

FARM NOTES.

After the tomato plants have made progress in the open air apply fertilizer, broadcasting at the rate of 200 pounds per acre.

It has been demonstrated that where thorough drainage is practiced larger crops are produced, and with less cost, than where drainage is neglected.

California privet has demonstrated for itself that it is a hardy evergreen for a portion of the year, can be produced for out-planting, has few insect enemies, if any, and is a desirable hedge for any farm.

A tree that has been carefully trimmed and relieved of useless wood can be more easily sprayed than one that has received no attention. This fact should not be overlooked, as not only will a tree be benefited, if properly pruned, but there will also be a saving of labor in spraying.

When you get ready for the garden do not be satisfied with a few kinds of vegetables, but try to get a variety by growing a small plot of each kind mentioned in the seed catalogues. It will make the garden more valuable, as well as better appreciated, and also enable you to learn what the land is capable of producing.

When bran, linseed meal, brewers' grains, etc., are largely purchased and used on farms from which butter is sold such food will greatly increase the fertility of the soil, for the reason that butter takes little or nothing from the soil, and the fertilizing elements of the food are therefore retained on the farm.

The striped bug which destroys cucumber vines may be destroyed by placing a tiny box over the vines such as a cheese box and pouring a teaspoonful of bisulphide of carbon on the ground. Allow the box to remain over the vines half an hour. The substance is very volatile, hence fire must be avoided in its use. Tobacco dust around the vines is also excellent.

No farmer should intrust the pruning of his trees to an inexperienced person. More harm is done by inexperienced persons than by leaving the trees untouched. To saw off limbs, right and left, without regard to the nature of the tree or its symmetry, and to simply cut away limbs that are in the way, should not be practiced. The trimming or pruning of a tree requires skill and judgment.

Do not be deceived by the advance warm weather of spring and put in the garden crops too soon. It will be time enough to complete the planting when the apple trees begin to bloom. A late frost will destroy all tender plants. Cool nights are also detrimental to the growth of such plants as squash, beans, melons, tomatoes and corn. The ground must be warm before plants will make headway in growth.

New strawberry beds should be planted not later than the middle of May. If the variety is both staminate and pistillate there will be no difficulty next year in having the blossoms fertilized, but should staminate and pistillate varieties be used (two varieties) they should be of kinds that blossom at the same time, or disappointment will result. A fruit grower who escapes the ravages of the white grub in his young strawberry patches states that just before setting out the plants he dips the roots in a solution of lime in which Paris green has been added.

One bushel of ashes represents about two and a half tons of dry body wood. Wood ashes contain all of the required elements of plant nutrition except nitrogen. One hundred pounds of wood ashes contain 16 pounds of potash, worth 80 cents; three and a half pounds of soda, worth two cents; 67 pounds of lime and magnesia, worth eight cents, and five and one-fourth pounds of phosphoric acid, worth 26 cents. If one had to buy in the market, in the cheapest form, the manurial material contained in 100 pounds of ashes, the cost would be greater.

The foundation of farming is grass, and in order to be successful the farmer should never omit grass from his rotation. A good sod to turn under, at least every four years, will make the farm more profitable, and will be readily worth to the farmer, in the benefits imparted to the soil, more than the value of the grass for hay or pasturage. When putting in a grass crop in the spring the careful preparation of the soil should be the main object. An application of fertilizer, to be harvested in, will be worth more to the grass than at any later stage. Get a good start and the grass will take care of itself.

It is a common fault with many amateur gardeners that they attempt to raise too many kinds of ornamental plants. They are attracted by the pleasing descriptions in seed catalogues and order fifteen or twenty species of plants which they have never tried before. They are almost sure to be disappointed in a good part of them from their lack of time and knowledge in managing them. To get the most enjoyment from flowers they should give as little anxiety as possible. It is wiser to learn to cultivate one plant well than to half grow a dozen different kinds. Try only two or three new sorts each year, and get well acquainted with them before trying others.

