

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Strawberries a Luxury.

The season for strawberries is now over. Those who have had a small patch in the garden have enjoyed them; others who have not, surely learned to appreciate this luscious and healthful fruit more fully. They are a real luxury on any table. Some farmers fear to put down a few plants lest the work of caring for them would be too great. It's a mistake; a little labor well directed in cultivating strawberries cannot be better expended. They require a rich, somewhat moist soil, with good drainage. Spring is the best time to plant, but if that season is to be an unusually busy one, August planting may give good results. Enough plants for a farm garden may be purchased for a trifle. The principal attention required is in providing a good mulch of straw or coarse manure in winter, and occasional cultivation in summer to keep down weeds and conserve moisture. No farmer can afford to neglect the planting and care of a small patch of strawberries.

Selling Early Apples.

Just how to handle the early apple crop and realize a profit is a question confronting fruit-growers just now. Everywhere there are orchards producing more early apples than are required on the farm. So plentiful are they usually, and so low-priced, that many farmers use what they can and allow the rest to go to waste. This year try picking in good time and marketing the best quality in attractive baskets or boxes, instead of in barrels as formerly. The time is close at hand when most all apples for shipment to the English market will be packed only in neat boxes. The demand for any fruit may be improved by careful selection and good packing. Local markets can be influenced in this way to a great extent. Give it a trial with the "harvest" apples.

Thinning Fruit.

A great deal has been said by advanced horticulturists, during the last decade, in regard to the gains to be realized from thinning fruit. In 1900, the Experiment Station of Massachusetts conducted experiments in thinning apples of different varieties. The trees were old and from nine to ten inches in diameter. The results are as follows, No. 1 in each case representing the unthinned trees:

	Cost of Thinning.	Yield, bbls.	Value.
1. Astrachan.....		4.8	\$3.00
2. Astrachan.....	\$1.20	5	5.05
1. Early Harvest.....		1.5	.50
2. Early Harvest.....	.15	1.5	.98
1. Hurlbut.....		5	3.00
2. Hurlbut.....	.45	5	3.55
1. Baldwin.....		3.25	2.00
2. Baldwin.....	.60	4	3.00
1. Greening.....		2	1.50
2. Greening.....	.15	2.5	2.10

In every case it will be noticed that the extra gain was sufficient to more than repay the cost entailed. Greater returns have been claimed for thinning. Further experiments in this work would be interesting and instructive.

Spray Calendar.

In Bulletin 122, just to hand, Prof. Lochhead, of the Ontario Agricultural College, gives valuable directions for treatment of insects and plant diseases. Formulæ and methods of preparation of all the leading spray mixtures are given. The proper time to spray for different pests injurious to orchards, as well as the best mixture to be used in each case, is clearly indicated.

Don't Forget the Weeds.

When the hurry of harvest is on, don't forget that the weeds may be quietly growing in the garden. If any be allowed to seed, a large amount of the labor expended in keeping them down during early summer will be lost. Only a little time may be required to run through the beds and pull up the stray intruders. They are nearly sure to be there. Do not allow them to seed on any account.

Watch for Currant Worms.

Currant and gooseberry bushes will require daily attention, lest their foliage be consumed by the currant worm (*Nematis ribisii*). The second brood are now about due to appear. Have on hand a small quantity of hellebore. It may be dusted in the dry form or used as a spray, one ounce to three gallons of water. Do not purchase more of this insecticide than is intended for immediate use. It rapidly decreases in strength when exposed to the air.

APIARY.

Beekeeping in Manitoba.

EXTRACTING.

Before the time for extracting arrives, the combs to be used for that purpose should be selected. This, indeed, might very well have been done when making things snug for winter at the close of the last season's work, but if neglected then, should certainly be seen to as the bees build-up in the early part of the summer. Combs which are wired and in which brood has been reared should be selected for this purpose. New combs, even though well wired, often collapse in the extractor, despite the most careful handling. These should be used in the brood nests, and the tough old combs that have been already in use there kept for the extracting supers.

As the clover blossoms appear, the hives should be emptied of any surplus honey they may contain, without regard to whether it is capped or not. While very good honey, this is usually dark and had better be kept by itself. From that on to the end of the season it is all of good quality and color—at least this is so in my locality—and may all be allowed to go together.

It is pretty generally accepted that the beehive is a laboratory in which nectar collected from the flowers is converted into honey by a process which is complete only after the cells in which it is stored are sealed over. So that, even though the inexperienced may detect little, if any, difference between sealed and unsealed honey, the fact is that one is honey at its very best, while the other is honey—or nectar—that has not yet reached that degree. It may be that the process continues and the unsealed honey "ripens" after being extracted, and ways have been devised for ripening such honey. But the bees have the only dead-sure process—and it is covered by patents—so men of experience leave all that to be done in the hive, and extract only after the combs are fully sealed over. The beginner may think he is making a gain by extracting sooner, as the work of uncapping is generally slow and disagreeable to one new to the work. But practice and the proper kind of knife—kept as it should be, as sharp as a razor—will soon overcome these objections, and no gain is worth considering if it results in lowering the quality of the honey placed on the market. Western bee-keepers have a large and growing market, which they should set themselves to capture just as quickly as they can acquire the bees to do it with, and the only way to capture and hold this market is by supplying the very best article possible. For this same reason everything about the extracting-room should be scrupulously clean, and flies and dust excluded.

