

Soils and Crops

By Agronomist.

This Department is for the use of our farm readers who want the advice of an expert on any question regarding soil, seed, crops, etc. If your question is of sufficient general interest, it will be answered through this column. If stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed with your letter, a complete answer will be mailed to you. Address Agronomist, care of Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd., 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

Alsike and White Clover as Honey Plants.

Farmers know the value of the two perennial clovers, alsike and white Dutch clover, for hay and pasture, but it is not always remembered that a large bonus may be obtained from them in the form of honey. They produce more honey in Canada than all other plants put together, and this honey is of the highest quality.

Production of clover honey is greatest in the farming lands of Eastern Canada. Almost the whole region south of the Ottawa River is excellent. The St. Lawrence River Valley is almost as good. The valleys of the St. John, and other rivers in New Brunswick, marsh hay lands in Nova Scotia and the rich farming lands of Prince Edward Island and around Lake St. John, Que., are very good too. In the clay belt of Northern Ontario, notably around Haliburton and Dryden, these clovers grow in immense quantity and luxuriance, and some years produce heavy honey crops. While alsike as a commercial honey plant has reached its highest development in the Eastern Provinces, white clover does well in a large part of Manitoba and British Columbia.

The cultivation of clover on suitable lands as a combined farm and honey crop is recommended as follows:

1. Growing alsike with timothy for hay. Alsike is better for this purpose than red clover because the latter is of practically no value for honey production and is beginning to spoil by the time the alsike and timothy are ready to cut. Alsike will grow on certain types of soil, for instance, ill-drained land, better than red clover.

2. Growing alsike for seed. An abundance of honey bees increases the yield of seed per acre; and leaving the plant to produce seed lengthens the honey flow.

3. Sowing white clover in grass mixtures intended for pasture. On favorable lands the white clover will keep spreading, improving the pasture both for cattle and bees. Grazing, if not too close, will not seriously curtail honey production, and it lengthens the honey-flow.

The honey-flow from clover lasts three to five weeks, beginning, according to latitude, between mid-June and mid-July. Good management of the bees, to build them up strong in time for the honey-flow and keep them from swarming, is necessary. There is no better food for bees in winter than clover honey.

Crow vs. Corn.

In Canada, the most serious enemy to the corn crop is the crow. A dose of shot is an infallible cure for the latter's fondness for corn, but, unfortunately, it is more easily prescribed than administered. There are,

however, other means of combatting the trouble.

1. Treating the Seed: Immerse the corn for 2 or 3 minutes in water as hot as can be borne by the hand. Drain, and while the corn is still moist and warm, add half a cupful of coal tar or pine tar per gallon of seed. Stir until every kernel is coated with tar. As a drier, add a small quantity of lime, plaster, or even dry road dust. If the work is well done, seed so prepared may be sown by machine, but the feed should be watched carefully for fear clogging may occur.

2. Deep Planting: Plant the corn not less than 3 inches deep. This will prevent it from being washed to the surface by heavy rains and, after germination, the young shoot will break off when the crow attempts to pull up the plant.

3. Poisoned Corn: When crows are noticed on the field, take some corn, say two gallons, more or less according to the size of the field, and boil for about thirty minutes in just sufficient water to cover corn to the depth of one inch. To the water and corn, before boiling, add about one-eighth ounce of strychnine or, better still, of strychnine sulphate, for each gallon of water. Allow the corn to lie in the strychnine and water overnight. In the morning drain off any water remaining and scatter the corn thinly over the corn field.

In making use of the above plan great care should be taken to pour the water off the corn into some hole or in a spot not likely to be frequented by children or domestic animals. Care should also be taken to keep poultry off the corn field for two or three weeks after the poisoned corn has been scattered thereon.

4. A device much used in some localities is "stringing the field". Stakes 3 or 4 feet high are placed here and there and connected by twine to which may be attached pieces of paper or bits of bright tin. Dead crows obtained by method 3 may also be attached to the twine or stakes. The time-honored "scare-crow" may also be tried but it must be admitted that the crow of to-day does not seem very deeply impressed by this old device.

5. If crows are noticed in or near the corn field have a boy watch the field for 2 or 3 days, firing a gun now and then when the crows are in sight and showing himself quite openly. Then put up a sort of tent in the field (a stack cover or binder cover will do). The crows are never sure but that the boy with the gun is in the tent and will give the spot a wide berth.

A combination of some or all of the above plans, which are simple and inexpensive and have been tested out with good results, will soon persuade the crow that the locality is an undesirable one.

Wealth From the Sea.

There are fortunes lying under the sea in the holds of torpedoed ships, and many minds are busy on the problem of recovering this wealth.

