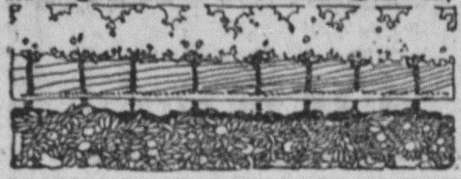


# HORTICULTURE



## PICK MELONS FOR SHIPMENT

To Reach Market in Firm Condition and Retain Flavor is Excellent Trait for Farmer.

(By JOHN W. LLOYD.)  
There is considerable difference of opinion as to the exact stage of maturity at which melons should be picked for shipment. If allowed to become too ripe before picking, they become soft by the time they have reached the market, and often must be sacrificed in order to effect an immediate sale.

If picked too green, the melons reach the market in firm condition but are lacking in flavor, and not desired by the best trade. It is a nice point to pick melons at such a degree of ripeness that they will reach the market in firm condition, and yet possess the requisite flavor.

The rapidity of softening after picking varies with the temperature to which the melons are subjected. The cooler they can be kept after picking, the longer they can be allowed to remain on the vines and the better flavor they will have. It is, therefore, essential that the melons be placed in the shade as soon as possible after picking, and be kept shaded until they are loaded into the car.

For the same reason, ripper melons can be shipped under refrigeration than in ventilated cars.

The condition of the vines and the rapidity of ripening of the melons in the field will also have a bearing upon the stage of maturity at which they should be picked.

While it is true that no rule can be given for picking melons that will apply under all conditions, and that the grower must exercise judgment in reference to each day's picking, the ideal will be attained when the conditions are such that the melons will reach the market in the best condition if picked as soon as the fruit will part readily from the stem when the latter is pressed with the thumb and finger.

There is a tendency among growers to pick considerably before this point has been reached, in order to run no risk of the melons becoming soft in transit.

That proper grading results in the securing of better prices than indiscriminate packing is evidenced by the experience of certain growers who have departed from the usual custom, and practise a regular system of grading whereby three distinct grades of marketable melons are made, and shipped under three different brands.

## SALVIAS AS VASE FLOWERS

One of the Most Popular of Common Flowers and Well Deserves its Great Popularity.

The *Salvia splendens*, or scarlet sage, makes a beautiful vase flower, although it is not seen in vases as often as it should be. Grown out of doors, it should be bedded in large masses and does best where the sun shines freely. If well cared for it will maintain its beautiful splendor of deep red from midsummer until frost cuts it down. It is important that the soil shall not contain too much nitrogen, as in that case the plants make too rank growth and produce few flowers. Lifted just before frost and



Salvias as Cut Flowers.

put in the window in a bright, warm place, salvias will remain very attractive for five or six weeks. There are about 650 species of this plant, which include all of the sage family. The meaning of *salvia* is "to keep safe or healthy," and refers to the medicinal properties of the common sage, but it is one of the most popular common flowers and well deserves its popularity.

### Plum Rot.

Plum rot (*monilia frustigena*) can be diminished very materially by treating the branches with bordeaux mixture and removing all mummified plums. I have frequently noticed that mummified plums are centers of infection. The general winter treatment is also advisable for black rot of grapes and apple scab. Twig blight of apple and pear trees can be diminished by cutting off all the affected limbs in the winter and spring and spraying or washing with bordeaux mixture.

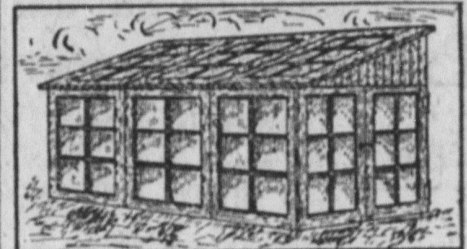
## FRUIT EVAPORATOR IS HANDY

May Be Used for Raising Early Plants and for Many Other Purposes as Desired.

(By J. E. BRIDGMAN.)  
While the house or room illustrated was designed only for drying fruit, it may be used for raising early plants or for several other purposes.

The house is made of storm sash. The rear wall and the two gables are of six-inch flooring. The size will of course depend on the size of your storm sash; these come in various sizes, and may be secured of any lumber dealer or mail-order house. They cost from 90 cents to \$1.50 each.

A frame of 2x4-inch timbers is first built, and the sash fastened to same



FRUIT EVAPORATOR.

with screws. Three two-inch holes are bored in the rear wall, close to the top and covered with screen wire, to allow the steam and moisture to escape.

