

HORTICULTURE ON THE FARM.

Again, the practice of horticulture on the farm would lead to careful experimentations. While many cautious farmers are manifestly inclined to profit by the experiments of others in adopting their successful methods of cultivating crops and by securing new and approved varieties of seeds, yet they are disposed to undervalue or ignore the importance of experiments on the farm.

The fact is, the farming world does not appreciate the worth of the many improved varieties of potatoes, fruits, wheat and other seeds that careful experiments have developed and introduced during the last twenty five years. The benefits arising from this source would have been much increased and they would have come in more rapid succession, had the work been more cordially aided and encouraged by farmers. Our State government has wisely arranged to have this work carried on where the skill and proper appliances can be well supplied for its successful prosecution, but to secure the benefits that this new departure promises, farmers must promptly co-operate with it.

Again, another advantage gained by the practice of horticulture on the farm, would be a more general and constant supply of fruit. I do not urge the general cultivation of fruit as a profitable market crop so much as on account of the urgent demand there is for it in almost every country home. There is no product of the farm more healthful or highly appreciated for home use, and yet there is none that receives so little practical attention. On many farms its culture is one of the lost arts, if indeed any knowledge of it ever existed. I know that an opinion prevails among farmers, that fruit-growing offers little or no encouragement in our changeable climate; but notwithstanding this drawback and the widespread indifference and culpable neglect manifested in the culture and care of fruit, it constitutes no inconsiderable item in the farm products of our State. The situations are numerous where this can be made a profitable branch of farming, and they are rare indeed where it would not be feasible to cheaply grow several varieties of desirable fruits for home use. With this latter object in view, success depends more on care and prudence, on intelligent management, on doing the right thing at the right time, than it does on the weather; in short, fruit growing for home use is usually successful where horticulture receives its due share of attention on the farm.

Again, the tillage of the soil so as to produce the best results includes the subject of forestry, which is one of the economic and practical questions of the day. We have heard much said on this topic of late years. Its pressing importance has been urged time and again, and it is generally admitted that few subjects are of greater significance, and yet little or nothing has been done in the line of timber culture. Certainly as little need be expected in the direction of its preservation.

The decay of our native forest from natural causes as well as the ever-increasing demand for lumber and fuel render it certain that its destruction will go on, whatever may be said of the necessity of its preservation. The enhanced commercial value of lumber is constantly leading additional incentives to its spoliation, and while the demand for the products of our forests is augmenting, the source of supply is surely diminishing.

We do not err in using what Providence has placed at our disposal by appropriating our timber for our own and the wants of legitimate trade, but we do err in refusing to provide timber growth for future requirements. And if we are sordid or selfish as to

blatter ourselves that all the evil consequences of our negligence in this matter will be postponed to some remote generation, we are very much mistaken. Some of the evil effects are already upon us. Among others, I have only space to call your attention to the torrential floods of the past season which have caused so much permanent damage on many farms. These sudden and desolating wash-outs are directly traceable to the extended removal of the forest. Now, if we would avert similar and worse visitations in the future, we will reclothe the denuded landscape with growing timber, especially the sources of our swiftly flowing rivulets and larger streams. SIMON EMERTER, in *Ohio Farmer*.

Page 121 contains our Clubbing and Premium List. Study it.

At one of the wedding receptions in New York recently, the space between the folding-doors in the drawing-rooms was filled in by a curtain composed entirely of smilax, dotted with pink roses.

THE CLEMATIS.

Now is a good time to see this vine in bloom in the nurseries. Some varieties that might be considered very desirable, judged by the flower alone, would be seen to be unworthy of culture when we come to see how unthrifty the vine is, and how meager the flowering. In a recent visit we noted four varieties that from their vigorous growth and free flowering would be desirable for climbing piazzas or trellises.

Clematis Jackmanni.—This is the best known of the large blooming kinds and is very desirable. The flower is large, four petaled, violet purple; blooms freely, and remains a long time in bloom.

C. Viticella Rubra Grandiflora.—This is described as a bright, claret red, but that does not convey an idea of the different shades from a dark velvet to a claret.

C. Velutina Purpurea.—This is described as a blackish mulberry color. It is very dark.

C. Viticella Modesta.—This is the loveliest flower of all; very large, six petaled, of a delicate violet lavender. These four growing together on a piazza would be very desirable.—*Ex.*

An experienced gardener writes "Some dislike using salt to destroy weeds on walks; they think it acts as a manure, and that it increases rather than diminishes the weeds, but I do not find it to do so. I have employed salt for years on long lengths of walks, and have found it not only effectually kill the weeds, but to give the gravel a bright, clean face, unobtainable in any other way. The great secret lies in putting it on in fine weather. When the barometer indicates a period of dry weather, that is the time to salt; there is then a prospect of its lying on the surface and dissolving gradually, and that is when it will do the most good. Thus applied, the result will be safe and sure, and the expense small compared with that of hand weeding.

* "Wise men say nothing in dangerous times." Wise men do nothing in dangerous diseases but the best and most approved remedies. Thus Kidney-Wort is employed universally in cases of diseased liver, kidney and bowels. It will cost you but a trifle to buy it, and the result will be most delightful.

Dancing may improve your carriage somewhat, but it's no valuable accomplishment for the horse.—*Burdette*.

Are you troubled with rheumatism? Use Kendall's Spavin Cure. Read advt.

