

Farm and Garden

THE CULTURE OF CABBAGE.

Soil and Condition For Successful Growth of Plants.

To be able to grow cabbage successfully in any season the soil should be in such a condition that the water will pass through it as freely as it would through a piece of porous stone or porous rock. As a general rule, the poorer the soil the drier and more porous it is. Thus it is that on the comparatively poor farms better late cabbages are grown than in the market gardens that are very rich. A soil that is broken early in the spring and well manured has generally been found to grow the best cabbage. This does not apply to the early crops. These do best on the soils that are rich and full of humus.

Low priced fertilizers sometimes give as good results as the higher priced goods; but, on the whole, it will pay to be liberal with nitrogen. The two experiments indicate that it is profitable to use nitrate of soda on the plant beds at the rate of 450 to 500 pounds per acre.

The cabbage is a native of western and southern Europe and has been used for human food from time immemorial. All of the types of cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, collard, and kale have sprung from the same original source—namely, *Brassica oleracea*.



ROOT DEVELOPMENT OF CABBAGE.

oleracea, Linn. The wild type is still growing on the chalk cliffs of the English coast. On the cliffs of south-eastern England is now found a plant similar to the Georgia collards.

There are three distinct types of cabbage with reference to the shape of the head—namely, round, oval and flat. Some varieties are distinct in type, while others partake of two or more shapes due to crossing in seed production. There is much variation in the shape, color, character and texture of the leaf, ranging from regular straight edges, almost white, smooth and tender, to irregular, almost fringed edges, dark purple color and coarse, tough texture.

Generally speaking, all varieties are hardy, but there is some variation in hardiness. Usually the purplish green varieties with crinkled and fringed leaves are hardier than the whitish green sorts with smooth, regular leaves. The cold resisting varieties are also the most heat resisting.

For a very early crop the seed may be sown in a well prepared seed bed outside in September and the plants be wintered over in a cold frame or by mulching with straw in a sheltered place. These plants may be set out very early in spring, long before spring grown plants may be used. To make extra good plants they will need to be taken from the seed bed and be pricked out two inches apart in other beds. By setting a succession of plants the crop may be constant from May or June until Christmas.

The plants of early varieties are set out in spring as early as the weather permits in rows three feet apart and two feet apart in the rows. The fall grown plants are often planted in the field in November. Furrows are turned where the rows are to be and the plants are set low in the furrows, so as to be protected. North and south furrows with plants set on the east side are satisfactory, although east and west furrows are sometimes preferred. Later varieties require more room. Early plants must be set deep—that is, so the base of the leaves is below the ground. If freezing weather comes the plants may be covered with earth until danger from frost is over.

The illustration showing the roots of a cabbage is an interesting study.

Analysis of Sorghum.

Analysis shows that, considering the amount of protein and fat contained in sorghum, it is about equal to timothy hay as food. In point of the amount of nitrogen, free extract, it is about half as rich in these elements as timothy. Timothy contains 5 per cent protein, 45 per cent nitrogen, free extract, and 3 per cent fat. Sorghum contains 4.5 per cent protein, 23 per cent nitrogen, free extract, and 3.25 per cent fat.

Fraudulent Cheese.

The bureau of chemistry of the United States department of agriculture has come out flat footed in answer to the question "When is cheese not cheese?" They say that when it is "soaked curd" it cannot be sold as cheese. Pseudo cheese is produced by soaking the curd at a certain stage in cold water, draining it and putting the curd to press. This treatment is carried on solely for fraudulent purposes.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Dealt Only in Cash.

Lord Rosebery, who is one of the wealthiest peers in Great Britain, confesses that on one occasion lack of the moderate sum of fourpence stood between him and an article he was most anxious to purchase.

He was one day walking through the streets of Aberdeen when in the window of a shop he saw an article which he desired to purchase.

"How much to pay?" asked his lordship, putting his hand in his pocket.

"Fourpence, please," answered the shopman.

"Well, I do believe I have forgotten to bring any money with me!" exclaimed Lord Rosebery.

"Aweel, sir," said the shopman, "if ye havena got the pennies ye canna hae the parcel."

Although the earl promised to send the money from the hotel, the Aberdeen remained obdurate, and when he offered to write a check for fourpence the shopkeeper was more suspicious than ever.

"Na, na," he said, solemnly shaking his head. "Though ye said ye were Andra Carnegie, I widna gie ye credit. I deal only in cash."

Trunks For Aerial Travel.

