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TRAVELER'S GUIDE.

BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE R. R.—Time-Table in effect on and after March 1, 1881:

Leaves Snow Shoe 5.36 A. M., arrives in Bellefonte 7.24 A. M.

Leaves Bellefonte 9.12 A. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 11.25 A. M.

Leaves Snow Shoe 2.30 P. M., arrives in Bellefonte 4.20 P. M.

Leaves Bellefonte 4.45 P. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 7.25 P. M. S. S. BLAIR, Gen'l Superintendent.

BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD.—Time-Table, April 29, 1880:

Exp. Mail. A. M.	Mail. P. M.	WESTWARD.		EASTWARD.	Exp. Mail. P. M.	Mail. A. M.
8 10	7 02	.....Arrive at Tyrone Leave.....			7 32	8 48
8 3	6 55	.....Leave East Tyrone Leave...			7 39	8 55
7 59	6 51	..... "	Vail	" ...	7 42	8 58
7 55	6 47	..... "	Bald Eagle	" ...	7 47	9 02
7 48	6 36	..... "	Fowler	" ...	7 52	9 09
7 42	6 33	..... "	Hannah	" ...	7 55	9 13
7 35	6 25	..... "	Port Matilda	" ...	8 00	9 19
7 27	6 17	..... "	Martha	" ...	8 07	9 25
7 18	6 08	..... "	Julian	" ...	8 15	9 32
7 9	5 57	..... "	Unionville	" ...	8 23	9 39
7 00	5 48	..... "	Snow Shoe In	" ...	8 32	9 45
6 56	5 45	..... "	Milesburg	" ...	8 34	9 48
6 46	5 35	..... "	Bellefonte	" ...	8 43	9 57
6 36	5 25	..... "	Milesburg	" ...	8 54	10 08
6 25	5 15	..... "	Curtin	" ...	9 06	10 19
6 18	5 10	..... "	Mount Eagle	" ...	9 12	10 25
6 9	5 01	..... "	Howard	" ...	9 20	10 37
5 55	4 50	..... "	Eagleville	" ...	9 38	10 49
5 50	4 45	..... "	Beech Creek	" ...	9 40	10 54
5 34	4 33	..... "	Mill Hall	" ...	9 54	11 16
5 29	4 30	..... "	Flemington	" ...	9 57	11 20
5 25	4 25	..... "	Lock Haven	" ...	10 01	11 25

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.—(Philadelphia and Erie Division.)—On and after December 12, 1877:

WESTWARD.	
ERIE MAIL leaves Philadelphia	11 55 p m
" " Harrisburg	4 25 a m
" " Williamsport	8 35 a m
" " Lock Haven	9 40 a m
" " Renovo	10 55 a m
" arrives at Erie	7 35 p m
NIAGARA EXPRESS leaves Philadelphia	7 20 a m
" " Harrisburg	10 50 a m
" " Williamsport	2 20 p m
" arrives at Renovo	4 40 p m
Passengers by this train arrive in Bellefonte at	4 35 p m
FAST LINE leaves Philadelphia	11 45 a m
" " Harrisburg	3 35 p m
" " Williamsport	7 30 p m
" arrives at Lock Haven	8 40 p m
EASTWARD.	
PACIFIC EXPRESS leaves Lock Haven	6 40 a m
" " Williamsport	7 55 a m
" arrives at Harrisburg	11 55 a m
" " Philadelphia	3 45 p m
DAY EXPRESS leaves Renovo	10 10 a m
" " Lock Haven	11 20 a m
" " Williamsport	12 40 a m
" arrives at Harrisburg	4 10 p m
" " Philadelphia	7 20 p m
ERIE MAIL leaves Renovo	8 35 p m
" " Lock Haven	9 45 p m
" " Williamsport	11 05 p m
" arrives at Harrisburg	2 45 a m
" " Philadelphia	7 00 a m
FAST LINE leaves Williamsport	12 35 a m
" arrives at Harrisburg	3 58 a m
" " Philadelphia	7 35 a m

Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, Lock Haven Accommodation West, and Day Express East, make close connections at Northumberland with L. & B. R. R. trains for Wilkesbarre and Scranton.

Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Erie Express West, and Lock Haven Accommodation West, make close connection at Williamsport with N. C. R. W. trains north.

Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day Express East, make close connection at Lock Haven With B. E. V. R. R. trains.

Erie Mail East and West connect at Erie with trains on L. S. & M. S. R. R., at Corry with O. C. & A. V. R. R., at Emporium with B. N. Y. & P. R. R., and at Driftwood with A. V. R. R.

Parlor cars will run between Philadelphia and Williamsport on Niagara Express West, Erie Express West, Philadelphia Express East and Day Express East, and Sunday Express East. Sleeping cars on all night trains. WM. A. BALDWIN, Gen'l Superintendent.

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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLIGENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER.

WE shall probably devote our next issue largely to the consideration of wheat growing.

WE surrender a very large proportion of our space to-day to the sixth of Mr. Dieffenderfer's interesting and instructive articles upon the culture of tobacco. The points which he considers this week—topping and suckering—are vitally important, and his instructions and advice concerning them are approved and practiced by the oldest and most experienced growers. Tobacco is a crop that will not bear the slightest neglect in any particular without resenting it, but whatever else may be slighted, topping and suckering *must* be attended to, or the result will be fatal to the grower's crops.

THE secret of success in growing wheat is in having a good soil and giving it a thorough preparation before the seed is sown. When this has been accomplished and the seed drilled in at the proper time, and of the proper thickness, which should vary with the condition of the soil, there need be little fear of failure. By the time this reaches our readers most of them will have their present wheat crop safely in the barn, and then is the time to give attention to this "thorough preparation" for the next crop. The more frequently the fallows are thoroughly stirred between now and seeding, the better for the coming crop. But let this stirring be on the surface. A mellow seed bed is essential for success in wheat growing, but it is better not to be a deep one.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

HOW TO GROW THE COMING CROP.

When and How to Top—How High to Top. Priming and How to Do It—Importance of Suckering the Plants and How It Is Done.

There is no period of rest for the tobacco grower from the moment he sets the young plants out in the field until he hangs the matured stalks with their wealth of rich green leaves in the tobacco barn. The entire season is one long struggle with the enemies of the plant itself, and continuous work in the field with the plant in order that it may attain its fullest and most profitable development. While he goes through the rows every few days to see that the tobacco worms do not damage it, in the fullness of time another and very important stage of its development is reached, and that is

TOPPING.

This is an operation that requires not only experience, but nice judgment. In ordinary seasons, in six to eight weeks after setting out the plants they begin to develop the seed bud at the crown of the plant. This, if left, will develop into a large spike covered with flowers, ultimately forming the seed pods. But if these are permitted to grow unchecked, they draw to themselves that nutriment which is required by the leaves for their fullest development. It is well known that the final aim of vegetable life is the propagation of its kind, either as seed only or in the form of fruit containing seed. The strength of the tobacco plant is concentrated in the effort to perfect the seed, and if this is allowed the leafy portion of the plant is deprived of those essential properties which give them their highest commercial value. It becomes all important, therefore, that this deterioration of the leaves shall be prevented, and the operation by which this end is attained is by the process known as topping.

WHEN TO TOP.

Some plants grow more rapidly than others, and send out the seed button, or head, earlier than the rest. No certain period can therefore be fixed to begin this operation. Generally the grower waits until the seed bud can be easily seen, while a few do not delay the operation of topping so long, holding that even the earliest development of the seed plume abstracts strength from the plant which should be directed to the perfecting of the leaf. We can only say it is far better to err by topping early than in waiting too long. The less the strength and energy of the plant is permitted to go into the seed bud, the more vigor will be imparted to the rest of the plant.

HOW TO TOP.

In removing the seed button, the all important thing to be considered is *where* to pinch it off, how much of the top shall be removed, and how many leaves shall be left. It is not easy to lay down a fixed rule to govern all cases. Much depends upon the condition, size and vigor of the plant. If the stalk is strong and vigorous, higher topping is permissable than when it is small and weak. The quality of the product is largely dependent upon the proper topping of the stalk. If topped too high, and too many leaves are left, there will not be sufficient strength to mature the leaves properly, and the result is a thin, trashy article that has neither the body nor the color requisite to command the fullest market price. Then, too, neighboring stalks may vary, the one be able to mature from two to six leaves more than the other. This also calls for the exercise of nice judgment on the part of the grower. A little experience will, however, teach him the plan that will secure the most favorable results, and he will become more expert each succeeding season.

