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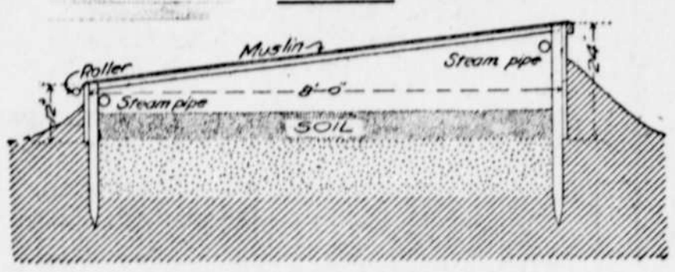
FRAMES ARE BIG FACTOR IN GROWING TRUCK GARDEN STUFF

Keen Competition and Constantly Increasing Demand for High-Grade Products Out of Season Makes It Necessary to Provide Special Facilities for Securing Vegetables.



Cross-Section of a Pipe-Heated Bed.

(By W. R. BEATTIE, United States Department of Agriculture.)

Intensive gardening under sash or cloth covers has become one of the most popular and, in certain localities where the conditions are suitable, one of the most profitable lines of outdoor work. The trucker and the market gardener of the present day have been compelled by keen competition and a constantly increasing demand for high-grade products out of season to provide special facilities for increasing and improving the product, as well as to take advantage of every favorable natural condition.

Many localities are especially favored with an abundance of sunshine at all seasons of the year, and at the same time their climate, due to the influence of large streams or nearby bodies of water, is mild and free from extremes of temperature. In such localities it would be possible to grow lettuce, radishes and similar crops during the entire winter without protection were it not for the few cold days and nights. A very slight covering or the application of a small amount of heat will, as a rule, carry the plants through in good condition.

The greater portion of the work with frames is conducted on light or sandy loam soils which are naturally well drained and adapted to intensive trucking. The original soil is usually employed, but when necessary rich soil is hauled and placed in the beds. The first essential is good drainage, and if the land is not naturally well drained it should be tiled or provided with numerous open ditches to carry off the water. The surface of the soil should be graded and all depressions filled in and leveled. For best results the land should be subjected to two or three years of preparation by manuring and planting to leguminous crops.

The presence of plenty of organic matter in the soil is very important, especially where large quantities of commercial fertilizers are to be used. This organic matter may be added in the form of stable manure, but more satisfactory results will be obtained where leguminous crops are included in the preparatory treatment. For green manure nothing is better than cowpeas as a summer crop and crimson clover as a winter crop. The crimson clover should be turned under about the time it comes into full bloom in the spring, the land planted to cowpeas, and the resulting crop plowed under or mowed for hay during the month of August in ample time to prepare the land for frame work during the autumn. When heavy crops of green manure are turned under it is essential that lime be used to improve the mechanical condition and to sweeten the soil; a dressing of 1,000 pounds to the acre should be sufficient.

Wood ashes consittute an excellent source of both potash and lime, especially if they have resulted from the burning of hardwood. Ashes from pine and other soft woods are of little value. Much of the value of wood ashes may be lost by leaching, and while a ton of strictly fresh hardwood ashes would be sufficient to apply on an acre, as much as five tons of leached ashes could be used on the same area without fear of burning the plants. Where ashes are used less lime is needed, although the percentage of lime in the ash is comparatively small.

Large quantities of stable manure are used in growing crops in frames, sometimes as much as thirty to sixty cartloads to the acre. The manure is generally spread in a broad, flat pile to compost before it is applied to the soil on which frames are to be located. Where manure is employed for heating the beds it may afterwards be mixed with the soil for the growing of subsequent crops. In the work with frames around Norfolk, Va., the manure is placed in long, narrow piles and turned two or three times before it is used in the beds. Care should be exercised to avoid the use of manure in which there are shavings or sawdust, as these have an injurious effect upon the growth of plants. Poultry and sheep manure are excellent fertilizers for frame work, but the quantity obtainable is very small. In the application of natural manures of all kinds it is essential that the manure should be fine; that it be what is termed "short" manure.

KEEP PULLETS BY THEMSELVES

Experiments at Geneva Station Show Better Results Where Cockerels are Eliminated.

Some of the very early hatched pullets will be laying in a short time, and those poultrymen who are in the business to produce eggs for the market will be interested in some of the experiments conducted by the Geneva (New York) station.

