

## Miscellaneous.

## SQUASH BUG (ANASA TRISTIS)—GROWING LARGE MELONS—RINGWORM ON CALVES.

W. T., Norfolk Co., Ont.:—"I. Would you kindly give me, through your valuable journal, a remedy for squash bugs? They are a large, dark gray bug; lay their eggs on the under side of squash and pumpkin vines. I have tried for seven years to grow pumpkins, and last summer tried squashes in the garden. When the vines were commencing to blossom, those bugs appeared. They seemed to bite the vine near the ground, and in a few days the vine would turn yellow and die. These bugs destroyed all my pumpkin and squash vines in the garden, then went to the cucumber and melon vines, completely destroying all my plants. Large melons nearly ripe were covered with bugs, and would all wither up. I tried sprinkling with dry ashes, also tried coal-oil emulsion, also air-slacked lime and crude carbolic acid, also Paris green and water, salt and sulphur, all with no success. I also gathered the bugs and eggs, but more kept coming by the thousands. What is the nature of these bugs, and do you think my garden will be infested with them this summer?"

"2. Can you tell me if there is anything I can add to the soil or vine to enlarge the size of water and musk melons? Our village gardener grew watermelons that weighed over twenty pounds, on not as rich soil as my garden. He claimed he used artificial fertilizer."

"3. Kindly give me a remedy for small black grubs in the ground, as they were very troublesome in my garden, destroying cabbage, tomatoes, cucumber and melon vines. I tried salt and ashes in the ground, but it did no good."

"4. Our calves are affected with a scaly surface around the eyes, which also appears on other parts of body. The hair drops off, and they also fall away in flesh. What is the disease, and can you give me a remedy, and is it contagious? I have tried greasing the spots with lard, carbolic acid and sulphur, also gave them sulphur and salts in their feed, but do not see any improvement in them."

"1. The squash bug winters over in sheltered corners, in outhouses and other places. It makes its appearance rather late in the spring, and the eggs are not laid much before July. During the course of its development, the insect moults five times, and about thirty-two days is occupied in this development. It is doubtful if this pest will ever be subdued, or even controlled, by ordinary insecticide treatment. As a rule, a spray or liquid strong enough to kill the insect will also kill the vines, so that more effective work can be done by clean culture, hand picking, and traps. The melon and squash patches should be thoroughly cleaned up as soon as the fruit is gathered, and no rubbish should be left about to serve as hiding-places. In spring, careful hand picking of the bugs and eggs as soon as they appear, and during the summer the placing of boards and chips among the vines to decoy the bugs, when they may be readily killed, will do much to render the insect comparatively harmless. I place little faith in repellants, such as tar, carbolic acid, or turpentine. Again, probably most people have blamed the squash bug for more harm than he is really guilty of. It is just possible that the cucumber beetles are responsible for much of the damage done to the vines, but as they are small, and the squash bugs large, the latter get all the blame. It is not, perhaps, well known that when the squash bug punctures the vines to suck the sap, it also injects a drop of poison, so that more harm is done by the poisoning of the tissues than by the loss of sap. In summary, it may be emphasized that in the case of the squash bug, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." If they once become numerous, it is almost impossible to get rid of them.

W. LOCHHEAD.

O. A. C., Guelph. Professor, Biological Dept.

2. Very large melons, squash, etc., are grown in loamy soil well enriched with rotted yard manure mixed with a small proportion of hen manure. This should be well incorporated with the soil before the plants or seeds are set. Set melon plants or seeds in beds about five or six feet apart. When the plants are well started, remove all in each hill but the one strongest plant. Cultivate the ground frequently, and water, if necessary, with weakened manure water from the barnyard. When the vines have grown sufficiently to commence to blossom, remove all but three or four on each vine, and peg the vines down to the ground at several intervals. At these points of connection, the vines will throw down rootlets, which will act as feeders to the few melons on the vine. When the melons are well formed, remove all but one or two, and nip off the end of the vine. Keep the soil stirred, without disturbing the new rootlets, and water occasionally with manure water. Four hundred-pound squash are raised in this way.

3. We presume cutworms are referred to. They are very difficult to combat. The best treatment we know of is to start the plants in boxes, and wrap the roots, with earth attached, in a single layer of paper before planting. By the time the roots have burst the paper, the worms will seldom do the plants harm. This method we have known to preserve cabbage and tomato plants when no other seemed of any avail.

