

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Ensilage in a Dry Season.

Ensilage is proving a great aid. Indeed, our dairymen are learning that it would be a most profitable adjunct to dairying in a dry summer, like the past one, when the year's profits depend on keeping the herd from shrinking in quantity during a critical shortage of feed.

Fruit Trees Along Highways.

In some sections the farmers have set out fruit trees along the highways in place of the more ornamental shade trees. When properly pruned and cared for the practice is a most commendable one, and if others would follow the example it would result in a great profit to those interested. A fruit like the apple should be chosen, as plums and cherries sprout from the root and grow readily from the pit. If neglected the road would soon present the appearance of a jungle. Late varieties of apples should be chosen.

Stone Crocks in the Dairy.

A word about stone crocks. Their weight alone should decide everyone against their use in the dairy. With the most careful handling they are soon cracked, and then it is impossible to keep them sweet. Seamless tin pans are light and easily kept clean, with no possible lurking places for microbes. Of all substances milk is most susceptible to adverse influences, and from nothing else is so variable a product evolved. Over the purity of the milk the housewife has little or no control. Hundreds of women all over the land are daily disheartened by its want of cleanliness when it reaches their hands. Slovenly milkers are responsible for a great deal of poor butter. Prime butter can never be made from milk having the slightest taint. Milk should never be allowed to stand in the stable while cooling. Cream begins to rise almost immediately after the milk is drawn and agitation causes more or less loss.

Money in Ginseng.

Few crops offer as promising returns as does ginseng when properly cared for, and where the climatic conditions are favorable. In my experience I have found it more satisfactory to make the beds in the open field—giving artificial shade—than in the forest or under trees of any kind. Whether the plants are raised from seed or from roots the beds must be well prepared. I am in favor of planting the seed three inches apart in rows in which the plants are to remain until the roots are ready to be dug for market. Plants raised in this manner and properly cared for will mature a fair quantity of seed the second year and a good crop the third year.

Planted in this manner the roots will be much larger at two years' growth than when the seeds have been planted closer. Then in transplanting the roots nearly one year's growth is lost, and the small stunted roots that result from too close planting are far more apt to be destroyed by grubs and worms infesting the ground than larger and fully developed roots. On sowing the seed it should be borne in mind that not every seed will mature a plant. In the fall, after the first year's growth, the vacant spots can easily be filled with roots standing closer than desired, or these may be transplanted to new beds.—E. D. Crosby, in New England Homestead.

Ground Food for Poultry.

Every once in a while we see in some of the papers articles attacking the feeding of soft food to poultry. Yet soft feed, like most other kinds of feed, is of great value when properly fed. It may indeed be a detriment to the fowls if improperly fed. It may easily be conceived that making soft feeds a constant ration would throw out of order the entire digestive systems of the fowls. It would probably have this effect if fed to fowls that had a very large ration of green stuff, especially in the summer time; as in that case it would be substituted for the grain ration instead of being used to balance the grain ration. The real value of ground feed is in feeding it to take the place of part of the grinding organs of the fowls less severe. The fowl that has nothing but grain from the time the ground freezes in the fall till the time the grass starts in the spring is the fowl that develops symptoms of a ruined digestive system at the time the most eggs are expected in the spring.

A warm feed of ground grain once a day has a wonderful effect in preventing those disorders that are so frequent with fowls confined and heavily fed on grain feed. The reason that it is not more universally adopted is the disinclination of farmers to take the trouble to scald this feed over night or even in the morning. It is so easy to toss a measure of corn to the fowls that many of them get no other food.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

Care of the Apple Orchard.

Keep the ground stirred about the trees by using the garden rake after rains heavy enough to pack the ground. This will conserve the moisture and is better than any mulch that can be applied, and the trees will take deeper root. If weeds or trash of any kind have accumulated about the trees, clear away or cover up in the fall with soil, making a little mound to prevent a harbor for mice. Remove it in the spring.

There are several reasons why the young orchard should be planted to corn. The cultivation of corn is the proper cultivation for the orchard. The corn helps shelter the trees from

the wind. The stalks help lodge and retain the snow, making winter protection, and if the corn is poorly husked there will be plenty of food for the rabbits. Crop to corn until the orchard is fruiting well, then seed to clover.

