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SALT FOR STRAWBERRIES.

D. Stewart, of Upper Alton, Ill., believes in salt. He says: "I believe in it as a heavy dressing. I find on manuring the ground that I have applied salt to strawberries at the rate of fifteen and a half bushels to the acre. I did this early in the season to kill the beetles, and the leaves of the strawberries were not injured. The cut worms were doing great damage to my asparagus beds, eating into the crowns of the plants; and I applied salt at the rate of twenty bushels to the acre. I consider salt as a perfect remedy against any injurious insects, as well as an excellent manure for the land."

WEED AND MANURE THE GARDEN.

There is one important fact to be borne in mind, and it is this, that neither small fruits nor choice vegetables will thrive in a very poor soil or with indifferent culture. If white clover is allowed to take possession of the strawberry patch, the berries will very soon grow small in size and few in numbers. In like manner, if purslain is permitted to grow up in the onion bed, the onions will prove an unprofitable crop to raise. Those who would have fine crops of fruit and vegetables should use plenty of manure before planting, and then keep the weeds down by frequent disturbances of the surface soil. This is one of the branches of industry connected with farm life that every one should put in practice, and once the habit formed, it is sure to be kept up.—*Tribune*.

ENGLISH IVY.

The use of English ivies for the purpose of decorating living-rooms is more extensive every year and cannot be too highly commended. Being very strong, they will live through any treatment; but study their peculiarities, and manifest willingness to gratify them, and they will grow without stint. Most houses are too hot for them, as indeed they are for their owners. Neither plants nor people should have the temperature over 65° Fahrenheit. Take care not to enfeeble your ivies by excessive watering or undue heat, and you will see they will not seem to mind whether the sun shines on them or not, or in what position or direction you train them. Indeed, so much will they do themselves to render a room charming that we would rather have an unlimited number of them to draw upon than anything else in nature or art.

Do you wish the ugly plain doors that shut off your tiny entry from your parlor to be arched or curved, like those in the drawing-rooms of your richer neighbor? Buy a couple of brackets, such as lamps for the burning of kerosene are sometimes placed in, and screw them in the sides of the door. Put in each a plant of English ivy, the longer the better; then train the plants over the top, against the sides, indeed any way your fancy dictates. You need not buy the beautiful but costly pots the flower dealers will advise; common glazed ones will answer every purpose, for, by placing in each two or three sprays of Coliseum ivy, in a month's time no vestige of the pot itself can be discerned through their thick screen.

The English ivy growing over the walls of a building, instead of promoting dampness, as most persons would suppose, is said to be a remedy for it, and it is mentioned as a fact that in a certain room where damp had prevailed for a length of time the affected parts inside had become dry when ivy had grown up to cover the opposite exterior side. The close overhanging pendent leaves prevent the rain or moisture from penetrating to the wall. Beauty and utility in this case go hand in hand.—*Journal of Horticulture*.

Experience has satisfied us that fresh saw dust, shavings, tan bark, and the like, are not good for mulching. If used for bedding horses or thrown into piles with manure and turned over once or twice until decomposed they answer well for working into the soil to loosen it up and make it more friable. Lime scattered through it sweetens it. The great objection to such is it lays too close to the surface. The best mulch is coarse straw or corn stalks scattered over the ground, just enough to hide it from the sun. Care must be taken not to put on too much, especially where snow is liable to drift, as the plants may be "smothered" out. In such locations it is well to throw on some coarse brush over the mulching, to prevent the snow laying too close and heaving, and as soon as spring opens take off the brush and stir up the mulch a trifle.—*Fruit Recorder*.

A LADY'S EXPERIENCE WITH ROSES.

Last spring I procured a box 12x18 inches and three inches deep, and filled it nearly to the top with clean paving sand, into which I placed cuttings from my neighbor's best stock, about fifteen in number. These were all quite young shoots, three to five inches long. The box was kept all through the summer in the most exposed position in the garden, and was filled every morning with water, which kept the sand constantly and thoroughly wet. Excepting in two cases they all lived nicely, and by the setting in of fall had roots two or more inches in length. I then potted them off singly, in sand, loam, and manure mixed in three-inch pots. On the approach of winter the pots were immersed to the tops in sand and covered over with brush, over which I placed a layer of leaves and fresh horse manure. Three weeks ago they were all exhumed, and only two of the pots found to be broken by frost, whilst all the plants were green (excepting the absence of leaves) as the day they were buried. Up to this time they have been exposed in a window fronting south, and not one of them contains less than fifty leaves, and have a fair prospect of budding within a fortnight. I have learned more from an experience like the above than I have gained in poring over a learned treatise. If any beginner can be benefited by it, he or she is doubly welcome.—*North Western Farmer*.

