

GARDEN AND FARM

PURCHASING FERTILIZERS.

Fertilizers will be applied not only this spring, but also on crops seeded later, and even on the wheat in the fall, but many farmers procure the larger portion of their fertilizers at this season. There are some matters connected with the purchase of fertilizers which are overlooked by farmers, and they are the kind of soil, the kind of crop grown on the land the previous year, and the proper selection of the crop for this year. Some soils are rich in potash, while others are deficient, and the same holds true with other plant foods. No one can inform the farmer what his soil requires, as an analysis of a small portion of a field does not always give an indication of the requirements of the whole, for which reason the farmer should endeavor to study his soil and its requirements, which he can do by tests on small plots.

It is not unusual for a farm or field to contain available plant food left over from the applications of the previous year, as the fertilizer used may have contained ingredients not suitable for the crop grown, and which were expensive to the farmer because he purchased something not needed. Clover should always be one of the crops used, as it utilizes mostly the mineral elements, demanding little or no nitrogen. It also shades the soil and conduces to the formation of humus, the roots adding much fertility to the land when plowed under, even after a hay crop has been removed. It is believed by some that clover requires no fertilizer. Such is not correct, as clover is greatly benefited by potash. It is also partial to lime in almost any form, even the lime in phosphates benefiting the plants. For the grain and potato crops nitrogen should be used. It is the valuable ingredient in nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, blood, tankage, fish and cottonseed meal, and is better known to farmers as "ammonia," though the real value of ammonia is due to its nitrogen. If farmyard manure has been applied on the land much will depend not only upon the quantity used, but also upon the manner in which it was preserved, as it may possess but little value or may contain much plant food, according to the substances fed to the animals which produced it.

When procuring fertilizers their value is increased when the plant foods contained are soluble or available. A fertilizer may contain all the ingredients demanded by the farmer, but if they are not available for the plants there will be but little immediate benefit derived. Fertilizers are largely used for giving plants a supply of ready-prepared food that they may make early growth and reach a stage for better resisting the usual dry weather of summer, as any loss of time in the early spring may influence the yields of the crop. All fertilizers should be very fine and dry that they may be easily applied and distributed and they should be broadcast and not used in hills. Success with the use of fertilizers depends upon the rainfall, and there is more liability of disappointment when the fertilizer is used in rows or hills than when broadcasted, as the latter method allows more water for dissolving the plant food than when the fertilizer is concentrated over a smaller area.—Philadelphia Record.

RAISE GOOD CALVES.

In successfully growing calves I prefer an April calf, of good beef stock. The mother should be well taken care of, fed on plenty of clover hay, ground corn and oats, mixed half and half. Let the calf have the finest milk that it wants, then take it away from the cow and put it in a stable handy, and where the cow can see it, if it is bad weather. If the weather is nice put the cow on a good pasture of rye, with the calf just over the fence at a straw shed or stack, where it can get the benefit of the sun. The calf should be turned to the cow morning, noon and night for the first two weeks; then the calf will eat, if it is where it can get something green. There should be a small lot of rye fenced off for the calf, and that, with plenty of milk morning and night, will be all that is required for the next two weeks. Then the calf will be one month old.

The first of May there should be a patch of oats ready for the calf, with a box nailed up under a shed, where the calf can go out of bad weather and eat a quart of ground corn and oats, equal parts, morning and night for the next month. Feed just after turning the cow out. During the third month, June, the calf should be treated the same as the second, except a little more ground feed—say, one-half pint more. The fourth month it should have a patch of peas to run in, and the feed should be cut down to one quart, morning and night. The fifth month the calf should have three pints of ground oats and corn and one pint of oil cake or flaxseed meal given just after being turned to the cow, with the pasture increased by letting run on a fresh rye patch. At the end of August, he will be six months old and should be ready for the market at top price for calves. I should have said at the end of two weeks the calf should be trimmed and dehorned, if a horned calf, and during all this time the calf should have fresh, clean water, where it can go and drink at will.—W. M. C., in Indiana Farmer.

CARE OF SPRING LAMBS.

