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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA. AGRICULTURAL. NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE WELFARE OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTEREST AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER.

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write it and send it to the "Agricultural Editor of the DEMOCRAT, Bellefonte, Penn'a." that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

Late Potatoes.

There are two seasons in which potatoes may be planted with greater chance of success than at intervening periods. The first of these is just as soon as the ground can be worked in early spring; second, along in June. Either planting has favorable conditions of the atmosphere. The spring crop gets the benefit of the early rains, and is carried by them well along to maturity before drouth sets in. The June planting simply extends the vines during the dry weather, ready to begin root formation when the fall rains come. If planted between these times, maturity comes in the hot, dry weather, and the potatoes are being formed when it is almost impossible for the roots to obtain food to develop them; in consequence the harvest brings only marbled sized potatoes. With the potato crop it will not do to be "on the fence" in regard to the time of planting. The old way of planting right after the corn is in is pretty sure to fail. We are in favor of the later of the two plantings, thinking it is best for those who raise both corn and wheat. During wheat harvest the early crop needs the greatest amount of attention, but the chances are that when other urgent and important demands for labor are upon us the potato patch will wait. If farmers can not cultivate potatoes properly they had better not plant them; and this is true of about nine-tenths of the crops (excepting the staples) requiring much work in midsummer. Late planted potatoes need no cultivation until the busiest season is over.

There is also a difference in the cost of marketing potatoes from early and late planting. The early crop must be dug, and sold in the summer and fall when labor is dear; late work costs less, and the crop can be sold during the entire winter and spring.

We plant some early potatoes, but the main crop is put in late. We plow the ground twice. First, when breaking for corn, and again immediately before planting time in June. The weeds are well started before the second plowing, and the "set back" received from a seven-inch stirring of the soil, is hard for them to recover from. Immediately after plowing we pulverize the ground thoroughly. When fully prepared lay off with a diamond plow. The seeds are planted so deep but little hilling is necessary. After planting, give sufficient cultivation to keep the soil free from weeds and from crusting over. The work can be done with the two horse cultivator, and we think it better than a plow, as it does not disturb the roots. We believe in cultivating often, but not deep, the two principle objects being to keep the weeds down, and the ground free from crust. These requisites given, and the proper seasons for planting observed, there need be little fear but a good crop will be the result.

The pigs should go early to grass for their best health and growth. They are gaminivorous animals by nature, and cannot make bone and muscle on corn alone. We should hear much less of hog cholera if the swine were allowed to run in a good clover pasture. An orchard sown to clover is one of the best places for swine. They pick up the wormy apples as they fall and thus diminish the codling moth while getting the benefit of the pasture. If they are given charcoal or even bituminous coal they will be less liable to gnaw the bark of the fruit trees. If the grazing is supplemented by a feed morning and evening, of milk or whey, and a little ground feed, it will tell on the scales after they get their corn finishing.

It will not pay, as a general thing, to keep June chickens for layers next season. Market them before winter,

Manure for Fruit Trees.

We have often insisted that fruit trees should be grown as other crops are, and a New York contemporary has been urging the same thing. It very properly says that a fruit tree should be considered as a cultivated crop, and not as a forest tree. In the forest, trees are manured yearly by the leaves which fall and by the decay of the former growth, but orchards are too often cultivated and cropped in some way or another, and the soil taxed to the injury of the trees, not to take account of the fruit which is gathered from them. This is quite sufficient to account for the failure of the trees to produce satisfactory crops of fruit, to account for off years, and the various diseases that are complained of. Starvation is the parent of diseases. If it is general it causes death very soon; if it is partial it produces various forms of disease, and some of these are accompanied by parasites, both vegetable and animal, which help the work of destruction. The analogy between animal and plant life is always to be considered. Weak, half-starved animals are subject to scab, ringworm, mange and other parasitic skin diseases, while crawling vermin, inside and outside, infest them and live up on their disordered secretions. Internal parasites, worms of various kinds especially, abound in ill conditioned animals and are encouraged by the diseases which produce this condition. There is no doubt that many diseases in fruit trees, the yellows in peaches, blight in pears, bitter rot in apples, black bud in cherries and plums, and perhaps bark lice, leaf lice, mildews and rusts, and it may be borers and other destructive insects are encouraged by diseases produced by starvation, through which the suitable conditions are caused for the vigorous growth of all these parasites. We will not say it is so to the full extent to which these parasites are found, but we do not doubt that many of them are the natural results of want of healthy vigor in the trees, and all may be.

