

FOR THE MILLER IN THE COUNTRY

COSTS MONEY TO NEGLECT PRUNING THE FRUIT TREE

With Approach of Spring Work Should be Begun in Slack Period.

CUT OLD CANES FROM BERRY PATCH

Currants and Gooseberries Should be Left Clean in the Centre

If there are any trees on the place that need to be pruned, the work should be attended to now, not because it would be unsafe in all cases to do the cutting later, but because if left until later the chances are that it will not be done at all. Where there are many trees, shrubs, etc., to be attended to, an expert should be employed, but if there are only a few then the householder may try his hand at it. There is little danger of the amateur doing too much cutting; as a matter of fact, the trouble usually is that they will do too little, because of natural timidity. However, if dead or injured wood, limbs that cross or interfere with one another or tend to clog the centre of the tree are properly taken out, together with any growth that tends to unbalance the tree by stretching too far in any direction, good will be done and no injury can possibly happen. Some fruit trees—pear trees, for example—have a tendency to shoot so high into the air that they carry much of their fruit entirely out of reach. When this happens, it is likely to happen, they should be shortened, or, in other words, the tops should be cut back sufficiently to bring the fruit within reach.

Keep Within Reach.
So far as shrub trees are concerned, pruning is done chiefly for the purpose of preserving the shape of the tree and to prevent the centre from becoming too dense at any place, and thus useless growth. In the case of fruit trees, pruning must be done so that the main object should be to keep the fruit as near the ground as possible in order to facilitate spraying and picking. It is also to be remembered that the growth should be prevented from becoming too dense at any place, and that the centre of the tree should be kept clear of cross limbs, sap suckers and the like. Nips, clean limbs, leaving from the centre with a reasonable amount of healthy growth towards the outside of the tree, where the fruit borne will get plenty of sun and air, is the ideal condition.

Tools You Need.
A pruning knife and a sharp saw are the tools you need. A good strong sharp knife will be handy. All limbs cut from the parent stock must be cut off as close as possible to the trunk. If limbs are left, the new growth will follow and continue right into the heart of the tree. Where any limbs, small branches or even twigs are to be taken off, cut close, and use a saw. Where any cuts of considerable size have been made, it has been the practice to paint over the raw wood with some quick-drying paint. In recent years, however, it has been found that this practice is declared to be all wrong. However, it has been the practice, and the results have been good.

Grape Vines Now.
Pruning of grape vines must be done before the sap is up; otherwise injury is likely to result. If the sap is running when cuts are made they will bleed profusely, and all larger limbs will need to be caulked with grafting wax. To get the best results grape vines should be cut back severely. The fruit comes on new wood grown from buds on the main branches. Only a few buds are necessary to produce a considerable vine. The few buds that are left the healthier the vines will be, and the quality of the fruit will be much better. Cut away all of last year's growth down to the original branches, leaving only a few buds on each of the main branches that spread out like a fan from the trunk, and do it now.

Leave Until Later On.
Let the rose and azalea until it can be seen to what extent the frost has done the pruning for you. Pruning of these bushes will be dealt with later in the season. Lilacs, spiraea and other flowering shrubs that produce their bloom from buds that were formed last fall should not be pruned until after they have bloomed. To do so now might destroy their main buds for the season. Hydrangeas should be cut back severely. A few limbs on the main branches only should be left.

Cane and Such.
Cane fruit, such as raspberries and blackberries, should be severely thinned. The canes that bore fruit last year should be all removed. This year's fruit will be borne on canes produced last year. When the new canes should be shortened back slightly. Select the choicest canes of last year's growth and see that they are given plenty of room in the bush. Cut off the weak ones and canes that are heavily laden. Currants and gooseberry bushes need to be thinned out, especially in the old bushes. These bear their fruit on old canes, and will continue to do so for years. Do not cut them out until they are old and unproductive.

Will Return To Their Old Love

Coming Season Likely to See Old Hands Back on the Farm.

It seems probable that the term "savage hired help" will mean just what it says, instead of what it is now generally taken to mean. For a good many years past, much effort has been devoted by farmers in an endeavor to solve the help problem, and the partial solution arrived at by many has taken the form of dispensing with hired manual labor as largely as possible. Every merchant of losing farm help lay in the hands of the farmer, and the habit of showing preference to machinery rather than to flesh and blood help is now pretty firmly established among farmers or employers. Supply is likely to be heavier on the labor market this year than last, and the price easier. It is quite likely that "savage hired help" will mean employing farm hands early with a view to keeping them along for the rush seasons of seeding and harvest. Such practice has been recommended in cases where the danger of losing farm help lay in the attractions offered by other industries; now that other industries are not offering such special attractions in the way of wages, there is every likelihood that many workers who left the farm within the past seven years will begin to show up again. When the weather begins to be permanently pleasant, and they will, in many cases, be accompanied by one or more green hands who will be willing to tackle a farm job, for once anyway.

