

May, 1874

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The seed of ash-leaf maple and the green ash may be gathered as late as March 1, and sometimes later, and if moistened a little by spreading thinly upon the ground and so freezing a little, will be almost sure to grow. Keep seeds covered while upon the ground. These seeds, and indeed all other tree seeds should be planted early. These two trees grow quite generally upon the bottoms and borders of streams, but they will thrive in any locality in Iowa.

Silver maple and red maple, both known as soft maple, and all the elms ripen their seeds in May or June, and their seeds must be planted soon after ripe, or they will fail to grow. Young cottonwoods of the yellow cottonwood, which is the most profitable species, grow naturally by millions on the sand bars and sloughs bordering the Mississippi and Missouri and other rivers, and they may be procured at very small cost. Persons away from the rivers and who may not know where to send to get them, may address Judge C. E. Whiting, of Whiting, Manocoe County, Iowa, and enclose stamp for reply.

All poplars (including cottonwoods) and all willows, will grow readily from cuttings. Walnuts, butternuts and other nuts and acorns are best kept over the winter in shallow piles, say four inches deep, in trenches or on the surface of the ground in a sheltered situation, or in a thicket, under a shed or on a south-side hill, covered with litter or hay, and so arranged that water cannot stand among them.

Plant nuts or acorns in drills from one to three inches deep, planting deepest in light or sandy soil, and planting smaller nuts shallowest.

Seeds of ash-leaf maples and hard maples and the ashes may be gathered in the fall, say from Oct. 1 to Nov. 1, and kept in sand or earth, moist, but not wet, and should be protected from severe freezing. Care must be taken not to have too large a mass of such seed together, as it will heat and mold.

Honey locust seed may be kept moist and frozen over winter, but will not always grow in that way the first year. To secure their growth the first year, they must be treated to hot water, nearly boiling, till they show signs of swelling. All tree seeds should go into the ground early, say when wheat and oats are being sown.

Small trees plant easily and rapidly either in trenches made by a plow or with a spade thrust into the soil and leaned forward so as to leave a space behind the spade for the root of the tree; when withdrawing the spade a pressure of the foot will secure the tree in place. In mellow soil this plan has worked well. Good clean culture always pays in forestry.

It is to be hoped that all who can will plant trees for permanent groves, whether they compete for the premiums offered or not, for enough has already been done to demonstrate that groves can be planted with excellent profit. Indeed, it appears from what data we now have, that no crop can be produced at so great a profit as can a crop of trees, if we give time enough to allow the trees to come to a marketable age, say ten to twenty years.—N. Y. Times.

TRANSPLANTING FRUIT TREES.

By J. W. Arndt, before Brown Co. Horticultural Society.

The first essential in tree planting is the location, and preparation of the soil. An apple tree will grow almost anywhere and in almost any soil, with the proper care and attention. The soil should be well and deeply drained so that no water remains about the roots, or on the surface, then roughly worked and cultivated to the depth of at least fifteen inches or more.

The best results perhaps obtained are on elevations, with a slight sandy loam, with lime stone or gravel subsoil, protected if possible from the southwest and north winds. Yet I am of the opinion that clay loam, or even clay, if well and properly prepared, will give equally good results and perhaps produce a more durable and lasting tree. A soil that is rich enough to raise good corn, is sufficient for the apple. For the first three or four years a too rapid growth does not conduce to its early bearing or durability.

We cannot always choose, but yet must have the apples. To bring your land to the best condition possible and go ahead. Bear in mind, that on any and every soil there must be deep and thorough cultivation, so that the roots of the young and growing tree may spread and permeate the whole soil in reach of its natural food, carrying to its head the health pays. ramifying and vivifying the whole superstructure until there is produced one of the most beautiful things in nature, an apple tree loaded with its rich and luxuriant fruit.

The next step to be taken is to produce the tree. Do not plant an inferior or imperfect tree if you can help it. If you have had no experience yourself, the nurseryman will tell you what kinds will suit your locality best. They are I believe generally very honest, whatever the peddler may be. Choose the stocky tree with well grown heads, well developed roots fibrous roots and many of them. It should be from 4 to 6 feet high, two or three years old, healthy and sound in all its parts. It is not the largest tree that is the best. Take three trees, two, three and four years old, plant at the same time in the same soil and give them the same care. The four year old may have the first apple but the others will have the first barrel of apples. This is a fact attested by all the best nurserymen and fruit-growers. The simple reason is that the difficulty and danger of transplanting increases with the age of every plant and tree.

In raising a young tree from the nursery rows, we get all, or most of the fibrous roots; they start from or near the collar of the tree, while in older or larger trees they grow from or near the extremities, which are cut and destroyed in lifting them from the rows. Hence, while the young or small tree has all its appendages necessary for its growth unimpaired, the other one has been deprived of them, and two or three years must intervene before it regains its original vigor, if it ever does. It will always show the marks of its mutilation by flat places on the side whence the roots were cut, the circulation becomes uneven, or more on one side than the other, the evaporation is greater than the supply from the roots, the wood contracts—the whole structure is disorganized and decay follows.

