

of heavy frosts. Any good wheat ground will bring a paying crop of flax, if it be freed from weeds. The ground should be broken as early in the spring as it is in condition to be plowed. When the time has come to sow the surface should be leveled and well pulverized. If deep furrows or pits are left in the surface, the seeds, from their slippery character, will slide into these cavities and leave the elevations without any. About 30 pounds of good seed to the acre are sufficient, if the production of flax seed is the aim; if lint is the object, the amount of seed may be doubled. The flax crop is now generally cut by machinery, leaving a stubble on the ground about three inches high. From ten to twelve bushels of seed, and from a half to three fourths of a ton of straw per acre is a fair crop.—Farmers' Review.

Early Potatoes.

It will soon be time for putting in early potatoes, and the old favorite, early rose, still holds its place at the front. It may be inferior to some of the new varieties, but there is one thing in favor of the early rose that all will admit, and that is the usual certainty of the crop. There are but few exceptions regarding the reliability of the early rose, and it must be a very unfavorable season, indeed, when they do not reward the grower for his trouble. Another peculiarity is that when the tops are dead the potatoes are there, and this cannot be said of all others. The peach blow, which is a late variety, first gives a very vigorous growth of vine, and forms the potato afterward. At times they show no signs of tubers until almost at the period of maturity of vine, and they seem to hurry on the tubers as if they had been forgotten. They are good keepers and are hard to beat as a late variety.

Regarding the new varieties it is best to procure only a pound for experiment. Try them side by side with established, well known varieties. The reason is that no farmer can recommend to another at a distance which is the more preferable variety, as soils and other conditions may not be the same.

Grafting the Grape Vine—A New Method.

We desire to have new varieties of grapes come quickly into bearing, but vines from nurseries are frequently tardy. Even a careful raising they will often droop and die, while a few buds cut off on arrival and properly grafted may produce fruit in a short time. Grafting cut out, underground, gnarly stumps of vines, as usually practiced, is very uncertain at best. Our method is to take a good strong branch or one of vine, or even a whole young vine when a change of fruit is desired, and whip the graft in the usual way. We then cover up the vine in the soil as near the roots as possible, leaving above ground only a bud or two of the graft. It is well known how quickly a layer will make a bearing vine, as it has the advantage of the parent roots as well as the roots it produces. The layer may be extended, if long enough, to grow where the vine is to remain. Vineyards may in this way be quickly changed to better varieties.—Exchange.

About Trees.

When a tree is taken up to replant it should always be marked, so as to replant as it first grew—the north side to the north. When planted in sandy or light soil, a clay basin bottom should always be put in first to hold the water, and then loam mixed with clay should be used for filling to cover the roots. "Three-fifths of the nourishment of a tree comes from the air," says a theorizer, which is a humbug. Girdle the tree and see how long it will live. "How that rain made the grass grow," is a very common expression. But such is not the fact. It forms a liquid solution of the fertilizing properties contained in the earth fertilizer, and the little, tender fibrous roots take it up, and then up springs the tender grass. Exhaust the soil of its entire fertilizing properties, and you would get no more grass. The tree draws its nourishment from its fibrous roots in the same way, and not from the air; and if you wish to keep your trees vigorous and healthy, remove the soil occasionally six or eight inches deep around the tree and replace it with rich, fresh dark loam. A tree requires a shower bath from rain or otherwise occasionally, as much as a man, to open its pores; and, like a man, when it has received the bath it gives off the pent-up heat in the body, and therefore the charming odor and fragrance inhaled is accounted for upon entering a forest immediately after a rain shower.

Setting Out Currant Cuttings.

The currant is so valuable a fruit, it is so readily grown and occupies so small a space of ground, that the wonder is that it is not cultivated on a much greater area than it is. It is true that it is being done on a much greater scale than formerly, still it falls far short of what it ought to be. In setting out the cuttings they should be taken, of course, of last year's wood. They can now be cut at any time and stuck in the ground an inch or two until the time for planting arrives, which is throughout April and the first half of May. They should be set in the ground about six inches around well pressed with the foot, watered when necessary, mulched when hot weather sets in. It will do every one ought to grow. But in getting ready the cuttings and wishing to raise most fruit, let all the eyes remain on it, as each will produce a bush; but if a small tree is desired cut out every eye beneath the surface, and you will get it, but not so much fruit, nor will the tree be so lasting. In planting the cutting just as taken from the parent bush, a branch or shoot will come from every eye, and the bush will last an almost indefinite period. If carefully set out, the cuttings will produce some fruit the succeeding year.—Germanous Telegraph.

