

natural way. No rubbish heaps or weedy corners, ridges of grass, or any litter, should be tolerated any way near young trees; they only serve as breeding places for mice and other vermin. Care should be observed in winter to tramp around trees where any drifts lodge, as here also mice go for protection, to the ultimate destruction of your trees.

Pumpkins.

We are as liable to booms in feed for stock as in the stock itself. As soon as a chemist analyzes a food and finds out its feeding value, he forms the nucleus of a boom. The much despised pumpkin, too insignificant now-a-days to be made into a pie for anybody who pretends to be civilized, has undergone the scrutiny of the chemical laboratory, and has been found to possess a higher feeding value than any of the roots. Roots are an annoyance to the average farmer; they demand so much labor. It is easier to grow 70 tons per acre of pumpkins than 30 tons of mangels, and counting both at the ordinary price of roots, say $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cent per pound, would give over \$230 per acre for pumpkins and only \$100 for roots. It would be no exaggeration to say that pumpkins would bring \$400 of feeding value per acre. Weight for weight, they are far superior to ensilage or meadow grass. They can be stored in an ordinary root cellar, and require less labor in every respect.

Water Melons.

The Cuban Queen, an enormous grower, has been variously described, but no better than as follows:—This magnificent new melon from the West Indies was first brought prominently before the public in 1881. The skin is beautifully striped, dark and light green, of the latter there being two shades, agreeably diversified. Their flesh is bright red, remarkably solid, luscious and sugary. In delicious flavor it surpasses the celebrated Icing. A Cuban Queen the size of a forty-five pound melon of some other variety, will weigh from sixty to sixty-five pounds, so very much heavier and solid are they. They are enormously productive, yielding heavier crops than any other variety we have ever grown. The vines are very strong, healthy and vigorous in growth, they ripen early, maturing fine large melons, even in Canada, and suited for all sections; their enormous size, handsome appearance, thin rind, red flesh and delicious taste, are so captivating that they bring extra prices wherever put on sale.

Celery.

Dr. Sturtevant, at the New York Experiment Station, found that, averaging the results obtained in seventeen samples in which the varieties from the two rows are separately noted, omitting fractions, plants grown under level culture averaged 177 pounds per hundred plants, while those under trench culture averaged 178 pounds per hundred plants. The length of the bleached stems was rather greater and the suckers were rather more numerous upon the plants grown in the trenches; but, on the other hand, the bases of the stems were more often split and deformed than occurred in the plants grown upon the level. It appears therefore from this trial that the trench culture yielded no advantage for the increased labor involved.

The Onion Fly.

This insect is becoming very destructive in some sections. The cuts herewith represent two species. The insect in Fig. 1 attacks the roots of the onion, the figure also showing an onion bulb with the pupa in the centre; Fig. 2 is the cut of another onion fly, the maggot also

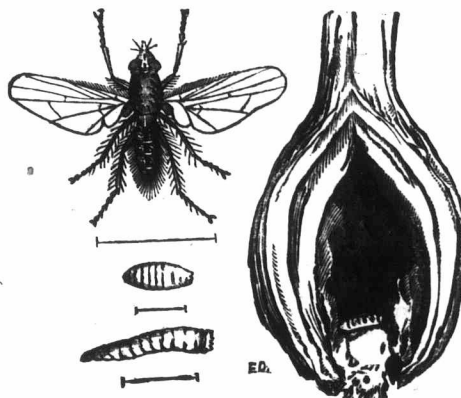


FIG. 1.

feeding on the roots, but some flies of this species feed on the leaves, and afterwards on the fruit of the cherry. The larvæ are also shown in the cuts; the straight lines represent the natural size of the insects.

When the onions are small, the insect moves from one bulb to another. The top of the infected onion turns yellow, and when this is observed, the best remedy is to destroy these

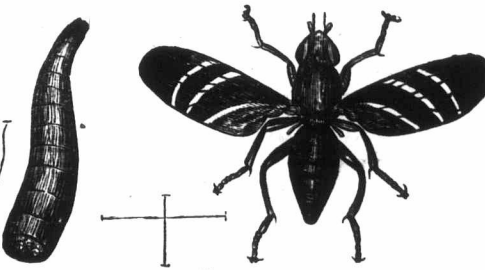


FIG. 2.

onions by burning and replace them by sound ones. When eggs are laid on the base of the leaves, the maggot will work into the heart of the bulb.

A good remedy and preventative is to apply hot water or hot soap suds to the bulbs. If the weather is dry, a good sprinkling of dry salt is also effectual.

In Sweden tree culture is taught in the public schools, and every school is required to have a certain acreage for the planting of flowering plants, shrubs and trees by the pupils. When leaving school, they are allowed to take up all the trees they planted, for the purpose of ornamenting their homes, and the same course is pursued by every generation of children in endless succession. The learning of forestry is thus made pleasant and practical, instead of poring over dry books in the school house.

The maple borer is a moth, the larva of which closely resembles that of the peach borer, and is very destructive in some parts of the country. The insect lives during the winter in its larval stage just underneath the bark of the tree. The chrysalis form is assumed early in June, and before the middle of the month they may be seen protruding from the tree. If not killed in this stage, the insect will mature and escape, after which there is no remedy.

Editor's Diary.

In putting manure on land for onion sets, see that it is well rotted, and do not manure too heavily. Sow seeds early, after making the land fine. The secret of good onion growing is fine tilth.

The seed potato war is not yet ended. Some authorities think that potatoes required for seed should be planted late, the second crop, if possible. It is said that late potatoes will not incline to sprout before spring. Every farmer can easily try the experiment.

The value of the grain crops of Ontario in 1883 was over \$26,000,000 less than in 1882. Against this place the increased value of the real and personal property of the farmers, amounting to \$78,600,000, and it will be found that the doleful wail of poverty emanating from the farmers deserves no sympathy.

The best food for early chickens is cooked meal, and for a change may get bread crumbs and hard boiled eggs finely chopped. They should be fed several times a day for the first month or two, after which wheat makes the best food. Do not let them suffer from sudden changes of temperature.

The most injurious of all the systems of hauling manure practiced by farmers is in leaving it exposed during the winter and then hauling it into heaps on the field in the spring. In a wet season manure treated in this manner is not worth the trouble spent on it, except perhaps so far as it may influence the mechanical texture of the soil.

It is estimated that the average loss in England since 1880, due to foot-and-mouth disease, amounts to \$5,000,000 per annum, exclusive of fees for veterinary attendance. The number of animals attacked in 1883 was over 200,000, nearly as many as in the four preceding years. The prospects for a remedy against the ravages of this disease are not increasing.

In the annual report published by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Pope states that the highest averages of wheat on the continent are reported from Manitoba and the North-west Territory. He predicts the bright prospects of this region as a pork-producing centre, on account of the facility with which peas, barley and potatoes are raised.

A Massachusetts farmer has been experimenting on feeding ensilage and hay to his cows, and found that from 40 to 50 lbs. of ensilage, with 6 lbs. of meadow hay per head per day, kept them in excellent condition all winter. When the milking season arrived he found it profitable to feed some meal in addition to the above ration.

Mixtures composed of different chemical fertilizers are frequently sold for special crops. They are generally based upon the chemical composition of the plant which they are intended to nourish. These mixtures should be regarded as catch traps induced for the purpose of making sales; for the manure required depends more upon the character and composition of the soil, and the nature of the climate, than upon the composition of the mixture.