While your large tree, that was so fine above ground, is now a wreck—a home for the grubs, failure and disappointment, your small tree, scarce as high as your shoulder nor larger than your finger, has thrown out its vigorous arms to the sunlight, wooing and gathering the gases that nourish, distilling and elaborating the sap as it is pumped from the roots which now spread in all directions, searching for the food necessary for this fruit-producing machine. Thus it goes on in its useful vigor, spreading farther its well formed head and sending its roots far and near, until in due time behold the thing of beauty—a bearing tree, strong—vigorous—healthy.

No gorgeous tomb may enclose your remains, nor stately column mark the spot, nor costly marble record your deeds, yet there stands that graceful tree, a living monument, a growing record.—Abridged from the *Western Farmer*.

SAVING AND PLANTING THE POTATO ONION.

The difficulty in keeping the potato onion or English multiplier over winter has gradually caused their cultivation to be discontinued. Yet, when planted in the autumn just before freezing weather, in localities where snow does not lie, and covered with mulch, their culture is remunerative. The same protection accorded to winter spinach will conserve the life of the potato onion, except that there is no danger of smothering with mulch, as is sometimes done with spinach when it is not practicable to plant in autumn.

They may be kept successfully until spring by placing them in piles as for potatoes. Cover to such a degree only that they will freeze solid. This being done, keep them so by a covering of mulch over the pile until wanted for planting; then remove the mulch and allow the onions to entirely thin out before distinguishing them.

The *Western Rural* advises all having this bulb to plant in autumn, if south of latitude 41° N, as heretofore directed; if north of this latitude, to bury for winter unless the means for protection be at hand. The later they are planted the better. The same rule will apply to burying. The smaller the seed or bulbs the better the product. Indeed, it is not unusual when seed is scarce to split the bulbs in two. Never plant large bulbs, or the result will be unsatisfactory.—*Western Rural*.

RED PEPPER FOR INSECTS.

A correspondent of the *Rural Press* says:—I have discovered by a practical test that cayenne or red pepper (*capsicum*) will destroy cabbage lice or cabbage mildew. I have some two hundred fine cabbages growing and to my sorrow some two weeks since, I found them covered with lice. I sprinkled them wherever the lice could be found with the *capsicum*, and am delighted to see my cabbages entirely cleared, save a few that I did not sprinkle, that I might contrast them; and that I can assure you is very, very evident, for those I so left are covered with the little destroyers. Now I am of the opinion that *capsicum* will in the same manner destroy the fungi of all plants, vines, fruits, &c., spoken of in the agricultural report of 1871, from page 110 to 113. I also sprinkled a bumble bee with it, and the result was death in a few minutes to the bee. Now this might be applied to the vines in the form of a solution; but for the cabbage, sprinkling dry is preferable, as it sticks or adheres closely to the leaf.



AGRICULTURAL.

HOW MUCH DOES FARMING
PAY?

A Practical Answer.

The question so frequently discussed in the agricultural papers of the country, "Does farming pay?" having been fairly settled affirmatively, the next question in order would be, "How much does farming pay?" I believe it pays as large a per cent. on the capital invested as any other business, either mechanical, manufacturing or mercantile, when it is conducted with the same intelligence and business capacity. Men fail in all kinds of business, but we are not to infer that failure is the necessary sequence of transacting business, but rather that such men manage their business badly and not in accordance with those principles that lead to success.

For the same reason many farmers occupying good farms barely support their families, when they should have a surplus over all expenses of the farm and family of several hundred dollars a year. The question of profit or loss is more in the man than in the business. Some men will succeed in any business, and others will just as surely fail in whatever they undertake, whether it is farming, merchandizing or manufacturing. Could we strike a balance between losses and profits, I believe we should find that the aggregate capital employed in agriculture in the State of New York is paying as large a per cent. of net gain as the aggregate capital employed in any other business.

To contribute my mite towards the solution of the question, allow me to give the results of my farming, with the hope that others may be induced to do likewise, to the end that we may know how much farming pays.

Eight years ago I purchased a farm in the western part of this State (New York), and was told that I could not make it pay five per cent. on the investment. My reply was that if I could not make it pay ten per cent. I would quit the business. The farm, containing about 90 acres, was badly run down; the buildings and fences were in the last stages of their existence, and that part of the farm (about one-half) which was under cultivation, so thoroughly worn out that the yield of hay was only one-half a ton to the acre, corn about forty bushels of ears, oats twelve to fifteen bushels, and other crops in proportion. As fast as I could get that portion of the farm in a suitable condition it was seeded down, and I turned my attention to the other half, which had been wholly neglected. Part of it was a timbered swamp, part of it brush land, and the remainder a swampy pasture where cows mired in midsummer. The first thing was to drain the land, then the brush and a part of the timber were cut away, and now about twenty-five acres of that hitherto unproductive part of the farm are under cultivation, with ten acres more ready for the plow as soon as the stumps can be got out of the way.

