

Sweet vs. Sour Cream Butter. In your December issue you say that the farmer can milk his cows and have his milk into butter for breakfast. Now, would that not lead farmers to believe that butter should be made of sweet cream? If so, it would be a great mistake, as the right acid in cream, before churning, is the only thing to give the butter the right flavor and keeping quality.—J. N. Z., Lisbon, Ont.

[Some consumers prefer sweet cream butter, and others like butter from sour cream best. The tendency is to unsalted butter, made from sweet cream. People who delight in spicy foods prefer butter of a salty or acid taste, but increased intelligence in matters of diet is banishing vitiated tastes, so that the desire for natural flavors is on the increase. A great many sins can be hidden in acid and salty butter, making the product deleterious to the health. When everything is kept scrupulously clean, and the butter made from wholesome milk, there is nothing more delicious than the natural flavor of the pure butter, the artificial flavors being induced by habit at the expense of intelligence. To give it its right name, sour cream butter is rotten butter, and anybody who prefers the rotten stuff can obtain it from the sweet cream-by letting the decomposition take place after the butter is made. The keeping qualities do not depend upon the butter being made from sweet or sour cream. Long keeping butter can be made both from sweet and sour cream, but the process of manufacture is different.]

Mice in the Orchard—How to Raise Trees—When to Prune. Much advice has been given about saving fruit trees from mice, and the general opinion is that banking is the best preventative. Banking is not a universal success, as if it is done too early the rains wash it down, and if put off too long it cannot be done at all. Then sometimes the mice will climb the bank; and again sometimes the orchard is in grass. As a remedy for all these defects, my practice has been, in rearing a large orchard, to take tarred paper, cut it into squares of about twelve inches and wrap it around the tree close to the ground (after clearing away all grass and rubbish), tying it with two strings. This need not be taken off in the spring and will last at least two years, and costs about a quarter of a cent per tree. Many more people would have orchards if the first cost were not so great. Also, many orchards have many gaps in them, to fill which expense is unnecessary. To get over these difficulties, I find that raising your own trees solves the problem. The root-grafts, already set, can be bought of nurserymen on the other side of the line, if not here, the cost being from one to two cents apiece, with directions for their management. Buy about twice as many as you want, and then plant none but the best trees and sell any overplus, reserving some, or fill up any gaps that may come in the first year or two. I am satisfied that this is the only possible plan for keeping up a pear orchard. Keep raising a few trees and fill up as blight destroys. Many nurserymen particularly advise to prune a tree when, ever it needs it, and when your knife is sharp. I consider this very bad advice, because I have found it so to my cost. One time I was ill in the spring and failed to prune about half of my young orchard. In the summer a nursery man came along and said: "Your orchard needs pruning very badly. I admitted it, but thought the time of year unpropitious. He said any time was the proper time, so I went at the balance of the orchard and pruned it. The result has been disastrous, as borers and everything else took possession, and I have to fill in about half of the trees that were thrifty before. My opinion is, for young trees where you need to grow wood, the time to prune is in the spring when growth commences. If the trees are pretty well grown, and fruit is to be expected, then prune after blossoming. I tried pruning in winter once, but have not practiced it since. The wounds do not heal well, and all summer long sap will run from many of them. Hoping these hints will be as useful to others as they have been to me, I now give them to you for publishing.—B. J. P., New Durham, Ont.

Commercial Fertilizers—When to Plow and Manure—od Sweet Corn.—It is with pleasure I renew my subscription for your valuable paper. I think it is 15 or 16 years that I have had your paper. In regard to the enquiry when to apply manure for roots and potatoes, we generally plow in the manure in the fall, with the exception of a few acres for early potatoes. We apply rotted manure in the drill; we do not apply manure in the drill for carrots or parsnips, as it makes them grow forked and crooked. I find in my experience that sod will rot faster plowed shallow early in spring than late in the fall. Where I got the largest crop of corn this past season was on land cultivated in this manner. I plowed the land early in spring; the soil was a mixture of clay and sand with a clay sub-soil, and was in hay the year previous. I gave it a good harrowing with a pulverizing harrow I saw advertised in the *Advocate*; it left the land like an onion bed. I left the land in this condition till the weather was warm enough for planting corn. (My father used to say when the plum trees were in bloom was the time to plant corn.) Then I gave the land a harrowing crosswise. I made a marker out of two-inch plank and made them like sleigh runners, 3 feet apart, and to mark four drills at a

