

Southern Agricultural Topics

Modern Methods That Are Helpful to Farmer, Fruit Grower and Stockman.

Fighting Insects.

The worst enemies of the ordinary garden are the smaller, almost invisible, insects, such as scale and plant lice, and the blights, such as rust and mildew. The amateur usually does not suspect their presence until it is announced by the harm they have done. Caterpillars, slugs, rose bugs, etc., are not so dangerous because any one can see them when they come.

To prevent the others from doing their work, every gardener should be ready early in the season with the three great safeguards—kerosene emulsion, whale oil soap and Bordeaux mixture.

The emulsion and the Bordeaux mixture can be bought in quart cans for forty cents each. Five pounds of whale oil soap cost fifty cents. The quantities named will suffice for a garden for the whole season.

Full directions are on the cans. The Bordeaux and the emulsion must be diluted with from twenty-five to fifty times their own quantity of water. By mixing a small portion of each with the maximum quantity of water early in the season and spraying all plants with this weak solution, you will often prevent disease and insect attack until comparatively late in the summer, when the plants will be so vigorous that they will hardly suffer, and only a few applications of the spray will be needed to keep them free entirely.

If the enemies get a foothold before the plants are strong, you may calculate on a continuous task of spraying all the season. So do some of it now, and keep a small quantity of the three solutions ready mixed.

Half a cupful of each, mixed with twenty-five cupfuls of water, will make a great quantity, and it will keep until you need it. The kerosene emulsion mixture can be kept in any old receptacle. The Bordeaux mixture must be kept in a wooden or earthen vessel, for after the water has been added to it, it will attack metal.

For the whale-oil soap mixtures use half a pound of soap to half a gallon of boiling water to use for scale on tender plants, such as young fruit trees and flowering shrubs. For stronger plants, or where the scale has a very strong foothold, use one pound of soap to a gallon of hot water. For plant lice on flowers and other delicate growths, use half a pound of the soap to three or even four gallons of water. The simplest way to have it convenient is to make a small amount of the strongest solution now and thin it down according to necessity whenever you see it. This is much quicker than waiting for the soap to dissolve in fresh mixtures.—Washington Star.

Fertilizers For Cotton.

Whether acid phosphate and potash will do as a fertilizer for cotton will depend on the condition of the soil. On land rich naturally in nitrogen from organic decay, like the black swamp lands, the application of acid phosphate and potash will make cotton when it would be only late weed without them. But on thin land you must have nitrogen either through the growing of peas or crimson clover before the cotton, or you must use it in the fertilizer. Hence, not knowing the condition of your land, I cannot say whether the acid phosphate would be sufficient with potash for cotton. Your lands certainly need both, and the blacker the soil, the more the phosphate and potash are needed, for the black lands will not make cotton without them. On black soil I would use 400 pounds of acid phosphate and 100 pounds of muriate of potash per acre, and on sandy, thin soil would add some cottonseed meal. Use fourteen to sixteen per cent. phosphate.—W. F. Massey.

To Obtain Prize Fruit.

By cutting out a narrow ring of bark from the stem or branch of a fruit tree or grape vine, the grower sometimes adds to his profits. Early fruit and those of exceptional size often bring high prices; and ringing, in some cases, aids in securing such products and even increases the total yield for the season. The operation may also make barren plants set fruit.

This process of ringing is effective because of a peculiarity in the sap circulation of exogenous (outside growing) plants, such as are all our fruit trees, vines and bushes, most of our vegetables and many of our cultivated flowers. In such plants the sap with its supply of crude food materials absorbed by the roots, moves upward to the leaves largely through the outer portions of the old wood, while the descending currents, loaded with starch and other foods elaborated in the leaves, pass through the inner bark and the wood.

Here and There.

Ignorance ceases to be bliss when you begin to realize it.

How small a doctor's pills are when compared with his bills.

Men enjoy doing anything they don't have to do for a living.

Usage is the best interpreter of things.

Don't be afraid to think out new ways. Originality is appreciated.

ing new wood, or cambium layer, just beneath it.

If a ring of bark and cambium be removed, the rise of the sap can continue almost as before; but the downward flow is checked and the food remains in the parts of the plant above the ring. This additional supply of food stimulates these parts so that they may become productive or bear earlier and larger fruit.

It must be remembered, however, that the parts of the plant below the ring will suffer through lack of food stored above. Ringing must, therefore, be used with caution. On theoretical considerations it would seem to promise good results with such soft-stemmed plants; but from experiments on tomatoes and chrysanthemums conducted at the New York Experiment Station, it seems doubtful whether such will ever be the case. The plants treated showed a visible loss in vigor and no compensating gains.—David Phelps, in Country Life in America.

Care of Farm Machinery.

Good reasoning tells us that there are but two times during the year that farm machinery needs any special care. First, when it is in use. Second, when it is not in use.

One season without shelter will damage farm machinery more than the wear caused by its use during the season. The action of the weather which will cause a rusting of the iron and steel, as well as the rotting of the wood parts, will seriously interfere with the working of the machine when it is again put to use. By this exposure certain parts are very much weakened and the machine becomes of shorter life.

When the season's work with a certain machine has been finished it should be thoroughly cleaned and all parts that are liable to rust should be carefully wiped with oiled waste or an oiled rag. It is a good idea to coat these parts with either tallow or a good grade of axle grease.

After carefully putting away the greased parts, the implement should be stored in a shed of some kind, rather than be left in the open.

