



FOR FARM AND GARDEN

The Market for Crabbles.

The crabapple is one of the hardiest of trees, and, as there is nearly always a demand for crabbles in spring, and the trees are more ornamental than some which are used for shade and ornament. The large and growing demand for pure jellies and preserves should create a larger market in the future for crabbles.

Sell the Fowls You Don't Need.

It is said that if young pullets are to be retained it will be an advantage to sell all of the young males, purchasing males desired from a distance. The mistake usually made by some is in keeping all the chicks until nearly or fully matured, thus increasing the cost for food without receiving compensation in any manner, as adult males seldom sell for more than five or six cents per pound. Such food as corn or wheat should not be used exclusively for growing fowls. Finely ground bone, ground meat and cooked potatoes will be more suitable than any other foods for hastening growth and keeping the birds thrifty and in good condition.

Early-cut Hay.

We have often urged farmers to keep a little of the best early-cut hay and a few roots to give their animals in the spring during the few weeks before they go to pasture. A sudden change from cold to warm days gives them, as it does us, a spring feeling, or tired feeling, and a loss of appetite, so that they need to be tempted with something better than they had in cold weather. While this is important with all, it is most important to the cows in milk, and next in value for those soon to calve, and for the ewes with lambs. We would like all hay early cut, but where one has large fields and not all favorable haying weather some of it will get a little too old, and perhaps have to be cured too much to dry the showers out of it.—The Cultivator.

How to Cultivate Cabbage.

The usual practice among farmers and market gardeners is to give their cabbage three hoeings and three cultivations, the cultivating always preceding the hoeings. Under good manuring, with good seed, and the land in good condition, and average season, this insures a crop. But sometimes the land is in overgrown condition. The accumulation of plant food left over by preceding crops is something we do not know, and therefore could not figure on. This, added to the usual manuring, has jumped the cabbage ahead so fast that soon after their second hoeing they promise to mature their heads earlier than we planned for. In such case, we stop right there with our second hoeing. The wisdom of this is apparent as soon as we get to the philosophy of hoeing cabbage. Why do we hoe cabbage? The first and often the second hoeing is mostly a weed-killing process, but the third, as I understand it, is really a root-pruning process, by which we throw the plant into bud (or head), just as we create bud development in a tree by trimming in its branches above ground, or its roots below ground. If on the contrary our cabbage land is lacking in condition, then it needs extra hoeing and cultivating in the early stage of the crop, both to capture nitrogen from the air and to help the roots in their search for food.

The presence of twitch grass makes another good and sufficient reason for an extra hoeing, for while that thrives no other crop can. Don't cut off the grass with the hoe, or by the costly work of digging it out, but hoe often and cover the young shoots with three inches soil, and I will warrant from experience that it will end its life with the season. Where cabbage gets a bad setback, as during a dry season like last year, I do not hoe immediately after the rains come, but wait a few days until the nearly paralyzed roots have got a new start or a new set has put out.—J. H. Gregory, in American Agriculturist.

Foes in a Garden.

Everything went smoothly until the zucumbers, squashes and melons began to appear above ground, and then the striped cucumber beetles came out in full force and proceeded to devour the patch.

Paris green was applied by means of a dry powder gun while the plants were wet with rain. It killed a good many of the beetles, but the plants soon began to show signs of injury, and within a few days it became necessary to replant nearly the whole patch. Later on air slaked lime containing a little turpentine was applied to the plants when the beetles appeared, and it seemed to be at least partially effective in protecting the plants.

Toward the end of June, when the beetles became exceedingly aggressive in their attacks, spraying with Bordeaux mixture was resorted to, and it seemed to be the most efficient remedy tried. This mixture, composed of four pounds of lime and four of copper sulphate (blue vitriol) to 50 gallons of water, is primarily a fungicide, but it seems either to kill or drive away the striped beetles better than do the usual insecticides.

Few insects besides the striped beetle caused any very serious trouble. The cutworms nipped off a few newly transplanted cabbage plants, but were dug from their hid-

ing places beside the destroyed plants and killed.

Cabbage worms were somewhat troublesome, especially on the late cabbage, but succumbed to two doses of hellebore mixed in water at the rate of one ounce to a gallon, and sprayed on the plants. The mixture was made stronger than usual because the hellebore was not very fresh.

Squash bugs became numerous late in the season, and were at least partially responsible for the almost total failure of the winter squash crop.

Potato beetles were very scarce, and it was unnecessary to spray the potatoes at all. A few tomato worms appeared, but were picked off and killed before serious damage was done.—Connecticut Farmer.

Handling Dairy Products in Hot Weather

A good deal of the success of dairying in hot weather is knowing how to handle the milk, cream, butter and cheese so that there will be no waste through spoiling. A successful dairy should have its liberal supply of ice, and the dairyman who fails to make provisions for this is pretty sure to lose in the end. Very few dairies are so situated that they cannot lay in a stock of ice in winter which will meet all their requirements in summer. When milk is first obtained it needs chilling as soon as possible, and a low temperature maintained continually. Now, if we can check the growth of bacteria sufficiently the milk and cream can be kept indefinitely. Yet some will have their cream spoiling within ten hours after milking, and they will attribute their loss to bad luck.

