

Picric Acid Big Help to Farmer

Surplus War Explosive Used to Remove Stumps—Sodato Now Available.

Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture. Some 45,000 farmers in 28 states are using picric acid, a surplus war explosive, says the bureau of public lands, United States Department of Agriculture, which has had charge of distribution.

The government has also delivered some 4,000,000 pounds of picric acid for road construction by state and federal agencies.

Sodato Now Obtainable. The last of the picric acid was disposed of a short time ago, but farmers may obtain sodato, an explosive which has recently become available for stumping them picric acid.

Picric Acid Shipped. The total amount of picric acid shipped to the various states is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: State and Amount in lbs. Total: 7,679,550 lbs.

Many Old Apple Trees Carrying Too Much Wood

Prune, brother, prune with care. This paraphrase of Mark Twain's famous phrase might be taken as a motto by the orchard men, say the pomologists at the Ithaca State Agricultural college, who declare that many old apple trees are carrying too much wood.

The proper way to make this thing is to cut out a number of small branches about the size of the finger, or possibly up to an inch or an inch and a half in diameter, throughout the tree.

The college has studied enough orchards where this practice has been followed to know that it usually results in a better set of fruit of larger size. Trees handled in this way, further, are more effectively sprayed, the color of the fruit is improved and its market value increased.

Use Lights on Poultry Very Early in Morning

It is better to increase the chickens' day early in the morning rather than in the evening, according to experiments conducted at the New Hampshire Agricultural college. The hens come off the roosts quite early in the morning to get their feed.

With pullets the amount of light should be increased gradually, beginning with eleven hours of total light about the first of November. This may be increased to fourteen hours by the first of February. After April the artificial light should be gradually reduced at the rate of about thirty minutes per week.

Ohio Poultrymen Favor Feeding Wheat to Hens

Because of the present low price of wheat, Ohio poultrymen have changed the old, standard, Ohio dry mash formula from equal parts of bran, middlings, cornmeal, ground oats and meat scrap to two parts ground, whole wheat and one part each of cornmeal, ground oats and meat scrap.

Whole wheat increases the feeding value of the mash. It is claimed, and saves buying bran and middlings. With middlings at \$40 a ton, wheat is estimated to have a value of around \$1.20 a bushel when thus fed.

Agricultural Census in 1925 of Big Value

Figures May Be Used in Planning Future Growth.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.) The value of the proposed agricultural census in 1925 as an aid in developing national agricultural policies is emphasized by Dr. H. C. Taylor, chief of the bureau of agricultural economics, United States Department of Agriculture.

"In working out the details of a properly balanced system of national agriculture under normal conditions, the basic agricultural statistics collected in 1920 are inadequate," Doctor Taylor says. "At that time American agriculture was still in a period of readjustment from war conditions, and the statistics reflect the transitory effects of the war rather than to provide data from which national agricultural policies may be developed."

"The various branches of American agriculture are now gradually working toward a more normal basis, and by 1925 will yield figures that may safely be used in planning the future healthy growth of the industry as a whole. The plan to make agricultural enumerations in other than population census years is also merited in that the results can be made available nearer the date that the agricultural census is taken."

Doctor Taylor says that basic agricultural statistics compiled by the census bureau are continually used in connection with the department's forecasts and estimates of crops and live stock, in measuring the financial status of farms and farmers, and in gauging shifts in farm population. Every plan for agricultural progress is necessarily based upon this information, he says. The figures also provide business men with the information needed to plan sales campaigns and general industrial activity, particularly in commodities purchased by farmers.

Plenty of Exercise Is Essential for Horses

Plenty of exercise through the winter is absolutely necessary to the welfare of the horse. They should be given the run of at least a lot or yard in the daytime. The yard should be provided with a protected shed, by rights, one that is dry and well bedded.

In agreement with the adage again, hold down the amount of feed. Better rough the horses through. This fits in with the need for economy in feeding also. On account of the smaller amount of work to be done, and the consequent loss of return from the horses, the feeding should be as economical as possible.

