

POULTRY

SUCCESS IN RAISING GEESSE
Fowls Subsist Largely on Grass During Growing Season, and Require Little Attention.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Practically all the geese in this country are raised in small flocks on general farms, and few, if any, farms are devoted entirely to raising geese. Geese can be raised successfully in small numbers and at a profit on farms where there is plenty of grass or pasture land with a natural supply of water. The birds, both young and old, are very hardy and are rarely affected by any disease or insect pests. Grass makes up the bulk of the feed for geese, and it is doubtful whether it pays to raise them unless good grass range is available. Geese are the closest known grazers, and both the mature geese and the partially grown goslings will get their entire living from a good pasture so long as the grass remains green.

A body of water where they can swim is considered essential during the breeding season, and is desirable during the rest of the year. If there is no natural pond, an artificial one or tanks may be supplied to advantage. The market for geese is not so general as for chickens; this fact should be considered, poultry specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture say, in undertaking to raise geese. The demand and the price paid for geese are usually good in sections where geese fattening is conducted on a large scale.

Geese are fed a ration to produce eggs during the latter part of the winter (about February 1, in the northeastern section of this country) or so that the goslings will be hatched by the time there is good grass pasture. They are allowed to make nests on the floor of the house, or large boxes, barrels, or shelters are provided for that purpose.

Goslings hatched under hens should be examined for head lice, and a little grease—lard or vaseline—applied with the fingers on the head and neck. Some breeders who hatch with both geese and hens give all the goslings to the geese, which make the best moth-



Geese Grow Rapidly and Are Rarely Affected With Disease.

ers. A few breeders prefer to breed the goslings artificially, keeping them from one to three weeks in the house at night in a covered bushel basket.

To keep a record of their age and breeding the web of the feet of the newly hatched goslings should be punched. Hens with goslings may be confined to the coop and the goslings allowed to range. In mild weather the hens are allowed to brood the goslings from seven to ten days, when the latter are able to take care of themselves. It is very necessary to keep the young goslings dry, so they are usually kept confined in the morning until the dew is dried off, and they should not be allowed to get into water until partly feathered. This occurs when they are from two to four weeks old, depending on the weather and their range. Goslings caught and apparently drowned in a cold rain may sometimes be revived by drying in flannel near a fire.

Good-sized growing coops with board floors should be provided for the goslings, which must be protected from their enemies. When on range, the young bird needs some attention, as they may get lost or caught in post holes and odd corners. Young goslings, if confined, should be given grass yards and the coops removed frequently to fresh grass. It is better to keep the growing goslings separate from the old stock. Shade should be provided in hot weather. If very young goslings are allowed to run with large animals, they are apt to be injured or killed.

MAKE FOWLS WORK FOR FOOD

Grains Scattered in Litter Compel Hens to Exercise—Green Feed Aids Digestion.

All scratch feed or whole grain should be scattered in the litter, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Hens like to work for their living. Troughs or hoppers should be used for dry mash. They keep this feed always accessible. Noon is the time to provide fresh green food. It aids digestion.

ON THE FUNNY SIDE



HER EXACT WORDS.

Bill—So you asked the sweet little thing to marry you?
Gill—Yes, I did.
"And she said 'yes,' I suppose?"
"No, she didn't."
"Oh, she said 'no,' did she?"
"Not exactly."
"Well, what did she say, then?"
"She said: 'Nothin' doin'.'"

Evidently, Not by the Senses.

An American was with a gushing enthusiasm describing his new car to an English visitor. "It runs so smoothly," he said, "you can't feel it. Not a bit of noise, you can't hear it. Perfect ignition, you can't smell it. And speed, why, it simply whizzes, you can't see it."
"My word!" exclaimed the astonished Britisher. "How do you know the bally thing is there?"—Boston Transcript.

Telephone Nightmares.

Church—I understand an arrangement has been patented so that when a person is talking on the telephone the face of the person one is talking to is reflected on a mirror in front of them, even if the person being talked to is miles away.

Gotham—Well, I hope to gracious if that is so some people I happen to know will never telephone me.

