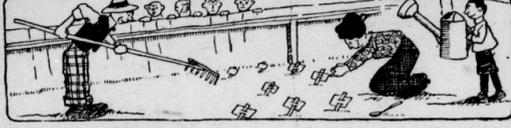


THE BACKYARD GARDEN



PEAS AND BEANS.

By Prof. Spade.
No garden is complete without peas and string beans. The only difference in the two, botanically, is that peas are harder and a cool season crop, while warmer weather is required by the more tender bean. Atmospheric nitrogen goes into the making of both, and if any amount is to be grown it is advisable to use a fertilizer containing this quality.

Garden peas are easy to grow. They do best in spring rather than in the hotter months and also thrive in fall from late sown seeds. Even before freezing weather is past peas may be sown. They should be planted from 3 to 5 inches deep. The pea is one thing that will thrive best in a soil that is not too rich. A strong soil tends to make plants run to vines and delay the crop. Sowings may be made at intervals of 6 to 10 days throughout the growing season to obtain a continuous crop.

For the early crop the dwarf varieties are ideal. In handling the taller and later kinds the grower will do well to practice pinching in the excessive growths. This assures a larger and quicker yield.

Two or three cultivations during the growing season are usually sufficient. They can be sown from 6 to 8 inches apart in the rows. If the dwarf varieties are grown, each plant will tend to support the other. But if the taller kinds are attempted, chicken wire between rows will prove excellent support.

The bush bean and the pole bean are the common varieties, although the former, requiring the less labor, is the more popular. As a garden crop, bush beans are used

STRAWBERRIES.

The backyard gardener may prepare this year for strawberries next year. Plants can be obtained from nurseries and set out late in the season. On the small grounds they are placed every foot in rows two feet apart. Planting can be done with a spade, trowel or dibble. The plant should be placed so the bud is just above the surface. During the first season the runners and blossom stalks should be removed. The second season gives the big crop although good plants will produce heavily in the third year. Large growers grow corn between the strawberry rows the first year. In the winter the bed must be covered with a straw mulch to the depth of 2 inches between two rows and 1 inch over the plants.

mostly as "string" beans, the pod being plucked when two-thirds grown and both pod and beans eaten.

Plant only when the weather has become settled. A late summer

The Filbert and the Acorn.

It was Saturday afternoon, and a schoolboy who had just come in from a country excursion had emptied his pockets on the table. There were a knife, a piece of string, some marbles, a peg-top, an apple, some toffee, a lot of buttons, and ever so many other things, amongst which were a filbert and an acorn.

The schoolboy went upstairs two steps at a time to brush his hair and wash his hands for tea. Meanwhile the filbert began to sneer at the poor acorn.

"How dare you lie near me, you coarse common thing!" said she. "Look at my rustling brown silk dress and at your brown serge; and then your frightful cup, like a hideous 'Tam o' Shanter' turned bottom upwards. You are only fit to feed pigs. But as for me, the ladies and gentlemen eat me with their wine at dessert."

"Well," said the acorn meekly, "what does it matter how we die so long as we have been of some use? And if I am only fit to feed pigs yet there are many people who like roast pork."

"Don't answer me, you impudent thing!" retorted the filbert, angrily. "I won't be answered. If I had any hands and you had ears I would box them."

So the acorn, who loved peace, held his tongue. At this moment the boy came back into the room, with a nice clean face and hands, and quite ready for his tea.

"Hallo!" said he. "I quite forgot this filbert." Then he cracked it with his teeth and ate it. "As to acorns," he continued, "they are no good to eat; they are too bitter, though it is fine fun to gather them." Then he flung the acorn out of the window. But the acorn fell upon soft ground, and it

planting may follow the earlier one and provide beans until late in the year. The bush beans are sown in drills, rows being rarely less than 18 inches apart. The plants should stand from 5 to 10 inches apart in the row.

RADISHES, BEETS AND OTHER ROOT CROPS.

By Prof. Spade.
Root crops are especially popular with the small gardener because no special skill is required to grow them. They are hardy and require a cool season and a deep soil and are sown in drills.

The principal root crops are the radish, beet, carrot, turnip, rutabaga, parsnip, salsify and horseradish. The value of the root depends on its straightness and symmetry. Thus it is desirable that the gardener spade and loosen the soil more than on the mere surface.

