



## What Farmers Want to Know

By W. F. MASSEY

### Rutabaga Turnips

"WHEN shall I gather and how keep rutabaga turnips?"

Pull and top them and put in heaps and cover with enough earth to prevent hard freezing from penetrating to them.

### Cantaloupes and Cucumbers

"CAN I plant cucumbers and cantaloupes near each other without their mixing?"

Yes. I plant them side by side in my garden and get good melons and good cucumbers, and good seed of both. They are of different genera and do not cross as many imagine.

### Horseradish

"WILL horseradish do well here?"

Certainly it will if properly planted and grown. It is grown from root cuttings. These are sold by seedsmen. They are cut sloping at the lower end to prevent planting cuttings upside down. A good place for them is in heavily enriched ground set in early cabbage. Punch holes in the row between the cabbage plants and drop the cuttings in. Then after the cabbage are cut the horseradish takes the ground for the remainder of the season. Dig it after frost and trim off the side roots into cuttings such as you planted and bury them in the ground until spring for planting. The main roots

are ground fine and mixed in vinegar to keep or sell. Never let horseradish stay in the ground over one season. It is then at its best. The soil must be rich to grow fine roots.

### Varieties of Grapes

UPPER Piedmont North Carolina: "I have just bought a farm here and wish to plant several hundred grapevines. Please tell me the best varieties to plant."

The best varieties for your section are Concord, Moore's Early, Niagara, Delaware, and Salem. Plant in rows 10 feet apart and 8 feet in the rows. Set posts in the rows with strong cross-pieces at top two feet long, and stretch three wires from middle and ends of the cross-piece. Train up one cane the first season to stakes. Then build the trellis and cut the cane back to five feet, the height of the posts. Train a cane in each direction on the middle wire. Stop this at four feet. The next year this cane will fruit and the fruiting shoots will hang over the outer wires and the fruit hang under. Then grow two more canes for the next season, and in the spring prune the old cane back to these and maintain this renewal system year after year.

### Fertilizer on Corn

"WHAT do you think of 2,000 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate and 1,000 pounds of 7 per cent cottonseed meal at planting time, followed by 1,000 pounds of nitrate of soda as side dressing when corn is waist high? In some places in this field corn dies badly when about eight inches high. What causes it?"

I think that at the present price of corn, every bushel the fertilizer makes will cost a third more than it will sell for. I have never found that it pays to depend on fertilizer to make corn. You should always have a clover sod to turn for corn, and on this use the farm manure. Then you can grow corn economically and improve the land for the following crops in the rotation. It would seem that you are intending to plant corn where corn grew last year, and some died probably from bud worms. What you need is systematic rotative farming and building up the soil with legume crops.

### Growing Camphor and Magnolia Trees

"PLEASE let me know how to grow seed of camphor and magnolia trees. I have sowed the seed time and again but they do not germinate. Can arbor vitae trees be grown from cuttings? Can camphor be grown from cuttings?"

As I have before stated on this page, the magnolia and camphor seed must be cleaned and mixed in damp sand in a box and buried until spring in the ground to keep them from drying. If they get perfectly dry they will not grow. Then you can sow and get them to grow in the spring. Camphor can be grown from cuttings of the half-ripe wood in the early fall in a

greenhouse or a frame under glass. Arbor vitae trees grow easily from cuttings about the size of your hand set in boxes of sand in the fall and kept in a cool greenhouse or a window. The American arbor vitae is a poor tree for the South. The Chinese is much better and grows easily from cuttings or seed.

### Once More Weevils in Grain

"I HAVE been reading The Progressive Farmer for years, and have often wanted to ask how to get corn rid of weevils."

You have not read the paper very closely or you would have seen that we have told how to kill weevils in grain many, many times. The corn must be put in a bin that can be closed up tight. Then get some carbon disulphide. It usually costs about 25 cents a pint. Pour a pint in a pan for 100 bushels of grain. Set the pan on top of the corn and close bin up. It will evaporate rapidly and the fumes will sink through corn and kill all insects in it. Keep all fire, even a cigar, away, as the fumes will explode. When all has evaporated, open up and air. No damage will be done to the corn. This is the same for weevils in beans and peas.

### Did Not Prune the Trees

ARKANSAS: "Please tell me what to do for my trees. I planted them a year ago and the apples and apricots have grown long switches. I did not cut them back when they were planted."

Without seeing the trees I would say that probably the long growths made last summer should be cut back nearly one half, cutting to a good bud. Then cut out one of two interfering shoots, and any water sprouts that appeared in the center of the apple trees cut out entirely, and keep them out when they start.

### Insects on Cabbage—Trucking Sections

"I HAVE three acres in cabbage and they are attacked by a white looking insect, which I fear will spread over the whole patch. Would like to know what to do for them. As I am interested in trucking and consider my 400-acre farm too large for this business, I have been thinking of locating elsewhere and would like advice on this."

It is hard to advise in regard to an insect unless I knew what the insect is. Send specimens to Prof. W. J. Schoene, entomologist of the Experiment Station, Blacksburg, Va. As to a location for trucking, you had best locate where there is an organized selling exchange or association such as at Norfolk, or on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, where the most successful exchange has been in operation for years.

### Propagating Camellias

"PLEASE tell in The Progressive Farmer how to propagate Camellia Japonica."

