

FARM and GARDEN.

WATERING NEWLY SET TREES.

This is the rock on which most tree planters fail. "Will," once said a gentleman to me, "those trees I set out with the greatest care, watered them every day, but could save only a part of them." No wonder. Another gentleman wrote me that a dozen plum trees he had purchased and planted "were looking very poorly, and he was afraid they would not live. The trees appeared to be fine ones, and he stated he should give them the best attention, water them himself every day, in the hope they would do well." I immediately wrote him that if the trees were well set out, and he would let them alone, I would give him two for every one that died. He never made any claim for the trees.

That newly planted trees in certain unfavorable seasons and certain conditions of soil do occasionally require watering will not be denied. But the cases are so rare that they are scarcely to be taken into account. A tree properly planted, with the soil in the right condition, immediately goes to work to replace roots which had been severed in removal. The earth grows warmer every day, and the young rootlets feel the influence of this heat, and new fibres immediately break from them, as may be seen by examination twenty-four hours after planting. The soil has probably a temperature of 60° or 65°, and perhaps more; but, just as all is going well enough along comes the plinter with a pot of cold water, which he dashes around the tree, chilling the earth, and, indeed, often killing the young fibres. Trees can stand a great deal, or twice as many would never survive. The tree tree leaves out with the great heat of the sun upon the soil, and again the fresh fibres begin to put out; once more comes the shower-bath, often a third time, and if the tree does not die it is in spite of the planter.

It is rarely that a tree planted very early ever needs any water; certainly only in a very dry soil, and it should then be given at the time of planting. But later in the season, when the sun's rays are more powerful and evaporation rapid, possibly one, or at most two waterings are all any tree needs. If the planter has nothing to do, and wishes to show his affection for his trees, he can safely take the syringe or even a fine rose water pot, and moisten the whole top of the tree, which will do far more good than to drown the roots.

KEEPING UP PASTURES.

The drouth, which during June burned the very life out of the average pasture brings up the question afresh, "how shall we maintain the fertility of our pastures?" Of the pastures already overstocked, with months of summer heat yet to be "blazed" upon the almost denuded soil, there would seem to be but little expected of them, ranged over as they will be by the flocks and herds seeking to find a little treacherous herbage. It is easy, as a remedy, to tell the farmer to keep less stock, and strew a few thousand bushels of ashes, lime and bone meal over these fields in the autumn; to plow them up and thoroughly pulverize, and then without cropping, sow them to blue grass, red top, white and red clover, and thus get a stand of new, vigorous-growing grasses. The matter to be considered is, will he upon the average get better pasture than he now has, and will not his new seeded land fall him in a drouth sooner than does the sod that now

covers the herding grounds of his farm, provided the weed question does not need to be considered?

Is there not yet a more practical way? Is not soiling yet to prove a better way to renovate the old pastures? Shall not fertilized fields sown to orchard grass, rye, clover and later, corn fodder, prove a cheaper way to restore these old fields, by requiring less of them and more dependence upon the soiling crop, thus giving them a chance to renovate themselves? The idea of dependence more upon soiling crops, and less upon the pastures, is becoming more and more common, and possibly it may turn out that the chief value of the silo may come from some plan of keeping the entilage of the previous season over to July and the other summer months, and thus give results far more satisfactory. The great difference between the price of dairy produce in winter and summer suggests that one way to treat a summer pasture would be to use it for a place in which to "rest" the milch cows, letting poor feed, low prices and small amounts of milk be "yoked" together, and so ordering the crops that when prices for butter and cheese were high, and work was light, the dairy should be independent of pasture, and the farmer thus escape the "horrors" of short feed and six-cent mills.

For the CANADIAN FARMER.

USEFUL REMARKS.

For the next three months the garden, if what every farm garden should be, should yield more real satisfaction and enjoyment than any other part of the farm, supplying, as it should, the table each day with its products, in the form of fresh vegetables or fruits. These are not only relished by the appetite, but furnish just the diet which the system needs during the heat of the summer. As a matter of fact, the appetite, if not perverted, is nature's method of making her wants known. No one craves fresh strawberries and watermelons in mid-winter. A peach at Christmas would not be very appetizing, neither would lettuce, cucumbers or radishes. But in their proper time the appetite craves them, and this is the indication that the system needs them. We will assume that the garden has been planted with all the requisite varieties of early and late vegetables, that it has a plentiful supply of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, grapes, etc. But in the rush of work in the corn-field, meadow or harvest field its proper cultivation is apt to be neglected. The growing crops fail to receive the proper care, the weeds gain the ascendancy and the results are disappointing. This is more apt to be the case where a particular patch has been fenced off by itself for a garden, and so arranged that horse cultivation is difficult or impossible, and the sooner such garden enclosures are discarded the better. The garden is best located in the open field, at some little distance from the house, but not too far.

That portion devoted to fruit is, in a measure, permanent in character, and must be used for a term of years or till another plantation is made. But with the vegetable garden it is better to move to the new ground frequently, if not every year. One reason of this is that insect enemies of particular plants increase rapidly where ground is devoted to the same crops for successive years. By frequent changes, we lessen the danger of injury or loss from such sources. With the open field garden

everything can be planted in long rows and worked with the horse cultivator. Land is cheaper on the farm than labor, and it is poor economy to make such close planting as to necessitate that all the work shall be done by hand. The writer practices what he preaches in his own garden, as specimen rows will illustrate. In one he has growing tomatoes, summer squash, cucumbers, nutmegs and watermelons. In another lettuce, radishes, beets and turnips. In other rows are peas, string beans, etc., while in adjoining rows there are four varieties of sweet corn, ripening at intervals, from the early Narraganset to the Mammoth. These latter will mix so that seed from them would not answer to plant, but will not be injured for the table. The cultivation is done with the one-horse cultivator, which does away very largely with the necessity for hand labor. The garden should be, and can be, made to contribute largely to the table, not only through the summer months but the entire year, with its late-keeping vegetables and canned fruits, and is worthy of more attention than it receives on most farms, where it is regarded only as an unimportant side-show.

For the CANADIAN FARMER.

KENT CO. CROP PROSPECTS.

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—Perhaps a few items from this county would be of interest to your numerous readers. A drive from the pleasant town of Ridgely to Chatham, opens to the gaze of the traveller a section of country, which for agricultural purposes, can not easily be excelled. There appears to be an abundance in every direction. The complete failure of crops last year did much to lengthen the faces of some of our most prosperous farmers; but now all are hopeful, and barring unlooked for events, look forward to an abundant harvest as a certainty. The frost of a short time ago cut short the strawberry crop, and in consequence several were heavy losers. A large number of our farmers go extensively into bean growing, and certainly the prospects were never better for a crop much above the average. There is a large acreage of wheat and corn fields, which are, indeed, extra fine. Oats have improved very much of late, and a heavy yield is looked for. Farmers are now busily engaged cutting hay, which is a good crop. The corn crop is fully two weeks ahead of last year at this time, and an excellent crop is expected. The fruit crop will be rather slim and much below the average. Peaches are a complete failure, cherries a fair crop, and apples will not average half a crop. The potato crop will be above the average. The bugs are active and numerous, and although growers are busily engaged treating them to Paris green, they still continue to "hold the fort."—(we mean the bugs.) Other root crops are looking very good, but their cultivation is not gone into very extensively. The farmers of Kent County go pretty largely into stock raising, and as a consequence, some very fine animals are to be seen. We would like to see this important branch of farming much more extensively adopted by our farmers, as we believe stock raising is one of the most profitable branches a farmer can engage in. In fact, as a writer upon this subject lately said, stock raising is the foundation of good farming.

We have trespassed enough upon your

space for this time. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for kindness in the past, we are

Yours &c,

A. A. BUCHNER

Ridgely, July 10th.

DEFECTIVE MANURE DISTRIBUTION.

One thing is very certain; farmers are rapidly learning the great importance of distributing manures as evenly as possible over the whole surface, especially for small grain. It needs only a very minute particle of manure to materially help a wheat, oat or barley plant. This is shown by the good results from very small application of commercial fertilizers. With a good growing season, one hundred to one hundred and fifty pounds per acre is a sufficient amount to be drilled in with oats or barley. If more is used it is quite as apt to do harm as good in a moist, growing season. Mineral manures are, however, much less likely to make weak or overgrown straw than are those from the barnyard, most of which are deficient in mineral plant food. Yet it is the former that usually is evenly distributed through drills, while the barnyard manure goes on in heaps, to be thence distributed in clods, ten to fifty times larger than is best for profitable results. With some crops this defective distribution is less objectionable. It is hardly possible to get soil too rich for corn. The only disadvantage of defective manure distribution for this crop, is that there is seldom or never enough manure to go over the field at a heavy rate, and thus whatever surplusage one part of the field gets is offset by a corresponding deficiency in another. But the next year in small grain the evil results of over manuring are manifest. My barley is down this year in just the place where I drew on some manure from the hog-pen a year ago. It was spread by hand, but it is not possible to spread manure as rich as this thinly enough not to make the land too rich for after crops.

Some of my neighbors make a practice of rotting hen manure and putting it in with the grain, either mixing it with the phosphate used or often taking its place altogether. I tried this the past spring with some of my spring crops, but found that the hen manure could not be made to drill evenly, though finely sifted before using. No matter how finely it was pulverized, it lacked weight to carry it through the drill, even when mixed with phosphate. I soon came to the conclusion that the loss from an uneven distribution would be greater than the value of the hen manure for the crop. Hence I shall hereafter put all the fine manure I can on the land with the manure spreader, and use phosphate or whatever else I am sure will drill evenly when I put in the seed.

It is in the even distribution of small quantities of fertilizer that the manure spreader is destined to prove its greatest value. If I had twenty to thirty loads of manure per acre it might not matter so much how it was applied. So large quantity yearly, or once in two or three years, would quickly make wheat or other grain growing unprofitable, for the grain would be beaten to the ground before it ripened. In the great majority of cases the farmer has not manure enough to afford more than eight or ten loads per acre. It is much better to make this over a large surface, even if the quantity is reduced half. With finely rotted manure I would, if possible, make one load cover an acre or more. So far possible, hen manure should be mixed with compost heaps, not only to make them richer, but to insure its own more perfect distribution.—Country Gentleman.