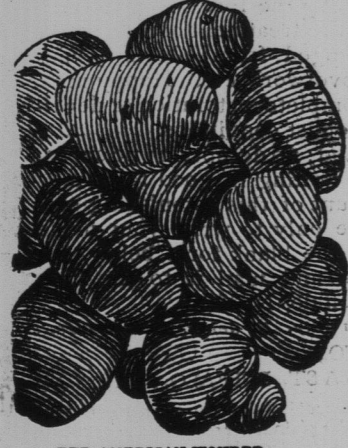


FARM AND GARDEN

A POTATO REPORT.

Yields of Noteworthy Varieties, Including New Introductions. For the past three years the New Hampshire station has been pursuing work in the interest of potato growers, and it now issues a report covering the results of experiments with 104 varieties.



RED AMERICAN WONDER.

Including the new introduction, claim that the Sir Walter Raleigh resembles Rural New Yorker, of which it is a seedling, but is more uniform and yields practically no small tubers, also that it is of better quality a few days later, was borne out by behavior at the station during two seasons.

Red American Wonder (numbered also called American Wonder, a medium grown and very popular potato in the northern part of the state, pronounced a fine variety. This was one of the heaviest yielders of 1898. Its main crop variety of good size and appearance; vines dark green, very regular and erect, making a very uniform row, almost square top throughout, strong and vigorous. The crop was actually all salable. Yield, 369 bushels per acre.

White Beauty (101) is described as a medium late variety of introduction. It belongs to the Burbank and White Star class. The vines were very strong and heavy, dark green, standing 3 1/2 feet high and 8 feet broad. The yield was at the rate of 397 bushels per acre and only about 6 per cent were small.

Fillbasket, a white-skinned main crop variety, oblong, somewhat flattened and usually smooth, proved a heavy yielder at the station, producing at the rate of 346 bushels per acre, a very small per cent of which were small. The vines were strong, erect and vigorous.

Table with 2 columns: Variety Name and Yield per Bushel. Lists varieties like Seneca Beauty, Harvest Queen, Sir Walter Raleigh, etc.

Commenting upon these, Lette Parson and Fillbasket are mentioned as good croppers; Sir William wants clay loam; Seneca Beauty is a fine pink variety; Harvest Queen, desirable; Sir Walter Raleigh, very choice; Wood-hull's Seedling, White Rose and Wilson's First Choice, fair croppers; Dew-drop Rose, a fine Rose type; Breck's Chance, large red; Profillo Rose, medium oval; Orphan, a long potato, fine.

Some points heretofore advanced in potato culture, which the experiments reported by Professor Rane seem to confirm, are:

The yield from planting the seed or bud end is generally greater than from the stem or butt end of the tuber. The eyes on the seed end are the first to germinate, and hence are especially important when an early crop is desired.

Exposing unrooted tubers in a warm place before planting hastens growth, but if continued until sprouts form (which are rubbed off), the yield may be considerably reduced.

It is better to place in a hill one large piece than several very small ones of the same aggregate weight.

The net yield of salable potatoes increases with every increase in the size of seed piece from one eye to the half potato. The half potato affords a larger net salable crop than the whole potato on account of the excessive amount of seed required in planting entire tubers.

The next session of the farmers' national congress will meet at Boston Oct. 3, 4, 5 and 6. W. D. Hoard of Fort Atkinson, Wis., is president and John M. Stahl, of Chicago secretary.

Each agricultural college and experiment station is entitled to a delegate, as is also each national and state agricultural society.

A HEAVY CROP OF ONIONS.

Thorough and Careful Cultivation of the Onion is the Only Profitable Method.

Last season I succeeded in raising 600 bushels or more of onions per acre. Possibly my method of growing this crop will be of interest to your readers. In the first place, the land must be rich. For special fertilizers well rotted manure answers the purpose very well. I plowed my land as soon as it was dry enough to work. There were some lumps in the field which I pulverized and succeeded in getting the seed bed in fine condition. Next I put on a harrow and went over the plot twice, then followed with a roller. The ground was again harrowed and again rolled, then given another harrowing and a final rolling, when it was perfectly level and very mellow. The depressions caused by the hoofs of horses I smoothed over with a garden rake. This may seem like a great deal of work, but unless the land is sandy and free from lumps you will find that it will pay to give the seed bed thorough preparation, not only in the increased yield, but in the saving of time and patience when cultivating time comes round.

