



What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. MASSEY

Wants a Book

"CAN I get a book that will tell all about grafting?"

Bailey's Nursery Book is published by the MacMillan Co., of New York City, and is about the only book of the kind available.

Caterpillars on Collards

"HOW can I destroy the green worms on collards?"

You can kill them by dusting the plants with calcium arsenate, such as is being used for boll weevils; or if you fear poison, mix some salt in air-slaked lime and dust this over the collards. Strong waste soapsuds from the family wash used freely will keep them down.

Lice on Peach Trees

"HOW can I kill wood lice on roots of peach trees?"

By cleaning out all the decayed wood left by the borers and keeping the borers cleaned out twice a year. Wood lice do not harbor in sound wood. I have a notion that white-wash mixed well with calcium arsenate and well used around the base of the trees would be more effective in stopping the borers than any other application.

English Walnuts in Florida

FLORIDA: "What soil is best suited to the English walnut and what part of the state would be best for them? What counties of North Carolina are best suited to alfalfa?"

The English walnut is not particular as to soils. I have had it, in heavy clay loam and have it now in light sandy soil. There is a flourishing English walnut orchard on sandy soil in lower Delaware. In Florida I suppose they will grow in any well-drained soil. Probably best are the red clay soils of the northwestern part of the state near Tallahassee. Alfalfa can be grown on any well-drained, specially prepared and limed soils in North Carolina.

The Hickory Tree Pruner

"WHAT can I do to stop something that cuts off the small branches from my pecan trees? They cut them off as neatly as though they had a saw."

The pruning is done by an insect called *Oncideres cingulatus*, which lays its eggs at the nodes on the shoots and then cuts around and around as neatly as a turner's lathe to cut the shoot off. They do this so that the eggs will hatch and the larvae feed on the decaying shoot. The only thing you can do is to gather up and burn the trimmings, for the insect cuts the hickories in the forest in the same way and thus increases, for the pecan is simply a species of hickory.

What to Do With Tuberose Bulbs

"WHAT shall I do with tuberose bulbs? They are now in the ground and I have no place to keep them. Is it too late to set out roses? What are some hardy blooming summer roses?"

The tuberose bulbs are of no value after they have bloomed, for the bulb never blooms but once. It is valuable only for the offsets made as these can be taken off and planted to make more flowering bulbs. Better take them up, cut off the tops and tie in bunches and hang up in the kitchen to cure as they must be cured in a warm place. Then in spring clean off the offsets and throw the old bulbs away. Better buy two-year-old dormant roses in

the spring. Any of the Hybrid Tea roses will do and prove hardy. I have found Madam Bravery, General MacArthur, Lady Ashtown and Mrs. Russell and My Maryland all fine. General MacArthur is the most constant bloomer I have. It is bright red in color.

Growing Shrubbery

"CAN the wild laurel be transplanted? When should it be done? Can *Spiraea Van Houtii* be grown from cuttings, and can a hedge be made from cuttings of the California privet as easily as from rooted plants?"

The laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, of your section, can be safely transplanted. Take them up now with a good mass of earth and cut off all the leaves and they will usually live. In the mountains they call the *Rhododendron laurel*, and this, too, can be transplanted. You can grow *Spiraea*, *deutzias*, *forsythias* and many other shrubs from cuttings of the last year wood made eight to ten inches long. They are usually cut in the fall and tied in bundles and buried in the earth upside down till spring, and then set nearly full length in rows for cultivating. In the same way you can make a hedge of the privet with cuttings set six inches apart, and nearly as quickly as from plants. These are cut in spring and leaves stripped off.

Spraying for the Brown Rot

"FOR two years my grapes, plums, peaches, apples, cherries, strawberries, Scuppernongs, etc., have been affected by brown rot. In the spring I used the Bordeaux mixture and lime-sulphur, but did not check the rot."

The rots on the various fruits are not identical, and spraying to check any of them must be thorough and repeated. A single spraying in the spring will seldom do the work. For peaches, spray before buds start with the solution of concentrated lime-sulphur wash. Then after bloom, spray with self-boiled lime-sulphur: that is, 10 pounds lime and 10 pounds of sulphur slaked together, the heat of the slaking making the combina-

tion. Add 60 gallons of water. This treatment will also do for plums. For apples and pears use the concentrated lime-sulphur 1 part to 9 parts water before buds swell. After bloom, or when blooms show color, use the concentrated lime-sulphur, 5 quarts to 50 gallons of water, and after bloom falls spray with the same in which 1 pound of arsenate of lead is added for the codling moth. Two weeks later use the same again, with two more applications 10 days apart. Treat cherries like peaches. For bunch grapes spray with Bordeaux mixture before buds swell, wetting trellis and posts and ground. Then spray again after bloom falls and every 10 days until fruit is half grown. If Scuppernongs are attacked treat them the same way. Let the strawberries alone.

