

RAISING POP CORN MAY BE OVERDONE

As a Result of Attractive Prices Interest Is Gaining Momentum.

Indications now point to the possibility that pop corn growing may be overdone in 1931, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Pop corn prices, they point out, are very sensitive to supply, and price depressions due to overproduction have occurred in the past. After a few years of fairly normal production, if a short crop occurs as the result of unfavorable weather or other causes, the price rises to a figure attractive to growers. Immediately many new producers appear who flood the market with disastrous effects to the old growers as well as to themselves.

Relatively high current prices for pop corn and low prices for field corn have combined to make pop corn appear a desirable crop, says specialists of the bureau of plant industry. Judging from current correspondence, they say, many old growers are expanding their acreage and others, attracted by stories of their neighbors' profits, are planning to substitute pop corn for part of their field corn acreage.

The present interest in pop corn has been gaining momentum for more than a year as the result of attractive prices. Ordinarily the unbalanced situation would have corrected itself before now, but the weather of 1930 conspired to reduce the yields of pop corn as well as of field corn and so put off the day of price rectification. Stocks of old pop corn were pretty well cleaned up during the winter of 1929-30 and prices rose considerably. In response to this stimulus, acreage was expanded in 1930 but the effect was offset by the unfavorable weather. Prices of pop corn have declined somewhat lately, partly at least in sympathy with general price levels, but they are still relatively high as compared with field corn, the specialists point out.

What is happening may be illustrated by the situation in Iowa, they say, which is the leading state in the production of commercial pop corn. In 1930 Iowa increased her pop corn acreage to nearly twice that of 1929 and nearly three times that of 1927. If, instead of the heat and drought of last summer, the weather had been favorable for corn, enough pop corn would have been produced to glut the market, and overproduction such as that of 1925 would have occurred.

Pop Corn Acreage.

The pop corn acreage of the United States is only about one-tenth of 1 per cent of the total corn acreage, the department workers comment. Although the commercial growing of pop corn is concentrated in certain districts to a considerable extent, much of the best land in the heart of the corn belt is suitable for growing pop corn. It can be appreciated, therefore, they say, that the acreage of this crop can easily be overexpanded. "The unusually high prices of a year ago, together with the relatively high prices at present, as compared to other grains, may easily lead to the production of too much pop corn in 1931 if the season is favorable. It may be well for those who are planning to increase uncontracted acreage, and especially for those planning to grow pop corn for the first time, to consider the situation carefully before plunging too deeply, the bureau warns.

PLAN PERMANENT VEGETABLE GARDENS

A plea that gardeners of the nation plant more perennial fruits and vegetables in home gardens is included in Farmers' Bulletin 1242-F, Permanent Fruit and Vegetable Gardens, recently revised and reissued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The authors, W. H. Beattie and C. P. Close, horticulturists of the department, stress the value of several permanent crops, especially asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish, raspberries, blackberries, logan blackberries, dewberries, currants, gooseberries, strawberries and grapes, according to locality. They say that a garden of annual vegetables alone cannot compare with one containing all of a few of these perennials.

Farmers' Bulletin 1242-F describes the cultural requirements and yields of each of these plants and the number of plants of each required to supply the needs of an average family. The bulletin is available free, so long as the supply lasts, to those requesting it from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington D. C.

UNDESIRABLE SEED

Immature and discolored alfalfa and sweet clover seed may germinate fairly well but cannot be expected to produce plants unless it is of good weight, according to Prof. O. A. Stevens, seed analyst at the North Dakota agricultural college. Low grade seed can be expected to produce half or less as many plants as the germination test indicates. Slightly green seed germinates well. Seeds which are shriveled or heating are dead.

RAT PROOFING IS NEATLY DESCRIBED

Principles Call For Use Of Well Made Concrete And Good Steel.

Modern building principles and rat proofing go hand in hand, says a new Farmers' Bulletin on "Rat Proofing Buildings and Premises" just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. These principles call for the use of well-made concrete and steel, and other indestructible and noncombustible materials that are too much for even the sharpest of rodent incisors. They include also fire stopping in double walls and floors and the elimination of all dead spaces and dark corners where the rat can hide. The sanitary features provide for hygienic storage of food, and the rat cannot live without something to eat.

