

FARM AND GARDEN



THE CULTURE OF SQUASH.

Grown in garden or field the squash is a heavy feeder, and must have an abundance of fertilizer to do well. It prefers, also, a moist soil which, to keep the under surface moist, should be underdrained by a vein of quicksand. It will then respond readily to a liberal application of good, fine, thoroughly rotted barnyard manure; especially so if the ground was broken up early in the spring, and the weed growth kept in check by cultivating the top soil to a good depth until planting time.

Anywhere from the first to the middle of June, according to latitude and variety, the seeds should be planted. Before it is done, however, a large shovelful of well-decomposed barnyard manure should be placed in each hill, in addition to the previous fertilization; other conditions being equal, this will stimulate the young plants to a rapid growth.

The hills should be made at least eight feet apart, since if closer together there is apt to be crowding, which means an excess of vines, and, accordingly a loss of fruit; and to insure a good stand and admit of the plants being thinned as their growth demands after the beetle season is past, from a dozen to fifteen seeds should be dropped in each hill. Scattered about somewhat, they should be covered with finely pulverized soil to the depth of not over three-fourths of an inch.

As soon as they come up thorough tillage should begin and continue until the vines cover the ground. Deep and often the dirt should be stirred between the hills and rows, and the surface about the hills raked over with a garden rake. Any crust formation around the plants will thus be broken up, and that assists not a little in their growth. After the danger from insects is past, three stalks are enough to leave in each hill.

If not closely watched at the outset, however, there may soon be none left at all. The stripped yellow beetles alone are capable of ruining every squash in a hill during an hour or two of a bright, sunny morning. Issuing from the earth in myriads, as it were, they will often pounce upon the tender leaves ere they have hardly seen the light of day. Land plaster, with which has been mixed kerosene at the rate of a tablespoonful to a quart measure, should be sprinkled about to keep them away. Used in time, few preventatives are better.

For exterminating the black or brown bugs, which appear later and smell so offensively, the best way is to place some bits of wood, as shingles, around the hills. They will collect beneath these to pass the night, and may therefore be caught and killed each morning. Next comes the cut-worm, which is the most difficult of all to combat, in that not until the mischief has been done is its presence manifest. Hence, it is a wise precaution to sow wood ashes and lime in the squash hills and about the vines before this worm gets a chance to do any harm. Planting squash in a new place every year helps their escaping, to some extent, the ravages of insect pests.—Fred O. Sibley, in the American Cultivator.

THE CRUEL CHECK REIN.

More and more horsemen are coming to see the cruelty and folly of the checkrein and are dispensing with it. An English paper uses the following illustration against it:

"The master who compelled a laborer to do a stiff piece of digging, wearing a high collar and tight coat, would be rightly condemned; yet the man who makes his horse work hampered by a lame-rein is acting in a similar way. The horse is prevented from lowering his head and throwing his weight into the collar, and so is forced to move his load by sheer strength, which takes it out of him much more than if he could use his weight as well. Those who understand the structure of the horse condemn these reins as harmful; they spoil the horse's mouth by chocking the bit; when tight they give him a sore mouth and frequently force the top of the windpipe out of place. They hinder him at work, and strain his back and legs, while he cannot rest when standing with his head up. They are both cruel and unwise for it is sheer folly so to treat a horse as to wear him out sooner than is unavoidable.

There is no reason at all for using a lame-rein, except in one case, the trace-horse of a team working on land. Even then, if there are driving reins, the lame-rein is not needed, its only use being to keep the animal from grazing while at work. But suppose the rein is used, there is still no need for it to be so short as to agnify the horse. He ought to be able to put his nose quite down to his knees, and certainly should be able to pull his load uphill without the constant checking at the bit, caused by the lame-rein as commonly used. In no case should the rein be sewn into the bit; it should only be put on when absolutely necessary, and it should be so made that the carter cannot shorten it. The lame-rein is not used in Scotland in either town or country, so that if the Englishman pleads in excuse that he cannot manage without it, he shows that he is both helpless and ignorant."

FRUIT BOXES.

Sir.—An article on the market page of Saturday's News, headed "Does Box Hold a Quart?" is timely, though inaccurate in some respects. It gives the dimension of the square quart box as 4½ inches by 4½ inches by 2½ inches, and the capacity as 50 cubic inches. The article also states that the oblong box holds a legal quart and the square box less than a quart.

