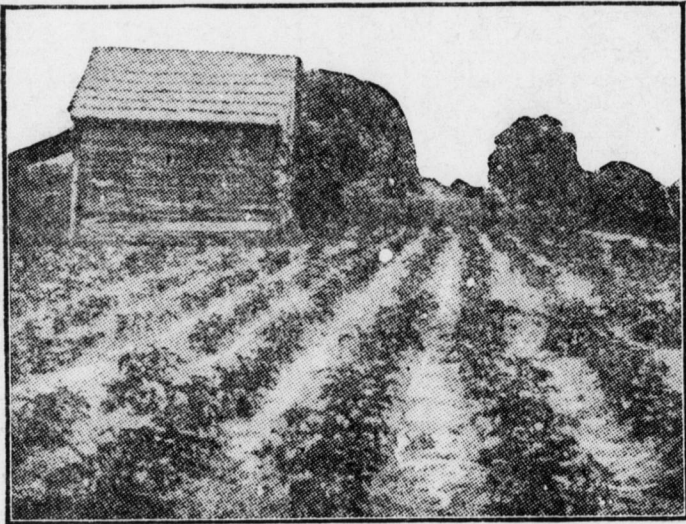


GROWING POTATOES UNDER STRAW MULCH BENEFICIAL

It Will Bring About Good Results On Hilly Land Where the Moisture Often Does Much Damage.—By T. M. Cisel.

For growing potatoes on hill land or where they are often damaged by moisture the straw mulch will be found to bring good results. For straw covering the potatoes should be planted the last of May or the first of June. We have the soil well prepared. Mark off the rows two feet apart and not too deep. Straw potatoes require only about half the row space that cultivated ones need, as the vines are never so large and cultivation is not required. Cover the seed with two inches of soil and then with about ten inches of straw, or enough to make four inches when well beaten down by rain. This will keep the weeds down and hold the moisture throughout the

ber of the experts of the department while going up and down in the land made it their business to study the question and see whether there might not be a germ of truth, or, at least, some reason for the general belief that the moon's phases have an effect on animal and vegetable life. They have concluded after patient investigation that the moon myth is one of the comparatively few myths that dates back to pure savagery and has absolutely not a scientific leg to stand on. Almost every one, even if he has not reared in the country, has heard of the idea about planting potatoes in the dark of the moon. The field workers of the department of agriculture



Potatoes Growing Under Straw Mulch.

summer. Potatoes grown in this way are always free from scab, clean and of finer quality. Clover chaff makes a good covering, but should not be put on so heavily as it forms a more compact covering, and with too much rain will cause the potatoes to rot.

There is nothing in the current superstition about planting potatoes in the dark of the moon and similar pieces of farm lore which have been accepted as gospel truth from time immemorial. This is the dictum of the department of agriculture, which made a serious study of the moon superstition and laid the Luna wraith at least to its own satisfaction.

There is usually a basis in fact for any superstition, and the moon superstition was so deep-rooted that a num-

ber of the farmers of this enlightened country put in their crops and do a good many other things about the farm governed absolutely by the moon's phases. Almost any farmer will tell you that if you plant potatoes in the dark of the moon they will run to tubers, and if in the light of the moon, they will run to tops. This is said to be true of any root crop, and it is planted accordingly.

There is only one difficulty about this theory and that is that it is not so. The agricultural experiment stations all over the country have been defying the superstition for years and raising just as good crops when the moon was one way as when it was the other.

GOVERNMENT IN WILLOW BUSINESS

Free Distribution of Best Varieties Made from Nurseries Located Near Washington

The government is right in the midst of the harvest of a most unique crop at its experimental farm near Arlington, just across the Potomac from Washington, where a corps of laborers in charge of trained foresters are preparing for the annual free distribution of 100,000 basket willow cuttings.

Uncle Sam is encouraging the growing of high-grade willow rods in this country, and in the five years since the establishment of the holt at Arlington approximately a half million select cuttings have been distributed among farmers, with directions for planting and preparing for market.

Particular attention is given to selecting the varieties and strains best suited to the soil where the plantings will be made.

Willow craft is an industry which is constantly growing in importance in this country, yet the culture of basket willow in the United States made very little progress until five or six years ago.

Even now, practically all of the best grades of basket willow are imported from Europe, chiefly from France. Experiments have shown that the best grades of willow can be grown in this country at a good profit.

This year's harvest began early in March. Four approved varieties are being sent out, and only the best and most thrifty rods are selected for distribution. Cuttings for experiments, planting and information on management of the willow holt are furnished those who make the request of the forester at Washington.

