

Farm, Home &c.
From the American Agriculturist
for June 1.

Haying—Cliver and Timothy should be cut when in full blossom. If allowed to get ripe, the quality of hay is not so good. By beginning early the work need not be hurried. Use the mower after the dew is off in the forenoon. Cut only as much as can be well cared for. It is often remarked that the average quality of hay is not so good as before the temptation to cut the grass faster than it can be cured.

Ticks—Immediately after shearing, the ticks leave the sheep for the longer wool of the lamb. The lamb thus infested should be dipped in a decoction of tobacco stems, which will destroy the ticks. Several special dips are in the market.

Buckwheat may be sown during this month, and may be made a profitable crop, especially upon newly cleared ground where the mellowing effects of the crop are of importance. The Silver-Hull buckwheat is better than the common variety, the yield being greater, and the flour from it is whiter and of a finer quality than the ordinary sort.

Orchards—With newly planted trees it will pay to give a little time in examining their condition. If they are loose or leaning to one side, a minute spent in pressing the soil about them with the foot will often save them. A mulching, if not allowed given to the young trees, should be provided before the long drouth. A most any substance that will cover the soil and protect it from the sun will do.

Grafts set this spring should be looked to; and if the bud or graft grow too vigorously, pinch back into shape; in fact a graft should be treated as it were a young tree. Cut away all shoots that come upon the stock below the graft, that the nourishment may go to the graft. See that the branches of the graft have plenty of room, and the growth is not interfered with by surrounding branches.

Thinning Fruit—The sooner this essential to the production of the best fruit is done the better. It is seldom overdone, and too frequently entirely neglected. Thinning increases the size and improves the quality of the fruit, and with young trees, just starting into bearing, it is a necessity.

Raspberries—The green shoots that are growing now are the ones to bear the next year's fruit; the fruiting ones this season dying after the berries have ripened. When the growing shoots reach a foot they should be pinched off. Those not required for next year should be treated as weeds. The old canes are to be cut away after fruiting.

Grape-vines one-year old for this spring should grow only one shoot; let it be the strongest and best one put forth. Older vines recently set should not be allowed to bear this year. The young growing shoots of old vines should be tied up before they fall over or are broken by the winds; soft cotton twine or bast bark are the best for the purpose.

Strawberries—A mulch of straw, cut hay, or leaves, should be applied before the fruit begins to ripen, that the berries may be kept from the soil. The picking and for market requires much care and good judgment. All overripe berries should be excluded, as one such will be crushed and spoil the whole basket. The treatment of the bed after fruiting depends upon the method of cultivation. In any case the mulch is to be removed and the soil tilled over. When the plants are kept in hills, the runners are to be cut as they appear. In the alternate system they are allowed to take root between the rows, and the old plants are removed later in the season. Runners struck in small pots of soil will be ready to plant out in August and will give a good crop next year. Layer the earliest and strongest runners for this purpose.

This is the time when the rake and hoe count for so much in the success of the season's work. The weeds must be kept down, or most of the labor of preparation and planting is lost. It is observed that the rake is to be used before the hoe, and it should be so in the garden. A frequent use of a long and sharp toothed steel-rake will save much hard hoeing, and at the same time keep the soil in a better condition for the young growing plants.

Soiling for Succession is a useful method of prolonging the season of many vegetables, and it will be more generally practiced. By sowing beans, peas, corn, etc., at intervals of a week or so, the valuable vegetables may be had through the season.

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