Given good roughage, the grain can usually be eliminated from the ration. Little work horses given the run of a well protected lot with a well protected shed or shelter will do well on a ration of hay, oat straw, corn stover and sorghum or cane, as much as they will eat. Of course, it depends on what shape the horse is in when he goes into the winter, as to the amount of grain fed.

Toward the end of the season, say a month and a half or two months before the spring work begins, start feeding a light grain ration. Increase the ration gradually until the horses are on their working rations.

Store Abundant Supply of Ice for Next Summer

In those sections of the country where natural ice can be harvested, every dairyman should make preparations to store an abundant supply for next summer. Ice is extremely desirable, in fact almost necessary, in the production and marketing of high-quality milk and cream. Proper cooling and cold storage on the farm is the greatest single factor influencing the bacterial content of milk between the time it leaves the cow and the time it reaches the consumer.

At least 1 1/2 tons of ice per cow should be stored. This will cool the milk, allow for meltage, and provide a margin for household uses. Ice ponds should be built if no river or lake is available. Water used for ice making should be of unquestioned purity. Old ice ponds should be cleared of vegetable matter and refuse in preparation for the coming harvest.

Farmers' Bulletin 1078 deals with harvesting and storing ice on the farm. It can be secured by writing the Dairy Division, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington.

Eradication of Lice and Mites Is Not Difficult

Lice and mites are a sign of carelessness, as they are rather easily controlled. Lice live upon the bird's body at all times and can be eradicated by dusting the bird with finely powdered sodium fluoride, a chemical which can be obtained at most drug stores and is low in cost. The red mites live in the cracks and crevices of the roosts and nests and attack the bird's body only at night, getting their food supply by sucking blood through the bird's skin. Painting the roosts with an oily substance, such as gas tar or a commercial perch paint, will keep the mites from getting on the perches and the birds.

Time to Get Apple Scab

When blossom time comes, it's then or never, if you want to get apple scab. No other spray pays as well.

NEWS OF ORCHARD

Results of Experiments in Pruning Fruit Trees

Dr. W. H. Chandler, for many years head of the department at Cornell University and now with the University of California, Berkeley, is the author of Bulletin 415, published by Cornell agricultural experiment station, Ithaca, N. Y., entitled, "Results of Some Experiments in Pruning Fruit Trees." Doctor Chandler has been investigating this subject a great many years and is recognized as one of the best authorities on pruning in America.

It is impossible to give the complete summary of this bulletin owing to the many subjects treated and the elaborate tables. The following summary, however, will be of interest to our readers:

The results reported in this publication were obtained by means of experiments with trees none of which were more than twelve years old. Such results give little information as to the response that might follow pruning of older trees.

Pruning away a part of a tree seems to cause more vigorous growth of the part remaining, the increase in vigor being greatest near the point where the cut has been made. This increased vigor seems to result from the fact that the tree is left smaller, while the root system, which must supply water and mineral nutrients, is temporarily as large as if no pruning had been done. The resistance to water movement in the tree may also be reduced temporarily by the pruning, but there is little knowledge as to how much effect this resistance has on the supply of water reaching the growing points.

In spite of the apparent increase in vigor, pruning a young tree is a dwarfing process. The tree is nearly always reduced in size by more than the amount of wood cut away in pruning. This is because pruning reduces the leaf surface, and, therefore, the possible production of materials necessary for growth. The efficiency of the leaves in producing material for growth may also be reduced. Root growth is generally reduced strikingly by pruning. The invigorating effect of pruning, then, is temporary, lasting only until by reduction in growth the root system comes to be no larger in proportion to the top than it was before the pruning. Pruning reduces the amount of fruit borne by trees that have not reached maximum bearing size. With some trees that fruit terminally on spurs, such as the apple and the pear, the reduction in fruiting is greater than the reduction in growth.

Cause and Cure of Rots of Apples in Storage

Black rot is a storage disease of apples that may occur in many sections of the country. Black rot is more common to summer and fall varieties than to winter apples. Those who go through the orchards and cut out canker limbs and use some good spray material regularly are not so apt to be troubled with black rot as others who neglect their trees. Commercial orchardists hardly ever worry enough over storage rots, because it is the buyer and dealer who suffer, and they get used to passing the trouble along. With home orchards, where apples are raised just for winter table use, more thought must be given to such diseases and their prevention. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1160 by the United States Department of Agriculture gives us some good suggestions as to the cause and cure of storage rots.