time, and attached a pair of sleigh shafts to it. I marked the field two ways and planted the corn in the checks so that I could use the cultivator both ways. The manure used was a commercial fertilizer with a guaranteed analysis as follows: Ammonia, 3 to 3½ percent; soluble phosphate, 19 to 21 percent; potash, 2 to 2½ percent. I applied this fertilizer at the rate of about 300 lbs. to the acre, a small handful round the corn, kicking a little earth over the seed before putting on the fertilizer, as it was pretty strong and might injure the seed. The corn was Crosby Sugar Corn, grown for a canning company, and it paid me fifty dollars per acre, and I had a fine crop of stalks saved in good order for the cattle, which more than paid for the labor and fertilizing. The three acres joining in the same field was land that had been in a hoed crop the year previous with barn-yard manure. I put corn in the hill with stable manure; it came up very thin in places on account of the wire worm destroying it. It had not the dark-green appearance like the plot joining in fertilizer. I have always had better corn on sod than on other land. What surprises me is that farmers will grow this western hog-tooth corn for fodder when cattle are much more fond of sweet corn stalks, and cows will give much more milk on sweet corn stalks than the other. It is an easy matter to save the seed.—A. M. G., Montreal.

[It is a wrong principle to put manure or fertilizers in the drill, although there are exceptional circumstances in favor of the practice.]

All About Land Plaster.—I wish to ask a few questions about plaster, as I own an extensive quarry, but it has not been used here as a fertilizer until quite recently. We have no plaster mills here, but a few of us have been using a little of it lately, which we had ground at the grain mills. We find it to be very good, and wish to give it a further trial next spring. I have a machine which will reduce it to about the size of beans, driven by horses. Can you, or some of your readers, tell me through the *Advocate* where I could get a small cheap machine suitable for grinding it fine enough for the land, to run either by horses or a small engine? When is the best time to sow it on clover and other crops, and how much does it require to the acre? Would it pay to use it in stables where a number of horses are kept? What is it worth per barrel as a fertilizer in Ontario?—S. F., Wallace, N.S.

[Read editorial article on first page. We know of no manufacturers of the machine you mention; write to the manufacturers of commercial fertilizers who have been advertising in the *Advocate*; they will be able to tell you where they procured their grinding machines. In this section of Ontario land plaster is sold at \$7 per ton, retail.]

Damages for Planting Trees Along the Line Fences. My neighbor on the west side of my farm is allowing a great number of soft elm trees to grow along the line fence which runs south and north. The shade of the trees injure my crop very much, as the tops are large and the roots come through the fence and prevent plowing. That kind of timber is useless for any purpose, even for firewood, as it will not split. Can I get any redress, say for damage?—J. B., Moose Creek.

[It is not likely that a jury could be found that would award you damages. The public policy inclines to the encouragement of tree-planting, both in lines and in groups, and it is the general belief that shade trees and wind breaks do more good than harm. Perhaps you can induce your neighbor to plant better trees.]

Farmers, How Much do You Get for Your Ashes?—We are being solicited for orders for Canada hard wood unleached ashes by a New York firm, who claim that the ashes they offer to supply us with for a fertilizer are *gathered from house to house from the farmers in Canada, in districts where coal is so dear that it does not pay to use it (\$12.00 to \$18.00 per ton)*. They do not locate the districts to us, but say they are in Ontario, and that 30 wagons gather the ashes daily. Now, although we are sensible to the fact that your paper is published in the interests of Canadian farmers, we count upon your *brotherly good feeling* towards us American hoosiers to inform us if we can rely on the above statements in buying? We can scarcely believe the intelligent farmers of Ontario sell the barrel or two of ashes they make in a winter at such a price that they can be brought here and sold to us *unleached* as a cheap fertilizer when they are so valuable to them on their own lands. As our knowledge of Canadian farmers suggests a leach barrel.—Orlana, Englewood, New Jersey.

