

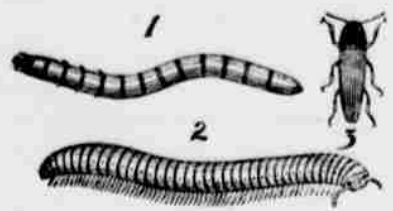
FARM & GARDEN

CIRCUMVENTING WIREWORMS.

Fall Cultivation the Best of All Methods. Poisoned Clover Baits.

Among the most prominent of the pests that infest field crops are the wireworms. These are long, slender grubs of a yellowish white color, and with unusually hard bodies. Their wirelike form and the hardness of the body have suggested the common name. Fig. 1 in the cut represents a wireworm about twice natural size. Unfortunately the term wireworm has been misapplied to certain animals—the millepede—which are not true insects, but belong to a different class in the animal kingdom. Fig. 2 in the cut represents a millepede. The true wireworms are the young of click beetles, or snapping bugs as they are more commonly termed. Our common kinds of click beetles are mostly small or of medium size. A few are larger. They are usually of a uniform brownish color. Some are conspicuously spotted. A click beetle is represented at Fig. 3.

Three years' experimenting with both defensive and offensive measures at the



1.—WIREWORM. 2.—MILLEPEDE. 3.—CLICK BEETLE.

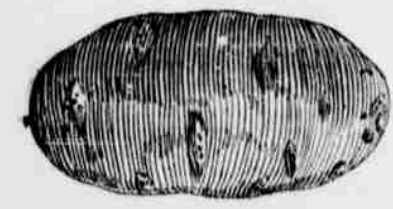
Cornell station failed to discover a single satisfactory method of protecting seed, or of destroying immature wireworms in the soil. The scope of these experiments was large, embracing all the known methods. Professor Slingerland tells, however, in his report that fall cultivation will destroy the wireworms ready to pupate, the pupae and the beetles. The beetles can also be trapped and killed in large numbers with poisoned clover baits. Such a short rotation of crops as will include a period of thorough cultivation in the fall will prove the best method of fighting these pests yet suggested.

In experimenting with poisoned baits, instead of these attracting the wireworms, as was expected, their parents, the click beetles, came to the baits in large numbers. The clover attracted by far the larger number, 65 per cent. It was found that the beetles were the most active at night, and that they seek their food chiefly by running over the surface of the ground. The wads of poisoned clover baits were placed under boards in various parts of a badly infested field.

New Potatoes.

In looking over the spring catalogues, the Money Maker potato is conspicuous, not only from its name, but from the claims made by those interested. It is claimed to be the "most productive potato in America and absolutely rot-proof." It is a late sort.

Uncle Sam is another newcomer for which phenomenal merits are claimed, such as heavy yielder, shallow eyes,



THE MONEY MAKER.

good form and extra cooking qualities. Honeyo Rose, also new, it is said, is "as early as the Early Rose and better in every way." Our readers, while interested in all that is new, will plant largely of old and well tested varieties until time has proved the new sorts worthy of general acceptance. In the mean time it often pays to experiment in a small way with novelties as they appear.

The Chinch Bugs.

From the Iowa experiment station comes a bulletin on fighting chinch bugs. In this it is advised as a means of prevention to destroy all old rubbish, straw, cornstalks, etc. When the bugs appear in limited areas, apply kerosene emulsion in sufficient quantities to destroy old bugs and young larvae. If large areas are affected, plow under the crop and roll the field immediately. Decoy crops, such as wheat or barley, may be planted quite early, and bugs which collect on these early sown grains may be killed by plowing under, or some similar process. Migration may be prevented by cutting such a crop of wheat or barley a little before maturity, removing the crop and burning the stubble as soon as it is dry. Dusty furrows may be used when other means are not practicable. Plow a strip a few yards wide, and thoroughly pulverize this with a harrow. Then in this strip make two or three deep furrows, or a series of shallow ones, with sloping, dusty sides.

The white fungus, or chinch bug disease, proved only partially successful last year, and it cannot be relied upon to check this pest to the exclusion of other well known measures, which shall be diligently applied whenever necessary.

Remedies For Cabbage Worms.

