



THE FLAT PEA.

What Various Authorities Say About Its Value.

Farmers have fought rather shy of the flat pea, although it has received attention from the agricultural press both here and abroad.

The California experiment station reports that the flat pea maintains a heavy growth with very little moisture, keeping green all summer without irrigation.

The North Carolina station reports that the flat pea requires three or more years to secure a stand, and then it is of no practical value for North Carolina.

The Kansas station reports that young seedling plants of the flat pea withstood the drought satisfactorily.

In the Michigan experiment station report for 1893 it is stated that the flat pea had grown with fair success for several years, but the feeding tests showed that sheep and cows had a decided distaste for the forage.

Dr. F. Lamson-Scribner, in the report which furnishes these facts, does not recommend the flat pea where the usual forage crops can be grown.

In the Gulf States the vegetation is perennial, but in the latitude of Washington the plants die down in the winter, although they are quite resistant to frost and are slow in starting in spring.

The spraying of muskmelons. Experiments in spraying muskmelons at the Ohio station leave the matter about thus:

A limited crop of very early muskmelons upon early soil may be grown by transplanting, and harvested without spraying, the later melons on such vines are almost certain to be rendered worthless by attacks of disease upon the vines.

Late muskmelons of late yields from early vines cannot be secured without spraying for fungous diseases, and no one can hope for success in this line without great thoroughness in spraying, beginning for southern Ohio as early as July 20, and for northern situations not later than Aug. 1.

What has been stated applies also to watermelons.

The shape of the Hogcock. According to mention made in The New England Homestead of a Danish experiment, it was found that spreading the grass or stacking it in the usual cake-shaped piles would not only reduce its quality, but retard the process of drying.

Some Things Linn Will Do. Rabbits, where they abound, do much damage to young cabbage, cauliflower, etc. A little lime dusted on the leaves occasionally in the morning while the dew is on the plants saves them from destruction.

THE FOREST WORM.

Hard to Fight and Very Destructive to Forest and Fruit Trees.

The terrible invasion of forest worms into central New York has given us an immense amount of extra work when the battle has been fought out.

We killed with torch with arsenical spray, with kerosene spraying. But Paris green does little good, and kerosene must be used cautiously.

The writer, having been conversant with the cheesemaking industry from boyhood, would not advise any one to go into it at home without some previous practical knowledge of the business.

The markets of the present day call for cheese of a certain standard quality, whether of domestic or factory manufacture. This standard must be a first class one in order to obtain a profitable price, and unless one feels full confidence in his ability to meet market requirements he should consider milk as too valuable material to experiment with.

Do not attempt the manufacturing task with crude apparatus any more than you would think of producing No. 1 butter from a ramshackle churn.

There should be from one to two inches of water space between the tin and zinc sides and bottom, the water of which can be heated from a copper fire, with zinc water packet under it.

While obtaining a small vat from a reliable dealer one had better get all the other accessories necessary, as they will be better suited to the purpose.

The demand for fine full cream cheddar cheese that do not weigh over five or ten pounds apiece is never fully satisfied.

Do not go into the business, however, unless you have some previous knowledge of it, as it will not prove profitable to experiment with so valuable a product as milk.

Widewake dairymen not afraid of lots of work and with some previous knowledge of the business can certainly make home cheesemaking profitable by following the plan outlined above.

Again we call attention to the fact that good dairy bred cattle can be had at quite reasonable prices. In fact we believe that this is a good time for those who need this kind of stock to invest in it.

Butter texture. Butter receives its texture and its consistency in the churn during churning, and defects which are produced during churning can by no means be subsequently removed.

Home Cheesemaking.

Experience Needed to Reach the High Standard Which the Market Now Demands.

As a general rule home butter making can be made to pay better than home cheesemaking and with less labor, although I have known many instances where this has been reversed.

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CALF WEANERS.

Simple Devices Which are Effective and Humane.

The days of the old fashioned weaners—made of an old boot leg or a strap full of nails—are numbered.

While these were comparatively satisfactory, as far as weaning the calf was concerned, the nails proved a cruelty to



MUZZLE WEANER.

The cows and in many cases resulted in injury. The "muzzle" weaner has for some time been familiar to those interested, but the "safety" weaner is comparatively new.



SAFETY WEANER.

ends are made so they will not wear or make it sore. The device does not interfere in the least with feeding, but is said to wean the most obstinate calf, as it prevents sucking sideways as well.

Impure Water. The dirty brook should be a theme for thought by more than one dairymen. The milk that has no runniness on his farm is more likely to have good water for his cows than the man that thinks he is blessed by a stream of running water.

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PASTURE FOR PIGS.

Clover and Rape the Best Single Crop—Alfalfa and Sorghum.

Swine raisers should make it a point to sow pasture crops this spring for their hogs. The two best crops, aside from alfalfa, where it grows well, are peas, oats, vetches and rape.

The area intended for rape should be well worked during May and given a light dressing of manure. The rape seed may be sown some time in June, in drills, at the rate of two pounds of rape and one-half pound of fat turnip seed to the acre.

Alfalfa and sorghum are two crops that our farmers who raise pigs should give a trial to this spring. I believe alfalfa to be the best pasture for swine of any when it grows well—but that is not everywhere.

