

Notes of the Garden & Farm.

Potatoes and the Wire Worm.

The *Gardener's Magazine* gives the following method for exterminating the wire worm: The simplest and surest way to get rid of wire worms, is to plant potatoes everywhere as a first crop, and take them up afterwards and cook them for poultry. By this very simple means of procedure, any piece of ground may be completely cleared of wire worms. As a matter of course, it requires judgment to carry it into effect. The wise way of proceeding is to trench and manure in the usual way, as if wire worms were unknown. A lot of chats should be saved, and kept in the dark until wanted, because if they get green the wire worm will not take to them. When the ground is in a nice condition, dig in the potatoes quite thick, and in a week take them out and cook them. Then you may seed and go ahead, thoroughly satisfied that the ground is clear of wire worms. The cost and trouble amounts to almost nothing, and it is a capital use for chats where they are not wanted for the pigs. Potatoes will rid any ground of wire worm, and it will actually pay in the case of land newly broken up from pasture to grow potatoes on, in order to carry away the wire worm. The pest soon passes away in land devoted to potatoes. They love the root, they are lifted with it, and very few of them get back to earth again.

Value of Soot.

This substance contains ammonia, carbon, and a certain oil; and is, therefore, applicable to corn, wheat, &c. Some writers have asserted that if the seed of Indian corn be mixed with this substance and ashes, it is not so liable to be affected with smut. But it seems more probable that the growth of the fungus, or rather its development, depends on a lack of vitality in the plant from some cause, and, consequently, there is a resting place for the spores in the same way as other fungi are produced on decaying trees and logs. If this is the case, the soot can only act like other manures in stimulating the growth and vitality of the corn, thus giving it a greater power of resistance against the intrusion of the puccinia. In order to make a successful application of the mineral manures, the agriculturist must have an approximate idea of the natural composition of his soil, as well as the knowledge of the particular materials necessary to and exhausted by each kind of crop; and the want of such knowledge has been the cause of the numerous failures in attempting to make a profitable application of these. On the other hand, in applying barnyard manure and its various composts, he cannot fail to supply the materials necessary; for such manure possess all the elements which assist in the formation of the root, leaves, stem and fruit.

Manure for Wheat.

The *Delaware State Journal* says: "Wherever organic matter abounds in the soil, a free use of bones and potash will speedily restore it back to its original fertility. In sandy soils, organic matter in the form of peat, muck or leaf mould should be combined with the bones and potash. The finer the bones are ground, the more speedily their action. If the bones are ground in a raw state—that is, without steaming or burning—and ground very fine and mixed with three times their weight of fine muck or peat, or leaf mould, and kept moist for three weeks before being used, they will generate all the ammonia necessary to the rapid growth of wheat or other growing crops, without the addition of other substances."

Apples at the North.

During a recent discussion in the New York Farmer's Club, the opinion was expressed that the farther north apples can be raised, the better and more beautiful they are. The Fameuse, or snow apple, was instanced as an illustration of this. It was conceded that the best specimens of this choice variety are grown in and about Montreal. The same is probably true of the Pomme Grise and St. Lawrence, both excellent apples. It was further stated that the Fameuse and other varieties of noted hardiness are not nearly so good when grown in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia. Such testimony should encourage our farmers in the northern sections of Ontario to plant orchards of suitable sorts. Discouragement has often resulted from not properly studying adaptations of climate and soil. Such tender apples as the Rhode Island

Greening and Newtown Pippin will not answer expectations, in high latitudes. It is a good plan, in buying trees, to leave the selection to the nurseryman, if he be competent and trustworthy, advising him of the locality, soil, exposure, &c., that he may choose the sorts accordingly.

Garden Hedges.

One of the many difficulties that a gardener has to contend against is to screen his grounds from the cutting wintry blasts. A keen January north-easter coming across a large expanse of open country on to a plantation of conifers and shrubs, will not only cause them to present a miserable appearance, but often so injure them that they will look as if they had passed through a severe fire. When grounds are placed in this position, there is nothing better than to stem the blast by a thick plantation of Scotch and Spruce Fir.

But when the position is open without being exposed, hedges will be found to be sufficient to stem the cold winds. The gardener should be careful to have hedges in keeping with his grounds. There is nothing more unsightly than a common Hawthorn hedge near a garden hedge, for, although a great deal of sentiment is written about the "shade of the thorny bush," it is decidedly more in keeping with the farmer's field than the gardener's domain. It is very frequent that in large grounds hedges have to be made to hide an unsightly patch of ground or a part of a vegetable garden. Then, if the position is not too much exposed, there is nothing more suitable than the *Cedrus deodara*. This, planted in some good fat loam, at convenient distances apart, will not fail to give satisfaction. For the first year or two they can be allowed to grow freely, and then when they have begun to close toward each other, their outside branches should be carefully pruned so as to allow them to grow upwards and expand into a thick and shapely hedge. The only other juniper that really makes good hedges is *J. virginica*, commonly called the "red cedar."—*Gardener's Magazine*.

