

Orchard and Garden

Famous Orchards

THE "Country Gentleman" of July 18th, in describing the famous Congdon Orchards of Washington, has the following interesting data concerning them:

"Two hundred and six miles of tree rows, with 35,700 apple and pear trees, 20 feet apart, make up the Congdon Orchards, said to be the largest in Washington and the largest under irrigation in the United States. They contain 386 acres and are the property of Chester A. Congdon, a Minnesota attorney. The Congdon Orchards are a million-dollar proposition. It is estimated that in a few years they will produce 400 carloads of selected fruit. Figure 630 boxes to a car, get the net profit for any year on each box, take the total as 8 per cent of the value and the result is the commercial value of the orchards.

The real value is more than that, however. This is an experimental farm, a nursery and a country estate. One tract contains two trees each of 150 kinds of fruits and nuts. There are 2,400 shade and ornamental trees each, lining five miles and a half of drive-ways. Aside from the two old family orchards that were on the tract when Mr. Congdon bought it the oldest trees are seven years, most of them three years old. Fifteen carloads of fruit were harvested in 1912. In 1918, 600,000 apples and pears will be handled daily during the picking season. The Congdon land is located in the center of Wide Hollow Valley, near North Yakima, in the Yakima Valley."

The business-like arrangement required to handle and successfully distribute such quantities of fruit must be up to the highest point of efficiency. As an example of the manager's methods in Mr. Farmer's letter notifying the Northwestern Fruit Exchange of his readiness to begin shipping pears, he advises:

"This year our Bartlett pears are taken from the orchard and placed in cold storage. They are removed from the cold storage just long enough to pack and are immediately replaced in the cold room at a temperature that by the time we load our first car should be down to 34 to 36 degrees F. Pears will be loaded direct from the cold storage room into the ice cars. By handling our pears in this manner it seems to us that they should reach their destination in almost perfect condition, unless the buyer desired that the pears ripen somewhat in transit."

It is this attention to details that the Northwestern grower can well emulate to his ultimate success.

GEESE IN THE ORCHARDS.

IT HAS been discovered that geese in an orchard are useful because they devour the waste fruits, generally full of worms and hatching for another generation of pests. This seems to have been first discovered in Canada where the wild geese from the lakes and rivers entering the orchards cleaned up the waste fruits and it was found that in these orchards there were fewer pests than in the orchards of adjacent communities where these geese did not enter. Later the experiment of growing tame geese in the orchards of Ohio and certain other sections was successful, not only on account of the work they did in the orchards but on account of the profit yielded in the sale of feathers and meat. Geese are easily grown, and the young are not nearly so tender and likely to die as chickens. Besides, they yield good profits and do less damage to trees than swine, which are often used in the orchards for the same purpose. However, in the irrigated sections they would during the season in which irrigation is practiced greatly interfere with the ditches and would from this view point be objectionable.

COURSE FOR FRUIT INSPECTORS.

A. C. ROBERTS, president of the Oregon State Board of Horticulture, has addressed a communication to the district commissioners, asking them to take the matter up with their respective county courts

relative to sending their fruit inspectors to a special week of Inspectors' Short Course at the Oregon Agricultural College, which Professor Lewis has promised to inaugurate if sufficient counties respond to justify the time and expense.

"The tendency would be to cause increased efficiency on the part of the inspectors and unite the horticultural interests more closely," said Mr. Roberts. "The course would touch upon all subjects pertinent to the fruit growing industry, with reference to our own locality, also touching upon all phases of the cultures of the fruit from the time of bloom until full development, together with data on picking, grading, packing, etc."

"The fruit interests, including growers, shippers and dealers, will welcome such steps," said A. P. Bateham, vice-president of the Northwestern Fruit Exchange, when asked his opinion. "The interests as a whole should be unanimous in their approval because increased efficiency in inspectors will cause increased efficiency of all concerned. The county courts will see the wisdom of complying with this request, it is hoped."

FRUITGROWING IN AUSTRALIA.