One sash on the end is hung on hinges for a door.

The fruit is spread in shallow trays, with screen wire for the bottoms. These trays are placed on brackets, and the fruit is away from the dust, dirt and insects and when dried it will be clean and fit for food. Should a sudden rain come up, you do not have to rush around and gather up the fruit from the shed-roof.

The house may of course be built any size, but one built with ten sash will be found ample for an ordinary family.

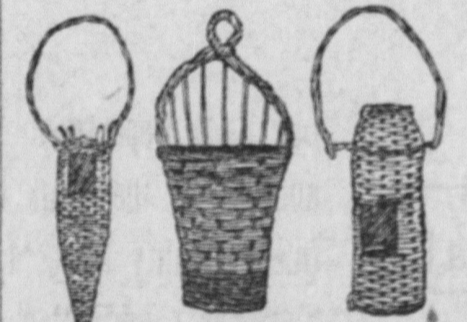
The house should be well painted, and be placed on a slight elevation. It is inexpensive, easily built, and provides a way to save the surplus fruit, that goes to waste on many farms, from year to year.

A surprisingly high temperature will be attained in this house in an ordinary sunbath.

## FLOWER AND PLANT BASKET

Illustration Shows Three Artistic Examples—Two Small Ones for Cut Blooms.

Three excellent examples of basket craft in this special line are shown in the accompanying drawings, says Pop-



Artistic Hanging Baskets.

ular Mechanics. The two small baskets, one of which resembles a lantern in shape, are for cut flowers, and have cups inside to hold water. The large basket is designed to accommodate a potted plant.

# HORTICULTURAL NOTES

Still continue to hoe and cultivate the strawberry bed.

Pears are best when ripened indoors instead of on the trees.

Young trees are especially subject to sun-scald, which causes damaged bark.

Pack your apples honestly and put your name and address on each barrel or box.

Asters should be copiously watered in the evening during this hot weather or the flowers will be poor.

No fruit should be allowed to go to waste as long as there is a possibility of making cider, vinegar and unfermented grape juice.

Allow fuchsias to flower now and feed the roots a little when potbound. The fuchsia is not, however, a very gross feeding subject.

Placing a small heap of rich stable manure around the base of each tree in the orchard will prove to be a little time most profitably spent.

The bruise of an apple may not at once develop into rot, but will make a brown spot which disfigures and lessens the value of the fruit.

That corky old apple, the Ben Davis, still holds a high price in the city markets, because its fine appearance deceives the ignorant buyer.

Keep seedling stock of primulas, cinerarias and calceolarias as cool as possible in the frames or houses, shade lightly and allow abundance of air.

Flip, well-rotted manure is a good mulch for tea roses. Prune by cutting the blossoms lavishly with long stems, in order to induce vigorous blooming branches.

To induce nasturtiums to bloom in rich soil strip off most of the leaves and all seed pods and let the sun to the stalks. Nasturtiums bloom best in poor soil.

Pots and boxes of stevia should be moved around occasionally to prevent rooting through too much, also any chrysanthemums or other strong rooting subjects.

## JOHN KLING STILL HOLDS HIS OWN



Catcher Kling, of Chicago Cubs.

When Catcher Johnny Kling patched up his differences with the Chicago Cubs last spring there were quite a few baseball fans who predicted that he would not return to the form he had previously displayed.

It was said that he had been out of the game for a whole season, that he had not kept himself in good shape, and a lot of other things. But he has fooled all of the skeptics. He has played as good ball this year as he ever did before.

This has been displayed by the way

he has played since Captain Chance's forced retirement, owing to a bad "Charley-Horse." While Jimmy Archer has been playing first base during the absence of the captain-manager all of the back-stopping has devolved on Kling. He has not only fielded his position in masterly fashion, but he has been hitting the ball hard. It is almost a certainty that Kling will do the most of the catching during the series for the world's championship probably opening in Chicago on Oct. 16.

## NOTED PLAYER HAS RETIRED

Frank Bowerman, One of Most Eccentric Figures in Baseball, Drops Out of Game.

