

Farm and Garden

THE EUCALYPTUS FOR PROFIT

It Has Been Demonstrated That It is a Paying Crop.

By NORMAN D. INGHAM.

Eucalyptus planting has now passed the experimental stage and may be considered without question as a commercial proposition. The value of the crop and the possibilities of growing it in California have been sufficiently



GROVE OF EUCALYPTUS, END OF FIRST SUMMER.

demonstrated to make judicious plantings even on a large scale perfectly safe, with an assurance of sure and reasonably large profits. It is important, however, for the planter to consider in the light of the best information the nature of the product which he will produce, or, in other words, the market which he will attempt to supply with his eucalyptus trees.

Eucalypts may be used either for fuel or for hardwood lumber. For the former purpose the prevailing prices of wood in most of our cities and large towns during the past few years have been such as to make the fuel proposition appear extremely attractive. Many glowing prospectuses are being offered to the public on this basis. It should be remembered, however, that the production and use of natural oil are rapidly increasing, that gas and electricity for heating purposes are cheap in the cities and that all three are coming more and more into use every day in the place of wood. In fact, wood as fuel is rapidly becoming a luxury, and there is in the mind of the writer no reason for expecting any increase in its use as fuel by the general public. He therefore believes it unprofitable and unwise to enter upon eucalyptus planting with the sole idea of raising wood for fuel. The profits to be derived from eucalyptus in the future will be found in hardwood lumber for wagon work, farm and other implements, railroad, coach and house finishings, furniture, etc. Ties, telephone poles and bridge timber will also prove profitable. For any of the above named products of eucalyptus at least ten years' growth will be required, and of course the older the trees the greater the profits in proportion.

The wood of most of the eucalypts makes good fuel. A grove of blue gums five years old, set out 6 by 6 feet apart, under favorable conditions



EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS FOUR YEARS OLD, should yield from fifty to eighty cords of wood per acre, while at ten years of age 80 to 150 cords may be expected. Groves under irrigation will undoubtedly do better than the above figures indicate, while the quality of the land will also, of course, have a great influence.

Eucalyptus planting commercially has a number of points in its favor as an investment over the fruit industry, principally because the fruit business is more or less of an uncertainty, while the timber proposition is comparatively sure. A heavy rain during the blooming period of the fruit trees checks fertilization, a small crop being the result. This is not the case with the wood crop, where the more rain the greater growth and profits. The harvesting period of most fruits extends over but a few weeks, and if it is not gathered at that time the crop is a total loss, while, on the other hand, the harvesting period of the timber trees extends over a lifetime. The price of labor may be high or the value of the wood much lower than usual. If either is the case the trees may be allowed to stand. The following year they will be larger and more valuable.

Save the expense of buying asparagus plants. They are easily grown from seed.

The farmer will uphold one in trimming the overhanging limbs from trees growing just over the line on a neighbor's premises, but it does not give one the right to cut the trees down or strangle them so that they will die.

An interesting fact in connection with frog life is that if frogs are caught and put in boxes after they have sought their winter hiding places they will live for months without anything to eat, while if caught two or three weeks before the time mentioned they will starve to death.

The chief objection to be urged against the fall setting of fruit trees and shrubs seems to lie in the fact that when done at this time of year there is greater likelihood that the root system will tend to dry out and for this reason be less able to withstand extremely low temperatures during the winter months.

In the interior of Africa grows a tree from which a good quality of butter is produced. It resembles the American oak, and its fruit, from which the butter is derived, resembles the olive. One English traveler of note declared the butter produced from the tree was superior to any made in England from cow's milk.

Official statistics issued by the Japanese government report the rice crop for the year as an abundant one, exceeding the production of last year by over 18 per cent. The present year's crop totals 272,850,000 bushels and is valued at \$380,000,000. This means prosperity and good times for the little brown man the coming year, as rice is his cereal mainstay.

One of nature's strange creations is the vegetable tallow tree which grows near the Cape of Good Hope, in the Azores, as well as in Sumatra, Algeria and China. The tree is of small size, and it is from its berries that the oil is extracted from which the tallow is made. The berries are gathered in November and December after the trees have fallen.

The 250 egg hen is clearly a perversion of the purpose of Dame Nature, who doubtless originally intended that old Biddy should lay just about enough eggs to perpetuate her kind. Yet this perverted standard is one that the enterprising poultryman may work toward if he will use the trap nest, select as breeders only those hens which make the best showing and use intelligence in the care and feed which he gives his flock.

A noteworthy fact which came under the notice of an Iowa farmer who recently traveled some 200 miles in Wisconsin was that he did not notice a single field of corn in his trip which had not been cut up for silage or dry fodder. This state of affairs is traceable to the fact that the price of Wisconsin lands is such that the owners cannot afford to follow a slipshod type of agriculture and to the further fact that a majority of the farmers of the state are dairymen and utilize the corn plant as a valuable ration for their milk cows.

A fact that will be noted with much concern by farmers living in sections where quack grass is getting a foothold is that the pest will multiply from the seed contained in the apparently green grass at the time the oats are harvested. Tests made at the Iowa experiment station at Ames with quack grass seed taken from a bundle of oats showed that 8 per cent of the seed grew. The discovery of the above fact, while discouraging, will serve to emphasize the necessity of taking additional precautions to stamp out this worst of weed pests.