Rat Proof All Buildings. All new buildings should be made rat proof, says the bulletin. Cities in growing numbers have added rat-proofing clauses to their building ordinances with such good effect that others are sure to follow their lead. Builders should therefore compare the cost of rat proofing during construction with the probable cost later, in case local laws should require that all buildings be made rat proof.

The cost of rat proofing all the construction on many American farms, the bulletin says, would amount to less than the loss occasioned by rats on the same farms in a single year. The pamphlet gives details and illustrates methods for rat proofing all kinds of farm structures, including barns, corncribs, granaries, and poultry houses. It also considers the rat proofing of city buildings, such as warehouses and markets, and suggests city-wide efforts toward the suppression of the rat pest. It includes a model rat-proofing ordinance and an ordinance regulating the collection and disposal of garbage, prepared by the United States public health service.

Permanent Rat Control.

Throughout the bulletin it is emphasized that the removal of the rat's food and shelter offers a practical means of permanent rat control. "The number of rats on premises and the extent of their destructiveness are usually in direct proportion to the food available and to the shelter afforded. Rat proofing in the broadest sense embraces not only the exclusion of rats from buildings of all types but also the elimination of their hiding and nesting places and the starvation of the animals. Through openings and in other ways, rats may frequently gain access to structures that are otherwise rat proof, but they cannot persist there unless they find safe harbors and food. When rat proofing becomes the regular practice, the rat problem will have been largely solved."

Copies of the new publication, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1222-F, may be obtained free on request addressed to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

MINOR BLEMISHES HURT ONION VALUE

Sun Scalds Become Dry, Slippery And Bleached, Damaging Market Value.

Onions frequently acquire unsightly blemishes and discolorations—for the most part damaging only the outward appearance—when exposed to certain chemicals, sunlight, or some fungi, the United States Department of Agriculture says in Circular 135-C, Blemishes and Discolorations of Market Onions.

"Scorched spot" and "bag print" frequently appear on colored onions that have been in damp storage for some time. The names are descriptive of the appearance of these blemishes. The chemicals in some bags print the weave of the bag on the outer surface of the onion, when the bag is moist. Ammonia fumes escaping in a storage plant or emanating from manure piled over ground-stored onions as protection from freezing often discolor onions. Ammonia turns yellow onions brown, red onions deep greenish-dark or metallic black, and white onions greenish-yellow.

Sometimes the sun scalds exposed onions at harvest. The scalded tissue first becomes slippery, then dry and shrunken, and finally bleached. Sun scald frequently opens the way for destructive bacteria and fungi. Growing bulbs may develop sunburn or "greening" on exposed parts, a blemish which is self-descriptive. The greened portions are usually bitter and unpalatable, but not particularly subject to decay.

A fungus growing on Bermuda onions in California produces a dark "soil stain" in the outer scales on the bottom of the onion. It damages the onion only in appearance.

Copies of Circular 135-C may be obtained by writing to the Office of Information, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Proposed Memorial to War Pigeons



A model of the contemplated war memorial selected by the German government, to be erected in memory of the World war carrier pigeons.

GROUP LOOKS LIKE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

International Chamber of Commerce Meeting in Washington Is Big Parade Of The Nations.

The International Chamber of Commerce meeting left on the Capital an indelible impression of mingled nationalities, tongues, and faces—Indians and Chinese, Russians and Englishmen, representatives of thirty-five nations, talked earnestly at length over the silver question, tariff barriers, disarmament, war debts, and other universal problems. Ear phones carried each speaker's address translated into the proper language for the listener, though many foreign speakers spoke flawless English with engaging European accents.

It was a veritable League of Nations gathering. In fact, the League was mentioned in proceedings, and the official program carried the word "international," which in the political sense is a bugaboo to Americans, more than twenty times, exclusive of its use in the Chamber's title.

Moved by the spirit of this conclave, we have glanced around the world to find that in Siam are a thousand contrasts. Here are a few examples: Sharp, golden pinnacles of temples and palaces. Thunderous, grimy shops. Yellow monastic robes. Magnificent boulevards. Humble thatched huts. Buffaloes and fivers. Elephant herds tramping through dense jungle. The towers of a radio station. Soaking rice-fields. A great airplane roaring in from western Europe.

