

# AGRICULTURAL.

## TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

### GRAFTING WAX.

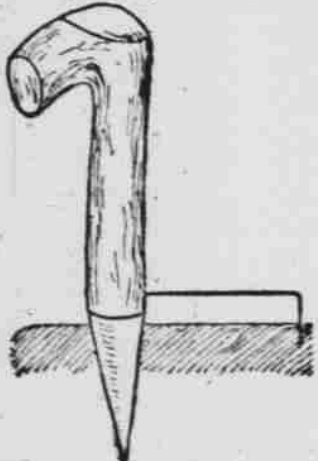
There are many formulas for grafting wax, but the best we have ever used, and one that avoids all hard lumps in it is the following: Take one pound rosin, three-quarters of a pound of beef tallow and four ounces of beeswax. Melt the rosin slowly (it is apt to harden on exposure to the cold if the melting is too rapidly done); add tallow and beeswax and stir till all are well mixed; turn into cold water, and when it can be handled pull like candy. The wax should be carried to the field in a pail of warm water, and the hands must be greased when using it. The old method of covering the grafts with clay made plastic by working in the hands when wetted and binding it over with cloth strips is also good, but the wax is more cleanly and neater.—New York World.

### THE BORDEAUX MIXTURE.

Bordeaux mixture is made by dissolving six pounds of sulphate of copper and four pounds of quicklime in from forty to fifty gallons of water, preparing the mixture as follows: Dissolve the sulphate by putting it in a bag of coarse cloth and hanging this in a vessel holding four or five gallons, so that it is just covered by the water. Use an earthen or wooden vessel. Slake the lime in an equal amount of water. Then mix the two and add enough water to make about forty gallons. It is then ready for use, but will keep a long time without losing its strength. When to be applied to plants with very smooth leaves, like those of the peach, pear, cabbage and beets, it will adhere better if about one pound of hard soap dissolved in hot water be added to it. This solution may be applied to all plants attacked by fungus diseases. Another formula for making Bordeaux mixture has recently been tried in France with marked success, and it is thought to be an improvement upon the older one. It consists of equal parts of lime, sulphate of copper and common molasses. All three ingredients are dissolved separately, then mixed and intimately stirred together. By adding molasses a saccharate of lime is formed on one hand and soluble saccharate of copper on the other. Saccharate of copper is formed only in presence of an excess of lime, and its formation is indicated in the mixture when it assumes a greenish tinge. In either mixture the dissolved lime should be strained through a coarse cloth to remove all lumps and foreign matter usually present in lump or stone lime. If this is not done it will be difficult to use the mixture with an ordinary spraying apparatus.—New York Sun.

### TRANSPLANTING ONIONS AND CABBAGES.

G. W. C., of West Virginia, wants to know how I transplant onions and cabbage plants. Why, it seems that is simple enough. Pull up the plants from the seedbed or cold frame, and set them out in rows in well prepared and well manured ground. We usually do this with hands and fingers alone. The left hand grasps and holds the plant, while the right one makes a



hole where the plant is to stand. The plant is then inserted, and the soil pressed about the roots with both hands. All this is done much quicker than I can tell it. If the soil is packed, as is sometimes the case when we set out onion plants, when a rain has fallen upon the land already prepared, we use a small dibber in place of the index finger of the right hand for making the hole. While I am on this subject I will illustrate a new style of dibber, that may come very handy for transplanting onions. The idea was given me by Thomas Hiday, of Ander-

son, Indiana. The dibber is made of hardwood, eight or ten inches long; the point covered with tin. The gauge is simply a piece of wire bent with a square angle and inserted through a hole in the dibber. It can be set to mark different distances as desired. The wire makes the mark for the place where to set the next plant. We usually have onion plants three inches apart. The kind and amount of fertilizer to use for onions and cabbages depend on the character of the soil. For my land I prefer old compost to anything else; but I also use potash (asmuriate of potash), nitrogen in the form of nitrate of soda (especially valuable for cabbages), and perhaps phosphoric acid in bone. High grade, complete vegetable manures may be used. They supply all necessary plant foods. For 500 pounds you will be asked to pay about \$10 or more.—Nebraska Farmer.

### FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

The time to sell is when the other fellow wants to buy.

Bees can be kept in the city, where there are houses with no yards, on flat roofs.

Be careful to watch out for leaks in hive covers. Dampness is generally fatal to colonies.

It is well to be on your guard against rodents of all kinds. They seek the hives for the warmth of the bees and their stores. They have a stench that bees do not like, and will eat the combs.

