



Raises Potatoes Without Spraying

I have been asked how I prevent blight and other potato diseases and what my practice is when it comes to spraying. I never have to spray, and I believe if my plan is followed it will not be necessary. Briefly, my practice is as follows:—

First, I consider it exceedingly important to get the very best seed obtainable. I pick mine at digging time and never plant a potato that shows the least signs of disease. All my seed potatoes are smooth, of good shape, and so far as I can determine they are absolutely free from scab, blight or any disease to which potatoes are subject. In addition, I find that if I never pays to plant potatoes more often in the same ground. It is better to grow them only once. In this way I have been able to keep my potatoes absolutely free from disease and, consequently, have not been put to the expense and trouble of combating blight or any other potato pests.

My soil is light, sandy loam, formerly covered with timber. I prefer a slight slope toward the south or east. The land will then drain well. Potatoes should never be planted on soil that is not free from surplus moisture.

I choose a clover sod and plow it deeply in the fall. In the spring I put on whatever fertilizer I desire to use and begin harrowing and disking until the surface is thoroughly pulverized. I then "farrow out" with a one-horse shovel plow, placing the rows 2 1/2 feet apart. I drop my potato seed by hand, planning to have the hills 14 inches apart. I cover with the cultivator, and just as soon as the plants begin to appear above the ground I go over the field with the harrow. As soon as I can see the rows across the field, I cultivate with a cultivator equipped with very small shovels, then follow with a six-shovel cultivator. I continue with this six-shovel cultivator just as often as I can until the potatoes begin to bloom. Then I abandon the cultivator and use the hoe. In this way I keep down the weeds until digging time comes.

In marketing I grade my potatoes, separating the large ones from the small ones, making two grades. In this way I secure the highest possible price for the large potatoes, and am then content to take what I can get for the little ones. I use a special potato fertilizer put out by a fertilizer concern. You can see that my method involves nothing new or startling. I simply use good soil, have it plenty rich enough, cultivate thoroughly and often, keep down the weeds with a hoe, grade my potatoes, and in this way I am able to take prizes with my potatoes and also to secure good returns from my work.

Ashes as Fertilizer

Sifted coal ashes absorb liquid, fix volatile ammonia, prevent of ammonia, and are valuable as absorbers under hen roosts or on the stables. They are of little value as far as plant food is concerned, but they can be used with good results upon some soils in loosening them up. The potash in ashes exists in a readily soluble form, and is thus immediately available for plant food. They also contain a little magnesium and a considerable amount of carbonate of lime, which is of some importance because of its effect in improving the texture of heavy soils.

Wood ashes may be applied to land at the rate of 50 to 100 bushels (1,000 to 2,000 pounds) to the acre. One ton of good wood ashes will contain 140 pounds of potash and 40 pounds of phosphoric acid. Spring is the best time to apply them. They can be used for any crops that need potash. For cultivated crops they should be applied broadcast after the land has been harrowed and then cultivated in by a light harrowing. They can be used also as a top dressing in connection with phosphate fertilizers.

It is claimed that the average sample of unbleached wood ashes contains about seven per cent. of potash and two per cent. of phosphoric acid. Besides the actual fertilizing value by reason of the potash and phosphoric acid, there is some value to ashes simply by the power which the potash has to make the nitrogen of the soil available for plant use by its chemical action upon the organic matter and humus of the soil. As before stated, the potash in the ashes exists in a really soluble form and is thus immediately converted into plant food.

A LONG CLING

Mrs. Shortley was discussing the latest fashions with a young lady caller.

"Did you say your husband was fond of those clinging gowns, Mae?"

"Yes, he likes one to cling to me for about three years."

A strong minded man is one who has occasion to say, "told you so" and doesn't.

Raising Calves by Hand

Except where cattle are kept for strictly beef purposes, it pays to raise the calf by hand. It is just as easy to feed the calf when you once learn how it is done as it is to let it suck the cow and then turn it away.

A good dairy cow will give more than the calf needs for its normal growth. When the calf is turned to the cow each morning and evening for sucking there is never any surplus milk as to how much milk it gets. It may get all that it needs, more than it needs, or it may get a very small amount. Hence the calf may be undernourished. In addition, it is fed at one time and overfed at another. By the hand method the milk is measured for each feed and its better to grow them only once. In this way I have been able to keep my potatoes absolutely free from disease and, consequently, have not been put to the expense and trouble of combating blight or any other potato pests.