The small red spring radish and the longer and later one are the two best adapted to the backyard. They can be sown before frost is out of the ground. They can from the first planting be sown at intervals of from 7 to 10 days to supply the table through the summer. For the later plantings select a cooler spot in the garden.

The beet can follow some of the lighter crops and if weeds are kept down well while the plant is

FLOWERS.

In taking up farming in the back yard the householder without much more work greatly improves the appearance of his plot by the planting of flowers that suit his fancy. Flowers, arranged strikingly, make out of a house a home. They will repay the grower for the attention they require by improving the appearance of the place. The planting of the flowers need not be confined to the front and side yards. Many backyard gardeners enclose their vegetable plot in a rectangle of flowers.

young a good crop is assured, as this vegetable is one of the hardiest.

For carrots be sure the land does not bake over the seed. Carrots also, must be conscientiously protected from weeds. Seeds of early radish can be sown with them.

Turnips are hardy and seeds germinate quickly. The product is large enough for table use within six to ten weeks after planting. Rutabagas differ but slightly, taking a little more time for growth.

Parsnips take the full growing season. Salsify, which is used for cooking purposes only, does also. However, if the young plants of the latter are thinned to 4 or 5 inches apart a hardy crop that may be left in the ground during the winter will result.

grew and grew until, after 100 years, it was a splendid oak tree. Then it was cut down and became part of a stately ship.

When we are tempted to boast of our fine ways and fine company we should do well to remember that our humble neighbors are often of much more real use to the world than ourselves.

A World for Work.

This is not a world for men to take their ease in; but a world for work. It is not a world for the selfish greed of gain; nor the selfish pantings of ambitions; nor the selfish struggles of power; but a world for generous self-abandonment, for sacrifice and heroic toil. Only he shall be loved of God and honored of men who is found to have accomplished something for human happiness and human good.

The teacher, questioning her class about the graduation in the scale of existence, asked: "What comes next to man?" Little Tommy raised his hand anxiously. "Well, Tommy," interrogated the teacher, "what is it that comes next to man?" Tommy, smarting under a sense of previous defeat, responded: "His undershirt, ma'am!"

A San Francisco clergyman recently at the close of his sermon announced that in the course of the week he expected to go on a mission to the heathen. "One of his parishioners exclaimed, 'Why, my dear doctor, you have never told us one word of this before. It leaves us unprepared. What shall we do?'" "Brother," said the minister solemnly, "I shall not leave town."

Care of Young Chicks

By Tom Brown.

Usually we hatch our chicks by natural process. We set our hens in groups of three, in order that one biddy may be given the work of mothering the entire hatch. Frequently during the hatching period the biddies are thoroughly dusted with insect powder. The first dusting is given just as biddy is being put to business, and subsequently at least every week in order that not a sign of a louse or of a mite is to be found about her. Care of biddy and her nest in this particular saves trouble and disappointment later on.

A day or so before the hatch comes out we give the brooder coop a thorough cleaning. Whitewash and coal oil are used liberally, and the floor of the coop is thoroughly sprinkled with coarse, dry sand or gravel. The coop is placed where it is sheltered from north and west winds, and where there is a warm southern exposure.

Rations for the Young Chick.
For the first three or four days after the chicks find the light of day, our one aim is to keep them warm and dry. Absolutely not a mite of food is fed them until the chicks are more than three days old. Meanwhile they have before them an abundance of water and fine grit.

Then we begin feeding very gradually for three or four days. A little cracked wheat or oatmeal is our usual feed. In a week or ten days the floor of the coop is liberally covered with chaff to a depth of two or three inches. Long straw is liable to give trouble. The grain fed among the litter encourages scratching. Meanwhile the supply of grit is kept up and pains are taken to prevent the chicks from getting drowned in the water. Cautiously, by small additions, the ration of the chicks is increased. By the end of four weeks the chicks are pretty well able to find for themselves. Vegetables, a grassy sod, and a little skim milk or buttermilk make splendid additions to the bill of fare.

Until the chicks are two months old care must be taken to keep them sheltered from high or cold winds. The only time that a hen can stand a draught without harm is when she is in the market basket on the way to market. After the chicks are six weeks old they should be placed in their large summer colony houses. It is wisdom, too, at this time to separate the cockerels from the pullets.