HOW LOW TO TOP.

Every grower must, therefore, decide from the condition of his growing plants how low or how high to top. We cannot instruct him any further in this particular. The tendency in most cases is to permit too many leaves to remain. He desires the largest possible yield and the temptation to allow more to remain than the plant can properly take care of, or than is consistent with the production of a first-class article, is very great. The rule in this county runs all the way from eight to sixteen leaves, twelve and fourteen being most commonly the number. A few farmers are persistent advocates of low topping; they believe that more weight is secured in this way, which, of course, implies a greater development of leaf. The latter half of the proposition is certainly true, and sometimes the first half also, but where the ground is very rich and the growth very rank, there is a tendency to coarseness, which may lessen the marketable value of the product. An extraordinary growth of leaf carries with it large leaf ribs, and these are inconsistent with the production of fine cigars, and this latter should be the point at which all seedleaf growers should aim. The large quantity of manure the tobacco growers of Lancaster county put on their fields is another factor which permits them to top higher than is possible in some other sections, and growers elsewhere should bear this in mind. The kind of tobacco cultivated also governs this matter materially. In the foregoing we have had reference to the "Pennsylvania Seedleaf" and the "Glessner," which may be taken as the representatives of the varieties generally grown here. Narrow-leaved varieties, like "Havana seed," if topped as low, would make a poor show in the matter of pounds per acre.

As a rule the tobacco that matures earliest in the season will bear the highest topping. As the season advances fewer leaves can be matured, unless, indeed, the latter part of the season should prove unusually favorable. The latest topping should be done at least a month before the season of frost may be expected to come along, in order to allow it ample time to mature and be secured prior to that event. The bud must be carefully pinched out with the fingers, not removed with a knife, scissors or other sharp cutting instrument. The operation of twisting off the crown is highly desirable, inasmuch as the cells of the plant are sharply compressed and the loss of the sap or juices is greatly diminished, a very important consideration. Great care must also be exercised lest the leaves around the upper part of the plant should be broken or bruised and their growth be thereby retarded or their value diminished.

LEARNING TO TOP.

Unless one is an experienced hand, topping is rather a tedious operation. If the party at work must go to the trouble of counting the leaves on every plant in order to find out where the seed bud must be pinched off, he is likely to make slow work of it. There is, however, a rule, which, if carefully observed, will save him all this trouble and expedite the business in hand very materially. Let him look on the bottom leaf and then on the one overhanging it in the third tier and he will find that nine leaves are below that index leaf. If it is desirable to top higher, a glance above that leaf will at once enable him to add as many more to the nine below it as he may desire. Or, if high topping is warranted, the index leaf may be selected one tier higher up the plant, and the operator will then have twelve leaves as a starting point, counting the bottom one and also the index leaf, and a little addition or subtraction will give him the required number. At first sight this may seem a complicated process, but it is easy enough, and a little care and practice will remove all the difficulties that may be encountered at first. Besides, we know of no other way of getting at the end in view short of counting the leaves, which is not to be thought of when quick work is desirable.

PRIMING.

This is almost universally practiced in the great Southern tobacco States, but very rarely among the seedleaf growers of Pennsylvania, and we only mention it here to tell what it is and the reason why it is performed. Priming, if done at all, should be done at the time the plants are topped. It consists in removing from three to five of the lower leaves of the plant, which from being near or on the ground have sustained more or less injury from the sand and the dirt which rains may have cast on them. In the South these are known as the commonest class of "lugs." Priming has its advantages, and perhaps more disadvantages. If not practiced the lower leaves protect the upper ones from grit and sand and leaves them in finer condition. Their removal may also lacerate the stalk and do injury. On the other hand, it is contended that more nutriment is sent into the remaing leaves by priming the plant, more gum and oil. A few things are very certain, the product is considerably diminished thereby and the labor the operation entails is also an important consideration. Our Lancatter county growers save themselves this trouble and prefer to remove them at stripping time when these "lugs" are placed among the lowest grade into which the crop is assorted, "fillers." Where priming is severely practiced very large yields are out of the question and a prominent Southern authority recently told the planters that if they wished tobacco farming to become profitable they must give up priming. A loss of several hundred pounds per acre, when the crop is sold at a fixed price "through," means a money loss that our growers here are unwilling to encounter. We believe priming possesses no compensatory advantages and do not encourage it in this part of the couutry.