How rarely is a tree manured and fed. Neglect in every way is the general fate of an orchard. And this is simply starvation. There are a few instances, in which the trees are liberally manured, and in all these cases there is a marked benefit to them, as exemption from disease, large products, fine fruit, constant bearing, and every indication of long and vigorous life. The evidence both ways is too clear for a remnant of doubt to exist. Trees must be fed, and when they are well fed they will make a successful growth. Manure may not always be a sufficient food. It is deficient in the mineral elements of the requisite food. Potash and lime are most needed. Some phosphoric acid and nitrogen are required, but lime and potash more than these. So that in addition to manure, we would use lime and woodashes or potash salts and phosphoric acid. The chemists have compounded a special tree fertilizer based upon the chemical constituents of the tree. This is the true way to reach the desired results, for the tree certainly needs in its food every element that is contained in its substance and its fruit. But, whatever is done, it should be done liberally, and just now is a good time to do it, as the tree is now storing away fresh substance in preparation for next year's growth. And we would not forget to give another square feed again in the spring, until the past neglect has been recompensed.—American Farmer.

Celery Culture.

Celery is no longer regarded only as a luxury for the rich man's table. Any one having a garden can raise celery. This late in the season buy young plants. Set them out from the first to the middle of July, in trenches. These are dug about ten inches deep and half filled with fine soil mixed with well rotted manure. Keep the plants shaded until they have taken root and begun growing. Water them lightly and frequently, keeping clear of weeds. When eight inches to a foot high, draw the earth around them, being careful to keep the dirt out of the "leader" or crown. Water plentifully. Celery roots are small, and drouth quickly destroys the plants.

A market gardener at Lockport,

New York, made a local reputation by the invariable excellence of his celery. At a meeting of the State Horticultural Society, he stated that the only peculiarity of his method was the use of tin rings, shaped like pint porringers, without bottoms or handles. One of these was placed around each plant when first set out, remaining there until the earthing-up was completed. The ring afforded partial shade to the young plant, and protected it from cut-worms and other perils. As the growth increases and the earthing-up process begins, the ring is raised to prevent covering the "leader" with earth. Successful experiments have been made with the collars of three-inch drain tile used in a similar manner. These have the additional advantages of superior cheapness and durability.

Ensilage in South Africa.

At Grahamstown Mr. R. Tillard, made the following successful trial of preserving green food: Into a square hole dug in the ground, about five or six feet deep and ten feet long, he had seventy dozen bundles of green barley thrown as soon as reaped, in the middle of November. The forage was not chopped, but left its natural length. Boards were laid on the top of the heap, and heavily weighted with stones. The sides of the pit were simply the hard earth, no boards or cement being used to separate the forage from the surrounding soil. In April the silo was opened, and with the exception of a thin layer on top which was somewhat moldy, the ensilage was found in prime condition. The cows took to it from the first, and ate it greedily; even the top layer, which might perhaps be less appetizing than the rest, was freely eaten. The forage cost when purchased in November, about 28 cents per dozen, and would now cost three times as much if it could be obtained. Thus the experiment instituted by Mr. Tillard, at a cost of about \$350 in all, is quite sufficient to show that ensilage will be a most important help to farmers, and even private individuals, in keeping stock alive and in good condition during dry seasons.

USE OF THE HARROW.—By the frequent use of the harrow much labor can be saved. On many soils the young grass and weeds spring up very quickly, and if allowed to grow to a moderate height require the cultivator, but if the harrow be passed over such fields as soon as the grass begins to appear, the ground can be more easily kept clean. Every seed that germinates and then destroyed, is so much out of the way, and if the land be kept fine and loose by frequent harrowing, the benefit imparted by destruction of weeds and grass will also be increased by the good condition of the soil for crops.

TOP MUCH CORN.—T. P. T., Gage county, Neb. The pigs are fed too exclusively on corn. It matters not whether this is given whole or ground. Change to other food, steamed or cooked. Give liberty on clover pasture. Salt may be given to pigs; but do not mix it with their food. Keep a constant supply in separate shallow troughs, under the shelter of a few boards, to protect it from rain, and let the pigs have access to pure drinking water. Foul stagnant water conduces to a variety of fatal diseases in swine.

FOOD FOR POULTRY.—A correspondent of the Pacific Rural Press gives the following bill of fare for poultry: Feed soft feed in the morning, cornmeal and bran half and half; now then boil up some potatoes, mixing bran and meal with them, and feed before cold; stale bread is good for little chicks. At noon, more soft feed with a little soaked wheat or other grain. A mixture that I like for grown fowls is one-fourth wheat, one-fourth oats and one-fourth barley; for the other one-fourth mix buckwheat and corn equally. Feed but little corn.