Lime as a Fertilizer.

A correspondent of the *New England Homestead* says:—

"There is no substance used as a fertilizer so liable to loss by misapplication as lime. It should be slaked, but not wet enough to form mortar when applied to the soil. If it is thoroughly wet, it cannot be advantageously applied as manure until it is dried and powdered, and then it has but little value. It should be applied when dry-slaked and caustic, on a dry day, when the land is dry enough not to lump it, and be well worked in with a fine harrow. If there are many lumps from the size of a pea to a walnut, those lumps will rapidly, by exposure to the air, change to carbonate of lime, and will be so insoluble that you will see them for years in the soil. It wants to be immediately dissolved; and as it takes some forty pounds of water to one barrel of lime, it will be at once seen that on dry land it should be applied in small doses, and even on heavy land in small doses, even if necessary to apply often."

Substitute Wanted.

The comparative failure of the potato crop, and the present very high price of that hitherto useful vegetable, will make it necessary to find some substitute for the food which has long been of almost universal use, not only with the natives of Erin's Isle, but all classes and nationalities. Hitherto it has been to all intents and purposes the diet of the poor, but the very high price that has to be paid now for potatoes leaves them within the reach of only the most wealthy. Now, under these circumstances, it will become necessary to find some substitute which will take the place of the potato. Grocers say that beans are being extensively bought for this purpose, and that they are the best thing of the kind in the market. If beans are found to fill this bill, will it not be well for farmers and gardeners to plant larger crops during the coming season? It is now well known that the potato crop is now so uncertain that it will hardly do to depend on that alone for a staple vegetable to last through the winter.—*Goderich Star*.

The *Sherbrooke Gazette* gives a detailed account of the operations of the Canadian Meat and Produce Company, and confesses astonishment "at the amount of work done, and the evident extent and magnitude of the business that will be carried

on when once the Company is fairly in operation." We learn that there have been shipped to England already 200,000 lbs. of fresh meat; 50,000 lbs. of tinned meats, soups, &c.; 45,000 lbs. of salted meat; 500 hides, and large quantities of poultry, game, &c. The works seem to be exceedingly well arranged, but considerable improvements in the shape of a large permanent establishment and homes for the employees are contemplated. The *Gazette* says:—"Already the farmers in the adjoining townships have begun to realize the advantages resulting from the location in their midst of a regular and remunerative cash market for their beef, cattle, pork, poultry, &c. We believe no better investment was ever made by the municipalities than the bonus which secured the location of this Company."

Oats for Horses.

Of all the cereals there is none that we are inclined to give a higher place to than the oat. Wheat is, it is true, the breadstuff above all others, and every other variety has its own place and its peculiar property in which it excels every other grain, but there is none more healthful or more strengthening as food for man—none that confers power and vigor to the horse, man's best friend, more invariably and in a higher degree than oats, if in good condition and of good quality.

And there is no grain in which there is a greater difference between the samples. Oats well saved is a giver and preserver of health; oats badly saved, musty and mouldy, are injurious to the health, and the horse should never be allowed to eat them. The lightness of his skin and his strong hair, if he be fed on them, are unmistakable symptoms of failing health and strength, brought on by unhealthy provender. Let the oats be cut while there is diversity of opinion if they are ripe or not. This not only prevents mustiness; it also preserves in the grain all the nutrition and agreeable flavor that would, if allowed to be too ripe, have escaped from the farina. Let the crop not be stacked or housed till perfectly dry, and you need have no dread of must. Scent, taste and touch to the hand will all bear testimony to its quality.

It was lately stated at a meeting of a Farmer's Club in England that oats contain on an average $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of husk in every 14 lbs. of grain, and that the proportion of husk being so great, the nutritive qualities of oats are less than is generally supposed. We do not agree with some in considering the husk as of no value in food. Though not digestible, there is a nutriment extracted from it in the stomach's laboratory, and it exerts a certain though undefined action in assisting the digestion of the farinaceous essence of the grain.

Oats vary greatly in value, as they do in weight. When equally well saved, the heavier they are the more valuable for either feeding or milling purposes, and the less in proportion to their farina is the husk. Some varieties of oats are much heavier than others, and the weight of the bushel or quarter of oats varies greatly according to the countries in which they have been grown. The Irish potato oats weigh $42\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to the bushel. The grain is short, thick, and, when well saved, peculiarly bright in color, and has but 3 lbs. of husk to the bushel. The American oat (U. S.) weighs only 24 to 32 lbs. to the bushel, and of this there are, it is calculated 14 lbs. of husk. The Canadian oat, weighing $41\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to the bushel, has of husk 14 lbs. From this we see how superior our oats are to those grown south of our border, though not at all equal to the Irish potato oats. —S.

ERRATA.—In the notice of Tiffany's Combined Brick and Tile Machine in April number, where it read "six or eight feet high," read SIX OR EIGHT HIGH; and "ninety-five per cent." should have been TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.