The skim-milk which is fed to the calf has a low commercial value compared to whole milk or cream, but it contains the necessary elements for young animal life and growth, for the making of bone, bone and flesh. The butter fat, or cream, of milk is a carbon compound, and is utilized in the animal economy for the production of animal heat and energy, just as the fuel does for the engine.

A young cow can be taught to eat shelled corn or cornmeal at a very early age, and corn is worth on the market only about one-twentieth as much as butter fat. Making a rough estimate that 4 pounds of corn will supply the calf with as much heat and energy as 1 pound of butter fat, then the corn fed the calf would net about \$2 per bushel, which is a good price for corn.

Another great factor in raising calves by hand is that they become very gentle and confiding in human handling. This is a very important item, especially where heifers are kept for milk cows. Then gentle and confiding cow, which is to be handled for ten to fifteen years, is almost a priceless animal. In taming domestic animals there is nothing that will win their confidence so quickly as feeding, allowing them to eat in your presence. You have satisfied their vital needs, and they will always feel that your presence is an assurance for something good.

In raising a calf by hand, allow it to suckle the cow only two or three times at first. Many prefer not to let it suckle the cow at all. At the first hand feed place warm milk fresh from the cow in a shallow pail or pan and place two of your fingers in its mouth. As it begins to suck on the fingers, draw its mouth in contact with the warm milk. By moving the two fingers apart a little some of the milk will be drawn into the calf's mouth.

After several times of this operation all that will be necessary is to place the fingers to them out of the calf and lower them to the milk pail, when the calf will drink without further aid. Within a few days it will drink without personal assistance. At first feed the young calf about 2 quarts of whole milk twice a day, fresh from the cow. As the calf grows older milk amount may be increased according to the size of the calf and other general feeding conditions. At about one week of age skim-milk may be used for one feed each day, and by the end of the second week skim-milk may be given at both feeds. The skim-milk should always be warmed to about blood temperature. When the calf is about three weeks old it may be taught to eat bran and shelled corn, and one ear of corn to the feed is about the right quantity. With the exception of milk, give the young calf dry feeds. Allow it access to hay or corn husks, which it will soon begin to chew and eat. Some are troubled with scours, but give feed regularly and in regular amounts, with never over-feeding, and you will experience little difficulty.

Vincent Astor will pay the State of New York a tax of \$2,741,823 upon his inheritance of \$88,950,539 from the estate of his father, John Jacob Astor. The tax on the entire estate of Col. Astor is \$3,316,992. This includes \$109,000 against the estate of the posthumous child, John Jacob Astor; \$177,370 on the estate of the daughter, Muriel; and \$299,450 on that bequeathed to Mr. Astor's second wife, Madeleine Force Astor.

The house of Adolph Schlammann in East Bristol, Conn., struck by lightning Friday, was struck 24 years ago on exactly the same day of the year when it was owned by Bernard Smith.

Rich Hair Long, thick, heavy hair. Want this kind? Ayer's Hair Vigor promotes growth. Does not color the hair. Ask Your Doctor. Made by J. C. Ayer Co., Montreal, Canada.

Keep the Roosters Separate

Investigation and experiment have demonstrated that fertile eggs do not keep in usable condition very long unless in cold storage or other wise preserved, and that under ordinary conditions they begin to deteriorate in quality in a few days, the best poultry practice of the present time is to keep roosters out of the laying flocks, and there is considerable teaching and agitation along this line by those who are working for better conditions, more perfect product and larger profits in the poultry business.

Following an ingenious line of argument by G. E. Chapman, poultry specialist of the University of Minnesota, Farm, let us suppose that during the hatching season there were produced an average of five roosters on the 60,000 farms. What shall be done with these 300,000 roosters? If they are allowed to run, the eggs laid by the hens will likely be fertile and will be spoiled by the development of chicks or by the naturally quicker rotting of fertile eggs caused by hot weather.

Mr. Chapman estimates that the loss through changes in fertile eggs during the four summer months will be half as much as the roosters will be worth in the fall. Whether these conditions would be the same in N. E. as in Minnesota, we can only suppose. Mr. Chapman also estimated that if the roosters were kept by themselves, it would cost five cents a month beside the labor. This would aggregate for the four months \$80,000. If sold at ten cents per pound and they averaged six pounds in weight, they would bring \$180,000.

Mr. Chapman thinks that this money in the pocket-books of the farmers would be much better than the roosters in the poultry yards. Mr. Chapman says:— "If you have a standard-bred bird, healthy and vigorous, keep him if you wish, but don't let him run with the laying flock. We want to establish the reputation and maintain the quality of Minnesota eggs. Our eggs should command the same premiums in the markets as does our creamery butter, but they never will with 750,000 roosters on the farms during the next four months. It is simply a question of roosters versus reputation."