[We must say to the everlasting disgrace of our farmers that the statements are true, and we don't believe that they make you a present of their ashes out of pure brotherly love. We have time and again pointed out the value of ashes as a fertilizer, and still many of our farmers persist in trading them off for as much soap as the peddlers like to give them. They would sell their best ashes for five cents per bushel cash. We can scarcely account for this act of folly; our farmers are, on the average, as intelligent as those

in other countries, but on the ashes question many of them exhibit symptoms of downright stupidity if not madness. It seems that they cannot be educated to the value of concentrated fertilizers. What is worse than all this, we have the best phosphate mines in the world, and they would allow you Americans and the English to take this birthright away merely for an old song. The time, however, is fast approaching when our farmers must either study these questions or permit you, our American cousins, to come and take possession of our land. They can't always be lead astray by the cry "No stock, no manure."]

Notes From Nova Scotia.—Probably a short sketch of this region would not be amiss. Our winter did not commence until 3rd ult, and it never is very steady, but had a great deal of open weather throughout. We have no very cold weather here. Thermometer seldom falls below zero in winter or rises much over 50° in summer. There is a great deal of fog and misty weather, especially on the sea board. Farming is done here on a smaller scale than in Ontario and on a different system. The land is mostly stony and rough, but very fertile, mostly composed of loam and producing largest crops of hay (often 4 tons per acre), roots and vegetables. Some parts of the county produce apple equal to any grown, except Cornwall's Valley. The question of manure is very simple near the sea coast here, as there is immense quantities of sea weed free to all for the hauling. Near the shore farmers haul it on the grass land at the rate of from 8 to 12 cords per acre every alternate year, farther back in the county compost it for planting; there are also large quantities of fish offal used as fertilizer. About stock, there is none of the imported stock that is very popular except the Jerseys and their grades. There are a few Scotchorthons, Devons, Guernseys and Ayrshires, but farmers do not seem to appreciate them very much, so you see dairying and not beef raising is a specialty here. But the inhabitants of this county are essentially Maritime. A man will work on his farm for a few years and the next thing you will hear of him is in Japan or in the Pacific Ocean in command of a ship; a large percentage of the population are or have been sailors. Could you give me in next *Advocate* cause of sloe in colts; also how to prevent it, as it is a very prevalent disease here.—SUBSCRIBER, Yarmouth, N. S.

Do not mix with any pigment, but apply the oil alone. Crude petroleum is not a drying oil like linseed, and when mixed with paint does not form a "body" in drying, but the oil penetrates the wood, leaving the paint in a dry state on the surface. For a good job apply two or three coats of petroleum. After this is very thoroughly dry, and if color be desired, apply one coat of common metallic paint. The higher parts of the oil sink deepest into the wood, from one-eighth to one-fourth inch, the heavier parts remaining on or near the surface, forming a sort of waxy coating that moisture fails to penetrate. Wood treated to three coats of this oil (which is about all I have succeeded in getting it to absorb), seems to be as indestructible as fat pitch-pine, which it closely resembles.—[Cor. in Exchange.]

For orchards, says Dr. R. C. Kedzie, in the New York Tribune, I regard ashes as worth more than six times the value of barnyard manure, ton for ton. When barnyard manure is composted with wood ashes, the coarse vegetable material and litter are rapidly broken down, and the manure is speedily fitted for use; there is some loss of nitrogen in the form of ammonia, but there will be no loss of mineral matter if kept from leaching by water. Wood ashes represent all the mineral elements of vegetable growth, and contain everything the farmer must give his crops except combined nitrogen. Wood ashes will vary in composition and value with the kind of wood and the part of the tree. I will take the ash of the body-wood of the beech tree as representing the average of wood ashes. A ton of such ashes contains 320 pounds of potash, worth \$16, and 105 pounds of phosphoric acid (insoluble), worth \$5.25. Omitting all the other ash constituents, which have some value of themselves, the potash and phosphoric acid of a ton of such ashes are worth \$21.25, or nearly six times the value of a ton of fresh horse dung.