"Salvage companies are laying plans for raising both ships and cargoes on a big scale," said the managing director of a firm of submarine engineers. "Cargoes to the value of millions of pounds are awaiting recovery."

"In many cases, where ships cannot be raised, cargoes can be salvaged. We recovered £70,000 in Spanish gold coins some years ago from the Alphonso XII, 165 feet under the sea off Point Gando, Grand Canary."

Chest.—Full, very deep, moderately broad, and plump in front.

Forelegs.—Vertical as viewed from front and side and properly placed; with elbow large, long, prominent and clear of breast; forearm large at elbow, long and heavily muscled.

Knees.—Neatly outlined, large, prominent, wide in front, well situated and well directed.

Back.—Short, straight and well muscled.

Loins.—Broad, straight, very short and muscular.

Barrel.—Large, increasing in size toward flanks, with ribs well arched and definitely separated.

Hindquarters.—Wide, thick, very long, full, heavily muscled, rounded externally and well directed.

Stifle.—Well defined, prominent and well supported by muscles of that region.

Tail.—Fine and intact; well carried and firm.

Hocks.—Neatly outlined, lean, large, wide from front to rear, well situated and well directed.

Limbs.—From knees and hocks downward vertical, short, flat, wide laterally, with tendons and ligaments standing well out from bone and distinctly defined.

Pasterns.—Strong, medium length, not too oblique, and well directed.

Feet.—Medium size, circular in shape, sound; with horn smooth and of fine texture; sole moderately concave, and frog well developed, sound, firm, large, elastic and healthy.

Poultry

Every poultryman interested in maximum production at minimum cost should market all mature male birds early in June. The time has arrived when the male bird is no longer useful. Except in a very few instances where special matings are made this season's breeding work is done. It costs as much or more to feed and care for a male bird for a year as it does a laying hen. When the slacker hen is culled cull the male bird. Keep no individual that does not produce a value greater than the cost of feed and care. There are some males worthy of being kept over for another year's breeding work, but they are the exception. If the breeding work has been carefully planned there should be young males growing up that will be equal or superior to the old ones.

The male bird does a still greater harm than eating his head off during the summer, fall and winter. If allowed to run with the hen he will fertilize the market eggs during the warm months when nearly half the season's supply is produced. A few hours under a broody hen, in a warm room or in a store window and incubation starts. Then the temperature changes, the germ dies and the eggs spoil. This loss is much greater even in our nearby markets than is commonly supposed. It is worth while to produce infertile eggs.

The male is in no way necessary for egg production; in fact his presence in a flock of hens may slightly decrease production. Egg production frequently drops slightly when males are placed with the hens for breeding purposes.

To Our Heroes.

Methinks the scarlet poppies on the fields
Of France—in this dark hour—
Are but the blood of our dead heroes,
Blossomed into flower.
To watch and wait, and not in vain;
For, though they blow and toss impatiently
At last shall bow their glorious heads
And whisper "Victory!"

CARE OF SPRING DUCKS

By W. E. Gage.

More and more farmers are taking up with ducks, and many tell us that this is the easiest money in poultry-dom. Of course, this is an individual matter, but the fact remains that ducks are becoming more and more popular on the markets, and the prices paid for duck meat is continually on the increase. But the fact that caring for ducks is so unlike the care of chickens, it would seem timely to give a few of the important items.

Ducks are great layers producing an astounding number of eggs. I had a pen of ten ducks, of Indian Runner strain, that produced not less than ten eggs per day during the hatching season, and on several occasions laid eleven eggs. The eggs will hatch successfully in incubators, more so than will hens' eggs. The eggs should be turned regularly twice each day, and must not be more than ten days of age when placed in the machine. The eggs demand more moisture than hen's eggs, and the ducklings are slower in coming out of the shell than chicks.

Very few people understand the care ducks should receive. The beginner is very enthusiastic at first, but when he finds that poultry methods fail, that the ducks "just die," he becomes discouraged, and quits. The main trouble is that the little fellows contract diarrhea, which kills them off by the bushel every night. And if kept in the sun without shade, they will be sunstruck and die. The pens should be placed so that shade and sun are combined, and little trouble will follow, rations being proper.

Feed When Young

The ducklings should not be fed until thirty-six hours old. Then feed the following mash, barley wet with skim-milk or water: One measure of cracked or stale bread crumbs; one measure of middlings; one-half measure of bran; five per cent. sand. Feed four times daily. The first forty-eight hours keep a supply of food and water before the ducklings day and night, but have the water in vessels which will allow the beaks to enter, and not get the ducks wet. After they have been in the brooders for forty-eight hours give the regular rations.

