

Destroying Weeds by Means of Chemicals

While the hoe and the cultivator are likely to remain as the two most efficient weapons to use in the combat with weeds there are certain cases where the use of some chemical may be extremely desirable. A good example of the latter is the case of a grain crop infested with an annual such as wild mustard where it is possible by spraying with iron sulphate or copper sulphate to injure the weed to such an extent that it is unable to ripen its seeds.

There are also numerous plots of waste ground in towns, miles of road all over the country, railroad tracks, and large areas of stony or rocky ground that cannot be cultivated, where the employment of chemical means for keeping down weeds might profitably be considered.

The spray should be applied in fine calm weather when there is a probability that no rain will fall during the next 24 hours. The amount of spraying mixture will vary somewhat with the kind of spraying machine used, but as a general rule at least 60 gallons are necessary to cover an acre. The spray should be applied while the weeds are young.

The chemical substances that are most employed for killing weeds are sulphuric acid, iron sulphate, copper sulphate, common salt, caustic soda, sodium arsenite, carbolic acid, orchard heating oil and fuel oil. After the use of some of these the soil remains sterile until the chemical has been washed out by the rain. In calculating the strength to be used it has to be remembered that a gallon of water weighs 10 pounds.

Fighting Weeds.

We used to think the main object of cultivation had to do with making a dust mulch. We used to think summer fallow out in the dry country was a matter of making a dust mulch in order to save moisture.

The new orthodoxy, arrived at by trials and measurements rather than by the old plan of merely thinking out a thing, puts the dust mulch hypothesis pretty much to one side. The new orthodoxy lays the blame for the necessity of this summer work on weeds.

Careful trials have shown that where land is already clean of weeds and grass, cultivating between the rows of crops has precious little effect one way or another when the result is measured by yield. On some steep or hard-baked lands it does have a bearing on the moisture problem, but it has been found that the effect of cultivation on soil is to enable the land to catch and soak in the water rather than to hold it.

And out in the dry country careful studies showed that the good effect of summer cultivation lay entirely in the elimination of weeds; showed that a dry surface acted as a moisture-retaining blanket whether stirred or not.

This new point of view has one mighty practical bearing on farm work. Any everyday farmer knows that cultivators must be kept going if a good crop is to be raised. At first blush he is not concerned as to whether the theory of cultivation ties on to weed control or to moisture saving. On second thought he is finding that it does make a deal of difference.

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GOOD BULLS PAY DIVIDENDS

Feeding Top Lambs.

Most farmers have the general opinion that sheep will find their own living and that it is not necessary to give them much feed or attention. It is a well-known fact that sheep will graze on weeds around the fence rows and over rough land and find a great part of their living, but farmers in the spring-lamb sections make a mistake when they fail to give breeding ewes enough feed to bring them through the winter in good condition. Practical farmers seem to overlook the fact that the ewe must maintain her own body, produce a fleece of wool and develop a fetus during the winter months. Unless she is properly fed she cannot do this work. Improperly fed ewes produce small, weak lambs. These lambs have been improperly nourished through the different stages of development and after they are born are stunted for lack of milk.

If lambs are to be made "tops" they must be well nourished from the time they are born until they are sent to market. They should be made to grow rapidly and take on flesh regularly. Lambs are best fed through their mothers for the first two months of their life. For this reason the ewes should be fed a milk-producing ration.

A ration consisting of oats, bran and oil meal and a legume hay, such as alfalfa, clover or soy beans, is best from lambing time until good grazing is available. Ewes do not require a large quantity of feed; in fact, they fare better when they are not overfed. One-half to one pound per head a day of the ration mentioned is sufficient for average ewes. They should have what they will clean up.

After the lambs learn to eat they should be fed grain from a creep. This method of feeding them prevents the ewes from having too much grain and gives the lambs the advantage of extra grain along with their mothers' milk. A very small quantity of grain fed in this manner will give splendid results in growing and finishing lambs for the early market. The flock should be kept on the small grains, such as rye, barley or wheat, as much as possible during the winter and early spring months; in fact, every farmer who raises sheep should make it a point to have a small grain pasture for his sheep.

The ewes and lambs should be turned to fresh pastures as early in spring as it will supply good grazing. Clover is one of the best pastures for sheep. The flock will do well also on early blue-grass pasture.