4. The calves have ringworm. It is contagious. The scurf spots should be washed with warm soft water and soap, brushed free of scurf, and rubbed with sweet or linseed oil, three parts well mixed with carbolic acid one part. This will blister the parts touched, so prevent it from getting into the eyes. A second application may be necessary.

## WATERING HORSES—INFLAMED UDDER—TOP-DRESSING CLOVER.

ENQUIRER, B. C.:—"1. Is a horse liable to be foundered in summer time, say, through being watered with water of moderate temperature when coming in hot from work on the mower? Is it at all a general practice, or considered safer, to allow horses to cool off before watering when heated at farm work, as is done in winter?"

"2. What would you apply to a cow's udder that is so tender that for weeks after calving she can scarcely bear to be milked?"

"3. I have part of a field seeded down last spring to alfalfa. It made a good growth of six feet ten inches, but not being able to fence it off, it was pastured with the rest of the field last fall, the result being that white clover, which flourishes wherever it can get room, here took almost complete possession of the plot. Do you suppose that by applying a light coating of manure or straw the clover would be smothered and the alfalfa push through and survive next spring?"

[We believe there is comparatively little danger of founder by allowing a horse a moderate quantity of water soon after unhitching from the mower or other ordinary farm work. As a rule, horses have to walk some distance from work to the watering place, and then careful horsemen prevent them from taking long, continuous, gorging drafts of cold water. It is always safer to allow a horse to cool before watering, as not only founder, but colic, may be prevented in that way.]

2. The tenderness of the cow's udder referred to is due to inflammation caused by the change taking place at calving time in the lacteal apparatus. The treatment should consist in giving a purgative of a pound and a half of Epsom salts, bathing the udder long and often with hot water in which the hand can be borne, giving warm bran mash and warm drinks, and keeping the cow warm and away from drafts.

3. A covering that would smother the white clover would, in our judgment, destroy the alfalfa likewise. It is always a mistake to pasture alfalfa the first autumn, because many of the plants are liable to be pulled out of the ground. A light top-dressing of short manure will stimulate the alfalfa, and thus increase its chances of holding its own and ultimately overgrowing the smaller white variety.]

## SALT FOR STOCK.

J. H. K., Leeds Co., Ont.:—"I would be pleased to have some advice, through the columns of the ADVOCATE, from some leading farmers as to which kind of salt, the fine or the coarse, they consider the best for stock?"

[While our almost constant contact with stock-farmers leads us to the conclusion that salt is regarded as salt by them, whether fine or coarse, we will willingly grant space to a discussion of this subject. In practice, we find the coarser grades more commonly used than the finer, for the reason that they are cheaper, as they are all equally salt and about equally as easily dissolved in the mouths of the animals. Were rock salt as cheap as the granular sorts, it would probably become universally used, since it can be placed in the mangers without becoming mixed with the food. It is also better for summer use, because when exposed to the weather it is not readily dissolved and wasted by rain. Just here we would point to a mistake made by some stockmen in salting their animals. Believing that salt has a beneficial effect upon the health of the animals, it is mixed with their feed, so that they are compelled to take, perhaps, considerably more than their systems desire or require. The effect of this is to stimulate the action of the kidneys and other organs, and thus cause a serious waste of nourishment to the animals. This, therefore, is an unnecessary tax upon the animal, and, therefore, upon its owner. Nor does the injury end here, because a further effect is to cause excessive consumption of water, which is itself injurious, and when the animals have to drink from a cold creek, the warming of the extra water in their bodies demands food that should go to the building up of tissue or milk. The rational manner of salting stock is to allow them access to a supply at all times, so that they can take just what their systems demand, which is the only correct guide.]

## GRANARY IN BASEMENT.

J. H. C., Wellington Co.:—"Do you think it a suitable place for a granary in the basement of a barn? The grain could be run into the several bins by means of a grain chute. My cellar is to be concrete, and a partial cellar stable. Would the interior be too damp or warm for the grain? Would it injure the grain to come in contact with the concrete walls or on the cement bottom?"

[We have known two or three basement granaries to give satisfaction, but the advantage at threshing time of saving a man or a man and a boy was more than overcome by the inconvenience in getting the grain out again. To fan grain in a basement granary is a cramped, unpleasant job, and to load it onto a wagon to haul away is equally inconvenient. It is well enough to have a feed grain or chop storage in the basement, as it can be readily filled from the grinder or fanning mill on the barn floor above. Provided there is good drainage away from the walls and beneath the floor of a cement granary, and the floor built a few inches above the adjoining floor of the stable, the grain should keep well resting against cement surfaces.]

