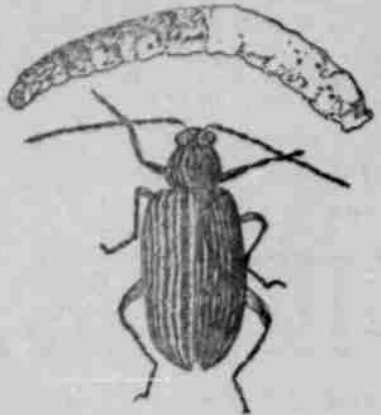


THE CUCUMBER BEETLE.

The Early Insect That Catches the Cucumbers.

The striped cucumber beetle is the first insect to attack cucumbers in the spring. Hardly have the seedlings pushed through the soil before these small yellow and black striped beetles begin feeding on the leaves and succulent stems. In the grub or larval stage the insect is usually overlooked. It is a slender, wireworm-like creature with black head and tail. The adults pass



CUCUMBER BEETLE—LARVA AND ADULT.

the winter in the ground. They come out during warm spring weather and attack various kinds of foliage with ravenous appetite. They eat dirty, tough and even poisonous foliage with avidity. After a few days' feeding, their hunger being appeased, their food is confined to tender parts of plants, and it is difficult to induce them to eat foliage coated with foreign substances such as the arsenites. A. L. Quinlan of the Georgia station, who has made a study of these cucurbit pests, says no one line of treatment or one insecticide seems satisfactory and the best results are probably from the conjunction of several remedies.

Direct application of poisons to foliage has not proved satisfactory, according to Mr. Quinlan, because when the arsenites are sufficiently strong to kill the beetles burning of foliage is almost sure to result. Various kinds of covers have been recommended for covering the plants as they are pushing through the soil and later. Most commonly used are ordinary boxes with top and bottom open, the top being covered with cheesecloth. A domelike covering may be easily made by crossing two halves of a barrel hoop and putting on a cover. Cloth or paper wire covers are used by some growers.

Planting an excess of seed is advisable, as the injury becomes more distributed, and after the beetles have satisfied their hunger the plants should be thinned out to the proper stand. Early planting also will frequently allow the plants to get well started before the beetles will do any damage, and their effects on the plants will not be so severe.

The value of squash plants as trap crops in early spring for the striped cucumber beetle has recently been demonstrated. Professor Shiras of New York has found that if squash are planted around the margins of fields, four or five days in advance of planting the main crop of melons or cucumbers and again four or five days later, the beetles will do considerable damage to the trap crop. If necessary, a third planting of squash can be made after four or five days. As soon as the main crop begins to come up it should be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture to render the plants distasteful to the beetles and to let the beetles breed on the squash plants, but as soon as they begin to feed some of the plants should be dusted with an arsenite in Paris green, and many beetles will be killed.

It is not advisable to dust all of the trap plants with the poison at first. Every few days more of the trap plants should be dusted thoroughly. The applications of poison to the trap crops and the spraying of Bordeaux mixture on the main crop should be continued as needed.

Flax Wax Beans.
Among flax wax beans for home use a leading place is claimed for the saddle back wax. The pods are tender and stringless, round, smooth and fleshy. The meat is solidly joined between the beans.



It is recommended not to plant them until nights are warm, as they are more tender than green pod varieties, though the plants are vigorous and prolific.

SHEEP ON PUBLIC LANDS.

The Matter Likely to Excite Much Interest in Wyoming.

There is a veritable sheep boom throughout Wyoming, says the Denver Republican, and everybody is eager to convert all other kinds of property and go into the business. Those who own sheep are in luck. It is like owning Cripple Creek claims by the Colorado Springs people possessing Denver suburban acres in a real estate boom. With wool selling at almost three times the price it commanded at the worst of the depression, it is difficult to think of anything, even iron, that has experienced greater prosperity.

But it is not alone the rise in wool that has advanced the market for sheep. Mutton also has gone up. There has been an advance in mutton of all kinds throughout the world, in which mutton had shared, but in addition mutton has had a separate and special advance of its own, due to an undeniable increase in its popularity as food. The appetite of mankind is unmistakably drifting toward mutton, so that, while other things are equal, twice as much of it is eaten now as 20 years ago.

The Wyoming sheep boom is calculated to force upon the country some solution of the grazing land problem in the near future. The public land which belongs to everybody practically belongs to nobody. Strife and bloodshed over its possession have already begun in many localities. During the year, in addition to a natural increase of about half a million in the number of sheep in the state, another half million have been brought in to participate in

ALKAINE LANDS.

SALT-BUSHES VALUABLE FOR PASTURE IN ARID REGIONS OF THE WEST.

There are extensive areas of land so sterile that none of the cereals, grasses or clovers will grow on them. These lands contain three different salts—common salt, Glauber's salt and sea soda or black alkali. The black alkali is the most injurious to vegetable growth. Saltbushes will grow on many of these lands and produce a considerable amount of excellent forage. The introduction of the Australian salt-bushes has proved to be of great value to owners of waste alkali lands. A crop of Australian saltbushes will produce from 15 to 20 tons of green food per acre, or about three to five tons of dry forage. The seed may be sown on

the nature of these animals has made them well adapted to the climate and conditions of the southwest, where great herds of them are raised. It is estimated that there are 300,000 Angora goats in this country. The average fleece weighs about three pounds, though some exceptional clips have reached 18 pounds. There is a good market for the fleeces and skins, and the carcasses, when fat, is not a bad substitute for mutton. The industry has grown rapidly within the past few years and is no longer confined to the west and southwest.—Crovers' Journal.