One of the best annual pastures that can be seeded is a combination of oats and rape. When sown together they afford a maximum of good grazing.

Renting Out a Cow.

You speak of renting out a cow. I have been using this plan for ten years: I furnish a cow to some one near town who has children going to school, or a young man working in town. The party furnishes the pasture and feed, and brings me two quarts of milk a day. I keep two buckets, one of which the party uses. I place the other on the porch and then when he brings the milk he sets his down and takes the empty one. I usually have a month's vacation—this would mean that I receive two quarts of milk 335 days, and I also get the calf. I change cows when I feel the other is getting old and I usually get as much for her as I had paid, so there is really no depreciation. My figures for one cow last year showed a net profit of \$35.70.—V. B.

I have found the best way to repair traces which wear through, or break at the point where the backband is attached, is to insert an oval link about three or four inches long in the trace. I fasten the oval link to the trace with hame clips, slipping the hame clips in the oval link and riveting them to the trace. The backband is then fastened to the oval link, and the job is complete and stronger than when new.—O. S.

Utility is the science, and beauty the art of poultry keeping.

Darkened nests will do much toward preventing the egg-eating habit. Clean the windows in the hen house with newspaper—nothing better.

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FERTILIZING THE GARDEN

By M. E. Davis, B.S.A., Assistant Dominion Horticulturist.

Most amateur gardeners depend largely upon the use of manure as the main source of fertilizer material and this is good practice, but often a little commercial fertilizer can be used as a supplement to very great advantage.

Manure contains large quantities of nitrogen, some phosphorus and potash, which are the three constituents generally lacking in most garden soils. In addition the manure contains a large amount of organic or vegetable material which on decay, supplies the humus and organic acids necessary to maintain a good physical condition and to assist in bringing into solution forms of plant food otherwise unavailable for plant growth; so that either manure or some sort of green manure crop is essential in any garden, even though large quantities of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash are supplied as fertilizers.

Nitrogen is the most unstable of our elements and the most variable. In the early spring, even on well manured land, the nitrogen supply is low and it does not increase until the weather begins to warm up and the soil gets pretty well heated and worked. Decomposition of the vegetable material must be progressing before there is much nitrogen available for the plant and, as the nitrogen in manure is locked up mostly as vegetable matter, we say it is slowly available. It is liberated throughout the season and the manure we apply this spring will act as a sort of reservoir for our nitrogen supply all summer.

But if we want early growth on our lettuce, for instance, we can afford to supplement the manure by a light application of nitrate of soda, which is already available for the plant, and the response will be very rapid. Sometimes we want to bring our celery along a little quicker, an application of nitrate for this purpose is excellent. In fact, wherever we are growing plants for their foliage and not for the root or for their fruit, applications of quickly available nitrogen are excellent. On the other hand, where we want root, as in the carrot, beet or onion, we only resort to nitrate when the manure supply is deficient. For these we supplement with phosphorus, and if we want quick response we use acid phosphate instead of the bone meal, which is much more slowly available.

In the growing of flowers it is necessary only to bear in mind that where we want increased growth, as in a hedge or a specimen shrub for instance, we supplement our manure with nitrate of soda; where we want perfection of bloom or fruit we resort to the addition of phosphorus in the form of acid phosphate and in extreme cases also to potash, as muriate of potash.

For most crops and most soils the above mentioned elements may be supplied in the following forms and at the following rates: Nitrogen, as nitrate of soda, at the rate of 7 1/2 lbs. to 100 square feet. Phosphorus, as acid phosphate, at the rate of 10 lbs. to 100 square feet. Potash as muriate of potash, at the rate of 2 1/2 lbs. to 100 square feet.

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A DAY'S MEALS FOR A CHILD

What is your plan for feeding your child? Do you think only about keeping indigestible foods away from him? If so, you are behind the times. Or do you think first about serving him the foods his body needs? If so, you are modern and up-to-date.

Below are some bills of fare for children which contain all the things needed for their development.

First, there is at least a pint of milk in each day's ration. Many children want more and can take it without leaving out other essential foods. Under these circumstances they ought to have more.

Second, there is an egg in the first bill of fare and a little meat or fish in the others. This is for iron.