Black rot usually starts at an insect sting or other skin puncture, or at the calyx where injury has resulted from frost. It is primarily a rot of ripe fruit, but it has been found spotted on apples several weeks before picking time. As the fruit matures the spots turn dark brown or black. The affected flesh is dark brown and firm, not soggy.

Three Forms of Pruning Practiced on Raspberry

There are three forms of pruning practiced upon raspberries, depending upon the variety of the plant and the preferences of the grower. The first is to head back the young canes to the desired height the first season. This is usually done by pinching out the tip of the growing cane. This causes the cane to become stocky and form side branches enabling it to stand upright without any support. Another method is to permit the canes to grow the first season and then the following spring cut out the weak canes and shorten the lateral branches on the canes that are saved. The third is to merely cut out the old canes after they have borne fruit. This can be done as soon as the crop has been harvested. In the spring and after-harvest pruning, some form of support for the canes will be required.

Mulch for Strawberries

When cold weather sets in, it is time to think of the winter mulch for strawberries. For this purpose there is nothing better than clean straw from which the chaff has been shaken out. This enables one to get rid of any grain that has passed through the separator as well as any weed seed that the straw may contain.

When blossom time comes, it's then or never, if you want to get apple scab. No other spray pays as well.

FURNITURE CO. TO REBUILD

Work of Cleaning Away Debris From Recent Destructive Mobane Fire to Start At Once.

Mebane.—The work of clearing away the debris of the fire which destroyed the building of the White Furniture company on December 21, will begin at once, preparatory to the erection of one of the most modern furniture factories in the south. Architects are now busy drawing plans and bids received from contractors for the erection of this modern plant.

According to Mr. W. E. White, president of the White Furniture company, the building will be in such shape and machinery installed that they will be shipping their finished product by June 1, this year and the new building will be considerably larger which is necessary to take care of their increased business.

More workmen will be employed when this factory is finished than ever before, according to Mr. White, and all the old employees who were thrown out of work that desire are now given employment. Several carloads of machinery which was burned has been purchased by junk dealers who will move it as early as possible.

The White Furniture company, as a token of their appreciation to the Durham, Burlington, Graham and Mebane fire departments, presented each with a check ranging from \$300 down to \$100, together with a letter of appreciation.

Plan Largest Overall Factory

Greensboro.—Plans for expansion of the Blue Bell Overall Company here make it the largest exclusive overall manufacturing concern in the world. An addition to a building which is erected, work to start soon, which will take care of the expansion of the company.

C. C. Hudson, president of the concern, has sold realty, which he has held individually, to the concern and a charter for the Blue Bell Overall Company, Inc., has been applied for. The capital stock will be \$375,000, all paid in. Incorporators are C. C. Hudson, president; Mrs. Daisy Hudson, vice-president, and Miss Pearl Bowman, secretary.

Chatham Woman Fatally Burned

Burlington.—Mrs. G. G. Thomas, wife of the late George G. Thomas, 10 miles south of Siler City, Chatham county, was accidentally burned to death while sitting with her back to the open fire place at the home of her brother, Mr. Ernest Dowd, where she was spending the day and assisting in quilting a quilt placed in front of the fire place. It is thought the sash of the dress wore by Mrs. Thomas first caught, the flames rapidly spreading to her other clothing and the unfinished quilt. Mrs. Thomas ran out into the yard and as the wind fanned the flames she was fatally burned before help could come to her.

Burlington Reports Small Fire Loss

Burlington.—Burlington's fire loss for 1923 amounted to \$2,850 according to records of the fire department, although \$60,000 of this amount went up in the fire of the Thompson-Sexton Manufacturing Company, outside the corporate limits, with water connections unavailable. This must be counted in the city's losses. Leaving out this fire the loss is \$22,850 as compared with \$25,280 for the year 1922, a reduction of \$2,430. This small loss for a town of this size speaks well for the fire company and the care of the citizens.