The young lambs require the most thoughtful attention of the shepherd, for half the year's profit may depend upon the manner in which they are reared and fattened for market. They need to be protected and nourished so their growth will be continuous and rapid. It is the condition of the lambs and not their number which will determine the profits of the business. There will be some weakly lambs from the start, and they should be fed away from the others with special reference to their needs. Sometimes these may turn out to be as profitable as the more robust ones. The earlier in the season that one can get the lambs ready for market, with an average weight of sixty to seventy-five pounds, the greater are his chances for profit. The ewes must receive considerable attention also, and their feed must be carefully selected while the lambs are running with them.

There is probably no better way to make grain more profitable than feeding it to young lambs, which can be sold in the early markets. Not only this, but one is sure of getting quick returns. A few weeks or months and then the returns come in, and at once is ready to reinvest the capital in more stock or crops. In the spring of the year it will pay to feed the young lambs for market good grain just as soon as they will eat it, and continue to do so up to the time of marketing. Good grain food will produce plumpness and fatness of the carcass, which nothing else can equal, and the butcher looks to these in his good lambs. Thin, scrawny lambs, no matter what they weigh, do not come to market with high recommendations. They are handicapped, and will in most cases bring a little less per pound than the plump ones.

A good mixture of grain is made of corn meal and oats in equal parts, and either fed whole or ground to a coarse mixture. A good deal depends on the age of the lambs. This fed daily so they can have access to it as stated periods, where the ewes are fed, will generally keep the lambs in good condition. They should also have access to good grass when the season is advanced sufficient. Good blue or orchard grass is relished by them, and later the clover when it clothes the fields with its luxuriant yield. With grass and hay in plenty and grain sufficient to strengthen and fatten them, they should take on growth rapidly and prove profitable investments.—Wallace Simmons, in American Cultivator

THE BROOD SOW.

I advocate a liberal feeding of the brood sow. If she is thin in flesh, a judicious mixture of corn as a part of her ration; if she is excessively fat, I would give her no corn, but would feed her liberally during that time on ground oats, millstuffs, etc., and I come now to what I conceive to be a serious problem confronting the breeders of pure-bred Poland-China hogs, who are engaged in the business of selling brood sows at public auction. The buyers' taste seems to demand that these animals, when sold, shall be in high flesh, practically in show condition.

There is no grain which will produce that result so quickly, cheaply and thoroughly as corn. Therefore, a majority of the breeders feed the brood sows which they are feeding for sale into a condition so that they would be classified readily in the stock yards as choice heavy, but are certainly in anything but a condition favorable for the production of healthy, vigorous pigs. A majority of these sows are sold less than 60 days before the time when they are due to farrow and one cannot hope, by however judicious dieting, to overcome in that time the effects of the heavy and long continued feeding on a corn diet.

But if you cannot sell your sows if they are thin, what will you do? I answer, deny yourself, if necessary, perhaps so large a margin of profit, and taking a longer time for preparing your sows for sale, feed them more liberally upon soft feeds. A brood sow can be made to look very well upon a diet composed of one-third corn and two-thirds to three-quarters ground oats, mill stuff, etc., moderately fed for a considerable time; while as a breeder she will be infinitely more profitable to the purchaser and of much more lasting benefit to your trade, than if fed a much shorter time upon the heavier diet.—H. L. Sweet, in American Agriculturist.

A Scoury Trick.

A story is related of a very odd trick which has just been played by a servant on her mistress who, dissatisfied with her conduct had given her warning, adding that she did not intend to pay her her wages. The young woman, thirsting for revenge, explained her plight to a friend of hers who is a clever mechanic. The man contrived during the lady's absence from home to introduce an electric battery under the mattress of her bed, with instructions to the servant as to how she should set it going, two wires having been also laid down for the current, and when about midnight the lady retired to rest the trick was played on her. Suddenly electrified, the unlucky woman screamed out for help, and after a time the servant made her appearance on the scene, and, laughing merrily at the sorry spectacle thus presented by her mistress, declined to put an end to her misery until she had promised to give her the wages. The lady agreed to do so, but the next morning she went off to the nearest police station with a complaint, and search is being made for the girl, who had prudently left the house in the meanwhile.—Paris Correspondence of the London Telegraph.

IDEAS FOR THE FAIR ONES

THE SHREWD BUYER.

"Yes, I think they're lovely," said the girl in the corduroy gown, in reply to her friend, who had openly complimented her on an unusually fine string of coral, with quaint, old-fashioned clasp to match.