From one week to five weeks old feed the following growing mixture four times a day: Four measures of bran, three measures of middlings; one measure of corn meal, three measures of fresh green stuff or two of dry clover steamed, five per cent. sand, five per cent. fine ground beef scrap. Mix all together dry and wet up with cold water or skim-milk to make crumbly mash.

Feeding for Market

From the fifth to tenth week, when

the ducks should be ready for market, feed the following mash three times a day: Two measures of corn meal, two measures of middlings, one measure of bran, one measure of green stuff, ten per cent. beef scraps, five per cent. sand. At any time if the ducklings show any signs of looseness of the bowels add a little ground charcoal to the mash. Oyster shells, granulated bone and fine grit are always kept before the birds.

One of the large duck farms where the feed is all bought except the green stuff, the claim is made that it costs five cents for food alone and from six to ten cents per pound for labor and food to raise a duckling to ten weeks—a marketable age, after which they fall away in flesh and profit is less. Each duck should pay a profit of fifty cents when properly raised.

No expensive grains are needed for ducklings, but they must never be fed musty, spoiled grains. After they are five weeks old they can be left out in the open air unless the weather is bitter cold and stormy.

Ducklings need fresh air, and should have a dry bedding of some kind. The houses must be so that draughts will enter during the early age, nor during the night when the ducks are resting. Do not forget the water in feeding ducks. It adds volume to the food and makes feeding cost less because it makes the same amount of feed more filling. But such breeds as Indian Runners should not be allowed any more water than poultry, as they are "dry land ducks," and too much water will kill them. The Pekin ducks will do better in swimming holes, but may be arranged by using an old vat, on farms where there is no creek, and a creek is a dangerous thing, as there are minks and other animals that will prey upon the flock at night and kill off the best of the stock.

Sorting Them Out

Drakes may be sorted from ducks by the curled tail feather, which curls upward. A duck quacks, a drake does not. These become noticeable when the ducklings become four weeks of age. The ducks should never be handled as hens. Always carry them by the necks.

Making money with ducks is not easy. It demands hard work, persistence, and careful watching, but the fact still remains that ducks can be turned into ready money in ten weeks, which is not possible with chickens, and the fact that ducks are more prolific layers, that the eggs hatch easier, and that the care which ducks should receive is not greater, should cause a larger number of farmers to enter this business.

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Tonsillitis.

By this term is meant inflammation of the almond shaped bodies and the tissues around them which are on either side of the throat or pharynx.

These organs are no doubt, of importance in guarding the entrance to the throat but they are also exceedingly troublesome for they are very often the seat of disease, and they become so greatly enlarged as practically to block up this entrance and interfere greatly with the function of breathing.

When they are enlarged and the crypts or glands they contain, full of offensive infectious material, in addition to the other infectious material with which the mucous membrane of the mouth is always supplied, they are subject to frequent attacks of inflammation, become a constant menace to the hearing and to the health in general and should be removed.

But this is not an argument for their indiscriminate removal. Like the troublesome, though much abused appendix, they have a mission to fulfill, and if they cause no trouble, as is true in countless cases, I do not believe any one has any business to remove them.

The acute form of inflammation of the tonsils, also known as quinsy or quinsy sore throat, is a very troublesome and painful affection which is very common in children and young adults, particularly during the winter and early spring.

It may be due to the infectious material already in the mouth and tonsils, or to tuberculosis in the mouth or the glands of the neck, and it is often followed by an attack of rheumatism.

It begins with dryness, stiffness, and soreness of the mouth, with thirst and with difficulty in swallowing.

It resembles grippe in the general

discomfort which comes with it, the chill, pain and soreness in the legs and back and "all over," headache and raging fever.

Swallowing becomes more and more painful and difficult and the throat more dry, saliva dribbles from the corners of the mouth, opening of which becomes impossible, the speech becomes inarticulate, the tongue is coated, the breath very offensive, hearing is impaired and at length an abscess may form in the neck, the throat, or the ear.

When the abscess discharges or is opened, there is a feeling of relief and improvement generally takes place.

One form of tonsillitis called follicular or croupous tonsillitis may be mistaken for diphtheria, the tonsils being covered with a deposit which suggests the false membrane of diphtheria. But it is quite different from the latter, for it may be easily scraped away which is not the case with the membrane of diphtheria.

In tonsillitis the patient should have nourishing fluid food and as much as he can digest, for the disease is an exhausting one.

It is better for him to be in bed, and isolated from other members of the family.

If an abscess forms it is desirable to open it, let it drain freely and keep the surrounding tissues clean, rather than to leave it to nature.

