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Soils and Crops

Address communications to Agronomist, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

Incubator Turkeys.
I raised my first turkeys eight years ago. I had two hens and a tom. One hen did not hatch an egg, the other hatched 15 and that aroused my enthusiasm for turkeys. I kept these poults in a coop with runway for three weeks, feeding hard-boiled eggs, cornbread and cottage cheese. This is the critical age for poults and a lot of care given during this age is time well spent.

The next year I kept six hens and one tom. That year I marketed 20 hens at 12½ cents a pound and 11 cents for the tom and I considered these good prices then. That was in 1913. A few weighed 15 pounds and I thought they were exceptionally large.

Every year since I have been increasing my flock. The last two years I have had only 22 hens but I usually have only 20 when laying season comes. I keep two toms. I purchase a tom every year and keep each tom two years only. If I keep a tom longer than that my hens get weak, the stock weakens, and they do not grow to be large and strong. I am a thorough believer in purebred stock. It pays.

When I first commenced raising turkeys, I thought that toms weighing 15 pounds and hens 11 pounds were good sized. Now I consider a 13-pound hen a small-sized one. My toms weigh from 17 to 20 pounds. Does it pay to use purebred stock? Well, I know it does. I used to consider a tom weighing 10 pounds at five months of age a good-sized bird, but now, since I have a purebred tom, my young toms weigh ten pounds at three months. Last year I paid \$20 for a tom. He then weighed 35 pounds with empty crop. Now he weighs 42 pounds. My young hens last year weighed 15 pounds.

The turkey hens do not want to set very early. Some turkey hens will not set while they are setting and often they will die from starvation. After setting on the nest four weeks they are often very weak and make poor mothers to take care of their small poults. For this reason I use an incubator.

An incubator holding 160 chicken eggs will hold 120 turkey eggs. I leave the eggs in the incubator for two weeks or a few days more if necessary to find the hen that will set. As soon as I notice a hen that wants to set I place her on a nest with a few china eggs. When I see she is ready to set I take the eggs out of the incubator.

ROYAL YEAST is now made in square cakes.

The number of cakes in a package has been reduced from six to five, but the five square cakes are equal in quantity to the six round cakes.

Each cake is wrapped in wax paper, insuring perfect keeping qualities.

Royal Yeast Cakes—make perfect bread.

ROYAL YEAST COMPANY LIMITED
TORONTO, CANADA
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capons are used as foster-mothers, hawks never have a chance of stealing the chicks.

Any large city is a good capon market. I have had White Leghorns capons that weighed six and one-half pounds each; Rhode Island Reds, eight and one-half pounds; Wyandottes and Plymouth Rocks, nine and one-half pounds. All were less than one year old, and from ordinary stock.

Poultry

Diarrhoea kills more chicks than anything else. I give black pepper ground fine and mixed with mash food. I continue its use for several days.

Feeding flavor into eggs may seem a foolish thing to talk about, but nothing is more sure than that eggs may be spoiled or made delicious by quality of food given.

Hens cannot lay in the winter unless their ration contains animal protein needed to make the whites of eggs. To supply this, give hens all the milk they can drink daily or feed them meat scrap or tankage as a part of their regular ration.

Early feathering and early crowing means early profits. Always select the cockerels that feather first and then select from them the one that crows first.

The duck intended for market should be fed on fat-forming food during the last three weeks of her life. A good ration for this is meat scrap, one part; wheat bran, one part; wheat middlings, two parts; corn meal, three parts—all by weight. A small percentage of grit and one part green feed should be added.

A simple brooder is thus made and used by a neighbor: A wooden box about four feet square and a foot high is used. A few holes are bored in one side to provide air, and then a blanket is stretched over the top. An earthen jug filled with hot water is placed inside to provide heat. It is sometimes necessary to refill the jug twice a day to keep up the proper temperature.

The incubator cellar must have thick walls, a double roof and good ventilation, in order to keep up the proper temperature, and not to be affected by sudden changes of weather. The roof part is all that is above ground. No special design is needed so long as the principles mentioned above are complied with.

There's Still Time to Do Your Winter Spraying.

Even where there are but a few fruit trees on your farm, it pays to take care of them.

Fruit has a decided advantage over vegetable crops, in that even a small surplus can be handled and sold at a profit, provided it is of good quality. For many years, since we really learned to take care of our few dozen fruit trees, we have turned every basket of fruit, over what we use, into real cash.

Before that, when we took the attitude that there was not enough fruit on our place "to bother with," we seldom had enough for our own needs, and that was so poor that it hardly paid to try to save it.

The most important thing we did to get our fruit trees to produce, after

many years of neglect, was to give them a thorough cleaning up for scale. The county representative demonstrated on some trees belonging to a neighbor, and the results were so astonishing that we decided it would pay us really to look after our own trees.

