

Repotting Plants.

SIR,—I have several large plants which are not doing well; I think they want repotting, as the pots they are now in are small; but I am afraid to move them as I always have had luck with plants I repot, they never seem to grow well after.

R. S., Brooklyn, P. O., Ont.

[To ascertain if a plant wants fresh potting, turn it carefully out of the pot, with the earth attached to it, and examine the roots. If they are matted about the sides and bottom of the ball, the plant evidently requires fresh potting. Then carefully reduce the ball of earth to about one-third of its original bulk; single out the matted roots and trim away all that are moldy and decayed. Probably the same pot may then be large enough, but, if it requires a larger one, it should be about two inches broader for a middle-sized plant; three or four for a large plant. If the roots are not matted but the pot filled with fibres, keep the ball entire and carefully plant it in a large pot. At the top of a large pot, an inch, and a small one, half an inch, should be left for the reception of water, without danger of overflow. A little gravel, charcoal, or pieces of broken pots should always be placed at the bottom for drainage.]

A plant newly potted must never be exposed to a strong sun. It should be watered and placed in the shade immediately and there remain until it is rooted, which may be known by its starting to grow.

Plants are frequently destroyed by repotting, merely from the careless manner in which it is done. When the roots spread plenty of room should be left open, a little hillock made in the centre of the pot, and the plant being placed thereon, the roots should be distributed around it in a regular manner, observing that they are not twisted or turned up at the ends. The earth should then be filled in, a little at a time, and the pot gently shaken to settle the earth to the roots all the way down. When filled, it should be pressed down with the hand. It is very common to fill in the earth at once, and press it hard down, which not only wounds the tender fibres, but often leaves a hollow space around the lower roots, depriving them of their proper nourishment. But the thing most necessary to be observed is, that the roots be allowed their natural course.]

Top-Dressing Fall Wheat.

SIR,—I have read with interest the many letters which have appeared these last fifteen years in the columns of your valuable paper on a great many different subjects, and many of them I must endorse as being of great benefit to us farmers, for they give us new ideas, and tell us previous to this we have farmed to poor advantage. But the letter to which I would allude at this time is one from W. T., on top-dressing fall wheat. Having practiced this method for a number of years, and always finding it beneficial, I think my plan should answer W. T.'s inquiries.

I have top-dressed at different periods of winter; but always found it most beneficial to do it late in February or early in March, after the great bulk of snow has thawed away, thus keeping it as much as possible on top of the wheat; which keeps it from thawing and freezing out alternately. We top-dressed 9 acres the last snow that fell last March, with the best results. We spread it as evenly as it was possible to be done; this I consider of the greatest importance, to cover the ground as much as possible, yet not enough to smother the wheat. I always let it stay in this state until the wheat looks green through the manure, and the land is in good working order; we then take the harrows and give it one stroke crossways of the drilling, then sow grass seed if required, and give another harrowing lengthwise, put on the roller and finish up. From this method we have always had the most satisfactory results. I spread clover chaff once on two acres, from which clover seed was cut the two following years without any further seeding.

After the treatment I have alluded to, if any of my brother farmers think they are injuring the wheat by dragging it up, they had better shut their eyes and go it blind.

J. O., Pickering, Ont.

[We will be glad to hear from J. O. again, and invite any and all of our readers to send us their experience on any subject which interests the agriculturist, dairyman or fruit grower.]

Reducing Bones.

SIR,—How can I pulverize large bones. I can obtain them easy, but do not know how to pulverize them to the best advantage.

D. B., Cobourg, Ont.

[Various methods of reducing bones to a convenient size have been given in the ADVOCATE from time to time. When composted with fresh horse manure in alternate layers, three or four inches in thickness and well wetted as the pile is made large, bones will in a few weeks, a correspondent says, become so much softened that they can be broken with a fork. Any tough customers which resist this treatment at first can be put in another pile with fresh bones. In this way he has rotted a ton of bones with the aid of two cords of manure. A covering of muck or earth will prevent loss of ammonia from the fermenting heap, but of such loss there will be little danger, if it is kept moderately moist. If you can get ashes cheap as well as bones, you can pack the ashes and bones in alternate layers, three inches thick in water-tight casks, and keep the mixture wet with manure water or house slops. The bones will be softened down in a few weeks in hot weather, but not until a longer time in cold weather.]

Kind of Scions to Cut.

SIR,—Are scions taken from young trees or grafts as good as those taken from bearing trees.

H. T. E., Granby, P. Q.

[This has been a disputed question for a long time. A nurseryman of large experience writes as follows: "We have grafted thousands of trees with scions cut from bearing trees, and many other thousands with scions cut from young nursery trees two to four years old, and have planted trees grafted with each in orchards and watched them for years, and could never see that the two scions made a particle of difference in any way. We think apple root-grafts made from the scions from healthy young trees make a better 'stand' than those from old orchard trees, and do believe that such scions give a cleaner, healthier growth, than scions taken from old orchards, simply for the reason that old orchards are, as a rule, full of those hidden microscopic diseases and parasites that are seldom found in fresh young nurseries. We believe that there might be a slight difference in top grafting on bearing trees as to early fruiting with scions taken from bearing trees, but we also believe that this extra early fruiting is not at all desirable in the long run. Young trees as well as animals should grow, not bear, and we have often heard the views here given publicly expressed by our most observing horticulturists of experience."]