## MARKINGS OF LIGHT BRAHMAS.

SUBSCRIBER, Elgin Co., Ont.:—"We are very much pleased with the ADVOCATE. I would like to know what the proper markings of Light Brahma fowls should be, and the names of some breeders. Are they a good kind of poultry? I would like to know if I could get a score card?"

[The Light Brahma is among the most popular of the heavy meat-producing breeds of poultry, and is a fair layer. The markings are difficult to describe understandingly. In the male, the plumage on the neck, except the hackle, is white. The hackle feathers are white, with a black strip beginning near the juncture with the head, extending down each feather; lower third, at least, of hackle solid glossy black stripe extending one-third or more of the length of each feather and tapering to a point, with a white edge around the lower third and extremity. The saddle feathers of the male have surface color white and under color either white, bluish white, or slate. The cape formed by the feathers at the base of the hackle and the top of the wings are black and white. The breast plumage has surface color white and under color at juncture with the body white, bluish white, or slate. The bows of the wings are white, except their fronts, which may be partly black and should be covered by the breast feathers. The primaries should be black or nearly black. The secondaries have upper web black, except the three or four top feathers which may be black or white; lower web white, with or without black along the shaft of the feather. The tail should be well filled underneath with white or black-and-white curling feathers, and in color black. The sickles should be a glossy greenish-black; the coverts glossy greenish-black, and lesser coverts glossy greenish-black edged with white. The thighs are well covered with soft feathers, the surface of which is white, the under color white or bluish-white. The shanks are well covered on the outside with feathers, white, more or less mottled with black. The outer and middle toes are feathered with white or white mottled with black.]

The markings of the hen should be as follows: The web of the neck feathers beginning near the juncture with the head and reaching well over the shoulders, rich black, edged with white, the black running nearly parallel with the edge of the feathers. The surface color of the body plumage is white, under color white or bluish-white. The cape formed by the feathers at the base of the hackle and the top of the wings are white or black and white. The breast feathers are white on the surface and white or bluish-white underneath. The body plumage has surface color white, except under the wings, where it may be white or bluish-white. The bows of the wings are white, primaries black and white, and secondaries, upper web black or black-and-white, except the three or four top feathers, which are white or nearly so. The lower web is white, with or without black along the shaft of the feathers. The tail feathers are black, except the two highest main tail feathers, which may be edged with white. The tail coverts are black, edged with white. The feathers on legs and toes are same as in the male. A full standard of perfection and complete description of all the recognized varieties of fowls, adopted by the American Poultry Association, and edited by B. N. Pierce, can be had through this office at the regular price of one dollar. Watch our advertising columns for breeders of this sort of fowls.]

## GROWING FLAX—SEEDING LAND—WEIGHT OF CLYDE STALLION.

J. F. H., Simcoe Co., Ont.:—"1. How would flax do on light soil, and how much is necessary to sow to the acre?"

"2. I saw in your paper that a man claimed to have success in procuring a good catch of clover on light soil by sowing rye in the fall, plowing it down the following summer, then sowing buckwheat and plowing it down, then sowing fall wheat and seeding down with clover the next spring. Would you kindly tell me what you think of that plan?"

"3. What is the average weight of the Clyde stallions in the Old Country? There is a Scotch neighbor of mine states that the stallions that are imported out here are only plugs."

"4. Do you think barley chop is good to feed to cows giving milk?"

[Flax is not a crop for sandy land. It does best on strong, fertile land, an old sod well worked up being preferred. About forty pounds of seed per acre is a good seeding, but a somewhat less quantity should be sown where the soil is rich.]

2. Probably the most common cause of failure to get a catch of clover at the present day is lack of humus in the soil. The recommendation to plow down a crop of rye and a crop of buckwheat in preparation for fall wheat is commendable both for the wheat and clover, as it would clean and enrich the land and render it favorable to retain moisture.]

3. A mature Clydesdale stallion that weighs a ton is probably above the average in Scotland, but many of the best ones weigh over that amount, reaching 2,400 pounds in some instances. Size, however, is not all that a horse requires to put him out of the class of plugs, as there are plugs amongst the big horses; but we do not believe many of that class are imported from Scotland to Canada.]

4. Barley mixed with twice its bulk of oats and about the same quantity of bran answers well as a grain food for milking cows. Fed alone, barley is somewhat constipating, and is, therefore, not the best feed for cows, except they are getting a too laxative food, such as an excess of roots or green crop of some sort.]