



The Press Poultry Department

Conducted by H. S. Canon, Magalia, Calif.

Send questions for this department direct to Mr. Canon to insure prompt answers.

What Breed is Best?

If one were keeping a hundred fowls the saving would be approximately \$68.

On the other hand, since the ultimate end of all utility fowls is the butcher's block, the large fowls would when sold at the end of their period of usefulness as layers, bring much more than the small ones. Enough more, in fact, to pay for the extra food they consume.

Again, the large hens after a period of laying become broody and to break them of their desire to sit requires extra labor on the part of the attendant, as well as a loss of time from the laying pen.

The light breeds do not bother in this way.

However, where a moderate sized flock is kept, the poultryman may wish to use hens for hatching instead of an incubator, and of course would have to keep a breed in which the tendency to broodiness is well developed.

So the choice of the variety depends entirely on the needs and the fancy of the individual making the choice.

In purchasing stock, it is a step in the right direction to get as good stock as possible with the funds available, and get them from a breeder who has good laying hens when you can. In sending away for stock there is, of course, an element of chance, for you do not personally know the breeder you are buying from. Most of them, however, will treat the buyer fairly, and tell the truth in regard to the laying and other qualities of their stock, for a satisfied customer is the best kind of an advertisement, and it is very much to the poultryman's interest to be honest in his dealings.

The building up of a strain of prolific layers takes time. Trap nests must be used and an accurate record kept of each individual fowl's work. Each hen

should be banded with a number band, and when she is released from the nest her egg should be marked with her number. Each hen's eggs should be hatched separately, and each chick marked with a punch which is used in the web between the toes. Thus it is possible to tell just what hen the chicks are from and when you select the breeders for the following season, which knowledge is indispensable if you are to make a steady advance.

Building A Heavy Laying Strain.

The chicks from one hen may be marked between the first and second toes of the right foot, another between the second and third, another between both. Many combinations may be worked out.

When selecting the breeders for the next season, a glance at the feet of the birds will show which hen they are from, and a glance at the egg record of that hen will show whether her progeny should be kept for breeding. After eliminating the young from the hens with the poor records as layers, out of what remains choose for breeders those conforming most closely to the standard requirements of that breed and variety, discarding any which have defects which disqualify.

The male plays an important part in the building up of a laying strain.

Only males which are known to be bred from heavy layers should be used, for a male whose mother was a poor layer will beget pullets which are poor layers, even though the mother of the pullets be a prolific layer. It is claimed by many that the male has far greater influence on the laying qualities of the pullets than the mother has. Hence the importance of keeping males from the heaviest layers only, for use as breeders.

(To Be Continued)

Home Course In Fruits and Berries

One of Nine Articles by Government and State Horticulturists and Pomologists

PLANNING THE HOME FRUIT GARDEN

By L. C. CORBETT, Horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

THE possibilities in fruit culture upon restricted areas have been very generally overlooked, with the result that many persons who own a city lot, a suburban home or even a farm now look upon fruit as a luxury. This can all be changed, but it must be remembered that a fruit plantation must claim the attention of its owner from early spring to late autumn. Its products, too, must be so planned as to cover the greatest possible portion of the seasons between frosts.

The soil at the disposal of the grower will frequently be ill suited to the purposes of a home fruit garden, but if the soil is heavy it can be lightened with sand if it is not desirable to increase the proportion of humus which it contains. If it is lacking in organic matter the addition of leaf mold and well rotted manure or the turning under of some leguminous crop will accomplish the desired result. If the soil is loose and sandy, losing its store of plant food readily, this fault can be remedied by the addition of retentive material, such as clay. If, on the other hand, the class of plants to be generally grown is suited to a loose, sandy soil and it seems desirable to add to the collection a plant, such as plum, which naturally requires a heavy, retentive soil, it would undoubtedly be better to change the

The grape bears its fruit on shoots of the season, which in turn usually arise from canes of the previous year.

The interest of a fruit garden may be greatly enhanced by growing there in plants not adapted naturally to the climatic region in which the garden is located. This may be accomplished by learning and practicing the proper methods of protection.

