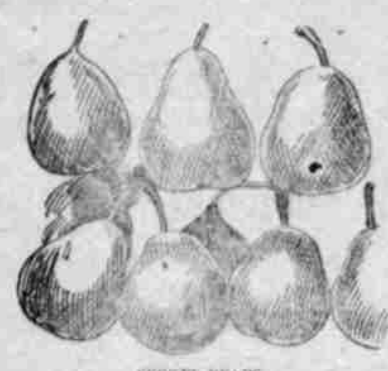


FARM GARDEN

ORCHARD POLLINATION.

Things the Commercial Fruit Grower Wants to Know.

Self sterility is not a constant character with any variety of fruit. Thus Bartlett and Kieffer pears are either self sterile, but there are orchards of both which are self fertile. The same may be said of many other varieties. No one can separate varieties of fruit



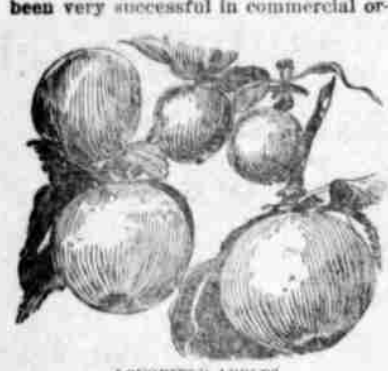
into two definite classes, the self sterile and the self fertile. The best that can be done is to give a list of those varieties which tend to be more or less self sterile and which it would be unsafe to plant alone.

Following is a conservative list of these risky varieties drawn both from experimental work and from the reports of over 200 fruit growers: Pear—Angouleme (Duchesse), Bartlett, Clapp Idaho, Kieffer and Nellis. Apple—Bellefleur, Primrose, Spitzenberg, Willow Twig and Winesap. Plum—Coe Golden Drop, French Prune, Italian Prune, Kelsey, Maritima, Miner, Ogon Peach, Satsuma, Wild Goose and, according to Waugh and Kerr, all other varieties of native plums except Robinson, Peach—Sugarcake, Apricot—White Nectarine. Cherry—Napoleon, Belle de Chateau and Heine Hortense. Most of these varieties are self fertile in some places, but the weight of evidence shows them to be uncertain.

It must not be inferred that all other varieties are always able to set fruit when planted alone. There are some, however, which have exceptionally good records for fruitfulness when planted in solid blocks, other conditions being favorable. Among these are: Apple—Baldwin, Bon Paris, Fallawater, Janet, Oldenburg, Rhode Island, Greening, Red Astrakhan and Smith Elder. Plum—Burbank, Bradshaw, DeSoto, Green Gage, Lombard, Robinson and some of the common blue Damsons.

The foregoing statements are made by Professor Fletcher of Cornell in discussing pollination of orchards in a bulletin (181) which will find its greatest usefulness among commercial fruit growers. Professor Fletcher further says: Let us suppose we intend to plant a large block of an uncertain variety such as Kieffer. There are two points to be considered when selecting a pollinator for Kieffer or any other self sterile variety. These are simultaneous blooming and mutual affinity. Common orchard practice has shown that the European pears, as Bartlett and the sand pear hybrids, as Kieffer, will fertilize each other regularly when they bloom together.

Some varieties will not fertilize each other, though blooming at the same time. Kerr has found that Whitaker plum will not fertilize Wild Goose, nor will Early Red help Golden. Again, the pollen of some varieties will give better fruit than that of others when used on the pistils of self sterile or even self fertile varieties. The first cut shows the comparative size of Becket when pollinated with Kieffer and with Lawrence pollen. Clapp pollinated with Kieffer was also larger than Clapp pollinated with Lawrence or Louise Bonnet Bartlett crossed with Angouleme were larger than Bartlett crossed with Sheldon. In some cases no difference could be noticed, yet most of our standard commercial varieties will be likely to yield enough better fruit when planted with some varieties than with others to make a study of this point worth the while.



Some of the combinations which have been very successful in commercial orchards are: Bartlett, with Nellis, Flemish Beauty, Easter, White Doyenne, Idaho, with Bartlett; Kieffer, with Le Conte, Garber, Coe Golden Drop, with French Prune, Oregon Gage, Italian Prune (Polish), Satsuma, with Abundance, Burbank, Red June, Miner, with De Soto, Forest Rose, Wild Goose; Wild Goose, with De Soto, Newman, Miner.

THE POTATO CROP.

Labor Saving Methods and Helps in Growing and Handling It.

