

## Orchard and Garden.

### VENTILATION OF CELLARS.

Whether or not ventilation is needed in root pit cellars depends on the way in which the roots, tubers or bulbs have been stored. In my own practice in storing these for seed purposes, that is, to carry over to planting time, I have but little occasion to ventilate my stock over and above the degree necessary to maintain a low, dry temperature. For the most part with beets, carrots and cabbage, I have not found any effort at ventilation called for. They are simply pitted and then left with operations of the law of nature, the natural moisture in the earth preserving them from wilting, and the outside covering of earth, leaves and coarse hay keeping them at a low temperature.

A lot of beets sufficient to raise over 5 tons seed were all handled in this way and came out as usual in first-class condition. The key to the system is found in avoiding massing the roots, but instead burying in long, narrow and rather shallow trenches. Those for carrots to be not over 14 in wide and 2½ ft deep, for beets not over 3 ft wide and 3 ft deep. When the trench is a long one I leave at intervals an undug division about 1 ft in thickness. The covering for these roots is firm, a few inches gray coarse stuff and the earth about 1 ft in depth, and lastly as cold increases, at 1 ft of swamp hay. Rats I have most to fear from. When these make too many galleries we yield up to them the occupancy of the root pit and go and relocate some distance away. All root pits should be on high and dry ground, of gravel or sand, if possible.

Cellar-kept vegetables, which include onions, potatoes and sometimes some special lot of beets or carrots, we ventilate from coolness during the fall, opening door by night and closing by day, as weather suggests. With the colder weather we close double door and usually double the windows, opening to get rid of damp, warm air now and then in winter, when a dry wind blows. With the return of spring we renew our fall tactics, opening by night and closing door and window by day, the object being to keep the bulbs cool and from sprouting until the proper time has come for planting them out. The same course holds good for those who follow the market. If there is an opening into the building above, this judiciously utilized will be a useful aid in the system of ventilation. When roots or tubers are massed in pits, bunches of rye straw, protruding at intervals through the covering earth, serve to reduce the heat and moisture that such masses are apt to create. [J. J. H. Gregory.]

### RASPBERRY CULTURE.

The raspberry seems to do well on any land suitable for corn, but to reach perfection it must be planted on rather heavy soil with good drainage but that will retard moisture in times of drouth. The red varieties should be planted in rows 7 ft apart and 4 ft in the rows, and to the new beginner this seems like a waste of land, but the second year after planting will dispel this theory.

The first year the plants should have about 1 in nipped off the ends of the canes when ½ to 3 ft high. All weeds and young plants should be destroyed by thorough cultivation. In the spring of the second year set at each end of the rows two posts securely braced 12 to 15 in apart and 20 in above the ground. Then stretch strong wire along each side of the rows just as tight as you can get it with a stretcher and staple to the end posts. Then drive under the wire some small stakes about the size of a broom handle every 20 ft apart and put a staple in them. This will keep the wire in place along the rows and will hold up the canes when they would otherwise bend to the ground when loaded with berries.

In spring cut all of the preceding season's old canes out; also about 2 in of each cane of the new wood. Ashes are an excellent fertilizer for raspberries as they are rich in potash, and with a liberal supply of well-rotted manure in the spring should keep the plants in first-class condition. Mulching in the colder latitudes is necessary, as it protects the roots against freezing and thawing. [Edgar S. Scrimm.]

Don't Burn rubbish such as corn stalks, bush peas and bean vines, or any vines, weeds, etc., as they contain a considerable element of potash, etc. aside from the chemical change produced in the compost heap. There is no soil, not even muck land, but can be benefited by these now useless excesses, by being returned to the soil to add to its fertility and improve its mechanical condition. [J. A. Clark.]

For Moving Potatoes, use a scoop made of malleable cast iron rods. It costs but 75c and is far ahead of the wire scoops used by some. After getting the knack of this kind of shoveling, a man can load 50 bu in ½ hour or less time. [H. C. Wright.]

Shaffer Raspberry is one of the best. I consider it far superior to the much lauded Columbian. As roots from the tip it does not sucker and bother in that way as most of the red varieties do. It is an abundant yielder of very large berries, rich, juicy, of a sprightly acid flavor, very unlike the rather dry, slightly sweet Columbian. It is not suitable for long distance shipping, being rather soft when dead ripe, but for home use and near market it is simply grand. [W. F. Heath.]

The Champion Quince should hang on the tree as late as possible in the north, and then be finished off indoors. Its lateness is a serious drawback for market purposes, and although the tree is vigorous, well shaped and productive, and bears young, the variety is not equal to the Orange for a northern business orchard. [Burr Knapp.]

Skunks Destroy Worms—A hop grower reports watching a skunk at night, as the animal dug into 97 hills; he found that every hill showed the work of worms which the skunk had found and eaten.

The Ord Beni Apple, a new sort from Ark, as tested on the writer's grounds, somewhat resembles the Ben Davis in vigor of growth, season, size and quality of fruit. Like the Davis it bears at an early age and abundantly. The color is a deeper red than the Davis. [G. B. Fiske.]

Cellars should be dry and cool. One that will freeze in cold weather by reason of its many windows is much better than the one too warm and close. A cellar should be underdrained and kept below 40 degrees. Ventilate often. If it is liable to be too warm, ventilate in cool weather and keep closed in warm spells, or vice versa as the case demands. [A. B. Clark.]

Mangolds fed with grain and hay or corn I consider a valuable food and more profitable to raise than carrots.

Potatoes for Stock—Compared with corn, at \$16 per ton, potatoes are worth 5c per bu as stock food, but they must be fed carefully, and in connection with nitrogenous foods. I would not feed potatoes or apples to breeding ewes. [E. E. Smith, Onondaga Co., N. Y.]

The Ont Beekeepers' assn meets at Niagara Falls, Ont, Dec 4-6. A lecture and many of the views given at Chicago at the great national convention will be given.

F & H is the best paper I ever read for so small a price. I like it that F & H prints so much about co-operation among farmers. I do not see why a farmer cannot have as much right as other people to make his price. As it is here, the storekeeper makes the price and the farmer gets no cash. [C. A. Gelseler.]



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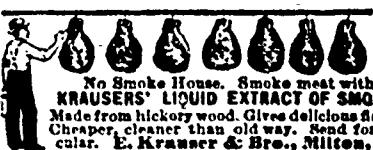


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