The government recognizes the importance of good cuttings, a point more commonly overlooked than the matter of cultivation. Only the best and most thrifty rods are selected for each season's distribution.

The forest service is receiving a constantly increasing number of requests for basket willow cuttings. These requests came from farmers all over the country, many of them coming through members of congress.

Lice Infection.
It is a mark of poor farm management to allow any animals to become infected with lice. Hogs can not thrive when their vitality is sucked away by these insects. There are several good dips on the market, and kerosene and grease, mixed warm, are a good common remedy.

REMEDIES FOR SCABBY POTATOES

Two Poisons Are Recommended to Prevent Disease, Formalin Being Less Dangerous.

Potato scab is a disease of the potato tuber caused by a fungous growth attacking it in the soil. Spores of the fungus will remain in the soil from year to year and on the tubers from one season to another. The disease causes the surface of the potato to become rough and unsightly and very often extends deep into the flesh, injuring its food value.

Scab on potatoes can be prevented by planting uninfected tubers in clean soil, and the danger of infecting may be reduced by rotation or by planting the potatoes in different soil each season.

To insure a crop of potatoes free from scab treat the seed with some poison to kill the scab spores on them and plant in soil in which no potatoes have grown for several years. Two poisons for scab treatment are recommended. Formalin is the less poisonous and the one most commonly used. It costs about 50 cents a pint and one pint is used with 30 gallons of water. Formalin solution may be used either in a wooden or metallic vessel, and, although a poison, there is little danger in its use. Let the potatoes soak in the solution for about two hours. After disinfection place the potatoes in bags which contain no scab spores.

Spores of potato scab may also be killed by the use of corrosive sublimate. This is a very poisonous substance and must be used with care. Do not use for food any of the potatoes after treatment. To use corrosive sublimate provide a barrel or other wooden vessel, as it attacks metals. Dissolve two ounces of the poison in two gallons of hot water. When it was dissolved mix it with 14 gallons of water and sprinkle or pour it over the potatoes, so that all of the tubers become moist with the solution. What is left over of the poison must be carefully disposed of.

Exercise for the Horse.
It is a mistake to keep either young or old horses stabled several days at a time. They need daily outdoor exercise for development of muscles and bones. If the pasture is too short for them to run in, allow them daily exercise in an open lot.

Brood Coops Face South.
See that your brood coops face the south at this time of year so as to give the chicks as much of the sun's rays as possible, but reverse this method as the season advances and the heated months approach.

For the Hostess

Chat on Topics of Many Kinds, by a Recognized Authority

A week from to-morrow is Labor day with a capital "L," said a bright young teacher, as she thought of returning to the schoolroom. "Learn to labor and to wait," may have done in the time when it was written, but "Learn to Labor, not to wait," is more applicable to this day and generation, for he who waits is hopelessly lost in the shuffle.

But for the party of which I want to tell it struck me as a very good thing. The hostess is a young matron, who is long in the knowledge of the so-called fine arts, but she is woefully lacking in the knowledge of what I call the "finer art"—viz., domestic science. Having been recently married and being desirous of doing for "Jack" just as "mother used to," only with modern approved methods, she has asked six older housekeepers to come to luncheon on Labor day, and the invitations stipulate that each one must be prepared to tell and, perhaps, illustrate, some practical way of performing some household duty.

The hostess is going to provide cunning little notebooks and pencils in which will be written these discoveries. The table favors are all to be symbols of labor in miniature—tiny brooms, dustpans, tubs, etc.—and the favors are to be the cutest of sweeping caps and the most approved models of aprons, under which "little wife" may safely wear a much-befrilled frock with perfect safety. The menu is to be made up from the recipe book prepared by "special friends," so the hostess confided to me she felt sure of results and would not have to try them on "Jack" first. (I wonder if he realizes his fortunate escape?)

I hinted broadly to be bidden to the feast, but the hostess with charming candor replied: "No, Mme. Curtsey, this is to be really and truly a plain affair, without any furbelows, and cannot be classed in your 'Novel Entertainment.' It's too serious." Nevertheless, I am hoping the readers will appreciate the novelty of the idea, for I think it is going to be a mighty good luncheon.

For Pre-Nuptial Luncheons.

The slipper, bell, rose, heart, true lovers' knot and circle (ring) are all appropriate symbols for place cards at a bride-elect's luncheon or dinner party. They may be easily made at home. First cut the design out of paper until it is satisfactory, then use as a pattern on heavy dull paper or cardboard that comes for just such purposes.

A very slight knowledge of water colors will serve to decorate them

with orange blossoms, forget-me-nots, heads of pretty girls with coronets of tiny roses and the bride with a filmy veil.