Fortunately, the San Jose scale, which is the worst enemy of tree fruits, and attacks them all, can be absolutely put out of business by winter spraying. Oyster-shell scale and blister mite will also be cleaned up at the same time. We never did any spraying against insects or diseases that gave us such complete and satisfactory results as winter spraying has.

Anyone can be successful with winter spraying who will do the work thoroughly. But every bit of the surface of trunks and branches must be covered, because the spray, in order to work, must form a thin coating over scales and eggs. Every insect must be touched.

The two standard sprays for winter use are lime-sulphur and miscible oil. While either can be mixed at home, we have found it much more satisfactory, and in the end cheaper, to use a ready-prepared spray. It might be different if we had a big orchard. We have used both the lime-sulphur and the oil sprays, and have found that the latter gives just as good results, and is much more comfortable to spray with. A miscible oil is one that mixes with water. The preparation we use, which is made especially for winter spraying, needs only to be stirred in cold water, one quart of spray to four gallons of water, and it is ready to use on any kind of fruit tree.

We have used several kinds of spraying equipment, and the net result of our experience has been that a portable, hand-lever pump is the best thing to get for a small home orchard. The small hand-power compressed air sprayers do not give pressure enough for practical tree work, in spite of many advertising claims to the contrary. There is a new type of double-acting telescope pump that gives excellent pressure, and can be used with a bucket or a "knapsack" tank. It is also all right for a few trees.

On the whole, if there are a score or more of good-sized trees in your orchard it will be best to try to arrange with someone who has a regular power outfit, to spray them for you.

Now is the Time to

Test seed-corn. Treat seed-corn for smut before drilling. Set hens. Eleven eggs are enough for an early setting.

Put up lightning-rods, and take out fire insurance.

Provide dependable fire-fighting apparatus for your farm home. Kill grubs in backs of cattle. Squeeze out the grubs and kill them, or squirt some kerosene into the hole at the top of each lump. Use a small oil-can.

Leave your soil a good reputation and employment.

If you have been able to afford a silo for your farm, you are ready, now, to afford a bathroom and a septic-tank-sewage-disposal system.

Vines That Will Beautify Your Home Grounds

BY ANNE ROBINSON

I have found that for the home gardener, whether it be to supply beauty or to furnish a crop, for practical worth and ease of culture, the many varieties of vines cannot be excelled and are too little appreciated.

Vines are divided into fruit, shade, and flowering varieties. The popular grape and the universally grown hop are perhaps the most useful of all vines. But for landscape gardening a shade or flowering vine is more desirable.

The Virginia creeper, a hardy, easily-grown perennial, is the favorite for shading. I have seen this vine trained along chicken wire, stretched the length of a porch, where it gave a dense shade from early spring until autumn.

For graceful beauty, what can compare with the Boston ivy, as it clings to a brick or stone surface, sending its tender new shoots ever upward? Children love a gourd vine with its fantastic fruit, and a package of mixed seed planted along the back fence will furnish safe entertainment on Mother's busy mornings. The dainty clematis, wistaria, cinnamon vine, and honeysuckle are perennials possessing a sweet fragrance and charm which defies description.

For neatness, though, the annuals are best, as they can be taken down when dead, and variety can be had by using different kinds each season.

Most people think of morning glories when a back porch screen is mentioned. And morning glories are well worth thinking of, with their different shades of pale pink or deep rose and the deep clear blue which resembles a bluebird's wing. The moonflower belongs to this family, although it is like the new baby who gets his days and nights turned about.

These magnificent flowers do not open until sundown, and by the time day morning glories are opening they are closing. They are larger than the conventional day bloomers, and more fragrant.

The butterfly pea, flowering bean, and the canary and cypress vines are beautiful and unusual, and not so well known.

But for gorgeous display and clean fragrant flowers nothing that I know can equal climbing nasturtiums. They generally reach a height of six feet, and are covered all summer with bright, spicy-smelling blossoms of red, pink, lemon, and orange. They furnish an abundant source of supply for honeybees, and are at their best if the blossoms are kept picked. Sweet peas are also useful for low decorating, and are fine for cutting. I get most satisfactory results by planting the mixed seed.

Queen of all climbers is the rose. Single varieties come in white, pink, yellow and crimson. A new sort is advertised which is guaranteed to bloom all summer. This seems almost too good to be true. However, baby ramblers in my own garden bloomed for over a month last spring. A treatment of fertilizer and many waterings were perhaps the secret of their long season. On account of thorns, climbing roses are not so good when grown by the porch. Their place is at the side of the house, and where they get plenty of morning sun.

