

**TO DESTROY LICE ON CATTLE.**

A farmer, in the "Rural New Yorker" says: I have tried many remedies, yet I have found none which effects a cure as quickly and thoroughly as to make a strong suds of soft soap and rain water, adding a handful or so of common salt, which forms a thick, paste-like substance. Apply this by rubbing it thoroughly over the animal. If using it upon colts, blanket them well to prevent them catching cold. I have known one application to entirely obliterate all traces of these pests, leaving the skin in a natural and healthy state."

**IMPROVEMENT IN GRAIN.**

Experiments have demonstrated, and analogy has shown, that the finest and best samples of seed, continued for years, will improve the quality and quantity of the product. A better wheat is thus raised; even a variety may be established. On this principle, in farm stock, we have the short-horn, the blooded horses, and the different breeds of sheep, swine, poultry, &c. Experiments have been made on the human species, but the same, no doubt, holds good there.

We plant and sow "as it comes." We take the seed of the same grain that we use in the aggregate, and sow it. Is not this the case almost always? Corn is an exception to some extent—but why do we except corn? Because it is handy to select. But why select at all? Because it is understood to be good. Analogically, then, it is good to do the same with wheat, oats, barley, &c. But this is less easily done; we therefore neglect it. How long will it take a farmer to go through his wheat and secure the finest and ripest heads sufficient to sow an acre, or half an acre, or a quarter—or even a pint of seed? This pint sowed

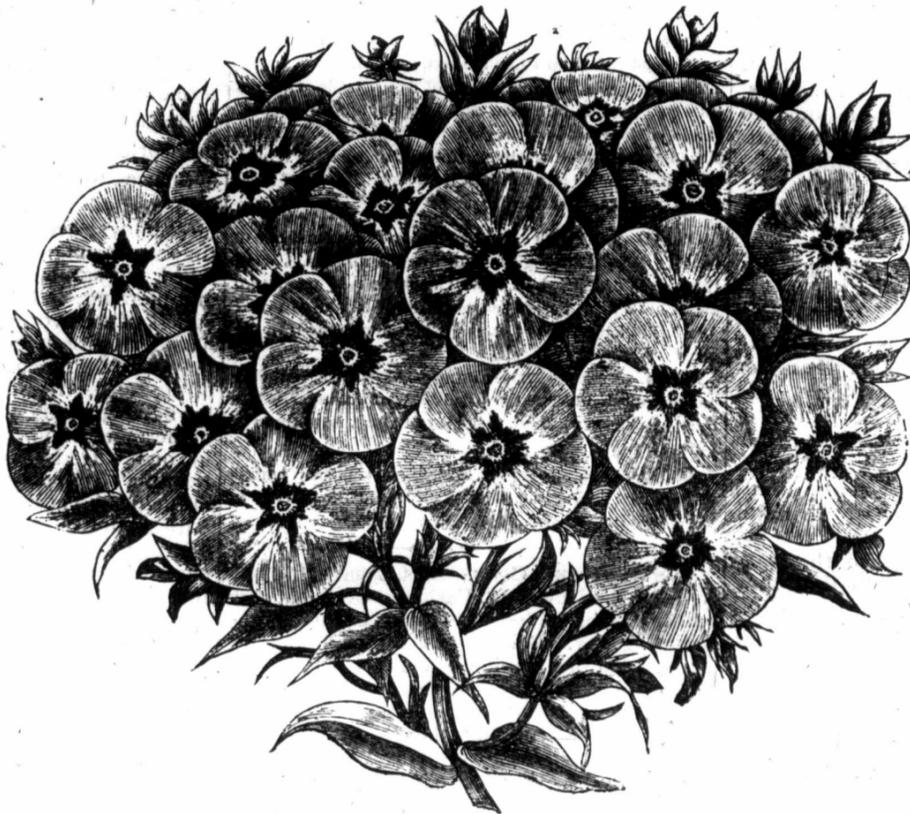
will be sufficient to form a test crop. The best heads taken from this again, and sowed, will yield another test crop, from which should be taken as before; and so on for a number of years, say half a dozen,—more still better. But three or four years will work a decided difference. But the thing should be continued from selected wheat every time. In this way grain can be improved and crops enlarged. There will be larger grains, earlier maturity and better growth.—*Rural World.*

**ALSIKE CLOVER.**

One of our readers in the States is applying to us for a quantity of Alsike Clover. We disposed of all our stock in the Spring, and could not supply sufficient for our customers. If any one has any good seed of that kind on hand, please forward a sample to us, stating price and quantity at command; or as soon as any one threshes their new crop, please send a sample and state price. A quarter of a pound may be sent by mail for four cents.

