

FARM.

Points in Farm Practice.

[In this department space is provided for a concise, practical and seasonable statement of any experience in farming operations that does not require as lengthy treatment as subjects dealt with in essays and contributions of similar length. In a busy season especially, many of our readers may not have the time to write long letters, but can jot down particulars of some plan which has proved successful in grain growing, fruit culture, stock raising, dairying, stock feeding, contrivances for economizing time and labor, etc. Particulars of successes in farm practice are always welcome. If anything has been tested and proved a failure, let us hear of that also. We learn from failure as well as from success.]

Brimstone vs. Canada Thistle.—Mr. Campbell, of Dwaik, New Zealand, eradicates the Canadian thistle in the following effective but rather expensive method:—"About twelve months ago I had a patch of these thistles on my farm, to which I applied a slight dressing of powdered brimstone by sowing broadcast with the hand, somewhat similar to sowing artificial manure. This wholly eradicated the weed. Brimstone is a never-failing cure for the thistle. It destroys all vegetable life, and ground treated as I have explained will not support life for two years afterward, but after that period has elapsed it can again be worked with satisfactory results."

Co-operative Spraying.—"Where orchards are not large, a few farmers might combine and purchase a spraying outfit, which would serve the community, and if it were possible to have it continuously operated by the same individual, whom practice would lend superior facility in using it, an additional advantage would be gained."—[John Craig, Horticulturist, Experimental Farm, Ottawa.]

That Old Speckled Hen.—"The 'old speckled hen' that was such a great layer" is usually mated with an ancient barn-yard mongrel," writes Mr. W. J. Stevenson, of Oshawa, "and yet the farmer expects her chicks to be something excellent—like herself. He feels disappointed, of course. What holds good with all other classes of live stock holds good with the hen also. Moral: Use thoroughbred males only."

Ringworm in Cattle.—A writer in the Scottish Farmer gives the following prescription for ringworm in cattle, and as this nasty disease is very common in many districts, and the bluestone and tar such a simple remedy, we quote it:—"Take two ounces bluestone (powdered), and mix this with sufficient Archange tar to absorb the above quantity, and applies it to each affected part. This will clear out the pest in a short time. Care, however, must be taken to smear any spot which may appear after the first application. My method has been to mix the powder and tar with the blade of a knife and apply with same to avoid contagion, and this answered the purpose admirably."

Profit per Hen, \$2.34.—Thinking that many readers are interested in poultry, I send an account of my flock of hens. Last winter, I commenced with twenty-four hens and a Brown Leghorn cockerel. About half of my hens were Plymouth Rocks and the rest were mongrels. My account of receipts and expenditures for the year from January 20, 1893, to January 20, 1894, is as follows:—

Received for eggs at an average of 23c. per dozen.....	\$47 30
For 7½ dozen chickens.....	29 35
Total receipts.....	\$76 65
Paid out for feed.....	20 35
Total gain.....	\$56 30

This gives a profit of \$2.34 per hen. E. A. W.

Bran for Sows.—At the Indiana Swine Breeders' meeting, a Mr. Miller complained that he had lost a number of sows at farrowing time, and he thought that he had bred them too young. In answering the question, Mr. Mustard asked him if he ever fed bran to his hogs in winter, which he answered in the negative, when Mr. Mustard said, "Well, that accounts for it. I have never had one die in my life. Feed bran mash and you will never have any trouble."

Feeding for Butterfat.—"About the 1st of February last, I tested the milk of a farrow cow that had been milked ten months; said cow was being fed morning and evening one-half bushel good corn ensilage, with four quarts shorts and bran mixed, with all the nice, early cut clover hay she would eat, and watered twice each day. After being fed on this four weeks, her milk tested, with the Babcock Test, three and two-tenths butterfat. Then, with some care, I added gradually two pounds cotton-seed meal, two pounds old process oil-meal, and four quarts cornmeal, twice per day (which makes a heavy feed), and in four weeks her milk tested four and five-tenths butterfat. There was no change in the feed of ensilage, clover hay, shorts or bran. The cow was ten years old this spring, and of common size, and a good, fair, average milker."—[J. B. Shattuck, Chautauqua Co., N. Y.]