Planting Nuts

"WHEN is the time to plant hickory nuts to grow stocks for pecans?"

Nuts of all kinds must be planted in the fall as soon as ripe if you wish to be sure of a stand. Kept dry all winter, few of them will grow. Hickories make good stocks for pecans, but I would prefer the pecan seed.

Why Not Keep the Pasture Clean of Weeds?

A CORRESPONDENT sends a dried-up weed with a few seed heads on it and thinks that this weed poisoned his cow. I have often said that I cannot undertake to identify a plant positively unless I have a plant with flowers on it. But the question arises, "Why allow weeds to grow and seed in a pasture, especially weeds that you think poisonous to stock? Mow off all weeds before seeding; in fact, before blooming. Maintain nothing but grass and clover in a pasture and top-dress with bone meal annually and you will finally get a clean grass pasture. Another case is similar. The writer says he has a Scuppernong vine that is overrun with honeysuckle and is suffering. Now that honeysuckle did not smother the grapevine all at once. It has been growing year after year and was allowed to grow till it has enveloped the grapevine. Now the owner wants to know if he can put the honeysuckle down and cover it with sawdust and prevent its growth. Hardly. You can cut it down and grub out all the roots you can, and then forbid any more to grow by keeping them

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clipped off. Then when you see something which will soon be a pest, why not stop it at once? I cleaned a square in a garden years ago that was matted with honeysuckle before it came under my care. I wanted that piece of ground for vegetables, and dug out the honeysuckle and kept it out and had a better growth on the land.

Early Cabbage

"WHEN is the time to sow cabbage seed for the early spring market to make plants to set in January?"

The best time in South Carolina is the last of September, but you might have got plants large enough to set in January by sowing in early October. Sow seed of the Early Jersey Wakefield for the earliest market. Seed sowed in September should be ready to set out the first of December, and in your section should come in the last of March or early April. You can depend on 3,000 plants from an ounce of seed. Since it is too late to sow seed this year, you can buy plants from the growers on Yonges Island, and as you are not far from Charleston you could go down there and get them.

Controlling Sweet Potato Rots

THE Department of Agriculture offers Farmers' Bulletin No. 714 with suggestions for protecting the sweet potato stock from disease in field and storage house. There are descriptions of five diseases that attack the sweet potato. These are stem rot, black rot, foot rot, scurf and root rot, and directions are given for controlling each. These are all forms of fungus that invade the plants. Hence to keep clear of them the germs of the various diseases must be excluded from the fields and from the seed and the fertilizer used.

Seed should be especially grown for bedding and the seed selected at digging time from healthy hills. To do this, split the stem of the plants and examine the interior for indications of rots. Then examine with care the seed potatoes before bedding. In making slips for the growing of seed potatoes, be sure to get the cuttings from healthy plants. The disease often starts in the hotbed, and if the same bed is used every year it should be well disinfected before use. The framework of a permanent bed and the soil must be thoroughly soaked with a solution of formaldehyde or of copper sulphate. The formaldehyde should be diluted to the proportion of one pound to 30 gallons of water, and the copper sulphate one pound to 25 gallons of water. In my own experience, I have found it best never to bed in the same place twice. Sand for bedding should come from where no potatoes have ever been grown. In fact, I use clean pit sand only and never use a hotbed, but bed under sashes in a frame and depend on the sun's heat to start the sprouting. Then see that the wagons and baskets are all disinfected.

Protection after storing is fully as important. None but perfectly sound potatoes should be stored, especially should any potatoes affected by black rot be thrown out. The various storage rots can only be controlled by rigid sanitation of the bin and by handling with care to prevent bruising. Then regulate the temperature carefully.

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COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ADVERTISING OR SUBSCRIPTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO OFFICE NEAREST THE READER. ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT BIRMINGHAM, ALA., UNDER THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF MARCH 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year