



CHESTNUT GROWING.

Some Information About Starting in the Industry. People of many and diverse sections are showing a remarkable readiness to catch on to chestnut culture. They want to know all about methods and the possibilities of the enterprise. Jacob Dinges of Pennsylvania has been giving the benefit of his experience to inquirers through The Farm Journal, and he now adds:

First.—I wish to say that in giving my choice kinds (Light Spanish, Paragon and Numbo) I named these as they proved best in our section when raised from seed or obtained from nursery and more especially when grafted on our native scions, supplanting from this that would prove the same elsewhere.

Second.—I do not advise buying trees where it can be avoided. Better to cut native trees and graft the sprouts about the second year, not less than four feet from the ground. Where there are no trees plant nuts in rows and cultivate. At 1 year old transplant carefully to where they are to be permanently, and then graft the second year following.

Third.—If trees are bought, have them carefully taken up and packed, and if they have come a long distance cover them carefully, root and top, in moist sand or light moist soil for a week or more before planting to thoroughly revive them, after which plant with care in holes which had been prepared in the meantime.

Fourth.—I would advise cutting back all top or growing branches that the trees may spread wide and not run high, for it looks likely that these, as well as other fruit trees, will have to be sprayed to get sound fruit, for the grub is on the increase. It will especially be necessary to spray in off years—that is, when the forest chestnuts fall, for then the large varieties are more in demand and higher in price, and if they can be saved from the worms (which are worse then because they have no others to prey on) they will pay well for extra labor.

I would also recommend planting large nuts of foreign varieties, even if they do not come true to name, for these produce a larger stock for grafting. And even when not grafted the nuts will be larger than the natives, and so far as I have yet learned they are well adapted to our different soils and varieties of climate as our native chestnuts.

Grafting may be done by almost any one of good judgment, after closely watching one who thoroughly understands it in cutting and inserting a few grafts.

The Carnation of the Day.

The sensation made by the Lawson \$30,000 carnation has created a sort of carnation mania, recalling the tulip craze which swept the steady-going Hollanders in the seventeenth century. In presenting a sketch of this attraction of the day the New York Herald says it was first exhibited about four years ago in Boston, where it received much attention.

The original plant has been multiplied with the succeeding years, and the flower keeps on winning prizes. Peculiar delicacy, daintiness of coloring, large size and unique arrangement of petals are numbered among its distinguishing points. The plant is said to be a seedling of Yan Leouwin and Daybreak, strong and healthy, with very sturdy stems. The flower is a cerise pink.

Popular favor seems to be gradually attaching itself to this comparatively new fruit. Its many good qualities, which suggest that it should be more widely planted both for home use and market, are commented upon by Professor F. S. Earle, who tells that it grows readily in all parts of Alabama and is a very abundant and constant bearer. It starts into growth quite early in the spring, so that the wood is occasionally injured by late frosts, but the flowers, coming as they do on the new wood of this season's growth, are never killed by cold. Trees begin bearing very young, often the first year after planting. They are of dwarfish habit and may be planted as close as 10 or 12 feet apart each way. They should receive liberal fertilizing and good cultivation to enable them to carry their heavy annual crop. Considerable confusion exists as to the names of varieties of Japanese perennials. Professor Earle's experience indicates Okame, Yeddo Ichi, Costata and Yonaka as the best market kinds.

A Cranky but Excellent Pear. One reason why the Bosc pear is not more largely grown is the difficulty in propagating the stock. This tree has such a cranky, obstinate way of growing that it is very hard indeed to obtain good specimens. It is a pity, too, because this pear carries really the finest flesh of any fruit that grows on a tree, says Rural New Yorker.

CHESTNUT CULTURE.

A Boom Appears to Be Impending in This Industry. Chestnut culture bids fair to be taken up with a vim, and many are the questions asked about it. One query as to the relative size, quality and time of ripening of five important varieties—Paragon, Numbo, Cooper, Scott and Ridgely—is answered in the following very practical manner by The Rural New Yorker, with letters from several growers:

We have fruited only two of the varieties named—Paragon and Numbo. They ripen at about the same time. The Paragon is the more productive, and has no off years. With us Numbo did well, but the previous year our largest tree, about 20 feet high, had only one or two burs, while the Paragon was too full. As to quality, we find Paragon a little sweeter, but not quite as fine grained as Numbo. The latter is a more brilliant, glossy nut than Paragon, but will not average as large.

