

Scientific Farming

Fill In Picture Puzzle No. 10

Classified Advertising

POISON FOR CRAWFISH.

HOPEFUL GARDENS.

Early vegetable crops have proved quite profitable in many instances in Oklahoma, says C. W. Rapp, of the department of horticulture, Oklahoma Agricultural college. This is especially true of lettuce and radishes when planted in hotbeds or cold frames. For the extreme early crops a hotbed will be necessary, but lettuce and radishes are rather hardy and can be grown in a cold frame quite early in the season.

In most instances a bed of good, rich soil is ridged behind some sheltered place. A frame may be used, but is not necessary. The seed is sown and some form of protection is provided for severe weather.

Lettuce, radishes and other hardy vegetables, when planted in this way and properly handled, are frequently ready for use from four weeks to six weeks before those planted in the open.

POISON FOR CRAWFISH.

Best and Easier Cultivation of Cotton Impossible in Some Sections.

(Prepared by United States department of agriculture.)

The most practical way of dealing with crawfish, according to specialists in the United States department of agriculture, is to kill them by putting two or three drops of carbon bisulphid into the burrows. For this purpose a



CRAWFISH ABOUT HALF NATURAL SIZE.

PLAN THE SILO EARLY.

Structure Should Be All Ready to Fill When Corn is Ripe.

More silos are built in the latter part of August and the first part of September than at any other time of the year, writes C. Fisher in the Farm and Fireside. The desire to see how the corn crop will turn out is largely responsible for the very short time that elapses between the time silos are built and the time they are filled.

But a serious risk is involved in building too late in the season. Silos built of concrete or tile should always stand empty at least two weeks before filling the first time. The silos are guaranteed only when this time elapses in order to allow the mortar joints to thoroughly harden. Besides, silo masons are so busy in the fall that many farmers are obliged to wait their turn, and by the time the silo is finally filled the corn has lost its succulent properties.

"The best time for erecting such a silo," says one expert, "is just after corn planting, though it is a good plan to get the material on the ground in the early spring while sledging is good and when the farmer can haul the material on hard roads and at a time when he has most leisure."

Monolithic concrete silos may be built at any season of the year, but the best time is spring or summer, so they will have ample time to harden.

Metal silos may be built at any time of year. Stave silos are best put up in the fall, as the hot weather of summer causes the wood to shrink when the silo is empty. But in all cases decide on the size of silo and make the concrete foundation for it early in the season, so there will be no delay on that account.

MIXING FERTILIZERS.

Precautions Necessary to Avoid Making Undesirable Compounds.

Home mixed fertilizers will prove just as efficient in every way as factory mixed goods of equivalent composition, provided some simple precautions are used against undesirable mixtures.

The Pennsylvania State college school of agriculture and experiment station cautions against the use of lime in home mixing. If it is desired to neutralize soil acidity the lime should be applied separately and not mixed with the fertilizer. Such a mixture does not add value to the lime or fertilizer and in most cases the mixing would be detrimental.

Wood ashes, since they contain lime, should be applied alone and not mixed with the various fertilizing materials. Certain commercial materials, as basic slag, cyanamide and calcium nitrate, which contain an excess of lime, should be avoided in home mixing. The observance of these precautions will obviate the danger of lumping, the loss of plant food through volatilization or the changing of available into unavailable plant food through chemical action.

Stable manure or other fresh organic matter should not be considered in the home mixing of fertilizers. Manure in itself is a complete fertilizer, but a poorly balanced one. It should be reinforced with acid phosphate, rock phosphate or bonemeal. This is the only mixing of manure and fertilizer that should be considered.

Manure Should Be Conserved.

Much care should be exercised in handling manures in order to secure the greatest returns from their use. A few suggestions are offered by the Pennsylvania State college experiment station for the proper conservation of manure. First, save all the liquid manure; second, prevent leaching and fermentation; third, if possible haul manure on the land as rapidly as it is made; fourth, buy nitrogen in concentrated feeds rather than in commercial fertilizers; fifth, re-surface the manure with a phosphate so as to make it a balanced ration for plants.

quart oil can, with diameter nozzle reduced in size, proves quite satisfactory. After the poison has been put in the burrow the opening should be closed immediately with pressure of the heel. With a little practice a man can cover a considerable area in this way each day. The cost of the poison is about a cent for every seventy-five holes treated, or from \$1 to \$1.50 per acre. If the work has been thoroughly done the cost of treatment the following year will not exceed 25 cents per acre.