The Son of a Farmer.

The always helpful "Aunt Addie" tells the true story of "the son of a farmer," who grew up into love for his father's occupation and prepared himself to worthily inherit and manage the paternal estate. "When a very little boy his father gave him a pig. This was a pet and special care, and when ready for market the money it brought was generously handed over to him. Then came a sensible discussion of how the money could be most profitably invested, and father was able to give good advice, which the boy cheerfully followed. The sum was invested in other live stock, with the understanding that the boy was to support them by his labor at odd spells. Thus an early lesson was given in financing on strictly business principles, the father affording every facility for carrying out the plans, and helping the boy along wherever it was suitable. The care of stock became the delight of his life. The steady increase of his capital went on until he became of age, when he found himself quite a forerunner in the farm stock which had contributed so generously to build up his little fortune."

Humor.

WINNING WIT AND WISDOM.

A country girl, coming from a morning walk was told she looked as fresh as a daisy kissed by the morning dew. To which she innocently replied: "You've got my name right—Daisy, but his isn't Dew."

A Toronto lady who would go to church, took from her dark closet what she thought to be her dolman. She hung the garment over her arm, and did not discover until she had thrown it over the pew in front of her that she had brought, by mistake, a pair of her husband's trousers.

A San Francisco woman advertises as follows: "For sale, two beautiful, snow-white, hysteric dogs, cheap." She was threatened with hysterics when she read this next morning: "Two beautiful, small, snow-white houses, dog cheap."

"It is not necessary for a man to be poor to be honest." Certainly not. But it seems sort of half-way necessary for a man to be poor if he is honest.

The president of a college was recently made a happy father, and the following morning at prayer in the chapel he introduced the rather ambiguous sentence: "And we thank Thee, O Lord, for the succor Thou hast given us," which caused a general smile to creep over the faces of the class.

Not long ago a new member of congress was invited to a dinner. He describes it thus: "There was nothing on the table when I got there but some forks and spoons and soup. As I didn't see nothin' else, I thought I'd eat all the soup I could, though soup is a mighty poor dinner to invite a fellow to. So I was fined four times; and then comes on the first dinner I ever seen, and there I set," groaned he, "chock full of soup!"

"Why, pa," said little Tooser, to Senior Alley, "here comes Mr. Jones into the house, and it has only just begun to sprinkle. Isn't it funny?" "Why so?" asked Mr. Jones, who overheard. "Why," said Tooser, looking up with a rapt countenance, "papa said yesterday that you didn't know enough to come in when it rained. Pa got left, didn't he?"

The "Pilgrim's Progress."

A little boy was deeply interested in reading the "Pilgrim's Progress," the characters in that wonderful book being all living men and women to him. One day he came to his grandma and said—"Grandma, which of all the people do you like the best?" "I like Christian," was the reply, giving the little boy her reasons. "Which do you like the best?" Looking up in her face with some hesitation he said slowly, "I like Christiana." "Why, my son?" "Because she took the children with her, grandma."

What the Twins Were Named.

"So you have got twins at your house?" said Mrs. Bezumbe to little Tommy Samuelson. "Yes, mam, two of 'em." "What are you going to call them?" "Thunder and Lightning." "Why, those are strange names to call children." "Well, that's what pa called them as soon as he heard they were in the house."

John Day Prairie, Wasco County Oregon.

