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The Potato Bug.

SIR,—I should like to know from some of the numerous readers of the ADVOCATE if there has been any thing found out to take the place of the Paris Green to destroy the potato bug. I have never had a good crop of potatoes since I commenced to put on the Paris Green, four years ago.

I put about a tablespoonful to a pail of water, but I find that after I sprinkle them that the leaf begins to wilt and wither, so that I think the Paris Green is an injury to them in preventing them from coming to perfection. The fall wheat does not look as well around here as last year. Where the snow lay on long in the spring it is quite thin.

A. S., Tara, Ont.

[We have not found Paris Green to cause the wilting of the leaf of the potato plant, though the incessant attacks of the beetle are a serious injury to the quality of the potatoes, by preventing them maturing sufficiently. There is another poison now coming into use, and used as Paris Green, called London Purple. It is said to be less costly, fully as effectual, and less dangerous in handling; but it has not been generally tried. The following is a new cure, but we have no experience of it. It is worth a trial:—For the last five years I have not lost a cucumber or melon vine or cabbage plant. Get a barrel with a few gallons of gas-tar in it; pour water on the tar; always have it ready when needed; and when the bugs appear give them a liberal drink of the tar-water from a garden sprinkler or otherwise, and if the rain washes it off and they return, repeat the dose. It will also destroy the Colorado potato beetle, and frighten the old long potato bug worse than a threshing with a brush. Five years ago this summer both kinds appeared on my late potatoes, and I watered them with the tar-water. The next day all Coloradoes that had not been well protected from the sprinkling were dead, and the others, though their name was legion, were all gone.]

Pruning Pear Trees, etc.

SIR,—Will you please inform me through the ADVOCATE the proper time and method of pruning your pear trees. I have some Clapp's Favorite and Flemish Beauty trees which have been planted three years. Last summer they made a very long growth, and the boughs are so limber that the west wind will soon unbalance the tops. (1.) Would it be right to cut away say one half last year's growth. (2.) Should young growth on fruit trees, where the limb is not required, be cut away or left until the wood has ripened? Caterpillars in this vicinity have only been about one-third as plentiful this season as in that of 1877-S. A. S. B. Demoritsville, June 2nd, 1879.

[(1.) Yes. You might remove half of last year's growth, and bring the head of tree into uniform shape. The early part of this month is the best time for summer pruning. (2.) Removing any growth not wanted for fruiting, or growing in such a position as to be objectionable. This may be done now and better than at any other time. Cuts made on the tree heal over rapidly at this season.]

From New Brunswick.

SIR,—The weather has been very cold since June came in; have had a very fine seedtime, but the grain, on account of the cold, is backward. Grass promises well yet. A very much larger breadth in roots than usual. Markets very dull. There has been one lot of cattle shipped to England from here this spring, with a satisfactory result. We hope that more shipments may follow. H. F. Point-de-Bate, June 17, 1877.

Hungarian Grass.

A St. Hyacinthe subscriber writes:—My hay crop is so light that without some additional fodder I cannot bring my stock through the winter. Is it too late to sow Hungarian Grass for hay? I will feel obliged by your reply in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

[Hungarian Grass is very profitable, both for cutting green for stock and also to add to the stock of hay for winter use. It is not yet too late, if sown at once. This crop can be sown at any time from the first of June to the 10th of July, but the later it is sown the richer the soil ought to be made before the seed is sown. When sown about the middle of June the crop is ready to cut for soiling by the first of August. The grass which is sown for hay should be sown rather thick and fully at the rate of a bushel per acre. It should be cut before the seed is much developed. Many recommend it should be cut when the beet is in the milk, but in fact it should be cut before this period in the life of the plant, and we would prefer it cut about the time the heads are ready for flowering. For soiling, or for cutting for live stock in the fall it may be allowed to stand a little longer without any injury. When fed in the fall green it should be mixed with good straw, and it will be found much better for stock than when cut and fed alone.]

SIR,—Can you give me the remedy for stock bloating on dry food? J. D., Weyln, Ont.

[Professor Law says: The hollow probang passed into the stomach for choking will allow the escape of the gas. In urgent cases the probang must be punctured with the first instrument that comes to hand, and the openings in the stomach and the skin kept in opposition until the gas flows out. The most suitable instrument is a cannula and trocar, at least six inches long, which may be plunged into the left side in a downward and inward direction. The trocar being withdrawn, the cannula may be tied in and left for hours or days. In the absence of these a pocket knife may be used, and should be kept in the wound until a large seton can be obtained and held in its place. In milder cases, without any surgical resort, the following recipe must be given: Aromatic spirit of ammonia, 3 oz.; crystalline sesquicarbonate of ammonia, 1 oz.; oil of turpentine, 2 oz., in oil, eggs or milk, well mixed; whiskey, brandy or gin, 1 pint; ether, pepper, ginger, oil of peppermint, &c., in full doses; wood tar, 2 oz.; carbolic acid, or creosote, 2 drs. in a pint of water; sulphate hyposulphite, 1 oz.; chloride of lime. Antacids (potassia, soda, ammonia and their carbonates, soaps and lime water). Check the fermentation by neutralizing the acidity. A dose of physic is generally necessary to clear off the offensive food, and should be accompanied by sulphate of soda and ginger.]