BEST BAITS TO USE IN KILLING OFF FARM RATS

Experts Recommend Variety of Meats, Vegetables and Cereals.

POISONING AGENT IS A SUCCESS

Barium Carbonate is Tasteless, Odorless and Very Deadly.

So great has been the increase in amount of damage done by rats in the United States in recent years that the specialists of the Biological Service of the Department of Agriculture are urging a rat-control campaign for the entire country. It is more than probable that damage done by rats in Canada is as extensive as in the United States, and doubtless farmers are the greatest sufferers from the depredations of the rodents.

It is pointed out that attempts to poison rats in a wholesale way often fail, because not enough attention is paid to providing a variety of baits. Usually one of the three baits appeals to him, and the rat population is reduced by one. Poisoned rats, and unclean baits replaced by others of the same class on the following evening. In this way a wide selection of foods may be used without departing from the basic combination. All baits must be kept fresh and tempting if they are to be successful. Very old baits are of no use. The common practice of sneaking a dab of poison on a bit of stale bread which is then placed in some out-of-the-way corner and neglected will not produce satisfactory results. Barium carbonate is the poisoning agent recommended by the specialists. It is tasteless, odorless, and can be obtained at any drug store.

Good quality hay, clean and free from dust or mold should be placed each day where easily accessible to the calf. Don't put a large quantity down and keep placing fresh hay on top, but put just enough for each day.

pruning remove or cut back all branches that are likely to bend over and touch the ground when fruit laden. Any fruit that might bear would be spoiled by rotting. Only sufficient of the new growth to replace any old branches that are removed should be allowed to remain, and these should be well selected as to their sturdiness and their natural direction of growth. New bushes may be started by inserting green cuttings in the soil in a suitable place. While going over the trees and bushes keep a sharp lookout for any moths and caterpillars of caterpillars or insect pests. Destroy any found by burning.

POULTRY OWNERS' PROBLEMS OF THE FARM

Arranging Nest For Setting Hen

LOOKS FORWARD TO LAMB CROP FOR HIS PROFIT

Special Care of the Ewe is Important at This Time of Year.

TOO HEAVY FEEDING FATAL

Little Trouble Experienced Where Lambing Pens Are Used.

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The ewe should have a quiet, dry, sufficiently warm place in which to bring forth her young, should be insured against molestation by other sheep, and should be guarded against possible mishap. Care should be taken before lambing time, to see that the ewe is not fed too heavily, as heavy feeding is likely to cause other trouble. The wool should be clipped from around the teats to enable the lamb to find them readily.

Just before lambing time, the ewe will become restless and show signs of places in front of the hips. She should be placed in a separate pen, which can be made of two panels of board fencing about four feet high, hinged together at a right angle and hooked or otherwise fastened to the walls of the sheep shed.

The lamb that is born strong and vigorous will need little care. If conditions are not so favorable, first-aid measures will be necessary. In cold weather, lambs become chilled and die, unless prompt remedies are used. Wrapping the lamb in a blanket or cloth, which are renewed as often as necessary, is an excellent method of warming. Another method is to place the lamb for a few minutes in water as hot as the hand will bear; then dry with cloths and wrap for an hour or two in fresh clothes, or a sheepskin. The lamb should be kept dry and the lamb returned to the pen and allowed to suckle as quickly as possible.

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After lambing, the ewes should be watched to see that their udders are in good condition. Ewes should be kept in lambing pens for about three days after lambing and then turned into a pen by themselves, where they can have special feed and care. After lambing they should be fed lightly at first, being put on full feed about the third or fourth day.

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Most calf ailments are due to improper feeding or unsanitary conditions. In the winter as much as possible, and provide a dry, well-bedded stall at night. Provide natural tonics—exercise, drowsy, feverish, or too fresh water, and a variety of feeds and there will be little need for medical attention. It is not for the purpose of curing diseases that these suggestions are offered, but to prevent their occurrence. Observe the calf closely at all times. If it should appear droopy, or if it should refuse to eat, act quickly. Reduce