D. H. Stearns in Oregonian. It is thirteen miles from Des Chutes bridge to the bridge across John Day's river on the O. R. & N. Co.'s Columbia river line. The two rivers are about equal in volume and in the extent of country drained. The Des Chutes come from the southwest and tumbles over a considerable fall in the Columbia. John Day's comes from the southeast and unites with the Columbia peacefully at the mouth of a deep canyon so narrow that the traveler must be alert to catch a glimpse of the river. I crossed it half a dozen times before I had seen it. It is nearly 200 miles to the source of either by its windings, and 100 miles from the Columbia as the crow flies. Either is a respectable stream. Between them from the Columbia, nearly to their source, lies a most beautiful bunch grass prairie, known as John Day's. It is just enough undulating to be seen. At its sides and northern end canyons cut down to the rivers. Three main wagon roads cross it—the old Walla Walla trail, from east to west, another from southeast to northwest, and the other from northeast to southwest. Almost the entire population of Oregon up to 1870 crossed John Day prairie by one of these roads. Yet no had thought of settling on it except a few who kept feeding stations on the trails, and no one lived near it except two or three men, who built bridges across John Day's or DesChutes rivers and cut roads down to them from the level of the prairie. The grade down to John Day bridge, the only one for 70 miles from its mouth, is four miles long and steep as could well be used. At Sherer's bridge across the Des Chutes, 30 miles from its mouth, the descent is 2,800 feet through a canyon six miles in length.

The whole prairie is covered with bunch grass, which grows, if unmolested, 18 or 20 inches tall. It bends in growth, is silvery green and darkest on the back. As the wind turns its long slender leaves the shades of bright and gray silver change and follow in endless waves. The Cascade mountains westward and the Blue mountains to the eastward vie in show of snow capped peaks. A dozen may be counted from almost any point.

Up to 1880 the prairie was a range for great herds of cattle and bands of sheep whose owners did not deign to live upon it or care to take title to the land.

A few venturesome settlers tried cultivation that year and were surprised at the fertility and productiveness of the soil. The year for land followed and still continues. It is not all taken yet, though unoccupied sections are several miles from the railroad. There are probably 500 families now on the prairie, nearly all farmers. Grant's station, nearly half way between Des Chutes and John Day's, is the most central and principal shipping point. An easy road comes down from the prairies through a canyon several miles long. One car load of wheat was shipped from the station in 1881, and notwithstanding the drought of last year, the most excessive for 20 years, eight car loads of wheat came down from the prairie. This year there is enough sown with present prospects, to produce 200 car loads. The grain is now from six to 16 inches high and looks remarkably fine. The soil produces not only wheat, but barley, oats, corn, potatoes and vegetables in wonderful crops. One man took up and hauled away 15 wagon loads

of carrots from one pound of seed—a whopper, but a Baptist preacher, who takes the Oregonian, told me of it and vouches for its truth. Beets, turnips and potatoes yield as remarkably. Corn matures well and has proved a safe crop. There is a great number of timber culture claims on which the requisite number of trees are growing finely. Wells have been sunk and an ample supply of water obtained. Fruit trees in one place, an old location made by the keep-r of a feeding station, are produced abundantly. School houses, churches and stores are already the nucleus of future villages. Larger than the State of New Jersey it could support by agriculture twice as large a population. That this is true is fully proven by practical tests during the last two years. Men of acknowledged business sense are investing large capital in lands. Five and even eight dollars per acre has been paid this year for the same raw prairie which two years ago could have been had for the taking. One man, a Californian, built a \$8,000 house last fall and began to plow his prairie afterward. Grant's, as the railroad station is named, or Villard, as the post office is called, is morally certain to grow into an important town. Stages now leave it daily for Goldendale and points in Kluckit and Yakima counties, W. T., and three times a week for points up the prairie. A steam ferry connects it with the embryo town of Columbus on the opposite bank of the Columbia. There is now a store, warehouse, two hotels and a blacksmith shop near the company's handsome station house. Another store and a harness shop are soon to be opened, but these are only a forerunner of a dozen more before the wheat is all shipped. I saw a farmer take \$100 in gold for a load of butter brought in at the store of Fox, Scott & Co. This firm handles a large amount of merchandise as forwarders for merchants to Goldendale, Yakima City and other points across the river, besides supplying the settlers with all needed articles. Trade from Canyon City and the south will be likely to find its way here soon, as roads looking to that result have been opened. Parties who desire to look at the country or visit it for business may be sure of excellent hotel accommodations with John Cooper, the station agent and keeper of the hotel.

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