

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

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NO. 32

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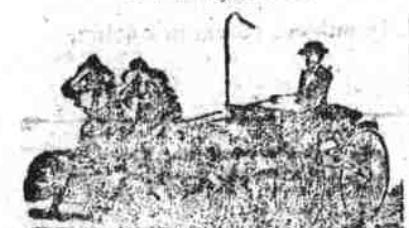
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## FARM AND GARDEN

### ABOUT POTATOES.

Experiments at the New Hampshire Station—Varieties Talked About.

Eighty varieties of potatoes were tested last season at the New Hampshire station. In a report on results little hesitancy is felt in recommending such varieties as White Star, Rural New Yorker No. 2, American Wonder, Cartman No. 3, Governor Rusk and Sir William, as these have been reported on favorably from so many sections. Regarding less known varieties, time must decide on their merits. Just because a certain variety has given a fair yield this year it does not follow that it will do equally well next season. The causes of variation from year to year in the same variety cannot be due to the soil alone. It is not uncommon to be able to select two hills of the same variety side by side, the one far more productive than the other.

The 15 varieties giving the heaviest yield in order of productiveness at this station were Reeve's Rose, White Rose,



POTATOES OF PROMISE.

Vick's Perfection, Governor Rusk, Woodbury White, Sir William, Quick Crop, Woodhill's Seedling, Vaughan, White Mountain, Late Puritan, Queen of the Valley, King of the Roses, Leonard's Favorite and White Star. The first named yielded 453 bushels per acre and the last 306 bushels. The average productiveness of all varieties per acre was 244 bushels. There was very little difference in the effectiveness of muriate and sulphate of potash on potatoes. One appears to be as effective as the other. Those treated with corrosive sublimate gave on an average 10% per cent less tubers than those untreated, or about 25 bushels to the acre.

Potatoes attracting attention and considered sufficiently promising to be the subject of illustration are Country Gentleman, medium late, rose-color, shallow eyes; Monrovia Rose, good size, shallow eyes; Early Thoroughbred; White Ohio, claimed by its discoverer to be the earliest white potato; Rose No. 9, a late red variety; Uncle Sam, heavy yielder of tubers of fine quality.

The Sir William potato is reported to be a vigorous and prolific late variety which did well at the New Hampshire station. Professor Green of the Ohio experiment station, after having grown it on different kinds of soils for two

years, found it to be the best potato for home use and for market.

Dr. L. B. Chamberlain of the Ohio Farmer claims it to be the best potato ever grown.

Boeve's Rose, which heads the list for productiveness at the New Hampshire station, is grown extensively by the Jersey and Long Island truckers. It is rather deep cyl. pink in color, slender and oblong in shape and soon early in ripening, with strong, vigorous tops.

Improved Onion Culture.

The new onion culture, most readers ought to know by this time, is sowing the seed in boxes or elsewhere and later setting out the plants. One advantage gained by this method is gaining time.

Prepare the ground, and if free from weeds and in good tilth when the young plants are set the weeds do not catch up.

A Connecticut station bulletin sums up the advantages thus: Insures a clean crop, even on smutty land. Minimizes the loss from cut worms. Crop is three or four weeks earlier. Crop is 50 per cent larger with native varieties, and the increase may be 100 per cent with foreign. Individual bulbs are larger and mature more evenly. The time and labor are less than in outside sowing, with consequent thinning and weeding.

Cutting Alfalfa.

If weeds appear to be crowding the young plants, run over the field with a mower, elevating the cutting bar sufficiently to avoid injuring the crowns of the young plants. Leave the clippings, if light, as a mulch to protect the crop during the dry weather. Frequently the alfalfa will make growth enough to allow of cutting out or even two crops the first year, but usually the first good yield will be that of the second year.

The yield will increase for three or four years, and then may remain constant for ten years or more, perhaps indefinitely, but ordinarily it will pay to plow up the field after six or eight years, as weeds are liable to work increasing injury.

Editorial Note.—Edgar New York.

### POULTRY FOR MARKET.

The Most Approved Method of Dressing Chickens and Turkeys.

The following advice about how to prepare chickens and turkeys for market is given by a well known produce commission house in Chicago:

"Keep from food 24 hours. Kill by bleeding in the mouth or opening the veins in the neck. Hang by the feet until properly bled. Head and feet should be left on and the intestines and crop should not be drawn. For scalding poultry the water should be as near the boiling point as possible without actually boiling. Pick the legs dry before scalding. Hold by the head and legs and immerse and lift up and down three times. If the head is immersed, it turns the color of the comb and gives the eyes shrunken appearance, which lends buyers to think the fowl has sick."