I have observed so many farmers during the past season in Wisconsin and other states outside of the potato belt who were following the old method pursued by us all when potatoes were grown in "patches" in lieu of field culture that I may be pardoned for giving some of the means of saving labor as practiced at Waupun, Mich., says a correspondent of Farm, Field and Fireside.

We plant deep enough to permit the ground to be harrowed with a good drag. Any common harrow will do, though the teeth should not be too long. Drag several times from planting time until the potatoes come up, and there will be no need to make a "hoop" to dig out the weeds by hand in June.

I saw many instances last summer where more human labor was being expended on a patch of half an acre of potatoes than is necessary to cultivate a crop of ten acres here in the "belt." This great saving of labor is accomplished by a judicious use of harrow, weeder and cultivator. The "horse weeder" is not necessary, but very convenient and a rapid worker. One horse and man will brush over 20 acres per day. Drag and weeder must be used often to be of best service, say once in five days.

Then in digging time to see people

laboriously pulling with a hoe at a hill of potatoes instead of forking them out or using a horse machine is to be forcibly reminded that human progress is slow.

For potato boxes we use board ends 10 by 13 inches, cut from 10 inch dimension lumber. They do not tip over as easily as 12 by 12 inches cut from 12 inch lumber and besides do not split so readily. For each side we use a strip of 6 inch cull siding and two lath strips cut 22 inches long. For bottoms staves from old apple or other light barrels are used. The curvature of the staves allows the boxes to slide down a shoot into the cellar easily. Use six



potatoes in boxes. penny or wire shingle nails for lath. Half inch pieces from dry goods boxes may be used in place of shingles. The handles are about 1 by 4 inches. Pile several boxes together, one already cut out on top, and with a pencil "lay out" or mark the load beneath. Then bore the handles of all at once with an inch bit. About three holes will be sufficient to allow easy smoothing out of the hole with a pocketknife.

Bed pieces of 2 by 10 inch pine 10 feet long are placed on the truck blocks. On the top of this frame boards are nailed crosswise. The boards are cut about six feet long from strong common lumber. A slight boxing of the hind wheels may be necessary, except where the truck wheels are very small. A two inch strip nailed that around the entire rack prevents the boxes from sliding off. The accompanying illustration shows a load of 95 bushels dug by machine, picked up and drawn to the cellar in one hour and half with "rammy" help. The unloading is done by sliding the boxes down a plank through the cellar window, where a hand empties them.

Renewing an Asparagus Bed.

An old and run out or neglected asparagus bed can be best improved after the season for cutting is over by putting on a liberal dressing of manure in June or July and plowing it in, not taking much care to prevent breaking the roots or to save seedling plants. The plants are to become root and soil bound, and they will grow all the better for a little breaking up of the matted roots. Keep the weeds out all the summer, and in early spring or even in February, if the ground is open, put on from 200 pounds to half a ton of good fertilizer to the acre. This will push it along to make a good growth, and it will be better if it is not cut very freely that spring or not at all after the first of June.

News and Notes.

Bird life in the United States has decreased 40 per cent in the last 15 years, according to recent statements of an authority on the subject.

San Jose scale continues prominent among insect pests. Notable remedial work of 1890 was that of Professor Johnson of Maryland, who exterminated scale with hydrocyanic gas, and Professor Smith of New Jersey, who used crude petroleum successfully.

Sand or hairy vetch is said to be better adapted to general culture throughout the United States than the common vetch.

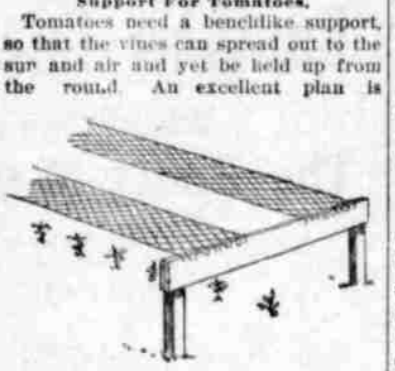
The favorite rotation of T. B. Terry of Ohio is stated as potatoes, wheat, clover; and so divided that a crop of each is harvested each year. Clover has place every third year in the vegetable garden and the strawberry land.

For lights, net and insects on potatoes apply bordeaux mixture combined with Paris green or other arsenites.

According to government reports the yield of hay, as a whole, in the principal hay states will be light.

Support For Tomatoes.

Tomatoes need a benchlike support, so that the vines can spread out to the sun and air and yet be held up from the ground. An excellent plan is



shown in the cut from The Farm Journal. A low, wooden support like that shown is placed at intervals of eight feet along the row, and across the top is stretched two strips of 12 inch wire poultry netting, leaving space between for plants to grow up through.