Agriculture.

CLOVER vs. CANADA THISTLES.

J. S. Woodward, of Lockport, N. Y., is a farmer of close observation and marked good sense. At our request he furnishes us with the following on this topic:

"Canada thistles have long underground stems or root-stocks, nearly devoid of roots. These root-stocks store up nourishment during the latter part of summer and fall for pushing the upright growth in the spring from the eye. The spring-growth is mostly fed from the root-stocks. If early plowing cuts off the upright stems, another set will follow, and so with several times plowing. If we let the plants go till near flowering, the root stocks will be nearly exhausted. I kill the thistles without the loss of a crop, as follows:

"Have the land rich, if possible; at least have it well seeded to clover, and by top-dressing with plaster, ashes, or by some means get as good growth to the clover as possible. As soon as the clover is in full bloom, and here and there a thistle shows a blossom, mow, and make the crop, thistles and all, into hay.

"Thistles make good hay at this time. After mowing, apply a little plaster to quickly start the growth of clover; you will find this to come much quicker than the thistles. As soon as the clover has a good start, from July 20 to Aug. 5, plow down, being careful to plow down all the land and to fully cover all growth. Then roll down and harrow at once, so as to cover every thistle entirely up. But few thistles will ever show themselves after this, and they will look poor and weak. When they do show, cultivate thoroughly with a cultivator having broad sharp teeth, so as to cut every one off under ground. In two days, go over with a sharp hoe and cut off any that may have escaped the cultivator. Watch and when you see any coming up again, follow the same plan with cultivator and hoe until freezing up. You will see them getting scarcer each time, and looking as though they had the consumption. Follow this plan faithfully and, my word for it, you will never see a thistle again unless it comes up from the seed.

"By plowing this field just before freezing up, you will have the land in the finest condition for a spring crop. This plan not only kills thistles, but I have found it most efficacious in clearing the lands of all noxious weeds, much better than any summer-fallow and without the loss of any crop."

HOME-MADE FERTILIZERS.

The following excellent suggestions are from the Commissioner of Agriculture for Tennessee State, and are worthy of consideration in every farming community.

"A great many bones are wasted on every farm that make valuable manure, and are easily prepared for use. Let a barrel be devoted to the bones, and whenever a bone is thrown into it, cover it up with unleached ashes. Let the barrel stand in the weather, and in a few months the bones will be so friable that they may be easily broken and converted into an unadulterated bone-dust better than can be bought at any of the agricultural stores. Or, if he cannot wait for this slow process, they are easily burned and crushed.

"In making soap much fine phosphate of lime is thrown out in the shape of half-eaten bones, and in spent lye. Soap-suds are also a fine addition

to the manure or compost heaps. In these are found not only the alkalies of soda and potash, but also much nitrogenous matter in the shape of grease. All these assist in enriching our heap. No farm yard is without the best guano. It is true the guano of the shops is from sea-birds, whose food is fish, but the guano of the chicken house is exceedingly valuable and well worth saving. Mixing it with soil or ashes and sowing over a garden plot rather thinly—for it is very rich—its effects are seen to the row. However the dung of fowls and especially of pigeons, is best applied in the form of solution. It is not so apt to burn up the plant in this manner. One part of manure to ten parts of water will make a fine wash for vines, or for fruit trees; it is unexcelled. Another addition to the heap is skins, carrion either of animals or fowls, scales of fishes, hair, hoofs, and in fact every kind of animal substance that may come within reach that is worthless.

VEGETABLE MATTER IN THE SOIL.

One of the leading substances that a hungry soil needs is vegetable matter, from which it can, through the chemistry of decay, derive the all-important compounds of nitrogen. The fallow yields none of this vegetable matter, for it is a fallow only when the soil is free from any plant growth. The green crop may be ploughed under, thus securing to the land the whole crop; or it may be fed to live stock, and the manure returned, in which case should there be no drainage from the manure, there would be only the loss of the small amount of ash and nitrogen constituents that are retained by the animal. In this case the land is kept in a profitable work, and no time is lost as in case of the fallow. It has been stated that a large amount of nitric acid is found in the fallow soil; also, that it runs many risks of being washed out by the autumn rains. These very soluble nitrates are formed most rapidly in the late months of summer, and if a growing crop is up by the plants and made insoluble by entering into the substance of the plant. A root crop sown in early summer will thus catch and hold the nitrates that might otherwise be washed away. They being fed to farm stock have these same nitrates returned to the soil in a form to furnish the succeeding crop with a continuous supply of nitrogen.

DO NOT PASTURE CLOVER.

Clover should never be pastured. As there are exceptions to all rules, so there may be to this, but chiefly in those cases where the clover growth is thought of secondary importance. What we say is that young clover should never be pastured, and to this there is no exception. Young clover is so tender a plant that the tramping of hoofs, however light, will destroy or seriously injure it. At any period in its existence a man or child cannot put a foot on a clover plant without injuring it. Any kind of stock will trample down and injure twice or thrice as many clover plants as it eat. Why then should pasturing in any way or at any season be tolerated? After the entire growth is completed the damage is least; but usually this last growth is worth more to lie on the field as a mulch than for feed.

Egyptian war song—The Camels are coming.

Millions of packages of the Diamond Dyes have been sold without a single complaint. Everywhere they are the favorite Dyes.