

## The Sugar Bush.

### MAKING A CHOICE PRODUCT.

Color and flavor are imparted by the nature of the soil. In these varying colors and flavors, each is but the natural pure product of the maple. To test your maples, know of no better way than take sap freshly dropped to the house and upon dining-room stove, in tin pans, boil it to syrup and sugar. The product will be a good sample of what your maples are capable of producing. Then endeavor to bring your entire outfit up to the perfection that you can make a similar article.

To produce the best of which your maples are capable, careful, rapid movement, the soonest that it is practicable to gather the sap and reduce it to syrup and sugar with cleanliness in every detail, is essential. If you are to build new, locate the sugar house where you can have the sap and empty into the tank with the least spouting and handling possible, for sap is quick to receive color and flavor. Whatever kind of system of boiling you have, let it be continuous until the sap is reduced to syrup. There is a sediment in sap, although not perceptible until reduced to about 9 lbs to a gallon. By using proper strainers it can be taken out; it will generally settle to the bottom. Whatever boiling apparatus you have, arrange so you can continuously reduce your sap to syrup in small quantities, say from 1 to 3 gals at a time. If troubled with sediment, the safest way is, after straining, let it settle and then draw off from the surface. Do not overheat as the syrup is approaching to sugar.

I have used tapping bits from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1 in, but prefer a 5-16 in bit with an oiled hard wood spout to fit the bit. The small bit cuts just as many grains of wood, therefore just as much sap and better, for there is not so large a space to receive air to dry and corrode and is less injurious to the tree. A well laid brick arch is most enduring and does equally as good work. Place a 35-flue heater or boiler at the rear of the arch to utilize waste heat. The sap is heated and boiled all at no expense, with a tin evaporator 42 in by 12 ft, divided into departments of 15 in connected by metallic stoppered tubes and each department with an outside tube, then every department could be at pleasure made independent to be emptied at any time if so desired. With the evaporator set on an inclined plane, there is an adjustable movement from receiving the heated sap from boiler until it is passed into syrup to be drawn off. With such an inexpensive apparatus, a fast evaporating is fully realized. A well located sugar bush should produce from 3 to 5 lbs of sugar per tree, varying as to seasons.—[C. P. Stickney, Windham Co, Vt.

### THE VALUE OF BUCKET COVERS.

Bucket covers will save their cost in one or two seasons. They save time in stormy weather, as it takes considerable time to go around to several hundred trees and scoop snow off the



SAP PAIL COVER AND FASTENER.

ice in the buckets, and very often sap is running more or less during a storm and the sap must be thrown away with the water, or wood wasted in boiling water with the sap. After buckets are emptied, colored water will often drip from the overhanging limbs into the buckets. In windy weather, leaves and dirt will blow into the sap and mice, squirrels and insects meet death by drowning. Properly covered sap is always clean and pure. Covers may be made of  $\frac{3}{4}$  in pine or spruce boards 5 or 6 in wide, matched or half lapped together, or plain edges with narrow batten strips, square shape, 2 in wider and longer than the diameter of the top of the bucket, with cleats at each end put on flush with the ends of the boards and on the under side of the cover. Cut a hole in the rim of the bucket large enough to admit a metal spout easily. If a wood spout is used, cut a notch in the top of the

spout to hold the bucket. Take two pieces of wire 2 or 3 in long, according to the kind of spout used, drive them into the center of the end of the cover  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in apart and bend them down, place the cover on the bucket with the wires between the bucket and the tree, slide them down one on each side of the spout; they should be bent to bulge where the spout comes and be  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in apart underneath, the lower points turned out so as to slip on easy. The covers should be painted with white lead and oil, or oiled with hot oil. I am using basswood covers, but pine or spruce would be better.—[Fred J. Johnson, Windham Co, Vt.

### WELL BOILED DOWN.

For tapping, use a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in bit; you will get as much sap as by a  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 1 in bore. Tap old trees 3 in; smaller and secondary growth not over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. The deeper the hole the greater the injury to the tree, as it never fills with new wood. Do not bore directly above or below a former boring, except at quite a distance, no matter how old the scar may be.

After boring the hole, draw the bit forcibly out to clear the hole of any shavings and prevent their souring. The best quality of sugar is made from trees which have more or less elevation and are away from large bodies of water.—[Timothy Wheeler.

Cleanliness and Dispatch are essentials in making prime sugar or syrup. Boiling sap or syrup over any considerable deposit of "niter" is done at the expense of both color and flavor of syrup. Boil to a density of 219 or 220 degrees to get a good precipitate of the carbonate of lime with malic acid in the sap. Use a felt strainer. Do nothing by guess; use thermometer and scales to determine the right density.—[Alpha Messer, Vt.

The Poorer the Quality of maple products the greater their value for adulteration. Producers do not realize half as much for inferior maple products as for a choice article. Ninety per cent of the adulterated syrup is glucose. The demands for pure maple syrup are unlimited.—[Ex-Gov Josiah Groot, Vt.

In Caking maple sugar for market, cook sugar to 238 degrees, later to 242 or 243, because of more foreign substance and less sugar crystals in the sap. Don't ship small cakes in large packages.—[C. D. Whitman.

There Is a Great Difference in the sugar production of maple trees. A maple at Duxbury, Vt. produced 32 lbs sugar in 1 yr; 5 qts sap from a tree at Corinth made 1 lb sugar; another tree ran 1 bbl sap in 24 hours, said Timothy Wheeler. To 't sugar makers' ass'n.