At the present time a wide stretch of country, estimated at not less than a thousand square miles, is so overrun with crawfish that to a considerable extent the successful production of cotton and corn is rendered impossible. Large fields of young cotton have been destroyed in a single night. Corn also suffers greatly, but it is not so extensively eaten as cotton. The clay lands of Mississippi and Alabama are especially subject to these pests, and in certain areas it is almost impossible to raise cotton or corn with profit. In this



COTTON PLANT IN STAGE MOST LIABLE TO ATTACK BY CRAWFISH.

region the crawfish inhabit heavy gumbo soils from four to fifteen feet in depth well saturated with water and overlying a sandstone formation.

During rainy weather or in the evening after a shower the crawfish leave their holes and come to the surface to gather their food, which for the most part is consumed underground. At this time they may be easily killed with clubs or caught in large numbers. The bodies should be collected, for when boiled, mixed with meal and allowed to dry they are valuable as an egg producing food for poultry. In this respect indeed their value is so great that it is said that the preparation of the product might be a profitable commercial undertaking if it were not that the supply of crawfish is so dependent upon weather conditions. At times, however, the number is enormous. On badly infested areas from 8,000 to 12,000 burrows have been found in one acre. On one plantation in Mississippi twenty-seven barrels of crawfish were picked up in a season and the following year thirteen barrels more.

Under such conditions the replanting of cotton fields is almost certain to become a necessity. Even then, if replanting is followed by showery weather, there is much likelihood that the



NOW, children, get a soft pencil—a hard one may tear the paper—start at No. 1 to 2, 3, 4, etc., and you'll be agreeably surprised at the result. You will draw a powerful creature which is the pet of a great nation. It has a bald head, is found principally in the northwestern wilds and is protected by the law. It is one of the swiftest creatures of its species. Get busy with your pencil and note the result as the numbers are joined together.

second crop will be destroyed. In dry weather, however, the plants may develop rapidly enough to be out of danger when wet weather sets in again.

Time of Seeding Oats.

After ten years' investigations to compare different dates for seeding oats, ranging from March 22 to May 8, the Ohio experiment station has found that greatest yields have generally been obtained from early seedings. In Wayne county seedings made in March have frequently outyielded those in late April or May by fifteen to twenty bushels per acre. In central Ohio in most seasons oats may be sown by March 15 and in the southern part of the state a week earlier.

Dead Men's Teeth.

Before artificial teeth were created deficiencies had to be made good by the real article, so body snatchers ravaged the cemeteries at night, breaking up the jaws of the dead to extract their teeth to sell to dentists for insertion in live men's mouths. An army of these ghoulies followed Wellington's army. They were licensed as sutlers, but once night fell out came their alppers, and they prowled over the battlefield extracting the teeth of the dead or dying.—London Mail.

Fame.

What appeared to be a beautiful moth I chased across the fields. . . . Breathless and with beating heart I ran, stumbling upon the sharp rocks, tearing my way through the underbrush, slipping often into the mire, but never losing sight of the fiery colored creature, elusive and beautiful. Then in my naked hand I caught it. It stung.—Doris Lester in Bruno's Magazine.

Comply with the law and use printed Butter Wrappers

According to the ruling of the Oregon Dairy and Food Commission all dairy butter sold or exposed for sale in this state must be wrapped in butter paper upon which is printed the words "Oregon Dairy Butter, 16 (or 32) ounces full weight," with the name and address of the maker.

To enable patrons of the Courier to easily comply with the ruling this office will supply standard size and weight butter paper printed with special waterproof ink, and delivered by parcels post, at the following prices:

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Rogue River Courier

Grants Pass, Oregon

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STRAYED

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For all information regarding freight and passenger service call at the office of the company, Public Service building, or phone 131 for same.