

Poultry, Farm And Garden Helps



FRUIT AND BERRIES FOR HOME GARDENS

Surprising Variety Can Be Planted on a Quarter of an Acre Plot.

HOW TO CHOOSE LIST.

Dwarf Trees Recommended for Small Places: Plums Are Ornamental.

By THE COUNTRYMAN.

The grounds of a country place, even though they be little more than a backyard, are not complete without fruit. If only small fruits, such as berries, many fruit trees and bushes are quite as decorative as shrubs, and when in bloom they usually surpass the beauty of ornamental plants. Leastways they have a natural beauty, which some gardeners prefer to formal landscape plantings.

The practical side of the question is all in favor of the fruit, not alone because home-grown fruit is a measure of economy, but because it should be better in quality, particularly in the case of berries, which are highly perishable.

Where space is limited, as on many suburban grounds, cross and bushes may be planted about the edges, after the fashion of landscape gardening, and dwarf trees may be substituted for standard trees. Dwarfs can be planted close to boundaries, and will not trespass on adjoining properties. