

Marketing Fruits.

Mr. T. C. Johnson, a Californian, makes the following seasonable suggestions to fruit-growers:

"Ship to a well-established firm, and not to every man who sends out letters soliciting trade and promising prices considerably above the regular market, for many such are only sidewalk salesmen with no established place of business; they will return one or two good sales, get a run of trade, and then move to another street, failing to make further returns for fruit received. It is better to send to only one firm in a place, for if the fruit is uniformly fine, a trade will be established upon the trade-mark, and where two or more firms are handling the same mark, different prices are sometimes asked, according to supply and demand, and sometimes lower prices are taken than where one firm has the entire handling of a mark.

"Inferior fruit should not be shipped—in fact, should not be grown. It is not wanted, is in the way, has to be marked 'off,' and is an injury, to a certain extent, to good fruit. Uniformity in package and in packing is required. Undersized boxes should not be used. Fruit should be assorted in two grades, fine and good. The grower's name should be placed on all good fruit, but not on that which is below good. A good class of men only should be employed in the packing and handling of fruit, for the work is of a different character from that of handling potatoes. Women are good in assorting and packing fruit, for they handle not only quickly, but as a rule more carefully than men. Ship in carload lots as far as possible, as better rates of transportation can be had, and better sales realized than for small lots.

"Our fruit business needs to be more thoroughly organized and placed on a better business basis. There should be in every town where orcharding is attempted, a fruit-growers' association, to which every grower should belong. All fruit should be properly graded, inspected and placed in the market in the best possible condition. Upon such basis the income to the grower and handler would be materially and permanently increased."

POULTRY.

The Food Value of Eggs.

About one-third of an egg is solid nutriment. A good egg is made up of ten parts shell, sixty parts white, and thirty yolk. The white of an egg contains 68 per cent. water, and the yolk 52 per cent. An egg, if cooked very hard, is difficult of digestion, except by those persons possessed of stout stomachs; such eggs should be eaten with bread and masticated very finely. Fried eggs are much less wholesome than boiled ones. An egg dropped into hot water is not only a clean and handsome but a delicious morsel. Most people spoil the taste of their eggs by adding pepper and salt. A little sweet butter is the best dressing. Eggs contain much phosphorus, which is supposed to be beneficial to those who use their brains much.

Some of the Standard Breeds.

DIFFERENT VARIETIES AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS—FLESH AND EGG PRODUCERS—FOWLS FOR THE FARMER—HOW TO IMPROVE THE FLOCK.

BY A. G. GILBERT, POULTRY MANAGER, CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA.

Some breeds of cows are good for milk. Others are better for beef. Again, some strains of cows are better milk yielders than others. In poultry we have some breeds that are better flesh makers than they are egg layers, while there are others that are prolific egg layers and little good for anything else. The points of difference in his cattle are, as a rule, better understood by the farmer than in his poultry. If it were not so we would not find so many nondescript fowls in the great majority of the barnyards of the country. The farmer should aim to have fowls that are good layers and rapid flesh makers. "Hard to get," you say. Not so difficult as may be thought, for we have both good qualities in Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes. And it will be our effort to point out the characteristics of certain of the standard breeds, so that the farmers of the country will have no difficulty in making a choice.

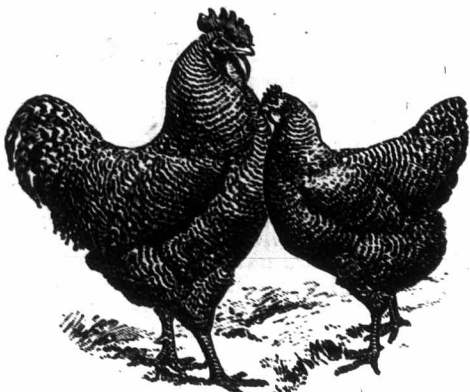
SOME OF THE BEST KNOWN BREEDS.

The following compose some of the best known standard breeds, viz.: Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Brahmans, Langshans, Leghorns, and Minorcas. They are again divided into the following varieties: Plymouth Rocks—Barred, White, and Buff. Wyandottes—Silver, White, Golden, Black, and Buff. Brahmans—Light and Dark. Langshans—Black and White. Leghorns—White, Brown, Black, Buff, Dominique, Silver Duckwing. Minorcas—Black and White. Indian Game—Brown and White.