SUCKERING.

By topping, the natural inclination of the tobacco plant to propagate its kind through the medium of flowers and seed is interfered with, but the plant at once endeavors to repair the ravage committed. After the lapse of a few days after topping, say five or seven in a favorable season, suckers or shoots begin to appear at the junction of the leaves with the parent stem. These are simply rudimentary seed spikes into which the life of the plant would be sent, unless removed, instead of into the leaves. It becomes all important, therefore, that they should be pulled off at an early stage of their growth. They grow rapidly and must be watched. They first appear at the upper leaves. When three or four inches long they must be pinched off. As in topping, this must be done with the thumb and fingers, and for precisely the same reasons, namely, to prevent the too free exudation of the sap. The injured part would bleed much more freely if removed with a knife. They should never be permitted to grow over four inches long; the longer they are allowed to get the more they absorb of the true life of the plant; they literally "suck" the juices necessary to perfect the leaves, hence their name, sucker. Neglect at this juncture will certainly result in an inferior article of tobacco, one deficient in those inherent qualities that give it its greatest value. The removal of the upper sucker induces the plant to throw out additional ones at the lower leaves also, and this process is continued until the attempt has been made at all of them. But meanwhile the process of reproduction has been quietly going on at the top of the plant, and in favorable seasons will continue until the tobacco is ripe. These suckers grow rapidly—four or five inches in a single week in seasonable weather. If any one cares to know what the result would be if they were permitted to remain, let him try it. The plant will grow into the semblance of a little thicket, will continue to grow thinner and impoverish day by day until much of its commercial value is destroyed. So well was this fact understood in Virginia in early days, that special laws were enacted compelling the tobacco planters to exercise due diligence in this matter. After being removed three times, the suckers are no longer so troublesome as at first, the fourth crop being a small one. They succeed each other at intervals of about a week. It is as important to sucker tobacco carefully and as often as the situation demands it as it is to search for and remove the green horn worm. Unless removed when young and tender, they grow hard and fibrous and must be cut with a knife, which will result in severe bleeding to the plant. In suckering, as in worming, tobacco, the utmost care must be taken not to break nor bruise the leaves. If any are found turned up by the wind or any other cause, they should be put into their natural position, for the sun has a bad effect upon the tender under side of the leaves, often scorching or blistering it. So much depends on the careful and regular suckering of plants that we feel we can hardly impress this fact too earnestly upon the grower's attention.

A MAN can raise more corn on twenty acres if it is thoroughly manured, carefully ploughed, and kept free from weeds, than he can on forty acres, with only the same amount of manure and time to give to it that he could give to his twenty.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

THE *Farm Journal* says that a piece of mosquito netting two feet square makes a first rate Paris greener. Take hold of the four corners and shake. "No patent."

THE present is the best time, according to the *Country Gentleman*, to remove suckers from the trunks of orchard trees—not by cutting them away and leaving stumps which will send up new suckers, but by pulling them off with a brisk jerk downwards, setting the foot first on them if they are strong. If low down, remove the earth about the tree. A gouge and mallet may be needed for large suckers. By timely rubbing off young supernumerary shoots on young orchard trees, the tops may be brought into good shape without the necessity of heavy pruning in future. Register newly set trees in a book before the labels or names are lost.

WHAT is called green manuring is not safe practice with these "soils that pack" unless the ground is kept in fallow for a summer and often stirred to break the surface-crust. The ploughing in of a green, unripened crop, and sowing of another immediately on it, often sickens the soil with chronic disease, so that it does not recover for years.

AN English gardener covers turnip seeds in the drills with wood ashes, soot and lime; this has "quite a magical effect in the start of the young crops." He also dusts the tops with the same mixture, which tends to keep away vermin and rapidly pushes the young plants past the critical stages.

Professional Cards.

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