Strong-Arm Methods.

"Politics is a game of give and take," remarked Mr. Waffles.
"I'll subscribe to the first part of your statement," said Mr. Grabcoia, who had just had an experience with an alert "money digger." "I don't particularly object to giving, but I do object to the kind of back talk I have to take for not giving more."—Birmingham Age-Herald.



WHA. OFFICERS ARE FOR

"So you've elected a new set of officers."

"Yes. Now all we've got to do is to sit back and kick about the way they do things."

Cheerful.

It may be that I shall not do a single thing worth while, but while my skies above are blue I'll try to show a smile.

Best He Could Do.

"Good heaven, Dick! Tan shoes with evening dress—that's awfully bad form!"
"I know it, but stocking feet with evening dress is worse."—Boston Transcript.

An Optimist.

"I'm sorry to see you here," said the friend of a convicted bank embezzler.
"Oh, there isn't much change, after all," said the prisoner, cheerfully.
"No?"
"You see, I had been shut up in a cage and looking through bars for years before I came here. These bars are just a little thicker, and instead of being brass they are steel."

Tragic.

He (during quarrel)—Then why did you marry me?
She—Just to get even with that hateful Maud Brown and to make her cry her eyes out because I took you away from her.

He—Good heavens, woman, what have you done? Why, I married you just because she threw me over.

Hard Work.

"Is that new hired man a hard worker?"
"Pll say he is," replied Farmer Cornstossel. "I don't know anybody that work seemed to go harder with than it does with him."

A Matter of Taste.

The Equestrienne—Oh, I'm so furious with myself!

"Why?"
"For liking so much the kiss Jack Thrasher made me take in the park this morning."—Judge.

Of Course Not!

Staff Officer (benevolently to little girl)—And what is your name, my dear?

Modern "Little Dear"—D'you know you shouldn't speak to a lady without being introduced.

BOY SCOUTS

Conducted by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

SCOUT SERVICE

In a report to the national council headquarters, a scoutmaster fills in the blank asking for comment upon his troop's community good turns as follows: "Did everything they could, anywhere," which seems to be typical of the spirit of scouts throughout the country. The jobs aren't always the pleasantest sort either, or the easiest, but when a scout tackles the thing he does it "for all he's worth," with brain and brawn and a right good will. Here are a few little things scouts in Birmingham did, in their "leisure hours." It looks as if these boys were not only going to be good citizens in the future, but are good citizens, here and now.

One scout repaired a bridge, cleaned mud out of two curbs and drained a ditch; half-hour time.

Five scouts removed a large pile of brush where trees had been trimmed up; 15 minutes each.

Five scouts repaired a street where it had washed out by piling rocks and brush and then dirt on top; one hour's time.

Two scouts buried a dead hen, that the city health department would not remove; 30 minutes' time.

Four scouts dug a drainway to let standing water out of the street, and opened up ten sewers and 23 gutters.

Two scouts repaired a bridge and opened four sewers and 20 gutters; ten hours.

One scout cut a dead tree which stood close by the passageway and was very dangerous to those passing; one hour.

Eleven scouts worked two hours getting water out of basement of a church, then built a fire and dried out the place.

Three scouts repaired four sewers, also raked up a lot of leaves from around a house and burned them, as they were dangerous to the community; one and one-half hours.

CHIEF SEA SCOUT REPORTS.

At the last national council meeting the chief sea scout, James A. Wilder, made this report:

"We have found our sea legs. After some backing and filling as to the best methods, we have, with the advice of some 400 executives, and others, settled on the course to be steered. This decision has steadied the sea-coast program and the taffrail log begins to register more speed. November, 1920, was our banner month, followed by the record breakers, December and January, 1920 and 1921. As we go to press, February, 1921, has already broken the record again. We have registered more ships in the last five months than in the previous three years. This is at the rate of 110 per cent increase annually.