A rose arbor is a novel arrangement that can be developed in two or three seasons by starting plants at intervals around the framework. When in bloom, a more beautiful spot cannot be found. To add to the charm, if indeed more charm be needed, plant nasturtiums between the plants, and let them use the rosebushes as a trellis. And what was once a rose arbor will be a nasturtium arbor. If you like a riot of color, add a few blue morning glories.

A trellis of pink ramblers grows near my kitchen window where I can admire them at any time during the day. Especially during a wind storm do I enjoy them, as they sway in long graceful reaches and seem to defy the elements.

If your grocer were greedy for profits he would not be content to sell and recommend Red Rose Tea at a less profit than he makes on other teas.

But it is a fact that he does make less on Red Rose than on other teas, and he recommends it because he knows its quality is the best.

Orchard and Garden

One-variety apple orchards are a risky business. The rule among apples is self-sterility; that is, most trees require pollen from trees of another variety in order to mature fruit. If your block of Northern Spy or Wealthy trees blossoms year after year, and the trees mature no fruit, the chance are you need another variety grafted into the orchard. Trees must be happily married, just like people.

Use of flats for gaining time: If a hotbed is not to be had for starting plants that need a long period for development, such as tomatoes and peppers, flats can be used in the house. A flat is a box of convenient size and about four inches deep. It should be large enough to contain a sufficient supply of plants, but not too large nor too heavy for easy movement from place to place. Holes bored in the bottom of the box will insure proper drainage and should be covered with pieces of broken flower pots so that the water may run off without removing the soil.

Fill the box to the depth of an inch with well-rotted stable manure from which all straw and shavings have been removed. Add an inch and one-half of garden soil to the manure, evening off the surface. Scatter the seeds to be sown in the flat on this soil and cover them with a light sprinkling of soil and sand well mixed. Seeds should be covered to about their own depth. Press down the soil and spray lightly with water. Care should be taken never to flood the flat, as this tends to wash the seeds together.

A piece of window-glass should now be placed over the flat and the glass should be covered with paper to exclude the sunlight. As soon as the young plants germinate the paper may be removed and the glass taken from the flat as soon as the plants have well broken through the soil.

Flats should not be allowed to dry out after the sowing of the seed, neither should too much water be added to them, as this will tend to rot

the seed. Use a spray when watering to get an even distribution of the water over the whole flat.

Flats should be set in a warm place, not in direct sunlight, until the plants appear, after which they should be given direct sunlight. As soon as the seedling plants have developed three or four leaves, they should be transferred to another prepared flat that they may have more room for growth. From this last flat they are generally transplanted to the garden when all danger from frost is past and the soil has warmed up somewhat.

Early garden work: Sow tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and celery in the hotbed. Give early plants plenty of room in the hotbed. Seeding plants should be thinned out to a distance of 2 x 2 inches. Pay careful attention to ventilation and watering of hotbeds. Get cold frames ready. Dig parsnips and salsify that have been left in the ground over winter. Uncover multiplier onions and partly uncover asparagus bed. Harrow asparagus bed rather deeply. Treat seed potatoes with formalin or corrosive sublimate, and sun-sprout them.

Spraying alone will not control codling-moth, the pest that makes wormy apples. It may be necessary to screen the windows of the cellar where apples are stored over winter. A year or so ago my attention was called to a case in which the man who was having trouble sprayed his trees every spring and summer. But the trouble with wormy apples continued.

At last he called on the provincial college "bug expert" for help, and was advised to use screens as suggested. The trouble was due to the fact that codling-moth wintered over in some of the wormy apples in the cellar, and came out later than the brood that wintered outdoors; too late to be caught by the first spray. After the practice of screening the windows was begun, there was no more trouble. The screens did the work.

The Experimental Farms System.

Remark has several times been made in Parliament and elsewhere that the splendid work performed by the Experimental Farms System of Canada is not nearly so widely known and appreciated as it should be. In The Agricultural Gazette of Canada there appears an outline of the system and the tasks in which it is engaged. The Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa is the headquarters of the twenty branch or auxiliary farms and stations. It is stated that there is one farm in each of the provinces of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Ontario, two in Nova Scotia, four in Quebec, two in Manitoba, three in Saskatchewan, two in Alberta and four in British Columbia. There are also two sub-stations in Alberta, two in the Yukon and one in British Columbia. In addition, working with the system are tobacco stations at Enniskillen, Que. and Harrow, Ont. At all of these experimental and research work of enormous importance is carried on. Eighty illustration or demonstration stations have also been established in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Each branch of agriculture is dealt with in actual experiment, and the results are made public through the press and by means of addresses, demonstrations, and exhibits. In short every effort is made to encourage, advance and benefit agriculture, the basic industry of the country.

Early Ripening of Oats Valuable.