With the retirement of Catcher Frank Bowerman, baseball loses one of its most eccentric characters. Bowerman has been playing in the bigger leagues longer than many of the other players in the same company today have been living. He made his debut years and years ago, and has played in fast company continuously since. His best work was done for the New York Giants, with whom he played when they were at the pinnacle of their fame. Bowerman has always been a lively, scrappy player, up to his neck in the struggle all the way. He left the Giants and took a whirl at the managerial end of the game in Boston, but his Benneaters, after making a glorious start, fell by the wayside when



Catcher Frank Bowerman.

the race grew warm. Reports say that he trained his men too fine early in the season. At any rate he left Boston before last season was over, and announced that he had retired from the game. Later he joined the Indianapolis club, and was with them again this year. Recently he left the team and went to his home in Michigan. It is hardly likely that he will play again.

### O'Connor on Wagner.

Jack O'Connor thinks that Hans Wagner is the greatest thrower in the game. He is and has been the best thrower in the game, according to the St. Louis manager, since he broke into the game. There are many others who think the same as O'Connor in spite of the fine showing of the youngsters who have come up in the last three or four years.

## HOW PLANK GOT HIS START

Simply Closed His Eyes and Cut Loose—Afterwards Studied the Game and Pitchers.

BY EDWARD S. PLANK.

They all say I got my start the day of the battle of Gettysburg, but they exaggerate somewhat. I was born in Gettysburg in 1875, and that gave the boys a chance to say things. I admit the 1875 without trying to get away and scalp half a dozen years off my age as some of them do.

At any rate I think I am rather a freak as a baseball player because I seldom have heard of any case anything like my own.

As I told you I was born in Gettysburg and I played some baseball around there in an amateur way, and without giving the game much thought.

I started to college about the time most of the other fellows are getting enough. I was twenty-five when I was began pitching for the Gettysburg college team, and I was big and strong and fast and wild and inexperienced and everything else that goes to make up a college pitcher. I simply shut my eyes and cut loose and most of those who didn't strike out got bases on balls, and I have suspected since that a lot of them struck out just to escape from standing up there at the bat.

Seriously I think the real reason for my start was that I was older, stronger and better developed than the average college man. That made me stand out among them and it attracted the attention of professional clubs.

I had not thought of baseball as a profession at all until offered a job, and I joined the Athletics in May, 1901, after school closed, knowing about as much about major league ball as I know about who will make a three base hit in the morning game next Decoration day. Suddenly I saw that there was more to it than throwing as hard as possible and curving them. I saw I would have to do some thinking and I began to study the game. Queerly enough



Edward S. Plank.

I went wrong right away. I was guessing speed, but luckily for me I had enough speed and shoots to hang on by sheer power until I learned more. I worked and studied hard at the game, watched the other pitchers, picked up their tricks and began to pitch with much less exertion and strain and still get results. If I had gone on the way I started I would have been out of it in two seasons, and I'm still here. On the other hand, if I had known as much when I started about pitching, I'd be here a long time.

## FOOTBALL IN FOUR HALVES

Intercollegiate Committee Divides Time of Play Into Four Periods of Fifteen Minutes.

After long cogitation, the intercollegiate football rules committee has announced the changes which the game will undergo this autumn. The time of play is divided into four periods of 15 minutes' duration, instead of the traditional two halves of 35 minutes each. The usual intermission of 15 minutes is maintained between the second and third period; but an intermission of three minutes only is allowed between the first and second and the third and fourth periods. At the beginning of the second and fourth periods the teams change goals, but the down, the relative spot of the down, possession of the ball and distance to be gained remain as they were.

Another radical change eliminates the flying tackle. The player must have at least one foot on the ground when tackling an opponent. A player is only qualified to receive a forward pass who is at least one yard back of his own scrimmage line, or occupies the position on the end of said line. No man may make a forward pass, or kick the ball, unless he is five yards back of his scrimmage line. Interlocked interference is forbidden, and it is also forbidden for any man on the side having possession of the ball to push or pull the man running with the ball. There are other less startling changes, all tending, it is assumed, to make the game less dangerous.

### Wasmund to Coach Texas.

Former Quarterback Wasmund of Michigan university will coach the Texas university football squad at Austin this fall.