"We have the assurance that the sea-coast program is being pushed as the official older boy program, in 87 cities. Ship's papers or preliminary steps have already been taken by 104 scout centers. In some cities, notably San Francisco, Honolulu and others, the program has been under way for several years without the registry of a single ship, because of a vote to thoroughly train leadership before admitting boys to membership. The sea-coasts, at the rate we are growing at present, will be 200 "ships" in 1922. If the last four months' increase in our number is maintained we will be, in six months, the largest seamanship training course or 'nautical school' in the United States. Swift increase is not expected in the face of such slogans as 'You must know it all the time,' 'Don't start anything you can't finish,' 'Practice makes perfect,' 'No traids,' 'The ship is what you make her,' 'Don't give up the ship.' Nevertheless, we're already half the size of Annapolis, and as far as plain sailing goes, we are giving the same boat-seamanship program.

"Fifty navy boats have been loaned to bona-fide sea-coasts, according to regulations, and to certain sea-coast training bases. Five hundred are still available for really determined sea-coasts of schooner (or second) grade.

"The slogan is now, 'run your troop like a ship,' and in a seamanlike manner. Sea-coast centers are asked to avoid foolhardy practices, slack seamanship and frauds, and the local shipping committees are required to take a pledge that no boatwork or small boat sailing shall take place until the ship's company have qualified as lifesavers. This waiting game may not spell numbers, but spells quality."

TO KEEP TROOPS GOING.

"I have a question, too, Mr. Cave Scout. This seems about the hardest time in the whole year to keep things going in our troop. There is little doing besides regular meetings." Can anybody help out in this case? "I believe I can, Cave Scout. We had the same trouble in our troop until last winter, when we arranged a scout dinner and invited our dads and mothers. That gave our folks a pretty good idea about what we do in scouting.—Cave Scout in Boys' Life.

NEWS OF ORCHARD

HOW TOP-GRAFTING IS DONE

New Growth Should Be Used and Scions Should Be Taken From Most Vigorous Trees.

For many years I lived in the western part of New York state and every spring spent a large part of my time in tree surgery. Top-working seedling apple trees became my job in the community. By long experience I developed methods of my own until the grafts lost did not exceed 5 per cent, and often not more than 1 per cent. Right now is the time to cut apple scions if this has not been done yet, writes H. Wallis Smith in Farmers' Mail and Breeze. The best scions are obtained from the ends of bearing branches. New growth should be used and the scions should be taken from vigorous trees where the one and two-year-old growth has reached a size of one-eighth inch in diameter up to the size of a lead pencil. Water sprouts are worthless as scions. Scions must be cut before the buds swell and should be tagged and packed in moist sand or earth and kept in the cellar. Cuttings from quickly growing varieties will do best. As soon as enough sap has started so the

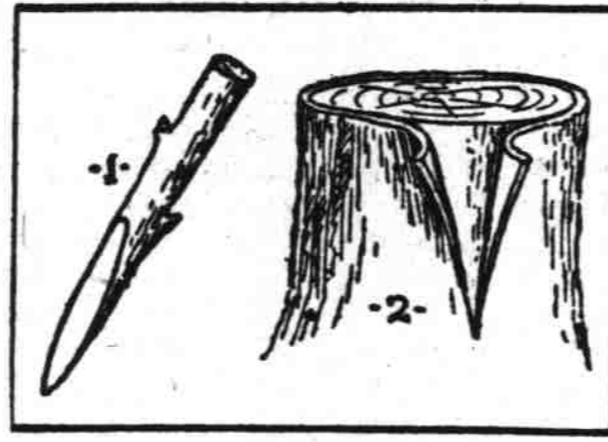


Fig. 1 shows the scion properly cut. Fig. 2 is the stock ready for the scion.

bark will peel, it is time to do top-grafting. I never graft a branch that is more than one and one-half inches in diameter. I take the branch to be cut in my left hand and with a sharp, fine-tooth saw, cut it off below my hand. I do not let it fall or sway until cut off entirely as this will split the bark or wood of the stub, damaging it for grafting. I cut a branch here and another there, being careful not to get them too close together. I take two or three years to work over a large tree. A tree should not be pruned severely the same year it is grafted.