I sowed the seed a little thicker than necessary, so that where some seeds failed to germinate there was still a stand. I thin to the proper number of plants and begin weeding as soon as necessary. The cultivation must be constant, and nothing must be allowed to interfere with it. Go over the field once a week with a cultivator until the onions are too large for culture of this kind. If it does not rain after you have ceased cultivation, you are all right, but if rain should follow I would break up the crust which was formed as soon as the ground will permit.

Pull the onions as soon as the tops have died down and throw four rows together. After they have cured so that the tops are thoroughly dried they may be gathered and stored on a barn floor until sold. The main point to be observed in the raising of a big onion crop are the thorough preparation of the soil, sowing the seed so that a perfect stand will result and giving thorough and careful cultivation.

The variety of onions grown was Prize Taker, a large kind which usually takes more time to mature than smaller varieties, but mine were ready to pull three weeks earlier than my neighbors', due to good culture, says a Wisconsin correspondent of Orange Judd Farmer.

Sweet Potatoes in the North. There is only a comparatively small amount of sweet potatoes grown north of the Ohio river, but more could be profitably grown if the nature of the crop and its proper culture were better understood. A sandy soil is not necessary to this crop, and no poorer site can be chosen than the rich sandy strips of land on the banks of streams so often selected by farmers for growing the loose soil at the surface is thrown into ridges running slightly down hill, so that the water from rains may easily escape. The sweet potato wants a large amount of heat and does not want a large amount of moisture. Cultivate early, throw into ridges, warm up soil. The roots of the plant soon strike the hard soil in the bottom of the ridge and then thicken rapidly in the heat. Such land does not grow as large tubers as the rich bottom land, but it develops the roots, and these are the crop wanted, says The Farm and Fireside.

Timothy For Seed. In case timothy is wanted for seed, allow the seeds to become thoroughly brown, then cut with a self binder and shock the same as with any grain. Set the binder as low as possible, so that all the leaves and blades will be preserved. Allow to dry thoroughly in the field or thrash at once. The ordinary thrashing machine can be used for this purpose if properly adjusted. The hay from the seed timothy is not as valuable for feed as early cut hay, because it has been allowed to stand until fully ripe, but it is of considerable value and should always be preserved, says Orange Judd Farmer.

Agricultural Inevitables. Hand picking of worms and brushing bugs off the plants into baskets are primitive methods of protection in the vegetable garden, yet they sometimes prove the most practicable and effective. Asparagus from seed is ready for use in the third year. It may be cut till late in June and should then be well worked and left to grow and gather strength for the next year's crop of shoots.

When settled warm weather has come in May or June, young celery plants should be set in the ground. They should have made a growth of five or six inches.

For the plant dug on currant bushes give a second spraying with kerosene emulsion early in June, if necessary.

The New York station has found that after a soil has received a heavy application of stable manure any further addition of chemical fertilizers is only thrown away. Chemical fertilizers gave best results on sandy soils; fairly well rotted stable manure on clay soils.

Diluted kerosene may be used for a summer treatment of San Jose scale, destroying the young, but the Ohio station has seen no indications that it would be at all effective as against the full grown scale in winter.

Sheep and Disease. Sheep are naturally healthy, but quickly succumb to disease in unfavorable conditions. Damp locations are conducive to foot rot, and damp quarters at night produce sickness. There must be ventilation, but shade from hot and cold and good water. It cannot be repeated too often that sheep need good care.

Healthy Lambs. Corn and potatoes of the eyes will make large lambs perhaps, but they will have but little strength or vitality. Separate the pregnant sheep and give them homemaking food and proper exercise. The larger the proportion of oats, wheat, bran and clover hay which can be got into the rations the better.—Live Stock.