In France, the largest railway stations, notably the Gare de l'Est, have opened "welcome rooms" for the general public. Here, the soiled, weary journeyman may have a bath and get his boots polished and his suit pressed while the ablutions are under way. He can even dictate a business letter while having his hair cut. The stenographers at hand are proficient in several languages.

From Manchuria comes word that the happy endings typical of American movies do not find favor with the Russians in Harbin. Such movies are not "true to life," the audience complains. Russians also require complete accuracy in costumes, facts, and costumes, according to American Vice Consul T. Leonard Lillestrom. Good comedies are appreciated but "stunt" films leave them cold.

Don't burn leaves, save them for mulch or for the compost heap.

Get in plenty of insect ammunition. You will need it early and often.

Put in kohlrabi early. This is a fine vegetable grown early and used tender.

Spray your peaches, plums, apricots, etc., each year for the prevention of fungus attacks.

SUBSTITUTE FOR STABLE MANURE

Specialist Is Developing Synthetic Compost For Use On Mushrooms.

With the horse population steadily decreasing, mushroom growers of the country have been looking to the United States Department of Agriculture for a satisfactory substitute for stable manure, the standard medium for growing this crop. To meet this need Dr. Edmund B. Lambert, mushroom specialist of the department, is developing a synthetic compost which has given promising results. In a general way the procedure used in making this compost is based on the process for making artificial manure that was developed and patented by English scientists in 1922.

Synthetic Compost Tested.

The artificial compost was first tested in 1928, and three crops of mushrooms have been harvested from it. The mushrooms grown on the synthetic material were normal in every way and fair yields were obtained, but as yet they do not compare favorably with yields obtained by commercial growers. The experiments are being continued, however, and the product is being steadily improved. Wheat straw, cut into short pieces, forms the base for the synthetic compost. Different sources of nitrogen, such as dried blood, cyanamids, and urea, were added in varying amounts, as well as various mineral foods, to determine the ratios that produce the best crop. The material is handled in the same way as ordinary compost, and no change is made in the usual cultural practices.

The mushroom industry in this country has made a remarkable growth within the last 20 years, according to Doctor Lambert. This has resulted, he says, from the development of pedigreed spawn, or propagating material, and the use of special houses instead of caves for growing the crop. The use of pure culture spawn is a big factor in the control of insect pests and diseases, and the grower can control temperature and moisture conditions in the houses.

WIND-VANE INSECT TRAP AIDS CONTROL OF PESTS

A new wind-vane insect trap devised by entomologists of the United States Department of Agriculture is proving useful in determining the source of beet-leaf hopper migrations, the department reports. Once the source of infestation is known, it may be possible to apply direct control measures before the insects migrate to the sugar-beet fields, if the natural breeding area is small.

This new trap consists of a light wooden box housing a series of parallel upright screens, connected by a funnel with a jar containing cyanide. A weather vane attached to the box causes it to rotate so that it always faces the wind. The traps are mounted on high poles.

Insects flying with the prevailing winds are caught by the screens and carried by air currents down a tube, through the funnel, and into the jar of poison.

PRODUCTS OF OUR FARMS SENT ABROAD

American Shipping Supplying Many Nations With Agricultural Products; France Receives Large Portion.

Visions of tall-masted ships all-entirely steaming over the sea with mysterious cargoes have evoked more rhapsody and rhyme than the practical nature of trade ordinarily inspires. To trace the origin of these cargoes from the region of production to their destination is an instructive game. Take a single foreign market, for example. We ship to France every year myriad commodities—wheat from our western lands, sardines from the Pacific Coast, lard from the farm belt, cotton from the South—and so on. In spite of the worldwide depression, French consumption of our products continues and, in many cases, increases.

A report from the United States Department of Commerce shows that our sales of fresh fruits to France during 1928 represented a total of 113,600,000 francs (\$4,520,000), a gain over previous years. Although the French canning industry has an international reputation for its special manufacturing processes and the excellence of its products, certain brands of American tinned fruits and vegetables are in high favor with the French palate. France's imports of concentrated and evaporated milk have doubled since 1923. Yet the French foodstuffs industry is flourishing, and agriculture remains the principal factor in the prosperity of the nation, according to Commerce reports. The land is subdivided as to agricultural units, modern agricultural machinery is used, and the farmers find difficulty in securing labor to meet their programs of production. Altogether, the situation is an excellent indication of the country's internal resourcefulness and external cooperation.

