

The Farm

Starting Young Trees.

Newly set trees, save the cherry, should be severely cut back. A good start is half the race, and nowhere does it have more significance than in the new orchard. With proper pruning, cultivation and fertilizing you may reasonably hope for a strong, vigorous and healthy tree which will be able to give returns in way of large yields of luscious fruit. —Lowell Roubush, in the National Stockman and Farmer.

Give the Chicks Dry Quarters.

Our chicks, some thirty, have been remarkably healthy and vigorous this summer. So have those of a neighbor, who has three times as many as we. We are not specially successful chicken growers, nor are our chicks exempt from that universal pest lice, but we have scarcely lost a biddy yet. We attribute our success to the dry season and dry quarters. The fowls have plenty of yard room, but no grass for the little fellows to run into. If we were going into the poultry business on a large scale we should locate the coops on sloping ground, and keep the surroundings clear of weeds and grass till the chicks were half grown, and able to take care of themselves. A fool hen, in a big grassy yard, can kill more chicks than all her eggs are worth. —Indiana Farmer.

Feeding Work Horses.

Experience and observation teach us that horses that are at work should be fed at regular intervals, and after eating, a half hour's rest given to a tired animal, as it is hurtful to require them to work on a full stomach immediately after eating. If work horses are fed every five hours the meals are digested pretty well in the intervals between eating, and so the horse is in much better condition for work. A horseman says that most people know how a bucket of water will stop a race horse, but few think how the overcharged stomach affects the lungs of a horse when at work. A horse when fed while heated, and out of breath cannot digest its food, and the result is diarrhoea, or curiously enough, the extreme opposite in the form of colic or indigestion. —Indiana Farmer.

Keep Cultivator Working.

Farmers have learned that the cultivator has other uses besides keeping down the weeds; true, the weeds are destroyed by the process, but the judicious stirring of the soil incites growth and conserves the moisture in the soil, which is of immense benefit to the plants later in the season when prolonged droughts are likely to exist. Again, cultivation means increased crops, hence the work is one which may be done with profit.

In the orchard cultivation, very shallow, mainly for the purpose of conserving the moisture in the soil and breaking up the surface which is likely to bake, pays full as well as with a cultivated crop, and it is especially valuable when combined with the cover crop, the seeding being done in late July or early August, and the cover crop plowed under in the spring to add humus to the soil, something much needed by most soils in which trees are set. —Indianapolis News.

Fertility Must Be Kept.

It is estimated by some of the leading agricultural chemists that the world's supply of phosphorus, a very important and essential element of plant food, and without which no plant can be grown, will, under our present wasteful system of agriculture, be exhausted within the next fifty years.

The stupendous waste of soil fertility that has occurred in this and other countries in the past must be speedily checked. This means that a new system of agriculture which economizes the plant food in the soil without diminishing the yield of the crops produced, is being developed. In other words, this system will take thought of the future as well as of the present productiveness of the land. This means that the farmer of the future must be acquainted with the soil and understand how to manage it so as to secure the largest yield with the least injury to his land. —H. J. Waters, Columbia, Mo.

Fertilizers on Home Garden.

The practical fertilizer questions that the amateur wants answered are just these: What to use, in what quantities?

Most of the articles and all the books on fertilizers lay special stress upon the food values and costs. Though of great importance to the farmer, these details are only of minor interest to the amateur. The great problem for the home gardener is how to get earlier, larger, better fruit, vegetables and flowers.

There are three great plant foods, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. The one most likely to be deficient in the soil is nitrogen. The trouble is that the salts that are available for the plant are so soluble that they are quickly washed out of the soil. Stable manure gives nitrogen in small quantities over a comparatively long period, and is valuable on that account. Its vegetable matter (giving humus and holding water) is also an important factor, rendering it especially valuable on light or sandy soils.

Many people have a notion that a

black soil must of necessity be a rich one. But, on the contrary, it may be almost devoid of nitrogen, and so stands in need of some fertilizer. Whilst it is true that garden soils in general have a sufficiency of both potash and phosphoric acid in them, the chances are that these two food materials are to a certain extent "locked up"—that is, they are not immediately available to the plant, and are only taken out by slow degrees.

