

of a few green leaves around the edges makes a pleasing contrast with the fruit, sure to attract the eyes of intending purchasers sooner than fruit carelessly arranged.

All freshly planted trees will require mulching if the season is very dry; a pail of water occasionally will prove beneficial. Do not use any liquid manure, but plain water, as the roots are not in a condition to want any strong food.

This will be just the time to get after the lice, as the newly hatched insects are now moving about the trunk and branches. Lime wash will prove as useful an agent for destroying them as anything else. Have an eye after the currant worms, as they make their appearance very early on the young growth. Dust hellebore liberally when the dew is on; this will necessitate a little early rising, but this is healthy for you, though not for the currant worm. Hellebore either in a dry or liquid state is an indispensable article with the careful fruit grower, as it is sufficiently poisonous for the majority of insects which infest the garden, and is not dangerous to handle.

The curculio, that great enemy to plum culture, commences its operations when the fruit begins to set. There are a great number of ingenious devices to catch the "little codger," but we think the following simple method of dealing with it the best: Make the ground under your trees very clean and smooth, spreading on it a large sheet prepared for the purpose. Then give a sudden jar to the tree, which will bring down the stung fruit and some of the "animals." These should be immediately destroyed. This does not take long, and if followed up, will ensure a good crop of this beautiful fruit.

The early part of this month will be found quite soon enough for the planting out of a great many flowers, such as geraniums, verbenas, heliotropes, lantanas, annuals, dahlias, &c.

Summer Pruning may be done from the middle of the month till the 1st of September. We consider it the best time for the thinning out of trees. Cuts now made do not bleed, and soon callous over. Make your preparations to commence budding early in July, when we hope to illustrate and fully describe this method of propagating trees. By this means parties who have small lots and no room for a great variety of kinds, can bud several on one tree, and thus enjoy by this art what their limited grounds will not allow.

Land plaster has a beneficial effect on young trees, applied on the foliage in the same manner as on the meadow.

Keep the hoes going. Weeds will grow and get the start of you if you are not watchful.

"A stitch in time saves nine."

Hints to Dairymen—No. 5.

Written for the Farmer's Advocate, by J. Seabury.

Colonel Waring, in his remarks on corn fodder, "Ogden Farm Papers," says:—"Sowed corn-fodder is trash, no matter what the variety, nor what the quality or richness of the soil." This, no doubt, will astonish at least some of the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, but when we come to consider the matter carefully we will find that the Colonel is right in his assertion. Every dairyman knows that wood-land pasture is very little use, and that the cows will not touch it when they can get good pasture in the open field; every one has also noticed that grass growing under shade trees if not trodden down is allowed to grow rank, while all in the vicinity is eaten off close. No doubt dairymen have also noticed when feeding their sowed corn that where it has grown very rank the cows did not care as much for it as where it grew much thinner and not so rank. The reason

of this is from the simple fact that the latter has had more sunlight and air, two very essential things in the growth and development of the nutritive properties of plants, and most certainly necessary to the full development of the saccharine properties in the corn. This alone would be a very strong argument in favor of sowing in drills, to say nothing of the saving of labor in cutting up, besides it can be well worked with the cultivator and hoed if necessary. It is a well-known fact that grass is the most natural food for the cow and in substituting something else we must aim to give her the most nutritive food and that which can be readily converted by her into milk. There is no crop that a dairyman can raise to better advantage than a good piece of corn sown thickly in drills on a good rich piece of land. Every dairyman should sow from one to five acres. The easiest and best way to put it in is to take a plow (after the land has been well prepared with the cultivator and harrow) and make a mark, say two or three inches deep and the distance apart that you want your drills; into this sow the seed thickly with the hand and harrow down lengthwise of the drills. As high as 30 to 40 thousand pounds of grain and 10 to 12 of dried has been grown per acre. It can be sown any time from the 20th of May (or earlier according to locality) up to the first of July. Many dairymen sow at different times, so as to come in when wanted. Don't fail to sow a piece, even if small, and you will be surprised at the result. The Colonel concludes his remarks on corn by saying:—"Give it plenty of sun and it will give back plenty of nourishment."