I told all this recently in The Progressive Farmer. Camellias can be grown from three-inch cuttings of the youngest mature wood with one leaf left at tip. When camellia flowers were fashionable

many years ago, a florist in Baltimore had a large lofty greenhouse in which the camellias were set out and attained tree-like form. On a side bench in this cool house, for it was heated by an old-fashioned brick flue, he kept thousands of cuttings constantly in sand. Now and then some rooted and were potted and the table kept filled, for it may be a year in rooting. The camellia can be grown from layers. In the old greenhouse mentioned, board scaffolds were built under the trees and the branches were layered in pots. The camellia can also be propagated by budding or whip grafting on seedling stocks grown from seed produced on the single flowered sorts like Warata. All the propagation must be done under glass. Little seedlings in four-inch pots can be whip grafted and the pots set on a damp moss bed in a close glass frame in the greenhouse. There is more in the skill of the workman than the method.

### Growing Hollies From Seed

"PLEASE tell me how to grow our American holly from seed. I have often sowed the seed and they came up and flew away, as the birds gathered them. I think the holly is too much neglected."

It is easy to grow hollies from the seed when you understand that the seed do not germinate until the second year. Wash the seed clean from the berries and put them in layers of sand in a box and bury the box outdoors until March, 1923, and then sow them thinly in furrows and cover two inches. The second spring lift the little plants, giving them room to develop. They are better transplanted in the nursery every second year until finally planted, as this causes them to make a mass of lateral roots and they lift with a ball of earth and transplant more certainly.

### Growing Oleanders, Dahlias, and Cannas

"WE ARE in about 32½ degrees north latitude. Can we grow oleanders here? Also give me some directions as to when to plant dahlias, gladioli, and cannas."

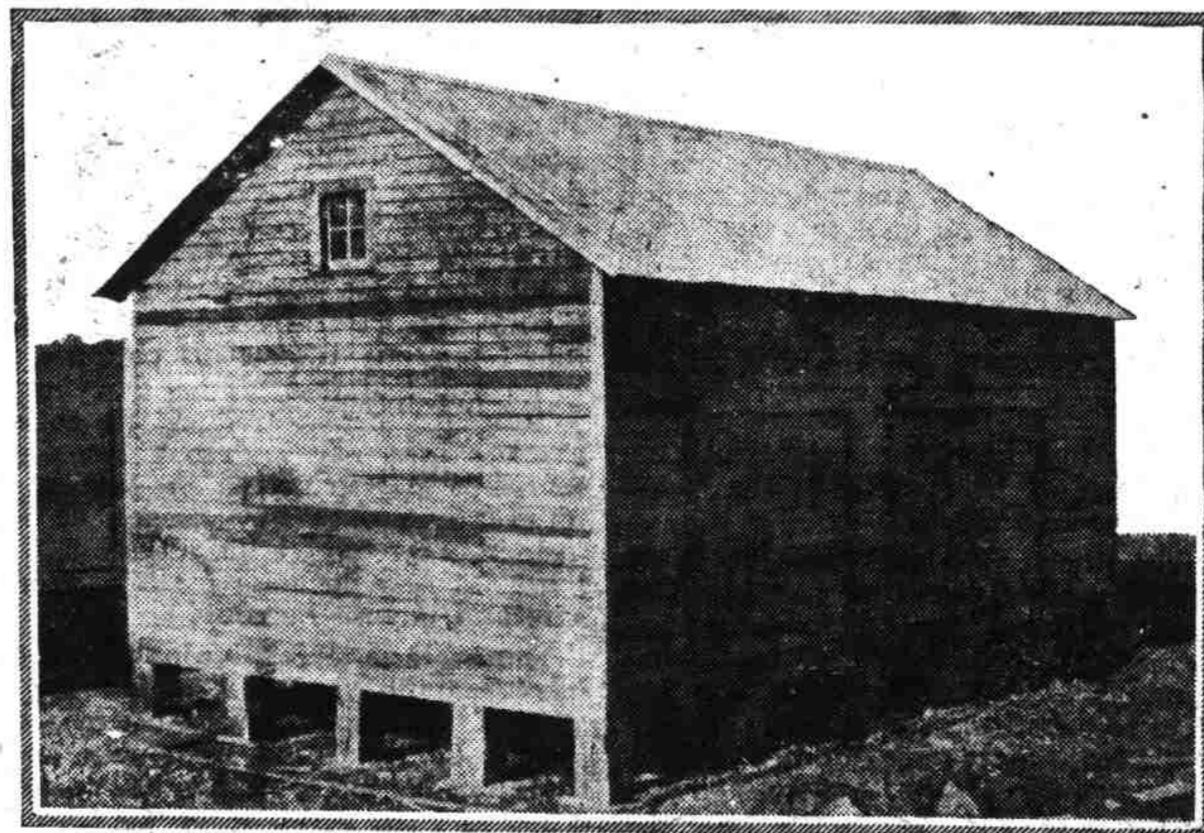
Latitude does not always indicate climate. The cold runs further South in the Mississippi Valley than it does on this side of the Blue Ridge. Then interior situation and elevation above the sea makes climate. For instance, it sometimes gets colder in Atlanta, Ga., than it does here in southeast Maryland near the ocean, because we are less than 50 feet elevation above the sea and near it; while Atlanta is in the interior and 1,500 feet above. If you have cold waves below 20 degrees you will have to protect oleanders. In southeastern North Carolina the oleanders thrive well. Dahlias and cannas often live out here in winter in the average winter and did so last winter. In your section I would advise covering them heavily with pine straw. Then take them up in spring and divide for replanting in May. When the tops are killed I bury them in pits a spade deep, cover thickly with pine straw and then mound the earth over like a sweet potato bank. Gladioli should be lifted when the tops mature, the old corms broken off, and the little offsets that grow under the new corms saved for sowing down, four inches deep as soon as gathered, so that they will grow in the spring and make good sets for another season. The large bulbs can be planted in March and later to keep up a succession of bloom. Plant them five inches deep as the new corms will form on top of the old ones and the stems must have enough hold in the ground to prevent the flower stalks from falling.

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LIME STORAGE HOUSE

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