# STATE HAPPENING

Pottsville.—A novel courtship was testified in court here before Judge Bechtel in a case in which Mrs. Louisa Schultz, a widow, sued Hartman Hoffman for breach of promises to marry. Mrs. Schultz said that Hoffman never called her "dearie" or "honey" and she does not believe he loved her, although she said she still loves him. When Mrs. Schultz pressed Hoffman to keep his promise of marriage he sold his fine big house and furniture and instead built a little one-story shanty. Mrs. Schultz alleges that this was done to cool her eagerness to become Mrs. Hoffman. The defendant said that he would have kept his promise to marry Mrs. Schultz, but that he had heard that her former husband might still be living. Mrs. Schultz asked for \$1000 damages, but the jury only allowed her \$28.

Scranton.—A premature explosion in Storrs No. 1 mine brought death to John Memica, a miner aged 44 years. When his body was removed from the mine and his pockets searched he was found to be a traveling bank. In his pockets and in an old belt around his body he carried over \$1,500 in fifty and twenty-dollar bills. Memica's widow was almost paralyzed with astonishment when the money was handed to her. Her husband had always assured her he puzzled him to make both ends meet.

Scranton.—One of the most serious mine caves in years in this vicinity took place in Old Forge. Houses owned by John Snyder and Anthony Thomason were wrecked. One owned by John Hainsley was damaged. It is said that the damage to the Snyder home was so great that the structure may have to be rebuilt. Superintendent John Corcoran, of the Jermyn Coal Company, has notified the people of the vicinity to be on the look out for further settling.

Pottsville.—Joseph Kusko, of St. Clair, was suffocated and John Walsh, of the same place, fatally hurt by a slide of tons of black dirt in a small mine at Broad Mountain. They were working at the base of a big bank, when suddenly the entire side collapsed upon them. It required a half hour of the hardest kind of work to get them out and when they were recovered Kusko was dead, Walsh was barely breathing, but was resuscitated, although it is believed he cannot live.

Pittsburg.—Miss Edna B. Doe, of Washington, D. C., was instantly killed, Walter J. Wilson, of Glen Osborne, a suburb of Pittsburg, was probably fatally injured, his wife seriously hurt, and Max Feltwell, chauffeur, had three ribs crushed, the result of local passenger train 955 on the Pennsylvania Railroad striking the automobile in which the party were returning from Washington, D. C., to Sewickley.

Media.—The officials of Edgmont Township are negotiating for a loan to make extensive improvements to Edgmont great road which is anticipated, will form a connecting link with the projected main highway from Philadelphia to Pittsburg. Commissioners J. Howard Mendenhall, John B. Davis and Samuel Pinkerton will be called upon to expend \$11,000 for improvements to this highway.

Pottstown.—Seized with convulsions while out canoeing on the Schuylkill Canal, Monroe Reitnauer, a young man, 18 years of age, was drowned when he fell out of the frail bark. The canoe was partly overturned with the result that his companions, George Schuermans and William Barr, narrowly escaped a similar fate.

Shamokin.—Police discovered a hut on Brush Valley Mountain in which they captured a man almost nude, with hair hanging far down his back and whiskers to his knees. He was almost starved. He said his name was Joseph Moleksie and that he had gone into the mountains some time ago, having become tired of living with human beings.

Shenandoah.—While Charles Dougherty, 28 years old, of Lost Creek, was walking on the Reading tracks he was run down by the Cannon Ball Express. He was hurled 25 feet into the laurel bushes. He is in a critical condition at the State Hospital. A short time ago he met with a similar accident and lost an arm and barely escaped with his life.

Huntingdon.—A disastrous fire, caused by incendiaries, destroyed the large sawmill plant of the Broad Top Lumber Company and 3,000,000 feet of lumber, near Coalport. The Huntingdon fire department responded to a summons for help. The loss is \$75,000.

Collingdale.—Rev. Walter S. Dunlop, who has been the pastor of the Collingdale Baptist Church for two years, has tendered his resignation in order to resume his studies for another year at Crozer Seminary, at Chester.

Chester.—Annie McFadden, 14 years old, died from an illness which developed from an abscess which formed on a tooth three weeks ago. The inflammation gradually grew worse, inoculating her entire system and affecting her heart.

Irrigation in Cuba.  
Washington, D. C. (Special).—Irrigation upon a large scale is to be tried out in certain sections of Cuba which has suffered a big decrease in tobacco production during the last three years through lack of rain, reports Minister Jackson at Havana. Pinar del Rio, where the drought seems to have had disastrous effect, has taken decisive steps toward obtaining an appropriation sufficiently large to irrigate the whole province. Other provinces are also considering the irrigation project.