But absolute reliance cannot be placed on ice. This is not the only way of saving the milk and cream that the farmer has placed at his disposal. Ice is necessary, but there is something else more necessary, and without which even ice is of little use. That other thing is cleanliness. Now, to some the idea of cleanliness acting as a preserver of milk and cream may seem a little absurd, but nevertheless there is nothing so important in the dairy as this. When the cans and milk pails are not thoroughly cleaned and sterilized from the last milking tens of thousands of bacteria will lurk in the cracks and corners, and when the new milk is poured in they will swarm throughout the mass. The bacteria are the direct cause of the milk and cream souring. We chill the milk right after the milking in order to stop their multiplication. Heat nourishes them and makes their growth rapid. When the bacteria are left in the unclean milk utensils thousands of them are immediately mixed with the new milk, and they begin to cause the fluid to sour, no matter how soon the chilling process may begin.

There are only two absolute methods of handling the dairy products successfully in hot weather, and by observing them one is almost assured of no loss. The milk should when first obtained be aerated and chilled. This should be done as quickly as possible, and in the most cleanly manner imaginable. After aerating and chilling the milk and cream should be stored in the dairy, where the temperature is kept at a uniformly low figure. Beware of opening the door to this storage room more than will cause a warmer current to pass over the milk and injure it. The next requirement is to see that absolute cleanliness is observed in the dairy, and that every pan, pail and kettle is washed thoroughly in hot water after each milking, and just before using any one of them for the new milk sterilize it. This is simple enough. Put all of them in boiling water, and then any germs, bacteria or microbes of air, dairy room or old milk will be destroyed, making the utensils absolutely fresh and clean.—C. S. Walters, in American Cultivator.

Garden Hints.

Dust rose bushes occasionally with air-slacked lime to kill the slugs.

Try sprinkling pulverized borax around plants that are infested by ants.

If rose bushes mildew in hot, damp weather apply sulphur after they are watered.

Keep the flowers picked from the annuals if you would have abundant and constant bloom.

Keep cut flowers fresh by clipping the ends of the stems and putting a pinch of soda in the water.

The green worms which eat into rose buds can be kept in check to a great extent by dredging the plants with powdered hellebore.

Keep vines well tied as they grow, and they will not straggle off at loose ends, to be broken by winds or tangled among their own tendrils.

When the cacti have finished their spring blooming the pots should be plunged in a sunny border, and the plants well watered and kept grow-all summer.

If the rose bushes become red and rusty give them a thorough sprinkling once a week with water in which has been put a handful of paris green to a bucketful of water.

An occasional scattering of wood ashes around the sweet pea vines will help them, but strong fertilizers should be avoided now, as they will encourage the development of vines at the expense of bloom.

No Guarantee Given.

"What is the matter with those weather bulletins of yours?" asked the man who complains about what can't be helped.

"My dear Sir," answered the weather prophet, "those are merely predictions, not promises."—Washington Star.



Floral Designs on Table Linen.

An entirely new touch in patterns for table linen is the introduction of the roots of the plants in the floral designs. Far from being unsightly, they are so artistic, mingled with the plant and its blossoms, as to be extremely effective as well as novel. Fancy a decorative poppy pattern on the finest quality damask so arranged as to appear as if growing from fibrous roots down near the border, then the blossoming plants stretch toward the centre, where they form a circle around the centerpiece.

To Keep Steel Clean.

The best treatment for wrought steel, which has a knack of growing gray, lustreless and ill-looking, is to first wash it very clean with a stiff brush and ammonia soap suds, rinse well, dry, by heat if possible, then oil plentifully with sweet oil, and dust thickly with powdered quicklime. Let the lime stay on two days, then brush it off with a clean, very stiff brush. Polish with a softer brush, and rub with cloths until the lustre comes out. By leaving the lime on, iron and steel may be kept from rust almost indefinitely.

Window Decorations.

"How perfectly beautiful," exclaimed a visitor as she entered the favorite sitting room of the chateleine of a charming country house. It was no wonder she stood transfixed with admiration. Before her, nearly filling one end of the room, was a deep recessed window and window seat, the former with large plate glass sashes that made the room seem part of a fruit orchard beyond, which was just bursting into pink and white silken cushions to match a great semicircle of hyacinths and tulips just outside that blazed with color within their setting of emerald green turf. Their soft tints of pink, yellow, blue, white, purple, lilac and dark red were all exactly reproduced in the piled up cushions of the window seat.

Proper Care of the Linen.

The best of linen will crack if folded the same way each time that it is ironed. By careful supervision this can be avoided by folding in two one week and in three another, and varying the methods. A tablecloth will give a better appearance if the ridges are smoothed out with an iron after the cloth is laid. Many housekeepers who do not like the appearance of folds iron them out entirely after the cloth is on the table.