Entire figure place cards are effective with a standard to hold them upright at each plate. At one dinner for a bridal party the place cards were little photographs of the bride and groom in frames of gilt with mats made from the bridal gown.

A coterie of college girls had these unique souvenirs, which also served as place cards. Books were made of white satin, with the words "Our Wedding Cards" done in gold. They were to preserve the wedding cards of the girls as they came out, and there were spaces for newspaper clippings descriptive of the event; also places for a few written notes.

I think photographs of the bride and groom should be added to make this record complete. The name of each girl was done in gold on the outside cover, and thus it made the place card.

A Tree Shower.

A hostess with a large lawn devised this original and pretty shower for a summer bride-elect. She had the lawn gayly decorated with lanterns and rugs spread in cozy spots surrounded by shrubbery with camp chairs and little tables where tea was served.

The guests were asked to bring articles for a "miscellaneous" shower. After they arrived there was a short musical program of love songs. The packages were tied to a beautiful evergreen, a real little Christmas tree. It certainly was a loaded tree, for the hostess had added a lot of tin things like cookie cutters, graters, etc., that sparkled in a most bewitching manner.

Each parcel was accompanied by a rhyme or sentiment, which was read aloud. The bride-elect was handed a pair of scissors and clipped the ribbons, opening each parcel as she took it down. This with serving of refreshments furnished entertainment for time specified on the invitations, from "three to five." Every one was delighted with the novelty and pronounced the affair a charming success.

MADAME MERRI.

At the Five O'clock Tea.

A popular combination most served instead of iced tea at five o'clock is grape juice and ginger ale mixed. Use about a third of the latter. If white grape juice instead of purple is chosen the drink is better yet. Serve with glasses half filled with cracked ice.

Five Suggestions



The first illustration shows a simple style well suited to Jap silk. Three tucks are made at each side of back and front; the outer one is taken to waist, the others join yoke and are stitched a few inches down; the plastron and yoke, which are cut in one, are of piece lace, with trimmings of cords and buttons. The sleeves are three-quarter length, and are tucked to match.

Materials required: 2 1/4 yards silk 36 inches wide, 3/4 yard lace, 1 dozen buttons, 1 yard cord.

The second is an exceedingly pretty idea, and is carried out in pale green spotted nixon and piece lace. The nixon is finely tucked for the yoke, and is gauged on the outside of sleeve. Green silk to match is used to bind the edges of the over-bodice, which is entirely of piece-lace.

Materials required: 2 1/4 yards nixon 30 inches wide, 1/2 yard green silk, 2 1/2 yards lace 18 inches wide.

The next design is also quite pretty, and is made up in mauve mercerized lawn. Three tucks are made on each shoulder, and two each side of center front and back. The yoke, which is of fine muslin embroidery, continues to waist in front, and a little way down at back; straps of embroidery edged with material are taken over the shoulders, and mauve silk ornaments are sewn in the rounded ends. The sleeves are trimmed by groups of tucks and set to a band of embroidery just below elbow.

Materials required: 2 yards lawn 36 inches wide, 4 ornaments, 1 1/2 yard muslin embroidery 18 inches wide.

In piece lace or cambric embroidery, the bolero would be both smart and useful; the edges are bound with the same material as dress is made of.

Materials required: 2 yards lace 18 inches wide.

The last is a simple pinafore bodice that is made up in nymph green linen to match the skirt; embroidered galloon forms the trimming round opening at neck and arm-holes; the tab of embroidery which comes in center of front is trimmed with three silk tassels.

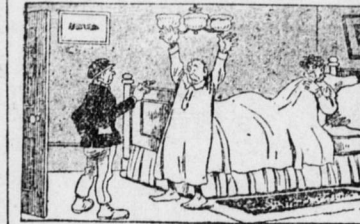
Materials required: 1 yard linen 36 inches wide, 2 1/2 yards embroidery, 3 tassels.

PAINT BEAUTY.

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National Lead Company here again offer you the co-operation of their paint experts—this time in the line of color schemes, artistic, harmonious and appropriate. You have only to write National Lead Company, 1902 Trinity Building, New York City, for "Houseowners' Painting Outfit No. 49," and you will promptly receive what is really a complete guide to painting, including a book of color schemes for either exterior or interior painting (as you may request), a book of specifications, and also an instrument for detecting adulteration in paint materials. This outfit is sent free, and, to say the least, is well worth writing for.

WIFELY SOLICITUDE.



Burglar—Hands up!
Wife—Oh, John, be careful of those globes; you'll break them!

PROVED BY TIME.

No Fear of Any Further Trouble.