An enterprising trunk maker in Paris, we learn, has in his shop trunks for balloonists. On the outside, painted in white letters, are the words "Aero Trunk." On the inside of the cover are instructions and hints for the traveler. He is told to have no fear of tumbling out, for the car is well constructed and there is no danger of derailment. Do not jump about in your joy, for the car is not a balcony. Do not smoke or carry a spirit stove. Do not go into ecstasies over the progress. Every one knows it, and it is a waste of time. Select your baggage with intelligence. Only bring what is actually wanted, and this will be heavy enough. Clothe yourself well, for in the air it will be fresh. Do not be vexed if you find no wagon restaurant. Do not point the finger of scorn at mortals less fortunate than yourself who cannot delight in the beauties of the air. The trunk is of great lightness, the framework being of aluminum, with rings to attach it to the car. The trunk contains a small medicine chest, but we learn there is no provision for ladies' big hats.—London Globe.

A Mercenary Wife.

Frank Work, the venerable New York millionaire, discussed in his distinctive way international marriages. "Our girls don't marry men any more," he said grimly. "They marry titles. Girls haven't changed, it seems, since the middle ages. There was once, you know, a lady of Touraine who was wedded to a mediæval count. The count went out from his castle one fine morning to meet the foe, but the foe defeated him and took him prisoner. Then the count's castle was besieged. The countess was summoned to the battlements. From below a herald shouted to her: "Lady, your lord has been defeated and is now our prisoner. Surrender the castle to us, and he shall be restored to you in safety." "But the countess answered without an instant's hesitation: "No, I'll do nothing of the sort, for I can easily obtain another husband, but getting another castle is quite a different matter."—Exchange.

The Whizzing Globe.

Among the latest vaudeville novelties in Paris is a bicycle act which is referred to on the programme as "the whizzing globe." In a great wire cage, globular in form and about twenty feet in diameter, a man sits, mounted on a bicycle. His wheel rests on a rim of narrow wooden slats which extends in a circle around the inside of the globe. The man pedals vigorously, and the globe, resting on an axle and free from the floor, is set in motion, the revolutions being in keeping with the rapidity of the wheel on the inside. The show is not half over, however, when the man emerges and makes his bow, for in the second act another wheelman takes his place on the top of the globe, and, while the great cage is whizzing, impelled by the bicycle rider inside, the man on top maintains his place, the wheels of his machine spinning around in harmony with the globe's motions. The whole thing is a globular treadmill so novel as to make it wonderful to look at.

A Poor Motto.

Baron Takahira was talking to a reporter in Ann Arbor about the Japanese character. "To say that the Japanese is only a living piece of commercialism is all wrong," he declared. "The Japanese is chivalrous and kind. But too often men accuse him of living up literally to the Yorkshire motto.

"The selfish and despicable motto adopted by a certain hard, narrow type of Yorkshireman is, you know: "See all, hear all and say nowt; Eat all, sup all and pay nowt; And if th' does owt for nowt Do it for t'yeen."

A Girl of Four Nations.

"I've been trying to figure out what this girl looked like," said a mere man to his sister. "I was sitting on the cross seat of an elevated train, and two girls with their backs to my back were talking. One said she had a Dutch neck in her Irish lace gown and that she thought she would wear her white French heeled slippers and do her hair in an English bun. What with French, Dutch, Irish and English I imagined she might as well wrap herself in the flag of all nations and let it go at that."—New York Press.

UNCLE SAM'S NEW MELON.

Delicacy From Roumania Which Will Do Credit Here.

The department of agriculture always alerts for something new, and the diplomatic and consular offices of the United States have spent some weeks on the lookout for new fruits and vegetables.

So well have these efforts been carried out that many new and strange fruits and vegetables have found their way to the tables of the American housekeeper.

One of the latest and best things in this line has been the introduction into the United States of the Roumanian watermelon. This was the result of a deal consummated by the late minister to Roumania, Horace G. Knowles.

When Mr. Knowles found this melon growing among the foothills of Carpathia he realized that it would be just the thing to serve individually in America, and instead of hotels serving huge slices of watermelon it would be possible to serve a whole uncut watermelon of the Roumanian variety, equal in every way to the best Georgia melon.

The new melon has a thin skin, and the meat, which is less fibrous than the American melon, is both yellow and red in color. The flavor is delicate and delicious, but the chief characteristic of the fruit is its size, which is about that of a good-sized grapefruit or shaddock.