The ripening season of oats is very important. Certain varieties ripen from one to two weeks earlier than others, hence there are special uses for each class of oats. As a rule, early oats are somewhat smaller in size than later ones and finer in straw. They show more rapid growth throughout the entire season and are ready to harvest, as we have already said, fully half a month earlier than the later oats. This is a great advantage when you plan to have fall wheat follow early oats. The early ripened oats may be harvested and the ground plowed immediately and prepared for the seeding of the fall wheat.

You can hasten ripening of oats from a week to 10 days by fertilizing. This means a uniform product which can be harvested early. Early harvesting is especially valuable where you plan fall wheat to follow early oats.

TOPICS IN SEASON

Currycombs should be working overtime at this season of the year. Heavy-coated horses should always be clipped when the shedding begins.

Running water in the home—always in season.

Stumps make good fuel. Pull 'em or blast 'em.

Paint puts a different face on farm buildings and implements.

In buying new harness get the kind that will wear longest and need fewest repairs.

Hard water will form scale in the boiler of hot water heating plants. Get rid of the trouble with a good scale destroyer.

There was a time when locks and bars were not needed, but no more. Put good locks on the house, granary, basement, hen house and garage.

The storm season will soon be here. Are your farm buildings equipped with lightning rods? Better see about it. Also, take out insurance against lightning and tornado losses.

Bind logs well on the sled or wagon when hauling wood in poles. Many a bad accident has been caused by a wooden upright giving way. Use a strong chain or load binder.

Steers wintered mainly on silage will go out on grass in the spring and suffer practically no loss in weight when the change is made. Those which have been carried through the winter on grain will lose when placed on spring pasture because of the watery condition of the grass. Another good boost for a silo.

Tell the truth in advertising. The most important thing to be learned by the man on the farm who has something to advertise is the knack of describing his goods accurately, instead of making general claims such as "best," "selected stock," etc. General claims do not interest the reader, whereas actual details make the reader see the product, in his imagination. Letters and circulars used in answering inquiries should give full details—pedigrees, guarantees, qualities, how payment is required, method of shipping.

Why not call the "movies" to your aid in selling? Have a slide made showing your farm, its stock or the dairy. Arrange with the local moving-picture house in your nearest town to show this between pictures, and you will find many customers will be attracted by this novel means of publicity. A good slide would be a berry patch, or a corn-field, with the price of corn or berries. A tie-up" could be arranged by having a box at the door over which a sign is placed reading: "Shall we send you a price list of our farm products delivered to your door?"

This is the time of the year when some sort of contrivance, either rubber boots or an overhead cable, should be used to get the cows in and out of the stable. Many of you have seen a cow lift her head as high as she could, twist her tail three times higher than her back and wade through a barnyard too dirty for any animal except a crane or a stork to go through. The cow does this while the owner or the hired man climbs along the side of the barn trying to get to the barn without being mired himself. When the cow gets in the barn, and when the man gets ready to milk, the cow has a mud-caked udder, and if the hair on the udder is long and the man has to milk shortly after the cow has gone into the barn, he has one unpleasant task. Possibly this is another place where a milking machine is cleaner than hand milking. How a person can expect to enjoy milk produced under these conditions, or how he can have nerve enough to sell it for human consumption, is one of the things to be wondered at. The remedy? Have the barn lot, or get rubber boots for the cows.

Boasting crops by drainage. There can be no question that by draining land that is slow in drying off in the spring we may be able to get on it from two to three weeks earlier than we otherwise could. Not only that, but the crops we get will be far better than we could expect from heavy soil. It does not take many crops to get back the money spent in draining. The field which has been drained will not need more than half so much cultivation as one that is not drained. Another argument in favor of drainage is that it advances maturity of crops two or three weeks, often a matter of great importance when frost comes early. You can prove that hay, oats, barley, peas and corn will make twice as heavy a growth by July 1 on the same farm by comparing results side by side on drained and undrained land. The old saying holds good: "Seeing is believing."

Farmers may be misled through the statements of seed dealers in regard to mixed seeds. As an illustration a sample labelled "mixed alsike and timothy," when analyzed contained eighty per cent. timothy, ten per cent. alsike and ten per cent. impurities. Ordinarily when alsike and timothy are sown in a mixture there should be approximately fifty per cent. of each seed. Another sample, marked "mixed red clover and timothy," showed ninety-one per cent. timothy and five per cent. red clover with four per cent. impurities. White sweet clover (hull) showed fifty-five per cent. good seed, twenty-seven per cent. shrivelled and the remainder impurities. To be absolutely sure, send a sample of the seed to your provincial college for examination.

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DEACON SKINS—The handling of these skins is our specialty. It will pay you to ship to us if you have three or more skins, but on a less number the freight charges are too heavy.

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