SHEEP IN THE SOUTH.

Old Fields and Timber Lands May Be Profitably Utilized.

Every one of the southern states has a larger proportion of uncultivated land than any northern or western state, writes Henry Stewart. There are millions of acres of timber lands, not to mention those old fields abandoned to nature for a time, during which they may gather a fresh supply of food for crops by gradual decomposition of the soil thus exposed to the weather. The southern farmer is making a great mistake in this way. So much of his capital is lying idle, and worse than idle, for in many instances the fields are scored by the rains and cut into gullies, the top soil being washed down to the lower lands or borne bodily away to the ocean by the streams.

These old fields may be used for raising millions of sheep if only the simplest kind of culture were given them. There are many crops that might grow on these old lands at such a small expense as would afford a much larger profit per acre than the lands planted with either corn or cotton. Deep plowing will immediately stop the washing and gullying of the land by the rain, and the remains of the crops grown and the manure of the sheep will quickly improve their fertility and bring it into regular culture again. Thus the keeping of sheep will be the salvation of the south from its admitted poverty, which is due to overproduction of the chief staple—cotton—and the neglect of any means of restoring fertility by the ordinary methods of good farming.

All through the south there is a vast quantity of valuable timber land on which there is an undergrowth that even now feeds and fattens thousands of cattle and millions of pigs. Sheep could be kept on these lands with great profit, for they are held at very low prices, and in some districts they will afford ample feed for flocks without any help. But by thinning out the small timber and sowing these lands with grass the sheep would be easily carried over the worst of the season in comfort. The valuable timber would thus be retained to the benefit of the user and by the millions of the finest trees that anywhere else would be worth ten, twenty or more dollars, as they stand, for each one. By and by, with railroads are made, this timber will afford many hundred per cent profit on the purchase, and in the meantime a handsome income may be made from the sheep in these sheltered, shady, cool and well watered pastures. There is an immense amount of land in this way. The population, of course, is sparse, and must be where tracts of thousands of acres are lying unused, and so far, from several years' personal experience of the water, no sheep has been lost in this way. The people occupying the sparse settled tracts usually keep a few sheep, and the dogs are trained to know the sheep, and will hunt rabbits through the pasture without interfering with the sheep. All this is true of what is known as the mountain region, the backbone of the eastern part of the United States.

Twenty-five cents is an ample allowance for the year's cost of feeding a sheep in this extensive region. The same estimate is quite sufficient for the lowland country, from the foot of the highlands to the Atlantic coast. Hand feeding is needed only in some years for two or three days at a time. But this is not required if some land is put in grass which is moved for hay to meet his occasional need, and grass is left for a change of pasture, alternately with the woodland feeding. The most of these forests will quickly fatten the flocks and put them in such good condition that some little hardship may with unusual seasons may be suffered with impunity. In fact, nowhere else in the wide world has nature been more prolific in furnishing the means for the profitable raising of sheep as in our own south, but nowhere else has generous nature's liberal hand been so ungenerously neglected.

Doeking Lambs. Always dock your lambs when young regardless of weather. Better under 10 days old than later. Wing's lamb dockers are the best device for the purpose yet used in this country. Where there are many lambs to dock two pairs of them should be used, so as to always have one at white heat while the other is in use. Apply pine tar to the stub of the tail.—Live Stock.

Cornstalk Disease. Cornstalk disease is the name given to an affection occurring in cattle as a result of eating cornstalks and corn fodder that seem to have been rendered poisonous by moldiness and fermentation. The disorder is usually confined to animals under 4 years of age, and it runs a rapid course, causing death in from 4 to 36 hours.

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FASHION NOTES.

Summer Gowns and the Proper Accessories.

The princess gown continues in high favor. The upper part is usually so cut as to simulate a low necked bodice worn with a guimp of crepe de chine, net or mousseline de soie. Little capes of beige or gray cloth are seen as part of the summer outfit, for use in the cool of the day at the mountains or seaside. An air of novelty is given to these capes by the addition of a scarf of mousseline de soie of the same color as the cloth. This scarf is arranged over the shoulders to form a capuchon. Large hats are soon to be worn again. They will be much trimmed, in a way recalling the Louis Quinze period, with large flowers and clusters of plumes.



