

**When to Transplant Trees.**

The question, when to plant, is an important one. Some will not plant anything in the fall, others prefer the fall to all other seasons; the majority of planters will, perhaps, claim that spring is the best season, for the largest amount of planting is done at that time, and failure is not attributed so much to the season. Fall planting, however, has strong advocates among experienced tree planters, and where a planter has given that season a fair trial, his favorable testimony is, as a rule, secured. However, there is a prejudice against fall planting, and a single failure at that season counts more against it than a dozen in the spring. Trees and shrubs planted early in autumn will push roots before winter, for it is not necessary that the top grow to force root growth; all can prove this by observation. Take up a tree or shrub in November that was planted in August or September, and you will be surprised to see the amount of new and growing roots. A fall planted tree becomes established by this means, and naturally is in a better condition to grow the coming spring.

I believe if careful and systematic experiments were carried on in tree planting, the fall would be found a better season to plant than in spring; the ground is warm and moist, in the best condition for the formation of roots, the air is moist and there is not the fierce, drying winds of early spring, or the liability of a June or July drouth soon after the tree is planted. —[Vick's Magazine.]

**Gathering and Planting Nuts.**

This is the nut gathering season, and the boys should be taught how to plant nuts as well as how to eat them. Those seeds which mature early, such as elms, poplars and soft maples, may be planted as soon as convenient after they ripen; if, however, they are not planted immediately or shortly after ripening, they should be kept moist, and planted the same season as they mature. They should receive only a slight covering of ground, and should be kept moist and partially shaded till germination is well advanced.

All seeds intended for planting should be gathered as soon as ripe, or have fallen to the ground, if not picked from the tree. They lose their germinating power in about a year after maturity, but if they are not planted the same autumn in which they ripen, they may generally be preserved till the following spring. Different kinds of nuts require different treatment; but in general they may be stored over winter by keeping them in a cool place, and not letting them get too dry. Nuts and hard-shelled seeds are preserved by packing in moist sand and keeping in a cool place. Acorns and stone fruits, however, although most successfully planted in autumn, may be wintered by packing in moist sand and allowed to freeze, being planted out as early as possible in the spring. Many nuts may be treated in the same manner. Small seeds are preserved in sacks or pieces of paper. Seeds which are covered by a pulpy substance should be dried in a shady place before being stored away for the winter.

Even the most ardent champions of the English sparrow concede that he is an enemy to the small American song-birds, and unless something is done to check him he will ultimately exterminate them. The farmers also complain that the sparrow destroys the buds of fruit-trees and bushes.

**Stock.****A Chatty Letter from the States.**

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

During the first week of August Chicago received 53,438 cattle, the most ever known before, but the very next week 56,621 head arrived, making two banner weeks come in succession.

The cattle market ruled steady for good stock, and prices ranged as high as \$4.75@4.90.

Between the heavy marketing of breeding cattle, yearlings and calves, and the comparative failure of the corn crop, it looks as if next year's beef crop would not be very heavy.

Cattlemen who are not broken by all of the adverse circumstances with which they have had to battle, are now decidedly more hopeful as to the future.

Never before in the history of the live stock trade have cattle been marketed in such vast numbers as during the present season. Overproduction and lack of confidence in the future caused the early runs, but since the first of July cattle have been driven to market by the awful drouth which literally burned up the pastures and licked up the water. Men hauled water long distances; some drove their cattle five and seven miles to water; green corn was cut for feed; some men went so far as to cut down certain kinds of trees that the cattle might eat the leaves, and all kinds of turns were made; but as the pitiless rays of the sun continued to beat upon the parched earth, day after day, week after week, there was no alternative for many stockmen but to market their unripe cattle, regardless of price. Thousands of fairly well-bred but thin steers sold for store stock as low as \$1.25 @ \$1.75 per cwt., and old cows were at times unsalable at \$1@1.50 per cwt. Prices for such stock were never before so low, but such prices were better than to let the cattle starve, as they were sure to do at home. In the famous Elgin dairy district, cows for several weeks were unsalable at \$5@10 per head; ordinarily the same cows could not have been bought for \$30@35 per head.