The fact is, the shape of the box has nothing to do with the capacity, as there are short quarts in all shapes, and some of them hold but little over a pint, as exposed for sale.

The package used at this fruit farm is the square box, 4¾ by 4¾ by 2¾ inches, inside measurement, holding practically 60 cubic inches, level full. The fruit is then piled on top, so that the top layer of boxes (with elevated bottoms of five-eighths of an inch) will just fit down without crushing the fruit. The top layer of boxes in turn are filled just so the lid will go on without crushing the fruit, the lid being sufficiently high above the top of the top layer of the fruit to allow of a nice "rounding up" of the boxes.

Filled in this way, boxes of the capacity mentioned hold a good honest quart when they leave the packing house, and consumers get what they pay for. And I am glad to say most of the Parke County fruit growers use these full standard packages. The fruit box joke, like the mother-in-law joke, has no doubt some good grounds for its existence, but there are some good mothers-in-law and also some honest quart boxes, and the thing to do is for all to be made good, or at least uniform.

The News could be of much service to the public generally if it would agitate the question of uniform packages for small fruits, and fruit growers who are trying to do a straight business will not object if that package be full dry measure capacity. If The News will give this matter some attention, I think the next Legislature could be compelled to enact a law covering the points mentioned.—Tom Trueman, in the Indianapolis News.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Make the best start possible with the heifer, for in nearly every case the better milk development secured with the first calf the better results it is possible to secure.

A frightened or uncomfortable cow will give poor milk.

A small Babcock tester and a little attention occasionally in testing samples of the different cows' milk with a record of weights taken once a week will put the farmer in possession of facts worth dollars.

Feed very little corn, if any, during the summer months. Ground or hulled oats make the basis of an excellent summer feed, and with a little wheat and millet added we have a nicely balanced grain ration.

Good luck is not acquainted with lazy poultrymen.

Quality counts more than quantity, in the poultry yard.

By "proper care" is meant personal, intelligent supervision.

Sell the young roosters as fast as they come into the best market. There is much waste in keeping too many roosters.

The poultry that is having the run of the orchard now is serving well their day and generation.

It is a pity so many people don't know how many chickens they raise! Pick the geese and ducks regularly; somebody will want the feathers.

Accustom the colt to the caresses of your children, but not to their cruelty or tricks. A pet is easily broken to saddle or harness, while a wild one from the far-off pasture, which has never felt restraint or caress will fight for his accustomed liberty and may do great injury before he is conquered.

When clover fields are infected with the root borer, allowing them to stand but two years will help to subjugate the pest in any locality.

In the spring the muscles of a horse are soft and they tire easily. Let them take it easy until they become accustomed to work and then you can "push on the lines."

Gardening for Children.

The growing interest in school gardens has given rise to a demand for more definite instruction on the subject, and special meetings for this purpose have been held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, where instruction was given suitable for beginners in gardening. The tools recommended were the narrow blade hoe and rake and weeder and the lines. All the speakers emphasized the need of killing the weeds as soon as they come up and not allowing the ground to become hard. The young gardeners were recommended to plant common things that were fairly sure to grow. For gardens to be carried on only the first part of the summer were suggested early beans, beets, radishes, Premium Gem peas and lettuce. For flowers, sweet alyssum or candytuft, but if the gardens were to be continued all summer, as they should be, plant early cabbages, potatoes, tomatoes, sweet corn, and for flowers, the corn flower, verbena, zinnia, stocks, petunia phlox and marigold.



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THE NATIONAL GAME.

Hal Chase may be a left-handed batter next season.

Teddy Roosevelt, Jr. is a substitute on the Harvard varsity nine.

Rossman is Cleveland's best pick-up this season. He is a timely hitter.

Gettman, of Buffalo, is batting left-handed this season. He is as fast as ever.

When it comes to working a pitcher for a base on balls Roger Bresnahan ranks on top.

The Boston team has a strange look with Jack Hayden in right, Hoey in left and Morgan on third.

Loly Cross will have to hustle in base ball next season and will have to construct an entirely new team.

If Lajote keeps on as he has been batting of late, he will head the American procession of batsmen in a walk.

Charlie Hickman has come to life again for Washington, and lately has been hitting the ball in old-time form.

It's not the high-salaried players that play the best ball. Often the reverse is the case in the major leagues.

Hahn's hitting has made him solid with Chicago American fans, but no poets have yet raved over his base running.