H. M. ENGLE & SONS. Pennsylvania.

The Paragon and the Numbo are about the same size and general appearance, being about the size of the big foreign chestnut seen on the street stands. In my opinion the Paragon is the best in flavor of any of the varieties of the foreign types which are being offered to the public. It is also quite early.

Foreign types which are being offered to the public are not so early as some of the seedlings of the Japan type. It has the very good characteristic of opening all its burs within a short time, which is of importance in reducing the cost of gathering nuts. Ridgely is a large and profitable nut, but not so large or of as good quality as Paragon, so far as I have tested it. Cooper and Scott I have never tested. H. E. VAN DEKAM. Virginia.

I have neither Cooper nor Scott in my collection of bearing nuts. There is but little difference in time of ripening of the other three, neither have I noticed any material difference in quality. But they vary much in size and productivity and are quite distinct in form of bur and growth of tree. The Paragon is a robust, upright grower, very productive. The burs usually have three large, perfect nuts, but occasionally have as many as seven. Numbo is a very early bearer. A great many of the burs are not filled at all; besides it is a rare thing to find more than one perfect nut in any bur. The Ridgely is much more inclined to the drooping of the limbs. The nuts are not quite so large on an average as either of the others, but it is much more prolific than Numbo. It usually has at least two nuts to the bur. They are all at least a month later than our earliest Japan varieties.—J. W. KILLAN, Delaware.

Sand Sprouted Potatoes.

The horticultural department of the Kansas station has recorded the interesting experiments of two seasons in methods of hastening the growth and maturity of early potatoes. It has succeeded in hastening the growth and maturity of early potatoes by placing whole tubers in shallow boxes filled with sand, setting them blossom end up and one-fourth exposed. The sand sprouted potatoes were ready for use about ten days earlier than those planted in the usual way. In a second experiment sand sprouted potatoes took the lead of some that were sprouted without sand in open boxes, and the latter were ahead of tubers taken from the storage room and not exposed to light till planted. Whole tubers sprouted in rather moist sand and planted about the 25th of March gave the best results and produced about seven to ten days earlier than the same variety planted at the same time, but not so sprouted.

Grapes in Vermont.

Good grapes for home use may easily be grown in Vermont, according to F. A. Waugh. A warm site must be chosen. The canopy of a horizontal arm system furnishes the best method of pruning and trellising. Vines should be covered in the fall. Summer pruning is practicable within narrow limits. Expedient attention must be paid to ripening the fruit. Early varieties must be grown and the fruit left on the vine as long as possible. The following are recommended: Black—Moore's Early, Worden. Red—Moyer, Brighton, Wyoming. White—Green Mountain.

Agricultural Revivites.

In a four seasons' test in the forcing houses at the Geneva (N. Y.) station head lettuce was found to give best results upon a soil of rather compact nature (a clay loam basis) which contained a good proportion of fine sand, clay and silt and was moderately lightened with fairly well rotted horse manure. This experience does not accord with the idea that sandy soils are required for forcing lettuce.

Meadows containing orchard grass should be rolled every year, for the habit of growing in tufts like timothy and meadow fescue is very pronounced, says an Orange Judd Farmer correspondent.

Evans' Triumph is claimed to be the best of the late varieties of celery. The Rural New Yorker has good words for the Triumph radish, a "pleasant little novelty. The skin is pure white, striped horizontally with scarlet. It matures in about 21 days from the date of sowing the seed. The radish is round and small. The tops are dwarf and compact. The flesh is crisp and solid, and it grows so rapidly that the farmer is mild."

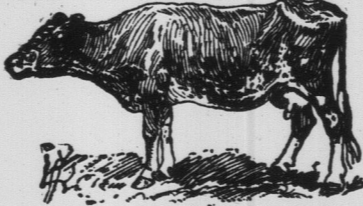
The best practical measure for the prevention of club root in soil that contains the germs is the liberal application of lime.

DAIRY & CREAMERY.

IDEAL DAIRY TYPES.