Pin Feathers

Common field peas are an excellent egg-producing food, owing to the large amount of nitrogenous substances contained in them.

Green ducks are shipped to market unclean, and with heads on. They are picked down one-half of the neck and to the first wing joint.

The Muscovy duck has to be from two to four weeks older than the Pekin before it can be dressed, and is sometimes four months old when killed.

A very good block for decapitating fowls is made by driving two spikes or nails along one side of a heavy block of wood, far enough apart to allow the fowl's neck to slip between them. This holds it in place and makes it easy to complete the work at one blow.

Dry-picked poultry will stand longer shipment than those that are scalded.

In dry-picking, pluck the feathers while the body is still warm.

Shippers of live stock poultry should never use coops which are too small to carry the poultry properly. Poultry arriving in a cramped and wretched condition will not command satisfactory prices, and, furthermore, the commission man is apt to get himself into serious trouble with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals unless the stock is removed immediately into other coops, and these are not available at all times.

Need of Lime

Lime should be applied to vegetable soils every four or five years, half a ton to a ton an acre. It frees plant food, improves the physical character of the soil, neutralizes acids, is unfavorable to certain diseases and is of especial value in the improvement of refractory soils, such as the city home garden must often use or do without a garden. Any of the three ordinary forms are satisfactory, but the gardener must be sure the price is in proper proportion. Ratios of value are:—Fifty-six pounds quicklime are equivalent to 74 pounds water-slaked or hydrated lime and to 100 pounds limestone rock or air-slaked lime. Good physical condition for distribution is very important. This material is best applied broadcast in the spring after ploughing. It should not be used in advance of potatoes, as it favors scab. No increase in a single element of soil treatment will bring the highest returns unless all other essentials are present in proper proportions. No amount of nitrogen will bring a good crop if the soil is in bad physical condition, or if the mineral elements are lacking.

WILSON'S FLY PAD. POISON There are many imitations of this best of all fly killers. Ask for Wilson's, be sure you get them, and avoid disappointment.

ADVICE TO A TEAMSTER BY A FATHER

The following principles or great truths instilled in a youngster by his father may be of benefit to the teamster. At any rate, they offer good food for reflection to any man who deals in horseflesh.

Give a horse a chance. There is time enough after that to make him go.

A horse naturally becomes more or less like his driver.

Most balking horses are made balky by their drivers.

Never whip a horse because you are angry.

A good teamster gains the confidence of his team.

A horse should be made to fear the whip rather than feel it.

Teach a team to pull a light load right and they will pull a heavy load right.

Never train a team on a heavy load.

Never scold a team for breaking an evenstep.

Load light at first and heavier afterwards.

Never pull a team when they are out of breath.

Do not allow a team to stop at will but stop them soon afterward.

Short stops and often is a good rule for resting horses.

A horse that will stop when he is told to, will seldom run away.

It is all right for your horse to have speed if you never find it out.

Move a little yourself to get started instead of asking your team to make up lost time.

At Baltimore, Sunday morning while walking in his sleep Richard Brooks, fifty-nine years old, fell down a flight of steps and was killed. Just eighteen months ago Warren Pierman an uncle of Mr. Brooks, fell down the same steps and died a week later.

SUNBURN. BLISTERS, SORE FEET. Everybody has had these. Let us give YOU one and you will never have another. Zani-Buk

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AILING WOMEN OF MIDDLE AGE

Mrs. Doucette Tells of her Distressing Symptoms During Change of Life and How She Found Relief.



Belleville, Nova Scotia, Can.—"Three years ago I was suffering badly with what the doctors called Change of Life. I was so bad that I had to stay in bed. Some friends told me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and it helped me from the start. It is the only medicine I took that did help me and I recommend it. You don't know how thankful and grateful I am. I give you permission to publish what your good medicine has done for me."—Mrs. SIMON DOUCETTE, Belleville, Yarmouth Co., Nova Scotia, Canada.

Such warning symptoms as sense of suffocation, hot flashes, headaches, back-aches, dizziness, nervousness, irritability, palpitation of the heart, sparks before the eyes, irregularities, constipation, variable appetite, weakness and inquietude, and dizziness, are promptly heeded by intelligent women who are approaching the period in life when woman's great change may be expected.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound invigorates and strengthens the female organism and builds up the weakened nervous system. It has carried many women safely through this crisis.

If you want special advice write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential) Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman, and held in strict confidence.

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