Poultry Notes.
Give the poultry house a good cleaning, and spade up the poultry yard as soon as the ground can be worked.

Sunlight and air in large quantities are essential for the health and well-being of chicks. Dampness and drafts are to be avoided. Do not stint your supply of grit and oyster shells. Your poultry should have plenty available all the time.

If you are hatching chicks under hens, watch carefully for lice, if the chicks appear dumpy and inactive, their heads should be greased lightly. An application of grease should also be made under the wings and around the vent. Lard, fresh butter or vaseline, may be used for this purpose.

Jellico and a Blind Girl.

There is a charming story of Admiral Jellico and a little blind girl. Her name is Kathleen Torr, and she lives at York, England. She knitted a woollen scarf, and sent it to the admiral, asking him to make her "the happiest little girl in England" by accepting the gift.

Now she has received the following letter from the Commander-in-Chief's secretary:—

"H.M.S. Iron Duke, Grand Fleet.
"Dear Kathleen.—Admiral Sir John Jellico has told me, and answer your nice letter to him, and to thank you very much indeed for the beautiful scarf which you have sent him. The Admiral thinks it very clever of you to knit so splendidly when you cannot see what you are doing, and he thinks it very kind of you to do it all for him. Directly the admiral saw your scarf he put it on and said, 'I shall put on dear little Kathleen's scarf when I am very cold.'"

"Of course, it is very cold in the North Sea, and very stormy too. Sometimes the snow falls so heavily that we cannot see at all where we are going, and very often the great seas sweep right over the ship."

"While we feel that by God's help our ships are keeping the Germans from landing in England, and being very cruel to all our girls and boys, it is a very great comfort to us to know that dear little girls like you are thinking of us and giving up your spare time to work for us. The Admiral loves little girls very much and has four little daughters of his own.—I remain, yours affectionately,

"VICTOR H. T. WEEKES,
"Sec. to the Commander-in-Chief."

Love may be blind, but alimony is an expert oculist.
It is easier to call a man a liar than it is to prove it.

TESTING SEED CORN.

Practice of Using Untested Seeds Not Recommended.

It is time right now to test the seed corn, and no matter how well it was matured when cut, how thorough a selection was made in the field and how carefully it has been stored during the winter, testing may still reveal many weaknesses and show the corn to be of an inferior quality as regards germination and early growth. Even though one finds that his corn tests 100 per cent, or nearly so there is a satisfaction in being assured by the only definite plan that the seed is perfect and likely, under favorable conditions, to produce the crop looked for. Testing the seed is a safe bet but sowing untested seed puts the odds against the grower every time.

Where seed corn can be bought on the ear it is always safer to turn down the shelled corn proposition. It is doubly important that shelled corn be tested. In buying corn on the ear the purchaser has an opportunity of forming some idea of the value of this corn as seed, from the size and length of the ear and the proportion of corn to cob. A little extra bulk is necessary when buying on the ear, because, in preparing the corn for planting, the small seeds at the tip end of the ear and the badly-formed kernels at the butt should be discarded. In buying in bulk these seeds are very often included in the seed and this helps to lower its quality and value. It is no big job to test seed corn and when bought on the cob individual ears may be tested separately so that the bad or questionable ears may be thrown away at the conclusion of the test, and only those which germinate a full or nearly full percentage retained for planting.

With dent corn it has been estimated that only fifteen good ears are required to plant an acre four grains to the hill. If sown in drills a little more than double this amount might be needed.

Flint corn would require possibly twenty to twenty-five ears per acre, that is of the larger and best varieties. In taking corn from a kernel from each end of the cob and one from the centre, then turn the cob over to the other side and remove three more kernels as at first. Do this on each cob of the entire supply of seed corn, keeping the kernels separate according to ears and having each ear numbered and each square into which the seed is placed to be tested numbered to correspond. In this way a close check is kept on each and every cob of corn composing the seed supply.