EFFECTS OF TAR ON FRUIT TREES.

I wish to state a curious effect of tar upon fruit trees which came under my observation this year, and I hope it may prove a warning to all your readers who may think of painting trees to prevent hares or rabbits from barking them, or for any other purpose. These trees were painted from the ground upward, one or two feet; and almost every tree—apple, pear, peach, quince and all—ceased to grow painted, while that part of the body above the painted portion continued to grow, expand, and thrive, as if nothing had happened—bark, branches and leaves all looking very thrifty. A few of the trees died suddenly while in full leaf; the others are now fine-looking above, but the body, where the tar covered it, looks as though it had a laced jacket of iron around it for one year and is a half inch or more less in diameter. I think the whole orchard will finally die; for some of the trees, from weakness of the stem below and growing weight above, are toppling over. Does this not show that the entire bark of a tree as well as the leaf is an organ of respiration? I shall continue my observations, and give you the result.—*R. N. J. Wilson, in Southern Farm Home*.

TULIPS.

Messrs. Briggs & Bro., in their catalogue, have the following upon tulip culture. The *Western Rural* would not advise the removal of tulips as there directed unless the space be especially wanted for other bloomers, since they are much finer if allowed to remain. They need not be separated and re-planted oftener than once in three or four years. It is better that the bed be covered with mulch during the winter months to prevent deep freezing of the ground.

The tulip has long held sway as queen of the bulbous flowers, and for generations has been emphatically the chief "florist's flower" among bulbs. Its gorgeousness in colors is all that could be desired by the most fastidious, and by its bold, brilliant appearance it recommends itself to all. Planted in beds or glassed, the effect is most striking, unique and complete, and cannot fail when so treated to give the most entire satisfaction. The tulip is by far the most easily grown and satisfactory of all bulbs, and as it does not deteriorate, a good stock will last for years. The tulip will succeed in almost any good soil; still it should be borne in mind that not only the tulip, but all bulbs will succeed best in bright rich soil. Plant them three inches deep and six inches apart, and if convenient mulch the bed with coarse manure, etc., during winter—the effect when in bloom will be much higher. When the plants are thoroughly blooming they may, if desired, be carefully lifted and re-planted thickly together in any convenient spot in the garden, where they may remain until again wanted in the fall, and the bed from whence they were removed be used with summer flowering plants. Some people prefer, when the foliage begins to lessen, to take them up, dry them and keep them in the house until they are again wanted.

TRANSPLANTING PIE PLANT.

The *Western Pomologist* says: "We have cultivated pie plant extensively for market, and find the best time to transplant is in the fall after the first frost. If the stools are large and require a division do not dig them up but divide them as they stand with a spade by cutting off or dividing through the centre of the plant, leaving the part in the ground undisturbed. By this method you will have a good crop the next spring on those left in the ground, and the balance you can divide up and reset, and they will bear a good crop the second year but not the first. We have plants now standing ten years, divided in the above manner, (when they get too large) and each year produce a good crop. The ground cannot be too rich, but must not be wet, or the plants die out."

Mr. Stall, who has lately conducted a series of experiments with a view to hastening the ripening of fruits, announces that this result may be obtained by lessening the depth of the earth about the roots of the fruit-bearing trees. As an instance, it is stated that the ripening of pears upon an early tree was hastened by simply removing the earth for a circuit of fifteen feet about the roots, the soil being left about two or two and one-half inches above the roots. The theory is, that by thus exposing the roots they receive more warmth from the sun, and these, by the frequent application of water, are more active in supplying the life-giving sap to the fruit above. Interesting as these results appear, we confess that we are hardly prepared to endorse them, and yet the repetition of the experiment may so readily be accomplished that any interested reader might with little difficulty aid toward the establishment, or, if need be, the demolition of this new theory of growth.—*Appleton's Journal*.

SHEEP IN ORCHARDS.

J. Higgins stated, at a late meeting of the Alton Horticultural Society, that he had long been in the practice of turning sheep into his apple orchards, and, as long as they have green pasture they will not touch the bark of the trees, but they are carefully watched. He has one old sheep only that knows how good apple bark is. When there is snow on the ground the sheep will of course eat the bark. But the only time when the presence of the sheep is needed is in summer when the wormy fruit is dropping. We know a farmer in Western New York who turns his sheep into his large orchard during the day and into another field at night. They never touch the trees, and he finds the codling moth growing scarcer each successive year.

BIRDS VS. GRASSHOPPERS.