Bud Moth. This is the time to spray the fruit trees to destroy the bud moth. This little insect lays its eggs on the leaves of the trees about June. The larva feed upon the under side of the leaf, and because of the protection afforded by the leaf, and also by the small silken covering which surrounds them, little can be done to lessen their numbers at this stage. About October they spin small cocoons upon the twigs where they pass the winter, and come out early in the spring and attack the buds. They prefer flower buds, and for this reason one insect can do a vast amount of damage. The remedy is to spray early in the spring, before the flowers

opening spring. If, therefore, the seed be kept in strong paper or cotton bags, the beetles will emerge and die the first year; and the second season all the good seed may be separated and sown. I have found from actual experiment that the holding over of seed pease practically does not impair their vitality.

3. Soaking.—If seed be found to contain weevils at the time of sowing, and it is inconvenient to hold it over, the beetles can be destroyed inside the pease by soaking the seed in water for twelve hours. The water may be made sufficiently hot to be uncomfortable to the hand, but not scalding. Pour the pease into enough water to entirely cover them.

4. Bisulphide of Carbon.—A most effective remedy is that adopted by the seedsmen to treat large quantities of infested seed peas at one time. This consists of subjecting them to the vapor of bisulphide of carbon, a liquid of an exceedingly volatile nature, which vaporizes in the ordinary temperature of the air and becomes a poisonous and very inflammable gas. For this reason, the danger of using it, it is a remedy which cannot be recommended for general use by farmers and others who have not the special apparatus necessary. Should anyone, however, require to treat large quantities of seed, I shall be pleased to send full particulars upon application.

THE APPLE APHIS (*Aphis mali*, Fab.)

This insect passes the winter in the form of small, black, shining, oval eggs on the twigs of apple trees. About the time the leaf-buds expand, the small green plant-lice emerge and cluster on the young leaves, from which they suck the sap. Later in the year, they leave the apple trees and fly to grasses and young wheat, where they live for a time and then return to the apple trees again. In this part of Canada this is not often a serious pest of apple trees, but in British Columbia it has developed into a pest of great magnitude, large trees in several districts having been destroyed by it.

REMEDY.

The best remedy is to spray the trees at the time the young lice first appear with kerosene emulsion. As there are two or three formulae for this valuable insecticide, one at least of which is of very little value, I give herewith the formula which I have found most satisfactory, and this will be the Kerosene Emulsion I mean, whenever I mention that preparation in these articles:—Kerosene (coal oil), 2 quarts; rain water, 1 quart; common hard soap, 2 oz. Boil the soap in the water till all is dissolved; then while boiling hot, turn it into the coal oil, and churn it constantly and forcibly with a syringe or force pump for five minutes, when it will be of a smooth creamy nature. If the emulsion be perfect, it will adhere to the surface of glass without oiliness. As it cools it thickens into a jelly-like mass. This gives the stock emulsion, which in a cool place may be kept for a long time, but must be diluted before using with nine times its measure, that is twenty-seven quarts of water. It will be found to mix much more easily if done at once, before it cools. The above proportions give three quarts of the stock emulsion, which with twenty-seven quarts of water added make up thirty quarts of the mixture ready for use.

Another method of diluting the coal oil is to make the emulsion with milk instead of soap and water. Take sour milk, one part; coal oil, two parts. Mix the two thoroughly, as described above for the soap emulsion. Then dilute with water, so that one part in ten will be coal oil.

The San Jose Scale in the East.

The above pest, which is the most serious insect enemy the fruit growers of California have to contend against, has made its appearance in the Eastern States, having been found in Virginia and Maryland. It is supposed that it was introduced by means of nursery stock imported from California. Though active means are being taken by the U. S. Government to destroy this insect wherever found, still there is great danger that it may spread into Canada, and fruit growers should be upon their guard for the first sign of this scourge. No orchardist should admit a single fruit tree, cutting or bud into his orchard without carefully examining it and satisfying himself absolutely that it does not carry a single specimen of the San Jose Scale. It may also be introduced into this country in the fruits imported.

This insect belongs to the same group of scale insects as the common and well-known oyster-shell bark-house of the apple. It can be easily distinguished from this species, in that the scale is perfectly round or, at most, very slightly elongated or irregular.