Orchardists in Tasmania are subject to a fine of from \$2.50 to \$5, with costs, if they fail to bandage their trees to keep down the codling moth, or if they fail to gather and destroy any infested fruit. Wormy apples sent to market are liable to confiscation and destruction, and the shipper be prosecuted. In New South Wales all infested fruit coming from other colonies may be seized or destroyed, or returned to the shipper at his own expense. Fruit growers are generally assisting the government in enforcing these laws. Similar laws in this country for a few years would see a hardship to many parties, but would be a benefit to fruit growers and to the country if they were strictly enforced.

There are customs which are rigidly adhered to in the sowing or planting of staple crops. Clover is usually sown on the wheat land in the spring, the seed being scattered over the ground when it is covered with snow, in order to facilitate the work. One of the rigid rules is to sow a certain quantity of the seed, as little as possible if the seed is high in price, and should the stand be light the cause is ascribed to everything but the seed. The fact is that seed should be used more liberally, as much of it is destroyed in various ways before germination, the saving in seed causing a loss of clover. Another point is to harrow the wheat, seed down the clover, and then use a roller on the land. The better the preparation for clover the more seeds will germinate and the more perfect the "catch."

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

A DAILY THOUGHT.

Take time each day to speak a kindly word. When kindly words are seldom heard; and it will linger in the mind, and gather others on your heavenward track.

If You Want to be a Welcome Visitor.—Two things, each of which is unimportant, that will do much to contribute to the hostess' comfort if looked after is always to be prompt to meals and to keep one's room tidy. With only one or two maids in the house they cannot be expected to give much personal service, and if a girl does not pick up her own things it necessitates the hostess going in when she has the chance and doing it herself.

It is human nature that the visitor should like one member of the family better than the others, and within reason it is proper to express this liking. But to do it to the extent that makes others feel de trop when they are about is very bad breeding. In spite of the fact that one might prefer to talk alone with one's particular friend include the others who drop in. Do not discuss people or things that the newcomers do not know, or do it only after explaining so that they can follow the conversation, says the Detroit Free Press.

Accept very few invitations without your hostess. As a rule it should not be done at all, but in case of having a very old friend whom one has not seen for a long time it is permissible to go to lunch or to tea without the hostess. Even then the old friend should do something soon to which the hostess is invited to.

A girl staying in the house of another is apt to forget that by herself is her family judged. If she is noisy, inconsiderate and obstinate she shows immediately that she has been badly brought up and places her parents in a light where they are open to criticism.

Neither hostess nor guest should always be on parade, for there are times when each has little things that must be done. A hostess must keep her house running; a guest has letters to write and needs time for resting. It is a very tactful thing on the part of a guest to excuse herself after breakfast to write her letters, for that is the time her friend is most apt to be busy with household duties.

During these days of spring sewing women are apt to find the continued running of the sewing machine very tiresome. They will find that the motion is not so wearisome if only the toe of the left foot is allowed to touch the treadle, while the right foot is placed entirely on it and bears the bulk of the work.

Green, the color of hope, is to be the prevailing color this spring. The new color, so Paris says, is a light tea green. This will be seen in the girdles of all white frocks for summer wear, will make whole dresses and accessories and give tone to all sorts of hats. It is quite different from the "coronation" green, which was the feature of a few summers back.

As to new shades in cloth or cashmere dresses, a pastel blue-green is very much to the fore. This is not pale, reseda, nor duck-egg green though very like both. It is rather nearer the beautiful shade of the inner layer of an emu's eggshell, which makes such a perfect harmony with the dark green of the outside when the shell is carved.

Care of the Shoes.—With the vastly increased number of styles in footwear, the number of sorts of leather employed and the various colors de rigueur, the care of the shoe is a matter which takes on considerable importance. The first necessity in the care of the shoe is the tree. Without trees they cannot be made to retain their shape, becoming wrinkled and ancient-looking. Since the trees may be had as low as half a dollar, and will last forever, there is no reason for not possessing them.

An expert says that the perspiration acts like an acid on the leather, causing it to become tiny, hard and brittle. In extreme cases leather has actually cracked open from no other cause.