Small birds which somewhat resemble sparrows have appeared in great numbers in Texas, and devouring the hitherto prosperous grasshoppers.

A correspondent of the *Horticulturalist* writes thus:—

One of the lessons the past winter will teach us is to thoroughly mulch in September all young stock in nursery, vineyard, and garden, to prevent root-killing by the effects of dry flls and hard winters. Once in seven years we have one of these extremely hard winters, and occasionally a dry fall between. The extent of injury to roots of pears, apples, grape vines and small fruits, is far greater than the injury to the tops, and greater than at present believed. Experience is a hard teacher, but let us heed and learn to be wise.

Cutting off large canes of the current season's growth and stripping off the foliage that the sun may have fair access to the fruit, are practices that are repudiated by all good cultivators. Superfluous growth should be checked by pinching when it first manifests itself, and the direct rays of the sun should never reach the fruit.

Dr. Hall says the best medicine in the world, more efficient in the cure of disease than all the potencies of the materia medica, are warmth, rest, cleanliness, and pure air. Some persons make it a virtue to brave disease, "to keep up" so long as they can move a foot, or crook a finger, and it sometimes seeds; but in others, the powers of life are thereby so completely exhausted that the system has lost ability to recuperate, and typhoid fever sets in and carries the patient to a premature grave. Whenever walking or work is an effort, a warm bed and a cool room are the very first indispensables to a sure and speedy recovery. Insect leads all beasts and birds to quietude and rest the very moment disease or wounds assail the system.

Correspondence.

MR. EDITOR,—

Enclosed you will find an account of the last meeting of the North Norwich Farmers' Club.

Subject:—Canada thistles. John Ray, President.

The President said some advised cutting in the full of the moon and some in the new of the moon. He thought both times were good, and would advise cutting at any time and every time they were seen. Said he had had considerable experience with Canada thistles. Had lived on a rented farm that was overrun with the pests. Lived now on a lot that was noted as a thistle patch, and said to be the first farm in Norwich on which Canada thistles appeared. As for that he could not say, as he had lived but a short time in Norwich. Had killed many patches. Plan as follows:—breaks up a sod, and sows to peas the first year; the second year he summer fallows, and sows to fall wheat. The summer fallowing does the business of killing, but it must not be a half-way fallow nor a common fallow. It must be plowed five times when the patches exist, and three times when not infested. Besides this the ground must be cultivated and harrowed several times. To accomplish this he plowed the patches just before spring seedling; then after seeding plowed the whole fallow; then cultivated and harrowed, and plowed again after planting; then, a couple of weeks before plowing for seed, he plowed the patches again, and their fifth plowing was given in plowing for seed. Thinks the whole secret consists in keeping them out of sight.

Mr. Losee had not much experience with Canada thistles, but believed Mr. Ray to be right.

Elias Mott agreed with Mr. Ray. Thinks spring crops disseminate the thistles. Said the seeds perfected best in a wet season. The next best method to a summer fallow for destroying thistles he considered to be a well tended corn crop, because we kill the weed and get paid for doing it. Thinks mowing is the third best way. Said the law with regard to Canada thistles is a dead letter, and should be rigidly enforced. Besides the seeds are disseminated from the highway more than from the farms.

Mr. Gillan and J. Pollock endorsed all that had been said.

F. Wasley thinks mowing is the best wholesale way of destroying thistles.

E. C. Palmer said a common summer fallow made the thistles four times worse than they were before. Thinks a good tough sod and mowing the best and most practicable method.

F. Barnes thought corn the best crop to put on a thistle patch. A well salted pasture he considered good.

W. S. Moon endorsed Mr. Ray's views. Thinks corn is not suitable, because it cannot be attended to during haying and harvest.

Action by the Club before the Council was deferred until winter. The Club is pledged to enforce the law next year.

The Club held a picnic in the grove of H. T. Losee, Esq., on Saturday, August 30th. The ladies were the chief promoters of the affair, which was an undoubted success. Feasting, music and speaking was the role of the day. The Club was greatly encouraged by speakers who were not members to pursue the course they had thus far pursued.

B. J. P.

New Durham, Sept. 1st, 1873.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.)

SIR,—In the last annual report of the Agricultural Mutual Assurance Association of Canada, I find the following remarks on the proposed new Insurance Bill:—

"One is now before Parliament to regulate Mutual Insurance Companies. Your Directors will not go the length that many persons do and say that it is brought forward with the intention of hampering and belittling Mutual Insurance Companies, with the intention of building up a certain stock company of recent origin in which it is alleged that the promoters of the Bill have personal interest. But, certain it is, that if the Bill