"The feathers and pinfeathers should be removed immediately, very cleanly and without breaking the skin. Then 'plump' by dipping ten seconds in water nearly or quite boiling hot and then immediately into cold water. Hang in a cool place until the animal heat is entirely gone. It should be entirely cold but not frozen, before being packed. Dry picked chickens and turkeys sell best, and we advise this way of dressing, as they sell better to shippers. Scalded chickens and turkeys generally are sold to the local trade.

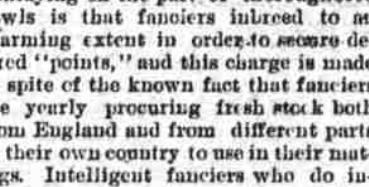
"To dry pick chickens and turkeys properly the work should be done while the bird is bleeding. Do not wait and let the bodies get cold. Dry picking is more easily done while the bodies are warm. Be careful and do not break and tear the skin. Pack in boxes or barrels—boxes holding 100 to 200 pounds are preferable—and pack snugly. Straighten out the body and legs so that they will not arrive very much bent and twisted out of shape. Fill the package as full as possible to prevent shuffling about on the way. Make kind and weight and shipping directions neatly and plainly on the cover. Barrels answer better for chickens and ducks than for turkeys or geese. When convenient, avoid putting more than one kind in a package. Endeavor to market all old and heavy cocks before Jan. 1, as after the holidays the demand is for small, round, fat hen turkeys only, old tombs being sold at a discount to canners."

Thoroughbred Fowls.

It is said that breeding for points destroys egg production. Mr. C. H. Wyckoff's Leghorns have made a record of 194 eggs each per year in a flock of 50, and 50 of Mr. Finch's Brahmans laid an average of 160 eggs in one year. In most egg contests conducted by the agricultural papers the winners have been thoroughbred fowls. One of the stock arguments used to support this alleged nonlaying on the part of thoroughbred fowls is that fanciers induced to an alarming extent in order to secure desired "points," and this charge is made in spite of the known fact that fanciers are yearly procuring fresh stock both from England and from different parts of their own country to use in their flocks. Intelligent fanciers who do not breed to some extent do it carefully and for the most part without detriment to their stock. They cannot afford to carry it to a point where it would be a detriment. In the meantime it has yet to be proved that inbreeding (where the most vigorous specimens are each year selected for breeders) is an injurious practice from any point of view. The stock exclamation is that it not only reduces size, but curtails egg production. But the Schlegel hantant has been constantly inbred for 40 years. No other breed probably has been so constantly and so widely inbred as we have these hantants, and yet the Schlegel is a remarkably prolific layer of eggs, and eggs, too, that are very large for the size of the hen. All who have ever bred Schlegels must admit this proficiency in the matter of eggs. And here is another point of interest. Though inbred for 40 years, the Schlegel persists in getting so big that he has to be starved down to standard weight to be shown, while hundreds of finely marked birds have to remain away from the shows because no dieting process would bring them down to the maximum weight allowed by the standard.

A Drinking Fountain.

The illustration represents a simple drinking fountain for poultry. The top is hinged so that the drinking dish



can be easily filled or emptied. It may either be fastened to a wall or placed on the ground in any convenient locality.

Diseases of Fowls.

One teaspoonful of liquid carbolic acid given in two quarts of water is an excellent preventive of most diseases among fowls.

For little chicks that are weak in the legs one teaspoonful of sulphate of soda in one quart of water. For worms, give ten drops of aloes or senna or turpentine in a pint of water.

For gapes, add a few drops of spirits of camphor or turpentine to the drinking water. For cold or catarrh, put ten drops of sassafras in a pint of water.

For sneezing or running at the nostrils, pour about one tablespoonful of laurocine oil in one quart of water. Asafetida tied up in a rag and placed in the drinking water for the fowls will be a good remedy for rheum, also a preventive of most diseases.

Clay as Road Metal.

NOT DESIRABLE EXCEPT IN SMALL QUANTITIES.

Acts as a Cement to Knit the Stones Together When Properly Used—Action of Water on the Roadbed—Prevents Dust and Wear—Trees and Hedges.

The tort played by water on crushed stone while undergoing rolling is very great. In practice broken stone completely wet down is thoroughly rolled with a roller weighing ten or more tons. The wet surface of the angular rock fragments permits a more thorough compaction, as the water acts as a lubricant, allowing the stones to slip by one another with greater freedom than would be the case were the fragments dry. At the same time the water retains the powdered rock, resisting from abrasion of the particles and holds it between the fragments.