Mr. Powell of Ghent strongly recommends crimson clover for a hog pasture. In a letter to the writer he leaves no room for doubt of its adaptability for swine feeding.

The best single crop is by all odds clover and rape, sown early in well prepared and fertilized ground in the proportions of 15 pounds of mixed clover seed and 5 pounds of rape. This crop will be a fair pasture for hogs 8 weeks from sowing and right through the season till late fall.

Conclusions drawn from results of experiments at the New York station are: Vines should be vigorous and not be ringed too severely.

Vines grown on renewal system should have all arms ringed and all fruit back of the ring should be removed. Fruit on unringed arm is inferior, while fruit back of a girde is worthless.

With many varieties, when properly done, ringing does not seriously injure the quality of the fruit.

Not all varieties should be ringed. Too severe ringing will kill the vines. With some varieties and in some seasons girthing will hasten time of ripening eight or ten days and in some cases increase size of bunch and berry at least half.

The 13 varieties of oats which have produced the largest crops in 1893, taking the average results obtained on all the experimental farms of Canada, are:

Table with 2 columns: Variety Name and Yield (Bushels per acre).

Likes the Zigzag Sweet Corn. Of all the intermediate varieties of sweet corn for home use The Rural New Yorker expresses a preference for the Zigzag—first, because the plants grow to a medium height and bear the ears not too high; second, the average of ears to the stalk is as large as any other excellent variety; third, the ears are just right in size and form, tapering from the butt to the tip. The kernels form as close together as possible. They are deep, the cob is small.

CULTIVATING TURNIPS.

A Better Way Than Growing Them as a Catch Crop in Corn, Etc.

So many farmers sow turnips as a catch crop in corn and potatoes that they forget there is any other method of growing them. The American Cultivator points out what it considers the better way:

As a rule catch crops do not pay. They always interfere with the late cultivation of food crops, which is always important and sometimes necessary if there is a dry time late in summer.

In either a dry or wet season turnips are better if grown where they can be cultivated and hoed. If the seed is sown in drills two feet apart, a horse can drag a narrow cultivator through this space, scratching the dry soil and not only killing small weeds, but throwing a little dust over the turnip plants. This will kill the fly that destroys the tender leaves. A better way is to scatter dry lime or gypsum in the line of the rows, thus enabling the cultivator to keep his horse between without stepping on the young plants.

A good deal of the work which the cultivation requires is offset in the catch crop by the extra labor required to hunt over a large field to gather the turnips that have cultivated could be grown on a quarter of an acre.

A farmer may sow turnips among growing corn or potatoes if he has no other place for them. But it is not an economical practice, and usually the corn or potatoes are injured by lack of cultivation more than the turnips are worth, even if they could be harvested for nothing.

A grass abundant throughout the eastern Rocky mountain region is the strongly alkaline soil, but of little value except in times of scarcity of forage, is the common salt or alkali grass. Although often producing a great deal of leafage, it is harsh and unpalatable and is refused by stock as long as other grasses are to be obtained.

How to Drain Stone With a Chain. A correspondent showing how he drains stone with a chain: Draw the chain back over the stone well up to the doubletree, then pass the chain once around the stone, over the chain at the doubletree and hook it behind. It will never come off.

Agricultural Brevities. It has been noted by the Pennsylvania station that some of the German varieties of potatoes, especially the Professor Dr. Maercker, showed great resistance to the action of the blight, very much more than any of the American varieties.

Hay is frequently baled in the field along the Hudson river, says Country Gentleman, and sent to market for immediate use. The buyer gets it for less than old hay, and the farmer sells more weight. Regular hay buyers insist on at least six weeks' curing in mow or stack.

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TARRING A WAGON WHEEL.

necessity of having tires reset and in this way soon saves itself in blacksmith bills besides preserving the wagon.

The trough, shown in the illustration, is made of sheet iron. In it he puts a supply of pine tar, which is heated over a fire to a boiling heat. The wheel is then slowly turned in the trough, which fills every nick and crevice in the wood and between the wood and tire, thus making it impervious to moisture or air.

Know the Sugar Beet. To the farmer Special Agent Taylor of the agricultural department says: "Make the acquaintance of the sugar beet. Grow it, feed it, and encourage the sugar industry. The sugar beet is extending to farmers who live in the right localities the most friendly greeting of any product I know of that can be grown on the farm. It is the leading value of the beet, and especially of the pulp, that is going to make the sugar beet industry master of the situation as compared with the cane-sugar industry."

Agricultural Brevities. The pea canning industry is of considerable importance in southern Delaware. The varieties of peas most largely used for canning are Alaska, Blue Beauty and French Canna. Advance and Market Garden are canned to a less extent.

The green worms on cabbage can be destroyed by dusting with pyrethrum or by means of hot water at a temperature of 140 degrees or 160 degrees, destroyed forcibly by means of a garden syringe, says Vick's.

Medium late cabbage may be transplanted the latter part of June and the winter cabbage proper during July.

Professor Samson of the New Hampshire station says that in all their spraying experiments during the past four or five years the Bordeaux mixture has appeared to have but little if any effect upon brown spot of apple foliage.

From six to seven cultivations of potatoes have given best yields at the Cornell station in experiments continued for four years.