A dispatch appearing in the daily papers under date of Oct. 18 tells of an interesting jackrabbit drive which took place in Antelope valley, near Lancaster, Cal., a day or two before. Five hundred men, women and children are said to have formed a monster semicircle and driven 10,000 jacks into a wire corral half a mile in length and triangular in shape, where they were dispatched with clubs in fifty-seven minutes. The rabbits, which had been increasing with great rapidity, had culled a large part of the crop in the vicinity, and the drive was adopted as a relief measure.

Quite often the success of the country farmer's institute depends as largely upon conducting the discussions as to draw out the definite, practical experience of the farmers present or upon having lectures upon the different subjects by agricultural authorities of note. It is well to emphasize both features, but in no case should the former be neglected. We have known of instances where men were present in the audience on such occasions who were chock full of just the information that was wanted on a given subject, yet who, because of bashfulness or modesty, contributed nothing to the discussion. On the other hand, had the officers of the institute or the director asked the right kind of questions and called upon these men personally to reply the desired information would have been forthcoming and in a form that all present would have been able to comprehend. This Socratic method—the eliciting of information by questions and answers—is always excellent, and in no place is it more effective than in the farmers' institute.

J. E. Trigg

THE FARMER'S BOY.

In Many Instances He Has a Mistaken Idea of City Life.

The great trouble with country boys is that they are not aware of the circumstances, under which the city boy is compelled to live and work if he has to earn his living by the sweat of his brow. The idea held up to the country boy is to go to town and get a nice, easy, soft snap such as So-and-so has. How many of them do it? Not one in a thousand. Far more go there to find work in some close, stagnant mill, to sweat amid the fumes of steam or tobacco smoke, or perhaps in some iron mill or foundry, surrounded by the curses of their fellow men, toil out a weary day of eleven or thirteen hours and after the day is over go home—and to such a home! Up some little back street in a handbox built of brick and named a house more than likely our workman has his home, there to pass away the weary hours of the night amid the heat and stagnation of probably a filthy street only a few feet wide, hot, close and dirty. In any large city on some sultry night one may see the workmen and their families in these little narrow city streets stretched about the steps and pavements in all conditions. These are not slums either, but fairly respectable neighborhoods.

To such a condition of life many of our country boys have gone, and many more are today preparing to go. Fat pay and big pay envelopes? Not in these times. If our city laborer averages \$12 a week he is a lucky man. Tens of thousands get less rather than more. Country boy, before you make the change, in the name of that country you have been taught to hold in reverence, look and do not leap! If you understand farming there are just as many chances on the land to be worked out as there are in the city.

This is a great country, and if you do not like the kind of farming you are working at there are many others. If you belong to a family that follows the grind, grind system of all work and no play, when you reach your majority and start for yourself follow out an easier system. Do not condemn country life just because you have been unfortunate enough to be brought up in the home of a man who knows nothing but grind. Do not overlook the fact that if such a man was your boss in the city he would grind your life away. Long, long before you were twenty-one years old you would be occupying some six feet of green turf, where at last you would not hear the dreaded call and curse of the boss.

Country life may not be and probably is not what many would like to color it; but, all things being equal, it is far preferable to city life. That is just where it comes in. City life is never compared with country life on an equal plane. Remember that if you must work in the country for a living you will have to work in the city for one, too, and if you possess the ability in yourself to rise above the ordinary workman in the city that same ability will carve out a home for you in the country. Look before you leap, consider all things, and if you are sure you can better yourself in the city go; if not, stay on the old farm.

Plowing For Grape Leaf Hopper.

Plowing is sometimes done by California vineyardists during the winter season for the purpose of destroying the grape leaf hoppers. This is partly based upon the supposition that the eggs may be in the leaves or in the ground or that the adult hoppers are in some way killed in the operation. So far as having a direct effect in destroying the hoppers is concerned, plowing is of little avail. The only ones that will be killed are a few that may not be disturbed from their resting places among the leaves or otherwise accidentally buried by the plow. During the cold or rainy days there may be a few thus turned under, but ordinarily they are active enough to escape readily before the plow.

Plowing, however, may have an indirect effect on the hoppers by depriving them of food or of suitable sheltering places during unfavorable weather conditions, and if this practice is generally carried out in a neighborhood it will no doubt result in reducing the numbers somewhat. However, a field may be free from hoppers during the winter, but this is not necessarily an indication of freedom from spring infestation. The insects are more generally distributed in the winter season, but the bulk of them will usually be found in the vineyard or on the vegetation of the borders immediately



ADULT GRAPE LEAF HOPPER.

surrounding it. They may come in, therefore, from vineyards closely adjoining, so that plowing a single vineyard may be of little help. When the plowing is done in a single vineyard or over a small area it is likely to result simply in driving them into other fields where there is a better food supply. Once in these other situations they may or may not come back into the vineyard where they were originally.



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NORTH BEND OREGON

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Favorite leaves Coquille 7:30 a. m.; arrives at Bandon 10:30 a. m.
Coquille leaves Coquille 9:30 a. m.; arrives at Bandon 11:30 a. m.
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