

Thinning Fruit.

(Popular Gardening.)
The practice of removing the surplus fruit from trees which have ambitiously undertaken more than they can properly perform without injury to the present crop, and permanent injury to the trees themselves in many cases, is an operation which needs only a careful, thorough trial to commend itself to all painstaking fruit-growers. Many who acknowledge that the crop, after thinning, will sell for more money per tree than if not thinned are still unwilling to admit that the gain will pay for the extra labor involved. Well, about how much more time is required to remove 500 apples, peaches or peaches in June and 500 more in October than would be occupied in picking the entire 1,000 in October? Further than this, it is a well-known fact that the production of the seed of a fruit causes by far the greater draft upon the vitality of the tree than the formation of the pulp surrounding it; also, that 1,000 small apples will contain nearly twice the weight of seeds found in 500 specimens double their size of the same variety, and thus be much more exhaustive to the tree. An incidental benefit which may result from thinning of fruit: the horticulturist may, in thinning the fruit, notice many young shoots that by pruning-time next spring will become stout limbs to be cut off; whereas, now they may be easily robbed off, while the plant-food required for the formation will be saved for the tree and fruit.

How to Keep Sweet Potatoes.

Sweet potatoes are sensitive to any change in the atmosphere, moisture and handling. They will lie on a floor that is enclosed and roofed a long time without injury, provided they are put there without bruising, and if the pile is not deep, and if the temperature does not get near the freezing point. They must not lie long in the sun, they must not lie long in the cold. Never leave out over night what you harvested during the day. Pick those which are to be preserved over winter as carefully as apples are picked, and put them in a dry, cool place that is well secured against rain and frost. Dry ground makes a good floor, provided it is protected from rain or cold on the outside. The pile must not be deep—a foot in depth is enough during the warm weather of the fall months; it might be made deeper later in December, when the potatoes are picked over and all damaged ones thrown away. For keeping them through the winter store boxes and old barrels will do for small quantities, but they must be absolutely frost-proof. They should have a little ventilation occasionally.—Ex.

Hints About Horses.

It costs more to keep a poor horse than it does to keep a good one. Change the feed of your horses often enough to make them relish it. Imperfect feeding is the cause of nine out of ten cases of sickness among horses. Every time you worry your horses you shorten their lives and days of usefulness. Sweat and dust cause your horses' shoulders to gall. So do poor, ill-fitting collars. The temperature of water for horses is not so much of an object as the purity of it. While it is best to have the water cool, it is more important to have it free from all impurities. Affection cannot be founded into animals. Kind treatment insures the affection of an animal, while rough treatment is sure to cause its hatred. When horses are suffering from the bites of flies or stings of other insects, sponge the parts that cannot be protected by nets with water in which insect powder has been mixed—a tablespoonful to two gallons of water. Of two colts similar in disposition and sense, one may develop into a steady and valuable family horse, while the other may be everything that is vicious, treacherous and unsafe—all because of a difference in the men handling them. Plenty of whitewash should be used, not only for the brighter appearance, but also as a disinfectant. Hot whitewash on the inside of barns, stables, poultry-houses and pig quarters, will aid in preventing vermin and insects. The horse which can plow an acre while another horse is plowing half an acre, or one which can carry a load of passengers ten miles while another is going five, independent of all considerations of amusement, taste or what is called fancy, is a hundred times as valuable as the owner as the other.—Ex.

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