Besides these protective devices, sheltered places, where growth is retarded in spring, may be taken advantage of in order to hold back early blooming plants.

The fact that trees can be grown as dwarfs as well as standards will enable one to utilize a space which had previously been considered unsuited for the development of a tree. It is well known that in proportion to size dwarf trees are more fruitful than standards and that they come into bearing sooner.

Dwarfing is accomplished by budding or grafting robust growers on slow growing stocks, and most tree fruits lend themselves to this treatment. Standards may be grown as "bushes" or as "pyramids," thus making it possible to grow them much closer together. Pruning and training used in combination have shown the possibilities of restricting plants to the "espallier," "cordon" and other styles of training against walls.

Advantages of Grafting.

Besides the advantage of dwarfing, grafting may be turned to good account to enable the owner of few trees to increase his sorts beyond the limits of the trees he possesses. By grafting, the list of varieties can be increased at will. There are apple trees known which bear as many as 150 varieties.

Plants of various habits of growth may be combined to the advantage of the grower and with little or no disadvantage to the plants. To illustrate this, currants may be combined with grapes, apples with currants or raspberries and grapes with strawberries.

Certain well known systems of pruning and training allows additional liberties to the skillful planter—as, for instance, the grapevine, which readily lends itself to arbor training, may be utilized for screening tender or shade loving plants. Strawberries adapt themselves readily to such situations if the shade is not allowed to become too dense. Among flowering plants none will thrive better under such conditions than pansies and violets, and among garden vegetables lettuce and radishes may be successfully grown under such a canopy, as they will be out of the way before a dense shade is formed by the grapes. Asparagus can be successfully grown under a shade of this character.

The following lists of varieties, while made for northern Ohio, are presented more as a guide to the proportionate allotment of plants of various species in a home fruit garden than as a guide to varieties suited to such a garden:

FRUIT GARDEN NO. 1 (ABOUT TWO ACRES).

Apples, 22 trees, summer, 2 Early Harvest, 2 Red Astrachan, 1 Golden Sweet, 1 Pumpkin Sweet, 1 Maiden Blush; winter, 2 Grimes Golden, 2 Baldwin, 2 Rhode Island Greening, 2 Belmont (White Pippin), 1 Fallawater, 1 Fameuse (Snow Apple), 1 Tolman Sweet, 1 Roxbury Russet; crab, 1 Hyslop, 1 Transcendent, 1 Yellow Siberian; peaches, 25 trees, early, Yellow Rarerijspe, Early Crawford, Elberta, 4 each; Alexander, Canada Early, 2 each; 1 Lewis; late, 4 Late Crawford, 2 Stephens Rarerijspe, 2 Golden Drop; pears, 10 trees, 4 Bartlett, 2 Koonce, 2 Duchess, 1 Kleffer, 1 Seckel; cherries, 10 trees, 4 Allen, 2 Black Tartarian, 4 Early Richmond; plums, 10 trees, greengage, French damson, Lombard, Mary, Willard, 2 each; quinces, 15 Champion; apricots, 5 Montezumet; nectarines, 5 Boston; grapes, 100 vines, Concord, Campbell's Early, Niagara, Brighton, 25 each; raspberries, 150 bushes, 50 Gregg, 50 Marlboro, 50 Cuthbert, 25 Golden Queen; blackberries, 100 bushes, 50 Agawam, 50 Taylor; currants, 100 bushes, 50 Victoria, 25 White Grape, 25 Black Champion; gooseberries, 25 bushes, 25 Downing, 25 Industry, 25 Columbus; strawberries, 400 plants, Brandywine, Glen Mary, Warfield, Gandy, 100 each.

FRUIT GARDEN NO. 2 (FOR MEDIUM SIZE PLACES).

