

Garden, Orchard and Forest.

The Kidney Bean.

It is said that we are indebted to Alexander the Great for the introduction of this bean into Europe, for while marching on his victorious route in India his eyes fell upon a field of these plants. They appeared to him very inviting, and, finding them good for food, recommended them to his countrymen.

In ancient Greece and Italy this vegetable found a distinguished place at the tables of the wealthy. In the former country they were served in their green state, together with figs and other side dishes. The Romans preserved them with vinegar and garum (a kind of lorime), and they were handed round at the beginning of a feast to excite the appetite of the guests. Pliny, in the seventh chapter of his eighteenth book, mentions these beans, and says those of Sesama and Iris are red, resembling blood. He also, in his twelfth chapter of the same book, called them Phaseli, and says the pod is to be eaten with the seed. It is probable that these beans were first introduced into this country from the Netherlands, about the year 1509, when gardening first began to be attended to in England, the white Dutch kidney bean having been the earliest sort known in this kingdom. The old French name for this vegetable was Feves de Reme, which evidently proves that they were introduced into that country from Italy; and about the time of Queen Elizabeth we find it called the Roman Bean. Gerard gives it also the name of Spersge Bean, and says it is called Faselles, or long peason. He mentions that a considerable variety was cultivated in England in his time, and says: "The fruit and pods of kidney bean boiled together before they be ripe, and so eaten, are exceedingly delicate meat." This medical herbalist adds, "they are gently laxative, and engender good blood."

Kidney beans are amongst the most valuable of culinary vegetables, yielding a large return crop, and continuing in use during the whole summer. The ripe seeds are much used on the Continent in cooking, under the name of "Haricots," which, as dishes, are as numerous as curries in Calcutta. It is stated that the Nubians boil the leaves of the kidney bean, and consider them an excellent dish. Major Denham mentions four kinds of beans raised in Borneo. A paste made of them and fish was the only eatable which this traveller and his companions could find in the towns near the river. The seed of the large kidney bean (*Fève haricot*) sliced and stewed in milk, is a frequent dish at the farm houses in Flanders. The scarlet runner (*Phaseolus multiflorus*) was brought into this country from South America, in 1633, and was first cultivated at Lambeth, by Tradescant, but it was merely planted as an ornament to cover walls, and to form arbors, without an idea of cooking the pods for the table. Its flowers were in great favor for nosegays, but its legumes did not come into general use as an edible vegetable until brought into notice by Miller in the eighteenth century. Phillips relates that some years ago the French had a prejudice against this plant nearly equal to the superstition of the ancients respecting the bean, on account of the scarlet or blood-colored blossom; but now it is largely cultivated in France, and almost all over the Continent, not only for the green pods, but also for its ripened seeds, which are eaten in haricots or put into soups. The scarlet runner, although in general cultivated as and considered to be annual, like the kidney bean, is truly perennial. It also deserves notice that in their spiral habit of growth the tendrils turn to the right, or in a direction contrary to the apparent diurnal course of the sun. This aberration from the common habits of plants has been accounted for by supposing that the native climate of the scarlet runner will be found to lie south of the equator, and that the plant, although removed to the northern hemisphere, is still obedient to the course originally assigned to it, turning into a direction which in its native clime would be towards the sun. Some varieties of the kidney bean are found in cultivation throughout almost every civilized country of the western as well as the eastern hemisphere.—*Hardwicke's Science Gossip.*

Coal Ashes.