Waddell's new twister is termed the "combination smoke ball and Delsars Dip." This ought to fool the batters.

Princeton is the real champion of the college arena on form and general performance. Williams is a good second.

Senator Elkins, in a speech before the West Virginia Bankers' Association, at Elkins, declared that poverty and want will yet be banished from the world. He said: "There is enough wealth in the world now to prevent poverty, but we have not yet learned how to distribute it. We understand the ways of accumulation but not of distribution. Society and Government are constantly struggling with great questions. Society, under a free Government, has reached the point where it can in the end get what it demands, what is best for it, and protect itself without force."

TEA CAKES.

Materials required—Two ounces of butter, one ounce of sifted sugar, half a pint of milk, one pound of flour, three teaspoonfuls of baking powder and half a teaspoonful of salt. Process—Melt the butter and sugar in the milk; mix the flour, baking powder and salt. Here add the milk, etc., incorporating the whole well together; knead it well and make it into a cake or cakes, which should be put in a greased tin before the fire in order to rise. When sufficiently risen put into a hot oven for half an hour.

SPORTING BREVITIES.

Charles E. Courtney has resigned as rowing coach of Cornell.

Carl Schlechter, of Vienna, won first prize in the chess tournament at Ostend.

Rock Sand, a stallion for which August Belmont paid \$125,000, arrived at New York on the Minneapolis.

The French swimmer Bouguin won a nine mile international contest at Paris in three hours six minutes.

For the first time in five years Columbia was not represented by a freshman crew in the Poughkeepsie regatta.

The Canadians were outclassed in the cricket match with the American team at Philadelphia and lost by 253 runs.

Payne Whitney's new motor boat Artful, in a trial trip of two hours against wind and tide, averaged 24.52 miles an hour.

Because he imported an automobile not licensed under the Selden patent, John B. Trevor has been enjoined from its use.

Irish-American A. A. athletes won the point trophy at the Pastime A. C. games by a score of twenty-six points to twenty-three.

May Sutton, of California, lost the tennis championship of Great Britain, which she won last year, being defeated by Miss Douglas by 2-0.

Work has been commenced on land adjoining Belmont Park, New York City, and a steeplechase course for the future home of the United Hunts is in course of construction.

W. K. Vanderbilt's French colt Maintenon won the Prize of the President of the Republic at Maisons-Laffitte, and the American is far in the lead in the list of American winners.

INSTEAD OF HASH.

A writer in an exchange suggests that the remains of a dinner be made into a salad instead of the everlasting hash, and gives the following directions: Cut beef, potatoes, beets and turnips in cubes, keeping each separate. Cut the cold cabbage fine. Place on a platter a bottomless wooden mold or pasteboard box with compartments, such as eggs come in, and fill each compartment with a different vegetable and one or more with meat. When all are arranged set in the icebox until cold, then pull up the frame in which the different things are molded, leaving them all in shape. Serve with French dressing, mayonnaise or a boiled dressing, as preferred. If you have no regular egg compartment box, take any pasteboard box and with strips of pasteboard mark into triangles or squares.

The murderer sometimes get his due, but the kidnapper always.

THE LABOR WORLD.

Boston labor leaders are insisting on the union label being used on the school books of that city.

Efforts are being made to organize a French local union of clothing pressers at Montreal, Canada.

Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor wants the office of chief factory inspector made elective.

There are 124 manufacturers using the union label on mechanics' clothing in the United States and Canada.

The national officers of various unions are making an open fight against the Industrial Workers of the World.

Cleveland machinists are building up their organization with a view of making a demand for a twenty per cent. increase.

Railway trackmen to the number of 500,000 on every railroad in the United States have begun a campaign for better wages.

The Miners' Federation of Great Britain, at the conference held in London, decided to remodel the miner's eight hour bill.

The International Brotherhood of Steam Shovel and Druggemen is a new organization lately affiliated with the A. F. of L.

The sheriff of Pine Bluff, Ark., has been asked by the planters of Wabaska to prevent negroes from forming trades unions.

The new Iowa child labor law prohibits the employment of children under eighteen years of age in any occupation injurious to health.

Cincinnati firemen are looking forward until January 1, 1907. An ordinance has passed the Cincinnati Council raising the pay of 417 firemen \$6 per month.

SWEET MILK SCONES.