Third, there is fruit in two meals out of three. This is a good rule to keep in mind all the time. Fresh fruit is best—juice or pulp for very young children. If fresh fruit can not be obtained, dried fruit may be used at one meal and either a little tomato juice or a raw green vegetable, such as lettuce, in the other. These foods are the watch dogs of the diet. They help to keep off disease.

Fourth, every meal in these rations provides for "roughage." In some meals it is supplied by potatoes. In others it is supplied by whole-grain cereal breakfast foods or whole-wheat bread. This means that the food will have enough bulk to prevent constipation.

Fifth, at one meal there is a vegetable other than potatoes.

Sixth, every meal contains a little butter or cream. Something very much needed by children is in butter-fat and it is well to give them a little

of it besides that which they get in the milk.

Make a list of the foods your child eats and see if all six of these different kinds of food are included each day: Milk, eggs, vegetables, fruit, whole-grain cereals, and butter or cream.

Suggested Bill of Fare for a Child of Two.

Breakfast—Juice of half an orange; whole-grain cereal, mush, milk, two-thirds of a cup, or more if wanted; toast; butter.

Dinner—Coddled eggs; baked potato; spinach, bread; butter; pulp of cooked prunes, cookie.

Supper—Milk, one and one-third cups, or more if wanted; whole-wheat bread; butter.

Suggested Bill of Fare for Child of Five.

Breakfast—Baked apple; whole-grain cereal mush; milk, half pint, or more if wanted; bread; butter.

Dinner—Boiled potato; creamed codfish; string beans; bread; butter; cup custard; cookie.

Supper—Milk, half pint, or more if wanted; whole wheat bread; date marmalade.

Suggested Bill of Fare for a Child From Eight to Ten.

Breakfast—Berries; whole-grain cereal mush; milk, two-thirds pint, or more if wanted; bread; butter; sugar, one level tablespoon.

Dinner—Beef stew with potatoes and carrots or tomato; bread; butter; tapioca cream; ginger snaps.

Supper—Cream of lettuce soup; graham bread toasted; butter; honey or syrup; milk if wanted.

In Private.

Eight of them sat at table and each had a fling at Dickie—grandparents and parents, sister and brother—and their missiles, though only of words, were sharp and stinging and Dickie grew "madder" every minute.

He seemed a tough little proposition, it is true. He had pitched greedily into the feeding process as soon as he had noisily and rudely taken possession of his chair.

Grandfather and Grandmother looked frowningly at him. Their projectiles began with "In my day—"

"Look at those hands!" big sister demanded of the company in general. "I'd be afraid to eat the bread they touched, but Dick sees to thrive on a germ diet."

Big brother's ammunition required a big gun. He raised his voice for the mention of some "perfectly awful" thing Dickie had done that day, and Dickie's shortcomings, which were generally very short indeed, were resurrected and hammered at one after another.

Father looked as fierce as a South Sea Islander as he said, "I'll tend to you later."

Mother wound up by saying, "I can't do a thing in the world with him," her voice a despairing plaint.

There was no such ugly trouble in the family near by, though it included a boy of Dickie's age and proclivities. For fault in the presence of the family, a quiet "Go to your room, Tommy," from his mother was sufficient.

It was true that one might have thought Thomas had been shod by the blacksmith judging by the noise he made climbing the steps, but he obeyed. One cannot expect ill temper to be wiped out magically, only that it be treated sensibly and considerably, regard for the child's future regulating word and action.

Dickie's mother, visiting Tommy's mother on one of these occasions, appreciated the even flow of cheerful conversation that continued uninterrupted by Tommy's defection. It was so different from the general squabble in her own home that followed misbehavior by Dickie.

When Tommy's mother reappeared, and her son had dashed out of doors to his play, the less successful mother put her plea:

"Please tell me how you settle things so easily. I can't do anything with Dickie. I believe he takes a pride in his successful rebellions."