Apples, 10 trees, 2 Baldwin, 2 Grimes Golden, 1 Fallawater, 2 Red Astrachan, 1 Bonum, 1 Bough Sweet; crab, 1 Transcendent; peaches, 10 trees, 1 Alexander, 2 Rarerijspe (Yellow), 2 Early Crawford, 4 Late Crawford, 1 Stephens Rarerijspe; cherries, 5 trees, 2 Early Richmond, 2 Black Tartarian, 1 Allen; plums, 5 trees, 2 greengage, 2 Lombard, 1 Willard; pears, 5 trees, 2 Bartlett, 1 Duchess, 1 Kleffer, 1 Seckel; quinces, 5 Champion; apricots, 2 Montezumet; nectarines, 2 Boston; grapes, 50 vines, 25 Concord, 10 Niagara, 15 Brighton; raspberries, 20 bushes, 25 Gregg, 10 Marlboro, 25 Cuthbert, 10 Golden Queen; blackberries, 10 bushes, 25 Agawam, 25 Taylor; currants, 25 bushes, 25 Wilder, 10 White Grape, 10 Black Champion; gooseberries, 20 bushes, 10 Downing, 10 Industry; 10 Columbus; strawberries, 200 plants, 100 Brandywine, 100 Gandy.

GARDEN NO. 3 (FOR CITY LOT).

Apples, 4 trees, Red Astrachan, Golden Sweet, Baldwin, Fallawater, 1 each; peaches, 4 trees, 1 Early Canada, 1 Yellow Rarerijspe, 1 Early Crawford, 1 Late Crawford; pears, 2 trees, 1 Bartlett, 1 Duchess (Dwarf); plums, 2 trees, 1 Wilder, 1 Lombard; quinces, 2 Champion; apricots, 1 Montezumet; grapes, 10 vines, 5 Concord, 5 Niagara; raspberries, 25 bushes, 10 Gregg, 10 Cuthbert; blackberries, 25 bushes, 10 Taylor, 10 Agawam; currants, 10 bushes, 5 Victoria, 5 White Grape; gooseberries, 5 Downing; strawberries, 50 Brandywine.



Photograph by Long Island agricultural experiment station.

"THE GRAPES ARE RIPE."

character of the plant by grafting it upon a stock adapted to sandy soil conditions than to attempt to modify the soil to suit the plant. Changes in plants are not always easily accomplished, and with many plants there is no alternative but to use them on their own roots. In this latter case the soil itself must be made to conform to the demands of the plants. The soil, in addition to being heavy and retentive, may also be cold and wet. In such case the addition of sand will not entirely overcome the difficulty. Sand will lighten and facilitate natural drainage, but if the soil be unduly moist the only remedy lies in thorough underdrainage.

Work at Planting Time.

At planting time all broken or decayed roots should be cut away, leaving only smooth cut surfaces and healthy wood to come in contact with the soil. If a large part of the root area of the plant has been lost in transplanting the top should be cut back in proportion to the roots remaining.

The holes in which trees, vines or shrubs are to be set should be ample, so that the roots of the plant may have full natural spread. The earth at the bottom of the holes should be loosened a spade depth below the line of excavation. The soil placed immediately in contact with the roots of the newly set plant should be rich top soil free from soil or partially decayed organic matter. Firm the soil over the roots by trampling. Movement of soil water is thus set up and the food supply of the soil brought immediately to the use of the plant. When the operation of transplanting is complete the plant should stand one or two inches deeper than it stood in the nursery.

The matter of pruning should receive careful and detailed attention. For example, in the case of the apple and the pear the fruits are borne upon "spurs" of the previous year's growth only, these spurs appearing on wood one year or more of age. Heading in or shortening each shoot of the season's growth must be done with care in order not to reduce the bearing wood beyond a profitable limit. The bearing shoots are usually more obscurely located upon the side of the branches.

With the peach, however, it is the wood of the last season's growth upon which the fruits are directly borne, and with them heading in may be successfully employed to limit the quantity of fruit borne by the tree.

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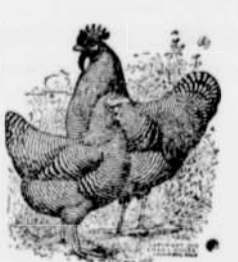


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