



SOOT TEA FOR PLANTS.

One of the best fertilizers for pot plants is soot. It not only nourishes the plant, but keeps the soil sweet, will destroy all worms and insects, and even rout the green fly. It is best used in a liquid form. One tablespoonful of soot to two quarts of warm water is a simple way of making the tea. If one desires to make it in larger quantities, put into a vessel holding fifteen gallons of water a half peck of soot, and stir twice a day for a week. Probably the better way is to tie the soot securely in a coarse bag, which is large enough to let the soot swell and move about inside it. Throw the bag into the water and allow it to soak, moving it about occasionally, or pressing it with a stick to extract the strength. As the water is used out fresh can be added as long as any soot remains. Give the plants light doses of the tea once or twice a week. Dilute if too strong, because if used in too thick a state it will make the surface soil too hard and dry.

Soot mixed with twice its bulk of dry earth may be used for a top dressing in the garden with good results.—New York World.

BLASTING STUMPS.

The reasonable prejudice against the common use of dynamite for any kind of work on a farm, or by inexperienced persons, makes it desirable to use the common black powder for such purposes. This is not really so safe as the dynamite when in the hands of experts, but safer otherwise, and persons generally understand it better. To break up stumps with blasting powder proceed as follows: Bore a hole 1 1/2 inches wide into the centre of the stump in such a direction as to reach the middle of it near the root; charge it in the usual manner, using plenty of powder, one foot in depth at least for a large stump; procure a screw with a hole through it for the fuse, and a square head by which it may be screwed down on to the powder. Fire the fuse, and the stump will be shattered so that it can easily be taken out in pieces. A lookout for the screw should be made when the explosion takes place, and it may be picked up and used again. It may be well to put some dry sand on the powder under the screw. It is most often the case that the screw remains in the wood and can be split out of it.—New York Times.

HOW TO CHEAPEN FEEDS.

The prices of feed are fair to be high the coming winter, and such will continue to be the case every winter, as long as there is such a tremendous demand for all sorts of millstuffs, on the part of dairy farmers, all over this broad land. The dairymen are all right in their ideas of feeding well, but they are all wrong in not growing more of their own feed. Wheat is way down to the lowest notch we have seen in thirty years, and bran climbing up in price every day. We are not certain but those farmers who are well situated to do it had better buy the wheat by the car load and get it ground at the custom mill, and feed the bran and middlings, selling the flour for what they can realize.

If we were in Northern Dakota or Minnesota we would not sell wheat at fifty cents a bushel, if we had good cows to feed it to, and butter thirty-one cents a pound in Chicago. We believe there are four pounds of butter in a bushel of wheat fed to a good cow, with good roughage in addition. But whether in the Dakotas or New York, everywhere the dairy farmer is at the mercy of the feed vender. This would not be so if the majority set seriously to work to produce their own feed, in some form or other. The mischief is, the most of farmers stop feed when prices of feed go high, no matter what the price of butter is. What a lot of education we all do need on this feed question. There is so little real figuring—so little really studied out by the dairy farmers by which they can figure. The way to bring down the price of feed stuff is for more farmers to go at growing peas and silage corn. Not one man in a thousand knows what he could do if he should try.—Hoard's Dairyman.

TO KEEP BUTTER.

To keep butter several months it is necessary that the butter be perfectly well made and be completely freed from all traces of the buttermilk, or this will quickly spoil it. It must then be packed without delay in air-proof packages; a glazed crock or jar is a good package, or a new, clean white oak or spruce tub, with a tight-fitting cover. This is first soaked with water and a little soda to remove any acid of the wood. It is then well scalded and soaked with salt brine. Then it is rinsed with pure cold water and sprinkled with fine salt on the inside. The butter is then packed in solidly, each layer of four inches being well packed, to leave no air spaces, and sprinkled with fine salt. Then another layer is packed in the same way, and so on until the tub is full. A clean cover of cotton cloth is laid over the top of

the butter; this is covered with fine dry salt, and the cover is fastened down. Care is to be taken to exclude air by covering and packing under the cover. The tub is then kept in a clean, dry, airy place where no disagreeable smells may affect it. Good butter thus packed may be kept for six or eight months without the least deterioration. The Jersey cows make good butter, which has a high color, and some of them make a good deal of it, but the best are too costly for common use. A good, well-fed Ayrshire cow is as good for butter as a Jersey for a working dairy. Some Durham or short-horn cows are good butter makers, and a good judge of cows might get a dairy of the common stock that would be very good if well selected. The best common cow is a half-bred Jersey having a good common dam and a pure sire. Some of these are as good as the pure bred.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Dead dogs kill no sheep.
Quack grass loves a poor farmer.
It's a poor "brace" that breaks a trace.

A drained acre of land is equal to removing one hundred miles south.
Two beeves can never be made fat on a pasture that has only grass enough for one.

Keep studying and experimenting if you do not want to be left behind the times.

Many men in the dairying business are ignorant on many of the most important points.

Store carrots in pits or cellars, and cover the roots with sand to prevent them from wilting.
If it is possible have the heifer calf come into the dairy at twenty-six or twenty-eight months old.