Therefore, the amateur gardener will find that the best all-round fertilizer for him to buy is one with an abundance of nitrogen, and moderate quantities of the other two substances. Of course, for large operations, special compounds of fertilizers are an economy, and, while the same thing holds good in theory on the small scale, yet in practice, as the amount involved is so little, it is wiser to have one all-round fertilizer. Succulent vegetables particularly will thrive on nitrogen. It makes them grow rapidly, and that means tenderness. Potash is used to improve the quality. Phosphoric acid helps to build the tissue of the plant. What a fertilizer contains can always be ascertained by reading the analysis which must accompany it. Look only for those three terms. Don't regard anything else.

How much to use? Of course, the answer largely depends on the grade of the fertilizer. Stable manure can be spread on three inches thick. A pound of nitrate of soda is sufficient to cover from eighty to 100 square feet.

Cabbage in the Garden.

The farm housewife who spends some time cultivating cabbage and less over pastry will be ahead at the end of the year. Hoeing, even, is not such hard work as some imagine, if the ground has been properly prepared. It has been well said that freshly turned sod is good ground for cabbage, and soil in which it was grown the previous year is about the poorest; the latter clause should be emphasized if clubroot has invaded the premises. The old German rule of "two fertilizers to one dirt" still holds good; for cabbage ground can scarcely be made too rich. And to economize this fertility it is best to manure in the hill, thoroughly mixing it with the soil. Any well rotted stable manure is good, but nothing is better than poultry droppings. For winter cabbage the sod may be best planted in the hill, putting in four or five seeds, and reserving only the most thrifty ones as the plants attain the size for transplanting. This will usually give a surplus for filling vacant places, and perhaps supply a neighbor. For early use it is best to start seed in boxes. Transplant at evening or on a cloudy day, letting the boxes in which the plants are be thoroughly wet for several hours before, in order that the stems may become full of moisture. With these precautions they seldom suffer the check in growth that becoming badly wilted is sure to cause. Plant deep, and firm the earth about the plants. Hoe often enough to keep the weeds down and the soil light. Earth kept light and porous absorbs more moisture and is less susceptible to drought than when compacted. If the heads incline to burst, tip them partly over, thereby breaking some of the roots. Should this not avail, use them at once. They will soon be fit only for stock.

When the white butterfly appears it is time to guard against cabbage worms. Soapuds sprinkled over the plants are often effective. Wood ashes are a still more forceful remedy. Hellebore and paris green are said to be harmless until the cabbage begins to head, but I'll go without cabbage rather than use any that has been so doctored. Destroy all cocoons found; they are frequently seen clinging to board fences or unpainted buildings in the vicinity. Salt and water or flour dusted over the plants when the dew is on are standard remedies. Early cabbage will be out of the way in time to make room for celery. Even where a second crop is not expected from the ground it is wise to feed the stump and refuse leaves to stock and remove the entire plant, which may, if left, become a harbor for insects of fungous growth. The main thing is to start right. Fertilize and cultivate to induce rapid growth, and insects will do little harm. —Bessie L. Putnam, Conneaut Lake, Pa.

Farm Notes.

Anything which checks the growth of an animal for a single day is a loss of a day's feed and a day in the time of maturing. Remember, to grow bone, muscle, feathers and flesh a varied diet is necessary, and the food must be of the very best, whatever is used. Do not tempt your hogs by placing them in a ramshackly old pen. Make the pen good and strong. After a hog once gets out, it is hard to keep him in. Be sure to have suitable gutters around the upper side of the coops that will prevent all possibility of water running in the coops during heavy sudden showers. Hogs and growing pigs may be turned into the orchard where they will have shade and can eat the early falling fruit. Hogs are about the only stock that can be turned into an orchard without doing some damage.

Except as a decorative feature in fox hunting, stag hunting and the like, the horse has made his exit from polite literature and, appropriately enough, the equipages which he draws have gone lumbering after him, prophecies the New York Mail. Hereafter we shall find the faithful friend of man exiled to dialect stories and pastorals which tell of circuit riders in the Southern mountains, shrewd, kindly horse traders, simple-minded peasants or that life in "ye olden time" which we have been wont to associate with pictures of English stage coaches and ruddy-faced squires armed with pewter mugs and long churchwardens.