BREEDS GOOD FOR EGGS AND FLESH.

The above is a varied list to choose from, and to the uninitiated it may be puzzling on that account. But the farmer who wants eggs in winter, and chickens which will make rapid flesh development, can make no mistake in deciding upon Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes. We are sometimes met with the objection that Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes are inveterate sitters; no doubt owing to the fact that the fowls in such cases have been too old. It must be remembered that a fowl should

not be kept over two years of age. Our experience of fifteen years with all the standard breeds goes to prove that while some few breeds may come very near to the Plymouth Rocks as a fowl for the farmer, none can excel them, and no variety of that

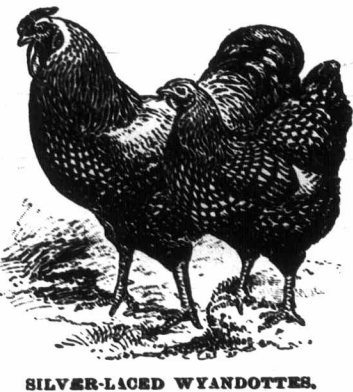


PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

breed is better than the barred. Of Wyandottes, the white and silver-laced varieties are to be recommended; not because the other varieties are not of equal merit, but for the reason that the farmers can obtain the varieties named with less difficulty and cost. Langshans and Light Brahmans are also favorites with some as egg layers and flesh producers. The Barred and White Plymouth Rock cockerels for many years have shown (in mostly all cases), at the Experimental Farm, a flesh development of fourteen to sixteen ounces per month. I do not say this was attained in the first month, but at the end of four months the birds weighed seven pounds to eight pounds per pair. And there was no forcing, but the chicks were carefully attended and regularly fed. In several instances Brahma and Langshan chickens did as well.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES.

Plymouth Rocks have large, compact bodies, with full, round breast. Yellow legs. Red wattles and earlobes. The feathers should be distinctly barred. The color of feather may be darker in some birds than others, but the barring should be distinct. In the male the comb should be of medium size and stand erect.

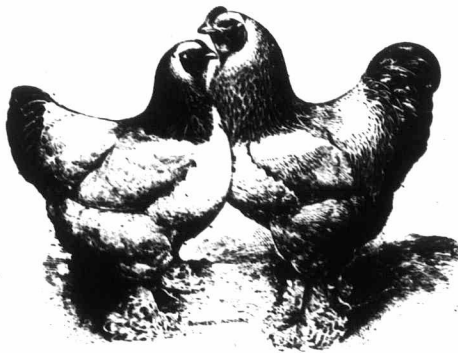


SILVER-LACED WYANDOTTES.

The Wyandottes are full and compact in body, with broad, plump breast. Yellow legs. Red wattles and earlobes. The plumage of the bird differs with the variety, but the feathers of the white variety should be pure white. Experience is necessary to distinguish the proper feather markings of the silver-laced and golden, which are beautifully marked. Both males and females have rose combs.

Brahmas and Langshans have large bodies, deep and well rounded. Wattles and earlobes bright red. The legs of the Light Brahma are yellow, while the plumage is white, with a well-marked hackle. The legs of the Dark Brahma are gray, and so is the color of the plumage. The plumage of the Black Langshan is metallic black, and the legs bluish-black. The color of the White Langshan feathers is pure white. Color of legs slaty-blue.

The above-named fowls are sitters, and will hatch out their young. All make good mothers. Brahmans are sometimes clumsy and heavy, and



LIGHT BRAHMAS.

should not be given early eggs, when shells are apt to be thin. No better mothers or sitters can be found than Wyandottes and Plymouth Rocks.

BREEDS FOR EGG PRODUCTION.

The Leghorns and Minorcas belong to the great Spanish family, and are noted as prolific egg layers. Indeed, they have been not inaptly styled "egg machines." Equally good layers are the Black Spanish and the Andalusians, which have not been mentioned because scarcely necessary when the other breeds are noted. The

Black Minorcas to a great extent have taken the place of Black Spanish, for the reason that they are said to be hardier in the rigorous winter of

certain parts of the country, and they are certainly as good layers of as large eggs.

