

RAINY DAYS ON THE FRUIT FARM.

By Linus Woolverton.

With a little forethought, the rainy days may be employed almost as profitably as the fine days. The writer carries a note-book in which a page is devoted to hints for rainy days. It is surprising how many things can be set aside for them, especially if one has a little workshop and a few well-selected tools.

TOOLS FOR THE WORKSHOP.

Every fruit farm needs a fruit-house, and in it a tool-room, with a chimney, to permit of a fire on cold days. This should be fitted up with a work-bench, an iron screw and vise, a chopping block, a shave horse, a grindstone, a cross and a rip saw, a crosscut and a keyhole saw, a set of planes, brace and bits, augers, files, chisels, tri-square, screwdriver, a measuring square, wrench, awls, hammer, and an assortment of wire nails. It is surprising how many repair bills can be avoided by a small outfit of this kind, and what a satisfaction comes from learning the use of them.

SHARPENING AND PAINTING OF THE IMPLEMENTS.

Almost the first rainy-day job that will occur to mind is the sharpening and painting of the implements. The spade needs grinding to be ready for use, and so does the hoe, the cultivator teeth, the scythe, the sickle, and the knives of the mowing machines. Few people realize the importance of a sharp hoe in hoeing out the raspberry or strawberry plantation, or of a sharp spade in digging about trees. Time spent at the grindstone, or with a good file, will double its duration in the field work, and is therefore time saved, and not time lost. These tools should be ground or filed on the under side, not on the upper.

Painting the woodwork of the plows, harrows, heavy wagons, fruit drays, fruit ladders, etc., is a useful rainy-day job for master or men, for it not only makes them appear better, but it also makes them last longer, and thus utilizes time that might otherwise be wasted. Ready-mixed paints can now be so easily bought that a professional need not be called for such ordinary jobs. It is usual to thin these with turpentine, but for rough work I find kerosene oil answers quite as well, besides being a preservative itself, and much less expensive.

THE CARRIAGE AND HARNESS.

The fruit-grower in summer has little time for polishing his harness, and if he values a decent outfit, he will appreciate a rainy day now and again, when he can clean his harness and apply a good black dressing. For the carriage harness there are several makes of waterproof polish which may be used as a finish, and especially on the patent-leather parts, where they have lost their freshness. The brass mountings, too, need frequent brightening, and for this there are several excellent preparations, which act like a charm. Attention to such little things is the mark of persons of thrift, as well as of good taste, while the neglect of them, when time and means permit, is a mark of poor and slovenly management. It is no wonder that some of our Canadian farmers are dubbed "hayseeds and clodhoppers," when they appear so often in town with muddy boots, bespattered clothing, dirty carriage, and untidy horse and harness. Rainy days give opportunity to correct all these faults, and if time is still unoccupied, an extra grooming of the horses would often be in place.

THE USE OF OIL.

It is surprising how many men run their wagons without oil, until the screeching wheel or the heated axle, cutting into the box, makes it impossible to go farther. Sometimes this occurs on the road, and the blacksmith or the neighborly farmer is called upon to furnish oil and jack free of charge, to help the sloven reach home. Now, these rainy days give time to oil up the wheels of all carts, wagons, cultivators; also the machinery of the mowing machine, the lawn mower, or whatever implement is likely to be soon needed.

WET DAYS.

Sometimes the ground and the trees are too wet to go on with the regular jobs, and on such days the thoughtful farmer can find much suitable work for himself and the hired man. There are fences to repair or build; there are drains to dig, or, if choked, to find the obstruction and clear; old dead or useless trees to dig out, and sprouts and sods about the roots of the orchard trees to clear with the spade. In these and many other ways, the economical use of time, that might otherwise go to waste, or be spent in idle gossip at the corner grocery, will go far toward making a balance on the credit side of the bank account at the end of the year.

A horticultural exhibition is likely to be held in Winnipeg, Man., early in September. At a meeting of representatives of the Western Horticultural Society and the Winnipeg Florists' Association, F. W. Broderick, B.S.A., of the Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg, was appointed Secretary and Manager.