Now for the result. Last year my cash sales from the farm were \$3,520.31, and my expenses for labor, feed of teams and stock, repairs, tools, taxes, &c., were \$1,739.08, leaving a net balance of \$1,781.23. But the cash sales of a farm represent only a part of the actual income derived from it. I know from previous experience that my family cannot live in the neighboring city as well as we now do, for less than \$2000 a year; and the same style of living in the country, if we had to purchase all our family supplies, would cost not less than \$1,500 a year. But my family expenses are now only one-half that sum, and the other half is made up by the grain, vegetables, meats, fruits, dairy and poultry supplies furnished by the farm. The farm investment has also furnished us a house, the rental value of which, at 10 per cent., is \$400. We also have the use of a horse and carriage through the year, which would cost us in the city at least \$200. To sum up, our actual income from the farm for the past year was:

Net cash receipts.....	\$1,781.23
Family supplies.....	750.00
Rental of house.....	400.00
Use of horse and carriage..	200.00
Total.....	\$3,131.23

The farm with its improvements has cost me \$15,000; but it is now worth \$20,000, and would sell for that if in the market.—Add \$2000 for teams, stock and farm implements, and by a little arithmetic, I find that my farm paid last year over 18 per cent. on the investment, and over 14 per cent. on the present valuation of farm and stock. I shall not be obliged to quit farming at present by reason of a failure to make my farm pay 10 per cent. on the investment.

But the ledger cannot express all the indebtedness we owe to the farm. There is a long list of benefits incident to and inseparable from the farm, which we cannot measure by a money standard. The pure air we breathe, giving us strength of limb and vigor of mind, the landscape to please the eye, birds to cheer the heart, and flowers to refine the taste, are only a few of the many blessings that fall, as the dew falls, to the lot of the intelligent farmer, making the old farm homestead a pleasant retreat for ourselves when the weight of years presses heavily upon us, and the dearest spot on earth to our children, towards which, in after years, they shall be drawn by the sweetest memories of their youthful days. But I did not intend an encomium on country life. My object was to make an exhibit of its financial aspect, and having done that, I am for the present satisfied.—ONTARIO in *Country Gentleman*.

PRODUCING GRASS SEED.

Every farmer uses more or less seed of the different grasses and foreign plants. Most of these seeds are purchased from dealers or growers, few farmers being so situated as to grow all the grass seed needed for stocking down pastures and meadows in the spring. The season is coming on when these seeds must be sown, if ever. It is time to look around and find where these can be procured to the best advantage, or at the cheapest rate. Both these acquirements are, or must be, kept in view: it will not do to buy seeds with either object in view alone. Seeds bought at the best advantage are always cheap. They may cost a little more money at the outset, yet may be the cheapest. As an instance, the experience of a man in Western New-York may be adduced. Wishing to sow a little Alsike clover seed, he consulted the catalogues and advertisements of all the regular and transient dealers. Prices ranged from 75cts. to \$1 and 25 cents per pound. The difference—50 cents per pound—was considerable; so he concluded to send to the parties offering the seed at the lowest prices. The seed grew well, but the next year several stools of the white ox-eye daisy blossomed out finely. They were dug out, of course, but new ones have appeared every year since, from seed which had hitherto remained dormant in the ground. That seed was not cheap at any price. The same person wished to sow more last season. He was at the trouble and expense of taking a journey of sixty miles in order to personally examine, at a large seed store, the samples of Alsike seed. The seed purchased was previously examined with a magnifying glass, and no ox-eye daisy seed could be detected. This Alsike seed costs more than advertised prices, but the purchaser will probably find it cheap.

It is wise to sow the best seed and to sow plenty of it. It is wise also to buy only of seedsmen who have an established reputation for accuracy, carefulness and responsibility. The reputation of such is worth more than the profits on the whole seasons sales, and of course their goods can be relied upon.—They also have a direct interest in selling only the best seed, since usually the results of such sales are a "standing local advertisement" to every section where sown.

It is necessary to sow plenty of seed. Ten cents saved in seed results usually in a dollar lost in the harvest. No one has ever reported that he had sown too much. All efforts have been invariably made the other way, as far as known. If the "penny wise but pound foolish" course—that of sowing as few pounds of seed as possible—is followed, the hay crop will be quickly gathered, and in winter will soon be gone. Just as much seed must be sown as will stock every square inch of the ground with at least one growing plant. This will take more seed in number than just the number of square inches of surface in the field. Four or more times this amount should be provided for much is inevitably lost. The seed should be scattered lavishly enough to secure a good stand, if it takes a full half bushel of seed to each acre to be seeded down.—*Cultivator*.