These experiments were for the purpose of finding out what effect the keeping of males with the pullets had on the egg production. Many poultry raisers, and certainly most farmers, believe it is best to permit the cockerels to run with the pullets at all times, but these experiments show that this is not true.

Several pens of birds were made up; in some of them the males were kept with the pullets and in others the pullets were kept by themselves.

The net results show that the pen of pullets kept without a male produced eggs at about 30 per cent. less cost than an exactly similar pen where the cockerels were entered.

In the pen without a male the hens, during the first three months laid about 30 per cent. more eggs than the pen from the same hatching and under exactly similar conditions except that they were kept with a cockerel.

In all the experiments the pens of pullets without the male birds began to lay from one to two months earlier than in any of the corresponding pens in which the male birds were kept.

No attempts were made to force laying and broody fowls were allowed to sit at will there being plenty of nest boxes in each pen.

About the same number became broody in the pens having the males as in those without.

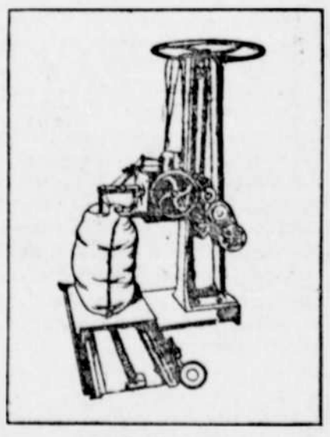
This is pretty conclusive evidence that the young cockerels should be separated from the pullets just as soon as they are old enough to be distinguished. It would be better if they could be kept in an enclosure not far from the pullets, particularly at the beginning of each laying season.

Every cockerel that is not kept for breeding purposes ought to be caponized.

MACHINE FOR SEWING BAGS

German Invention of Much Interest to the Farmers and Grain Men of This Country.

From Germany comes an invention of interest to farmers and grain men in this country. It is a machine for stitching grain bags shut and sews them up after they have been filled. The filled bag, with the top open, of course, is placed on a wheeled platform which runs back and forth past the sewing mechanism, which can be raised or lowered to suit the height of the bag. A plate over which the



Grain Bag Stitcher.

needle works presses down one side of the mouth of the sack while another plate presses against the other side where it is held by an arm that extends over the top. The machine makes a peculiar seam of stitches that interlock and finally tangle, so at the end of the run that there is no necessity for tying a hand knot to keep them from unraveling. At the same time, the seam can be quickly opened by cutting one of the loops of the thread and pulling it out.

Reforestation in Northwest.

The first attempt at reforestation on a large scale in the Puget sound country is now going on in the Olympic National Forest reserve, where burned over lands are being planted with Douglas fir.

WIT and HUMOR

TROUBLE BEGAN ONCE MORE

Husband and Wife, Who Had Just Made Up After Quarrel, Start Again Over Her Shoes.

"My dear," said a wife to her husband, "I know that I am dreadfully cross with you at times, that I am not patient as I should be, and I think the same can be said of you."

"Yes, certainly," he frankly acknowledged. "I am almost as bad as you are."

"What's that?"

"I—I say that I am just as much to blame as you are."

"I think," went on the lady, "that we ought to cultivate a mutual toleration of each other's faults," and she bent over him and fondly kissed him.

"You are not looking well tonight, dear," he said, stroking her hair.

"No," she replied. "My feet pain me dreadfully."

"That's because you wear shoes two sizes too small for you."

Then the trouble began once more.

For Other Reasons.

The absence of witnesses robs the court of appeals of many pleasant interludes, but the lords of justices occasionally supply comic relief. A former president of the court of appeals, delivering a judgment of portentous length, paused for a moment. The judge on his right promptly snapped out, "I agree." "But you have not yet heard my reasons," said the president, with a deprecating smile. The lord justice bowed an apology and listened resignedly for another 20 minutes. When the close really came he had his revenge. "Notwithstanding, I still agree," was the form in which he expressed concurrence.—London Chronicle.

She Knew the Game.

She was a bright girl and her escort, who was also her intended, was delighted to find how quickly she grasped the points of the game. She got on so well that he ventured a light witticism on the subject. "Baseball reminds me of the household," he remarked; "there's the plate, the batter, the fowls, the flies, etc." "And it reminds me of marriage," she retorted; "first the diamond where they are engaged, then the struggles and the hits, then the men going out, and finally, the difficulty they have in getting home." And he sat and thought and thought.

The Green Kind.