After a thorough test by the agricultural department, which found that the Roumanian melon could be successfully grown wherever our own melons would grow, and having been assured of its royal reception by the American public, Mr. Knowles was anxious to repay the gift. He had noticed that corn in Roumania was one of the chief articles of agriculture, but that sweet corn was unknown. Accordingly he obtained a quantity of seed, hired several plots of ground and instructed the Roumanians in its culture.

The result was so successful and the corn so thoroughly enjoyed that the king called Mr. Knowles to a private audience and thanked him for making it possible for the Roumanian people to gain this delicacy.

This melon has received such a welcome and so great has been the demand for it that two large hotels in New York and Philadelphia have agreed to take all that can be grown in the United States during the next year, and it is their intention to feature them on their menus.

"Come Into the Garden."

Weeds are aly about confessing their necessity. In youth they have the charm of freshness and promise; denied many fragrant flowers, and it is only when gripped to the earth with roots of iron and ready to set their progeny in detectable grounds that they show their true colors.

It is a puzzle how to tell friends from enemies, flowers from weeds. An observing eye, long about the business, may be gifted with an instinct and power to detect at once what promises to be sandvult, what grass, what nasturtium, what rue, or plantain, or poppy, or dandelion, and far into the siecles looking themselves in the disguise of similarity.

By taking the garden seriously there is really enough to enlighten the days. A package of lawn grass seed on a well prepared lawn will in time arouse all the emotions latent in the human character. According to well laid plans and promises, it should be clover and lawn grass. An English friend persuaded the introduction of a pinch of daisy seed, and at the hour of the first wedding a tender heart suggested that no lawn was perfect without dandelion gold.

One who would write a book with many pictures on the distinguishing traits of first sprouts should be rewarded with the privilege of making many editions to follow the first sweeping sales. Plants have curious ways of beginning life. Those that start out rosettes become tall and spindling later; those that send forth threads develop woody stems.

Amount of Grain For Cattle.

The difference in practice between the amounts of grain that are fed to cattle that are being fattened is very great.

The following rules will be found of some service to those who are feeding: First, aim to feed coarse foods to the greatest extent possible consistent with good increase, as they are the cheaper foods; second, feed enough concentrates to make the fattening reasonably rapid in order to save in the food of maintenance; third, when the droppings show that the food is not being well digested by the offensive odor that comes from them the grain should be reduced; fourth, when the animal gets off feed the grain should be at once cut down or the trouble is likely to get worse. At such times condimental food may aid in bringing the stomach back to tone.

Care of the Grindstone.

A grindstone, by the way, should never be left exposed to the sun. The weight of the handle will always cause one portion of the stone to remain uppermost, and this from exposure will rough a different degree of hardness from the underside, so that after awhile the stone will be ground out of a circle. If the stone has to stand in the open, a flat box can easily be obtained to serve as a cover.

Melodrama Feeds.

The class of foods that are fast gaining popularity among the dairymen are the so-called melodrama foods, which are extremely palatable and are made from concentrates from cereals and well cured corn stover soaked in molasses.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Ship Alphabet.

The players sit in a long row, as if in class at school. The one who acts as schoolmaster asks sharply, beginning at one end: "The name of the letter?" "A," says the first player. The schoolmaster turns to the next player: "The name of the ship?" "Allan." "What is the cargo?" "Apples." "The port she comes from?" "Amboy." "The place she is bound for?" "Amsterdam." The next letter? "B," and so on. If the schoolmaster is very strict and abrupt with his questions and counting he can drive every idea from the mind of the person he points at. If he counts ten before an answer comes he passes on to the next, and the next, until the answer is given. The one who gives it moves up above those who failed. The game should be played rapidly.

Training of Fire Horses.

Did you ever see the firemen practicing their horses at a fire engine house? If so, you noticed that each horse leaves his stall at the first sound of the alarm bell and takes his place in front of the engine. He does not wait for orders, but knows what to do as well as do the firemen themselves. When an alarm is sounded not a moment's time is lost, everything connected with the gearing and hitching of the team being reduced to a perfect system, largely automatic. When a new horse is brought to the station he receives no special training—that is, training such as he would receive if a circus man were attempting it. He is simply paired with a horse that has been there a long time, and he soon gets so that he does what he sees his mate do. Fire horses are selected for their good qualities, and they enter into the spirit of their work with what in a human being would be called enthusiasm.

Wave Measurement.

If M. Bertin, a French engineer, is correct in his conclusions the height and length of waves have been over-estimated. Observations have previously been made in most cases from small vessels, and as the decks have been constantly tilted by the waves results were exaggerated. With care to avoid this error the highest wave measured was forty-three feet. M. Bertin believes, however, that in the southern seas a height ten feet greater may be reached. There is a relation between length and period, the longest waves having a period of twenty-three seconds.