Feed and Fat.
Some cows will not lay on fat while in full flow of milk, and these it pays to feed all they can digest, but some are so sensitive that they are easily overfed and will be "off their feed" for a few days, and the milk flow will drop off.—Live Stock.

Snake Fed Virginia Ham.
"Snakes as food for hogs bent chestnuts, acorns or any of the fancy food-stuffs," said Henry Arbutnot of the Washington Post. "Of course you know that in some parts of Europe snakes have killed the vipers. I was in West Virginia some months ago and found there that a novel industry had been undertaken by a number of men whose lands were overrun by the small variety of snake that infests that section. The snakes were so numerous as to be a nuisance. One farmer tried the hog as an exterminator. He succeeded so well that he found the drove of animals he had turned loose on the plantation had not only decreased the number of snakes, but that they were actually thriving on them. He told his neighbors about it, and now the whole valley is one large hogpen, in which hundreds of the animals are feeding literally on snakes. Formerly no one would buy land there, notwithstanding the beauty of the place, because of the snakes, but now that the remedy has been found and at the same time big money is made on the pigs that grow fat on snake food the land is destined to be in great demand. This may sound like a fairy snake tale, but I assure you that it is correct and that hundreds of pigs are sold from that valley every year that have literally become fat on snakes."

Popular Percherons.
Secretary S. D. Thompson of the American Percheron Horse Breeders' association says: "The supply of good, serviceable stallions was short in this country, and the importers went again to France, but found the good ones scarce there and held at high prices, for the French breeders, when the importation to this country stopped so suddenly in 1891, quit breeding to any extent, with the consequence that the number on hand today is limited. As an illustration of how scarce and high priced Percheron stallions of serviceable age are over there, I have before me a clipping from a French paper, giving a list of 29 stallions lately bought by the government for use in the national studs. Of these 29 animals 25 were 2-year-olds, and the government paid 99,500 francs for the 25 head, or an average of nearly \$700 each, the prices ranging from \$600 to \$900 each."

Breeding hogs need a little exercise every day to keep them in the very best condition, says The American Cultivator, but how are they to get it in this climate, when the yards and all spots out of doors are covered with snow for three months at a time? If even a wheelbarrow load a day of good fresh horse manure is thrown in a yard for any three that are yarded together, they will spend much time in rooting it over, especially if they find a grain of corn or a few oats in it often enough to keep them interested. We do not want fattening hogs to have anything to induce them to root, nor would we allow the breeding stock to sleep on the manure heap, which is one of the reasons why we do not advise keeping hogs in a barn cellar. Another is that we do not like a manure cellar under the barn. The barn cellar, if there is one, may do to store roots in and to put away carts, plows and other heavy tools if it is dry enough, but then we would like a good cement floor for it. Another reason is that we want the animals to have sunlight when they can, and if the hogs are in a separate building with an open yard they will be out a great deal when the weather is pleasant, even in winter, if it is cold. We want to keep the sow gaining a little every day from the time she is bred until she farrows and yet to guard against her being too fat. This can easily be regulated by the food given, if a little care is taken.

It does not cost any more to raise full blooded stock than half breeds and inferior scrubs, writes A. P. Barrett in The American Cultivator. The only difference in the cost is the initial purchase. The full blooded naturally costs several times as much as the inferior animal, but in the end one such animal may prove cheaper than three or four of the scrubs. The farmer who starts in with the idea and buys only a few blooded stock as he can afford it, increasing his herd gradually, may find in the end that he is in a much better position than his neighbor, who buys any sort of cattle simply because they are cheap. The reason why men do not start in with this idea is because they have the erroneous belief that it costs more to maintain the blooded stock. This is not true at all, for the fine cattle do not require more food or better surroundings than should be given to every kind of animal that is worth anything, if the farmer's style of keeping cattle is to neglect them and let them practically shift for themselves, the scrub stock may be better suited to his purpose, for the half wild animals are undoubtedly harder than the well bred ones, and they will be able to pick up a living much better on a cold, cheerless and almost foodless range. But where the animals are kept carefully according to modern ideas of cattle raising, with sufficient food to maintain them and proper shelter and protection, the blooded animals are just as cheap to support as the poorest scrub.

Bees Require Water.
Almost as soon as bees begin flying in springtime they will search for water. It is absolutely necessary that they have it while foraging. When bees are gathering honey from flowers, the nectar as they gather it contains a large per cent of water. Bees should always be supplied with a convenient watering place, and this should be as near the apiary as possible. Watering troubles for stock or large tanks of water are not good places for them to get water, as numbers of them are drowned in such places. A salt barrel or any barrel of light material filled with water, the water constantly and slowly seeping to the outside, makes an ideal watering place for bees, but no opening should be left to admit of them getting inside the barrel, says an apiarist in Farm, Field and Fireside.

Goat Culture.
Goat culture in the United States is enjoying a boom. The hardy, thrifty

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