SIR,—What is the best kind of grass to sow to make a lawn, and what time of year is best for sowing? A. S. G., Wyoming.

[The best kind of grasses to constitute a good lawn are "Creeping Bent Grass," sweet-scented vernal; "Rhode Island Bent," crested dogstail; with a slight mixture of White Dutch Clover, and when purchasing ask for "Fine Mixed Lawn Grass," and you will get the proper seed required to make a good lawn. The seed may be sown in spring or fall, but if sown in hot weather a slight sowing of oats among the grass, which vegetates quickly, will serve to protect the spring grass. For forming new lawns 20 to 30 lbs. of seed are required per acre, and should be regularly and evenly distributed.]

SIR,—What remedy would you recommend for a case of lampas in a young horse. His gums and palate are swollen so that he has great difficulty in eating his hay. J. A., Napance, Ont.

[Fulness of the gum and palate often trouble young horses during the spring months; and some senselessly aggravate the evil by searing the tender surfaces, congested and turgid from the cutting of the teeth. This lampas, as it is termed, disappears as the teeth come in, but if meanwhile the colt is unable properly to chew his food, it should be given bruised or softened, and, where needful, the swollen gums may be incised with a sharp knife. The teething cough sometimes accompanying these cases seldom requires any treatment beyond a good nutritive diet, and a daily allowance of two pounds of linseed cake.]

Horse-Shoeing Competition.

SIR,—An interesting feature of the Annual Meeting of the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society, recently held at Exeter, England, was a horse-shoeing competition, and from the good that it seems to promote I should think it might be profitably introduced into Canada. A Mr. Mills, of Exeter, has a theory as to the composition, or rather physiognomy, of the horse's foot, which was once received and believed in by the majority of veterinary surgeons and farmers, viz., that the hoof expands when coming into contact with the ground, and contracts when lifted. The B. and W. of E. Society also encouraged the theory, and allowed Mr. Mills to offer prizes for horse-shoeing up to last year. Now, however, the theory has exploded, and is discarded by the Society. They felt, too, that they could not well discontinue this competition, which has become such a popular feature of the Show; so this year they give the prizes, which are—1st, three guineas; 2nd, two do.; 3rd, one do. The competition was watched throughout by at least 500 people. There were 33 competitors, from all parts of England. Each smith was provided with forge and anvil, and was allowed an assistant. Whatever polish he put on the shoe had to be done with the ordinary rasp. The prizes were awarded for excellence of fit, general workmanship and time. Many can remember at these matches some excellent work done in 18 or 20 minutes; this year, among many good specimens of work, the time occupied has been as much as 45 minutes. The first prize was taken by Philip Rundle, of Colebrook; the second by W. R. Ridgement, of Enmore; and the third by Henry Butcher, of Exeter.

DEVONIAN, Exeter, Devonshire, Eng.

Sheep Raising.

SIR,—As a subscriber to your valuable paper, I should feel obliged if you would give me a little information respecting sheep raising, as I am thinking of going into that business rather extensively, with a view of exporting to England. I have 200 acres of land, about 80 of which is at present seeded down—about 20 of it this spring. I am anxious to know how many sheep I can keep—and when I say keep I mean keep well—on this 200 acres? I have now nearly 70, part Leicesters and part Southdown, including two thoroughbred Southdown rams, and intend in a short time purchasing a number more—ewes, of course. Would you kindly inform me the best kind to get? My own idea was to get Leicesters and cross with the Southdowns. Please tell me what you think about it. If you advise buying Leicesters, when would be the best time to get them, now, after they are shorn, or in the fall, about September or October? Also, where can I get them, and what price can I get them for? And finally, do you think they will pay if properly managed? Pardon the trouble I am putting you to, but some day I may have an opportunity of reciprocating. I enclose my card.

FARMER, Hamilton, Ont.

[The Southdown sheep is highly valued as producing mutton of superior flavor. English purchasers sometimes object to Canadian mutton as being too fat. This objection does not hold good against the Downs, and is only applicable to the long-wooled sheep—Leicesters, Cotswolds and Lincolns. The Southdown is to be preferred to any of the long-wooled animals for a mixed flock, and his progeny from Leicester dams or others is an excellent cross, possessing the superior mutton qualities of the Southdown, with increased size from the Leicester dam. The feeding of such crosses for the English market is profitable. The number of sheep to one hundred acres varies much with the nature of the soil, its fertility and the variety of grasses. Some English grass farms carry ten sheep to the acre, while many pastures feed but three sheep with their lambs, till the lambs are sold off fat. For the winter hay and turnips will be needed, and a little grain. A good crop of Swedes will feed ten to fourteen head per acre for five months. From these data an estimate of the number for a two-hundred-acre farm can be readily made.]

An esteemed correspondent writing under date of 14th ult., from St. Catharines, Ont., states that quite a number of peach trees have died in the district between Grimsby and Niagara. Some think that high cultivation is the cause, others attribute it to the wet weather last fall, and the sudden frost when the ground was saturated with water. Mr. Adolphus Pettit, of Grimsby, has lost between 200 and 400 trees.