

serving of a place. Fruit trees have also been suggested and are common in European countries. The objection to fruit trees is that children are apt to injure them in their efforts to secure the fruit. The same difficulty arises in connection with the trees bearing edible nuts, as the chestnut, hickory, etc. If injury to the trees can be prevented the fact that they are productive is a merit rather than otherwise.

Mention has not been made in the foregoing list of the pines, hemlock, and Norway spruce, all common roadside trees. These trees retain their leaves throughout the entire year, and in consequence cast their shade in spring and fall, which is very injurious to roads and crops, and therefore should be employed with caution.

In planting the trees consideration must be had to the size of the matured tree, the density of shade they will cast and amount of shade which the roadway or crops will sustain without injury. It is customary to plant the young maples or elms fifteen or twenty feet apart, the alternate trees being taken out when they have reached a size where the branches begin to touch and interlace, leaving the older trees about thirty or forty feet apart, the latter distance being desirable in the case of the elm, the larger of the two.

It is generally best to plant the trees as far from the road as possible, and inside the fence on the private property is to be preferred. This guarantees ownership of the trees and they can receive better care. There are few farms which cannot afford the necessary land for this purpose, and the reward in many ways is ample, increasing as it does the attractiveness and value of the farm. The subject is a most interesting one and opens up a wide field for thought, leading to the fact that many portions of the province are denuded of its trees to far too great an extent, and the time has fully arrived when much should be done to repair the injury.

A. W. CAMPBELL,
Provincial Road Commissioner.
Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

Experimental Union Field Tests for 1900

To the Editor of FARMING:

The members of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union are pleased to state that for 1900 they are again prepared to distribute into every Township of Ontario material for experiments with fertilizers, fodder crops, roots, grains, grasses and clovers.

This system of co-operative experimental work in Agriculture was started in 1886 with 60 plots, which were situated on twelve different farms in Ontario. Since that date, however, the work has increased from year to year, and in 1899 there were 12,035 plots, which were situated on 3,485 farms throughout Ontario.

LIST OF EXPERIMENTS FOR 1900.

1. Three varieties of Oats.
2. Three varieties of six-rowed Barley.
3. Two varieties of Hulless Barley.
4. Three varieties of Spring Wheat.
5. Three varieties of Buckwheat.
6. Three varieties of Field Peas.
7. Two varieties of bug-proof Field Peas.
8. Three varieties of Soy or Japanese Beans.
9. Three varieties of Husking Corn.
10. Three varieties of Mangolds.
11. Two varieties of Sugar Beets for stock feeding.
12. Three varieties of Swedish Turnips.
13. Two varieties of Fall Turnips.
14. Three varieties of Carrots.
15. Three varieties of fodder or silage Corn.
16. Three varieties of Millet.
17. Three combinations of Grain for fodder.
18. Grass Peas and two varieties of Vetches.
19. Dwarf Essex Rape and two varieties of Kale.

20. Three varieties of Clover.
21. Sainfoin, Lucerne and Mammoth Red Clover.
22. Five varieties of Grasses.
23. Three varieties of Field Beans.
24. Three varieties of Sweet Corn.
25. Four fertilizers and no fertilizer with Corn.
26. Four fertilizers and no fertilizer with Mangolds.
27. Sowing peas at four different dates to determine the injury done by the pea bug (*Bruchus pisi*).
28. Planting Potatoes the same day and five days after being cut.
29. Planting Cut Potatoes which have and which have not been coated over with land plaster.
30. Planting Corn in rows and in squares.

Material for either No. 25 experiment or No. 26 experiment will be sent by express, and for each of the others it will be forwarded by mail.

Each person in Ontario who wishes to conduct an experiment and is willing to use great care and accuracy in the work and report the results of the test as soon as possible after harvest should select the exact experiment desired and apply for the same at an early date. The material will be forwarded in the order in which the applications are received until the limited supply is exhausted. It might be well for each applicant to make a second choice for fear the first could not be granted.

C. A. ZAVITZ,
Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont., March 19th, 1900.

The Cause of Soft Bacon

The Remedy and How the Bacon Trade may be Better Regulated

To the Editor of FARMING:

The problem before us now is, what are the real causes of soft bacon, and how best to overcome them. Of all our farm live stock there is none so much affected by varied conditions as the hog. The excitability is so great that even the flesh is disturbed with all sudden changes and frights. These heated and disturbed conditions just previous to the time of slaughtering tell their tale upon the carcass. Let the hog settle down quietly a few days before killing and get well cooled, and the irritated ones will overcome their fevered condition and their flesh will show it. Is there no difference in the character of the meat of the animal killed in the chase, and one killed when at rest? The observations of the past century say there is, and more has been done within that century to lay bare the minute details of animal existence and their products than in all the previous centuries put together.

Another cause is poor feeding. It is useless to ask and call for good finished feeding by all the farmers of the community, when as yet there is no test to detect the living firm-fleshed from the soft and poorly-finished hog.

The only safeguard would be for the packers to purchase unfinished hogs and finish for themselves. This they will not do as it wouldn't pay. Neither will it pay honorable men to do so, when their product will realize them no more than the cheaper fed of the more unscrupulous.

Our exporters are continually calling out for a steady all-the-year-round supply. Are there any other farm products supplied all the year round? The farmer sells his product when he has it fitted. It is the merchant's business to supply the market at the time when the markets are at their best, and he must devise means for preserving the product until such times as the best market can be obtained. These packers and merchants will soon be asking us to supply them with eggs before they are laid, so that they may get them fresh.

Their excuse is they have adopted the Wiltshire curing, and it requires a fresh supply all the year round. The best remedy is to cure better so that it will keep longer during the summer period, and spring a new name for such cured sides.