

Soils and Crops

Address communications to Agronomist, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S SPRAYING.

1. Do not spray at all unless you are going to try to do it well. It will not pay.

2. You cannot make a success of apple growing without good spraying.

3. You cannot spray well without a good outfit which will give you plenty of pressure. So overhaul the old spray machine at once, or if it is not satisfactory, buy a new one with plenty of power.

4. Get a spray calendar from your agricultural representative, or from Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, Director Fruit Branch, Toronto, or Prof. L. Caesar, O.A.C., Guelph. Tack it up in the spray shed where it will always be available.

5. Use only the spray materials recommended in the spray calendars.

6. Do not spray when it happens to be convenient but spray at the times the spray calendar says. The time of spraying is of vast importance and the times given in the spray calendar are based on years of study.

7. Omit none of the first three regular sprays, some years the first is the most important, some the second and some the third. Each spray helps to make the next more effective and each must be given to insure clean fruit.

8. McIntosh and Snow trees should always receive a fourth application. Read what the spray calendar recommends under "Extra sprays and remarks" and be guided by it.

9. You will not control San Jose scale on large trees, twenty-five years old or more, unless you first prune them heavily and scrape the loose bark off with a hoe. Then see that every particle of the bark is wet with the liquid; a mere mist or a light spray will not kill the insect. Use lime sulphur 1 to 7 of water, preferably just as the buds are bursting.

10. For scab and codling moth cover both sides of every fruit and also cover every leaf. Scab attacks the leaves too and is often washed from the fruit. It will require from 7 to 13 gallons for each tree twenty-five years old or upwards, not just 3 or 3 gallons.

11. Be sure the spray reaches right through the trees. To insure this go in, if necessary, underneath the tree and spray the part beyond the trunk first, then step back to the outside and spray the remaining part of the tree from both sides. Remember that it is the centre or shaded part of the tree where scab naturally is worst and poor sprayers nearly always miss this side though they often cover the sunny or outer side all right.

Information for Farmers

The following bulletins and many others, of which these are examples, are available to farmers, and will be sent free on request by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The information they contain is both useful and practical, and may point the way to greater profits from farming operations.

If interested, clip out this advertisement, check bulletins desired, and mail, without postage, in envelope addressed to:

Publications Branch,
Department of Agriculture,
Ottawa, Canada.

New Varieties of Grain.
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Strawberry Cultivation.
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1924 No. 16-24.

Have a May-Pole Dance at Your Spring Social.

The May-pole dance given by children is always attractive. The dance should be given out-of-doors or on the floor of a large hall, as space is required. The pole should be from twelve to fifteen feet in height, with streamers of colored muslin attached near the top. An equal number of boys and girls might take part. Eight of each, perhaps. Each child takes hold of the end of a streamer and, when the music starts, the girls dance around a circle in one direction, the boys in another, passing each other in a way which weaves the streamers around the pole. Continue until the circle grows too small for further dancing. When the music starts again the dancers go in the opposite direction until the weaving is undone. There are beautiful musical numbers which you might have also. If you have no musicians upon whom you can depend, use a talking machine. The following records will be found suitable: "Oh, That We Were Maying," "Mendelssohn's Spring Song," Rubenstein's "Melody in F," "Lass of Richmond Hill," and "Morning," by Grieg.

Prune the Berry Bushes.

The old canes of raspberries and blackberries should all be removed before the new wood gets too far advanced. Sometimes I have seen these old canes left in the patch for years at a time, until it became almost impossible to get around to pick the berries. The right time to cut them out is just after the fruit has been picked, for then any insect or fungus trouble will be eliminated before it gets a chance to move over into the young canes.

No cane that has borne fruit will bear again. Next year's fruit will be on the new canes that grow during the season when the previous year's canes are fruiting. If the work is not done then, it should be done at the first opportunity after, and never later than the time the plants begin to swell the buds in the spring. You can remove weak new growths then, and thin strong canes to three or four to the hill with advantage. You gain in quality to make up for the number of berries you remove.

Spraying Apples.