"Heirlooms?" interrogated the admirer.

"Heirlooms? Not much!" laughed the possessor of the corals. "Though, that matter, they may be, too. But if you won't breathe it, I'll tell you how I got them. In a pawnshop! It was such a funny place, on the Bowery. You should have seen it. They had a set of false teeth for sale.

"Oh, yes; I go alone. Of course, the first time I felt not only afraid but foolish, and walked up and down two or three times past the place where there was some of the most fetching silver filigree in the window. Two policemen on the corner eyed me suspiciously, and finally asked me if I wanted to 'hook' anything. I told him I wanted to buy something, but was afraid to go in. 'There's a private entrance round the corner, if you prefer it,' he suggested. I took his advice, and when I found myself in a little coop, with a big, fat man asking me what I wanted—will you believe me?—I forgot all about that filigree, and made a rush for the door and right past the policeman, who, I know, must have thought me crazy. I got over this nervousness, though, and now I don't go in the side doors. I have discovered that they are more popular with those who wish to pawn than those who wish to buy. I walk boldly in the front way, ask for what I want, and Shylock himself couldn't outdo me in driving a bargain. The excitement of it beats shopping on Broadway all to pieces."—New York Tribune.

"To be beautiful should be the object in a woman's career until she is forty, after which she should become a power," was the dictum of a modern French writer. It was also a Frenchman who remarked that a woman past forty should either take the veil or be abolished. Miss Janet Achurch, the well-known actress, rather inclined to the former view in a lecture which she delivered in the Pharos Club on "The Woman of Forty or Thereabouts." The woman who has passed the confines of youth, said the lecturer, has come to be regarded as of much greater importance than she was, say, twenty years ago. The changes in her status can best be seen by consulting the novelists. From the period of Fielding to that of Thackeray the girl of seventeen was always the centre of attraction, and she always disappeared after her wedding day. After Thackeray came the long innings of the woman of thirty.

The woman of forty ought to be the happiest of women. She has peculiar privileges possessed by no other woman. She is not troubled with anxiety like her younger sisters at crossing the borderland of youth. Her future is more clearly defined—for at forty she is not chosen and settled down in her career, irrevocably chosen, too, her man? Loneliness is a bogey. Remorse is the only thing she need be aware of. If she has a profession she is at her best at forty. She can act better, paint better and write better. In conclusion, Miss Achurch thought that the age of forty should be looked forward to as an inheritance rather than dreaded by every woman.—London Chronicle.

A GIRL'S FIRST OFFER.

There are two extremes, into one of which a girl often falls on receiving her first "offer." The worst and the most frequent of these is that of fancying herself in love, when, in reality, she doesn't care a fig for her lover. The other consists of coquettish pride, which leads her, against the dictates of her judgment and inclinations of her heart, to reject a suitor, however worthy.

When can honest man offer a woman his hand with all the accompaniments of heart and fortune—whether these be exalted or lowly—he pays her the highest compliment in his power. Undeniably she is complimented, and she must be untrue to her womanhood does she not in some measure feel so, even though her suitor be beneath her regard; but the compliment will be valued very much in proportion to her estimation of the man.

Many a woman has blighted her own life and that of the man she loved by indulging in a passion for coquetry. Having charms of which she is fully conscious, she proudly measures her power and says to herself: "I am equal to great conquests, and shall I thus early be conquered. When I have had a surfeit of these delights, then—"

But the time referred to in the long futurity of the little word "then" seldom comes to the coquette. It will always be "then." The accepted time is never near when we have once let the opportunity pass. At eighteen the coquette asks: "Who is he?" At twenty-eight, "Where is he?"—New York News.

MIRROR IS DECEPTIVE.

One's reflection in a mirror never does one justice. Comfortable thought for the plain and pretty alike! Complexion, expression and color are all really better than the shining glass makes them appear.

Let not her to whom Nature has been sparing of her charms despair if she would see herself in the deceptive mirror as others see her with the eye, or as nearly as possible, let her hasten to a draper's shop and buy a quantity of soft, pure white material—gauze, if possible; if not, Swiss or India muslin will answer very well.

