

LAYERING THE GRAPE.

A Method of Propagation Which Many Horticulturists Declare to Be Without a Rival.

Layering is the simplest, surest and easiest method of increasing the grape, and is the best way to grow them where but few vines are wanted. There are two kinds of layers, called spring and summer layers, from the season at which they are made.

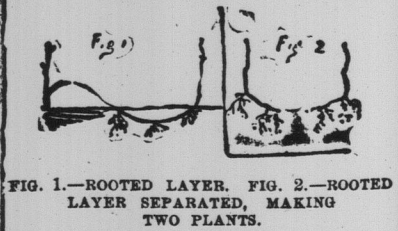


FIG. 1.—ROOTED LAYER. FIG. 2.—ROOTED LAYER SEPARATED, MAKING TWO PLANTS.

Summer layers are made in the summer, generally the last of July, from a branch of the same season's growth. They are likely to be weak for several years, and do not make as good plants as the spring layers. In making them, the wood should be split for an inch or so near the buds that are covered. Bury about



FIG. 3.—A ROOTED LAYER, EACH HUB MAKING A NEW PLANT.

layered about four inches deep, handling it carefully so as not to break the new growth.

Fig. 3 shows such a layer after it has rooted. It is a good plan to cover it not more than three inches at first, and to fill up the trench as the shoots grow. If covered four inches deep at first, the young growth will sometimes rot, though this seldom happens, and some skillful growers fill the trench full at once. In the autumn roots will be found growing from each joint, and these may be cut apart and treated as recommended for weak vines grown from cuttings. If this method of propagation is to be used to some considerable extent vines should be grown especially for the purpose. It is not a good plan to use existing vines or layering to any great extent, though it may be safely done in a small way.—Farm and Fireside.

Co-Operative Poultry Farming.
This plan is followed to some extent in Ireland, France and Denmark, and works out very successfully. There are two ways of carrying on the business. One plan is for several farmers in a locality who keep poultry to co-operate in the marketing of the fowls. The other plan is for a number of persons to pool their money and forward them to market and to receive the money for them and divide it amongst those who have sent in goods. Arrangements can be made where necessary to purchase feed at wholesale prices and effect a great saving in cost. One good feature of this plan is that the eggs can be sent forward in a fresh condition and in large enough quantities to secure reduced freight rates. This plan, however, is not real co-operative farming. The latter is a rather more complicated matter. In real co-operative poultry farming, as carried on in Ireland, a society is formed to which a membership fee is charged. A central depot is secured, at which one of the officers of the society keeps boxes for packing the eggs and fowls. The goods are sent forward in the same way as in the other plan, except that the officer in charge first pays all expenses, then pays an agreed-on price to each member, and then gives one-half the balance in proportionate shares to those who supplied the produce, and the other half he puts to the credit of the society, and at the end of the year a dividend is declared and paid to each member in proportion to his supply of goods. This officer also sells to the members food and appliances at reduced rates.

Egg-Eating Hens.
Egg-eating is an annoying habit among hens and an unprofitable one as well. The common practice is to cut the head off the hen that contracts such a habit. An American poultry keeper, however, claims to have discovered a cure for this habit by feeding egg shells to his hens for some time without any other food. He serves up all the egg shells that can be obtained until spring, and he may, perhaps, get a few at the hotel and restaurant to aid him in his cure. The fowls are penned up, and a few egg shells are given them. The first time they eat them eagerly, and the next time they seem to have lost a little of their love for them. The feeding is kept up and they gradually lose their taste for eggs, and as it continues they get so they will not eat them at all, and fresh eggs may be rolled among them, and they seem to have no objection to the sight of an egg or an egg shell, which is all the same to them.

Quality Standardized.
Too much attention is being given to size of fruit. Strawberries are grown of mammoth size, and every year some new variety is brought out, for which it is claimed that it "exceeds all others in size." In the meantime there is a shortage of flavor and quality. Fruit growers who ship strawberries to market prefer a variety that will stand shipment well, but for home use it should be the object to grow the varieties of the best quality, making size secondary. But few varieties equal the flavor of the wild kinds, which are small as a rule.

GOSPEL OF GOOD ROADS.

A. W. Campbell, the Ontario Instructor in Road Making, Issues His Annual Report.

Mr. A. W. Campbell, provincial instructor in road making, has submitted his third annual report on road and street improvement in Ontario, to the Minister of Agriculture. It is a most interesting document, which points out the important relations between the common highway and the greater avenues of trade, where transportation is concerned, and shows the growing demand for road improvement. Better roads have been actively urged throughout the province during the year with most beneficial results, both to the farmer and the townsman.

In the rural districts roads are being made better everywhere, and in all the cities, nearly all the towns and many villages there are concrete sidewalks. As much interest is being taken in the proper construction of streets as of sidewalks.