The Department of Entomology of the Ontario Agricultural College conducted spraying experiments on a ten-acre block of McIntosh and Snow varieties at Simcoe in Norfolk County. The whole orchard, with the exception of the trees kept for checks were sprayed, part of it receiving four applications and part only three. The crop was fairly good—about 1,000 barrels—and the results from both commercial and the investigation standpoints very satisfactory, the percentage of apples absolutely free from worms or scab or defect of any kind being 93.4, whereas the checks (unsprayed trees) had an average of 91.5 per cent. of scab alone. One of the objects of the experiment was to show that even McIntosh and Snow apples could be kept free, or almost free, from worms and scab by good spraying.

Roads, to be good roads, must be good roads on bad days.

A Garden of Herbs

By A. B. CUTTING.

In the garden of long ago, there was always a corner or bed devoted to the culture of herbs. Some European folks put up (or down) a few sprigs of this herb with garden beans in a brine. These flavored beans are then cooked as wanted with fresh meats and potatoes.

Thyme—A shrubby plant about 10 inches high, the small aromatic leaves of which are used for flavoring. Will stand transplanting. Generally hardy but may need protection in extremely cold districts. The broad-leaved English variety is best.

Many of the herbs may be planted as edging to borders or may be grown beside the paths and walks. A bed, a border or a corner given over entirely to herbs gives greater satisfaction; they are thus more easily cared for, more easily gathered and do not interfere with the other crops. They are generally easily grown in rich, mellow, well-worked soil. Sow the seeds in spring in shallow drills about an inch apart, and when the plants are up three or four inches thin out and transplant. Cultivate until midsummer and then much around the plant with straw to prevent sanding of the foliage by fall rains. In the north and east it is safest to protect all the perennial kinds in winter.

These that are grown for their leaves should be gathered in the morning of a fine day as soon as the dew is off and dried quickly. If stored before they are perfectly dry, the leaves are likely to mold. The proper stage of growth for harvesting is just before the plants reach full bloom. Herbs should be cut before being frozen, although freezing may not injure them.

Any one interested in growing herbs on a commercial scale for medicinal or other purposes should write to the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, or his, or her, provincial department of agriculture or experiment station for advice respecting the possibilities in the district concerned and for bulletins and other sources of information on the subject.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

DR. QUACK FOX TAKES A TUMBLE AND LEARNS A LESSON.

Do all our little folks remember how Dr. Quack Fox fooled Bruin by giving him a bottle of cough syrup for a bottle of "Sooth-all"?

Well, it was just a week from the very day that Dr. Quack Fox played this trick that he found it necessary to again take the road that lead past Rolly Rabbit's house. As he neared the house he chuckled to think how cleverly he had fooled Bruin and made a profit for himself.

"That was a good trick on Bruin," he said to himself. "I wonder when he discovered it? I would like to know, but I guess I won't stop to find out. I might get into a bit of trouble in fact, he was thinking so much about his clever little trick that he did not look where he was going. Just as he was right in front of Rolly's house, he stubbed his toe on a rock in the path and down he went, ker-plunk. His case flew open and bottles scattered in every direction.

Rolly was preparing a porridge for the noon meal by the kitchen window, and saw it all. At first he wanted to laugh, but his heart was kind and gracious. Forgetting the mean trick, Dr. Fox had played on his friend, he hastened out to help him.

"Oh, sir, are you hurt?" asked Rolly sympathetically.

"My toe is," said Dr. Fox, "and my knee hurts dreadfully where it bumped the rock."

"Oh, I'm so sorry," said Rolly. "Come right in the house. We will fix it up in just a few minutes. I am sure that I have something that will help it." And so Dr. Fox went limping along into the house with Rolly Rabbit, groaning at every step.

Bruin, in reading the last edition of Woodland News when they came in, and was quite surprised when he saw who it was. But when Rolly Rabbit explained that the doctor had fallen and hurt himself badly, he was just as anxious to help as Rolly.

In a short time they had the bruised foot all bandaged with "Sooth-all."

"And does that feel better?" asked Bruin as he tied the last bandage.

"Oh, ever so much better," replied Dr. Fox. "Thank you both so much."

"Oh, we are very glad to help you," said Rolly.

"And may I ask why?" asked Dr. Fox.

"Because we would like to be helped that way ourselves," answered Rolly. As Dr. Quack Fox limped toward the door, he said, "I have learned a lesson from you to-day. I can't thank you enough for all you have done for me. You have been kind to me even after I played that mean trick on Bruin. Now I know what friends really mean and I'm going to try to make more of them. I hope that some day I can do something to help you."