A naval officer, who has seen considerable service in South American waters, once brought home two parrots, one of which he gave to the housemaid and the other to the cook.

For a long time there ensued animated discussions as to the merits of their respective birds. Finally, the housemaid said:

"Your parrot may be a better talker than mine, though I don't believe it." Then, with an air of presenting the final clinching argument in her own favor, she added: "Besides, you'll have to admit that mine has the most beautiful foliage."—Lippincott's.

HIS SAD EXPERIENCE.

"Wus you ever in love, Eddie?"

"Naw, but I fell out of er second-story window onct!"

Sypmtoms.

"Colonel Soggsby's eyes look fishy. Don't you think we'd better remove him from the banquet hall?"

"Not yet not yet. Although his eyes do look rather fishy, his eye-lids have not yet begun to droop."

Odd Industry.

"There is one man I employ who as soon as he gets to work, suspends operations."

"Is he lazy?"

"No; he's a paperhanger."

About "Breaking the Bank."

"Reading any fiction these days?"

"Nothing more than a few press agents' stories from Monte Carlo."

The Fountain Head of Life Is The Stomach

A man who has a weak and impaired stomach and who does not properly digest his food will soon find that his blood has become weak and impoverished, and that his whole body is improperly and insufficiently nourished.

Dr. PIERCE'S GOLDEN MEDICAL DISCOVERY makes the stomach strong, promotes the flow of digestive juices, restores the lost appetite, makes assimilation perfect, invigorates the liver and purifies and enriches the blood. It is the great blood-maker, flesh-builder and restorative nerve tonic. It makes men strong in body, active in mind and cool in judgement.

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231 Main Street, PORTLAND, OREGON.

Too Many Trumps.

"I have seen some very remarkable whist hands," said one of the bridge fiends in a down town club on Saturday. "But once, about four years ago, I saw one man hold all 13 trumps."

"Why, that's not so extraordinary," two or three players broke in all at once, "that's happened lots of—"

"Hold on till I'm through. What made this hand remarkable is that the man who held it only took one trick."

"Nonsense! What are you—"

"It's a fact. When he trumped his partner's ace first time round his partner got up and threw him out of the window."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets, small, sugar-coated, easy to take as candy, regulate and invigorate stomach, liver and bowels. Do not gripe.

Blissful Ignorance.

Holden, the New York birdman, lately had in his shop a taciturn parrot. Day after day it sat silent on its perch, indifferent to every question. At last a Cuban lady came into the shop and spoke to it in her native tongue. The parrot brightened up at once, opened its beak and emitted a jubilant volley of vehement Spanish words. When the parrot finally ceased speaking, the lady turned to Mr. Holden and blushing violently asked:

"Do you understand Spanish?"

"No," he replied.

"Thank God!" she replied, and left the shop.—Success.

FOR ALL EYE PAINS Pettit's Eye Salve

Stranger — Have you a good hair tonic you can recommend?

Druggist (in prohibition town)—Here is something that is spoken of very favorably by people who have drank it.—Puck.

"Is your son out of danger yet?"

"No; the doctor is going to make three or four more visits."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Young Men Wanted

To fill vacancies in operating departments of RAILROADS and TELEGRAPH COMPANIES, due to deaths and promotion of old employes, new offices being established, etc., $75 to $90 per month to start with, when competent, promotion later to dispatcher, etc. The National Telegraph Institute, Commonwealth Bldg., Portland, Oregon, has direct connection with the Southern Pacific Ry. Co.'s wires and the United Wireless Co., whereby messages are received in the class room, giving the best training to operators. All seagoing vessels averaging fifty or more passengers are now required to carry wireless equipment, and many new operators are needed. Write TODAY for literature. Spend a part of the winter in study and prepare for a profession where the salary is good and the chance of advancement the best.

They were a young couple and talked in loud voices on account of the rattle of the elevated trains. He was not in a good humor.

"I wonder" she said, "why the allowances of money made to wives by husbands are called 'pin money,'"

"I suppose," he explained crossly, "it's because it sticks the husbands."—Popular Magazine.

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DANDY combination for cleaning and polishing all kinds of russet or tan shoes, 25c. "Star" size, 10c.

ELITE combination for gentlemen who take pride in having their shoes look A 1. Restores color and lustre to all black shoes. Polish with a brush or cloth, 25c.

BABY ELITE size 10c.

If your dealer does not keep the kind you want, send us his address and the price in stamps for a full size package.

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