A difficulty in the way of obtaining better roads in Ontario is that, under the present system of township management, the entire cost of road building falls upon the farmers. The people of the villages, towns and cities, to whom country roads are as necessary as to the farmers, and who compose nearly one-half of the population, pay nothing toward their construction and maintenance. It would seem from the report that the towns should assist.

The following is an outline, in brief, of a system of road control which a great many townships in Ontario could consider with profit:

Do away with the statute labor roll entirely.

To raise the money required levy a rate on the assessment of the township.

For road purposes divide the townships into a convenient number of divisions, usually four.

Apportion the money equally among the road divisions, keeping in view all circumstances, viz.: Importance of roads, works needed on them, benefit resulting to the greatest number of people, amount of traffic, assessment, etc.

Appoint one township road commissioner to advise and consult with, and carry out the direction of the council.

The office of road commissioner should be similar to that of the township clerk or treasurer.

Councillors should not act as commissioners, as they are subject to undue influence from the ratepayers, and their term of office is uncertain.

A general plan for road improvement should be laid down by the council for the commissioners to follow.

This plan should specify the width and depth of road metal, character of drainage, etc., of all roads.

Roads of importance should not be less than 24 feet between the inside edges of the open ditches. No road should be of less width than 18 feet.

Work of construction, such as hauling gravel, ditching and drainage, building of bridges and culverts, should be done by contract, and supervised by the road commissioner.

No account for labor or material should be paid by the treasurer except on the certificate of the road commissioner.

Minor work and repairs should be done by day labor, only the road commissioner being authorized to employ, direct or discharge, the men.

All roadmaking machines should be in the care of the road commissioner.

Only the road commissioner should employ, direct or discharge, the men and teams needed to operate the machinery.

Should the council desire to interfere in any of these matters they can do so through the commissioner.

The same men and teams should be hired to operate the machinery for the entire season, or, if possible, as they become proficient and do better work. This applies particularly to the operation of a road grader.

The commissioner should keep a payroll to return quarterly to the council, showing who have been paid and the amount paid, the roll to be then filed for auditors.

This roll will act as a check on favoritism on the part of the commissioner. Work should be divided as much as possible among the residents of the township desiring it.

THE FAMILY COW.

A Compendium of What She Is, What She May Be, and What She Really Ought to Be.

Official statisticians take no note of the family cow. In quality the cows kept in villages and as summer homes of city people for the supply of milk and butter to the owners are presumably somewhat above the average of dairy herds, says George A. Martin, in American Agriculturist. Still the desirable points are alike in both. A cow in perfect health, docile and free from bad habits, yielding a good and lasting supply of rich milk is equally valuable for the dairy and the family.



TYPICAL FAMILY COW.

The Jersey is popularly regarded as the ideal family cow. Guernseys share the peculiar excellence of Jerseys; the Ayrshires, Holstein-Friesians, Red Polls and Brown Swisses have all proved highly satisfactory, and in England the milkings of Shorthorns have for years been the standard dairy cows. But even there the diminutive Kerry cows have become quite popular and are seen on many gentlemen's places.

But it is by no means indispensable that the family cow should be pure bred. This does not mean that she may be a scrub, but some of the best of them are grade out of native cows, sired by pure bred bulls of high individual excellence.

Such a cow is shown in our illustration—not eligible to registry in any herd book, but inheriting good blood from the paternal side and from both parents a sound constitution and a capacity for a large yield of rich milk. Scrub cows are unprofitable stock, but especially for family use, for it costs more to keep a cow in the village than on the farm. Above all, if a cow is to give profit and satisfaction she must be properly cared.

This includes comfortable shelter, good and plentiful food and water, regular hours of milking and feeding, with invariable kindness. I have in mind two cows kept near me. The owner of one of them has repeatedly been seen to stop with his team at evening near the pasture gate, lead out the cow, tie her by a rope around her horns to the rear end of the wagon and start off on a brisk pace as to keep the heavy uddered cow on a trot all the way home.

The other cow has good udder in summer, but generally she grades through the winter "spring pool" and plastered from hip joints to heels with stable filth. Fully one-half of the usefulness of any cow is destroyed by such treatment. On the other hand is a farm laborer whose yearly compensation includes the "keep" of a cow.

In cold weather she has a snug, well-bedded stall, but in summer she is left to the daily application of curry-comb and brush. She not only supplies the family with milk and butter, but in addition she is a source of profit, a source of butter which brings an extra price.

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Work should be commenced with a definite end in view and continued systematically, from year to year if necessary, until the entire road mileage has been brought to perfection.

All the essential features of good roads and their maintenance are contained in the report with minute instructions.