PRINCESS GOWN.

Strings of silk tulle, to be tied in a large, soft knot under the chin, will be a frequently seen feature. Hats and gowns en suite, little seen of late years, are beginning to reappear. There is always a certain quality of refinement about a costume matching throughout, and the return of the style to general favor is welcomed.

The princess gown illustrated is of pastel blue cloth. The front is slightly draped across the bust and closes at the left side with groups of buttons and cords. The edge of the front, the foot and the sleeves is stitched, and there are stitched plaques across the top of the sleeves. The waist collar is also stitched. Buttons and cords finish the wrists. The hat of black straw is trimmed with black plumes and yellow roses.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

White Costumes. They are used for horse, street and evening wear. White gowns are at a premium this summer. They are worn at all places and for all occasions. There are white wrappers, white tailor made costumes, white dresses, visiting jackets and ball gowns. White waists, with other skirts, are seen in all varieties, from the plainest lawn or plique shirt waist to the small bodice enriched with the most delicate lace and needlework.

The most generally useful white costumes are those made of plique or cotton duck. The linen duck is heavier and soon becomes stringy. These gowns are made with a plain or a tulle skirt, and are either without trimming or are decorated with braid, bands of insertion or stitched straps. The bodice is in the form of a jacket, a bolero or a blouse. A

Among the new taffetas which are used for entire costumes for young girls or for separate bodices to be worn with darker skirts by girls and women are some very attractive ones having a ground of old rose, perruquine blue, bengal rose, mauve, turquoise or light green crossed and checked by small lines of black and white.

Cloth, formerly considered a fabric for cool weather, has now been so idealized and refined away by manufacturers that it may be worn all summer and is reckoned this season among summer materials. The new cloths are exceedingly

thin, light and soft, with an exquisitely satiny finish, and the colors are the most delicate that can be imagined. Fine shepherd's plaid silk, in black and white, composes some very neat summer gowns, the belt being of silk of another color, to give accent to the costume. Scarlet, dark green and French blue are all used.

The picture illustrates a charming gown of lilac silk crepon. The skirt has a flounce of lilac mousseline de soie, simulating a tulle and looped at the side by a chain. The Louis XV bodice, with a tight basque growing shorter at the back, is bordered by a ruffle of mousseline de soie and has revers collar and pocket flaps of white satin with pompadour embroidery. Jeweled buttons decorate the front. The half length sleeves have cuffs of embroidered satin and a ruff of mousseline. The collar and cravat are of white embroidered tulle. The hat of lilac straw is trimmed with lilac flowers, with yellow hearts and lilac tulle.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

Evening Gown. The cut shows an evening gown of white silk gauze embroidered with silver over white silk. The skirt is plain, save for the embroidery. The bodice has a square décolletage outlined with silver passmenterie, and there is a large silver motif embroidered at the left side. The bodice is gathered at the waist under a belt of light green velvet. The sleeves are of unlined spangled gauze and have plaited epaulettes.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

Satin Costume. A bright red, tan and a rather deep brown seem to be the favorite shades for summer shoes. The fashion of wearing white or colored footgear during the hot weather has become confirmed, and black shoes are the exception rather than the rule. Tan shoes are certainly cooler than black ones, and those made of white canvas or gray linen are cooler yet. The fashionable toe is very ugly—it is moderately pointed and is stiffened hard, with a sort of thick, bulging effect, which is certainly masculine, but disfigureable and ugly.

The picture illustrates a black satin costume. The trained skirt has a tulle trimming of jet embroidery. The little coat has a square basque and is short in front, where it is embroidered with jet. It opens over a vest of pink silk fastened with crystal buttons. The close sleeves are embroidered with jet at the wrists. The collar and cravat are of white embroidered crepe. The hat of black spangled tulle is trimmed with black plumes, a bow of pink silk and a jeweled ornament.