It is lighter in color than the bark of the tree, and will be found most numerous upon the younger limbs and twigs. It is at this season of the year about one-eighth of an inch or less in diameter, and there is in the middle of each scale a small, elevated, shiny, blackish, rounded point. Sometimes the centre of the scale appears yellowish. The wood underneath the scale is apt to be discolored and somewhat purplish. When the insect is abundant, the bark is completely hidden by a close mass of these scales, which are then hardly distinguishable to the naked eye, and give the appearance of a slight discoloration or a slight roughening of the bark. No other scale upon apple, pear, or cherry or plum possesses these characteristics. The insect ought therefore to be readily distinguished when present.

open, with Paris green, in the same proportions as for the codling moth—one pound to two hundred gallons of water.

Planting Corn.—The usual way to sow corn for ensilage purposes is by means of the common grain drill, though where a farmer has a large area to put in it would pay him to buy an implement manufactured especially for the purpose. In order to bring the rows the right distance apart, it is necessary to stop up all the spouts but two or three, according to the width of the drill. From three to three and a-half feet is the best distance to have the rows, or for the smaller varieties they might be even nearer together. Some drills can be so arranged that each spout will be the right distance from the wheel, so that when you turn at the end of the field you can follow the track of the wheel down the field and have the rows a uniform distance apart. Where the width of the drill will not allow of this being done, it will be necessary to use a marker of some kind. A good way is to attach a pole to the drill and allow it to extend past the end; a chain can then be fastened to this at the proper distance and allowed to drag, which will make a sufficient mark in the soft earth to guide the drill. If the drill is a ten-spout one, it should be set to sow about two and a-half bushels to the acre. As many of the drills do not sow true to gauge, it is well to test on a smooth lane or barn floor. When the corn will average about one grain to every five inches, or three grains to the foot, it will be set about right.

Corn Growing.

READ BEFORE THE NORTH BRANT FARMERS' INSTITUTE, BY A. W. VANSICKLE.

In a country which is becoming largely devoted to stock raising and dairying, such as Ontario, the question of growing corn as a cheap food is worthy of our consideration. The time when we can afford to let one of our fields lie idle every year for the purpose of cleaning it from foul weeds is past, and we have adopted corn growing as part of a rotation which if properly attended will not only clean the soil and leave it in a better state for the next crop, but give a profitable return for the labor expended. The ultimate success or failure of a corn crop depends largely upon the cultivation given it. Without doubt, clover sod plowed the fall before, with a liberal supply of manure, is the best preparation for the land. But having the two-fold object in view, we usually plant corn after some grain crop. The land intended for corn should, the fall before planting, receive from 12 to 15 loads of manure per acre. This should be plowed under with skimmers attached to the plows, so that all stubble and manure may be completely turned under. In the spring as soon as the other seeding is completed, or about two weeks before planting time, the cultivator and roller should be run over the field to encourage the germination of any seeds that may be near the surface, which will be much more easily destroyed before the crop is started than after. When it is about time to plant, the ground should be worked with the cultivator, harrow and roller until a very fine, deep seed bed is obtained. I like this plan rather than plowing in the spring, because any grass that may have been turned down the fall before is easier kept in control, and instead of turning up the cold, damp soil from the bottom of the furrow, we get a fine warm seed bed, and are able to plant a week or more earlier. When the ground is worked in this way it is better prepared to withstand a drouth during the summer, and the manure also is in a more available state and will give a more vigorous growth to the plant, and larger quantities can be grown in most seasons than by spring plowing. There are two ways of planting, "hills and drills." Although I think by proper management a slightly larger quantity can be raised from the drills, yet since it is to clean the land we are working, I would advise planting in rows 3½ feet each way. The advantages of planting in hills are, less hand hoeing to keep down the weeds, less work in harvesting, and the land is cleaned more thoroughly of weeds, which is a very important point both in the growth of the corn and the crops following. In planting, I would use hand planters, because they save labor, and if it is dry after planting, the seed planted by the planters will germinate quicker. Three or four days after the corn is planted, a harrow should be run over the field, which will break the crust if any has formed. When the plants appear just nicely above the ground the harrow should be used again; this will stimulate the young plants and destroy any weed seeds which may have sprouted. After this, the cultivator or scuffer should be started and kept going until the corn is too large to work with a horse. The corn should be gone through once with the hoe to cut out any weeds that may have been missed in the hill, and also to thin the corn if necessary to about four stalks in each hill. Finally, I would say, if the above conditions are carried out, a proper variety of seed has been chosen, the corn cut as soon as the grain is sufficiently hard, husked and housed in reasonable time, we would have from 10 acres fully 20 loads of reasonably good fodder, and from 1,000 to 1,200 bushels of good hard corn for our labor.