Kerosene emulsion, pyrethrum and salt-peter are all good, and hot water at a temperature of 130 degrees sprinkled over the heads with a common watering can is probably as effective as anything. Whichever remedy is employed, however, the applications must be repeated so long as any worms remain, for the great difficulty is that the worms, which are under several thicknesses of leaves, are difficult to reach.

VALUE OF HOG PASTURE.

A Brief Report of Two Years' Experiments Conducted at the Utah Station.

The Utah experiment station has issued a bulletin on the value of pasture in swine growing, giving the results of two years. Numbered with the more important conclusions reached are the following:

Pigs allowed to run at large over 18 acres of good pasture and fed a full ration of grain made the most rapid growth and required the least grain for one pound of gain. The pasture in all the various feeding trials contained eight varieties of grass in mixture, and about one-half of it was alfalfa, a fact to be borne in mind in considering the bearing of these experiments upon the question under consideration. Pigs confined in movable pens in the pasture grew more slowly than those running loose and required an increase of one-fifth more grain to make a pound of gain. Pigs on pasture and fed under three different conditions gained 22½ per cent more and ate but 2 per cent more than pigs getting grass and otherwise similarly fed, but confined in pens, the grass in this latter case being cut for them. The grain required to produce one pound of gain under these circumstances increased 40 per cent as compared with those at pasture. Satisfactory gains were made by pigs fed but part rations of grain on pasture. Those getting a three-fourths grain ration gained more than did those fed a full grain ration and grass either in the yards or in pens.

It will be observed from the foregoing that the exercise taken by the pigs which did their own foraging contributed largely to their gain, proving that the pasture had a value of its own apart from the mere question of the amount of food eaten from it. As nearly as can be estimated this exercise alone increased the gain 22 per cent, while the amount eaten increased but 1½ per cent, and it at the same time decreased the amount required for a pound of gain 22 per cent. Grass cut and fed green to pigs, whether in pens or in yards, and whether with a full or part grain ration or without any grain, proved to be of very slight value. Confined in pens and fed on grass alone, which it will be remembered was chiefly alfalfa, for three months, lost over a quarter of a pound per day.

Planting Corn.

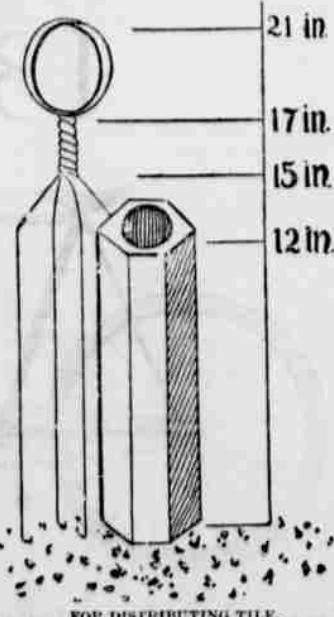
G. E. Morrow, writing to Prairie Farmer, says: The depth at which corn should be planted depends largely on the date and the quantity of moisture in the soil. In early spring the surface is warmer than the deeper soil and shallow planting is advisable. There is no good reason for deep planting at any time if there is sufficient moisture in the soil. Deep planting in compact clay soils is undesirable. If the kernels are covered one to two inches, this is abundantly deep in a vast majority of cases.

Clover Sown Every Month.

A. A. Crozier reports that at the Michigan station red clover was sown during the latter part of each month in the year. Success resulted only when seeding was made in February, March, April and December. The July seeding failed to come up until the fall rains began, and the plants from seeding in July, August, September and October succumbed to the winter.

Handling Drainage.

A labor saving implement invented by an Ohio Farmer correspondent, but not patented, may prove of interest to readers who anticipate laying tile next spring. To make it, take two pieces of common fence wire, each 52 inches long. Place them side by side and give them three twists at the middle for the "top of the handle." Then bend around a four inch block and twist all together for two inches, as shown in illustration. Next draw the ends all together and trim



FOR DISTRIBUTING TILE.

them even. Then bend a hook on the end of each as shown, having the hook on the inside of all the four arms, and make large enough to hook over a three-fourths inch piece. Let the hook at the end turn up three-fourths inch. This will make an implement a trifle larger than the one illustrated, but will be all the better for a tall person, as the larger tile will be more easily adjusted. The object in making shorter would be for a short person to "clear the ground."

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