

FARM AND LIVE STOCK NOTES.

Soiling saves fencing. House the harvest tools. Have pure air in the stables. Timothy is a bulbous plant. White wheat needs rich land. Drainage lengthens the season. Cheese ripens best at 70 degrees of heat.

Regular salting improves the appetite of animals. Clover seed is believed to be an exhaustive crop to the land. No valuable grass ever grew naturally on a permanently wet soil.

Mangels are to be preferred to turnips for milk cows, as the latter flavor the milk and butter objectionably. On the same diet, a fattening animal at rest in a comfortable pen will increase in weight far more than one who takes active exercise.

English farmers of intelligence claim that a better crop of wheat will come from land whereon clover has been grown for seed the year before than where it was mown twice for hay.

On light loams what does better on plowing a firm bottom, such as results from plowing only once, and that in the spring, and then depending for after culture on shallow working of the soil with a cultivator and harrow up to seeding time; but the surface for several inches deep cannot be made too mellow.

Stacking Hay and Straw.—This will not be done when there is ample barn room; but where it is found necessary, much may be done to preserve the contents of stacks by proper attention to topping. In laying up stacks the great point is to keep the centre constantly highest. Hay stacks may be benefited by the use of a load of straw placed carefully on top of them and afterwards raked downward. Straw if preserved in good condition is such a great help in wintering the farm stock, that whatever has to go into stacks, as much pains should be taken in building these as with hay stacks. Good straw with the addition of a small quantity of grain or meal, will serve as well as hay in wintering stock, and be much cheaper. It should be fed just liberal enough that the refuse will make a good bed for the animals.

Fattening Animals to increase the Manure Pile.—The practice of buying cattle in the fall and fattening them on the farm as a means of enlarging the manure supply is every year on the increase in the eastern part of the country. It is found that in the average season the animals can be fattened to a good profit, and much feed which otherwise would have been marketed, is kept on the farm in the shape of manure just as it ought to be. Starting the season with a barn full of straw, hay, oats and some grain, and a herd of twenty or more steers in a lean condition, by spring the animals may be in shape to sell for a large advance on what they cost. Then this gain, added to the value of an immense heap of the richest kind of animal manure yielded, leaves large values on the right side of the balance, after paying all expenses. Usually some wheat bran or brewing-grain can enter into the feed with advantage, but to the cattle and to the manure. Such a course kept up for years, results in building up the fertility of the farm amazingly, in the most consistent manner, and at the same time that the farmer by careful management is coining profits directly by the operation.

Orchard and Garden. Dry the surplus limes. Gather pickles every other day. Red cedar makes the best labels. Train strawberries to the trellis. Pick pears just before they are ripe. Plant some shelter belts next season. Many new fruits have come by accident.

The Egyptian is one of the best beets for quality and keeping. Potatoes are never benefited by being left in the ground after they are ripe. Fruit boxes: people who visit you to eat your fruit raised at much trouble. Remedy: charge the full retail price. Blackberries should be left uncultivated after mid-summer, as in this condition they will ripen up their wood better for standing the winter.

Propagating the Currant.—There is no easier task than to get up a stock of young plants. During this month, cut up the shoots into lengths of six or eight inches, removing the leaves; set the cuttings into a trench made with a spade in a dry rich spot, so that only the top bud is above the surface, and pack the soil against them as firmly as possible. A year from now you will have strong plants for a plantation.

Winter Spinach.—This is the earliest vegetable in the spring, if the seeds are sown this month. At any time from the 10th to the 25th, they may go into the ground, sowing rather thickly in drills one foot apart. Three or four ounces of the seed will yield an abundant crop for an ordinary family. The kind known as the prickly spinach is the hardiest, and should generally be sown. Just as winter sets in, usually about December 1st, the bed should receive a coat of two inches of swamp hay or other litter. Considering the ease with which the crop grows, and the acceptable dish of greens it makes in the early spring when the system craves for fresh vegetable food, the winter spinach is not met in gardens as often as it should be.

Flowers and the Lawn. Pansies dislike fresh manure. Tree roses are late bloomers. Gas tar will drive away ants. Tie up the plants as they need. Limes winter well in a light cellar. Seeding taxes a plant at the expense of the flowers.

The pleasures of gardening are among the sweetest delights of life. The weeping elm or ash easily forms a delightful live arbor on the lawn. Everlastings for winter bouquets should

be picked before they are quite open, tied up in bunches and hung in the shade to dry. The florists reverse nature's plans with many of their flowering plants by resting them in the summer instead of the winter, and cropping them in the winter instead of the summer.

Equalizing the Product.—Now that all kinds of flowers are plentiful, remove all the buds from any geranium that may be wanted for flowering in the winter. By keeping this up until lifting time, there will be more flowers; then during next winter, when every one will be a treasure.

When a Plant Needs Water.—If in knocking on the side of the pot near the middle with the finger knuckle, it gives forth a hollow ring, water is needed; if there is a dull sound, it indicates that the soil is still sufficiently loaded with moisture.

Too Many Walks.—An even, velvety lawn affords the most comfortable kind of a walk when taking in the delights of a garden. The only time when a gravel walk is better, is after a rain or when there is a heavy dew. But good walks are expensive to construct, and do not in the highest sense, add to the beauty of the garden, hence in most cases they should be dispensed with.

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