

Fall or Spring Planting?

We should be very glad if you could send us any information as to the best time to plant a young orchard of five acres. Would it do to plant it now, or wait till spring? We were wondering, if it would not be safe to plant it now; how it would be to dig the holes now and put in plenty of short manure in the hole and cover a little earth over it, and then in the spring stir them up and put in the trees; but we would rather put in the trees now if you think the frost will not kill them. Any information you can give us we should be very glad of. Thanking you in anticipation of the same,

W. W.

Ans.—With reference to time of planting trees, I may say that they may be planted either in the fall or spring, although spring planting is safer for our northern district. Some seasons fall-planted trees do quite as well as those planted in the spring, but if we should have another such severe winter as the last, fall-planted trees would be more or less seriously injured, if not destroyed. With very hardy kinds, such as many of the Russian varieties, there would be little danger of planting in the fall, but in general we consider it safer to recommend early spring planting.

I would not recommend putting manure in the holes in which the trees are to be planted. It would do no harm to dig the holes this fall and allow the frost to act on the ground, but the manure should be applied after the trees are planted, as a surface mulch.

H. L. HUTT.

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Frames.

By Morley Pettit.

Now is the time to order new hives and other supplies for next season. While the work of the present season is in mind, one can plan most clearly for next. The frame is one of the most important things about the hive. It must be carefully and accurately made of design most suitable for use. "Movable" frames should be easily moved. The majority of frames in use by smaller beekeepers are not movable, because they are so made that the bees glue and wax them together in every way.

The frame I would recommend has a 9-8-inch wide by 5-8-inch thick top bar, and a 1/4-inch wide by 1/4-inch thick bottom bar. The side bars are full quarter inch thick, 9-8 inch wide at top, and tapering from the middle to 1/4-inch at bottom. This makes a sort of wedge-shaped comb which has many advantages over one with wide bottom bar. (1) It slips in and out of the hive much more easily. The wide bottoms scrape bees against the next comb, unless handled very slowly. (2) Dead bees in winter do not lodge on it, but drop down clear of the combs. (3) If a double brood-chamber is desired, the queen goes up more freely than through the narrow spaces between wide bottom bars. (4) Two frames slightly out of square, with wide bottom bars, come together and are glued fast.

A right bee-space is one-quarter inch. Top bars of frames must be held just that distance apart. To me, the most satisfactory spacer is a 1/4-inch bed-staple, driven into the top bar on opposite sides at opposite ends—two for each top bar—left projecting one-quarter inch. Frames so spaced can be turned either end, and dumped into the super with no thought of spacing. They space themselves, with the exception of one end of each outside frame.

Dr. Miller, in a recent article in "Gleanings," upholds a nail with flat head instead of the staple. He states that in conversation I frankly admitted that the staple would sometimes cut into the wood of the next frame, and, in the two seasons since that conversation, I have not found that trouble worth considering. The main objection to the nail is that in sliding a frame into place the head is sure to catch like a hook on the next frame.

Uses of Bees on the Farm.

An experienced beekeeper, writing on this subject, says:

"There are only two great uses, and they should be remembered and utilized by every farmer who desires to get the most good out of his farm: Fertilization of the bloom of his farm crops, of field, orchard, garden and meadow. It is now generally conceded that the honeybee is the best distributant of pollen plants of all other insects, and it is a fact that without this union of sexes the vegetable kingdom would cease, as it would with the animal. So we can see, if these things be true, that our meat, bread and fruit and the feed of our animals greatly depend on the presence and work of the honeybee.

"What is the other great use of the bee on the farm? The answer is plain. It is the production of honey—a pure sweet that is the most valuable of all sweets, because it is pure as gathered from the flowers that God made, and is good as a medicine, and superior to all others as a good sweet. Honey is the purest and sweetest, as all will concede.

I enclose my renewal for this year, and wish you paper success, as it really is a useful advocate for the farmer.

THOMAS PEWTRESS.

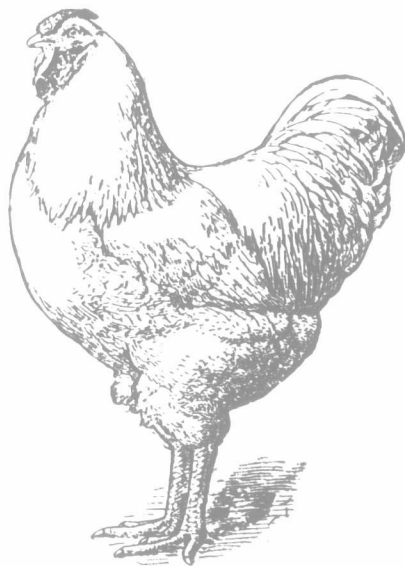
Pointe Claire, Que.

