

Miscellaneous.

UNFRUITFUL TREE.

Have one apricot tree; it blooms, but never has any fruit. State reason and remedy?
York Co., Ont.

A. C. GALBRAITH.

Ans.—There are two causes which may account for the barrenness of your apricot tree. The most likely one is that the blossoms have been destroyed by spring frosts. This tree naturally blooms very early in the season, and is also quite tender in the fruit-bud, and it has been found that even in the Niagara district it cannot be depended upon for fruiting. If this is the main cause of unfruitfulness, it might be possible to overcome it by spraying the tree with whitewash during the winter time. Keeping the limbs coated with whitewash has the effect of reflecting the sun's rays and retarding the growth a week or more in the spring. This is often enough to enable the tree to escape injury from late spring frosts. The other cause might be that the tree is unable to fertilize its own blossoms. You mention that these are perfect, but, notwithstanding this, it has been found that many varieties of trees which bear perfect flowers are unable to fertilize their own blossoms, because of the impotence of the pollen upon their own ovules, although it might be quite potent upon those of some variety. This has been proven in experiments made with apples and pears, and would, no doubt, be found to hold true in the case of some of the apricots. If this should be found to be the cause of unfruitfulness, it could be overcome by planting another variety alongside of this one, which would furnish the pollen for cross-fertilization.

PROF. H. L. HUTT.

CHICKS WITH BARE HEADS—BLACK HEAD IN TURKEYS.

1. Have some spring chickens which have lost all the feathers on their heads, leaving the latter bare and red. Was it caused by lice or mites? Give treatment?

2. Some of my turkeys died very suddenly, and, on examination, I found white and black spots on the liver. They had been fed shorts and barley meal, with sometimes curds. What disease is it, and is there any cure?

York Co.

A. C. GALBRAITH.

Ans.—1. The trouble caused by the loss of feathers may be overcome by applying a small amount of olive oil. This will, to a certain extent, heal any sore that may come to the top of the head, and will also kill any lice that may be there. I would also suggest that a small amount be applied beneath the wings as well.

2. The trouble with the turkeys is the very common disease known as black head. This is generally indicated by the small turkeys turning dark or purple in the head, and the excrement being thin, with a mixture of white and yellow, and, on some occasions, a greenish cast as well. If a post-mortem examination were made, the liver would be found to be covered more or less with white spots. Up to the present, there has been no reliable cure given for this disease. The only remedy that I know of is to keep the turkeys away from the buildings, and have them travel as much as possible about the fields. The disease is spread mainly through turkeys eating food off the ground on which sick birds have been fed. The small organism which causes the disease is present in the excrement, and thus it will be seen that if well birds are fed on the same ground where diseased birds have been located, the healthy birds may very easily contract the disease. If the birds are kept in the vicinity of buildings, upon no condition whatever feed the turkeys on the ground. Either feed from the hand or on a clean board, taking care that none of the food is left to become sour or get scratched about the dirt.

Ont. Agr. College.

W. R. GRAHAM.

BLACK MEDICK.

Find enclosed a weed which I found in my field. Please tell me what it is; also, whether it is difficult to kill, and how to kill it?

Peterboro Co., Ont.

L. A. NORTHEY.

The sample of weed just received is black medick (*Medicago lupulina*). It has been introduced in clover, the seed of which it closely resembles, and although belonging to the same family it is somewhat difficult to eradicate. Infested areas should be thoroughly cultivated after harvest to destroy the roots and germinate as many seeds as possible. Late in the fall, rib the land so as to expose the largest possible surface area to the action of frost. The next season a hoed crop should follow, careful attention being given that no plants are allowed to seed. If this method be properly carried out and only clean seed be sown, black medick will disappear forever.

STUMP LIFTER.

Will you kindly inform me where the screw stump-lifters are made, and also the price of them?

R. LEAN.

Labelle Co., P. Q.

Ans.—Will some of our readers furnish the information asked for? If the apparatus is good, it should be advertised by the manufacturers in the "Farmer's Advocate."

WHEN TO APPLY MANURE.

