

Intensified Farming.

"It's the insects," complained the amateur gardener. "They destroy all my radishes; and try as I may, I can't exterminate them."

"Best remedy I know," said the friend, "is to lay salt between the rows—never been known to fail."

"Well," said the friend, when next they met, "and did you try the salt on those insects?"

"Yes," replied the gardener, "and the next morning the little beggars were pulling up the radishes, dipping them in the salt and eating them by the score."

How to Kill Quack Grass.

By L. A. Darling.

As all farmers are aware, the killing of knot grass or quack grass is in many instances a serious problem. One method that in my experience has never failed is as follows: Prepare the soil by plowing and dragging, as for any general crop, and then mark it both ways into rows about eight feet apart. At the intersection of these rows make hills for winter squash seeds, preparing each one with a large shovelful of well-rotted manure covered carefully with dirt to the depth of an inch or two so as to prevent evaporation. Plant from six to ten seeds in a hill in order to insure a good stand.

The soil round the hills can be kept free from the quack grass by hoeing with a well-sharpened hoe. Since we are assuming that the ground is very badly covered with the grass we will let the soil between the hills lie untouched, since it seems to be useless to try to cultivate it except in very dry seasons. When the grass has sprouted to a height of three or four inches take a team and plow the entire piece, going in one direction and turning the furrows from each side toward the hills or rows. This will leave a dead furrow between each row. If the plowing is done carefully scarcely any uncovered grass will be left between the hills, and we shall have entirely cleaned the piece from any growing quack grass—that is, the weed will have to grow entirely new shoots.

Continue to keep the hills clean with the hoe, but let the rest of the patch remain untouched until the quack grass has grown to about its previous height. Then plow in the same manner, but crosswise. The relative time which takes the squash plants and the quack grass to grow should allow the squash vines, by the time of the second plowing, to be almost at the running stage; consequently, before the quack grass can get much of a start for the third time, the vines will be covering the entire field. The grass finds itself unable to survive under such conditions.

In this way, with a minimum amount of work, we have succeeded in raising a crop of Hubbard squashes and cleared the soil of the noxious weed. Of course, plowing the field in the manner described leaves it in anything but a level condition. The dead roots of the quack grass, however, will have enriched the soil to a greater extent than a good application of fertilizer would have done, and a crop which makes heavy demands on the soil may be raised without an unnecessary amount of labor.

After having tried everything from turpentine and ashes to cheese box hoops with mosquito netting over them, to prevent the striped bugs from devouring the young squash plants, I find that the practice of scattering a little tobacco dust on the hills while the ground is still damp from the morning dew, two or three days before the plants appear, is most economical and practical. A second application should be made, at the same time of day, as soon as the plants are above ground. In case of a hard rain a new application will be needed, but in dry weather going over the plants thoroughly once in three or four days will keep them entirely free from the insects. When the plants are so large that the danger from bugs has disappeared the hills should be thinned to the three largest plants in each.

Selection of Seed Potatoes.

There are potato growers who grow less than one hundred bushels to the acre. There are other growers who are not satisfied with less than 300 bushels to the acre, and many get yields as high as 400 and 500 bushels to the acre and even more. What is the answer to the question of whether you are going to use two acres or eight acres for your potato crop? Seed! In that one word lies the answer in nine cases out of ten. The crop has to be cultivated, of course, but to have something to cultivate you must begin right at the seed—the foundation of any crop.

No sane man would think of planting his wheat, barley or oat screenings. Neither would he use the poorest bull he could find to head a herd of dairy cattle. Yet this is practically what many farmers do in growing potatoes. Then they wonder why their potato crop is "run out." The potato pile is picked over daily for the table, the choice, smooth potatoes that are solid and meaty being taken because they are easily prepared for dinner and look nice on the table. When it comes time to plant potatoes there are left the culls and weaklings. But it is the potato crop, and "anything that will sprout will make a hill of potatoes," is the way the farmer looks at the matter. If the seed looks a bit puny, two or three unusually weak ones are dropped in the same

hill. One of them is sure to sprout, the farmer tells himself, and leaves the small potatoes to settle the question. "But like produces like" just as surely in potato growing as in Short-horn breeding or in wheat growing, and the farmer who plants the culls and odds and ends gets a crop that comes from the odds and ends of his previous crop instead of a crop that is sprung from the best of his previous crop. Consequently instead of getting better each year his potato crop gets poorer and "runs out." Small seed potatoes, smaller weaker plants, fewer and smaller potatoes and smaller profits!

The seed potatoes should be picked as soon as they are harvested, before the cook has a chance to get the choice ones for the table. Don't run to the other extreme and pick out the outlandish big ones, however, as they are not as marketable nor as easily handled for seed use. They are also more subject to hollow centres. Medium size, smoothness and firmness and uniformity should be the points to note in sorting out the seed potatoes.

Mealy Bugs.

J.K., Cass county, N. Dakota, writes: "Enclosed find a sprig of myrtle on which is queer insect. The first time we saw it the branches looked as though a spider had made a web there. We

tried to kill them with a solution of carbolic acid, which did not affect them. Kindly tell us how to kill them."

The insect in question is the mealy bug, which frequently appears on house plants. It injures the plant by sucking the juices from the stems and is also unsightly. One of the most effective ways to kill mealy bugs on a few plants is to pick them off by hand or wash off all the insects and eggs with a strong stream of water. Kerosene emulsion is an effective remedy, but is likely to injure the plants. Brushing the stems and leaves with a small brush dipped in alcohol, being sure to touch all the insects, will also dispose of them. It will probably be necessary to go over the plants several times, as some of the smaller bugs and the eggs are likely to be missed.

Frozen Beets Dangerous.

The danger of feeding frozen vegetables or fruit cannot be realized until the loss of a valuable animal is experienced. This will prompt the most careless person to be careful not to feed their stock frozen roots, or permit them to come in contact with them anywhere around the farm.

In the first place there is great danger of an animal being choked upon them owing to the fact that they cannot chew or break up the frozen root small

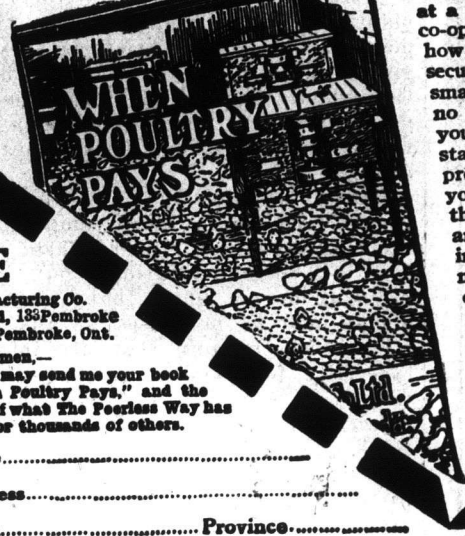


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