POULTRY.

Housecleaning Time in Hendom.

While the greatest fight with lice and mites was during July and August, the war must be continually waged to be effective. When we consider how fast insects multiply it is readily seen how a single halt in this branch of supervision does untold mischief.

Keep the walls brushed off with an old broom used especially for this purpose. Cobwebs make nice lurking places for the six-footed pests. A spray pump is invaluable in preserving cleanliness, economizing in insecticides used, besides forcing them into every crack and corner in a manner impossible by any other way.



White Wyandotte Cock.

There are expensive spraying outfits, which for fruit have their advantages. In fact, the Bordeaux mixtures require a copper pump, but for ordinary use a cheap tin pump, costing not over one dollar, is quite sufficient. Kerosene emulsion, made from any of the numerous formulæ issued from time to time in Government bulletins, will be found quite effective. There are liquid paints, proprietary it is true, which give satisfaction. Dissolve a bar of ordinary laundry soap in a little water, and add a few cents' worth of carbolic acid crystals. When all is melted, let cool, and you have a soap that will yield an excellent insecticide in the form of suds. After cleaning the poultry-house, force this into the cracks, and over the walls and perches, with the spray pump. It is cheap, harmless and effective. It cleans, while it clears of insect life in general, and the carbolic solution is also one of the best disinfectants. Leave all doors and windows open, and if the

spraying is done in morning, sunshine will have dispelled all dampness.

At no season are droppings more harmful than now, if not removed frequently. The moisture in the atmosphere attending the fall rains renders the air especially obnoxious, unless the utmost precaution regarding cleanliness is observed. The fertilizer thus obtained may be a desirable adjunct to the garden or flower-bed. So concentrated is this form of fertilizer that nine people out of ten are afraid to use it, and yet excellent results come after such use. The fault is in not having it thoroughly mixed with some other medium, or in using too much. Mixed with an equal quantity of dry earth, it may be applied about the rose bushes and other shrubbery late in fall, or let it go into the garden for another year. Fruit trees would be benefited by a light covering, and soil worked over this to prevent dissipation in the air, or have a barrel or box, with a tight cover, into which it can be transferred, ready for spring use. At that time, if flowers, garden or orchard do not need it, the corn does. A little applied in each hill will give rich returns. Last season a neighbor cleaned out his henhouse, and gave a large cucumber patch the benefit of the renovation. The result was an abundant and early crop of cucumbers.

The value of fresh earth for daily use should always be remembered. Did you ever notice how thoroughly the hen enjoys her first scratch or wallow in the ground in spring? It is very easy to save a barrel of dust from the road during pleasant weather, and it will work wonders in keeping the hen healthy and happy during the winter.

Finally, use plenty of insect powder. When cleaning the house, dust each hen separately with the powder. Keep it in nest boxes, and around growing chicks. There are good and worthless powders on the market. If it does not tempt you to sneeze, you have probably been victimized by the latter.—[Bessie L. Putman, in Farm Poultry.

How to Feed Coarse Fodder.

If one has properly prepared for winter he will have on hand lawn clippings, clover hay, or other coarse fodder, with which to refresh the poultry during the long months of confinement. This green food is much appreciated by the fowl, but they often have difficulty in getting it down their throats in small enough pieces, or soon soil it by tramping over it when it is thrown to them on the floor. These difficulties require remedying, and a good plan to start with is to run the long stuff through the cutting box in order to reduce it to mouthfuls of convenient size. After this, some sort of a rack should be arranged to hold the green feed, so that it will not become soiled before being eaten, and thus prevent the danger of setting up diarrhoea or cholera. Such a rack can be made by nailing a wooden frame against the wall and covering it with wire netting. Into this rack the clippings or cut clover can be packed, so that the hens can take what they want and then go about their business. There is no danger of their breaths making it unpalatable, as is the case with larger stock, and when so fed very little is wasted.



British Columbia Fruit Exhibit at Brandon Exhibition, August, 1904.