

# Soils and Woods

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## SEASONABLE HINTS ON STRAWBERRIES.

With the approach of spring, growers will be looking toward the spring care of strawberry plantations set out the past year and to the planting of new areas for next year's crop. The established plantation, which should have been protected with straw or rushes last fall (except where grown in extremely favored localities), will require to have the protective covering removed as soon as the plants start growth in the spring. This covering may be simply raked in between the rows and left there as a mulch. It seldom pays to remove the covering completely and cultivate between the rows, for not only does the mulch retain considerable moisture, but it also acts as a protection to the ripe fruit by keeping it clean from spilling of soil during rainy weather.

**Fertilizing.**—As soon as the young plants have made some growth and begin to show signs of blossom buds it often pays to make an application of nitrate of soda to the plantation. An application of this material at the rate of 100 to 150 pounds per acre will assist in increasing the set of fruit and will do much towards increasing the size of the individual berries.

**Soil Preparation.**—In setting out the new plantation several important points must be considered. Land which has been cultivated for some years should be utilized in preference to land recently in sod as the latter is liable to be infested with white grub, a pest difficult to control. Thorough preparation of the land with regard to plowing and harrowing is, of course, an essential, and a heavy application of manure, twenty-five to thirty tons per acre, should be given and plowed under.

**Selecting Plants.**—Following the soil

preparation, attention should be given to the selection of proper plants for setting out. It is extremely important that early plants with plenty of young white roots should be selected and only good sized plants should be used. The large plants will start runners or new plants more quickly than will the small ones, and, in addition, it has been found that the good sized plants transplant to better advantage.

**Time to Plant.**—Early planting is one means of increasing next year's crop. Plantations set out early will have a stand of young plants in the late summer, and the earlier a runner roots, the greater the crop it will produce the following season. It is not the size of the stand, or the number of plants per square foot that counts, but largely a question of the age of the plants.

When setting out the distance apart of the rows is a consideration. Rows three to three and a half feet apart should give larger yields per acre than rows four or five feet apart. The narrower planting permits of obtaining a full stand of plants earlier in the season and thus gives a larger percentage of older runners than in the wide row system.

In addition to the application of manure made at planting time, applications of nitrates just after the plants are established will hasten runner formation in the early part of the season, and increase the next year's crop by causing increase in the number of fruits per plant. This should be applied between the plants and care taken not to get too much of the material in contact with the leaves, a cause of burning of the foliage. This material is readily soluble and rapidly goes into solution with the soil water, especially on cultivation.

## Time to Check Up.

Any production expert will agree that when there is a real need for a new machine which will speed up production, do a better job in less time, and eliminate labor and waste, the money invested in such a machine is a good investment. It will increase the earnings of his factory.

The man on the farm is primarily a production expert. The principles which hold true in the case of the factory manager hold true in the case of the farm manager. When the man on the farm has a real need for a machine to speed up his production and lighten about other economies, he pays for that machine, whether he buys it or not.

Perhaps he has a machine on the place which was purchased for some specific purpose, and all that is necessary to put the machine back in good operating order is an overhauling and the addition of a few new parts. The repair on such a machine is then a splendid investment. But he may have an old machine which is worn out. It may not be capable of doing a good job, even if it is thoroughly overhauled and repaired. There may be too much play in the gears and bearings, and the complete repair of the machine may cost more than a new machine would cost. It then becomes an economy to discard the old and take on the new. This is a question for every production man to decide for himself.

## Put On Paint to Stay.

Not long ago it was found that comparatively new paint was peeling from under the edge of the roof of a fine Nebraska farm home. From a point about two feet below the roof edge, the paint stuck as it should. But from there up it was curling off in huge flakes. What was the trouble? It was this: The night before the painters got to this side there was a shower with wind. The surface was well soaked. But when the sun came out the next morning it quickly dried the boards and the paint was applied. That is, most of the area was dried. But the strip shaded by the overhang of the roof was still damp when the paint was put on and within four months the damage was apparent.

Green lumber, as many know, sometimes causes paint to peel. But it is a good plan to give the first coat just as soon as possible, to check any shrinkage. Before starting with the paint, go over the wood with a stiff, dry and clean brush and dust out all the corners and crevices. If you follow the first coat too soon with the second, the skin of the first will roll up. When mixing paints yourself, keep a small sample of the first batch in a bottle. Then compare subsequent colors with this to be sure of a perfect match.