1. My farm has been carelessly cultivated for many years, and the soil is producing large crops of noxious weeds. In my fight of extermination against them, how can I best apply the farm manure so as not to retard my efforts? My farm this year is divided as follows: Meadows, 70 acres; permanent pastures and lanes, 55 acres; roots, grain and fallow, 39 acres; orchards and yards, 4 acres; garden, 2 acres.

2. I have five acres of clover meadow of one year's growth, very rank and full of weeds, that I intend to prepare for potatoes next year. Would it be well to give this a good coat of manure in August? If so, when should it be plowed in?

J. W. SUDDARD.

Frontenac Co.

Ans.—1. Under the circumstances, you will, no doubt, adopt a short rotation, and in doing so will keep a fair percentage of the farm in grass. Since the best crops of roots can be grown on land prepared from sod, you will find it convenient to follow that course. The manure can be applied at any time, either before the sod is plowed in the fall, after it has become rotted, or in winter, according as it is made. The land while in sod will have retarded the growth of weeds considerably; the root crops will need the manure, and they will at the same time afford an excellent opportunity to cut down any intruders which may arise to steal the newly-added fertility.

2. If the manure is already on hand, the sooner it is plowed in the better. Should the crop of clover and weeds be as much as can be successfully turned under, it may be kept until the sod is rotted, when, if fine in texture, it may be worked into the surface layers with a cultivator. Otherwise, the manure must be kept until light plowing can be done.

SILAGE FEEDING AND MILK FLAVOR.

1. Can good corn silage be fed to milch cows whose milk is to be delivered for household use in a town, and not flavor the milk in any degree? If so, how much would it be safe to feed? And should it be fed after milking and mixed with other fodder?

A. W. P.

Simcoe Co.

Ans.—A good many foods—even the rank early June grass or second-growth clover—fed without stint impart their characteristic flavors to milk, which are objectionable to persons of very sensitive taste. In "American Dairying," H. B. Gurler, a practical dairyman, after feeding his cows all the silage which they would consume, says: "I have had samples of milk warmed to 110 or 116 degrees Fahr., and examined daily for weeks, and nothing found to cause us to think of the silo." It is very important that the silage be of good quality. Where it is markedly acid or in any degree musty or decayed, objectionable flavors are certain to be imparted. From our own experience, we are satisfied that 25 or 30 pounds good corn silage may be safely fed per day to each cow if given just after she has been milked and the milk removed from the stable, without any trace of the silage being detected by city or other customers. We know that in some sections where milk is supplied to condensing factories, silage is not allowable as a fodder. Nevertheless, when it is of good quality and the milk promptly removed from the stable and well aerated, no objectionable flavors will be noticeable from its feeding. Short letters on this point by experienced dairymen would be appreciated by readers of the "Farmer's Advocate." We might add that the London (Ont.) Sanitary Dairy Company require farmers supplying them with milk to feed ensilage after milking, and also advise the use of smaller silos, so that sufficient ensilage will be taken off the whole surface every day to keep it always fresh. Two small or medium-size silos were better than one large one.

WOODCHUCK EXTERMINATION—FORMALIN FOR OAT SMUT.

1. Please give more particulars in the "Advocate" concerning the use of bisulphide of carbon for the extermination of woodchucks, stating how much should be used in each hole, etc.?

2. I would like more information as to the use of formalin for the prevention of smut in oats. This year I applied it to the oats with a sprinkler, having got a colorless liquid from the druggist which he called a 40-per-cent. solution of formaldehyde, which has proved useless. Last year the liquid was of a dark color, and I soaked the oats for a quarter of an hour. It was a success. Very little smut was to be seen at harvest.

WM. EVANS.

Simcoe Co.

Ans.—1. See answer to the same question by another subscriber in this issue.

2. Sprinkling as you describe is of no use in the destruction of that fungous disease, oat smut. The proper method of treatment is as follows: Dissolve 1 pound bottle 40-per-cent. solution of formalin (a comparatively clear liquid) in 40 or 50 gallons water. Place the oats in a sack and immerse in the solution for 20 minutes, then spread out to dry. This remedy, when properly applied, has been found most effective for either the loose smut of oats or the stinking smut of wheat.

FLEAS TROUBLESOME.