I have a lot in Cambridge of about a third of an acre, on which stand my house and barn. It is clay soil, and twenty-eight years ago it was so tough and hard that it was almost impossible to get a spade into it. I have had it spaded up every

spring and autumn during these years. Almost all the dressing, except a few loads of loam once a year for the compost heap, has been made on the place. In the barn-cellar a large cemented vat has been made at the side of the earth-closet, which will hold from a cord and a half to two cords. The chamber-water and all the offal of every kind from the house, together with all the coal ashes from the cooking-range, and also the ashes from the furnace, after they have been used in the earth closet, are thrown into the compost heap in this vat. The ashes from the cooking-range have more or less wood ashes which comes from the kindlings that are used every morning; but the fire in the furnace is usually kindled but once during the season. This compost heap is pitched over once or twice every summer, spread upon the soil, and dug in. In this way the ground, which is covered with four rows of fruit trees, and with currant and raspberry bushes between the trees and between the rows, has been raised several inches, so that the dwarf pear trees have become standards, the pear stocks having thrown out roots. The intelligent gardener who has dug over this ground almost from the beginning, says that this lot, from being tough and hard, is now one of the mellowest and richest pieces of ground he knows of in the city. And I am confident that the coal ashes, which has constituted so large a portion of the annual dressing that has been used, have been of the greatest service, in not only lightening, but also in improving in all respects the character of the soil.—*Ec.*

The Flat-Headed Apple Tree Borer.

Among apple growers there has been during the past year or two a great complaint of some borer infesting their trees, and investigation has shown that it is to this little beetle that the injuries may be traced.

With regard to remedies, Dr. Fitch advises three: "First, coating or impregnating the bark with some substance repulsive to the insect. Second, destroying the beetle by hand-picking; and, third, destroying the larva by cutting into and extracting it from its burrow."

His advice is so plain and comprehensive that I cannot do better than quote it at length. "As it is during the month of June and fore part of July that the beetle frequents the trees for the purpose of depositing its eggs in the bark, it is probable that white-washing the trunk and large limbs, or rubbing them over with soft soap early in June, will secure them from molestation from this enemy. And in districts where this borer is known to infest the apple trees, the trees should be repeatedly inspected during this part of the year, and any of these beetles, that are found upon them should be captured and destroyed. It is at midday of warm sunny days that the search for them will be most successful, as they are then most active, and shew themselves abroad. The larva, when young appear to have the same habit with other borers, of keeping their burrow clean by throwing their castings out of it through a small orifice in the bark. They can therefore be discovered, probably, by the new, sawdust-like powder which will be found adhering to the outer surface of the bark. In August or September, whilst the worms are yet young, and before they have penetrated the heart-wood, the trees should be carefully examined for these worms. Whenever, from any particles of the sawdust-like powder appearing externally upon the bark, one of these worms is suspected, it will be easy, at least in young trees, where the bark is thin and smooth, to ascertain by puncturing it with a stiff pin whether there is any hollow cavity beneath, and if one is discovered, the bark should be cut away with a knife until the worm is found and destroyed. After it has penetrated the solid wood, it ceases to eject its castings, and consequently, we are then left without any clue by which to discover it. Hence the importance of searching for it seasonably."—*From the last Report of the Fruit Growers' Association.*

Cultivation of Orchards.

PRUNING—THE BORER.

You ask me to tell you what effect the winter of 1872-73 had on my orchard. The effect was such that it killed a great many bearing trees. Two of my orchards that had not been cultivated much for several years it killed, and greatly damaged at least half the trees. Other orchards, that had been better cultivated, did not suffer half so bad. I am fully convinced that our orchards must be

cultivated in order to keep them healthy and in a good bearing condition. It will do to sow to clover and pasture hogs on it, but it never does well to seed an orchard to timothy and make a meadow of it; almost as well cut the trees down at once. Neither is it good practice to sow an orchard in small grain, such as wheat or oats, especially when it is first planted. An orchard, when first planted out, should be cultivated well every year until the trees are large and bear eight or ten bushels to the tree, and then it might be sown to clover for hog pasture; and let it be in clover only two or three years, until it is again broken up and cultivated as long as it had lain in clover before re-sowing.

