

FARM AND GARDEN.

WISDOM SUBJECTS CONSIDERED IN A PLAIN, PRACTICAL MANNER.

One can't think for the berry patch. Summer Pruning of Raspberries and Strawberry for Large Fruit—A Word About Currant Bushes.

One annual pruning is the usual rule for blackberries, and this is generally done in the spring. Comparatively little pruning is necessary with the raspberry, except to go over the patch after fruiting season to cut out any of the old canes.



BLACKBERRY PLANTS.

We hear a great deal about summer pruning or pinching the canes, but seldom see it in practice. If the new canes of the blackberry and raspberry are pinched when they attain a sufficient height during the growing season and the laterals also pinched back, they will become very erect and stocky and will require little, if any, pruning in the following spring.

When this has not been done Orchard and Garden advises cutting back fully one-third and reducing the laterals to about twelve or eighteen inches. While this will somewhat retard their season of ripening it will greatly increase the quantity of the yield and the size of the fruit. Finish the operation by tying the canes support to the stake, or whatever other support may be provided, and spread a generous shower of well rotted manure or compost around each hill of raspberries, the blackberries, if in good soil, will not need any; in their case too great fertility means a rank, luxuriant growth of wood that will not ripen sufficiently to withstand severe weather, and so will winterkill.

Very few people realize this, and it often happens that a variety is unjustly condemned for lack of hardiness when the fault really lies in its improper treatment. In the cut taken from Orchard and Garden—we show the appearance in early spring of two blackberry plants, the young canes of which were pinched back last summer, and also of one as it should appear after its final pruning in spring.

Every spring place a good coating of stable manure around the currant bushes, for they are gross feeders and will repay liberal nourishment. Cut out old, useless wood, let light and air freely into the center of the bush, and also cut back the last year's growth, causing the lower buds to start well.

Crops in Europe. The abundance or scarcity of the crops in countries with which we have close commercial relations, affecting as it does the demand for our own productions, is always a matter of great interest.

From a recent report for Great Britain and Ireland it is learned that the past year was remarkable for its agreeable disappointments in its expected results. Succeeding the entire unfavorable season from January to September, with its wet July and August, a genial harvesting time came to the rescue in September and October, and so changed the whole situation that 1888 is now looked back upon with some satisfaction by the British farmer. Larger crops have been secured than he dared to hope for, and higher prices for grain, sheep and cattle have been realized.

In Ireland there has been an increase in all the principal crops except potatoes, which show a decrease. In France mild and rainy weather has lately followed a period of frost. All the autumn some cereals are looking well, and the land is being prepared under excellent conditions for the spring sowings. France continues to show large importations of wheat and flour, as well as other agricultural products, though the American imports were less than half of those of 1887, Russia and Roumania supplying our deficiency.

Here and There. A Minnesota farmer suggests a rod of barbed wire, in place of a box, for the protection of trees against horses, small boys, etc.

Dr. Ward, of New Jersey, indorses Moore's early grapes as one of the very best early grapes, coming in as it does before the Concord.

The silo convention recently held at Cleveland, O., was attended by over 500 dairy men, stockmen, farmers and others interested in silos and ensilage. The general verdict rendered was to the effect that silos have come to stay.

Experiments in France make it appear that the safest and easiest way to ship and store milk is in a frozen state.

For late sweet corn leading growers pronounce the Evergreen all that could be desired.

"The best land you have got is not any too good for strawberries, but any land that will raise a first class crop of corn or potatoes will raise a good, fair crop of strawberries," says a prominent berry grower.

No branches, large or small, should ever be cut away from a tree without a reason for it. It is the American Agriculturist's rule for pruning. One should be able to say to himself why it will be better for the tree to remove a certain branch than to let it remain.

Preserving Fence Posts. Waldo F. Brown suggests in Farmer's Review that the end posts, which must bear the strain of stretching the wires, be set with concrete. It will take but a few cents worth of cement to a post, and will make it perfectly firm at the bottom, and also more durable than if set in the clay. It is almost impossible to set posts firm enough so that they will not yield to the strain when the land is wet and soft, but by digging a hole fifteen inches square and pounding it full of coarse cement grout around the post it will give base enough to the post to keep it in place.

Farm Notes. Lime is a good disinfectant. It is especially valuable to place in cellars where vegetables have been stored, especially such as have been put in wet or show signs of decay.

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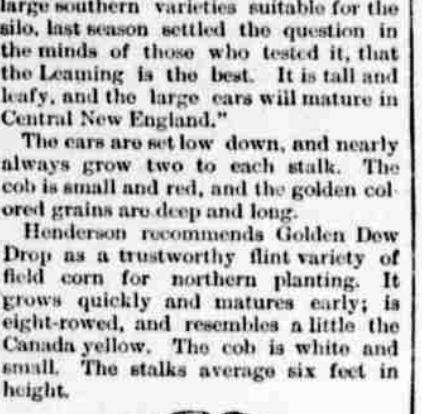
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The fish ponds of Lucullus were simply wonderful, and the practice of fattening fish with slaves probably condemned for some offense is unappreciated but well proved. The ancient historians of the west were unanimous in the opinion that "a fish was not a dumb bit of sense," and their performances certainly do indicate it, but since fish hatching was established as a national affair, Seth Green and many others have claimed to have stood just as sure as the fish had considerable intellect. Mr. Green says they knew him well and appreciated his kindness, so the old story of Lucullus' pet eel may be true.