Spring is the time to cultivate bees. When the weather begins to get warm they will work hard. Anyone who is thinking of investing in bees would find it best to read up and get all the information they can.

It requires good judgment to buy horses successfully, and it requires just as good to sell them. Farmers should seek to know what kind of a horse is wanted, and then if in their stock they have such a one to spare they can sell at a profit.

The worst way in which brood sows can be managed is to keep them confined in small pens and feed them exclusively on corn, bringing them through to the spring excessively fat. Under such treatment, both mothers and offspring are liable to disease.

A beekeeper comes to the defense of sealed covers. He has used them for thirty years, and been successful. He covers the hive with an inch board, then puts over that straw four to six inches deep in the upper chamber, throwing the straw away in spring.

The best thing to grow in an orchard, beside the trees, is clover or cow peas, whose roots will enrich the ground by their gathering of nitrogen. It will be better if the crop is left on the ground to cover the surface, preserving the moisture, and really adding a most useful contribution of food for the improvement of the land.

### The Train Went Hunting.

The crew of a freight train on the B. & A. had a tough encounter with a buck the other day. The train came upon the animal between Boyd Lake and Milo. He had been chased by dogs upon the track, and, as soon as he saw the train, started to run ahead of it. He was soon overtaken and the engine struck him, breaking both hind legs and throwing him to one side of the track. The train was stopped and the engineer and fireman alighted to put the animal out of his misery, but this was not an easy job. The deer attacked them and drove them back upon the locomotive. Finally a passenger appeared and shot the animal.—Maine Sportsman.

### An Old Saying.

"The Lord helps them that help themselves" is an ancient proverb. George Herbert, who was born in 1593, in his "Jacula Prudentum" gives it thus: "Help thyself and God will help thee." At a still earlier date Sir Philip Sidney, in "A Discourse Concerning Church Government," said, "God helps them that help themselves."

## THE NATIONAL GAME.

The May cold snap was very trying to the pitchers.

Anson, of Chicago, has struck out but once this season.

Foutz deposed Griffin from the captaincy of the Brooklyn.

Cincinnati is playing the best ball of the Western clubs against the East.

McCarthy seems to be the timely hitter of the Boston team this season as he was last.

At Cincinnati, Pitcher Rhines knocked Pitcher Stein senseless with a pitched ball. Boswell won the first full game he pitched for New York, and that too from the Pittsburghs.

Care, of Cleveland at first base is great. He has saved the Baltimore infielders dozens of wild throws already.

Bannon is hitting like a house afire, and may be considered a fixture on the New York team in place of Burke.

The cry for pitchers is one that will never die out. The supply will always continue smaller than the demand.

Hawley, of Pittsburgh, is given credit for doing more successful balking than all the other League pitchers combined.

Long, of Boston, leads the League in home runs up to date, and he also has the lowest fielding average of any short stop.

Daly, who plays second base for Brooklyn, says he would rather stand behind the bat than play any other position on the diamond.

Quite a string of pitchers are using fielding gloves this year. Nichols, Stivetts, Wilson, Cuppy, Malarkey and Kennedy all wear mittens while in the box.

The best pitching find of the season is unquestionably young Wallace, of the Cleveland team. He is improving steadily and has very little to learn now.

Hamilton, of Philadelphia, not only leads the League in base stealing, but he has gone to first on balls more times than any other player in the League this year.

After making an offer for Burke's release and having it accepted, President Stuckey, of the Louisville Club called the contract off, having secured Collins from the Boston.

Of all slow pitchers Malarkey, of Washington, is the slowest. He seems to have nothing but time. Before he sends in a ball he seems to spend several moments in silent prayer.

Ewing is once more a prominent figure in baseball. The success of the despised Cincinnati team is due to him, and the former idol of the metropolis is now the hero of Porkopolis.

There is another new player in League ranks that will bear watching. Catcher Donahue, of the Chicago, is said to be an artist in blocking off runners at the plate on close plays.

The Brooklyn are in a bad predicament. It is the case of a good team with one serviceable pitcher. If Stein has lost his grip—and all the games in which he has thus far pitched indicate that he has—then the club's chances for a good position at the end of the season are poor.

In the United States Court at Pittsburgh Mark Baldwin, the baseball pitcher, was given a verdict of \$2500 damages against Chris Von Der Ahe, President of the St. Louis Club. Baldwin was arrested in St. Louis in 1890 charged with conspiring to get Charley King to break his contract with the St. Louis Club.