Our house has become infested with fleas, which, we think, have come in from the barn, where hogs are numerous. Do you consider this their probable source, or will they breed in the house? Also, tell us of their habits, and what we can do to get rid of them?

Kent Co.

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Unless the hogpen is situated close to the house, it is not likely the fleas came in that way. Under favorable conditions they will propagate in dwelling houses. In "Economic Entomology," Prof. Smith says: "No species of flea specifically infests man in this country, though *Ceratopsyllus serraticeps* of the household dog and cat often bother him a little. Where a house becomes infested, the dogs or cats, if any, should be washed with carbolic soap every other day to kill the adults on them, and if the animals be allowed to run throughout the house, they will in a few days attract all the fleas to themselves, where they can be dealt with. The sleeping rugs of the animals should be thoroughly beaten or shaken out of doors every day, and the most rigid cleanliness should be everywhere observed. Where dogs or cats are not available as traps, a liberal application of gasoline, following a thorough cleaning up, is the best remedy. It should be poured into every crevice in the floor and along the base-boards, and it will kill every larva and adult with which it comes into contact. The liquid is exceedingly inflammable, and must be used with that fact borne in mind. Pet animals can be cleaned by a free and frequent use of carbolated soaps or vaseline."

KILLING WOODCHUCKS.

1. Your item on killing woodchucks with bisulphide of carbon noted. Can you kindly inform me how much to use to each hole? 2. Where can I get Prof. Weed's bulletin on this interesting subject?

J. G. P.

Oxford Co., Ont.

1. In killing woodchucks with bisulphide of carbon, about an ounce is sufficient to each hole. The method pursued is to pour the liquid on a piece of cotton rag and ram it into the hole as far as possible, after which the entrance is well packed with earth. Where there are two holes leading to the surface, one should be closed before the operation begins. 2. Address New Hampshire College Agricultural Experiment Station, Durham, N. H., for copy of bulletin No. 91.

CARBOLIC ACID FOR FLIES AND LICE.

Please tell me if carbolic acid is a success in killing lice and flies; what the crude acid should cost, and what quantity should be used on cattle for lice or flies, or in whitewash to cleanse the stables?

GORDON L. LAMB.

Prescott Co., Ont.

Ans.—Crude carbolic acid may be bought in any retail drug store at 30 cents per pint. It is quite effective in the destruction of lice and flies when mixed with seal oil at the rate of one tablespoonful to a quart of the latter. When used in whitewash in cleansing stables, similar proportions give satisfactory results.

HENS DYING.

A disease entered my neighbor's poultry yard, and out of six dozen hens he has only a half-dozen remaining. Mine are taking the trouble, and one by one are dying also. Seem to take diarrhoea, loll around stupidly a day or two, combs get black, and they die. Kindly answer at once, describing treatment?

E. C. B.

Perth Co.

Ans.—A disease similar to that which you report was described, and treatment given, in July 15th number of "Farmer's Advocate." Remove at once all diseased birds from those which are healthy, and, since the possibility of a cure is so unlikely, it will be best to kill and bury as soon as symptoms are noticed. Thoroughly disinfect the apartments occupied by the fowls and see that nothing but pure water, in clean drinking vessels, is allowed those which remain.

HOLIDAYS.

1. Is a man hired by the month just obliged to work twenty-six days, if there are more working days in the month? 2. What holidays is he entitled to, if working by the year? 3. Is he entitled to do the usual chores on such holidays?

Wentworth Co., Ont.

W. J. P.

Ans.—1. No. 2. The statutory holidays—viz., Sundays, New Year's, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labor Day, King's Birthday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and such other day or days (if any) as may be proclaimed by the Governor-General or Lieutenant-Governor as a public holiday. 3. Yes.

BLOODY MILK FROM TEAT.

I have a valuable milch cow, that gives bloody milk from one teat. Sometimes clotted blood can be drawn therefrom. She has been affected this way since spring. Kindly give cure if possible?

G. E. G.

Brant Co., Ont.

Ans.—The trouble is one not easily treated, and since so long continued, anything which might be undertaken would in all probability be unsatisfactory. Better allow that quarter of the udder to go dry for this season, and perhaps the rupture may become healed by next year.