

FARM, FIELD AND GARDEN.

OPPORTUNE INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON EVERY DAY AFFAIRS.

Improved Modes in Celery Culture—How the Crop is Fertilized for Best Results. Varieties That Command Good Prices in the Markets.

The cultivation of celery has largely increased of late years, not only among market gardeners, who grow this delicious vegetable for sale, but small farmers and amateurs now grow it for home consumption.

Under the improved system of "flat culture," explained in the New York World, the old method of trenching is fast disappearing, and with it goes much of the labor and expense that attended the growing of a celery crop in past years.

It has been learned with experience that climatic influence and soil exert great influence on the celery plant. The natural situation for celery seems to be moist, cool, half shady position, and if near a body of water so much the better, as the vapors that arise therefrom impart to the atmosphere the required dampness.

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Previous to transplanting the tops of the plants ought to be cut off just above the shoots which grow out of the heart, and the main roots may be cut with a knife. The holes may be made with a dibble, and about six inches apart in the rows.

The summer cultivation consists in keeping down the weeds and loosening and leveling the soil around the plants. Market gardeners as a rule confine themselves to growing one or two varieties known to be good and of a character suited to the market for which the celery is designed.

"Crawford Half Dwarf" is a variety of superior quality largely grown for the New York market. "Boston Market" is a variety that keeps well during winter and is popular in the neighborhood of Boston.

"Sanderling White Dwarf" is most dwarf of all, very solid and very white. "Golden Dwarf" is attractive in appearance, is solid, keeps well and consequently is a very popular variety.

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The Wheat Harvest. The condition of the growing wheat crop in the different states has from time to time been reported, and may be summarized by saying that the crop of winter wheat will be reduced in quantity, whatever the quality may be.

Attention is called to the fact that turnips may be sown on ground prepared by the earlier crops. Sow, when practicable, just previous to a rain. This second crop will prove a valuable one, for it will afford a large amount of good feed just when roots are most needed.

At a meeting of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' association a member reported having tried, with complete success, the application of salt water to the bark of apple trees for destroying the bark louse.

Country Gentleman speaks favorably of the barberry as a hedge plant, stating that it has the best natural hedge of any shrub known to it, and bears plenty of seed, which, properly treated, will grow as freely as apple seed, and is easily transplanted.

There seems no question about the excellence of the Kieffer pear for canning purposes, though horticulturists generally hold diverse opinions in reference to the quality while fresh.

QUERIES IN BEE CULTURE.

Prominent Apianists Give Their Views on Foundations.

Queries propounded to well known bee culturists throughout the country and answered by them in a recent issue of The American Bee Journal were as follows: "1. Will foundation one or two years old be worn out by the bees as quickly and satisfactorily as newly made foundation? 2. If not, is there any process by which it can be renewed so as to make it as good as newly made foundation?"

G. L. Tinker replied to No. 1: "That depends much upon how it has been kept. If allowed to freeze, it becomes hard, and is worked out by the bees slowly. But if kept in a warm room it remains soft and pliable, and I doubt if ages injure it, if it is put in a tight box with papers between the layers."

Mrs. L. Harrison answered: "1. Yes, if your foundation is all right. 2. Yes, if it is placed in a warm room. 3. Yes, I have used foundation two years old, and could see no difference between it and that freshly made."

G. W. Demaree said: "1. If it has been kept closely packed in a box it is as good as any; but if it has been exposed to the air it becomes dry and hard. 2. If the foundation has become dry and hard it can be renewed by soaking it in warm water, sweetened with honey. 3. It pays me."

C. H. Dillman answered as follows: "1. There is but little difference. 2. It can be dipped in warm water to freshen it, but I do not think it is necessary, as the bees clustering on it will render it pliable. 3. Yes."

James Heddon replied: "1. There is little if any difference. This is answered enough for all the questions. 2. I have observed very little difference. 3. If heated until quite soft, either by dipping it in hot water or by exposing it to a temperature of 100 degs. or more, it will be as good as new."

The editor of The Journal said: "1. Yes, if it has been properly kept in a box it will be just as good as that of a new one. 2. If it has been exposed to the air and become hard, dipping it in hot water or placing it in the sun will soften it. 3. Yes."

Insecticides in the Poultry Yard. Persons who have not had much experience with raising chickens are liable to use disinfectants too heavily, and so kill quite innocently many birds.

The value of the Trotting Horse. The great foundation upon which the value of the trotting horse rests, says as high authority as Wallace, is his speed in the practical and business uses of the American people to any other type of horse.

Summer Mulching. Mulching is a good thing when properly done. There are, however, serious objections to the common practice of applying mulch heavily all at once to fruit trees.

Care of Nest Cakes. The renewal of their coats is a great tax upon the vitality of nest cattle and horses. It takes a good deal of rich food to give material for the renewal of so strongly nitrogenous a growth as hair, horns and hoofs.

A Word About Turnips. Attention is called to the fact that turnips may be sown on ground prepared by the earlier crops. Sow, when practicable, just previous to a rain.

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Oddity in sleeves is a feature in summer frocks for both big and little people.

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