"I make it a rule never to correct Tommy in the presence of others," her friend answered quietly. "Notice that tree," she continued, pointing through the window to a fine, straight little beauty. "A few months after it was planted it began to lean. I set the gardener to work. He drove a strong stake, the top pointing as directly to the sky as if a plummet had been hung as a guide from the cloud above it, and to it he fastened the young, growing thing. Not with flimsy strings that would break in a day—as inefficient as intermittent discipline—nor did he pull it violently into place, allowing others to join in the rough treatment. No, alone he tied it with strong bands neither harsh nor confining, leaving it room to grow true to the guide, upright. My dear, a mother may be the strength that will keep the child growing straight, bound and protected by bands that will not break—truth, affection, respect. The child respects the mother who shows respect for him. One of the ways of doing this is by recognizing his one, invariable right—correction in private."

Nobody has any right to find life uninteresting or unrewarding who sees within the sphere of his own activity a wrong he can help to remedy, or within himself an evil he can hope to overcome.—Charles W. Eliot.

Leg Weakness.

Leg weakness in chicks is generally due to artificial conditions, with too much crowding, too little open air activity and not enough contact with mother earth. Many people make the mistake of "coddling" chicks in bad weather, keeping them almost constantly housed. This is almost certain to lead to delicacy and leg weakness, especially if the birds are kept for any length of time on cement or wooden floors. Earth that they can scratch in is a necessity to young chicks. They should all be kept in open-air runs placed on grass or earth and fine gravel, preferably a mixture of both grass and gravel soil.

Bright Cushions.

Homemade cushions to brighten long seats are best made of the cotton felt used for mattresses. It comes in layers, is sold by the square foot and can be cut the desired width by the dealer.

The edges will be square for boxing and cushions will be found springy, yet soft, and will keep their shape.

You can take this or leave it—there is no substitute for plain hard work in paying off the mortgage on a farm. The good old-fashioned kind of hard work that means getting up with the sun, milking the cows, feeding and harnessing the horses before breakfast, and being in the furrow by seven o'clock—that's what makes farming pay.—G. McK.

For mildew on roses spray with bicarbonate of soda, an ounce to a gallon of water. There are commercial sprays you can use effectively, too.

During the seventeenth century it was the custom of English women to wear the engagement ring on the thumb.



Poor Thing!
Bobby Bug—"Boo-hoo! I want building blocks with letters on them!"

It is estimated that the production of farm eggs in Canada for 1924 was 212,848,685 dozens of the value of \$50,322,439, as compared with 202,186,508 dozens of the value of \$48,770,780 in 1923.

A TRICK FOR THE YOUNG MAGICIAN

BY S. R. WHITE.

The "Gloves and Sausage" is not only a startling trick but it causes great amusement as well. The performer enters wearing gloves. He removes these and rolls them up into a ball. He throws them into the air, but instead of the gloves, a string of real sausage leaves his hand, and the gloves vanish.

The method of doing this trick is very simple. The string of sausage is placed in the performer's right sleeve before his appearance. The gloves should be of white silk, or of some other soft material so that they may be rolled into a small ball.

To the glove which is worn on the left hand should be attached one end of a piece of rubber band, or elastic, the other end of which is securely fastened to the belt strap or suspender button on the left side, under the coat. Standing with his left side to the audience, the elastic is concealed by the magician's forearm and coat. His right arm should be held in a horizontal position in order that the sausage secreted there will not fall out before it is time.

The gloves are removed and the right one is rolled into the left one.

As soon as they are rolled into a small ball, he releases his hold and they are snapped back under his coat, the movement being concealed by his forearm. He should continue through the actions of rolling for a minute, just as if the gloves were still in his hands, and finally he will go through the motion of transferring the gloves from his left hand to his right, turning around as he does so, until his right side faces his audience. The next motions should be done quickly. He brings his arm down to his side, to allow the sausage to fall into the hand, and brings it up again, just as if he was throwing something into the air, and the sausage leaves his hand.

This is one trick which especially requires practice before the mirror. The performer can tell much better by observing himself in the glass, just what positions to assume in order to conceal the secret movements. Sausage is not necessary, either, for the successful performance of the trick, nor are the gloves. A handkerchief and some other article, such as a banana, would serve the purpose, but I think that the gloves and sausage are about the best combination.



A New Dairy Pail at a Popular Price

See the new SMP Dairy Pail next time you are in town. They are made of special quality, high finished tin, have large dairy pail ears, riveted flush, 100% sanitary. Cut out this advertisement. Show it to your regular dealer. He has our authority to give you a special low price on a pair of these fine pails.



186UE No. 20-2b.