

of four gallon buckets to use in my sugar place; but the number not being sufficient to supply all the trees I wished to tap, I used twenty-five six-quart tin pans. Several times I went to the wood to gather the sap, and gathered from the pans first and supposed that I was just in time, as they were full, but on going to the buckets I found that they were full also. I at once saw that from the twenty-five trees under which the pans were, I had lost at least 62 gallons, or nearly 2 barrels of sap at a single run!


Buckets of tin or wood, well painted on the outside, are the best vessels, all things considered, that we can use to catch sap in, and the bit is the implement for tapping. It wounds the tree much less than boxing with an axe, or tapping with a gouge. The spile when well-fitted to the bit-hole prevents the possibility of leakage, and also prevents in a measure, the wind and sun drying up the cut. The first tapping should be done with a five eighth bit, and inserted not over one inch and a half. The spile should be so tapered as not to be driven but a little way into the tree, before it becomes tight, as it will shut the pores of the tree and prevent the flow of sap. About the middle of the season, the tree should be re-bored with a three-quarter bit, and the whole sunk a little deeper; then cut off the plug end of the spile a little, and drive again. Good spiles may be made of elder, or some soft wood; but farmers are, generally, so well posted in the art of spile-making, that remarks on that point are useless. I do not think it advisable to plug trees after the season is over, for as soon as the spile is removed the wind dries up the wound and the wood becomes hard, and the outer surface grows over, and no decay is produced; but when plugged, the moisture of the tree will eventually rot the plug, and the tree becomes infected thereby.

Great care should be used in collecting spiles and storing them with the buckets and they may be used many years, and a little time spent gathering them, will save many hours of hard work the next season when they are wanted again. Every farmer intending to make sugar this season should have everything in readiness; much is lost by not being ready when the sugar season opens.

Loraine County, O.

Manure for the garden should be fine and rich compost. Nothing comes amiss if it be only well rotted.

#### MAKING MAPLE SUGAR.

 R. EDITOR—Accept the following suggestions on this subject for the benefit of your numerous readers, many of whom, owing to the high prices, will doubtless engage in the business:

1. Trees should be tapped on the south side, as the thaw commences earlier and is more thorough here than on the opposite side.

2. In tapping bore the auger-hole slanting upwards to give the sap opportunity to run freely.

3. Form the ends of the spouts of spiles to fit the auger hole, so as to prevent the sap from wasting.

4. For boiling purposes dig a trench 18 inches wide, 2 feet deep, and of a length to correspond with the number of kettles used taking care that it extends 2 feet past them each way, so as to admit the wood being thrust in at the ends, and to let a current of air pass to make the fire burn. The kettles are to be suspended over this trench, and so as to touch the ground by means of a strong pole, placed on stout crotches firmly fixed in the ground at each end.

5. To make fine grained sugar, stir it well with a stick or ladle immediately after taking it off the fire.

6. Then pour it out of the kettle, to prevent it from tasting of iron.


7. To make dry sugar, bore a hole in the bottom of the vessel into which it is emptied, to give all the molasses an opportunity to drain out.

These hasty hints will greatly aid inexperienced sugar makers in making good articles in a fast manner. They are given by one living in a maple country.

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#### DOES FREEZING INJURE MANURE?

 HE above is a question which many farmers will answer in the affirmative—some express doubts concerning it, while others will perhaps give to it a decided negative reply.

Would not the consideration of this question by farmers—among themselves—in their clubs, and in their correspondence, elicit much valuable information?

The economic value of our manure censors is gauged by the answer given to this question; so also is the intrinsic value of