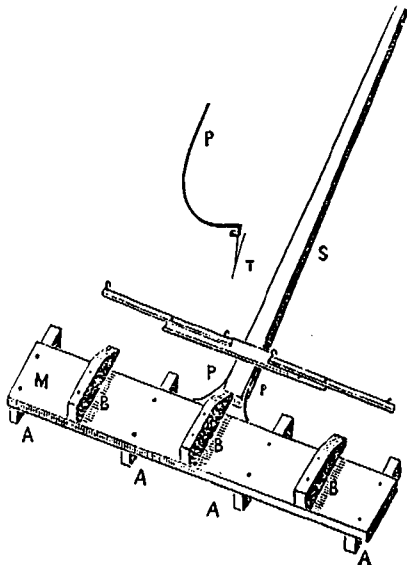




Corn Marker.

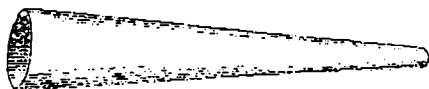
A SIMPLE one-horse corn-marker is made by inserting into a scantling several feet long, short thick teeth at the distance of the rows of corn, and then attaching to the middle of it, a pair of one-horse thills to draw it. Every one of the teeth makes a large scratch for the row. A form for a two-horse marker is represented by the accompanying figure, which nearly explains itself. It is reversible, one



side for narrow rows and the other for wider ones. M is a two-inch plank, A and B the markers, S the tongue, P and T braces. In using markers, the ground should be previously made smooth and level, so that the marks may be distinct. In using a horse-planter, these marks will be very useful in guiding it, the planting tubes being run in the marks and thus easily kept straight.—*Cultivator and Country Gentleman*.

A Useful Planter for Tree Seeds.

ASH, Box Elder, Catalpa, and other winged seeds are peculiarly well adapted for wide distribution on windy days, and it is a rather back-aching job to



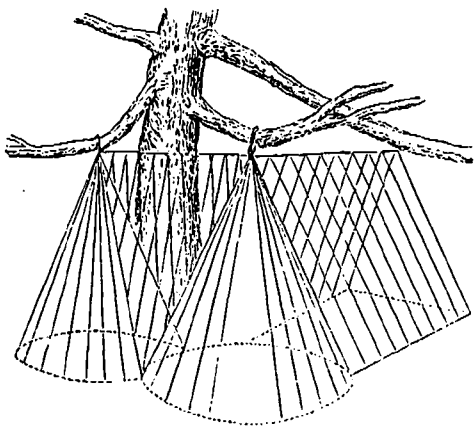
HAND PLANTER.

plant them by hand, step on them with one foot and cover them, when a good breeze is blowing. By making a tube of paste-board or building paper, about three feet long, two inches across at the lower end, and large enough to put the whole hand in at the upper end, a tool is provided not only for tree seeds but for many varieties of garden seed. Every seed can be put just where it is wanted without bending the back at all. With most seeds a little earth can be pushed over them with the foot and firmed at the same time, giving sufficient covering.—*American Agriculturist*.

A Tent of Living Vines.

A VERY pretty tent can be made, which, instead of being formed of the usual canvas, has its sides composed of running vines, making a cool and refreshing retreat. Select a tree with low spreading branches, and attach stout cords to them at three different places. From these cords smaller strings are brought down to the ground, as shown in the plan, and secured to pegs driven into the earth. Any suitable plants, such as Hops, Peas, Beans, or Morning-glories, are then planted at the foot of the strings, and in due time they will be entirely

covered with foliage. The circular parts are laid out by first suspending a stone from the branch above by a string reaching nearly to the ground, to mark the centre of the circle. Then drive a peg



into the ground at this point, and attach a string to it at a length equal to one half the diameter of the desired circle. By tying a nail or sharp-pointed stick to the other end, and moving the whole around the center peg, a very accurate circle can be readily marked out on the ground, and the strings brought down to it from above. As the weight is considerable care must be taken to have the cords strong and firmly fastened, for withstanding wind.

A HANDY thing to have about the farm is a box containing an assortment of bolts, nuts, rivets, nails, and a hammer, pinchers and cold-chisel.

NINE cases out of ten, where a variety of fruit which once flourished in a given soil, has ceased to flourish and perfect fine fruit there, the change is due to the fact that the soil has become destitute of the necessary mineral manure.