When all branches on a tree are cut I prepare the scions by making a slanting cut on one side only, leaving two good buds. A sharp, thin-bladed knife must be used for this purpose. An incision is then made in the bark of the stub and the bark turned up at the corners as shown in Fig. 2. I then wet the cut end of the scion in my mouth and slip it down under the bark of the stub, the cut side of the scion on the inside, until the bark begins to split at the bottom of the incision.

I put two scions on each stub, then wrap some twine about the graft (Fig. 3) to keep the corners of the bark from curling outward as they dry. The wax is applied as soon as six or eight grafts are made. This wax is made up as follows:

1/2 pint raw linseed oil.
1 1/2 pounds rosin.
1 pound beeswax.

This is melted up together and put into two tin cans with wire bales, the outer ends of which are bent in the form of hooks as shown in Fig. 4. I next take a length of stovepipe, put a bale in one end, fit wooden bottom in the other, and nail it on well. A small hand lamp is set into the pipe and the can of wax suspended above it by means of the hooks. This keeps the wax warm and of the right consistency to apply to the grafts. Cold wax will not stick. I apply the wax with a cheap paint brush to six or eight grafts at a time. While the next batch of grafts are being made the other can of wax is getting warm. Hot wax too warm for the hand should not be used. Put on several coats and cover the entire stub to an inch below the split in the bark. The grafts should be examined about once a week. As soon as they begin to grow the gap in the bark will spread and the wax may crack, letting in the air, which may mean the death of your graft. If any cracks show, close the wax over them with your fingers. About July 1 cut the twine and you are through with the grafts. Keep all water sprouts cut out.



Fig. 3 shows the stock with scions in place ready for the wax. Fig. 4 is the device for heating the wax.

I never split the stub and put scions in the cleft as is commonly done. I believe my method is twice as certain of being successful. If the wax should crack at any time so as to let the air and water get into the cleft before the wound is healed, it will cause the heart to decay and will ruin the vitality of the branch.

WATER MUST BE GIVEN TO CROPS

Too Much Sprinkling, However, Often Proves Injurious to Many of Plants.

WAYS OF IRRIGATING GARDEN

Suggestions Given Showing How the Work Should Be Done for Best Results—Thorough Cultivation Should Be Given.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Garden crops drink lots of water. It is just as essential to their growth as is plantfood or sunlight. Practically every home gardener who has looked upon his thriving garden with pride in the spring has experienced various degrees of lost hope during midsummer droughts when the plants he has worked with so carefully stand with drooped heads for lack of moisture. Experienced gardeners always provide some means of supplying moisture to keep their gardens growing vigorously through dry spells. Various ways of irrigating gardens are outlined by garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The essentials for the successful watering of garden crops, they say, are, first, an adequate supply of water, and second, suitable means of distributing it to the plants. Whenever the garden is within reach of a city water supply a hose can be used to advantage, drawing water from the regular piping system. Where a supply of this kind is not available, often it is possible to pump water with a small gas engine and a pump. The source of water will vary with local conditions, and each gardener must work out his own problem, but there are well-defined principles regarding its application.

Too Much Sprinkling Injurious.

Frequent sprinkling of garden plants and the surface soil with the hose usually does more harm than good. The best results can be realized where water is applied only after the soil has become reasonably dry, and the plants are almost at the point of showing the need of water. The soil should then be well soaked, and no more water applied until it is again fairly dry. In the meantime thorough cultivation should be given, beginning as soon as the surface soil is dry enough to work.

There are three distinct methods of applying the water. The overhead-sprinkler system, used by many market gardeners, consists of pipe 3/4 inch or 1 inch in diameter with a line of holes of about 1.32 inch in diameter drilled at intervals of every 2 feet along one side. The pipe is supported on lines of stakes driven in the ground across the garden. One end is capped or plugged, and to the other connection is made with the water



Vegetables Need Lots of Water—This Gardener Is Using It in Transplanting Tomatoes.

pump by means of a hose. The water is discharged at any desired angle or direction through the small holes on the side of the pipe. Water should be applied by the sprinkler system only during the latter part of the day or in the evening so that it will have plenty of time to soak into the soil overnight. An abundance of water should be put on at one time, and then no more applied until the plants really need it.

