

The Pittsburgh Gazette.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

How to Seed Lawns.—At this season of the year, many persons desire to reseed or prepare new lawns, and wish to know what seed to use and how to use it.

There are, perhaps, no better or safer directions to follow in reference to this matter, than the following: Choose, if possible, a calm day, and sow your seed as evenly as you can. The seed to be sown should be a mixture of red-top (Agrostis vulgaris) and white clover (Trifolium repens), which are hardy, short grasses, and, on the whole, best designed to make the best and most enduring lawn for this climate. The proportion should be about three-fourths red-top to one-fourth clover. The seed should be perfectly clean. Then sow exactly four bushels of it to the acre. Finish the whole by rolling the surface evenly and neatly. A few soft, warm showers and bright, sunny days will show you the amount of verdure bright as emerald. By the first of June, if sown in the early part of the year, you must look about for your mowers. This plan has the recommendation of Mr. Downing, one of the best authorities upon such subjects.

The Barley Crop.—A crop of barley has been grown, threshed, sold, and the money used to pay a note on maturity, that was due ninety days after the sowing. It is the easiest of all grain crops to harvest. Let it stand until quite ripe, and if the weather is fair, cut with a reaper and leave it in full size of grain. In this state it will cure in a day or two, if the weather be favorable, without turning; provided there is not too much grain or weeds with it. Then drive the wagon into the field and let two hands pitch it on with barley forks. Handled in this way it is bright and free from dust. If a rain falls on it while in the gavel it does no serious injury, and one turning will suffice to dry it, if thoroughly wet; but the gavel is generally admirably shaped to turn rain, and they will rarely be wet to the center.

Bright barley straw is highly relished by cattle, and barley meal is excellent feed for all kinds of stock. If there is much of this grain for the farmer, he may make the surplus could be turned to good account by the beef market.—N. Y. Rural.

Bees Robbing.—I read in the Western Rural, of April 22, an inquiry about bees robbing from a distance, signed S. L. W. I can give him and your readers a few words of my managing bees when they get to robbing each other, whether it be my own bees or my neighbors. Generally they rob in the light of day, but one or two can pass out of the hive at the same time. When there are quite a number of bees gathered on the bottom board, I take a handful of flour and sprinkle all over the bees as much as possible, then watch my own hives to see if it is not my own bees. If it is, I can see them going in my own hives with flour on their heads. When I become satisfied that it is my neighbor's bees I then go a few rods from my hives in the direction of my neighbor that keeps bees, and I can see if I can hear them flying back and forth, and when I find where they belong, I get a stick or rod about two feet long and about the size of a pipe stem, then sharpen the stick and run it in the honey of each hive, so that it sets the bees at work repairing damage at home. I have tried this plan several times and have never had it fail in effecting their fighting their fight in twenty or thirty minutes to an hour. If it is your own bees fighting among themselves, serve them in the same manner. About a year ago I had eight swarms, and one of my neighbors had twenty-four swarms. Some of his were fighting a part of his and robbed one of his hives and were robbing other hives. The rest robbed one for me and then commenced on six or seven more of mine. He ran the stick into the honey of all the hives, and I did the same to mine, and in one hour they were all quiet, and have never troubled since. I have never had bees rob except in the spring and fall.—Wm. O. Wolcott, Correspondent Western Rural.

GARDENERS differ as to the best time for transplanting evergreens. The general practice at the East is to transplant just as the new buds begin to start, a time which varies according to latitude, but is usually some time in June. Proper care in transplanting is quite as essential as the proper time, and evergreens require more care than most trees. A brief exposure of the roots to the sun is fatal to them. A hole a foot deep should be dug and filled with mellow soil, into which the roots should be placed at their ordinary depth from the surface; they should then be well mulched with old straw or manure, and watered sparingly, at night or in cloudy weather. Excess of water will kill them; and if they are set too deep they will either die or grow slowly and with difficulty, because they will be obliged to put out new roots near the surface. Evergreens are beautiful all the year round, and no display of shrubbery is complete without them. It is worth while to take special pains in setting them, and once started they need less care than almost any other trees. No manure should be used about them. The only difficulty is in transplanting. If anybody knows a better method than that we have mentioned, let our public have the benefit of it.

Green Crops for Cows and Horses.—The farmer whose pastures are so luxuriant that his cattle and horses had abundant feed from May to November, in the open fields may possibly dispense with green crops for fodder, but not so with the mares. During the hot days of summer the grass dries up, and their beasts suffer for nutritious food, unless they have provided a supply of sowed corn, oats, millet or lucerne, which can be cut daily and fed to them in the stables. Milk cows which are fed abundantly with this food will almost invariably get their owners one-third more money during the season than they would if forced to depend on pasture alone; and horses, too, when stably fed, will grow fat and sleek in a surprisingly short space of time. Last summer we took a large horse that had been running idly in pasture, and losing flesh daily—stabled and fed him with green sweet corn, and in two or three weeks he became "fat as butter," and he would have brought when taken from the pasture.