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On the whole the values of farm animals, as reported by correspondents, are but little changed from the returns of January, 1888, but for the period beginning with 1880 the changes in the relative values of the different classes have been very marked. Since that year the increase in the value of horses per head has been 31 per cent., and in mules nearly 30 per cent. Oxen and other cattle show an increase of 6 per cent. Sheep alone show a decline in value during the ten-year period, beginning in 1880 with \$2.21 per head, and averaging now \$2.18, a decline of nearly 4 per cent. In 1880 the average value of swine per head was returned at \$4.23, against \$3.70 at the present time, with both higher and lower valuations during the period.

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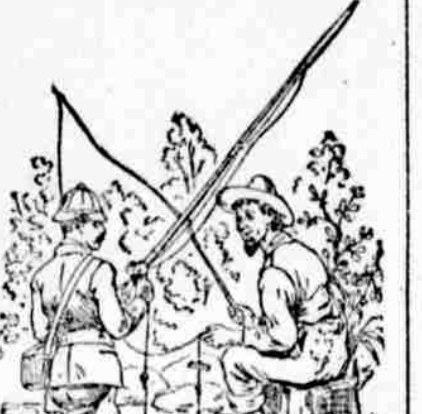
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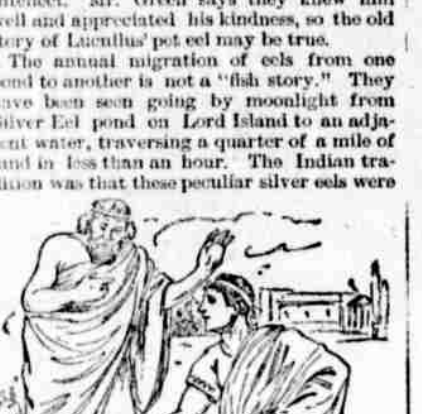
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The creek eel in sight all restraint is lost, and with a wild yell they break into a run, the big boy who carries it holding the bait bucket high above his head as he runs and all carrying their poles at a "trailed arms" angle. The yelling is prolonged till they reach the creek, by which time they are down, for "ye mustn't talk, you know—no loud anyhow." Then the old standard jokes are fired off. "Don't swear, or you won't catch any fish." "Bill, I seed a snake run in last bruch you're wearin' to gosh I did," etc., with stories of other days when "we catched bushes of fish."

If there are any girls in the party the snake job is worked for all it is worth. The worms are quickly impaled at length on the barbed hooks, protesting by noise and wriggling. "Do fishin' worms have any feelin'?" asks the leader hearted child. "Naw-w," replies an older boy, with prolonged emphasis. The blues are thrown and there is dead silence, eager eyes turned to the successful fisher, who is landed by a wild yell from the successful one and a "S-s-s-h!" from all the others. And so the day's sport is fairly begun.

THE QUESTION OF BAIT. At a later day worms were discarded for bait and minnows substituted. They were small frogs figured, then clipped bits of beef and grasshoppers, when they could be had, and finally the patent fly, the appliances multiplying just as the chance to utilize them grow less. At length every fly began to ob-

scure that "there's no good fishin' with-

out a fly."

THE MIRROR explains that the reason

why some droppings are worth more than the manure of cattle fed on similar food is that the fowl droppings contain all the fertilizing materials in solid form, while much is lost in liquids from cattle.

Use white "cellulose" to kill the currant worm.

A fact not to be forgotten in sheep husbandry is that while one may raise fine wool and very poor mutton, you cannot raise good mutton without raising good wool also.

As far as practicable use old and experienced hens for setters. The most perfect intelligent and experienced man should be the judge of the same rule of selection will give best setters.

A fruit grower affirms that in the cultivation of peaches stable manure produces too much growth of wood.

OUR ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

The Horse Breeding Industry—Sheep Husbandry—Relative Values of Animals.

According to recent reports of the national statistician, the increased attention to horse breeding noticeable in past years still continues, stimulated no doubt to some extent by the low value of cattle. There is also an improvement in quality as well as an increase in numbers, and the large English and French breeds are popular and in demand for draught horses. In the territories horses are found to be thrifty and profitable stock for the range, and the establishments of horse ranches has increased their numbers.

The total increase appears to be nearly half a million, of which the heaviest ratios are in the territories and in Texas, Kansas and Nebraska. There has been a slight increase in mules, and the number of cattle of all kinds exceeds the estimate of last year by more than a million.