**PICKLED WALNUTS.**—I have procured from an English lady a receipt for making walnut pickles. She informs me that butternuts will answer the purpose, but are not so nice as the English walnut. Gather the nuts just before the kernel commences to harden, prick them through and through several times with a coarse needle, put them into a crock, pour over them rather strong brine, and allow them to remain for three or four days; drain and spread them in the sun until they are dry and have turned to a dark brown or nearly black. Put them now into a suitable jar, and pour over them boiling spiced vinegar, using 2 ounces of mustard seed, a little mace, 2 ounces of allspice, and 2 ounces of whole black pepper, to one gallon of vinegar. A few onions may be added if your taste will permit. This pickle may be used at any time after making, but is much better for being kept a year. After the pickles are used, the vinegar may be boiled and bottled for catsup, as it is excellent.

Thirteen machines entered and competed, all performing the allotted task in first-rate style. It must have been a hard matter for the judges, Messrs. Biggins, Arbuckle and Willis, to decide which was best. They, however, awarded the 1st prize to a "Junior Mower," manufactured by Richmond Hill; the 2nd to a "Ball's Ohio," made in St. Mary's; the 3rd to an improved St. George Machine, improved by Alex. McArthur, and manufactured by Potter of Elora; the 4th to a "Ball's Ohio," manufactured by Glen of Oshawa. It was the opinion of a large majority present, that the improved St. George should have got the 1st prize. Every machine on the ground mowed perfectly to suit any farmer.—The coming Reaping Match will be a better test of their general usefulness.



PHLOX DRUMMONDII—FLOWERS NATURAL SIZE.

**PHLOX DRUMMONDII.**

As the present is the season for flowers, we give you the representation of the Phlox Drummondii. We hope the seeds which we supplied you in the spring are now adorning your gardens. Some of ours have not proved quite as good as last season, but the majority of them are doing very well. The Dahlias never were better, and the roses have been magnificent where the rose caterpillar has not destroyed the leaves. We hope to be able to show an entirely new flower at the Exhibition, or, at least, one that we have never seen or heard of in Canada. If it does well with us we shall give you full particulars in due time about it.

**MOWING MATCH.**

The South Huron Agricultural Society's annual Mowing Match came off near Kippen, last Thursday, the 15th July. It was a great success, nearly a thousand people present.

**A STORY WITH A MORAL.**  
—We were told on Saturday the story of a robin, which is one of those little incidents in the natural course of things which circumstances sometimes impress upon the mind, and which leave their lessons to call up the better feelings of even a reporter's nature. A few days ago a lady living on Paddock Street, was attracted to her garden by a fluttering noise, and upon looking in the direction from which it came, she saw a young robin in the mouth of a cat, while the parent bird was firmly fastened to the animal's back, and madly pecking at its neck and eyes, in order to make it give up its prey. The lady chased the cat away, causing it to drop the bird; while the old robin flew to a tree, and the poor little fledgling lay unincumbered and trembling upon the ground. It was taken up and carefully placed in an artificial nest prepared for it

in a basket, its brave defender in the meantime flying back and forth, as if determined not to forsake it, yet afraid to alight in the yard where it was placed. Then the lady suspended the basket from the upper story window, and the mother, venturing nearer and nearer, soon alighted on the edge of the basket, and finally hopped into it beside its young one. Every day since, with a care, beautiful in its solicitude, the old robin returns with food, gravel and leaves to the nest, and ere the little adventurer is permitted to spread its pinions again, it will be able to guard itself against its natural enemies, while it will doubtless always remember its adopted home and kind protector.

**Answers to Correspondents.**

J. Manning, West McGillivray—You do not state if your land is in crop now or not. Plough as soon as possible if in early grain; sow rape broadcast, and plough under; sow clover early; plaster in the spring. Rye does not make a good crop to plough under. You soon can remit by mail in postage stamps or bills at our risk when registered.