Every Cattleman Needs One—One of the most important of the many "silent revolutions" which have taken place in farm methods in the past decade, has been the change in public sentiment in regard to dehorning cattle. When first practiced it was thought by many to be both cruel and unnecessary. Time and experience have demonstrated beyond question that it is not only a most humane practice, but is also highly profitable to the owner of the stock. The best authorities now endorse dehorning and it is practiced to-day in all the experimental stations and prize dairy herds of the country. Probably no one had more to do with bringing this about than A. C. Brosius of Cochranville, Pa. Early methods of dehorning were both crude and painful. Mr Brosius invented a dehorner in 1892, which has a quick, powerful action and makes a clean, smooth cut. The cutting edges of the blade are applied to four sides of the horn simultaneously, obviating entirely the cruel and painful operation of the straight, rotary or shear principle knives, which always result in more or less crushing or bruising. This dehorner was awarded first prize at the World's fair and has increased in popularity ever since. A beautifully illustrated catalog will be sent readers of F & H who write to the manufacturer for it.

Jumping at Chances—I wanted an early garden, but not having fall plowed and garden being wet threw

# Cured By Swamp-Root.

To Prove What This Great Kidney Remedy Will Do For YOU, Every Reader of "Farm and Home" May Have a Sample Bottle Sent Absolutely Free by Mail.

Among the many famous cures of Swamp-Root investigated by Farm & Home, the one which we publish this week for the benefit of our readers, speaks in the highest terms of the wonderful curative properties of this great kidney remedy.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 30, '99.  
Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:—"During three years I was frequently attacked with severe spells of sickness, many of these sick spells kept me in bed, dangerously ill, from three weeks to three months, under the constant care of the best physicians in Kansas City. The doctors said my kidneys were not affected, but I felt sure they were the cause of my trouble.

"Some doctors pronounced my case gall stones and said I could not live without a surgical operation, to which I would never consent. In May, 1898, I had the most severe attack, then the doctors said I could not live. It was during this illness that a friend suggested I try Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root. I began to take Swamp-Root regularly, and when I had used only three fifty-cent bottles I felt fine and was able to do more work than I had done in four years. It has made a new woman of me. I have only had one slight attack since I began to take Swamp-Root, and that was caused by being drenched with rain and catching cold. This stomach trouble had bothered me for about twenty years and had become chronic. I am now 44 years of age and feel much younger than I did ten years ago. My friends say I am looking

It used to be considered that only urinary and bladder troubles were to be traced to the kidneys, but modern science proves that nearly all diseases have their beginning in the disorders of these most important organs. The kidneys filter and purify the blood—that is their work. So when your kidneys are weak or out of order, you can understand how quickly your entire body is affected and how every organ seems to

## How to Find Out If You Need Swamp-Root.

fall to do its duty.

If you are sick or "feel badly" begin taking the famous new discovery, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, because as soon as your kidneys are well they will help all the other organs to health. A trial will convince you and you may have a sample bottle free for the asking.

Many women suffer untold misery because the nature of their disease is not correctly understood. They are led to believe that womb trouble or female weakness of some sort is responsible for the many ills that beset woman-kind.

Neuralgia, nervousness, headache, puffy or dark circles under the eyes, rheumatism, a dragging pain or dull ache in the back, weakness or bearing down sensation, profuse or scanty supply of urine, with strong odor, frequent desire to pass it night or day, with scalding or burning sensation, sediment in it after standing in bottle or glass for twenty-four hours—these are all unmistakable signs of kidney and bladder trouble.

Other symptoms showing that you need Swamp-Root are sleeplessness, dizziness, irregular heart, breathlessness, sallow, unhealthy complexion, plenty of ambition but no strength.

Swamp-Root is pleasant to take and is used in the leading hospitals, recommended by skillful physicians in their private practice; and is taken by doctors themselves, because they recognize in it the greatest and most successful remedy that science has ever been able to compound.

To prove its wonderful curative properties, send your name and address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., when you will receive, free of all charge a sample bottle of Swamp-Root, also a pamphlet of valuable information pertaining to kidney and bladder troubles, by mail, prepaid. This book contains many of the thousands upon thousands of testimonial letters received from men and women who owe their good health, in fact their very lives, to the wonderful curative properties of this great kidney remedy. Swamp-Root is so remarkably successful that our readers are advised to write for a free sample bottle and to be sure and mention reading this generous offer in Farm and Home.

If you are already convinced that Swamp-Root is what you need you can purchase the regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles at the drug stores everywhere.

soil from a large hotbed at one side of this garden over the nearby surface uniformly 3 in deep. The hotbed soil was naturally rich and as underneath the soil was about 1 ft of well-rotted manure, when all was out and fired we had a garden bed that would produce anything and it was dry, so that we could go at once to work. We planted early peas, radishes, lettuce, onion seed and sets, early tomatoes, spinach and early cabbage. All grew and did wonderfully well and we had an abundance of fresh vegetables for the table long before our more phlegmatic neighbors. Not only did we have all we wanted

younger every day. Five years ago I only weighed 104 pounds; I now weigh 135 pounds. I freely give this testimonial for the benefit of those who have suffered as I have."

MRS. M. E. DALLAM,  
Proprietress of Criswell House,  
211 W. 5th St., Kansas City, Mo.



Swamp-Root will do just as much for any housewife whose back is too weak to perform her necessary work, who is always tired and overwrought, who feels that the cares of life are more than she can stand. It is a boon to the weak and ailing.

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for home use, but sold quite an amount. The early vegetables were followed by later ones, and all the preparation was to plow the ground with the hand-plow or hoe up the top with the hand-hoe. This plot of ground produced bountifully the entire season without any additional manure, only frequent cultivations with wheel and hand hoe.—[A. N. Springer, Tipton Co, Ind.

Beware of process or renovated butter. It is made from spoiled, rancid, poorly made and unsalable butter, made when milk is plentiful and butter cheap.