Denmark is promoting legislation requiring that every egg exported from and imported into that country be plainly marked.



Tired of the ordinary run of tobogganing, this lover of winter sports tries some new antics, emulating the adventures of those famous characters who rode on a magic carpet.

## PAINTING FARM BUILDINGS WITH AIR

Why not apply the principal of co-operation to painting? Every farm has buildings made of rough lumber. It is almost impossible to paint these buildings with brushes. The lack of paint causes rapid and costly depreciation. The recently developed mechanical or spray painting outfits, plus a co-operative spirit, will overcome this condition, save millions in repairs, mean healthier buildings for live stock and will improve the appearance and value of the farm.

Spray painting is apparently unknown to farmers. It has been estimated that 96.1 per cent. of the farmers use brushes for painting. Three and nine-tenths per cent. apply paint with a spray to some extent.

In a recent survey of farm districts, it was found that 54.9 per cent. of over a thousand farmers interviewed, do their own painting, either entirely or partly. A particularly large proportion of the farm painting is done by the farmers themselves when the owner operates the farm.

The painting is done mostly by semi-skilled labor. Much of the structural surface is clapboarded. Many of the surfaces are of rather rough lumber, with many cracks. Spray painting has been suggested as a method for reducing the cost of farm painting and for overcoming the shortage of farm labor. Spray painting can be developed in a short time. The spray machine is well suited for painting barns and outbuildings of rough lumber. There are many broad expanses of unbroken surface and comparatively little fine work or change in colors. Little, if any more

paint is used than by hand methods and a better piece of work results in half the time. The spraying machine is well adapted to roof work because there is a wide expanse of surface, no sharp lines to be cut and the paint that should be used is thin in consistency, all combining to make an ideal spraying combination.

Mechanical painting can be done in a fraction of the time required for hand brushing, the paint is spread more uniformly, the coating is heavier and the work more durable, provided properly chosen paints are used and surfaces suitably prepared. During the past few years there has been a very great growth in co-operative associations could handle the business end of a spray painting outfit. Farm boys could be trained to operate the machine and do all the painting for members of the organization. An equitable charge could be made for the use of the machine and pay for the operatives. Each farmer could assist in moving scaffolding, and mixing paints, so that labor cost would be very small.

Another plan whereby the advantage of mechanical painting might be realized by farmers would be for a small number of them to buy painting machines, and do custom work, as is the practice with motor trucks, threshing machines and the like expensive, less frequently used machines.

In some localities progressive painters operate a portable spraying outfit and go from place to place painting dwellings, barns and other buildings.

## Use Home Grown Red Clover Seed.

Red clover seed has been a failure or partial failure during the past season in a great many districts where seed is usually produced. Such a condition always means danger to the farmers in Canada, particularly in those sections where severe winters sometimes interfere with our red clover stands.

The danger to which I refer is that of securing imported red clover seed from regions where sorts, non-hardy for our conditions, are produced. A shortage of domestic red clover seed on the American continent always means heavier importation of foreign seed. Seed has been coming from France and Italy and therein lies, at least in part, our danger.

Tests of the relative hardiness of domestic and foreign red clovers have been conducted on the Experimental Farms for a number of years past. Without exception, French and Italian clovers have winter killed badly under

most conditions, while English seed and that secured from the southern portion of the red clover areas in the United States has been less hardy than Canadian grown seed.

Seed from Sweden and the North-western States have compared quite favorably with our own.

Because of the difficulty of securing accurate information as to the origin of imported red clover seed, our Canadian farmers are urged to secure locally grown seed where possible, providing such seed can be secured reasonably free from noxious weeds. It would be much more profitable to plant a larger quantity of local seed, the germination of which was impaired to some extent, than to take a chance of winter killing in the case of imported clovers, the origin of which was not known.—G. P. McRostie, Dominion Agronomist.

The compass that guides the ship of the farmer into worth-while ports is the properly kept farm record.

## Home Education

"The Child's First School is the Family"—Freud.

### A Place for the Children—By Laura B. Gray.

In this day of small, convenient houses, it sometimes seems impossible to devote one room to the children, but why not build houses for them?—a nice, bright, comfortable one off the kitchen, where Mother can keep an eye on it, not up three flights of stairs in the garret.