INTEREST the children in the flowers. If they accidentally pull up a plant, thinking it a weed, do not scold or slap them, but kindly explain the difference, and they will soon be a great help to you, and you will have twice the pleasure with your flowers.

EVERY farmer should raise pigs and cure his bacon. There is no meat equal to that produced at home. You will at least "know what you are eating" which is a valuable point in favor of home-raised meat, as only healthy, thrifty stock will be used for the home supply.

THE quickest way to plant small root grafts is to stretch a line along the ground to be planted, and, with a stick two inches in diameter and pointed, make holes and press the earth in around the plants. This must not be done unless the ground is in the best condition—perfectly dry and finely pulverized.

POTATOES planted early in spring when the soil is mellow and moist, will do well whether cut or planted whole, or whether large or small. But later, when the soil becomes quite dry, cut pieces, whether large or small, soon dry up and a feeble growth is the result. Small whole potatoes will then do better than large cut ones, because whole ones do not become dry. It is well to bear in mind the difference.

UNLEACHED wood ashes contain all the mineral elements of wood in an available form. Ground raw bone supplements this with nitrogenous matter and a needed excess of phosphoric acid. For trees ten inches or more in diameter, a barrel of ashes and fifty pounds of bone spread evenly around the tree, over a circle thirty feet in diameter, and dug in, will astonish most people by the effect it will produce.

A CORRESPONDENT gives a valuable hint which is worthy of trial. He destroys noxious weeds by pouring crude carbolic acid into the "heart of the plant," which probably means the "crown" of the plant. Dandelions treated in this manner were killed down a foot below the surface. It is probable that any kind of acid will answer, especially the sulphuric or muriatic. He claims it to be easier than digging out weeds. Thistles may be eradicated in this manner.

THE best time to prune fruit trees is believed to be when the leaves are about two-thirds grown in spring as the wounds made at this time will heal rapidly and perfectly, and the vitality of the tree will be lowered less than at any other time. But as the pruning in orchard or nursery cannot all be done in one day it is safe to prune lightly at any one time from the time when the leaves have attained nearly full size to the completion of the first extension of growth.

It has been suggested in regard to wire fences that the end posts, which must bear the strain of stretching the wires, be set with concrete. It will take but a few cents' worth of cement to a post, and will make it perfectly firm at the bottom, and also more durable than if set in the clay. It is almost impossible to set posts firm enough so that they will not yield to the strain when the land is wet and soft, but by digging a hole fifteen inches square and pounding it full of coarse cement grout around the post it will give base enough to the post to keep it in place.

MANY persons make a mistake by sowing their seeds before the weather has become warm enough to promote their growth, and in consequence the seeds rot in the ground, or what few plants do appear are weak, sickly things what have but a brief existence. Don't be too impatient to sow your seeds in the spring. If you have a well-heated conservatory or window you may be successful, but if not, wait till the weather settles and becomes moderately warm. Seedling plants started in the early part of April often undo those started earlier, while the trouble and anxiety of caring for the earlier plants is thus saved.

THE secret of having a lawn that will undergo all dry periods that occur during July and August, with least damage, and not be injured for the following seasons, lies in preparing the root-bed in such a manner as to allow the roots to go as deeply as they will and below the reach of the hot sun and drouth, so that even if the tops look withered and burned, the roots are not injured to any harmful extent. In the fall an inch or so of mulch of very strawy manure can be given, removed in the spring, and a dressing of commercial fertilizer applied at the rate of a pound to every two square yards. A lawn so treated each year, the mower used during the fore part of the season once a week, and every two weeks as the summer advances, but at all times being careful not to cut so closely as to expose the roots—keeping the grass blades about an inch high, being a safe rule to follow—will well repay the labor spent upon it.

AFTER the trees are snugly heeled-in, do not plant until the weather is settled, especially until the long wind storms are over. These winds are dangerous and shrivel up the bark and destroy the verdure of the buds, which the roots cannot yet supply with moisture. If the trees come to hand early this spring, it is best to heel them in until the weather gets warm. If trees after a long journey in warm weather are found to have the buds started and the bark shrivelled, trim them back, and cut each branch back to a sound, dormant bud. Then dig a trench in suitable soil, and lay in the trees one by one, taking care that in filling in every part of the shrivelled bark is in contact with the moist soil. Cover all completely, root and branch, taking care that the labels are properly preserved. When the trees are taken up at the end of a week or more,