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## HORTICULTURE

### An Orchard Competition

Editor, Farm and Dairy.—The Ontario Department of Agriculture and the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association will this year conduct an orchard competition in all parts of the province. We wish to bring this to the attention of fruit growers everywhere at as early a date as possible. The money for this competition has been secured from the Federal grant, and announcement of the competition could not have been made earlier. It is a little bit late now, but we desire to go on with it this year and are, therefore, anxious to get in touch with Farm and Dairy readers through the next issue of your publication.

The province will be divided into six districts, as follows:

No. 1, Eastern Ontario District, comprising Lennox, Addington, Frontenac, Renfrew, Leeds, Lanark, Grenville, Carleton, Dundas, Russell, Stormont, Glengarry, and Prescott.

No. 2, Lake Ontario District, comprising Halton, Peel, York, Ontario, Durham, Northumberland, Hastings, and Prince Edward.

No. 3, Niagara District, comprising Lincoln and Wentworth.

No. 4, Lake Erie District, comprising Essex, Kent, Elgin, Norfolk,

Haldimand, Welland, Brant, Oxford, Middlesex.

No. 5, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay District, comprising Lambton, Huron, Bruce, Grey, Simcoe.

No. 6, Central Ontario District, comprising Victoria, Peterboro, Dufferin, Waterloo, Wellington, Perth.

There will be prizes in each district from \$15 to \$75, depending on the acreage.

In two of the districts where apple orcharding is not carried on to as large an extent as in the others, the sizes of orchards specified are somewhat smaller, ranging from 30 to 120 trees. In the districts around the Lakes prizes are offered for orchards from 300 trees up.

The competition will be for the

surface of the soil well stirred to a depth of not more than two inches forming a sort of dust mulch, beneath which the moisture will be drawn upward and prevented from passing into the air by the presence of the loose soil on top. Under these conditions the roots will work near the moisture line and consequently a larger growth and better quality will be obtained.

The effects of a drought may in most cases be met by frequent shallow cultivation, supplemented by the use of water, if available. When the soil is sprinkled over the entire surface it should be done late in the day, so that the soil may, during the night, absorb the moisture and prevent a crust being formed, as would



### A Cheap, Homemade Machine, Effective Against both Bugs and Blight

Mr. S. A. Northcott, one of the competitors in the farms competition to be conducted by Farm and Dairy this year, counts potatoes as one of his money crops. With bugs and blight so prevalent, spraying is a necessity, and in the illustration we see Mr. Northcott mounted on his cheap homemade spraying machine, two wheels, a barrel, a force pump and some tubing, wear the machine from which Mr. Northcott constructed this efficient device.

present year and bearing orchards will be considered, non-bearing orchards not being counted in the acreage entered. In District No. 3—comprising the counties of Lincoln and Wentworth—all tree fruits and grapes will be included. In the other districts the competition will be limited to apples.

Regular application forms are now being printed, and may be obtained from the offices of any of the district representatives of the Department of Agriculture or direct from the Fruit Branch, Department of Agriculture, Toronto, on application. —K. W. Hodgetta, Director.

### The Cultivation of Celery

A. McInnis, Middlesex Co., Ont.

Where celery is planted in single rows it will be necessary to maintain shallow cultivation between the rows. At no time should deep cultivation be practised, as the roots are to be found near the surface of the soil. If a mulch is used, no cultivation will be required, either along the side or between the plants in the row, except to pull any weeds that may spring up. Where a mulch is used it will be necessary to stir the surface lightly with a wheel hoe or iron rake, to prevent a crust forming after each watering of the soil smooth and in no case allow lumps of earth to remain near the plants.

The Planet Junior is desirable for working between the rows, while the wheel hoe is especially useful in cultivating a small area of celery or for stirring the soil close to plants. When a crop of celery is in good growing condition the roots will be near the surface. During a dry season the roots will go deep into the soil in order to secure moisture.

### ADVANTAGE OF A MULCH

This can be prevented by keeping

the case were the water applied under the direct rays of the sun.

### Till the Orchard

John Beemer, Brant Co., Ont.

I have never taken a crop of grain or forage of any kind from my orchard. When the trees are first set, the orchard is cropped with potatoes, beets and strawberries. In a few years, however, the trees require all the room. Intensive tillage is practised up to the first of July, when a cover crop of clover is seeded, a dairy vetches. This is allowed to die down in the fall, and the following spring is plowed under.

I never realized so fully before just how much was lost in the apple crop by cropping the orchard as I did from an experience I had in the spring of 1911. As I was out digging the orchards of neighbors I did not get the cover crop plowed down, and the clover made a rank growth, robbing the trees of moisture and available plant food. The first of July the apples of the same variety on part of the orchard that had been tilled were twice as large as the apples where the clover had been allowed to grow. This difference was apparent right to the end of the season.

A few years ago I had occasion to move a five-year-old Baxter tree from one orchard to another. The tree was pruned somewhat and then set to the ground in proportion. The tree came into bearing quicker than other Baxter set at the same time. I am going to lift some of my trees in the same manner to bring them into bearing at an earlier age. Pruning the trees in August also induces early bearing of such trees as the Spy and Baldwin.—John Beemer, Brant Co., Ont.

## POULTRY

### Million

It is conservative to say that there are millions of houses of Canada who have asked "What is the new poultry?" brought out the loss of the bodies by the millions to the hens directed internal infection.

Chicken-infected family, have either "laxty," "bug," spending the blood of the blood in the cracks and daytime. They are young and old, house, have been young chicks or single night.

### WHERE TO

They breed guard against the kept scrupulously spring and summer materials and I of every two or three months and fix quickly removed some of the oil with kerosene whitewash. They be sprayed in crevices where the passing the have can find the fested. Unclean made against to be driven from thing falls, to be until in a can say: "The chicken-house."

### Poin

The cause of age in eggs mineral matter. Oyster shells or mineral matter thicker shells. Whenever a temperature deg. Fahr., incursions are favorable of incubation the germ dies from this source eggs are gathered wet weather a moderately dry ed.

A storage pile free from any The eggs should the hot sun market.

Eggs which incubators or rivisted the previous placed on the contain dead not very desirable.

If sitting the laying floor allowed with the brooding incubation will lay as well with

## ABE

WHILE you are waiting for the next issue of the "Farm and Dairy" to arrive, you can get a good idea of what it is all about by looking at the "ABE" section. It is a collection of the best of the "Farm and Dairy" and is a most interesting and useful book. It is a must for every farmer and dairyman. It is a book that you will want to read and keep.