Living as we do, in a four-roomed bungalow, it seemed impossible to have a children's room, until the following idea came to me: We have a verandah of fair size. Half of this we screened with canvas, and here the children have slept the year round. We live on the Pacific coast where the climate is moderate, although we sometimes get zero weather. This arrangement left one nice, sunny bedroom for the nursery.

The difference this room has made to the entire household is astonishing. I kalsomined the walls yellow, painted the woodwork white, hung some pretty curtains and varnished the floor with three coats of good varnish. A floor treated in this way makes a surface that is easily cleaned and nice to play on. Then I cut out suitable pictures from magazines, mounted them on brown paper and put them on the walls. In this room I put the toy chest, which had previously been in the living-room, all of their toys, two tables and their own little chairs. Here my little girls seem very happy. They have taken a great interest in the room themselves, and in keeping it tidy. It has given them a new interest in their home. They feel that this room is their very own. Every human being has that love of possession, whether it be for a bedroom, a book-shelf, or only a box—some spot to call his own. A few suggestions given by me, while busy in the kitchen, as to a good place to put dolly's cradle or into which drawer to put dolly's clothes, are training these little girls

to love orderliness and to be useful. After they have been out in the afternoon they are keen to come back to their room, and sometimes they bring a little friend to play with them. Here they can romp without disturbing anyone.

A children's room is also a blessing to the rest of the family. After a hard day's struggle to get the wherewithal to buy bread for his little brood, the father returns home, his heart longing for the sweet peacefulness of his own hearth. It is hard for him to have to jump up immediately after supper and set himself to amuse his children with their exuberant spirits; it is equally hard on the children to be continually subdued and told to be quiet. This, I think, more than anything else, tends to make children seek their pleasures outside the home.

Having all the toys in one room makes it easier for the mother, too. The children are contented and self-amused, and the busy mother has not to answer quite so often that difficult question, "What shall I do?"

Of course every house cannot have a children's room, but some corners should be theirs, a portion of the living-room or the kitchen. They should have a table, a book-shelf, and a box for toys. I have been in houses where there was a drawing-room, a dining-room, a den and a sewing-room, but the children's toy box was in the kitchen, and the "toys" refused to have the lid opened for the toys to be taken out. The children wandered all over the house, getting into everybody's way, or went out and bothered the neighbors. Children must have something to do, they should be interested in what they are doing and they need a place in which to do it. I have found a children's room a great help toward this end.

## Soil Fertility Experiments.

The work conducted by the Dept. of Chemistry of the O. A. College on three permanent, distantly located experimental fields has demonstrated a number of points of interest to farmers:

1. That nitrate of soda is the best source of nitrogen at present available for manure.
2. That phosphoric acid gives good paying returns in a four-year rotation.
3. That on the heavy clay of the Welland Experimental Field acid phosphate gave little or no better results than the raw rock phosphate.
4. That on the Dunkirk sand of the Norfolk County Experimental Field, raw rock phosphate gives as good results as acid phosphate.
5. That phosphoric acid is one of the limiting factors in crop production on the light soils of the Dunkirk series.

## Keep the Drill in Good Order.

How many times while motoring through the country do you see a field of grain where the drill went wrong? Each time I see this, I am impressed that the owner of that farm is careless.

These observations have led me to a practice which may not be justified, but which has gotten to be a sort of habit. To make sure that the drill or corn planter is doing its work as we expect it to, each winter I jack them up on the barn floor so the wheels can be turned easily. Then I can note just how the adjustments are working, and how each hole is delivering its portion of the seed. The plates in the planter can also be studied so that when I go into the field next spring with these implements I am pretty certain that they will do the thing I want them to do.—S. A. P.

## Neutralizing Cream for Buttermaking.

Dairy scientists have demonstrated the fact that the churning of pasteurized cream causes loss of butter fat and gives a poor quality of butter unless the cream has been neutralized in the process curing. When butter is made from unneutralized cream, neutralization is unnecessary. Mr. W. F. Jones, Chief of the Division of Dairy Manufactures, Dairy and Cold Storage Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, has prepared a pamphlet on this subject, designated Pamphlet No. 52, New Series.

The process of neutralization is not one that can be carelessly carried out, as it requires an intelligent observance of the details of testing cream or acidity, preparation of neutralizing solution and its application, determination of the required amount, and the temperature of the cream when adding the neutralizer.