Rape Plants as Weed Killers.

Aside from its value as a forage rape is an excellent crop to grow on fields that are foul with weeds. The late date at which the seed may be sown allows the weeds to get well started before the final preparation of the soil begins, they are further kept in check by the cultivation required for the crop during its early growth, and later the ripe plants shade the ground so completely as to keep the weeds down. An excellent treatment for a foul field is to plow thoroughly in late summer or early autumn and seed to rape or some other forage crop to be pastured off during the fall, winter or early spring. When the crop has been pastured sufficiently and before the weeds have produced seed, plow again, plant rape in drills and give thorough cultivation. There are few weeds that will survive such treatment, and the land will have given profitable returns in forage in the meantime. The rape is usually ready for use in about eight or ten weeks from the date of seeding.—T. A. Williams.

Native Bromus Grasses.

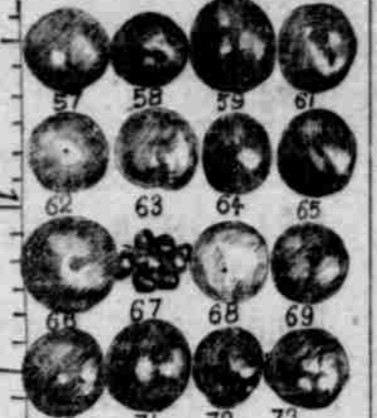
It is suggested by Agriculturalist Lamson-Scraper that native bromus grasses are well worth more attention than has been given them. They seed abundantly, the seed is easily harvested and germinates readily. From experiments with several of the western species it is evident that there are important grasses in this group. Bromus pennsylvanicus, a native of Montana, Colorado and Wyoming, is hardly to be distinguished from the European smooth bromus. The introduction of which has done so much to improve the stock interests of the country.

FARM GARDEN

THE TOMATO.

One of our Big Crops—Some of the Newer Introductions.

The enormous extent to which the tomato is used lends special interest to the study of varieties. The tomato is grown more largely for canning and for any other vegetable used for this purpose.



VARITIES OF TOMATOES.

57, Table Queen; 58, Early Wonder; 59, Matchless; 60, Concord; 61, Lemon Yellow; 62, World's Fair; 63, Bachelors Market; 64, State Fair; 65, Impervio; 66, Trophy; 67, Burbank Preserving; 68, Golden Champion; 69, Proctor's Favorite; 70, New Combination; 71, Fruit of All; 72, Scudding; 73, Freedom; 74, A. R. 15; 75, La France.

The total annual pack of the entire country now averages nearly 5,000,000 cases of 24 cans each, and the acreage required to supply the canneries is estimated to exceed 200,000 acres.

According to Professor F. William Rame of New Hampshire, although factories are increasing, nevertheless the present for canned tomatoes are higher at prices than for a number of years. The catchup making industry is continually increasing, and yet the demand equals the supply. Even green fruit is in fair demand in the fall of the year. Professor Rame has recently reported some tests of the newer introductions as well as of others of early maturing quality.

Among the varieties illustrated Professor Rame commends in special manner:

57. Matchless. Fine, large, round, smooth, red fruit. Vines large, spreading and well filled. Very desirable for market.

60. Improved Trophy. Fine, large, round, deep red variety. Strong vines, regular in shape. A very desirable variety for market.

68. Dwarf Golden Champion. Strong, erect plants, well laden with smooth fruit. Medium size fruit, very regular and fine. Color yellow. A desirable early variety.

71. Best of All. Growth of vines very rank. Leaves medium to large; foliage dense. Fruit medium to large, round in shape. Color deep red. A very good tomato.

Gypsum For Oregon Soils.

There is probably no place in the United States where gypsum could be used to greater advantage with a liberal hand than on the soils of Oregon provided the material could be obtained at anything like a reasonable figure.

Its principal effect seems to be its power to set potash free from its insoluble compounds, making them available. Storer, an authority, says, "It is often of great use in regions where wheat is grown in alternation with clover, since by encouraging the growth of clover it acts as a manure for wheat."

On the soils of western Oregon it could be used to much advantage on account of the tendency of this soil to be weak in available potash. It would also serve to improve their physical condition by the particles thus making the soils more porous. In eastern Oregon it would be of high utility as a corrector for the hated black alkali. In western Oregon it should be sown in the very early spring at the rate of 100 to 150 pounds to the acre preferably to encourage the growth of clover, the yield of which it not infrequently increases 50 per cent. As a corrector for the black alkali in eastern Oregon it would have to be used in much larger quantities, probably not less than one ton per acre, this depending some what upon the amount of alkali present.—Chemist G. W. Shaw.