Honey should, of course, be strained as it comes from the extractor. I suppose different people have different ways of doing this and different kinds of strainers as well. Here is a method, and a cheap one, which does everything that any strainer will do, and one very important thing that no other will, viz.: corners the pestiferous fly that persists in drowning itself in the nice clear honey just as it is being poured into the containing can. It is simply a piece of factory cotton spread over the retaining can so as to bag somewhat, and fastened with a string or strap around the can. This may be thought too cheap to be good, but one trial will make it a favorite.

Another thing to be remembered is that honey, whether extracted or in the comb, absorbs moisture and this detracts from the quality. Extracted honey that is to remain unsold for a time should be kept in closed vessels, and sections stored in a room that is both warm and dry, and both should be religiously protected from odors of all kinds. J. J. GUNN.

Red River Valley.

Work for July.

CARING FOR EXTRACTING COMBS, ETC.

At the close of the white-honey harvest, in localities where buckwheat is raised, care should be taken to remove all the clover and basswood honey before the buckwheat begins to yield. While buckwheat may be all right by itself, it certainly is not desirable to have it mixed with the clover and basswood. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," so a little buckwheat will decrease the market value of a large amount of white honey.

As long as the clover and basswood yield, the bees will bother the buckwheat but little, so the beekeeper should keep his eyes open and remove the light honey in time. At the last extracting, if no honey is coming in, robbing will be apt to occur if care is not taken. This should be avoided, if possible, particularly if there are neighbors near you, as bees are very vindictive if their stores are taken away when no honey is coming in from the fields, and will sting anything in sight. Bee-escapes are handy at this season, as they can be placed between the supers and brood chambers. After the bees have left the supers, they (the supers) can be taken off, ex-

tracted and returned to the hives in the evening, causing little, if any, excitement. Personally, I go to a colony, give them a little smoke and remove the supers so quickly that the robbers hardly know anything has happened; close the hive up and put the supers in the honey-house. If done properly, and especially if the apiarist has an attendant to help him, using the smoker, etc., a large number of supers can be removed in a short time, when they can be extracted at leisure and returned to the hives in the evening. It is well to return the supers to the hives again, even if there is no buckwheat or other late-summer or fall flora in your section, as the combs, if not on the hives, are sure to fall a prey to the bee moth, which soon makes highways and byways through any exposed combs, in the months of August and September. I never remove any extracting combs before September 15th, at which time I begin to make preparations for winter. Good extracting combs are as cash to the beekeeper. Notwithstanding this, hundreds of combs are destroyed every year, particularly among "farmer beekeepers." The destruction of combs simply means more comb to be built by the bees next year, more foundation to be bought, and a lessening of the honey crop.

In our locality, this present season there has been an unusual amount of swarming, and very likely a lot of weak after-swarms have been hived. By all means double up or dispose of these in some way, as it never pays to try and winter weak colonies. It is just as important to have strong colonies in the fall as in the spring, as the first condition begets the latter. It is well not to forget that, while a strong colony of bees may be quite a valuable asset, a dozen weak ones may be worth a little less than nothing, and the sooner every beekeeper, amateur or professional, becomes alive to this fact, the better for their pocketbook.

If you have secured a crop of honey, don't be in a hurry to rush it on the market. Bide a wee and take a little rest after the rush of the season, which rest, by the way, you may need if (as the writer of these notes has been doing) you have been working seventeen hours a day to catch up with work that is ordinarily done in June other years.

Good honey is not a perishable article, and it may pay you to get posted as to the honey crop and prices likely to prevail for the season. This, of course, you can best do by perusing our agricultural papers, particularly those devoted to bees as a specialty. J. L. BYER.

York Co.

Amount of Honey Consumed by Bees.

The amount of honey consumed by a colony of bees depends upon the length of time they are active during each year. Some authorities have placed the amount as high as 200 pounds for southern countries. It is a difficult matter to determine with any degree of accuracy. In Canada, it is estimated that rarely more than 100 pounds are required for each hive, however strong.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Our purpose is to give help in real difficulties; therefore, we reserve the right to discard enquiries not of general interest, or which appear to be asked out of mere curiosity.

3rd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, though the name is not necessarily for publication.

4th.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

Veterinary.

WHITE SCOURS IN CALF.

I have a valuable calf, two months old, which sucks its dam. The calf scours all the time. The discharge looks white, like milk. The calf is kept shut up. The dam is out on an old pasture field. Elgin Co., Ont. L. G.

Ans.—Your calf is suffering from what is commonly called white scours. Give the calf 2 ozs. linseed oil mixed with the same amount of lime-water. Then give a powder, morning and evening, composed of catechu, $\frac{1}{2}$ dram, and powdered chalk, 2 drams, till you see an improvement. If possible, change the food of the dam and let her have $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of limewater every night and morning. H. G. REED, V. S.

RHEUMATISM.

I have a cow which for the last few weeks is very stiff when walking. Is better at night than in the morning; getting thin in flesh. I have been giving her some aconite. Pictou Co., N. S. J. W. M.

Ans.—Your cow is no doubt suffering from rheumatism. This disease is usually caused by cold and damp, but sometimes specific infection. Keep her perfectly quiet and in comfortable quarters. Apply hot fomentations, or flannels wrung out of hot water, to the parts. Give a dram each of bicarbonate of soda and nitrate of potash in her drinking water morning and evening. If the joints are involved, sometimes it is necessary to blister. H. G. REED, V. S.