Four neutralizing agents are recognized and their preparation and application described. These are quick lime, hydrated lime, sodium bicarbonate (baking soda), and a commercial product known as Wyandotte. This pamphlet, which is available at the Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, will be found particularly useful to creamery butter-makers.

## Look Into the Tractor.

If one possesses the ability to take his tractor apart and get it together again without any surplus pieces or parts left over, it will serve as a fine and profitable winter job at which he can devote a good many hours. A tractor which has gone through a summer's campaign, ought to have the valves ground and carbon removed. This is not a difficult task, and properly done, it will repay the farmer in giving greater efficiency from this power plant.

It is possible also that some of the bearings may require attention. Here more skill is necessary. Should they be in bad shape, it might be wise to have an expert to do the work, although a careful man could probably do the job satisfactorily. This, however, is the time to give attention to these things in order to have the machinery ready for the work when it comes.

## Poultry Parasites.

During the past year there was an increasing demand for information in regard to diseases and parasites, so says Prof. W. R. Graham of the Poultry Dept. O.A.C. The two common sources of the spread of disease are the drinking water and the soil. Where the hen manure is placed in the barnyard or in other places where the birds can scratch it over, or where there is barnyard water, that the birds can drink, disease occurs frequently. Many people are careless in regard to the two points mentioned. Internal parasites are fairly sure to give trouble if the young chickens are reared year after year on the same ground.

The free-lunch counter has been taboored in the tavern; farmers should follow by removing it from the dairy barn.

When washing soiled stockings a pinch of salt added to the water will help them to retain their color much longer.

## EVERGREENS FOR FOUNDATION PLANTING

A long name, difficult to spell and awkward to pronounce, may very easily prevent a very beautiful plant from becoming known to the ordinary gardener. Many of the evergreens are afflicted with difficult nomenclature, although most of them have a common name if one can only become familiar with it. Of the long list of evergreen trees issued by the Horticultural Division of the Ontario Agricultural College, ten are referred to as being particularly suitable for foundation planting and for groups or individual plants placed upon the lawn. The kinds thus selected are extremely hardy. Furthermore, they will respond better than deciduous trees to poor soil. This may explain the choice of the pine that has been made to re-plant the sandy areas that are non-productive throughout the country. Furthermore, these evergreens may be transplanted with success either in spring or fall. Dwarf varieties include different species of the cedar, the juniper, the pine, the cypress, and the yew.

The Globe cedar, *Thuja occ. globosa* and the Globe Ware's Cedar, *Thuja occ. globosa* Warreana, are particularly desirable for foundation planting or planting at the foot of a group that reach to greater height. They branch low, present a dense globosa form and a bright green foliage. This variety, although bushy, has long and slender, sparingly ramified branches, which produce an irregular outline. The third variety of the cedar is the pyramidal, *Thuja Orientalis* (bota pyramidalis). This well known cedar has

an attractive oriental appearance, assumes a rather tall pyramidal form, presenting a pleasing and striking effect at all times of the year.

The junipers include the Swiss, Savina and prostrate. The Swiss Juniper, *Juniperus suselica*, develops in an artistic conical shape. *Juniperus sabbina*, is more procurrent in form and is particularly fine for slopes or rocky soil. *Juniperus prostrata*, seldom exceeds four feet in height and throws out long trailing branches. It is native to almost every province in Canada. It is particularly valued as a ground cover for sandy and rocky soil in exposed situations.

The dwarf mountain pine, *Pinus mugho*, is variable in habit, usually low, remaining a prostrate shrub. It is especially useful for foundation planting and for individual plants in corners of the lawn.

One cypress is recommended in the dwarf class. The Japanese Cypress, *Retinospora plumosa filifera*, assumes a low habit of growth, it is bluish grey in color and has a spreading habit.

The Yew provides two desirable species, the Canadian Yew, *Taxus canadensis*, is a low shrub, diffuse and straggling, occasionally ascending to a height of six feet. This variety assumes a reddish tint in winter. The Japanese Yew, *Taxus cuspidata*, is rather more impressive in its form than the Canadian sort, reaching a greater height. Both of the varieties of the Yew are hardy throughout Eastern Canada.

—Canadian Horticultural Council.



FRUIT FARMS OF THE MARITIMES

Above is a view of one of the prosperous fruit farms along the line of the D. A. R. The inset photograph shows why the farm is in such a flourishing condition, while the scene below is one of another and typical Nova Scotian farm.