To stick labels on syrup cans, reduce varnish with alcohol to a thin paste. If it gets thick by evaporation, add alcohol and it will be as good as ever.



How contagions spread

IN the world of school and play all children are equal. Youngsters from homes less clean than yours come into intimate contact with your children.

To guard against contagion, make sure that your children are completely cleaned and purified whenever they come in from play.

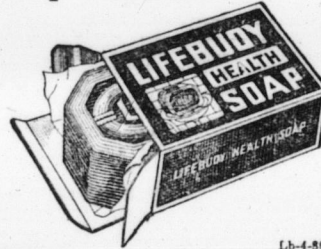
Your great ally is Lifebuoy Health Soap. The safe antiseptic ingredient of Lifebuoy penetrates each dirt-laden pore. Rich, creamy lather carries it into every cranny of the skin. The healthful odour vanishes a few seconds after use, but the protection remains.

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Best Varieties of Roses

Unless one has plenty of ground and financial resources, it is wise to select carefully the varieties of roses to be planted in the garden. Because a rose wins a National Society medal in England, or in fact in any other country, it does not follow that it would succeed in an Ontario garden.

Many of the most beautiful varieties are weak growers and sparse bloomers. Others, again, may be subject to disease and yield a crop only after much troublesome treatment for mildew and blackspot. The Ontario Rose Society has done good work in analyzing the roses grown in the province with a view to establishing a list of those that are most dependable. A canvass amongst the members in different parts of the province resulted in the securing of a list of twelve of the most popular varieties, as follows:

Frau Karl Druschki, white, belongs to the Hybrid Perpetual class. Blooms fairly constantly throughout the summer and fall months.

Gruss an Teplitz, a Hybrid Tea, bright scarlet. The flowers are borne in clusters and are highly fragrant.

Madame Edouard Herriot, shrimp pink Hybrid Tea, very attractive.

Mrs. John Laing, Hybrid Tea, pink, gives especially fine bloom in the autumn.

Richmond, a red rose, blooms well in September after heavy June crop.

Ophelia, pink Hybrid Tea. Is charming in the bud and open stage; very fragrant.

Caroline Testout, pink Hybrid Tea. This variety made the Pacific Coast City of Portland famous for its roses.

General McArthur, a red rose of the Hybrid Tea class. Has stood the test of many years.

J. B. Clark is a show rose in the red class. Very productive during the main crop season and gives a small return in the autumn.

Ulrich Brunner, a Hybrid Perpetual of great size and fine fragrance.

Killarney is a greenhouse and garden rose of a pink color.

Lady Alice Stanley, a pink rose not unlike Killarney both in color and habit of growth.

Roses of most of these varieties are often obtainable as premiums with membership in horticultural societies. Through this medium these fine varieties are found growing almost everywhere in the province.—Ontario Horticultural Association.

Leg Weakness in Chicks.

By S. W. KNIPPE.

Leg weakness is an ailment prevalent with closely confined chicks. Probably it is more correctly termed a "symptom" rather than a disease since it apparently may occur under different methods of feeding and management and in different forms, such as rheumatism, neuritis, and rickets.

Symptoms.—As the name implies, the legs become weak. It starts with an unsteadiness and the chicks soon lose use of the legs. The appetite usually continues to be good at first. The largest and most vigorous chicks are often the worst afflicted. It occurs in chicks from one to six months of age. Rheumatism and gout usually show enlarged joints.

Causes.—Little is definitely known as to the cause of leg weakness in chicks. Lack of green food, mineral matter, fresh air, exercise and sunshine, deficiency in the vitamin content in the ration, overfeeding of highly nutritious feeds, too much heat, damp quarters, and overcrowding are causes most often assigned for leg weakness.

Prevention and Cure.—It is a generally recognized fact that chicks which have access to the ground outside after they are a week old, rarely ever become affected with leg weakness.

Whether this provides exercise, sunshine, fresh air, green food or minerals from the soil is an unanswered question. Nevertheless, the results are certain. When the weather is cool even a few minutes outside daily will be effective in preventing or curing leg weakness.