The bowels must be kept open, preferably with an antiseptic like calomel. The entire cavity of the mouth must be frequently rinsed and cleaned with peroxide or some other germicidal mouth wash, and the tonsils swabbed several times daily with a strong solution of nitrate of silver.

J. W. M.—Answer—If the person referred to was in good physical condition, I can see no harm in what you suggest.



INTERNATIONAL LESSON
JUNE 16

Lesson XI. Jesus On The Cross—
Mark 15. 1-47. Golden
Text, Mark 15. 39.

Verse 22. They bring him unto Golgotha. The place of a skull. The Hebrew word means skull. There is no general agreement as to the location of Golgotha. The traditional site lies within the present city. The gospels indicate that it was outside the city, yet near it, on a road leading from the country to the city. (John 19. 20; Luke 23. 26.)

23. They offered him wine mingled with myrrh—Drugged wine was offered to those about to undergo crucifixion, in order to lessen their suffering. Jesus refused it.

24. Part his garments. . . casting lots—The clothing of the condemned became the perquisite of the soldiers on duty. John, who was an eye witness, distinguishes between the garments and the coat or tunic and states that the latter was not divided. 25. It was the third hour—Mark alone gives definitely the hour of the day. John says "It was about the sixth hour" when Pilate brought Jesus forth to the judgment seat. Some suppose that Jesus was brought forth by Pilate at the sixth hour of the Roman calculation, which would be the third hour according to the Jewish reckoning.

26. The superscription—Usually the criminal bore at tablet indicating his crime, which was affixed to his cross over the sufferer's head. It was in three languages, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

27. With him they crucify two robbers—Not "thieves" but "malefactors." Men of violence, desperadoes, perhaps fanatical zealots who were heroes in the eyes of the Jews. 28. Hal, thou that destroyest the temple—That he spoke against the temple was the accusation of the two witnesses before Caiaphas (Matt. 26. 61; Mark 14. 58). That he had done despite to the temple had, therefore, become current among the masses of the Jews and highly inflamed them against him.

31. The chief priests—These do not,

like the crowd, openly shout their derision, but mock him among themselves with the taunt, "He saved others, himself he cannot save." This taunt is his great glory. He would not exercise his power for his own advantage. Had he done so he would have yielded to the temptation which met him at the very beginning.

32. They that were crucified with him reproached him—Luke refers to only one of the malefactors as railing on Jesus and gives the incident of the penitent robber and Jesus' reply to his petition.

33. When the sixth hour was come. . . darkness over the whole land—From twelve until three o'clock. This was not an eclipse, for it was full moon. Luke says it was due to the sun's light failing. Was it a local phenomenon or over the whole earth? The language is best suited to its being a local darkness.

34. At the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice—The ninth hour was the hour for the evening sacrifice (Acts 3. 1). The Greek indicates that the cry was strong and loud, as of one crying out for help. Elol, Elol, lama sabachthani—Mark gives the cry in the vernacular Aramaic. John and Luke record six other cries from the cross: 1. The prayer for forgiveness for his enemies (Luke 23. 34); 2. The promise to the penitent robber (Luke 23. 43); 3. The charge to Mary and to John (John 19. 26, 27); 4. The exclamation "I thirst" (John 19. 31); 5. The declaration "It is finished" (John 19. 30); 6. The final commendation of his spirit to God (Luke 23. 46). The cry here recorded by Mark is from one of the great Messianic Psalms (Psa. 22. 1).

35. Behold he calleth Elijah—A word of banter from the unfeeling crowd, not a misunderstanding of the language.

36. Vinegar—The sour wine drunk by the soldiers, now given to relieve his intense thirst, one of the awful pangs of the crucifixion.

37. Uttered a loud voice—All notice the loud cry of Jesus in dying. It was, perhaps, the exclamation recorded by Luke (23. 46), "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Gave up the ghost—Yielded up his spirit" (Matthew). "Bowed his head, and gave up his spirit" (John).



Horse Sense

How to Select a Horse.

The following specifications, issued for the guidance of those who buy army horses, are quoted in an article appearing in the Breeders' Gazette, and as the general description given applies to all horses for each and every purpose in the army, it may well be applied in the selection of horses for any good purpose:

Head.—Small and well set on neck; with ears small, thin, neat and erect; forehead broad and full; eyes large, prominent and mild with well developed brow and fine eyelids; vision perfect in every respect; muzzle small and fine; mouth deep; lips thin and firmly compressed; nostrils large and fine; and branches of under-jaw (adjoining neck) wide apart.

Neck.—Light, moderately long and tapering toward the head, with crest firm and longer than under side; mane and forelock fine and intact.

Withers.—Elevated, not unduly fine, well developed and muscled.

Shoulders.—Long, oblique and well muscled.

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