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The suffragettes of England have had one of their meetings broken up by outsiders, and now know how it is themselves. Mr. Keir Hardie, who had come to address the strenuous sisters, notes the New York Press, climbed a high picket fence and took to the tall timber, but it is refreshing to note that Mrs. Sullivan, one of the leaders of women's rights movement, stood her ground manfully and knocked down two male disturbers of the peace with her clinched fist in an effort to restore order.

They're finding thorium in the island of Ceylon. You can't keep anything hidden now that the rage of investigation and exposure is in full cry, is the comment of the Kansas City Star.

A Hiawatha clergyman preached a rather exhaustive sermon from the text, "Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting." After the congregation had listened about an hour some began to get weary and went out; others followed, says the Kansas City Journal, greatly to the annoyance of the minister. Soon another person started, whereupon the preacher stopped his sermon and said: "That's right, gentlemen; as fast as you are weighed pass out."

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A Western college professor says that football promotes anarchy.

Axtell, 2:12, a trotting stallion, once sold for \$105,000, died at Terre Haute, Ind.

Ranjitsinghi, the famous Indian cricket player, has become the Jam of Nawanganar.

F. O'Neill's Penarris won the \$10,000 Grand Union Hotel stake at the Saratoga race track.

Mike Dwyer, famous race track pinger, died of a paralytic stroke at his cottage at the Brooklyn Jockey Club.

Clarence M. Peacock's Pirate won the Glasgow and \$1000 championship motor boat trophies at Frontenac.

Lady Gail Hamilton won the fastest race ever trotted on the Poughkeepsie track, gaining a record of 2:06 3/4.

King Edward cabled his congratulations to Mr. F. M. Smith for his victory with the sloop Effort in the King's Cup race.

By defeating Bryn Mawr in the final game of the series, Myopia won the Point Judith polo cups. The score was 12 to 3.

Martin Sheridan threw the discus 137 feet 11 inches at Celtic Park, New York City, beating his Olympic record by 10.2-3 inches.

Charley Daly, the former Harvard and West Point football player, and generally considered the best quarterback that ever passed a ball, has resigned from the Artillery Corps to engage in private business.

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NEWSY GLEANINGS.

Naval chaplains want more pay.

One person in every 1200 is blind. Spain is enjoying a business boom. Over 32,000 autos are registered in New York.

Pernia is to have a Constitution and a Parliament.

Japan is determined to construct a large mercantile navy.

Demoralization is spreading in the Russian army and navy.

Owing to the failure of the Labrador fishing season a fish famine is likely.

Mr. Root spoke in Argentina in favor of a union of hearts in all the Americas.

The Oyster Bay (N. Y.) tax assessors increased the assessment this year by \$1,000,000.

Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson thinks it would be easy for Japan to capture the Philippines.

Within three weeks nearly thirty tons of gold specie have been transferred from England to America.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Workman, of Worcester, Mass., climbed a mountain in India more than 23,000 feet high.

The rules of settlement adopted by a number of fire insurance companies amount to a practical repudiation of their San Francisco obligations.

Landrat von Usler, whom the Kaiser sent to German Southwest Africa to discover water with the aid of his divining rod, has located fifty-three springs.

In South Africa the tension between negroes and Englishmen is increasing. Not only are there occasional outbreaks of rebellion, but a general condition of unrest and excitement.

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The novel is as valuable a form as any offered by law or science for showing conditions as they really exist. Statistics and statistics are not the only terms in which facts can be legitimately expressed, declares the Chicago Post. But inasmuch as all ways are open, the man who selects the one that offers most license must be judged by the highest standard of sincerity, veracity and ability.

By holding sun spots responsible for volcanic disturbances, scientists bring us back to the old question, "What are we going to do about it?" suggests the Washington Star.

Spain is the only country that has a coinage bearing a baby's head on it. Coins bearing the baby head of King Alfonso were issued in 1888.

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