SIR,—I have (through the pressure of other matters) been on the point of stopping my paper several times, but I am thankful that I have not, for it gives me the most value for the money of anything I get. As you invite correspondence, I have a matter I wish to call the attention of others to, namely, the dividing of the townships into school sections. Now, I think it would be better for all parties to form Township Boards, and have one equal taxation all through the township. For instance, I may live in section one and my neighbor in another section. Although nearer to our school he cannot send his children to our school without paying. Again, our section may be a large section and our taxes light; we can afford to hire a first-class teacher, thus giving our children a better education. Whereas perhaps section two is a small one, their taxes are heavy, and they have to cut their cloth according to their means and take a third-class teacher. Now, I do not see any reason in that way of doing business. Let the taxes be equal, the school open for all, and then one child has an equal chance with another.

L. B., Crowland.

SIR,—I receive great benefit from your paper. The receipt, "salt and water for horses' hoofs," had a very beneficial effect on a young horse of mine. It was lame in its forefeet. I commenced applying the salt and water, and it acted like a charm. If we could get a Percheron stallion down here I believe it would do well. Let me know if one could be imported into this vicinity.

E. R., Barronsfield, N. B.

[Mr. Dunham, of Wayne, Du Page County, Ill., has these horses for sale in large numbers. See his advertisement in this issue. You would have no trouble in importing one. By enquiry you can ascertain the probable expense.]

Relative Value of Corn Fodder Hay.

SIR,—Can you tell the relative value of corn-fodder, "well cured," and good English hay?

[Water-free corn-fodder, or such as has been thoroughly dried at the temperature of boiling water, contains on the average 8.6 per cent. of protein or albuminoids, 1.45 of fat and 49.7 of nitrogen-free extract or carbohydrates. Water-free timothy hay contains about 8 per cent. of protein, 2.3 of fat and 58 of nitrogen-free extract; the perfectly dry substance of the corn-fodder is therefore somewhat richer than the hay in respect to the valuable protein, but much poorer in fat; on the whole the difference in feeding value of the dry substance would be slight. But, in their natural condition, there is a difference in the amount of nutriment in equal weights of the two kinds of fodder; field-cured corn-fodder may contain from 28 to 36 per cent. of water, or, according to the very few analyses that have been made, an average of 30 per cent., while ordinary hay contains about 14 per cent.; in other words, a hundred weight of corn-fodder contains only seventy pounds of dry substance having the composition given above, against eighty-six pounds in the hay; 123 pounds of the corn-fodder must be given to supply the same nutriment as 100 pounds of hay would contain. This may be considered as a fair approximate statement of the relative value of the two fodders, based on their chemical composition. As to statements of relative value based on experiment or experience, they are exceedingly scarce, while there is an abundance of testimony to the effect that corn-fodder is very valuable for winter feeding.]

SIR,—What would you consider a good growth of apple trees—what per cent., allowing to die from first year's planting, and is it safe to purchase from travelling agents?

J. S., Middleton, N. S.

[If properly planted and trees good there should not be over 3 or 4 per cent. loss. We would consider it safe to purchase from agents representing firms of good standing, such as we endeavor to draw your attention to in the advertising columns, we only advertising such as we feel confident are reliable men. To those intending purchasing largely we would advise to write to those advertising in this journal for quotations, whether intending purchasing largely or not, as we always feel safer in getting our stocks direct; and we know also that our advertisers would only be too glad to communicate with you. What we say to you we say to all; write to our advertisers for anything you may wish to purchase or wish to know the cost of. We have an average of the growth of trees from Mr. Bryce, planted on his farm near Lorne Park. Out of 1,000 apple trees purchased of Mr. John Gray, Parkdale, Ont., only five died.]

East vs. West.

SIR,—As your paper is open to all comers as a field for expression, I take the liberty to ask through it why it is that so many of our farmers, old and young, are so bent on going to the Far West when there is just as good, if not a much better, chance for them nearer home? Just as good land and I am sure a much better climate, with much better government regulations, and a very much better market for the productions of the farm—I mean in the Province of New Brunswick. If those farmers or farmers' sons who wish for a change would just look at the map of this vast Dominion of Canada, they will see that New Brunswick is east and very little north from Ontario, and New Brunswick has millions of acres, which the Government offer to actual settlers 100 acres free; also will sell 100 acres at \$80 to actual settlers, and in no other way can the land be obtained, which I think is the wisest plan any Government could carry out. It keeps out land jobbers and prevents the land being locked up by monopoly. I see by agricultural reports that the land is as productive as it is in Ontario, brings as good, if not better, prices, as a man can get 100 acres for himself and the same amount for each of his sons over 18 years of age. Why then, let me ask, will men say, "I'll go west," without reflecting for one moment whether they could not do as well, if not better, by going east. We don't hear of the mercury going down to the bottomless pit in New Brunswick like we read of in the Northwest. Why, during winter, we