Let Contracts For Reformatory

The contract was let Friday by the trustees for the first group of buildings of the Morrison Training School, the negro reformatory for boys to be erected by the state. The Pickler-Lampley Co., of Aberdeen, was the lowest of four bidders for the general contract while the Raleigh Iron Works will put in the heating the cost including the heating to be \$26,000. Linticum and Linticum, of Raleigh, are the architects.

A tractor has been purchased and the 400 acre site near Rockingham is being cleared under the direction of the business manager, J. S. Braswell, former chief of police of Hamlet. A committee composed of Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, Commissioner of Public Welfare, and J. J. Blair, who supervises plans for school buildings in the state, will go to Richmond county with the architects to decide where the first buildings are to be placed.

New Waterworks For Laurinburg

Laurinburg.—The total cost of Laurinburg's new waterworks system, including pumping station at the creek, 3 3/4 miles of 12-inch cast iron piping, filtering plant, 500,000 gallon reservoir, auxiliary station, etc., will be \$145,661.84. This is the total of the several items included in the program.

Too Much Tobacco Raised

Kinston.—The tobacco board of trade here is expected to begin early its annual agitation against a big tobacco crop in this part of the bright leaf belt. Though that conservative body may not take official action in the matter, its members will preach a nominal acreage and intensive cultivation. "There should be no duplication of the 1923 crop; it was entirely too large," warehousemen, factory men and others are contending, now that the crop has been almost entirely marketed.

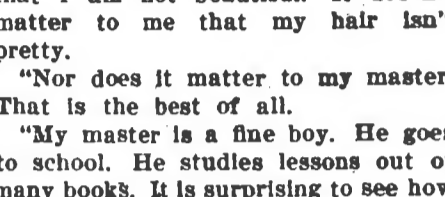
DADDY'S EVENING FAIRY TALE

Mary Graham Bonner

LITTLE WHITE DOG

"I'm only a little white dog. I'm not very large. In fact I'm really little, really small. I'm not particularly beautiful. In fact I don't believe I'd even be called pretty. My hair is shaggy and somewhat curly though it is more apt to look snarly than curly. Still, my master does the best he can with it. It is difficult hair with which to do anything. But it doesn't matter to me that I am not beautiful. It doesn't matter to me that my hair isn't pretty."

"Nor does it matter to my master. That is the best of all. My master is a fine boy. He goes to school. He studies lessons out of many books. It is surprising to see how many books he studies and surely he will be very wise when he grows up. He always comes home from school with an armful of books. I wonder then if he is going to pay attention to the books and not to me. But no, he doesn't bother about his books until much later on when it is dark and when I curl up in his lap or lie by his feet and rest while he studies. I'd be glad to help him with his lessons, but I know I can't. I am not a student. I never was and I feel sure I never will be. And so I don't bother to try for I know I'd only be a nuisance to my master if I tried to look at the books and see what they were all about. When I was only a wee dog, no more than a puppy, I believe I tore up a school book once and chewed some of it. Probably I swallowed some knowledge then. But it has never been of any use to me and it has never been of any help to me. I don't know about anything because of that book. What I know I have learned because of my master and my own good sense which has been handed down to one dog after another for generation after generation. Of course, I do not mean that learning has been handed to us in our paws. I mean that as an expression to let you know, if you don't already, that dogs 'inherit' as they say, certain qualities. We used to have some wolf abusers years and years ago, they say, and the way we bury bones and find them again comes from the old wolf strain in us which bids us save some food for a rainy day. Now I don't mean an actual rainy day. That is just an expression which means a day when things aren't at their best and when it is well to have a little something saved for such a time. But, oh, the best of all is the way my master loves me and treats me. In the summer time he goes to play in a park nearby. In that park there is a little drinking place. My master puts his head down over a spray of water which is always coming up and has a drink. But he doesn't forget about me. He holds me up in his arms and he takes the water in his hand and I lap it up from his hand. Of course, I can't get a great deal at a time this way and so he holds me in his arms, under his left arm, to be exact, and I am given all I want. My tongue is so refreshed. He dampens it for me. And he doesn't think that just because there isn't a regular place for dogs to drink that I must wait until we get home. And everyone loves to see my master's devotion to me. I can see that they think it is very sweet. No one minds if I have a drink from my master's hand at this little fountain for the water keeps bubbling up fresh all the time. But, oh, it is such a wonderful thing to be loved! It is such a wonderful thing to be looked after and cared for and petted and treated so well and so affectionately. It is so wonderful never to be forgotten! What does it matter if one is only a little white dog, not very large and not beautiful and not even pretty and whose hair is not the nicest in the world so long as one is the pet of a perfect young master? It doesn't matter in the least! That's what this little white dog says."