Summer Conundrums.

What does Sweet William carry when he goes out walking? A sugar cane.
What does Black Eyed Susan use to keep her hair in order? Cockscorn.
What form of entertainment is common among the flowers? Elops.
What disease is common to young flowers? Nettle rash.
On what does the Wandering Jew rest when tired? Toadstools.
Which parent made Johnny-jump-up? His poppy.
What tree always uses the second personal pronoun? Yew.

The Chinese Rickshaw.

The Chinese rickshaw is a basket chair arrangement, something like a buggy. It has a hood, but no front, and it rests on two wheels. One coolie hauls between the shafts and another pushes from behind whenever a journey up a steep hill is contemplated. You might expect progress to be slow, with a man doing the work instead of a horse. But this is not the case. The Chinese rickshaw man can trot many miles at a good speed. He is faster than the Japanese, and staidier than the Chinese. Besides, he does not charge so much.—Chicago News.

The Selection of Friends.

A piece of clay was found by the wayside, and it had a most delicious fragrance. "How hast thou obtained that odor?" asked a jealous clod of earth, and the answer came promptly. "I have dwelt near the rose."
We all gain something from our friends, and they all take something from us. A Spanish proverb says, "Who comes from the kitchen smells of smoke," so, you see, you may either be perfumed by the rose or be smoked by the soot, according to the friends you choose.

Riddles.

What is the difference between a policeman and a nickel? A policeman being a "pepper," the difference is 4 cents.
What kind of a field is older than you are? Pasturage.

The Shadow Child.

I have a little comrade
Who stays with me all day,
He comes at early morning
And watches all my play.
He never answers questions,
Though I shout with all my might,
He never seems to hear me,
And he often hides from sight.
Sometimes he's short and funny
Or he stretches thin and tall,
He lies upon the carpet
Or he runs right up the wall.
We often race together,
But he always wins from me.
I have to run around things,
While he slips through, you see.
I asked my nurse this morning
If 'twas proper or quite right
Without an explanation
He should so away each night.
She told me all about it,
And from what she says it seems
He plays with other children
While I'm in the land of dreams.
—Youth's Companion.

BEES AND BEE KEEPING

BEES CAME FIRST.

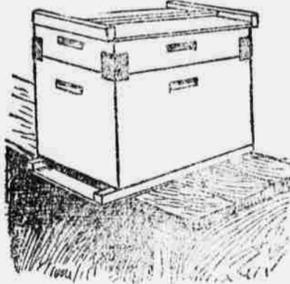
After Them the Indian Met the White Man.

All the honey bees in this country having originally been imported from Europe or Asia, there is no racial difference between the wild ones and the domesticated; those that live in trees are simply the descendants of those that from time to time have taken "French leave" from their owners' hives and reverted to a state of nature. The vast bulk of the wild bees are of the German or black race, while the standard domesticated bee is the Italian, but that, however, is only because the Germans were the first to be introduced here. Just when the Germans came is in doubt, but it was some time in the seventeenth century; certainly it was not until near the close of the eighteenth century that any bees were found west of the Mississippi.

The Indians used to say they could mark the advance of the white man by the appearance of bees in the woods. The Italian bees were first imported in 1860. Better tempered and more industrious than the Germans, they have become very popular with apiarists, but as many still keep the German bee, and others have the hybrid formed by the crossing of the two races, while countless Italians now have taken to the woods, there to breed more hybrids, it is clear that there is no sure way of distinguishing between the wild bee and the domesticated.—Outing.

Corner Clamps for Beehive.

I have tried every kind of a clamp and other devices intended to keep the upper chamber and supers of a beehive in place, but none of them has proved to be satisfactory, most of them getting out of place at times. I have now discarded all of these devices and am using one of my own invention. I will try to explain this for the benefit of the readers of The Prairie Farmer. My clamp is simply a piece of sheet metal cut 4 inches square. I



CORNER CLAMP FOR BEEHIVE.

prefer to have it cut from galvanized steel similar to what is commonly used for roofing. Bend these sheets so as to form a right angle, and nail on the corners of the upper story and supers so that the longer end will be half an inch below the edge of the super to which it is attached as shown in the illustration.

I think any one who will try this plan will find it to be entirely satisfactory.—L. W. Colvin, Harrison Co., Kentucky.

Jewelry.

The little lump of ice we get. It is a precious thing. If it would just hold its shape and wear it in a ring. —Washington Star.

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