Expensive but Effective.

Subirrigation or underground watering is practiced in many localities, especially where the subsoil is rather close, and does not allow the water to flow away freely. Lines of ordinary open-joint drain tile, such as are used on farms for draining land, are employed. The tiles are laid in lines 4 to 8 feet apart, at a depth of 15 to 18 inches, so they will not be disturbed in plowing. In laying the tile the lines should be level and the joints placed close together. The water will flow through the tiles and escape at the joints into the soil. This is perhaps the best method of applying water to garden crops wherever the conditions are suitable for its use, as the water goes direct to the roots of the plants and the surface remains dry, making it possible to keep up continuous cultivation. The objection to the system is that it is rather expensive to install, but when once in place it will serve for many years.

FARMERS LOSE MUCH TIME KILLING WEEDS

Survey Has Recently Been Conducted by Experts.

Some of Worst Plants Have Been Given Special Attention and Bulletins on Best Methods of Eradication Have Been Issued.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Fighting weeds occupies about 30 per cent of all the time a farmer spends in cultivation of crops, according to experts in the United States Department of Agriculture, who recently have been conducting a weed survey. Special attention has been given to the best methods of conquering some of the worst weeds, and the following publications on their eradication or control may be obtained by writing to the department:

Farmers' bulletins: 610, Wild Onion; 660, Weeds in General; 833, Wild Oats in Hard Spring-Wheat Area; 945, Bermuda Grass; 1161, Dodder; 1166, Poison Ivy and Poison Sumac; 1092, Canadian Thistle.

Department circulars: 108, Chicory; 130 (five cents a copy), Hawkweeds or Paint Brushes.

Department bulletins: 511 (ten cents), Farm Practice in the Cultivation of Cotton.

In addition to these the following multigraphed leaflets on special weeds



Well-Cultivated Corn Field Free of Weeds—Food, Not Waste, Produced on This Land.

may be obtained by writing direct to Forage Crop Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.: Chemical Weed Killers; Eradication of Nut Grass; Wild Carrot; Crab-Grass; Killing Dandelions in Lawns; Sheep Sorrel; Chickweed in Lawns; Eradication of Quack Grass; Wild Morning Glory, or Bind-Weed; Honeysuckle as a Weed; Perennial Sow Thistle.

SEED MIXTURES ARE COSTLY

Much Advertisized Clover-Timothy Contain Very Little of Former—Of Little Value.

So-called clover-timothy seed mixtures, which are widely advertised by certain seed firms at what may appear to be attractive prices, often contain so little alsike or red clover that they are of little, if any, more value than timothy seed, but actually cost nearly double the market price of that seed, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. These mixtures are usually offered by the bushel, followed by the qualifying statement that a bushel weighs only 45 pounds.

In other words, this seed is offered as clover and timothy with the claim that the different seeds occur in the proper proportions for seeding, while frequently there is not more than 5 or 6 per cent of clover present—not enough to be of any value in the crop. Persons who buy mixed seed can not be too careful to learn the exact proportion of the mixtures they get and the quality of the seed composing them. Otherwise, they are likely to pay an exorbitant price for seed that will not give the crop wanted.

COAL ASHES ON HEAVY SOIL

Particularly Valuable to Loosen Soil and Make It Workable—No Good as Fertilizer.

Coal ashes have little value as fertilizer, their use being mainly to loosen the soil and make it workable. They are most valuable on heavy clay soil, but should be screened to take out coarse material before they are applied, and should be spread evenly over the surface and thoroughly mixed with the soil. Wood ashes have fertilizing value, but should be applied before they become leached.

LIME BENEFICIAL TO SOILS

Particularly Advantageous to Garden Plot and Will Also Correct Sourness of Land.

An application of about 50 pounds of hydrated or air-slaked lime to a garden plot 30 by 60 feet in size will often prove beneficial. Lime has the effect of loosening and pulverizing any heavy clay soil and of binding loose, sandy soil. Lime also corrects sourness in the soil, which is often due to lack of drainage, but in a case of this kind drainage should be secured.