One-half pound flour, one-half ounce sugar, one teaspoonful cream tartar, one-half teaspoonful baking soda, one gill milk, one ounce butter, one-half teaspoonful salt. Rub the butter slightly into the flour, add the sugar, cream of tartar, soda, salt and mix well. Mix all into a light dough with the milk, turn onto a floured board, work lightly until smooth, roll out and cut into eight pieces. Lay the scones on a greased baking tin; bake in a very quick oven for ten minutes. To glaze the scones, brush them with a little egg before putting them into the oven. These are good breakfast substitutes for the hot rolls and are easily and quickly made. The original scone was cut triangularly in shape.

Notwithstanding that the Japanese army made an unprecedented record in sanitation and hospital service, as well as in actual fighting, a commission has been appointed to remedy the defects noted in the army during the recent war. Will nothing less than perfection satisfy the Jap? asks the New York Tribune.

MARKETS.

PITTSBURGH.

Grain, Flour and Feed.	
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	80 82
Rye—No. 2.....	72 75
Corn—No. 2 yellow, ear.....	61 62
No. 2 yellow, shelled.....	60 61
Mixed ear.....	59 61
Oats—No. 2 white.....	44 45
No. 3 white.....	43 44
Flour—Winter patent.....	4 13 4 15
Fancy straight winter.....	4 00 4 10
Hay—No. 1 Timothy.....	15 00 15 25
Clover No. 1.....	10 75 11 00
Feed—No. 1 white mid. ton.....	22 50 23 01
Brown middlings.....	19 50 20 00
Bran, bulk.....	22 00 21 50
Straw—Wheat.....	7 50 7 50
Oat.....	7 50 8 00

Dairy Products.

Butter—Elgin creamery.....	22 27
Ohio creamery.....	23 21
Fancy country roll.....	19 20
Cheese—Ohio, new.....	12 13
New York, new.....	12 13

Poultry, Etc.

Hens—per lb.....	14 15
Chickens—dressed.....	16 18
Eggs—Pa. and Ohio, fresh.....	19 20

Fruits and Vegetables.

Potatoes—Fancy white per bu.....	85 90
Cabbage—per ton.....	13 00 13 00
Onions—per barrel.....	4 00 2 25

BALTIMORE.

Flour—Winter Patent.....	5 05 5 25
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	85 86
Corn—Mixed.....	46 47
Eggs.....	25 29
Butter—Ohio creamery.....	41 45

PHILADELPHIA.

Flour—Winter Patent.....	5 05 5 25
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	84 85
Corn—No. 2 white.....	35 34
Butter—Creamery.....	35 36
Eggs—Pennsylvania fresh.....	18 20

NEW YORK.

Flour—Patent.....	5 00 5 10
Wheat—No. 2 red.....	89 90
Corn—No. 2.....	67 68
Oats—No. 2 white.....	36 35
Butter—Creamery.....	28 29
Eggs—State and Pennsylvania.....	18 18

LIVE STOCK.

Union Stock Yards, Pittsburg-Cattle.	
Extra, 1,400 to 1,600 lbs.....	45 70 45 85
Prime, 1,200 to 1,400 lbs.....	5 50 5 55
Good, 1,000 to 1,200 lbs.....	5 15 5 50
Top, 1,000 to 1,100 lbs.....	5 10 5 30
Fair, 800 to 1,000 lbs.....	4 80 4 85
Common, 700 to 800 lbs.....	4 30 4 75
Common to good fat oxen.....	2 75 4 50
Common to good fat bulls.....	2 50 4 15
Common to good fat cows.....	2 00 4 00
Heifers, 700 to 1,000 lbs.....	2 50 4 30
Fresh cows and springers.....	16 00 45 00

Sheep.

Prime wethers.....	5 40 5 50
Good mixed.....	5 00 5 25
Fair mixed ewes and wethers.....	4 25 4 75
Culls and common.....	2 50 4 00
Culls to choice lambs.....	5 25 7 55

Hogs.

Prime heavy hogs.....	7 05 7 15
Prime medium weights.....	7 10 7 20
Best heavy Yorkers.....	7 25 7 30
Good light Yorkers.....	6 25 7 00
Pigs, as to quality.....	6 75 6 80
Common to good roughs.....	5 40 5 50
Stags.....	4 00 4 35

Calves.

Veal calves.....	4 50 5 50
Heavy and thin calves.....	5 00 4 50

Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, told the graduating class of 1,136 members that the nation is drifting toward a great economic or political change.