The Tester.
All that is required for a tester is a shallow box divided into small squares by the use of strings or fine wire. A very handy plan is to drive shingle nails in the edge of the box and run a string around them leaving the entire box marked off into squares, each square numbered. The six kernels from each cob go together into separate squares where they form the best check on the value of the corn on that cob. Fill the box with moist sand up to level with these strings or wires, moist sawdust will do just as well, but it should first be boiled in water to kill bacteria and molds. The seed may be laid on top of this sand or sawdust and a plain moistened cloth placed over the kernels. On top of this again a sack made for the purpose and containing damp sawdust or damp sand to the depth of about two inches is placed and pressed down firmly, this done the tester is placed in a room kept at the ordinary living-room temperature. It should be where it is fairly light; a good place is in the kitchen fairly close to the kitchen range. After taking the kernels the ears should be laid in sections corresponding with the sections in the box and separately numbered so that they may be easily picked up at the time of opening the tester to see how germination has taken place.

A box 20 by 40 inches could easily be made into fifteen squares which would handle 200 ears at once or enough to plant eight to ten acres of corn in hills, smaller or larger boxes may be used if desired. It may require the best part of a half day to prepare the box and introduce the seed to be tested, but it will be time well spent, especially now before seeding opens up and the rush comes on. At the time of opening the tester it will be easy to see which are the strongest ears in the seed lot. Any which germinate very weakly should be discarded and those not showing a perfect germination are not desirable for planting. It is a simple yet important matter that should be looked after at once. Save all ears from which six seeds send up six strong, healthy sprouts; discard all those which show one or more failures.—Farmer's Advocate.

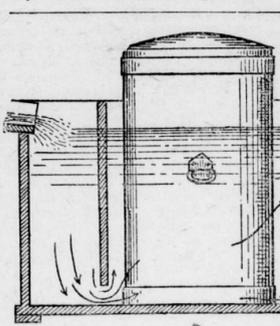
No Fun to Get Up.

Life is not a dream, they say:
Poets so aver.
As I rise at break of day,
Oft I wish it were.

Milk House Requisites

The equipment that is advised must be adapted to a certain number of cows, and to certain other conditions. Should the water necessary to the dairy be supplied by a windmill or by a gasoline engine? Many would find the first satisfactory, many would prefer the latter. If the latter is to be chosen it is good business to have one large enough to do a lot of the other work on the farm. In regard to the first supposition, let us take the equipment that would be indicated for a herd of twenty cows.

Where the milk is to be sent to the cheese factory, about all that is necessary is a supply of sanitary milking pails, a good sanitary strainer, and enough good, well-made milk cans to ship the milk in. The cooler is a vat big enough to hold the cans, keeping them half submerged in cold water is necessary. Beside some scrubbing brushes, can and pail-washing utensils, there is very little necessary. When butter-making is added, it calls for an amplification of the list, and will involve the installation of a medium-sized cream separator, one of about 800 lbs. capacity per hour. A water heater, with a tank, will be required, and a wash sink of about 20 x 30 inches. Along with this will be wanted a twenty-five gallon cream vat, with space for water and ice. A small refrigerator for the storage of butter will suffice. Before installing such equipment, however, it is a good plan to take care of sanitation. Put in a concrete floor, have provision made for flushing it off, and for drainage. This forethought will save a lot of trouble later on.



Cooling Milk with a continuous stream of water is one of the best and cheapest ways to do it. The above illustration shows a convenient way to accomplish this.

There are still a lot of equipment necessary for the turning out of first-class butter. A good churn is a necessity. A twenty-five gallon barrel churn ought to do. It may be worked by hand, but if a gasoline engine is one of the items of farm equipment, it may be turned by this, and so may the cream separator. A lever butter-worker is needed, and so are some wooden ladders, a butter printer and a butter packer. A floating dairy thermometer, a set of counter scales,

strainer; one separator 800 to 1,000 lbs. capacity; two cream cans eight inches diameter, 20 inches deep, for cooling fresh cream from separator; two wire handle cream stirrers; sufficient number of eight-gallon shipping cans to hold cream until called for or delivered to the creamery; tank for water and ice, either galvanized iron, wood lined with galvanized iron, or cement tank in floor of dairy to hold shipping cans; wash sink 20 ins. x 30 ins.; water heater with tank; one four-bottle tester complete; floor brooms, scrub brushes and washing powder.

Misunderstood Children.

One of the saddest sights is to see a child misunderstood by its teachers or parents, and many a tragedy in the nursery is provided by the neurotic child thoroughly and unobviously managed by those in charge of it.

In the old days before doctors and parents were alive to the importance of attending to a child's eyesight a great many nervous, neurotic, unhappy and irritable boys and girls were punished, when they ought to have been taken to an oculist and supplied with proper glasses. A child with defective eyesight is constantly on tension, and this wears out the nervous system more than anything else.