Spray with kerosene emulsion just before the buds open, or apply white-wash with brush to the body. A solution made thin and strained can be applied with a spray pump to the tops. This will destroy many of the enemies of fruit and fruit trees that find a breeding place and winter harbor on the trees.

Bruises from any cause that deadens the bark make an ideal spot for the propagation of the borer. In the dead bark is where the egg is deposited and by nature's law is brought into life and his work of destruction is commenced and done. Carry a roll of grafting wax and a roll of old cotton and twine to do up any bruise or break of bark as soon as done, before the wood or bark becomes dried, and it will grow fast again, but if left until the sap in the wood and bark becomes dried you will have a scar that will take two or three years to grow over and if the borer gets a lodgment there it may be a lasting blemish. It's better not to break or bruise the trees, but accidents will occur, and the remedy should be applied to save the blemish. Wax a bruise, if the bark is not broken; if broken, put the bark back and wax and wind with cloth and tie fast.—American Agriculturist.

Mineral Constituents of Plants.

A correspondent wishes an explanation of how mineral substances get into plants, that is, as he expresses it, "Minerals that are insoluble except in acid." Insoluble mineral matter cannot get into the plant. But the mineral elements of a plant are carried into it in solution. If it is a mineral that water can dissolve, wholly or partially, the particles that are held in solution are carried by the charged water through the roots into the tree. If salt is added to water an unglazed earthen dish, like a flower pot, with the hole in the bottom stopped up, it will be found in time that there is a deposit on the outside of the pot, and, if tasted, it will be found to be salty. The moisture has gone through the sides of the pot and carried the salt, with which the water is charged, with it. This is what water does with soluble minerals when it enters the roots of a plant. There is, too, at the end of roots an acid that aids the water in dissolving minerals. It is not true, however, that the water takes into the plant all the minerals which it holds in solution. In the economy of nature, the roots, in a natural condition, permit the entrance into the plant of only such minerals as the plant needs. There is an important lesson in this connection, for the tiller of the soil to learn. We all know that moisture is necessary for the growth of plants, but if it is necessary for dissolving mineral plant food in the soil, it will be seen that too much or too little moisture in the soil must be injurious to the plant because in the one case the solution will be too weak and in the other it will be too strong, or fail to take up as much mineral as the plant needs. To illustrate: If we place just a little salt in a glass of water, the water will have but a slightly saltish taste. If a plant was in need of salt that weak solution would not supply it with what it required. Now if we keep adding salt to that water there will ultimately be a deposit of salt at the bottom of the glass. There will not be enough water to hold all the salt that we have added. We have too much salt for the water. The tiller of the soil, therefore, can see that if his soil contains too much water at any time, the sooner he drains it, the sooner he will feed the crops as they should be fed; and if he is irrigating he will have no trouble in perceiving that too much water will have the effect that we have mentioned. The necessity of frequent cultivation and of keeping a soil malle upon the surface in times of drought will also be apparent. The use of water is not its entire function in relation to plant growth, but it is an important one.—Agricultural Epitomist.

Poultry Notes.

Never allow the mother hen to take her brood out in the early morning.

Brooder chicks should be allowed to go out during the warm portion of the day.

Hens will lay more eggs when confined in yards than when having free range.

Do not let the little chicks get chilled or wet. Either means death for them.

Do not cross pure bred poultry. There is enough variety now for all practical purposes.

One breed is enough to keep on any farm. More than that usually results in neglect of all.

The time to cure a sick hen is wasted. If she lingers longer than two days it is better to kill her.

Do not put over eleven eggs under a setting hen in the early part of the season. Later thirteen will not be too many.

If there are any rats around the poultry house get rid of them before the chickens hatch. Otherwise they will soon make way with every brood that is put out.

Family Honors Go to the Dead.

In China when an honor is conferred on a family it is the ancestors and not the descendants who share the glory. If a Chinaman, for his merits, receives a title of nobility, his son can never inherit it or have the right to use any but an inferior title. Thus the nobility in the family goes on diminishing from generation to generation till it finally becomes extinct.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Designs For Costumes That Have Become Popular in the Metropolis.