This process is reactionary and cumulative; for the presence of the powder of attrition acts through capillarity to take up and retain still greater quantities of water until the spaces between the pieces of broken stone composing the upper part of the road become completely filled with powdered rock. Not a little of the cementing or bonding of a road during rolling is in reality the effect of capillarity existing between the grains of powdered rock and the adjoining walls.

This principle may be observed on our seashores and sand roads: While wet, the beach or road may be firm and unyielding, allowing heavily loaded teams to pass over them, but when dry such places are impassable for heavy teams and difficult of passage for all kinds of vehicles. In this case cementing, as ordinarily understood, plays no part in producing adhesion between the grains. Upon drying, the grains are entirely free to move over one another, having lost the water which served to bind them together.

When a macadam road is thoroughly compacted, a careful inspection will show that the fragments of broken stone are closely packed together and the spaces between are filled with a fine powdered rock, which, if derived from a suitable road material, carries a small percentage of clay. Any of our commonly used road stones contains an appreciable quantity of clay disseminated in its fine particles in the feldspar whence the rock prior to its removal from the quarry.

The microscope shows that the feldspar of our traps and granites and other road stones is never entirely free from a considerable amount of feldspatization or alteration to clay. This change has taken place in the crust of the earth to a great depth, and no road material can contain feldspar free from more or less of this mineral, depending upon the character of the rock and the amount of weathering to which it has been subjected.

By the gradual wearing of the feldspar, by the abrasive action of the roller, the wheels of carriages, and the feet of animals, a small but important quantity of clay is liberated, and this in combination with any clayey material that may have been added to the road serves to furnish the necessary quantity of cement to knit the surface firmly together. It is not to be understood that an appreciable quantity of clay acts otherwise than objectionably when used in roadbuilding. As a rule nothing is more undesirable than the clay cement in highway construction, yet the clay cemented with some of our southern limestone seems to increase their cementing and enduring qualities. Upon drying, the powdered rock acts much after the manner of a sandy clay and serves not only to bind the pieces of rock together, thus giving rigidity to the way, but to retard the wear due to any differential motion of the fragments over one another while the load is passing along the road. A wetting of the superficial portion of a roadway during rains tends to the expansion of the cement to knit the surface together and make it impermeable to the passage of water.

From a theoretical standpoint it would seem probable that a certain condition of moisture instead of being objectionable to a roadway undergoing constant use is rather desirable than otherwise. A condition of moistness serves to prevent fission of the rock by the abrasive action of the wind, and the presence of a thin film of wet dust acts as a cushion to protect the fragments of rock from the rude touch and impact of passing traffic, thus lessening the wear and tear of the surface.

In the same manner the moist cement prevents the breaking of the rock fragments between the stones and to reduce the local intensity of the friction between one rock and another, although in this condition will tend to allow a greater freedom of movement among the broken stones, and hence in this way make the surface more yielding.

Assuming that the loss through increased abrasion of material resulting from moist cement between the rock fragments is equal to the saving due to the cushioning effect of a small quantity of moisture on the surface, there still remains a saving to the road by the prevention afforded by preventing excessive loss through the action of the wind.

It is the custom in England to plant ledges beside macadamized roads in order to insure a rapid drying of the road after rain by the sun's action.

In Germany it has been the practice to plant fruit trees, particularly the cherry, while in France the mulberry tree may be seen along the roadside serving the double purpose of food for silkworms and shade.

In this country no precedent has been established in the matter. The states in deciding this question must of course consider latitude and longitude as affecting the character of the trees that will flourish therein and their relation to climate conditions. —G. L. Wright.

## GLEANER.

### CRUCIFIXION THORN.

A Strange Leafless Desert Plant That Grows in Arizona.

Arizona has a strange desert plant that possesses that which is of keen interest for every man, woman and child who has ever heard the story of the crucifixion.

The plant lives, breathes and gains its sustenance from the sun and the air without the aid of leaves.

There is a halo of pious and historical interest about the plant, because its branches are the same as those with which the Jesus of Nazareth was crowned on the heights of Calvary.

It is known as the "crucifixion thorn," or, in Latin, the Crucifera spinosa. It grows but in two spots on the earth—the mesas of Salt river valley and in certain parts of Palestine. The botanists know but very little about it, aside from the fact that it is supposed to be a member of the quassia family by some, while others declare that it will yet be classed with the acacia group.

Professor Bessey, who occupies the chair of botany at the Nebraska university, is making an exhaustive study of the rare plant, and several specimens have been shipped to him from Phenix. These were obtained from large bushes which grow at long intervals on the mesa to a height of from 12 to 18 feet. The Mexicans know it as the "Palo Christo," and the Catholic churches in southern Arizona are always decorated with the thorny branches at Easter time.