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Warm Weather Gowns. Silk and Cloth For Pretty Summer Costumes. Among the new taffetas which are used for entire costumes for young girls or for separate bodices to be worn with darker skirts by girls and women are some very attractive ones having a ground of old rose, perruquine blue, bengal rose, mauve, turquoise or light green crossed and checked by small lines of black and white.

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JUDIC CHOLLET.

SUMMER NOVELTIES.

The National Colors—New Shape in Tan Shoes.

Although red, white and blue are not sported quite as aggressively as they were last year, they are still sufficiently prominent, the national colors entering into shirt waist percales, neckties and fans. During hot weather the cheap fan is everywhere evident, and one of the newest ideas among the little Japanese folding fans is the American flag design, in which the 13 stripes follow the curving



SATIN COSTUME.

shape of the fan, while the union is up in the left hand corner. The sticks are of bamboo painted red, white and blue, and the fans are made in Japan for the American trade.

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JUDIC CHOLLET.

Old Gloves. The Many Purposes For Which They Are Useful. Old gloves should not be thrown away as soon as they are discarded, for they are still useful in a number of ways after they are no longer fit for wear in the street. Probably everybody understands their value as a protection for the hands in gardening, rowing or cleaning a bicycle, and most persons have a few glove fingers laid away in reserve for use in case the hand is injured, but bits of glove skin may be utilized in many fashions. They are excellent for applying dressing to kid shoes, for making watch cases and pen wipers and for tying over the tops of bottles, in traveling, to keep the stopper secure. Suspensives may be mended with kid, spectacles, jewelry and finger nails polished with it. Strips may

be cut from the clean part of the wrist of mousseline gloves, these strips to be neatly stitched around the edge of the collar, cuffs and belt of a tailor made gown as an appropriate finish. There is material enough in the arms of long evening gloves to make pretty little shoes for infants, and those long arms usually go to waste, the hand part becoming soiled and worn long before the rest is defaced.

The little girl's dress illustrated is of dark blue summer velvet. The skirt is stitched around the foot and trimmed with white mohair braid. The blouse bodice, which has a plaited yoke of white silk framed in blue velvet, is trimmed with white braid and pearl buttons. The close sleeves are also trimmed with braid. The collar and the belt, which ties at the back with long ends, are of blue velvet.

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FASHION'S SIMPLICITY.

It Does Not Imply a Decrease of Expense.

The fashionable gown is usually simple in appearance, but its exquisiteness of cut, fit and finish compensates for its lack of elaboration. Elegant simplicity is the order of the day, and the tailor made gown leads the van of out of door gowns. In Paris walking is a fashionable amusement, and very elegant costumes are worn by promenaders in the Bois de Boulogne, where society takes exercises on foot, on horseback or in its carriage. Tailor made costumes of this cloth of most delicate tones—cream, pale blue, heliotrope, white, water green, mauve, light gray—are enjoying special favor and are certainly very charming. In more sober and subdued tints such gowns also predominate in the city streets.

The style of skirt varies but little. Always tight at the top and molton to the figure, flat trimmings only are employed



NEW JACKET.

for it, embroidery and galloon. The skirt being long, it is lifted in the hand, the lining of bright silk being thus revealed. The bodice is usually a bolero or a short jacket, but the bolero is the smarter, and its fronts are generally a little elongated. A blouse is worn beneath, silk and gauze being now less fashionably employed than the finest lawn, tucked, puffed, embroidered and covered with delicate lace.

The jacket illustrated is of cloth, with applications of embroidery. It is close fitting at the back, but straight in front, crossing to the left with a single rever faced with grosgrain. The front is pointed, the basque being rounded at the sides. There are fitting wrists to the sleeves and a Vaiscol collar.

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The little girl's dress illustrated is of dark blue summer velvet. The skirt is stitched around the foot and trimmed with white mohair braid. The blouse bodice, which has a plaited yoke of white silk framed in blue velvet, is trimmed with white braid and pearl buttons. The close sleeves are also trimmed with braid. The collar and the belt, which ties at the back with long ends, are of blue velvet.

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