Interesting Experiments at Storrs College in Connecticut. Professor C. L. Beach of the Storrs Agriculture College of Connecticut gave in Harvard's Dairyman the results of some interesting experiments. The college herd of 55 cows included four registered Jerseys, three Guernseys, four Ayrshires and the balance mostly Jersey and Guernsey grades. The registered cows were selected for the college by committees of breeders of the respective cow breeds and were presented to the college by the herd and its attendant care of the herd are attended to by student labor. While this system offers many advantages to the student, the unavoidable

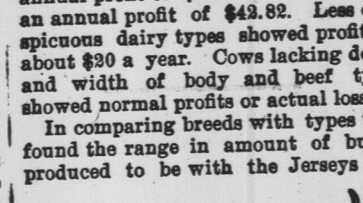
Irregularity is not conducive to the largest yields from the cow. But the management of the herd was governed by the idea of a record for each cow for each lactation. In carrying out this idea a record was kept of the daily milk yield of each cow and the Babcock test for fat; also the hay, silage and grain were weighed out to each cow for each day during the year. With these individual records at hand, the herd becomes of great value to the student in illustrating the types of dairy cows.



COW NO. 1—GRADE GUERNSEY.

In the selection of concentrated feeds they were guided in purchase by the relative price of protein in each. The herd was fed a balanced ration of a nutritive ratio of about 1 to 5. In winter this ration consisted of from 35 to 80 pounds of silage, 8 to 10 pounds of hay and 6 to 12 pounds of grain, the latter varying with the ability of the individual to make good use of it. In summer, with scanty pasturage, soiling crops were supplied and some grain fed. The best results were obtained from two cows characterized as very spare, with deep bodies and well sprung ribs. They approximated in form very nearly the ideal dairy type, and in addition to this form were persistent milkers. In 1897 cow No. 1, after having been in milk one year and 466 pounds of milk, set a record of 466 pounds of milk. Cow No. 2 presented an attempt to dry her off. Cow No. 1 showed an annual profit of \$40.48 and cow No. 2 an annual profit of \$48.82. Cows lacking depth and width of body and best types showed normal profits or actual losses.

In comparing breeds with types they found the range in amount of butter produced to be with the Jerseys 871.



COW NO. 2—JERSEY.

Ayrshires 266, or a difference of 105 between the types in lowest. The variation due to type is 278 pounds. In a similar way the range in the cost of one pound of butter between the breeds is 4 cents, while the range between the types is 12 cents. The range in net profit between breeds is \$16.35, while the range between types is \$41.07.

We may conclude, then, says Professor Beach, that the cow that produces more than the average in milk and butter will determine the ability of a cow to produce butter economically. The following prices were charged for feed per ton: Rowen, \$10; mixed hay, \$10; corn stover, \$6; silage, \$8; silage, \$8; pasture, \$3; gluten, \$18.50; cottonseed meal, \$22; linseed oil meal, \$25.

Feeding Cows Too Much Grain.

Cows differ much in their ability to make profitable use of the grain fed them. Those which have the best tendency strongly developed will at once begin to fatten on grain, unless it is fed in moderate amounts and combined with a large amount of succulent food. Those who have enlarged or roots, especially beet or mangel wurtzel, can feed more grain to cows and have the fat go to the milk pail than those who only have dry feed. It is not safe to feed a farrow cow much grain, nor yet one that is near the time to drop her calf, as it will stimulate the milk glands too much and probably cause garget. Yet it is an advantage to give her in pretty good form at the time she carries the inside fat she then carries will mostly be used up in enriching the milk the following summer.—Boston Cultivator.

Cows and Sunlight.

Cows like sunlight, especially in winter. Be sure, therefore, to provide plenty of windows, even if the first cost does exceed the wall space they occupy it is money well spent. Plenty of light promotes cleanliness by bringing all dirt and prominent stains. Darkness and dirt are congenial partners.

THE "TROOPING OF THE COLOR."

INVENTION OF THIS PARADE ATTRIBUTED TO DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.

Originally Instituted to Detect Unsteadiness on the Part of Officers Who Had Been Up All Night, It Has Come to Be One of the Most Magnificent Sights of the World.

The "trooping of the color," usually designated "trooping the colors," has been the occasion of a military display on the occasion of the sovereign's birthday since the time of George II. (1737-60). The invention of this parade is attributed to the Duke of Cumberland, Colonel of the First Foot Guards. It is said that this commanding officer proposed to be of the night's vigils, the parade, in these days being held at the uncomfortable hour of 6 in the morning. The Duke therefore devised manoeuvres that required a straight line to his post, the least irregularity being easily detected. The object of this parade is to test the steadiness of his officers, who showed plainly that they had scarcely recovered from the night's vigils, the parade, in these days being held at the uncomfortable hour of 6 in the morning. The Duke therefore devised manoeuvres that required a straight line to his post, the least irregularity being easily detected. 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