I do not approve of heavy pruning in this country, but sufficient to keep the top in proper balance, and surplus cross and scraggy timber removed, and all water sprouts; and the best time to prune has been a disputed point that never has been fully settled, that I know of. But each one has his own theory. According to my experience of over thirty years, the worst time to prune is just as the buds are bursting forth into leaf, and the sap in its strongest upper flow, and this is about the time that most people prune their orchards. Much better prune in the fall, when frost has seared the leaf and the fruit is all gathered. But the best time to prune an orchard is from the middle to the last of June. Limbs cut off at that time of year soon heal over. Water sprouts taken off then come out much fewer next year, and if continued, will, in a few years, not come out at all. Orchards are frequently badly damaged by the borer while the trees are young and the bark tender. A good preventative is to scatter unleached ashes or refuse lime around the body of the tree once every two years at least. There is no remedy, when they once get in the tree, but to dig them out with a sharp-pointed knife. But the lime and ashes I have found a good preventative.—*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

Is There a Danger of Overstocking the Fruit Market?

From the Report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario we extract the following pertinent article. This question is often asked, but not satisfactorily answered. In discussing a question of such importance, it is necessary to look at the principle that must govern all productive and commercial matters, which is that of demand and supply.

1. Fruit is now considered a necessity in every family, the use of which, with the demand, is constantly increasing. Fifty or sixty years ago, good apples, pears, and sometimes peaches were left to rot upon the ground or fed to swine, because there was no demand, but now such fruit sells quickly at remunerative prices.

2. It is reasonable to expect that the demand will continue to increase for say half a century at least, for the reason that but a small portion of this Dominion is well adapted to the successful production of fruit, and nearly the same may be said of the whole American continent, for, according to some calculations, only one twenty-ninth part of the continent can be classed as fruit-producing, and only three-fifths of that portion can be considered really good.

3. The Eastern Hemisphere is little, if any, more favorable for fruit growing than the Western, to which must be added immense inland territories that produce none of the fruits of this latitude.

4. Assuming that the foregoing cannot be far from correct, it follows most conclusively that the demand will be very great, and the question very naturally arises—Where or how shall a sufficient supply be obtained? The answer is very easy—Impossible at present.

5. We are well aware that some of the small fruits, as well as such early apples as the Harvest, Early Joe and Red Astrachan, such pears as the Madeline and others (and perhaps peaches) that will not bear shipment to foreign lands, may be grown in such large quantities as to overstock the local market, but apples and pears of such long-keeping qualities that will keep sound and good for six months to twelve, and will bear shipping, cannot be grown in excess of the demand.

6. It is quite certain that in this Dominion the supply cannot exceed the demand, and it is our duty and interest as true patriots and economists to produce for the wants and requirements of our own country, and, in addition, export if practicable.

7. Whatever between the Dom the more distant tain, that the fruit lest confidence to able fruits to the ability, that it wifitable investment Lincoln County

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Mr. D. A. Com a meadow from v years, by which t and was plowed t mowed," and now grass that will m the local custom spring grains, but by its excessive s the grass chance inevitable drouth roots, appropriate must succumb," a ble and, in the alone?"

Generally, "I experience and will follow. So true to advise any gre the way of exper not knowing how of its present guessed from the grow so rank as a venture to advise usual customs of the meadow. On a case somewhat and we sowed sp half a bushel of the acre. This ing of grain. As drill, timothy see quarts to the acre was seeded to clo rate of six quart the grain was fai field was rolled. marks, levelling the timothy and as to aid in their

The crop was strong bottom la of deposit from a immense growth the show of grass be a failure. Bu field during the part of the season on during an un appearance was weather came, t a thick growth o promise to make acre next season the perils named and this safety y rich cultivation very small and the smothering animals, even to left on the stub continuous from about the midd grass plants, as sheep been allow

In several cas quite a different may be applicat ers, if not Mr. sow grass and c the fall before, (very thin). I whole crop to g of falling; then enough to shad as to be likely t be done with a as we have no thus cut would purposes, and i one, several cr be as profitable oats.