

however, one enemy to onion culture, which has made such ravages on the crop, that many gardeners have become discouraged from growing this popular vegetable. The onion maggot is becoming a more serious menace every year.

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Many a gardener who, in early June, has looked with pardonable pride at his fine rows of Danvers and Weathersfields, has returned a week later to find the healthy green foliage drooping with a sickly yellow spreading downward from the tips. He recognizes the deadly work of the onion maggot; but as to what this pest is, whence it comes, or how to fight it, he is helplessly in the dark.

This maggot is the larva of a small fly, anthomyia ceparum, and related species, which lays its eggs in the earth beside the onion about the end of May and later. In due time the grubs hatch out and begin gnawing at the base of the bulb. Beside destroying the outer tissues and absorbing much of the juice, the maggots by their attacks cause a sort of inflammation analogous to suppuration or festering of wounds in animals. As in the case of animals, the damage done depends on the age and health of the tissues attacked.

No known method has succeeded in combating the grub, once the eggs are laid. The two most effective methods of dealing with the pest have, as their aim, the prevention of the fly from laying its eggs, and the bringing of the onions along as early and as quickly as possible past the young tender stage when they are most palatable to the grubs and succumb most speedily to their attacks.

For this latter purpose, the planting should be as early as the season will permit. The ground should be thoroughly cultivated and the rows at planting treated with a dilute solution of nitrate of soda. Even if the onion worm were not trouble-some, an application of this salt would amply repay the time and expense in the largely increased crop, and better quality of the bulbs.

The next effort of the gardener is to make his patch of onions distasteful to the parent fly. For this purpose, the ground along the rows is sprinkled with a dilute solution of creolin, crude carbolic, or any similar liquid; or with sand or sawdust into which has been stirred all the crude petroleum which it will absorb without remaining damp or lumpy. Where the crude petro-leum is available it is usually found the cheapest liquid, otherwise a 5 per cent. solution of crude carbolic makes an excellent preventive. If either of these are applied to the rows, as soon as they are clearly defined above the ground, and a second sprinkling administered about two weeks later, the fly will be kept away until the most critical period in the growth of the onion has been passed.

Nearly every noxious insect has parasitic enemies which keep it in check. Happily, the onion fly is no exception. Two tiny creatures prey, one on the fly, the other on the grub, and though scarcely larger than a pin point destroy these pests, by eating into their vitals. Such tiny allies may prove of inestimable value to the onion grower in combating his worst enemy.

### Keeping the Hogs Well.

C. C. Pervier, of Illinois, writing on the "Cure of Hogs," says:

"I do not know of any cure for the hog cholera. I do not believe it is possible to so handle swine as to make them able to resist disease. Only once in thirty-five years have I had disease on my farm, and then one-third of our hogs survived the attack. The three things I think absolutely essential to the health of the herd are clean feed, pure water, and dry, comfortable sleeping quarters. The food of the hog should be as clean as that given any other animal, because every particle of dirt, filth and indigestible matter that is taken into the stomach impairs digestion, reduces the gain as well as injures the health of the animal. There should be a clean feeding floor in winter, or when it is too muddy to feed elsewhere.

It is a law of nature that the excrement of all animals is poisonous to themselves, but not to other animals. Hogs may follow cattle without injury, but the thing most essential and most difficult is to keep the food of the hog from becoming contaminated with his own excrement. Hence the value of the feeding floor and the importance of keeping it clean. Be sure

to locate the floor where the sun can shine

A pig will not walk 80 rods to get a drink of clean water if water of any kind, no matter how filthy, is nearer. The pig's body is 40 per cent. water, and if the supply is below normal requirements, gains will be proportionately low and the health of the animal impaired.

In very cold weather pigs will not drink enough water to supply their needs, unless it is warmed. There should be an abundance of clean water before the hogs at all times. We use what is known as the barrel and float plan, which consists of a concrete barrel with a concrete drinking box about 12 inches square and 5 inches deep built on the side of it. The box is separated from the barrel by a piece or sheet iron with holes about 2 inches from the bottom, through which the water passes from the barrel to the box. With this plan no mud or filth can enter the barrel, and the box can be readily cleaned. By putting a tank heater in the barrel, pigs are supplied with pure water of right temperature in winter.

#### Easy Money for the Doctor.

A prominent physician in an Arkansas town has an extensive practice among the laboring classes where economy is the best policy. One day the little daughter of one of the men became very sick, and the doctor was hurriedly called. He arrived, and administered a soothing treatment to the patient, who was soon sleeping soundly, and upon leaving prescribed some medicine which was to be obtained at the drug store. The next hay the visit had to be repeated and some more medicine bought. This was kept up until the little girl was entirely well, when the father went to see the doctor to settle the bill.

As his purse was rather slim, he approached the doctor with many misgivings.

"Here is your bill, sir," began the doctor, handing him the paper. "This for the drugs from the store, and this for my visits."

The poor man looked and was horrified at the amount requested, realizing that he could not pay it all. Then after thinking a moment he took out his purse and laid some pieces of change in the physician's hand, saying: "Here is the money for the drugs, Doctor, and—we will return your calls."

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