LIMBERNECK BAD ON POULTRY IN SUMMER

Poultry Expert Explains Causes And Measures of Treatment for Common Disease in Chickens.

Limberneck, a nervous disease of poultry, known scientifically as botulism, occurs more frequently in hot weather and will cause heavy losses in poultry unless decayed matter is kept from the yards.

"In early stages of this trouble, the affected fowls are drowsy and listless in appearance and have an unsteady gait," says H. C. Genger, in charge of poultry disease investigations at State College. "The birds are affected rapidly and complete paralysis soon exists. During the last few hours of life, the birds are prostrated and during the progression of the trouble, typical cases will show a limberneck condition. Examination of the crop after the bird is dead will often show the

food from which the infection was derived.

Prevention is the chief method of control recommended by Mr. Genger. All sick birds should be removed from the flock at once and careful search instituted for the source of infection. This means looking for dead animals, excessive amounts of decayed vegetable matter or stagnant water. Very often the trouble may be traced to such materials as offers a favorable place for flies and

Mr. Genger says if the source of infection is difficult to locate, the flock should be confined until a more thorough search can be made or the material to be completely decomposed. Give the birds Epsom salts at the rate of one pound to three gallons of water for each 100 birds. It usually does not pay to treat those fowls in the advanced stages of the trouble. However, two teaspoonsful of castor oil to which has been added a few drops of turpentine will give fairly good results if given to a bird when the first symptoms appear.

Limberneck is caused by a tiny organism which may exist in the carcasses of dead animals, in manure or in decaying vegetable matter and which produces a deadly poison in that decaying material.

CLASSIFIED ADS

LARGE PLANTS—FROM POTS. Immediate effect—\$1.00 dozen post paid, all colors, named varieties. Calendulas, in bloom. Imperial Bismark Stock (double and single) in bloom. Hanging Basket and Porch Box material: 25c each Geraniums, pink white, red, salmon, corise, Ferns, Boston, Verona, Whetman, Baby's breath, a few Boston and English Ivy at 6 for 25c. Gladioli, trailing; and large leaved 10c each, \$1.00 dozen. Other plants you can afford not mentioned. Visit us within next ten days before our stock is picked over.—HOLLYWOOD GREENHOUSE AND GARDENS, McCALL, S. C.

NOTICE: TO MY MILK CUSTOMERS. On and after April 1st whole milk will be reduced one cent per quart. Butter now 40c, Battered Milk 5c quart. Phone 347 or 240. Lester's Dairy. 2-4t

PEA AND BEAN HARROW—Seed Peas and Beans for sale. A. A. Harris, Raleford, R.I. 6-4t pd.

FEWERING PLANTS—FROM finest seed obtainable. Semesan treated against diseases. Government inspected. 25c per 15 plants. Your choice or assorted as follows: Asters, all colors; Zinnias, Dahlia flaward, Cal-Giants, Plectra, Quilled, Marginals, Lemon Queen, African Gull, Double Impatiens, pink and salmon, Petunias, Rose Morn, Balcany Blue and Rose, Pride of Portland, Double Larkspur, Snapdragon, Pysostegia or Columbine finest hybrids, Cleome, (background plants) Clarkia. You are invited to visit our greenhouse and old fashioned, old Southern garden of varicolored blossoms between quaint walks and paths. No orders mailed prepaid for less than \$1.00.—HOLLYWOOD GREENHOUSE AND GARDENS.

TOP DRESS YOUR COTTON WITH POTASH

Set More Fruit Reduce Shedding Produce Larger Bolls Increase Turn-out Improve the Lint Control Rust Reduce Wilt Increase Yields

Thousands of farmers, from Arkansas to Virginia, on both clay and sandy lands, are giving their cotton extra potash—in addition to their regular fertilizer. They are top-dressing their cotton with 50 pounds of muriate per acre on clay lands and 100 pounds on sandy lands. Some use high-grade kainit. Muriate is concentrated kainit and potash in muriate is cheaper.

They are also using extra potash with profit on tobacco, corn, small grains, peanuts, fruit, sweet potatoes, potatoes, and general truck.

EXTRA POTASH PAYS EXTRA CASH

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