As to Tan Shoes.—Before wearing a tan Russia calf shoe it is well to rub into the leather a tan wax paste, which will close the pores of the leather, thus preventing stains from becoming anything more serious than outward blemishes. In cleaning these shoes only use the acid liquid cleaner in extreme cases. It is too severe. Instead wash the leather off with water before applying the paste that comes for tan shoes.

Colored kids are to be cleaned the same as Russia calf; only for these dainty shoes there is a special liquid dressing.

Light-Hued Shoes.—Even the shoes of light hues have been taken under consideration. It looks like a piece of bees' wax or brown soap, and contains a little of everything, even rubber.

Best of all, it isn't messy. One simply rubs it over the soiled places until they are clean.

This will also clean suede kid, though there's a new cream that is somewhat better for suede. Though both these cleaners act well on white buckskin, nothing is better than the whitewash-like preparation with which all are familiar. This, however, is a whitewash rather than a cleaner, and so, at intervals, the shoes should be washed in soap-suds. After being quickly dried the "whitewash" is applied. It is equally good for white linen shoes.

The gayer the shoe the worse it looks unless it be "spick and span."

Spring Neckwear.—The collar—in fact, neckwear of all kinds—is a formidable consideration to begin with. There is quite a fad for the plain linen collar again. The smartest is a high turnover shape fastened with jeweled links and made with button-holes large enough to slip through them tulle or ribbon which is tied in a bow just above the links. Another plain high linen collar has these narrow straps in front fastened to the collar with tiny pearl buttons, and through these straps is pulled a silk necktie, which is left without being tied, but which has all the effect of a wide bowknot, as in front the bands make it look narrow, and then the ends flare out wide.

Smart Collars.—Canvas will enter very largely into the construction of smart collars and turnovers this season, and many of them will be elaborately embroidered either in white or in colors.

Worth Remembering.

Real service is never servility. The nearer one gets to God the closer one gets to one's neighbor.

The fact that there is no law against it does not always make it right. The way to make tomorrow better than yesterday is to work today.

The men who talk the loudest about politics being dirty are the men who are too lazy to help clean things.

It isn't the money that counts; it is the intent and purpose of the giver. A man may burn so much "midnight oil" that he has none left to oil the day's machinery.

The man who starts out looking for trouble usually finds it just about to enter his own door.

When a man begins to imagine that he "doesn't look his age" it is a sign that he is growing old.

The man who has no business of his own is a mighty poor man to engage to attend to your business.

A man may buy the reputation of being a philanthropist, but he can not buy the real philanthropist's character.

If a man is real honest he will admit that the proudest moment of his life was when he could see faint signs of a little bunch of beard in front of each ear.

He Wasn't a Legislator.

A traveling man who "makes" Kansas City frequently was dining in the cafe of one of the large hotels yesterday when he thought he'd play a trick on his waiter. "See that man at the next table, George?" he said.

The waiter nodded assent. "That's Dr. Alonzo Tubbs, the Missouri legislator, who is trying to stop all tipping." The waiter grew interested at once.

"Well, ain't dat too bad," he said, "Ah's been waitin' on him, too."

"Well, you won't get any tip there," said the traveling man.

"Ah suitingly treated him right," replied the waiter.

A few minutes later the man at the other table left and the waiter returned to the traveling man.

"Well," said the drummer, "what did I tell you?"

"Xcuse me, sah, but ah thinks you told me er fabrication," said the waiter, grinning. "Dat man ain't a legislator—he's a gentleman."

The man had given him a quarter—Kansas City Star.

Sheep as Pack Animals.

The principal beast of burden in the inner ranges of the Himalayas is the mountain sheep, which will carry each from seventeen to twenty-five pounds of baggage and live entirely on the herbage by the wayside. A small flock of them accompanied a recent expedition of a famous Indian explorer for more than 1000 miles, being at the finish none the worse for the journey.

It is common in the Himalayas to load sheep high up in the mountains with borax and then drive down to the plains, where they are shorn of their wool, and return laden with grain or salt. They stand the severe cold of the highest ranges of Tibet better than the yak or mountain cow, and are indeed indispensable to the primitive needs of transit of the dwellers there.

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