As to the material for roads, Mr. Campbell says: "Except under excessive wear or where in business sections a high-grade pavement is necessary, broken stone pavements, by the aid of a steam road roller, are beyond doubt the most serviceable and economical, and give greatest satisfaction to the taxpayer."

Potato scab.
Potato scab is the operation of a minute fungus. These little parasites reproduce themselves as the higher plants do. They can increase by division of the plant itself, or by spores which act as seeds.

Progressive people in these days never risk any large crop without steeping the seeds to destroy the enemy. Simple copious water has been found efficient. Formally, a non-poisonous, non-corrosive substance, will practically free seed potatoes from scab germs, by an immersion for two hours in a solution of the approximate strength of 1,000. It is equal to about one-third of the total area of the kingdom. One-third of this area is owned by the Government, which has spent since 1880 about \$5,000,000 in acquiring forest land. A regular system of forest culture is employed. The yield per acre is generally large, valued at about \$1.50, and the net income of the state amounting to about \$4,000,000 per year.

Best Selling Butter.
The poor butter does not sell as quickly as good butter, and the longer butter is kept the worse it is. No wonder that so much butter does not bring the cost of the production.

FASHION NOTES.

Novelties For the Up to Date Tea Table.

An indispensable adjunct to the 5 o'clock tea table is the plate of preserved fruits. These fruits are served on fine Sevres or Saxony china and are taken with a gold fork. The tea-cloth is almost entirely composed of rich gimpure



TAFETTA GOWN.

and is laid over red silk. There is also a fancy for black or brown broad sandwiches, cut very thin, of course. The German aniseed bread is often used.

Separate boleros of gimpure are worn with summer costumes and can be used with different gowns for variety. The bolero is still highly fashionable in all its forms, and when it has a lining the pocket, which is now impossible to the skirt because of its clinging smoothness, may be placed inside the left part of the bolero for the reception of the little purse and the handkerchief. The coin purse of gold or silver links is the favorite at present and is made in all sizes down to a purse only large enough to contain three or four gold dollars.

The gown of white an illustration is given is of tulle, tulle and tulle. The skirt, which rests upon the floor at the back, is trimmed with two flounces of plaited tulle, mousseline de sole with a puffed heading. Above each flounce are a band of gimpure insertion and a band of black satin. The flounces are arranged to simulate a tunic. The corsage, of gimpure over tulle, is a plaited gimpure of mousseline de sole and a bertha of the same material. The little plastron and the collar are of gimpure over tulle, trimmed with a satin band, as are the cuffs and the sleeves. The belt and bows are of black satin. The hat of tulle and white feathers is trimmed with tulle and white feathers.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

ACCESSORIES.
Wedding Veils and Fresh Summer Millinery.

The new wedding gowns have an immensely long train, trimmed with flounces of old point or of puffed tulle, with occasional sprays of orange blossoms interspersed.



MARIE STUART HAT.

Mingled. Satin is, as ever, the favorite material, and the veil is either point lace or tulle, according to fancy. Tulle is far more becoming than lace as a veil and for this reason is frequently preferred even by the wealthiest brides. Lace forms an attractive ornament for the gown itself, however, and softens the luxury of the satin gracefully.

Tuques of tulle, mousseline de sole and lace are very much worn, either with a brim or of the turban shape. Soft, fancy straw is often mingled with mousseline de sole, twisted and interwoven to form a puffy drapery. These tuques require very little trimming, a tall spray of flowers, a bow of ribbon and an ornament or a group of feathers being quite sufficient. If there is a brim, it is usually undulating, and a portion of the trimming is placed so as to rest upon the hair. Buoys are a frequent ornament and are of steel or rhinestone as a rule.

A picture is given of an attractive new model, called the Marie Stuart. It is of cream straw and is lined with shirred tulle to match. Cream tulle forms a large chow in front, and at the side is a spray of pink roses, rising from a chow of black velvet loops, retained by a gold buckle. At the left side of the back is a chow of tulle, at the right a chow of black velvet.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

JEWELS.

Their Language and Properties as Talismans.

The turquoise, in spite of its tendency to change color, is the emblem of sincerity, confidence, truth, tenderness and friendship and brings good fortune. It has also a beneficial effect upon the sight and is one of the most esteemed gems of the orientals.

The sapphire symbolizes justice and loyalty, beauty and nobility. It signifies warmth and a pure conscience and is in France a favorite stone for the engagement ring, its color indicating candor, goodness and all the simple virtues.

The emerald was placed under the tongue by soothsayers of old before they pronounced their oracular utterances. It clears the mind, facilitates the acquirement of learning and gives strength, activity and energy. It symbolizes charity, joy and abundance.

Earrings seem to have disappeared entirely, even studs of the smallest variety.