When weather conditions are bad and the chicks must be kept indoors the following will be beneficial:

Keep sand or fine litter on the floor. Provide fresh places of sod each day.

Feed grain in clean dry litter to induce exercise.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FATHER

Having sprung from ancestry who were firm believers in a garden, and having been trained in early childhood to tend the plants and flowers (for no garden is complete without flowers), and to love the fruits thereof and revel in their beauty, it is small wonder that I, too, consider the garden one of the farm's biggest assets. And that for three reasons, an economic, a physical and a mental benefit.

If vegetables and flowers are to appear upon the farmer's table, certainly they can be produced at home more economically than elsewhere, and, at the same time, may be of better quality if proper care is given, and certainly they will be fresher than most that can be bought. Further, there is little cash outlay except perhaps for a few seeds, and some early plants. Fresh vegetables, as well as canned goods, if purchased, require a cash expenditure.

What farmer would feel like buying tomatoes at twenty to twenty-five cents per pound around the middle of July? Yet, by planting a few pot-grown plants, he can pick the luscious and healthful fruit from his own vines when others are paying high prices to satisfy their appetites. What farmer does not like new potatoes as early as possible, yet would hesitate to pay \$3 per bushel for them on the market.

Many vegetables may be kept in the cellar during the winter months and thus displace, at least, most of the boughten canned articles and their accompanying cost. Of course, the good wife may can the surplus from the garden, if she has time, and thus avoid buying any canned vegetables whatever.

Further, an abundance of vegetables may take the place of the greater part of the meat dish, which is usually the most expensive portion of the daily meal.

It goes without saying that almost every farmer has enough exercise to keep his muscles in trim without tending a garden, but, in speaking of the physical benefits of a garden, I refer, rather, to the effect of the consumption of vegetables upon the human body. It is a well-known fact that meat foods, taken in excess, tend to clog the system and make many activities sluggish and tardy, resulting in a generally tired feeling. Vegetables, on the other hand, are almost exactly opposite, stimulating various organs and glands, keeping the body fine and fit.

Then, too, the much mooted and talked of vitamins are nowhere more plentiful and palatable than in vegetables which can be cheaply and abundantly grown in the farm garden.

Now, last but not least, a garden with all its plants and gorgeous flowers may change one's mental attitude and lift his soul to heights untold. He who beholds a row of downyasters just bursting into bloom, or holds in his hand a magnificent spike of gladiolus from his own garden, or views a bouquet of those ever-charming flowers, the sweet peas, that person cannot but have his mind lifted above the sordid things of life. He who plants the apparently lifeless seed expecting it to burst forth from the soil, to grow, to bloom and bring forth fruit, cannot but have faith in something greater, nobler than himself and, if he thinks at all, as it seems he must, behind it all he must see some omniscient mind planning, executing, creating.—W. H. Collier.

Putty on the Farm.

Putty has many and frequent uses about the farm. But to keep it always handy and in good usable condition is a problem to many. There are a number of methods of keeping it, all more or less good, yet in our opinion the best method of all is to make it fresh as needed. Then, too, having the necessary ingredients at hand may save a trip to town just when we can least afford it.

Putty is made by mixing fine whitening with linseed oil and incorporating the two thoroughly together into a stiff elastic mass. A stiff putty knife is excellent for mixing, and any putty left over should be put in a clean jar or can and covered with water, where it will remain in good condition for a considerable time. Up to a certain limit putty is said to improve with age; and pounding it during mixing will improve its texture, making it tough and elastic. Considering its cheapness, mixing putty may not be a speedy or profitable operation, yet keeping its two ingredients handy, ready for immediate mixing, may save an expensive trip to town or mean the quick completion of a job that might otherwise be held up.

The linseed oil keeps best in a tightly corked bottle, and the whitening should be kept clean and dry.

Disinfectant whitewash: Slake five quarts of fresh lime with hot water to as a consistency of cream. Add one pint of crude carbonic acid or zenolene, and one quart of kerosene. Stir thoroughly and dilute with twice its own volume of water. Apply with either spray pump or brush. When properly prepared, this solution acts as a disinfectant, killing germs; penetrates the wood, destroying the mites; whitens the walls, making the building sweet and light.

Septic tanks are cheaper than de-tectors.