It is now denied by high authorities that the lowest organisms feed anything that can properly be called pain, says the Chicago Record. In the experiments of the late Professor W. W. Norman on the founder and lower species reactions of these creatures against injury do not indicate pain sensations at all. Certain motions which have hitherto in this class of animals been regarded as denoting pain Professor Norman maintains are simply the immediate consequences of physical stimulation. If a common earthworm is divided at its middle transversely, only the posterior half shows those squirming and jerking movements which seem to indicate pain; the anterior half (containing the brain) crawls ordinarily away. If each of these halves be laid out, again the posterior segments of each squirms, while the anterior halves crawl away. This same process may be continued with precisely like results until the pieces are no longer large enough to crawl independently.

Professor Norman's explanation of this striking phenomenon is that the worm has two sets of muscular fibers, one longitudinal, causing the squirming and jerking movements, and the other circular, which produces the crawling. No good reason, however, has yet been found to explain why in the posterior segments the former set should be initially stimulated and in the anterior the latter set. If a swimming leech be cut in two, both parts after a pause swim off as if nothing had happened. Other species of worms seem to indicate the same results of mutilation, the anterior or brain part being regularly that undisturbed by the extraordinary stimulus. The abdomen of a hermit crab may be cut in two without more than "a very slight response" from any remaining movable organ. Millipedes divided while walking do not hasten or jerk or stop, but continue exactly in the line which they were taking. Dragon flies lose parts of their abdomens apparently with the greatest indifference, and bees continue to eat when their abdomens are cut away. Other instances are sharks and flounders, which, provided a current of water circulate through their gills, will allow their heads to be liberally carved without the slightest appreciable movement indicative of pain or even sensation.

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It is a body presided over by Superintendent Le Fevre in his wife, Mrs. Callie L. Le Fevre, the mother. The latter has recently written a letter, which will command widespread attention because of the prominent position of the writer. It is as follows:—

"Messrs. W. H. Hooker & Co., New York: Last year I used Acker's English Remedy at the suggestion of a friend, for a serious, long-standing throat difficulty and extremely hard cough. I had used many well-spoken preparations without relief. I can honestly say that Acker's English Remedy removed the difficulty and stopped the cough. I did not purchase or use more than three bottles, and at least one-half of the last is still on hand. I also consulted physicians with no permanent results." (Signed) CALLIE L. LE FEVRE.

The friend to whom Mrs. Le Fevre refers as having suggested Acker's English Remedy is Mrs. W. B. Chilton, wife of the president of the Troy Trust Co. of Troy, Ohio, where this remedy has accomplished many other cures in throat and lung troubles. In conversation with an acquaintance Mrs. Le Fevre also said: "If you will call on Mr. W. H. Schauss, a prominent chemist and art merchant of Springfield, Ohio, you will find that he, too, has had many cures of his family with Acker's English Remedy."

Acker's English Remedy is sold by all druggists under a positive guarantee at all. Certain motions which have hitherto in this class of animals been regarded as denoting pain Professor Norman maintains are simply the immediate consequences of physical stimulation. If a common earthworm is divided at its middle transversely, only the posterior half shows those squirming and jerking movements which seem to indicate pain; the anterior half (containing the brain) crawls ordinarily away. If each of these halves be laid out, again the posterior segments of each squirms, while the anterior halves crawl away. This same process may be continued with precisely like results until the pieces are no longer large enough to crawl independently.

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Dairy Points.

At the Dairy Institute at Springfield, Mass. Professor Cooley said: "The feed does not affect the richness of the milk. You cannot tell by the looks of milk how rich it is. We cannot afford to run cows on half time. To get high grade milk brush the cows before milking, and it is advised by many that the udders be clipped. Manage to have the cows come fresh, so as to maintain a uniform supply throughout the year. It is claimed that summer silage will stop summer shrinkage. Overall should be clean. Don't have them stinked with dairy stench. Don't make a strainer do too much work. Have a fresh one for every ten or a dozen cows. Cool the milk and keep it at a given temperature. Care, cleanliness and cold are the three 'c's' of milk production. The German dairymen have a stall which seems nearly perfect. The platform is just the right length for the cow, and behind it is a deep ditch of six or eight inches, with a ledge part way down, so that the cow in slipping off does not slip clear to the bottom. The cows soon learn to stand out of the ditch and keep perfectly clean."