A table cloth which is to show the creases should be folded lengthwise through the middle, with the two halves folded back in opposite directions, instead of together. This will leave the two creases each side of the central one outward and meeting.

A liberal use of tea and tray cloths, centrepieces and doilies every day adds to the dainty appearance of a table and saves the long cloths a great deal of wear and tear, the laundress being spared, meanwhile, much work.



Apple Dumplings—Make a light, melting biscuit dough. Pinch off a small piece and roll thin. Put a heaped spoonful of stiff canned apples in the centre and pinch the edges together. Bake in a quick oven. Serve with sugar and cream.

Spinach Souffle—Take a cupful of spinach which has been prepared and mix it with the beaten yolk of an egg and stir over the fire until the egg is set. Let it cool. When ready to serve stir into it lightly the well-beaten whites of three eggs. Fill individual buttered paper boxes half full and place them in a hot oven for 10 minutes. Serve at once.

Orange Foam—One-half a box of gelatine soaked in one-half a cup of cold water. Dissolve in one pint of boiling water, making only one pint of water in all. Add juice of four large oranges, one cup of granulated sugar. Let it thicken until it is like a syrup. Beat the whites of five eggs, very light. Beat all together until it is white and foamy, then put away to cool. Serve with whipped cream.

Macaroni with Cheese—Break 12 sticks of macaroni into one-inch lengths, and cook in two quarts of boiling salted water for 20 or 30 minutes. Drain the water off and pour in to a bake dish. Make a cream sauce by melting a spoonful of butter, rub in a spoonful of flour, then add half a pint of cold milk, and cook until it thickens; salt to taste. Pour over the macaroni, and sprinkle a cup of grated cheese on top. Bake until brown.

Almond Jumbles—Two cupfuls of sugar and one and a half cupfuls of butter beaten to a smooth, light cream. Add six eggs, one at a time, beating thoroughly. Then stir in half a wine glass of apricot juice, half a cupful of cornstarch and three cupfuls of sifted flour. Roll out the dough quite thin, cut it with a jumble cutter, sprinkle over one pound of blanched and chopped almonds, press them in with the rolling pin, sprinkle granulated sugar over the top; place on a luted paper in shallow tins and bake in a hot oven.

That Detective Faculty.

He had been observing a tall, rather spare man, walking up and down the station platform, and wishing to cultivate a new faculty he was developing, he walked up and addressed the stranger.

"Pardon me, sir," he said politely, "but isn't one of your shoulders higher than the other?"

"Yes, it is," answered the stranger shortly.

"And if I mistake not one arm is at least an inch longer than the other from a habit you have of extending it in a straight line when you walk?"

"What do you mean?"

"Do not get angry. I am investigating some fine scientific tests. You also drag one leg when you walk, showing to a close observer of those tell-tale facts that at some time of your life you have done time and acquired the lockstep habit."

Probably he was right in his conclusions, but he never knew. When the stranger was through with him he was such very small potatoes he might have been swept up in a peck measure. And he didn't care a continental whether the theory of Hemlock Shermes was the right one or not. He had enough.—Chicago Record-Herald.

What Was It, Anyhow?

The train had just recommenced its journey toward Bedale.

"What did the porter say was the next station?" asked one passenger of another.

"Excuse me," said passenger No. 2, "you mean what is the next station. It's still a station, you know."

"You're wrong. What it was, wasn't it? Is it was, but was is not necessarily is."

"Now you're getting ridiculous," said the second speaker irritably. "What was is, and what is is. Is was is, or is is was?"

"Don't be foolish! Was may be is, but is is not was. Is was was, but was was is, then is isn't is, or was wasn't was. If was is, is was is, isn't it? But if is is was, then—"

"Listen. Is is, was was, and is was and was is; therefore is was is, and was was was, and is is was."

"Shut up, will you! I've gone by my station already!"

And there was silence for awhile.—London Answers.

Forgot Her Part.

A well-known Countess was announced to speak at a costers' gathering in the East End recently, so the little daughter of one of the costers—a flower seller—was deputed to present the Countess on her arrival with a beautiful bouquet.

The evening arrived, with an enthusiastic audience in the hall, and presently the Countess was announced.

The little girl, who had been coached as to what to say, walked along the platform to where her ladyship stood, and in her confusion convulsed every one with laughter by shouting out:

"Ere yer are, mum. Only a penny a bunch—market bunch for a penny!"

The Countess smiled, accepted the flowers and the child got the penny.—London Spare Moments.

Bruisers at the Coronation.

Now that the coronation is a current topic of conversation, it may be noted that the court officers who will be entrusted with the conduct of the pageant will doubtless have no need to resort to an expedient to preserve order which was deemed necessary when the king's great uncle, George IV., was crowned in 1821. It was then feared that the numerous sympathizers with Queen Caroline would create a disturbance at the door of Westminster Abbey. So a noted pugilist of the day, "Gentleman Jackson," who taught Lord Byron boxing, was instructed to hire some twenty well-known bruisers. These gentry were attired as king's pages and posted on duty.—London News.

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