We have generally sown sugar corn in drills for a sowing crop, it makes excellent feed, and although it yields less in quantity, it is more nutritious than common white or yellow corn—fodder. The southern white corn, however, is greatly prized as a green crop by many farmers, and is used, almost exclusively in many parts of the State for that purpose. Many of our readers report very favorably in regard to millet; a few have tried lucerne, and like it; others use oats and Canada peas mixed, for sowing cattle. All grow well on proper soil, and we again remind our readers that it is wise to sow at least one of these crops for summer fodder.—Maine Farmer.

Road Dust and Vegetation.—No careful observer will deny that the trees along much frequented roads, especially when exposed to the influence of prevailing winds, distinguish themselves in the rapidity of their growth and the luxuriance of their foliage as being more thriving than those of the adjoining woods. This fact is being ascribed to the dust from the roads which is carried and deposited by the wind upon their branches and foliage. Dry road dust contains from eight to ten per cent of organic matter, arising from the excrements of animals, from straw, hay or grains which may have fallen from wagons frequenting the road. After having been pulverized by the wheels of a wheelbarrow, it forms a large amount of already decomposed and readily soluble nourishment for vegetable growth. Roads kept in good condition therefore are not only important to the progress of the civilization of the district wherein they are located on account of easier transportation, but also because of the immense production of an inexpensive but not less efficient fertilizer. It is in such, at the first, unapparent causes that an explanation of many of the dearest mysteries of vegetation may be found.—Manufacturers and Builders.

Making Fruit Trees Bear Easily.—A remarkable patent has been applied for, and will be introduced to the fruit-growing world in a few months, which will astonish horticulturists. It is a discovery of an application by which the pear or apple tree may be thrown into bearing at a very early age, and kept loaded with fruit steadily, year after year. The principle by which this result is produced we are not at liberty to make known, but that it is correct we have the best evidence. There are not a large number of trees in full bloom in the pear and apple department, which never showed the sign of a flower till this application was made. To prove the correctness of the principle, any tree in the pear or apple line, of four or five years of age or upwards, which has never blossomed, can be made to show blossoms on one-half of the tree, while the other half remains on the other half. This proof of the efficacy of this treatment is on hand. The application is not in the slightest degree injurious to the tree, as its continued state of high health, and the yearly yield of large crops of fruit demonstrate. Any fruit-grower can make the application. It is done instantly and costs nothing except the cost of the patent right. VERY seasonably the question of the great advantage of cutting hay when in a green state has been taken up by some of our agricultural publications, although it is a question which has been the property of doing so for every farmer who cuts a second crop knows how superior it is for milk-producing and feeding purposes generally, when compared with hay which has been cut while in a ripe state, and when almost all the saccharine matter in it has gone to constitute woody fiber. No season has been favorable for a trial of the early mowing plan than the present, which, so far as we can learn, promises to be good, for two crops—if the first is seasonably harvested. The proof of the efficacy of the crop may turn out as liberal in quantity as the first one. The subject is one farmers would do well to think over and act upon, and should be neglected when the mowing season comes. In connection with this subject, the method of drying hay in the shade, and the cost, partially in the mow, may also be considered.

Sweet Potato Raising.—My way of raising sweet potatoes is in hills always. I make the hills three feet apart, each way, and make them about eight inches above the level of the ground, leaving the top of the hill flat. Always set the plants in the evening, and just before a rain, or just after. Set the plants a little deeper than they were in the hot-bed, so if the worms should cut them off, they will grow again from the stub. By so doing you will save transplanting. Always pick a sandy spot of ground, if possible, to plant in. They will need hoeing twice, and plowing three times. I will insure a crop if so treated. You can grow 200 bushels on an acre of ground.—Philadelphia.

To Sustain New Wooden Ware.—A new churn, tub, keg, bucket, or other wooden vessel will generally communicate a disagreeable taste to anything that is put into it. To prevent this inconvenience, first scald the vessel with boiling water, letting the water remain in it until cold, then dissolve some pearl-ash or soda in lukewarm water, adding lime to it, and wash the vessel well with this solution. Afterwards scald it well with plain hot water, and rinse it with cold water before you use it. The reason for this is the ready combination of resinous matters with alkalies to form compounds soluble in water. The resinous substance of wood, while new, causes a disagreeable taste and odor in substances kept in wooden vessels.

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