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WOOD ASHES HELP ORCHARD

Marked Improvement is Seen in Both Apple Trees and Fruit Where Liberally Treated.

(By A. J. LEGG.)

If we could calculate the value of wood ashes as commercial fertilizers are valued we would have near the following value per ton for the plant food given a value in commercial fertilizers.

120 pounds of potash \$0.50 at... \$6.00
40 pounds of phosphoric acid \$0.05 at... 2.00
\$6.05 at... \$8.00

The same amount of potash is found in 200 pounds of sulphate of potash and practically the same amount of phosphoric acid is found in 250 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate, so a ton of wood ashes is worth about the same as a fertilizer 250 pounds of good grade acid phosphate and 200 pounds of sulphate of potash.

True the plant food is in a more available form in the commercial fertilizers but the tons of wood ashes also contains about 700 pounds of lime which is especially valuable to the clover and other leguminous crops.

Last winter we put wood ashes about some apple trees, 25 to 40 pounds was scattered around each tree, as far around as the branches reached. A marked improvement in both the trees and the fruit was noticed last summer in spite of the unfavorable early season.

The wood ashes can be profitably applied to the garden, the meadow or in fact almost any crop except potatoes.

If wood ashes are applied to the potato crop it produces conditions favorable to potato scab.

There is not much loss of plant food when wood ashes are applied to the soil at any season of the year since potash and phosphoric acid are not easily washed out of the soil. The ashes should not be mixed with the manure or any other nitrogenous manure as the lime in the ashes may cause loss of nitrogen.

If mixed with acid phosphate the lime in the ashes will combine with the phosphoric acid and render it unavailable.

On many farms there is a few hundred pounds of ashes produced that are worth saving and applying to the soil, then where lumbering is carried on extensively there are tons of wood ashes produced each year that are worth hauling for several miles and applying to the soil.

TRACTION PLOWING IN WEST

Among Advantages is Fact That Work Can Be Rushed When Conditions Are Favorable.

On the large farms of the great plains and the ranches of California traction engines—both steam and gasoline—are used to an increasing extent in farming operations, especially in plowing land. The make-shift outfits formerly used for this purpose have been largely replaced by heavier and stronger engines and gang plows especially designed for this use.

The advantages of traction plowing are (1) that the work can be rushed when conditions are favorable; (2) that the work can be done with a smaller force of hands, and fewer horses have to be kept; (3) in hot dry weather engines can be used when horses could not stand the work; (4) with an engine it is possible to plow very difficult soils, and also to plow deeper than with horses; and (5) under favorable conditions, the cost of traction plowing has been brought lower than that of plowing with horses.

The steam engines weigh from 7 to 20 tons, range from 20 to 50 horsepower, cost from \$1,500 to \$6,000, and will plow from 15 to 50 acres a day.

A traction plowing outfit consists of (1) an engine; (2) the plows or disks arranged in gangs; and (3) miscellaneous conveniences for carrying supplies, making repairs, etc. The size and cost of the outfit and the amount of work it will do depend largely on the number of plows operated.

DAIRY NOTES.

To be sweet and clean it is desirable that the cow stable be white-washed at least twice a year.

The separator means the greatest profit with the least cost in handling and marketing milk.

Cream that is not delivered promptly should be thoroughly stirred every time a new lot is added.

The cream from the milkings must not be kept so long that it will develop a sharp acid, for that would impart an unpleasant flavor to the butter.

Chicken Lice.

Abundance of chicken lice can be raised by neglecting the chicks. This is probably the surest way to get rid of the chicks

Playing the Fiddle.

Mr. James P. Turner, chancellor of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Philadelphia, has a trait in common with the late Archbishop Ryan which enables him to decide to do something without leaving a sting.

Like his late chief, he usually tells a story and then escapes committing himself. Since the balloting for a successor to Archbishop Ryan he has been importuned, caajoed and otherwise held up for a word that would give an idea as to what was the result of the balloting. As he is sworn to secrecy he must keep quiet.

To a group of newspaper men he said:

"Once there was an assistant to a man who held a responsible position. This assistant took upon himself much of the credit for his employer's popularity. One day he complained by saying: 'I'm tired of playing second fiddle.'"

"The trouble with you is that you are trying to play first violin before you have learned how to play that second fiddle," was his employer's kindly but firm admonition."

THE TRUTH ABOUT BLUING.

Talk No. 11.

The well often runs dry where they make bottle blue. It's easy to see. Only a little quantity, say half a cent or a trifle more, in the double strength kind and a large bottle of water and the delusion is completed.

Buy RED-CROSS BALL-BLUE. Get a pure blue. Makes clothes snowy white. ASK YOUR GROCER.

Why She Chose the Gown.

A woman in Cherryvale, Kan., was allowed her choice between a new parlor rug and a summer gown. The Journal says that after three sleepless nights she decided on the dress. She argued: "I can darken the parlor and the rug will look all right in subdued light, and besides, hundreds of folks will see the dress who would never see the rug."

Modern Teachers Criticized.

Our educators are ow-lis, our teachers are pedants and all their ambition is the turning out of smooth, well-polished philistines. It is certainly unfortunate that the favored type of superintendent of our public education should be such a hopeless philistine, possessed of all the conceit of the mediocre business man. Routine is his ideal. Originality is spurned and suppressed—Dr. Boris Bida.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Noble Ideal.

In the effort to appreciate various forms of greatness, let us not underestimate the value of a simply good life. Just to be good; to keep life pure from degrading elements, to make it constantly helpful in little ways to those who are touched by it to keep one's spirit always sweet, and avoid all manner of petty anger and irritability—that is an ideal as noble as it is difficult.

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

Forgiveness of Children.

It is the sweet and entire forgiveness of children, who ask pity for their sorrows from those who have caused them, who do not perceive that they are wronged, who never dream that they are forgiving, and who make no bargain for apologies—it is this that men and women are urged to learn of a child.—Alice Meynell.

Swallowed Her False Teeth.

Through swallowing her false teeth, apparently while she was asleep, Mrs. Alice Dear, 61 years old, of Sewell road, Battersea, died. The cause of her death was discovered at a post-mortem examination.—London Chronicle.

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