White Leghorns are as household words—they are known to everyone. They are prolific layers of large or small eggs, according to strain. Care should be taken to purchase or procure eggs from a large egg laying strain. The brown Leghorns are also great favorites with many, and are equally prolific layers of perhaps a slightly smaller egg. The other varieties are not so well known. These are rose-combed varieties of white and brown breeds.



BLACK LANGSHANS.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES.

White and Brown Leghorns have bodies of medium size, deep and plump. Wattles red. Earlobes white. Legs and beaks yellow. The plumage of the white variety should be pure white. The brown variety is beautifully marked, and some experience is required, as in Silver and Golden Wyandottes, to distinguish pure specimens. The combs of the males of both varieties should stand erect and not fall over.

Indian Games.—Indian Games make good market birds, but indifferent layers. They are valuable to cross with the larger breeds, and make large, heavy offspring. There are two varieties, viz., the brown and white. Their weights are given elsewhere.

STANDARD WEIGHTS.

The following are the standard weights of the different breeds enumerated and varieties of the same:

	Cock.	Cockerel.	Hen.	Pullet.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Barred, White and Buff P. Rocks.	9½	8	7½	6½
Silver, Golden, White and Buff Wyandottes.	8½	7½	6½	5½
Light Brahmans.	12	10	9½	8
Dark Brahmans.	11	9	8½	7
Black and White Langshans.	10	8	7	6
Black and White Minorcas.	8	6½	6½	5½
Indian Games.	9	7½	6½	5½

The standard requires no weights for the Leghorn family. Weights of Buff, White and Partridge Cochins same as Dark Brahmans.

SOME CROSSES.

Crosses of the Plymouth Rocks, barred and white, with White Leghorns have made good layers of fairly large eggs. The females were larger than the Leghorns, but slightly smaller than the Rocks. The Leghorn male was crossed with Plymouth Rock hens. The most satisfactory results were obtained from a Barred male crossed with White Leghorn females. The male birds were not as large as the Plymouth Rocks, and for that reason did not make as good a market bird.

A Barred Plymouth male with colored Dorking hens made large cockerels, one making weight of six pounds in four months and twenty-nine days. The females made average layers of eggs of medium size. An Indian Game male crossed with Light Brahma females made large hens, but not such satisfactory cockerels. The hens were fairly good layers.

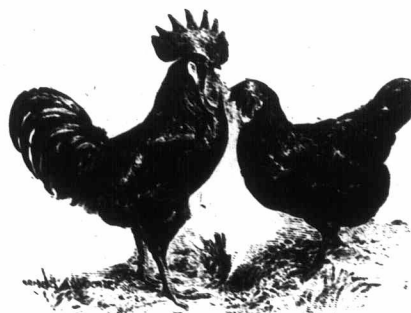
A Black Minorca cockerel crossed with Langshan hens made large black hens, which were excellent layers of brown-colored eggs over medium size. The cockerels did not make satisfactory market fowls.

In our experience no cross yet made has been an improvement on the Plymouth Rock family. For that reason it would not pay farmers to experiment with crosses.

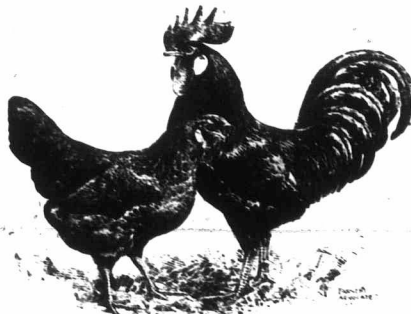
HOW FARMERS MAY IMPROVE THEIR FOWLS.

A farmer may improve his fowls, if of the ordinary barnyard sorts, in two ways:

First.—By picking out the largest, best-shaped and most prolific layers, and mating them with a thoroughbred male. If his hens are on the small size, mate with a thoroughbred Plymouth Rock or Wyandotte. If of large size but slow layers, mate with a White Leghorn or Minorca male. Use,



BLACK MINORCAS.



BROWN LEGHORNS.