Pitcher Carter, of Yale, has strained a ligament in his pitching arm, and this will interfere with his career as a pitcher. At times the weakness is not felt, but the difficulty is liable to appear at a moment's notice and incapacitate him at once. The fact that he is thus afflicted does not mean that he will pitch no more.

New York seems to be taking desperate chances with its pair of eighteen-carat pitchers. Lester German pitched just one game on the last trip. Rusie and Meekin are both willing workers. With either Rusie or Meekin played out, muscle bound or charley-horsed, New York would be lucky to get a place high up in the second division.

Very few persons take particular notice of the steady good work of Bierbauer, but just let him get hurt and lay off, and then it is discovered what a tower of strength he is to Pittsburgh's infield. There are more showy second basemen in the League, but for a hard, conscientious, absence-of-fuss-and-feathers player there is no one who can excel him.

### SWEPT BY A MAD TORRENT.

Curtis Lake, in Nebraska, Bursts Its Banks and Floods Medicine Valley.

A despatch from Curtis, Neb., says Curtis Lake burst its banks. The railroad grade was torn up, freight cars were strewn across the Medicine bottom, and the fine rolling mills ruined.

Curtis Lake was nearly emptied, and a flood of water ran down the Medicine Valley, carrying destruction in its mad rush.

The fine alfalfa meadows just below the city were ruined, and homes all along the valley destroyed.

News from above and below is coming in, and only one story is told, of dire destruction and loss of property and live stock swept away.

The wall of water was five feet high and several hundred yards wide.

### Geary Act Constitutional.

The Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of the Geary Chinese Exclusion law.

## FOUR-LEAF CLOVER.

"If one find a four-leaf clover,"

She said, sitting on the grass,

"He can wish whate'er he likes to,

And that wish shall come to pass."

"Do you say so?" then down kneeling

"Mong the sorrel and cropt grass,

Looked I for a four-leaf clover

And my wish to come to pass.

Long I searched among the sorrel,

Close beside me she searched, too;

Now and then some commonplace

Broke the silence—but it grew.

For my heart was full of yearning,

And my mouth of eager words,

But I dared not give them utterance,

So I hearkened to the birds;

And kept looking, looking, looking,

While beside me she looked, too—

Two bent figures in the twilight,

Green hills paling into blue.

"Ha, I have one!" "Yes, and wished for?"

"You, and shall it be?" I cried,

Eyes cast down she asked, demurely,

"Hath the clover not replied?"

—George Houghton.

## PITH AND POINT.

What fools these mortals think other mortals be!

The hair-dresser has all the new kinds.—Puck.

It is easier to forgive success in any one else than a relative.

The woman who thinks before she speaks has to be a lightning thinker.

When a husband and wife fire up at the slightest provocation it doesn't follow that it's a good match.—Philadelphia Record.

The Manayunk Philosopher rises to remark that it's a good thing for mankind that Adam was caught napping. Philadelphia Record.

Dress Reform agitation  
The family hurts  
When the household's divided  
As well as the skirts.

—Puck.

"Yes," said Charon, as he rang the bell for full speed, straight ahead; "we have had to hustle since we began to make connections with the Brooklyn trolley cars."—Puck.

She wants those wild flowers which are spread  
On mossy bank beside the creek.

A slip! A splash! He's now in bed.

But may recover in a week.

—Washington Star.

She—"Don't you think that salt water is beneficial to health?" He—"Not always. A man whom I once knew was seriously injured by it." She—"How, so?" He—"He was drowned."—Tit-Bits.

Wife—"John, dear, what would you do if I were to die?" Husband—"Don't speak of such a thing; I would be desperate." "Do you think you would marry again?" "Well, no; I don't think I would be as desperate as that."—Tit-Bits.

De Bann—"I don't think the Gumbys liked that chafing-dish we gave them for a wedding present." Mrs. De Bann—"Why not?" De Bann—"I met Gumby to-day, and he invited us around to eat something they are going to cook in it."—Brooklyn Life.

"I don't like hash," remarked the musical boarder at breakfast. "It is not rhythmic." "Maybe not," replied the landlady, as her eyes emitted a baleful fire, "but you will always find one word to rhyme with it, and that word is cash."—New York Tribune.

Van Pullman—"How can I believe that you love me better than you did your former husband when you say you kissed him oftener than you do me?" Mrs. Lakeside—"Oh, my dear, the kisses I give you are just twice as long as those I gave him."—New York World.

Miss Lapham—"Now that you are so influential, I want you to help me to get into society." Miss Penstock—"You wouldn't like it. You are a home body. Why, you would be bored to death." Miss Lapham—"I know it, my dear. But I want to have the privilege of being bored."—Harlem Life.