SILK WRAP.

simply made, the delicate tone and perfect cut of the gown giving it its chief claim to the first rank. Peplums and tunics after the antique style are frequently seen as a part of rich costumes, the skirt being of the trailing order, of course.

Boleros are almost invariably the accompaniment of tailor made gowns and as outer garments are largely replacing capes, although the latter, in cloth, are useful for traveling wraps, or, short and very elaborate, are still in demand for evening wear or for use with elaborate gowns. The approaching decline of the cape in general favor is owing to the change of style in gowns. While these were comparatively ample, and sleeves were large, the cape was convenient and suitable. Now that the fashion has changed to clinging, trailing robes, outlining distinctly the arms and the entire figure, the cape is becoming undesirable because it tends to conceal or at least veil the form.

The cut shows a pretty little mantle of black peacock, embroidered with patterns over straw satin. It is close fitting behind and is bordered with three ruffles of black lace headed by a ruche of mousseline de sole. The capuchon of plain peau de soie is lined with ruche of cream mousseline de sole, and the faring collar is made of natural tulle. The lining of the mantle is straw silk. The accompanying hat of black straw is trimmed with blue and gauze wings.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

FASHION ITEMS.
Pretty Cravats and New Silk Shirt Waists.

Cravats are often very long, the ends falling below the waist. For example, a model in white tulle, trimmed with fine lace, has long ends which are caught to the black satin belt by a cluster of parma violets. Boss of feathers are still in great demand, but the newest are composed of entire ostrich tips, not of the separate detached feathers.

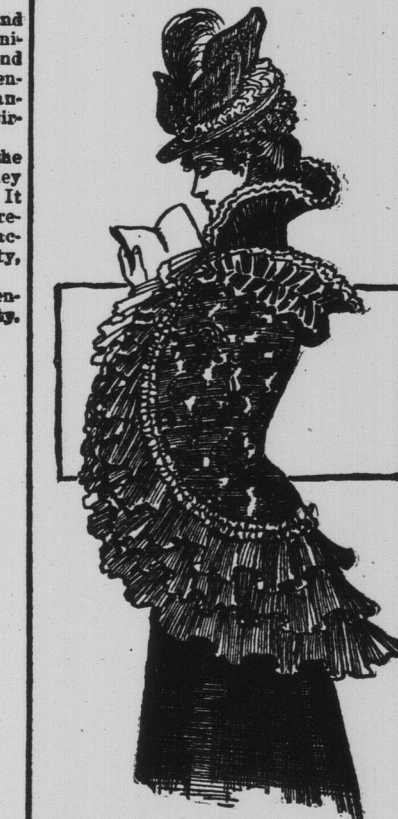
Most of the new silk shirt waists of the plainer class have accompanying cravats of the same silk, finishing the high collar. The waists themselves are plaited, tucked or corded in patterns, instead of being ornamented, as used to be the case, and the shirt sleeves, with its stiffened cuff, is not infrequently replaced by the ordinary sleeve with a bell shaped wrist. Some of the most attractive of these waists are of pearl gray, putty color or a light

JUDIC CHOLLET.

THE LATEST STYLE.

Pretty Gowns and Attractive Wraps Now Seen.

For elaborate and elegant toilets pale and delicate tints are the newest. White, pastel blue and pale rose are seen among pearl, mastic, cream, gray, lavender, the best models, which are often very



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THE SUMMER SEASON.
Dainty Fabrics For Elegant Summer Costumes.

For the warm season charming gowns are designed of satin merveilleux, gauzes striped with velvet and fondants of all varieties, some resembling Sevres china, others showing Scotch plaid effects.



TUNIC COSTUME.

Small, conventional figures are the favorites among printed silks, and the pattern is, as a rule, well spread over the ground.

The wearing of ornaments in the hair has always been more favored in France than in America, but even there the fashion is gradually declining.

Instead of adopting one special perfume and always using it, as was formerly considered most elegant, the fashionable woman now changes her perfumes with her gowns, using a different scent with each, according to the ideas of what is appropriate to the costume and the occasion.

An illustration is given of a remarkably pretty summer costume for ceremonious wear. The lower skirt is of ecru gimpure applied upon white silk. Over this is an accordion plaited tunic of sky blue crepe de chine, caught up in coquilles at the left side by a chow of black velvet. The bodice, of sky blue plaited crepe de chine, has a plastron and epaulets of ecru gimpure over white silk, with a decoration of black velvet chow. The plain sleeves are of ecru gimpure over white silk, the collar full of gimpure. The accompanying hat, of leghorn straw of the shepherdess shape, is trimmed with pink tassels and black ostrich plumes. The parasol is of sky blue silk, with a band of ecru gimpure insertion.

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