David Price, Corydon, Ia., says: "I was in the last stage of kidney trouble—lame, weak, run down to a mere skeleton. My back was so bad I could hardly walk and the kidney secretions much disordered. A week after I began using Doan's Kidney Pills I could walk without a cane, and as I continued my health gradually returned. I was so grateful I made a public statement of my case, and now seven years have passed, I am still perfectly well."

Sold by all dealers. 50c a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Wedding Fees in Installments.

Some of the 'squires in rustic New Jersey seem to be pretty hard pushed for cash. To get the cash they do not hesitate to use most unusual methods. One of these J. P.'s advertised the other day that he was ready and willing to marry couples at any time, day or night, for a consideration of \$5 and that he was willing to accept \$1 in cash down and the rest in weekly installments of \$1 until the fee of \$5 was paid up. The very night after the first appearance of this advertisement the J. P. referred to was called upon to "make good" his bluff. Shortly after midnight a couple which had come in an automobile awakened him from his sleep and asked to be married under the installment plan offered in the advertisement. And the J. P. was game and made good.

People Becoming Interested.

Evidence of the popular interest in the anti-consumption crusade is given in a statement made by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, to the effect that during the year ending August 31, nearly 3,000,000 people have attended tuberculosis exhibitions in various parts of the country. Besides the three traveling tuberculosis exhibitions of the national association, there are 28 exhibits of this kind throughout the United States. Four years ago there were only three such displays in the entire country.

Mother-in-Law Again.

Husband—Why do you hate to see me come home smiling?

Wife—Because I know it means something has happened to poor mother.—Illustrated Bits.

THREE REASONS

Each with Two Legs and Ten Fingers.

A Boston woman who is a fond mother writes an amusing article about her experience feeding her boys.

Among other things she says: "Three chubby, rosy-cheeked boys, Rob, Jack and Dick, aged 6, 4 and 2 years respectively, are three of our reasons for using and recommending the food, Grape-Nuts, for these youngsters have been fed on Grape-Nuts since infancy, and often between meals when other children would have been given candy."

"I gave a package of Grape-Nuts to a neighbor whose 3 year old child was a weakened little thing, ill half the time. The little tot ate the Grape-Nuts and cream greedily and the mother continued the good work, and it was not long before a truly wonderful change manifested itself in the child's face and body. The results were remarkable, even for Grape-Nuts."

"Both husband and I use Grape-Nuts every day and keep strong and well and have three of the finest, healthiest boys you can find in a day's march."

Many mothers instead of destroying the children's stomachs with candy and cake give the youngsters a handful of Grape-Nuts when they are begging for something in the way of sweets. The result is soon shown in greatly increased health, strength and mental activity.

"There's a Reason."

Look in pkgs. for the famous little book, "The Road to Wellville."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

WORTH MOUNTAINS OF GOLD

During Change of Life, says Mrs. Chas. Barclay

Graniteville, Vt.—"I was passing through the Change of Life and suffered from nervousness and another annoying symptom, and I can truly say that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has proved worth mountains of gold to me, as it restored my health and strength. I never forget to tell my friends what Lydia E. Pinkham's

Vegetable Compound has done for me during this trying period. Complete restoration to health means so much to me that for the sake of other suffering women I am willing to make my trouble public so you may publish this letter."—Mrs. CHAS. BARCLAY, R.F.D., Graniteville, Vt.

No other medicine for woman's ills has received such wide-spread and unqualified endorsement. No other medicine we know of has such a record of cures of female ills as has Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

For more than 30 years it has been curing female complaints such as inflammation, ulceration, local weaknesses, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, indigestion and nervous prostration, and it is unequalled for carrying women safely through the period of change of life. It costs but little to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and, as Mrs. Barclay says, it is "worth mountains of gold" to suffering women.

CUTICURA COMFORT



FOR LITTLE FAT FOLKS

Most grateful and comforting is a warm bath with Cuticura Soap and gentle anointings with Cuticura. This pure, sweet, economical treatment brings immediate relief and refreshing sleep to skintortured and disfigured little ones and rest to tired, fretted mothers. For eczemas, rashes, itchings, irritations and chafings, Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment are worth their weight in gold.

Sold throughout the world. Deposits: London, 27, Charterhouse Sq.; Paris, 6, Rue de la Paix; Australia, R. Towns & Co., Sydney; India, R. K. Paul, Calcutta; China, Hong Kong Drug Co.; Japan, Maruya, Ltd., Tokyo; Russia, Ferron, St. Petersburg; So. Africa, Lennox, Ltd., Cape Town, etc.; U.S.A., Foster Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

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