Be sure to have it pure white, and after polishing the surface of the mirror, gather the material at the center of the top and bring it down softly at either side, framing the glass in folds of pure white. When this is done to artistic satisfaction, peep in and see what a transformation.

The true tints of the complexion, the expression of the countenance and the eyes, the correct color of the hair will be very accurately reflected. This is one of the milliner's oldest secrets. Many of the most artful of them drape the glasses in the softest drapery of pure white. It is done with the view of giving their fair patronesses the best view of themselves possible, administering in this way a little subtle flattery.

COMPRESSED BABIES.

Don't make baby's dresses too tight, says a writer in Good Housekeeping. Many a baby frets and cries simply because the little arms are restricted, or the neckband is too tight. By making baby's first clothes large you will save yourself much extra work and many fretful days. My baby wore her first dresses until she wore them out, some being in use when she was two and one-half years old. No change was necessary save in the length of the skirt.

Only the other day I saw a big, overgrown baby of six months whose yoke met only at one button. I asked the mother if I might loosen the clothes. I did so and found that the sleeves, made small for a small baby, now cut into the fat arm. The baby at once stopped fretting.

RINGS IN VOGUE.

Rings are worn more generally this season than in many years, and women are not obliged to cling so persistently to gloves. In fact even at balls the wearing of gloves is optional. Rings are more elaborate and showy than ever. The most popular design is a bulky diamond affair that reaches from joint to joint, while an ingenious Parisian jeweler has sent to this country one of the long rings with hinges, covering almost the entire finger. The use of the digit is not impaired, because the hinge acts in accordance with the movement of the joints, while the finger is one glittering mass. Some fashionable women wear the wedding ring only, but the tendency now is a riot of diamonds. In some instances gloves have been slit at the seams to display rings.—New York Press.

TIARAS FOR MATRONS.

To the matron belongs the right of wearing the tiara, and young girls rarely indulge in anything more ambitious than simple little floral and ribbon wreaths. This stately tiaras are more beautiful this year than ever. Some of them are shaped like little coronets and fasten from side to side of the head with a long slender brooch pin. Many of the simple tiaras are of coral, which mingles exquisitely with cut silver. Others are of topaz, tourmaline, sapphires, and one beauty is of pearls and emeralds. Some very lovely and comparatively inexpensive ones are made of cut jet.

FOR THE LADIES

FASHION NOTES.

The more gossamer the sleeves the more fashionable.

The newest tortoise shell comb resembles a twisted Louis bow.

Lattice-work of chenille forms the trimming for some separate waists in satin.

Black tulle, worked in gold and mingled with lace, is one of the favorite fabrics of the year.

Blue combined with violet is one of the approved color blendings of the season, and the effect is charming.

Spanish shaped turbans of the same material as the gown, relieved with a band of sable, are modish.

A white satin striped gauze for evening has autumn leaves painted upon it and a thick ruffling of flowers borders the skirt.

Flat shoulder capes graduated in size and without a ripple are a feature of the newest long coats and jackets. The capes usually number three.

Rich embroidery in pale green silks and ribbon work upon a somewhat darker green satin, combined with fine lace, makes a most effective trimming.

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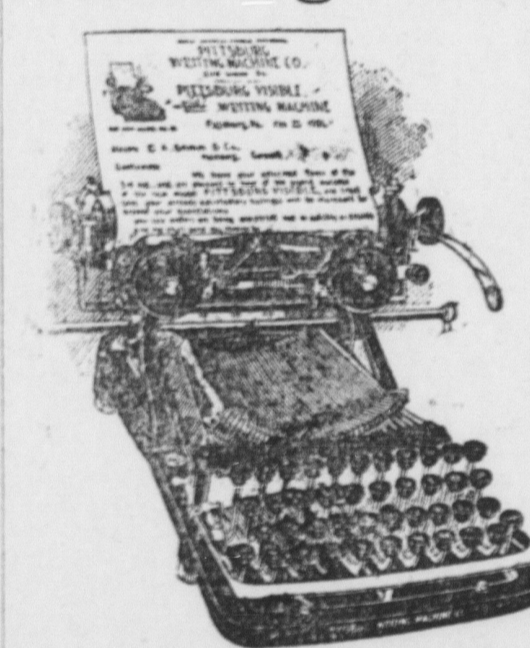
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