He Studies Lessons.

When You Catch Cold Rub on Musterole

Musterole is easy to apply and it gets in its good work right away. Often it prevents a cold from turning into "flu" or pneumonia. Just apply Musterole with the fingers. It does all the good work of grandmother's mustard plaster without the blister. Musterole is a clean, white ointment, made of oil of mustard and other home simples. It is recommended by many doctors and nurses. Try Musterole for sore throat, cold on the chest, rheumatism, lumbago, pleurisy, stiff neck, bronchitis, asthma, neuralgia, congestion, pains and aches of the back and joints, sprains, sore muscles, bruises, chilblains, frosted feet—colds of all sorts. To Mothers: Musterole is now made in a milder form for babies and small children. Ask for Children's Musterole. 35c and 65c, jars and tubes; hospital size, \$3.00.



Better than a mustard plaster. Any foot can be disagreeable, but it takes rare self-control to be a gentle man in all circumstances.

For speedy and effective action, Dr. Peery's "Dead Shot" has no equal. A single dose cleans out Worms or Tapeworm. 372 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.

If you aren't interested in other people, you won't gossip.

Mrs. L. E. Gunn



Health Brings Beauty

A Discovery That Has Done a World of Good

Augusta, Ga.—"My father's family was kept well ever since I can remember by using Dr. Pierce's remedies. My father used to get a supply of the 'Golden Medical Discovery' every spring, as a tonic. He took it himself and gave it to the rest of us. He did not wait until we were sick. He said, 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.' When I was about sixteen my parents saved me, I believe, from serious feminine trouble by giving me Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription."—Mrs. L. E. Gunn, 506 Moore Ave.

Keep yourself in the pink of condition by obtaining Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery in liquid or tablet form from your neighborhood druggist, or send 10c to Dr. Pierce's Invalids' Hotel in Buffalo, N. Y., for trial package.

Advertisement for Mother's Laxative. Includes image of a woman and a box of the product. Text: 'Mother Says Laxative is the ideal family laxative. TAKE IN THE PLACE OF CALOMEL - FOR SALE EVERYWHERE 30c and 60c. BUY A BOTTLE W.L. HAND MEDICINE CO. CHARLOTTE, N.C.'

Advertisement for Mitchell Eye Salve. Text: 'Mitchell Eye Salve FOR SORE EYES. Avoid dropping any thing into the eye. Do not use any eye drops from Alkali or other irritation. Mitchell's Eye Salve that brings comforting relief is best. 15c, all druggists. Hall & Bush, New York City.'

Advertisement for Rheumacide. Text: 'Rheumacide GET AT THE JOINTS FROM THE INSIDE. Have your RHEUMATISM Lumbago or Gout? Take RHEUMACIDE to remove the toxins and drive the poison from the system. PREPARED BY THE BROTHERS PUTS RHEUMATISM ON THE OUTSIDE! At All Druggists. Jas. Bailly & Son, Wholesale Distributors Baltimore, Md.'

Advertisement for FREE CABBAGE PLANTS. Text: 'FREE CABBAGE PLANTS. Roger's SILVERBARK. Only a little effort on your part required. The particular variety, McIlroy's & Company's, Ayden, North Carolina. "Prove it." All leading varieties. \$1.00 per 100. 300, \$2.75, cash with order; prompt shipment. Mail or express. Large plants. Single arrival guaranteed. Canning trees. Research Plant Co., Box 17, Johnson, Pa.'