

the afternoon. Warm, dry nests are provided, barrels and casks are excellent, and pains are taken to collect the eggs before they become chilled. The geese, which are not allowed to sit, lay an average of twenty-five eggs each during the season. The first eggs of the first litter are infertile. Those geese that are inclined to sit after laying a litter are confined away from their nests for about five days, and then released. They usually lay again in about two weeks. All eggs are set under common hens, and sprinkled after the second week. The goslings are put out with the hen on tender greensward when twenty-four hours old. She is restricted by tying one of her feet to a peg driven in the ground. For the first day or two an enclosure is also used to prevent the goslings from straying away, but after that it is removed, and they are allowed to go where they please. The hen is not given her liberty until she commences to lay, when she is taken away from them entirely. If the weather is severe they are housed at night.

Although some corn meal is fed to the goslings, an abundance of water and tender grass at all times is of much greater importance. Growing goslings will eat more grass than old geese. Mr. Wilbour finds that they will eat army worms almost continually from morning until night if they can get them. No beef scraps are given them until they are shut up for fattening. Before that it is an injury to them, and may cause them to lose the use of their legs. To fatten them they are fed a cooked mess composed of a quart of beef scraps mixed with a half bushel of corn meal. In June it takes about fourteen days to fatten them. In the fall, when it is cool, they will eat better and get fat much quicker. As they are pretty warm blooded creatures they need protection from the hot sun, and lots of cool air, and will not thrive if shut up in close quarters. If the goslings crowd together when shut up they may heat and become unable to stand. If treated carefully they are very gentle and trustful; but if not they easily become panic stricken. It is therefore quite important that but one person does the feeding.

The Wilbours breed Africans to sell and to supply their own breeding stock, having bred from twelve purely mated females the past season. They find the Africans lay a larger number of eggs than their white or gray geese, and the young African ganders are larger in June than the cross-bred ganders, but the crosses dress the easiest, and look the best, and are therefore most valuable. They have goslings that weighed in September, when dressed, eighteen pounds. Mr. Wilbour thinks a swimming hole is very desirable for breeding geese during the laying season, but that it is not absolutely necessary.

Last season Mr. Wilbour and his son turned their attention to the production of wild-cross geese, known in the markets as mongrels. Mongrels are almost as celebrated for their table qualities as the canvas back duck. They bring twice the price of common geese at Thanksgiving and Christmas. They are produced by crossing the wild Canada and domestic geese, and although they yield greater profit it requires more skill and special experience to successfully produce them. Those Mr. Wilbour succeeded in rearing last season were the progeny of African males and wild Canada females, and as the wild females lay few eggs not many were hatched; but those were fine specimens, and in appearance about equal to the best we have seen that were produced from the wild male and African female. The illustration taken last November shows this flock of eighteen mongrels yarded to be fattened.

Although we know goose raisers that give their birds more care and receive a larger number of eggs, get their goslings out earlier, and secure a greater product per goose, we know of no one who succeeds in carrying on such extensive operations.

SAMUEL CUSHMAN in *Farm Poultry*.

TO PREVENT EGGS HATCHING.

A CORRESPONDENT asks us if there is a way for destroying the germ in an egg, and still leave the egg marketable, as he has some good birds and lots of calls for eggs for cooking purposes, which are sometimes used for sitting.

We have heard it stated that dipping an egg for a second in boiling water will destroy its hatchability, but we do not know of any method of destroying the germ. Eggs can be made unhatchable by pricking two or three tiny holes in them with the point of a very fine needle, it being only necessary to pierce the inner membrane encasing the egg, so as to let the air into it. The egg will then never hatch a chicken.—*Farm Poultry*.

Lime wash is good for hens but bad for lice. Now is the time to use it.

Rhubarb or pie plant makes excellent shade for the chicks and is easily grown and profitable. It should be more generally used in fanciers' yards.