

* The Farm. *

Marketing Fruit.

"A man is judged by the company he keeps." Fruit appears and sells better in a clean attractive package. Always choose a clean light basket, box, crate or barrel. It is a little thing, but it will pay.

The fruit should be picked when fully colored, and before it has become at all soft, and handled in the most careful manner; because every bruise will start fermentation, which will soon develop into decayed fruit.

Let the box or basket be neatly faced up with the same kind of fruit that the whole package contains, so that the grower can warrant it.

There is too much fruit found in the market that has been dishonestly packed. It may be a box of berries, basket of peaches or barrel of apples, yet it is too frequently the case that we find some choice fruit on top, and then the remainder of the package very poor, if not entirely worthless. The consumer feels swindled, and in that he is correct, whenever he buys such a package, no matter how cheaply he may have purchased it. Dishonest packing makes it more difficult for the dealer to sell good fruit, and the buyer more or less suspicious of every package.

If the grower would see to it that his fruit was carefully sorted and packed in the package the same, from top to bottom, the grower would receive better prices for all grades of fruit. For even small or inferior fruit does not look so badly when packed with the same or a uniform grade. The consumer, also, is not disappointed if he pays a low price for an inferior article. He expected little and frequently gets more than he thought he would.

Good, sound, honestly packed fruit will always secure the best prices, and the market is rarely supplied with this kind. Only a few days ago a Chicago man bought a basket of what appeared to be choice Red Astrakhan apples. The top was very nice and beautifully colored, but the middle and bottom were hardly fit for any purpose. This is only one case out of thousands of daily occurrence; so frequent, in fact, that the buyer feels compelled to look each package through if he would know what he is getting. Of course, there are plenty of honest growers and packers, yet so much of the dishonestly packed stuff is on the market that it injures the sale of all and makes the consumer doubtful of every package he buys.

Apples, peaches, pears, etc., full of knots, worms and unfit for scarcely any use are packed and shipped into market, with the top and all exposed places in the package so well faced with good fruit "that if it were possible it would deceive the very elect."—Professor T. H. Jones in National Rural.

Selection of Seed Wheat.

It is common among corn raisers to maintain or improve a given variety by selection of the seed. Ears showing desirable characteristics are set aside and furnish seed for succeeding crop. Though not so convenient, this method can be applied with equal success to the selection of seed wheat. The Experiment Station of the Kansas State Agricultural College is endeavoring to breed up improved varieties of wheat. There is no reason why the simple method of selection should not be applied by the individual wheat raiser. We would advise the following procedure: Before harvesting, the grower should go into the wheat field and select a number of the most desirable heads. The basis of selection depends upon the wishes of the individual, but it is carried on as in the case of corn. Usually it will be upon the basis of yield and quality. In this case the heads selected should be large, well formed and with plump, uniform grains. The grain derived from these heads should be grown upon a plot of ground under the most favorable conditions. The grain gathered from this plot furnishes the seed for the third year. But before harvesting a selection of suitable heads should be made from this for the next seed plot. In this

way the seed is each year improved, or at least maintained at its present standard. The size of the seed plot depends upon the total area of wheat to be grown. Furthermore, the seed plot may be given much more careful treatment than is applicable to the field. It is best to have the seed plot within the main field, so as to be entirely surrounded by wheat. This lessens the loss from grasshoppers and other insects and gives the plants better protection.—(Prairie Farmer.

How Farmers May Help the Roads.

It is easily possible for farmers to keep the country roads in a much better condition than the most of them are at present. The individual can afford to do road mending on the same principle that he repairs fences and buildings. "It pays me." And a land owner ought to feel as much shame, even guilt, before the general public over a mudhole that can be drained, or over a choked up sluice along his premises as he ought over neglected cattle or a display of filth.

It is not necessary to wait for the road working season to come. The most profitable, common sense work can be put in a little at a time, if at the right time. Drainage is the beginning and the ending of the whole matter, if roads are to be roads and not sloughs. Watering troughs and hillside springs are common causes of standing water, yet it is a very simple matter to direct the water flowing from them in the way it should go. A stone, a loose board, a chunk of soil washed down against the end of a sluice may choke it up till it is worse than nothing. Five minutes' work would send the water rushing through its proper channel. It is not uncommon to see water following the wheel rut for rods, when a man with half an eye can also see that a mere cut through the ridge at the edge of the road would lead the water into the ditch, perhaps down a bank.

Dropping into a bad hole or soft place a few superfluous stones now and then to keep the water out would work a double headed blessing to all passing that way. Heaving out a few stubborn old stones from the track would work detriment to the blacksmith and wagon maker perhaps, but a big saving to the farmer. If all such patching were thus well kept up the yearly toll of public service would count more and more towards the good roads of which all are dreaming and talking. This view of the subject is no more than one feature of practical farming, intelligent economy, a mere looking out for number one, no matter how many others are also benefited.—(J. N. Phillips, in American Agriculturist.

Summer Sitting Rooms.

It makes the sitting room a more attractive room in summer to change its appearance by taking up the carpet and replacing it—if the floor is not hard wood with matting and rugs. This saves the carpet from wear and gives a more agreeable floor covering for summer, and one easily swept. Heavy hangings which are liable to attract moths, should be cleaned early in summer and laid away during the heated months in bags of cotton or some other moth preventive. Heavy upholstered furniture should be cleaned and covered with linen to protect it from the dust. Wicker and rattan chairs, and for the piazza rattan sofas or divans, should be used as much as possible. The only curtains allowable at the windows are sheer shades of muslin or silk. Where the piazza is ample, as all summer piazzas should be, it should be furnished with a 5 o'clock tea table chair, a divan, lounging places of various kinds, a reading table for books and newspapers and other desirable furniture. In that case it will take the place of the sitting room to a great degree. It is hardly necessary to say that such a piazza should be screened from the sun, and that the best screens are green vines. If these cannot be obtained, or before they grow to proper size for this purpose, the inexpensive curtains of split bamboo now generally sold are in every way suitable for the purpose. Bamboo and bead screens are excellent for doorways. Such a furnished piazza as the one we have described is a good place to fight with a swinging lantern of gay glass. These lanterns may be found in attractive Turkish make or in less expensive domestic ware.

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