

AGRICULTURAL.

Good Sorts of Apples.

ANNUAL BEARING APPLE TREES.— Orchardists have tried in many ways to make their apple trees bear annual crops, instead of biennial ones as is the case, practically. But, there are many kinds of apples which may be relied on for an annual crop, and why not plant more largely of these kinds? In Pennsylvania, for instance, the Red Ash, the White Doctor, never fails to give fair crops. A writer of the Virginia Rural Messenger names the following kinds as reliable in the same way:—"King of Tompkins County, winter apples; Horse Apple, summer; King of the Pippens, English fall; Windrow's Pearmain, fall; Hubbard, late fall; Yellow Bellflower, early winter; Chronicle or Cotton Apples—has been kept in good condition two years; Standard's Seedling, winter; Golden Dixie, large, good and very beautiful early apple, described in Downing's third appendix; Striped June, among the earliest; American Golden Russet, excellent late fall; Ramsell's Sweeting, late fall, and yields every year enormously if well fed."

RED CANADA APPLES.—A New England writer says of the above named apple: "This is none other than the old French Nonpareil, a heavy cropper, an apple on our place for nearly forty years, and it is always sold quick and high. Now isn't it strange that we have spent time and money, and wasted them both, on lots and lots of new and worthless varieties, and neglected this most charming and profitable of all apples, merely because it was an old sort. But such is the fact. The Hubbardston is rather a slow grower, but this is not, at least I do not think it is, and it is a constant bearer, alternate years a great bearer. Fruit above medium size and of great beauty, keeps well, packs well and sells well. It will bring more to-day in the Liverpool market than any other variety."

Field Root Crops.—The parsnip, though of an uninviting taste to most children, is liked generally by older persons, and is said to be a particularly wholesome vegetable. Like the carrot it requires rich, deep ground, rich from a previous year's manuring. Manure, especially if fresh, makes the roots somewhat ill-shaped. As the seed germinates slowly, it should be sown very early in the spring, in drills eighteen inches apart, and covering the seed half an inch with fine soil or sand. The soil should be thoroughly rolled after sowing; when well up thin out to five or six inches apart in the rows. The part of the crop required for spring use can remain in the ground during the winter. A few can be stored in the cellar, covered with sand. For feeding cattle, it is very desirable, and as it does well all winter standing in the ground where it grew, it might be made use of as an early spring root for cattle.

MANGLED WURZELS.—When it is considered how ravenously cattle devour turnips, mangled wurzels, and other root crops, the wonder is that the European plan of making roots a prominent feature in farm crops is not adopted here. Mangels, for instance, are of easy culture. Everyone who has grown garden beets could similarly grow mangels. To store these roots for winter, Joseph Harris says the best way is to heap out of doors as does potatoes. He says: "I select, if possible, a dry sandy knoll, plow out a pit three or four feet wide, and as long as you wish. Twist or cut off the leaves from the mangels, not to close, and put the roots in the pit, packing them or 'cording' them so as to make the roof steep enough to shed rain. If you will scatter a quantity of dry, light soil in among the beets in the pit, say enough to fill up the space between the mangels, you will find that the beets do not get warm in the pit, and will come out fresh and nice in the spring. Do not be afraid to throw in a dozen good shovelfuls of soil to each cart load of beets. And before putting on a coat of straw I throw on a layer of sandy soil all over the heap of beets an inch or two thick. Put on a layer of straw about six inches thick, and then six inches of dirt, and this is all that is necessary till very cold weather, when I put on another layer of straw or litter and cover it with dirt. In covering the heaps with dirt, we plow around and round the heap with a plow throwing the dirt toward the heap. This greatly lessens the labor."

THE JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.—The subject of varying the assortment of food for cattle in the winter is likely to become of more importance every year. The dairymen interests demands this. As growers look about them for additional root crops it may be that the Jerusalem artichoke will not be overlooked. As a vegetable it has been long esteemed by Europeans. In our Southern States it would prove a valuable root for farmers. In the South three bushels of tubers are amply sufficient to plant an acre, the large ones being cut into pieces with two or three eyes like potatoes. The land should be thoroughly plowed, and from January to April they should be planted in furrows about eighteen inches apart, and covering with a plow. When they were well up, plow them as you would corn; and when about a foot high, plow them again throwing a furrow to each side, and you are done cultivating them forever. The first year they will yield a good crop, from five to eight hundred bushels, and will improve for two or three years, if the soil is good, till they double the product of the first year. On pigmy, they would land 1500 to 2000 bushels. It is said, however, to be produced. In August the tops may be cut and cured for hay, which is quite equal to cured fodder, and may be fed green, soiled. The yield is large, and the tops are eagerly eaten by cattle, horses and mules. The tops if cut, should be taken off about a foot from the ground. One cutting does not at all affect the yield of tubers. In November the hogs should be turned in to harvest the tubers for themselves, and may remain on them till March. In carbonaceous matter—starch or its equivalent—they are but a trifle inferior to potatoes.

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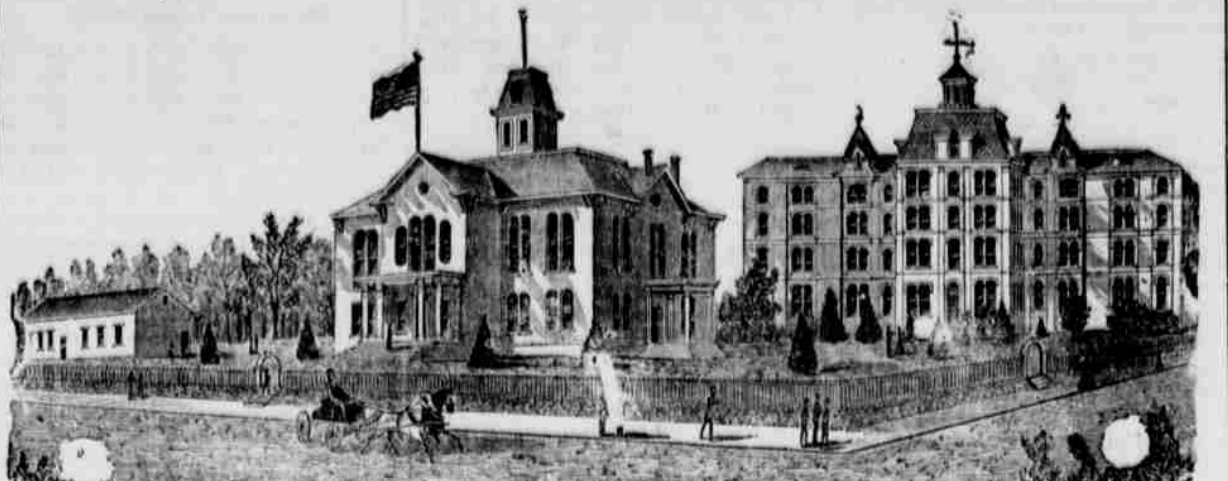
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Table with columns for Station, Time, and Direction. Includes stations like Harrisburg, York, and Pottsville.

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