The farmer who takes proper care of his implements not only houses them and keeps them in good adjustment, but he paints them occasionally. Paint closes all cracks and keeps out the moisture. It not only preserves the wood, but the iron parts are benefited as well. It also gives the tools a much better appearance.

Before applying new paint remove all old paint that is likely to scale off, and see that all parts are thoroughly clean and dry.

A good grade of carriage paint will give best satisfaction on farm implements. Two gallons of this paint need not cost over \$4, and will cover all implements needing paint on the average 160-acre farm each season. The paint may be applied during slack times of the year at very little cost for labor.—H. M. Balner, in Southern Fruit Grower.

Poultry Notes.

Chicks should be doing nicely now. Chicks hatched these past few months with average good care should commence laying early in fall.

While it is not advisable to hatch chicks later than May, yet where one has been unable to get off the desired number before, it is well to start as soon as possible.

Lice and mites must be guarded against now stronger than ever.

Examine your chicks for head lice. Kill the lice now and keep on disinfecting, and thus keep down your poultry's most dreaded enemy.

Dust baths help materially in ridding the hen from lice.

Row collards, lettuce, rape, turnips and other green stuff for your poultry unless they have a free range on a farm.

Don't fail to provide crushed oyster shells and grit for the laying hens if you want to keep up the egg supply.

Give the broody hen a chance to recuperate.—Southern Fruit Grower.

How to Plant Velvet Beans.

Velvet beans will make a fine forage, and if allowed to die on the land, will make a heavy crop of humus-making material to turn under. But unless the soil is very poor, it would be far better to cure and feed them and return the manure to the land. I know of no experiments comparing their value as nitrogen-giving plants with the cowpea, but they are doubtless very good for the purpose. Plant them in rows not less than four feet apart, for they make an immense amount of vine, and will cover the entire ground. Between a peck and half bushel will seed an acre. You can plant them middle to last of April, as they take a long season, and can be planted rather earlier than the cowpea.—Professor Weaver.

Port Paragraphs.

Wise is the man who does not take a chance on a chance-acquaintance.

Young men should settle up before they settle down.

A man who whines is worse than an owl screech.

Some men are born small and some grow smaller.

It is a good deal easier to earn money than to get a living out of it.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

New York City.—The over waist that is made with loose sleeves is one of the best liked and is always



charmingly attractive. This one is distinctly novel, giving the effect of a separate gumpie while in reality

American Beauty Favored.

The American Beauty rose is to be a great favorite with all milliners. It is occasionally used alone, but often combined with lilacs and orchids.

Child's Coat.

Such a coat as this one is adapted to all seasons of the year, for it can be made from an almost limitless variety of materials. In the illustration white pique is trimmed with embroidery but cloth, silk, Bedford cord and all materials used for children's coats are appropriate. For the coming season pique, linen, cotton Bedford cord and the like are much used, while for the very warm weather still thinner fabrics are dainty and are very much liked, whereas for the cooler weather cloths are in every way appropriate. The cape is not alone becoming, it also is protective and desirable from the practical point of view, but it is, nevertheless, optional and can be used or omitted as liked.

The coat is made with a square yoke, to which the full skirt portion is attached. It includes comfortably full sleeves that are finished with cuffs and the separate cape is arranged over it, while at the neck is a turn-over collar.

The quantity of material required for the medium size (four years) is four and three-quarter yards twenty-



the entire blouse is made in one. In the illustration taffeta is trimmed with banding and is finished with embroidery on the yoke and the cuffs while it is combined with a chemise of tucked mousseline, but almost all the waisting materials are appropriate and the blouse will be found quite as satisfactory for the gown as it is for separate wear. It will be charming made from crepe de chine or any similar thin, soft silk and, indeed, from almost every reasonable material. The chemise can be of tucking or of all-over lace or of anything in contrast that may be liked, so that there is great variety possible.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is three yards twenty-one or twenty-four, two yards twenty-seven or one and one-half yards forty-four inches wide with three-quarter yard of tucking, nine and three-eighth yards of insertion.

A New Shade.

The newest color shown in the advanced styles is called mulberry. This seems to be a cross between crushed strawberry and raspberry, and it is just near enough to old rose to be becoming to almost any complexion.

Hat in Tobacco and Claret.

A very large hat with drooping brim rolled slightly at the left side and medium-tall straight crown, covered with mirror velvet in tobacco-brown. Binding of the velvet finishes the brim; draped velvet, held at the front by a diamond-shaped brooch set with a mock moonstone, surrounds the crown, and posed at the left of the back is a radiating tuft of three demi-short ostrich tips in claret-red.



yards of wide banding, six and one-half yards of edging.

Ribbon Through Lace.

The running of ribbon through lace has become more fashionable than ever and the handsomest dinner gowns are treated with silk and velvet ribbon and with chiffon velvet, used as though it were ribbon.

Quills On Hats.

Golden quills are in great demand for hats, and what could be easier than to paint over those that fail to match any hat at present in use?

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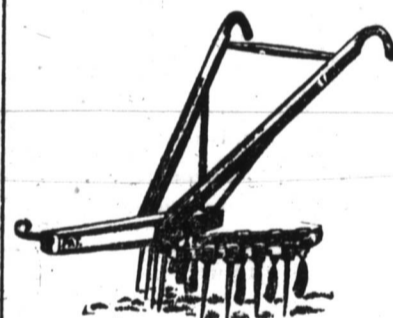
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