Mow the weeds in your pasture land four or five times a year and you will be free from them in a few years.
In fattening rapidly, close quarters, cleanliness, a small amount of light, and plenty of fat farming foods will soon tell the story.

At this time it is safe to keep a few more fowls than are actually needed for breeding in order to be secure against ordinary accidents.

Start beds of mushrooms under greenhouse benches. Cover spinach lightly with litter, and kale in exposed locations should also be covered.

Ducks, young or old, do not thrive well on a grain diet. They need more bulky food. Bran, grass, middlings and food of this kind are better than grain.

While as a general rule old hens are unprofitable, it is sometimes advisable to keep them, especially when they have proved themselves to be good mothers.

All business men take note of the constant changes in the taste of their customers and in the demand for certain kinds of goods. Farmers should do the same.

To grow an orchard successfully have the ground in a good state of cultivation for several years. Before planting plow deep, and if a subsoil be used all the better.

E. D. Eastman, of Rochester, N. Y., feeds 120 cows for nine and a half cents each day by means of the silo. He considers silage and cotton-seed meal a perfect ration.

No man need think of succeeding in keeping cows unless he is willing to give his attention to it, and care at least for the comfort of his cows as he does for his own comfort.

Cabbages in cold frames should be aired freely and kept cool. Heads for winter and spring use must now be protected, but not covered too deeply, nor stored in too warm a place.

In most cases, even when the poultry is given a good range, it will be found advisable to have a close yard where, at any time it may be considered advisable, more or less of the poultry can be confined.

It takes time to increase a cow's capacity for milk when feeding for that purpose. A cow giving 150 pounds of milk a year cannot be made to give 300 pounds immediately. The change is gradually made.

Some of the larger breeds of poultry are best in small towns or villages where it is desirable to allow them the range of your own premises, but not to bother the neighbors. The larger breeds are easier to restrain.

A few carrots given daily to the horses and cows will be considered a luxury by them, and the carrots will greatly benefit them. One of the best modes of providing a natural butter color for the butter is to use carrots for the cows.

To get milk—to get the most and the best milk—the bodily comfort of the cow must be considered and ministered to. The comfort, the ease, the perfect rest of the cow must be studied if she be expected to yield to the extent of her powers.

Engulfed in a Glacier.

By the friction of the lowermost portions of the glacier over its rocky bed, together with the rise in temperature in the milder belt below the snow line, vast caverns are melted. These caverns have been explored at the immense risk of the lives of the explorers, because the weight of the superincumbent may cause the collapse of the walls at any moment. In the year 1861 a couple on their bridal tour visited the Mer de Glace, and feeling, no doubt, that nothing in nature could interrupt such happiness as theirs, ventured into one of these caverns. They had barely entered the first arch, the husband supporting the young wife over the slippery surface of the floor, when there was a dull roar, a flash of broken ice-particles in the morning sun, and the poor lovers were entombed. Their bodies, clasped in each other's arms, were found some two years later, at the foot of the glacier, in a perfect state of preservation. The young wife's face was lifted toward the bended face of her husband, with a touching expression of trust in his courage and strength to save her from the impending doom. Even the rough guides shed tears as they beheld this solemnly beautiful picture in death.—Demorest's Magazine.

What a Cup of Chocolate Can Do.

An enthusiastic lover of chocolate affirms that for those who wish to keep the imagination fresh and vigorous chocolate is the beverage of beverages. However copiously you have lunched a cup of chocolate immediately afterwards will produce digestion three hours after and prepare the way for a good dinner. It is recommended to every one who devotes to brain-work the hours he could pass in bed; to every wit who finds he has become suddenly dull; to all who find the air damp, the time long and the atmosphere insupportable; and, above all, to those who, tormented with a fixed idea, have lost their freedom of thought.—New York World.

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ONE ENJOYS

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Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50c and \$1 bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

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Few "Kid" Gloves are Made of Kid.

Kid gloves are not made of kid; in fact, few of them are. The cheap ones are not kid and neither are the dearest ones. Ladies' gloves that cost under a dollar and a half or two dollars a pair are all made of lamb skin. It is likely that gloves paid for at a higher price than that will be of kid, but the very best and most expensive kid gloves are made of the skins of young colts.—New York Sun.

The Deadly Cancer.

The hope is entertained that science may yet be able to subdue the "flaming and deadly cancer." Recent study of cancer may not only indicate that it is an organic growth, but almost certainly proves that it is liable to the attack of another parasite. Better acquaintance with the relations of these parasites may possibly bring the long sought method of arresting cancer.—Detroit Free Press.

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BAKING POWDER is absolutely pure. No other equals it, or approaches it in leavening strength, purity, or wholesomeness. (See U. S. Gov't Reports.) No other is made from cream of tartar specially refined for it and chemically pure. No other makes such light, sweet, finely-flavored, and wholesome food. No other will maintain its strength without loss until used, or will make bread or cake that will keep fresh so long, or that can be eaten hot with impunity, even by dyspeptics. No other is so economical.

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