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HORTICULTURE

Orchard and Garden Notes

Get hotbeds ready for use the latter part of the month or early in March. Lucullus is one of the best varieties of Swisschard. This is a leaf beet excellent for greens.

Prepare a garden plan and order the seed needed for a good succession of vegetables during the season.

Begin to test the vegetable and farm seeds this month. Look for impurities in the seed as well as seed of low germinating quality.

The reason Europeans get such large returns from a small area is that they apply immense quantities of manure and then thoroughly cultivate the crop.

It has been proved many times that the large, plump, well-formed seed will give the best and quickest crop returns. Moral: Plant only large, well developed seeds.

Spinach is one of the earliest and quickest maturing of vegetable crops. It is excellent used as "greens," Triumph and Bloomsdale are two good varieties. Plant early as it runs to seed quickly when sown in hot weather.

Early peas may be planted between rows of newly set raspberries or blackberries the first year. As soon as the peas are gone plow the vines under and plant beans. This will pay for taking care of the land until the raspberries fruit.

If snow has drifted over the small evergreens or currants and there is danger of breaking the branches scatter some coarse ashes or cinders over the snow on a bright day. This will help melt it and as the cinders settle will cut the drifts and allow the branches to break through.

Now is a good time to study the matter of buying a small home canning outfit for saving the surplus vegetables for next winter's use. There are some good makes on the market costing from a few dollars up. They will save many crops for winter use at comparatively small cost. A gardener told me the other day that he canned peas, beans, corn, etc., in quantity for use during the winter and so far had experienced no loss. He used a canning outfit costing about \$12 and put the material in glass jars.

Selection of Orchard Soil

By Prof. C. J. Lewis.

The soil plays an important part in determining the success of a new orchard, the main factors being good depth and good air drainage. Soil that is not at least four feet deep without encountering undesirable substrata, such as hard rock, coarse gravel, or cement gravel is undesirable. Careful examination and borings should be made of both the surface and sub-surface soils. One should satisfy himself not alone as to the surface drainage, but also as to sub-surface drainage, as seepage waters are often present in mountainous valleys.

Soil fertility is an important item. Too much stress is placed on mere analysis generally. It shows us whether or not the soil is deficient in certain elements, or whether they are present, but unfortunately it cannot tell us how available the plant food is in the soil. The natural character of the soil is more important than the analysis. Without good climatic conditions, success cannot be hoped for.

Pears succeed on heavier soils better than other fruit. Apples do well on a wide range of soils, from the clay loams to the silt and sandy loams. Prunes

seem to do well on any soil that is well drained; peaches, on either silt loam or well drained clay loams. Cherries succeed on the lighter clay loams, and nuts on any soil that is deep and well drained.

Tuberculosis Eradication in B.C.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture recently made a regulation prohibiting importation into British Columbia of pure-bred cattle that had not been tested for tuberculosis. 'Canadian Farm' attacked this regulation on the ground that it was unfair to legislate against pure-bred stock when grade stock could be imported without undergoing the test, and that the regulation would be a serious detriment to interprovincial trade. Mr. W. T. McDonald, Live Stock Commissioner for B.C., has sent the following open letter to 'Canadian Farm,' and requests that Farm and Dairy publish it as well as Mr. McDonald's article as follows:

"In the December 27th issue of 'Canadian Farm,' there appeared an editorial criticism of the new Dominion regulation relating to the tuberculosis testing of pure-bred cattle received for shipment to British Columbia. The article appeared to be somewhat misleading, and the writer apparently assumes that this is the first step taken to eradicate tuberculosis from the herds of British Columbia. A brief resume of work already done would not be amiss.

THE FARMERS WANT IT

"The regulation in question was not recommended at the instigation of the veterinary profession of the Pacific provinces. At the request of the farmers of the province, the Provincial Department of Agriculture began the work of eradicating bovine tuberculosis in 1909, and consistent effort has been put forth ever since that date. The progress made has been even greater than was anticipated by the most sanguine, and it is expected that within a few months the disease will be practically eradicated. Diseased animals are slaughtered, and remuneration made to the owners to the extent of one-half of the value of the animal. The maximum valuation, however, is limited to \$75 in the case of a grade animal, and \$150 in the case of a pure-bred.

"Looking at the situation from all standpoints, we cannot believe that an unprejudiced person can see any injustice in the regulation. Surely the farmers and stockmen of British Columbia have the right to purchase healthy animals. Furthermore, we believe that, indirectly, the regulation protects the breeders in other provinces. Should a farmer of British Columbia purchase an expensive pure-bred animal and shortly after have it condemned for tuberculosis, neither he nor his neighbors would be likely to purchase another from the same source.

"We sincerely hope that in the very near future the regulation will be amended to include all animals shipped into British Columbia except those brought in for immediate slaughter.

ARE ALL ANIMALS TUBERCULIN?

"Quoting from the editorial, 'This regulation strikes at the very foundation of this (interprovincial) trade, and if allowed to remain in force will deal a death blow to live stock trading between the different provinces.' Surely not. We do not believe it is fair to the live stock industry of Canada to insinuate that in any part of the Dominion there are not enough animals free from tuberculosis to supply the interprovincial trade. We agree with the editor of 'Canadian Farm' that the disease is not so prevalent, and on this knowledge we base our belief that the

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