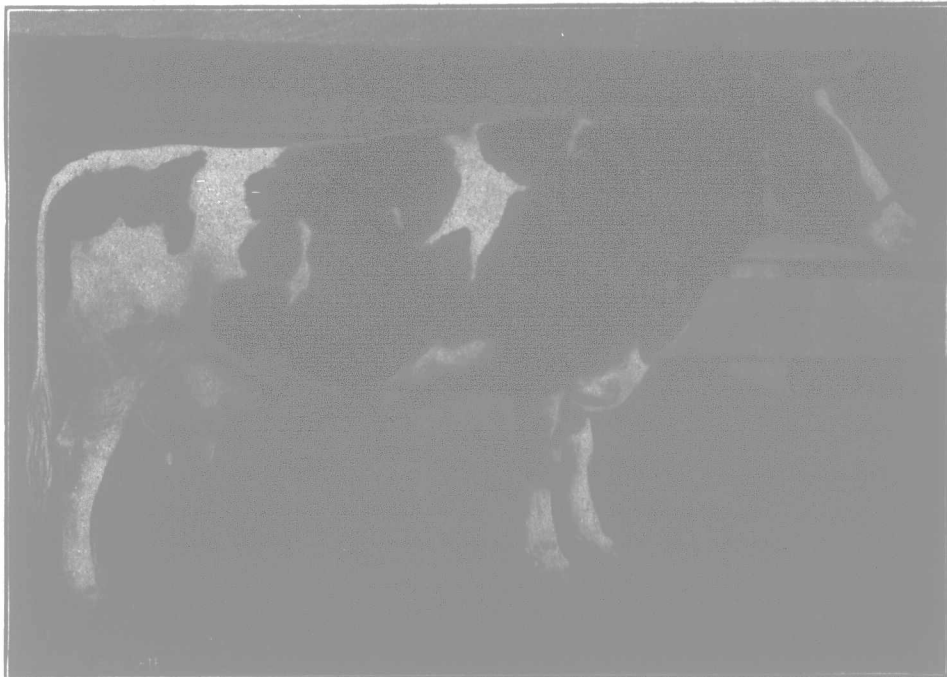
TO DESTROY GARDEN MAGGOTS.

Mr. A. F. Judd, Doe Lake, Ont., writes: "To any who are interested in a vegetable garden, the troublesome root-maggot may be prevented by watering along the rows with a teaspoon of Zenoleum to two gallons of water. This can also be sprayed in propagating cases of cabbage and cauliflower; it does not hurt the foliage, and will drive out every insect. In spraying, I use three gallons of water to what the screw-top of a 50c. can will hold. This will keep away the cabbage-worm, also. I think you should have a "Good Idea" column, as it is sometimes hard to find the hints given."

GINSENG CULTURE.

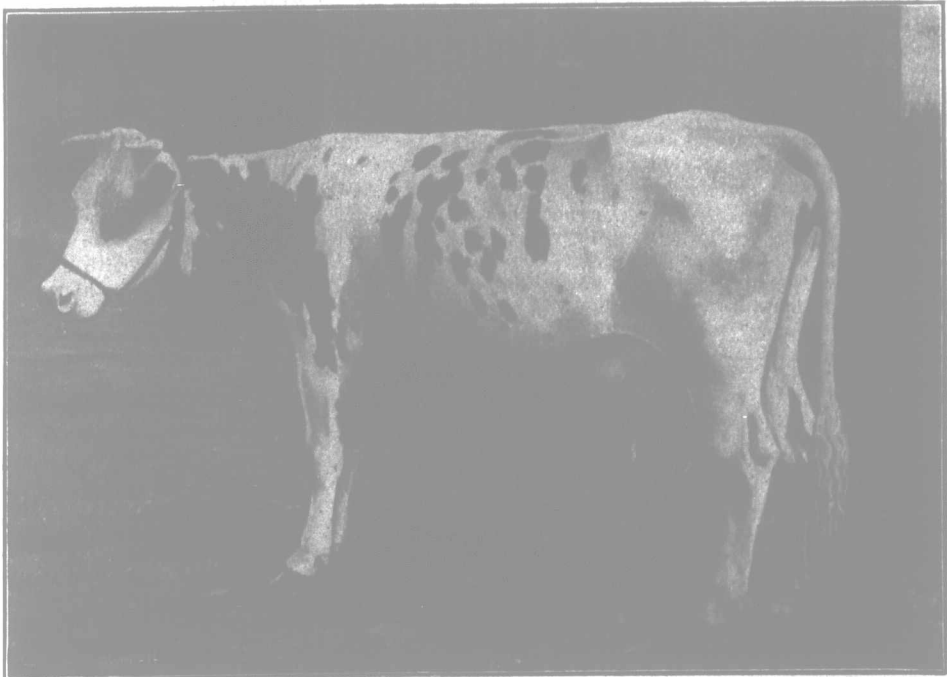
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to a question by G. W. S., re ginseng culture, Professor Hutt says, "I would not recommend the growing of ginseng as a profitable investment," etc.