New York City (Special).—The furor for the pulley stock necessarily meant a stock to match, so when a lady wanted it, of course, it wasn't



PULLEY STOCK FOR AN ASCOT.

long coming. The stock is very much the same as the belt, only, of course, longer, as it goes twice around. The pulley principle is carried out by the two rings in front, and these allow the



PULLEY STOCK FOR A FOUR-IN-HAND.

ribbon to be drawn as tightly as desired. Flexible bones hold the ribbon well up in place, yet are pliable enough not to interfere with its being drawn closely into shape.

of daisies rests on the hair at the left back.

The alternate rows of gray satiny straw braid and gray chiffon ruffles form this toppy little Pompadour, which is finished off most effectively up at the left front with a splendid pink rose and a liberal bunch of softly purple violets.

Such very good stylo is this attractive hat of pearl gray straw, the crown being of black straw. A black velvet drapery rests on the rounding gray brim, and rises in front to form wing-like loops. A plume-like strip of corded white silk is drawn through the black jet buckle which holds all this down at the front.

For dress occasions this dainty little pink Pompadour, composed entirely of thickly-laid folds of malines, is most fetching. It is strikingly set off by the big black velvet choux, which has a rhinestone ornament stuck in its very heart. It is so very shapely, too, especially where it rests on a pretty girl's night-like tresses.

An altogether exquisite little dress hat is of pastel blue straw. It has a soft crown and a full, soft brim. Mirror velvet in pastel blue is drawn snugly round it, looped in front, drawn over the crown, and looped down under the brim in the back, where a steel buckle catches it. A generous bunch of lilies of the valley, backed by their foilage, is planted in front.

Popular Styles For Boys.

Geographical location determines to some extent the juvenile fashion, and garments fashioned in a style that is in large demand in Boston would meet with poor showing in New Orleans or San Francisco. However, the sailor will be in demand all over the country and there is not a doubt that this style of suit is the most becoming for nine boys out of ten.

One innovation is particularly noticeable this spring, and a good one, too—the discarding of braids and fancy nautical emblems, also the curtailing of size of the collar.

Next in importance is the vestee suit. Perhaps we state it wrongly. Perhaps vestees will lead the list.



A QUINTET OF SPRING HATS.

It can be tied in several different ways, two of which are here shown, namely, as an ascot and as a four-in-hand.

The pulley stock comes in all shades of satin ribbon and in all washable gauze ribbon for summer wear.

Five Millinery Novelties.

Women are already buying hats of white straw, lovely soft creations that look light as thistledown. The shapes are about what we are used to, the Pompadour and the face hat, but not horrible, plattery things that look as if manufactured by the thousand. As you see, the hats are not large. Of course, there will be large hats, but they are for carriage wear, garden parties or for bridesmaids. That flowers figure goes without saying.

One of the most charming face hats is a clever affair of soft, satiny blue braid. It seems built on Louis XI. lines, though these are not definite. Creamy Renaissance all-over lace is gracefully draped over waves of white chiffon. Two turquoise pins hold the front folds in place, and a bunch

Certainly they are suits after our own heart, permitting as they do the use



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of real vests, shirts, collars, suspenders and all such fixings.



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Prince Rupert in Disgrace.

A disaster second only to Naseby, and still more unforeseen, soon followed. Fairfax and Cromwell laid siege to Bristol, and after a fierce and lasting storm (September 14) Rupert, who had promised the King that he would hold out for four good months, suddenly capitulated, and rode away to Oxford under the humiliating protection of a Parliamentary convoy. The fall of this famous stronghold of the west was the severest of all the King's mortifications, as the failure of Rupert's wonted courage was the strangest of military surprises. That Rupert was too clear-sighted not to be thoroughly discouraged by the desperate aspect of the King's affairs is certain, and the military difficulties of sustaining a long siege were thought, even by those who had no reasons to tender of his fame, to justify the surrender. The King would listen to no excuses, but wrote Rupert an angry letter, declaring so mean an action to be the greatest trial of his constancy that had yet happened, depriving him of his commissions, and bidding him begone beyond the seas. Rupert nevertheless insisted on following the King to Newark, and after some debate was declared to be free of all disloyalty or treason, but not of indiscretion.—John Morley, in Century.

A London bankrupt has been ordered to pay a debt to a green grocer at the rate of one dollar per week. It will take him thirty-seven years to do it.

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