Rains came about the middle of the month, but too late to do this year's crops very much good.

Naturally, sheep and goats are best adapted for living on weeds and rough feed, but nature has a wonderful way of adapting her creatures to their environment. A writer from central Illinois says that owing to the great drouth pigs are eating "button weeds," cows browse on burdock, and horses and colts eat almost anything green, even reaching up for leaves and tender twigs on the trees.

Noah Franklin, of Lexington, Ill., was here with stock. He reported drouth bad; no green grass. His experimental patch of alfalfa, cut July 8, and without rain since, stood 8 inches high, and was green and thrifty the first week in August. He is convinced that this alfalfa (lucerne) is one of the most reliable dry weather crops that can be grown, as the roots go down very deep and get all of the moisture that is to be had. The stockmen and small farmers in the far west are coming to use this large variety of clover very generally. It is the only sure green crop in the arid regions.

Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska farmers never had as fine a corn prospect as they did up to the first of July, but the great drouth

has dried up the pastures until there is no more nutriment in them than in the middle of a highway. The hay crop yields from nothing to one ton per acre, and the corn crop in the States mentioned will be one of the poorest in many years. The crop fails in some sections where it has not been known to fail in a quarter of a century. Owing to the absolute failure of the grass crop, stockmen who were unwilling to sacrifice their herds have been compelled to cut and feed their green corn.

All of this goes to confirm the growing belief that the irrigating farmer in the arid regions, who can "make it rain" to order, is more independent than the prairie farmer, who at one season has too much and at another not enough rain.

Some of the western railways built extremely long stock cars, 33 and 34 feet long, so as to have the advantage over competing roads that held to the old 28 and 30-foot cars. Of course, shippers preferred to use the long cars at car rates, but the railroads have now decided to pool their issues by charging by weight instead of by car load.

Some very good far western sheep are coming from the west. Some 110@115-lb. Oregon sheep sold at \$3.40@3.60. One man from Montana sent in 1,053 head of 121@122-lb. sheep, which sold at \$3.85 per cwt., and 454 head of the same brand, averaging 126 lbs., at \$3.95. These were the best sheep ever sent in from Montana. They had never had a pound of grain or hay, and some of the four-year-old wethers weighed as heavy as 175 lbs.

**Feeding Horses.**

Nothing is more preserving or promotive to the health and usefulness of animals than the observance of the laws and rules of their digestive system; for upon its functions are all the other organs of the body dependent.

In the horse, the digestive organs—the stomach, intestines, &c.—are so constructed that they require food at regular and frequent intervals. Dr. G. Fleming says on this subject:

Perhaps no animal suffers more from long fasts than the horse; and disease or disorder of the digestive organs is a common occurrence in stables where long fasts are succeeded by heavy feeding, as digestion is impaired by the food being devoured greedily, and in larger quantity than the stomach can properly accommodate. Horses should be fed at least three times a day; better if it could be four times. The hour at which the morning feed should be given will depend more or less upon the time for turning out for work; there should be ample leisure for consuming the meal before that occurs. At any rate, the first meal should not be later than six or seven in the morning; the next at mid-day; and, if only fed three times a day, the third in the evening. If possible, no longer than four hours should elapse between the meals; and while those given during the day should be of moderate quantity, that allowed at night ought to be largest, as the horse then has ample time to masticate and rest. During the day a little food, however small, is better than none, and for heavy horses, and even for light ones, when it can be carried, a nosebag containing a feed is a most advantageous addendum to the equipment. If the hay is given long or uncut, the bulk of it should be reserved for night consumption.

The practice of giving a large meal just before starting on a long journey is very injurious and fatiguing to the horse. A heavy meal draws largely upon the energies of the system to digest it, after which it again supplies energy. As such a meal is given to supply energy, and not to waste it, it is evident that it should be given, if given at all, some time before the active exertion is required.