Sara Jewel Hengerveld.

Holstein cow in herd of Brown Bros., Lyn, Ont. Record, 100.4 lbs. milk in 1 day, 685 lbs. milk, 28.10 lbs. butter in 7 days; 2625.95 lbs. milk and 110.13 lbs. butter in 30 days.



Sara Jewel Hengerveld 3rd.

Holstein cow in herd of Brown Bros., Lyn, Ont. Record, 93 lbs. milk in 1 day, 640 lbs. milk and 30.30 lbs. butter in 7 days; 2,613 lbs. milk and 121.30 lbs. butter in 30 days.

Previous to ten years ago little or no ginseng was grown in Ontario, and as it takes six years to mature, I think the Professor has very little grounds for making the statement that he does. Ginseng-growing in Ontario has come to stay, as long as the price of the root remains as high as at present, and I might state that the price is higher nearly every year.

Many who try ginseng-growing fail, just the same as many do in growing other crops. Ginseng can be grown in almost any soil, if rich and well drained. It requires about three-fourths shade. I began the culture four years ago with 200 young plants found wild in Elgin County. I have now more than 6,000. Many of the first-planted roots will weigh 6 ozs. in the green state. Last year I had 25,000 seed; this year I will have three times as many. If the conditions attending

ginseng-growing are made as nearly natural as possible, it may be grown as easily as carrots or beets. Elgin Co., Ont. WM. WALKER.

THE FRUIT CROP IN NIAGARA DISTRICT.

By Linus Woolverton.

On the whole, the weather conditions in the Niagara district have proved favorable for the fruit crop. The strawberry and raspberry crops were shortened, owing to a drouth in June, but the thunderstorms in July have given a thrifty appearance to all tree fruits, and prices for all kinds, while not so high as prevailed last year, are satisfactory to the grower.

WAYS OF SELLING FRUIT.

I think a better method of selling is prevailing; for at near-by shipping points there are buyers who take fruit from the grower at stated prices to fill orders. These men send frequent quotations to retail customers, and compete with each other in securing the fruit from the growers, so that very little has to be shipped haphazard on commission. Our co-operative at Grimsby is the only one of its kind in Ontario, but it is on right lines also, and is sure to be followed in other places. We pack all fruit at a central packing house, guarantee the grade, and ship on order. We have a manager and a head packer as chief officials, and handle all kinds of fruit the whole season through.

APPLES.

This being an even year in numbers should give a full apple crop, judging by past records for many years, but the record will be broken, for many varieties are a comparative failure, and some of our staple kinds—such as Baldwin, Greening, Spy and Ben Davis—are showing only a medium crop. Kings look very full, an unusual thing for this large and beautiful variety. If we could depend upon such yields as it now promises, year after year, there would not be many of its trees dug out by the roots—even to make room for the peach—as we see in these parts. The old-fashioned Snow (Fameuse), that most delicious of dessert apples, is this year laden with clean, bright, beautiful fruit, and even the delicately-flavored Early Harvest and the excellent Golden Fall Pippin are perfectly free from spot or blemish.

PEARS.

For quality and appearance, the present year's pear crop is seldom excelled. Even the scabby, gnarled and cracked Flemish Beauty of previous years has given place to dark-red, clean, beautiful pears, well meriting their old name. The Bartlett is still the main crop, and this year surpasses all previous records for an abundant yield. Anjou, Louise and Duchess, those excellent export varieties, are fairly well loaded, while

Giffard, the leading early pear for the home market, is showing up well. Some of the newer varieties do not count for much—for example, the Lawson, which is as deceiving as the ancient "apples of Sodom," beautiful to the eye, but dust and ashes to the mouth. Wilder is attractive in color, but not more desirable than Giffard; while Summer Doyenne, Chambers and Rosteezer are only desirable for small home gardens.

PLUMS.

There will be a nice average crop of plums, but not a great surplus, except it be of Japans. These foreigners took a rest last year, and this season they are in great abundance. A neighbor who has acres of Burbank, laden to the ground with fruit, is puzzling his brains about the sale of it. As usually shipped, while