Keep a close watch on your meadows, picking up all sticks and stones, and rolling down smoothly for the mower. If they are clover or part clover they should have a top-dressing of plaster or some other artificial manure. This, if it should prove a dry summer, will repay the farmer 100 per cent. on his investment, besides being a great assistance to the aftergrowth, either for feeding or mowing. If there is any prospect of a light crop prepare to meet the deficiency by sowing some green crop. If you have not a suitable piece of land, mow a piece of your lightest meadow and turn over well and sow to corn, oats and peas, or some other crop. Many dairymen sow spring wheat, which is said to be excellent, but there is nothing equal to the western corn for a good large yield of feed. If many dairymen would take this precaution it would save them many dollars which they have to pay out for hay or other feed in the spring. There is a great diversity of opinion as to the proper time for cutting hay, but in my opinion the best time is when the plant is in full bloom. The most competent jury a dairyman can submit this question to is his own stock, and I feel certain they will return a unanimous verdict in favor of the early cut hay. As I remarked before, the most natural food for the cow is grass, and the dairyman to be successful with his stock must endeavor to have his winter feed as near that as possible. A great many run away with the idea that because the cattle eat the well cured early cut hay more readily, and will eat more of it, that there is a waste about it and that it does not go so far. They should bear in mind that cattle or cows fed with it require little other feed, and, also, let them note the difference in the condition of cows that are fed on early cut hay and those which are fed on hay that the seed has fallen from. What herb doctor would think of letting his herbs remain until dead ripe before cutting them? He gathers them while in blossom, from the simple fact that they are much stronger than when allowed to get ripe. The same will apply to the early cut hay, the nutritive properties are in a soluble and digestible condition, whereas, if allowed to stand and

ripen a portion of this becomes converted into woody fibre and thus lost.

As a general thing, pastures are allowed to take care of themselves, whereas they should have a certain amount of attention. The weeds and foul grasses should be kept down, and if there is any portion of the field that has grown rank it should be mown off. There is a great diversity of opinion about pastures; some writers are of the opinion that to make a good pasture it should not be broken up at all; others, that it should be renewed every few years by breaking up and reseeding. My opinion is that it altogether depends on the kind of soil and the locality. The dairyman must study the nature of his soil and under what treatment it will yield him the largest returns, not only in pasture, but all kinds of crops. He should be continually watching the growth and yield of his crops and dairy, and study in what way he can increase that growth and yield. The larger his crops and the better the yield of his dairy are, just in that proportion does he lessen the cost of production, and just in that proportion is he realizing higher prices for his goods. If dairymen would only make this point a study and use their pencil and memorandum book in making a few calculations by the rule of proportion it would be the means of creating an interest in their work. Farmers and dairymen as a class are stubborn to learn. This is a progressive age and those who allow themselves to fall in the rear must be content to occupy second-rate positions and to be satisfied with small pecuniary rewards. Notwithstanding all the improvements in nearly every department of farming, little has been effected by way of inducing farmers and dairymen to perform their business operations in a more systematic manner by keeping a regular record and account of their farm operations and business generally. I don't suppose there is more than one in fifty who keep regular accounts, or have any idea what their expenses are, or what their various crops cost them to grow, either separate or otherwise. They have not the remotest idea what crop pays them best. They do not know whether it will pay them best to raise wheat at 90c. per bushel or peas and barley at 60c. They have no idea what a bushel of wheat or a pound of beef cost them, it is all guess work. Now, in my opinion, it is just as necessary and just as easy for the farmer or dairyman to know what his products cost him and whether he is making or losing in certain crops as it is for the merchant to know what his profits were for the past year, and which line of goods paid him and which did not. If they would go into this thing carefully, no matter how rude the first attempt might be, they would be surprised at the results, and it would furnish food for thought and set him thinking. For instance, a farmer may be raising some crop which costs him 10c. per bushel more than he is realizing for it, but as he keeps no account he does not know it; again he may be raising some other crop which is paying him 10c. or 15c. per bushel over cost and yet he is ignorant of the fact and goes on raising that which is costing him more than it nets him. Every one should carry a pocket diary and make a note of what he is doing each day, state of the weather, money received, money paid out, sales of produce of any kind, stock, &c., and all purchases, bargains made, engagements of hired men, &c. From this pocket diary he should copy into a good large book all the items in full, with full notes and remarks on any subject. This book alone, if carefully kept, he will find of very great use, and very interesting after a few years. And what farmer or dairyman is there that cannot keep such a book? From this book he can carry out a simple set of books if he wishes, posting all the necessary items into a ledger.