Then there are the "stupid" children, who answer slowly when spoken to, and who sometimes get a smack from the nurse because they do not reply at all; the children who are apt to be teased by the others, or left out in the cold because they do not bring a reflected credit on their vain parents. Sometimes they are saved by the family doctor, if he is observant when he happens to go into the nursery to vaccinate the baby, or give information on a nursery rash. In nine cases out of ten stupid children have adenoids; and an operation will deal effectively with the stupidity, laziness and other forms of "ill behavior" evinced by the child.

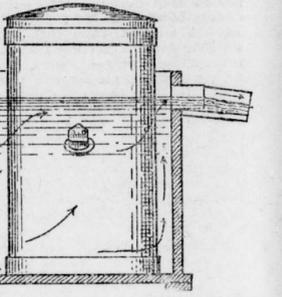
It is the greatest mistake to allow young nursemaids or teachers to smack at children by way of punishment. Only the head teacher in a school, or at home a child's parents, should administer punishment.

In one sense punishment is a distinct evil, but that is only because it is so frequently misused as a factor in disciplining the child. The ideal is to teach the child to govern himself, to do right from high motives, and not because he fears to be punished if he does wrong. Punishment may or may not be a deterrent. It depends upon the

a four bottle Babcock tester, two starter cans, three tin pails, a one-quart dipper, a strainer dipper, two wire handle cream stirrers, a supply of dairy salt, of butter wrappers, and parchment paper, sulphuric acid, washing powder, floor brooms, scrub brushes, etc., complete the equipment necessary for the making of butter. For the other purposes of a milk house, the following itemized list of requisites should be amply sufficient.

Sanitary milk pails; sanitary milk strainers; eight eight-gallon shipping cans; one covered milk cooler, if there is water pressure in dairy; one water tank, either galvanized iron, wood lined with galvanized iron, or a cement tank large enough to hold eight or ten eight-gallon cans.

One wash sink 20 ins. x 30 ins.; one water heater with tank; one Babcock tester complete; two wire handle milk stirrers; floor brooms, scrub brushes and washing powder. Sanitary milking pails; sanitary



Cooling Milk with a continuous stream of water is one of the best and cheapest ways to do it. The above illustration shows a convenient way to accomplish this.

Equipment suitable for the city man's country home, where his object is to keep his milk in the best possible way to supply his own table with cream, buttermilk, butter, and to keep these under the best conditions. The same as butter-making equipment (1), size of separator, churn and cream vat to suit number of cows in herd to hold cream until called for or delivered to the creamery; tank for water and ice, either galvanized iron, wood lined with galvanized iron, or cement tank in floor of dairy to hold shipping cans; wash sink 20 ins. x 30 ins.; water heater with tank; one four-bottle tester complete; floor brooms, scrub brushes and washing powder.

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child. Then it is apt to engender deceit and other faults, whilst sulks and rebellion will be the only results in many cases. Punishment sometimes hurts a child's pride, and causes needless suffering, which affects the health for the worse.

From a medical point of view a child should be trained by seven years into good habits. Before that time any punishment should consist in the old-fashioned smacking, rather than depriving a child of fresh air, food, or in perpetual nagging and scolding. Severe flogging of boys or girls must necessarily be condemned.

With the Flocks in Spring.

There is no time like the present for keeping the new maxim, "Protein and Prolificacy" carefully in mind. Breeding females should have liberal rations of it in their feeds. It may be given in the form of bran, an article that is now priced unusually high or of shorts, equally high. Old process oil cake is a splendid form in which to feed it to the pregnant female, whether the class she belongs to be cattle, sheep, horses or swine.

Sometimes, however, protein foods can be obtained economically at home. Good clover hay or alfalfa hay, is rich in protein. By feeding it liberally to the ewes, the exigencies of the case ought to be met fairly well. It will mean stronger and healthier dams, more vigorous offspring, and less mortality.

Cotton-seed meal is a good food for lambs. According to experiments carried out at Purdue Experiment Station, one pound of cotton-seed meal for every six lambs is the right ration. In this experiment some lambs were fed one-sixth of a pound, while another lot were fed one-quarter of a pound. In each case the gains made were the same.

The highest ambition of some thieves is a chicken roost.

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