THERE is probably nothing more remarkable in these days of rapid progress than the amazing development of the Island Continent of Australia.

The development of an active irrigation policy has brought about a new era of closer settlement. The advancement of the country along these two lines, fruitgrowing and irrigation, is capably dealt with in a bright, well-illustrated magazine, "The Fruit World" (Australia).

Australia is termed "The Pride of the Southern Hemisphere." The fruits produced include apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, cherries, loquats, strawberries, and, in the warmer zones, oranges, grapes, bananas, pineapples, mangoes, figs, etc. The area of the fruit and market gardens amounts to 324,931 acres, to the value of \$21,557,940. The biggest developments in irrigation have so far taken place in Victoria, with New South Wales and South Australia following.

The state of Victoria has spent \$125,000,000 on irrigation works. In the state of New South Wales the Burrinjuck dam, one of the masterpieces of the world's engineering, provides storage for 33,000,000,000 cubic feet, or a volume of water about equal to that contained in Sydney harbor. The state of South Australia contemplates locking the River Murray (the Nile of Australia) and irrigating and reclaiming 400,000 acres.

BALLAD OF VEGETABLES.

A potato went out on a mash
And sought an onion bed;
"That's pie for me," observed the squash,
And all the beets turned red.
"Go 'way!" the onion, weeping, cried:
"Your love I cannot be;
The pumpkin be your wife—
You cantaloupe with me."

But onward still the tuber came,
And lay down at her feet;
"You cauliflower by any name
And it will smell as wheat;
And I, too, am in an early rose,
And you I've come to see;
So don't turnip your lovely nose,
But spinachat with me."

"I do not carrot at all to wed,
So go, sir, if you please!"
The modest onion meekly said,
"And lettuce, pray, have peas!
Go, think you have never seen
Myself, or smelled my sigh;
Too long a maiden I have been
For favors in your rye!"

"Ah, spare a cuss!" the tuber prayed;
"My cherryshd bride you'll be;
You are the only weeping maid
That's currant now with me."
And as the wily tuber spoke
He caught her by surprise,
And, giving her an artichoke,
Devoured her with his eyes.

Turnips keep best in a dry outdoor pit.

Garden Notes

BY MAKING a succession of seeding of the peas, lettuce, radishes and beans these vegetables will be provided throughout the summer and fall season.

Give the garden thorough cultivation. It should receive as much attention as any cultivated crop on the farm. Above all things do not put off the care of the garden for rainy days.

Why not give the children a small garden patch that they can care for their very own; let them cultivate and care for the vegetables and flowers, and finally let them sell the produce. The children's garden will teach observation, industry and responsibility.

Better results will come from transplanting vegetables into the garden if it is done on a cloudy day.

Keep the tools bright and in good working order. When through with them place under cover. Build a cupboard in the woodshed, on the back porch or in the carriage house for the garden tools.

Too much care cannot be exercised in covering seed properly. The tendency is to cover too deeply. Such crops as onions, squash, parsnips and lima beans push up the shells of the seed itself and find it difficult to force their way through a very great depth of earth after it is packed down by rains.

Give plants in the garden a chance to grow. Plenty of room and fertility is what is needed.

After rains, when the crust begins to form, stir the soil.

Mildew may be reached by spraying with Bordeaux mixture.

Never plant bush Lima beans closer than two feet apart in the rows.

Green beans and peas may be had all through the summer and fall if seed is sown at different intervals.

After the asparagus season is passed, remove the weeds, stir the soil and give the bed a coating of well-rotted manure.

Pole beans and peas should be staked and the ground around them loosened with a hoe. Drain the loosened earth toward the rows, hilling them up.

Cover spinach with a light litter or mulch of straw, heavy enough to retain the snow and prevent freezing.

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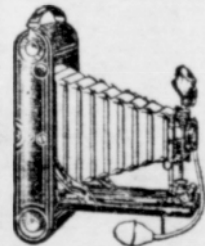
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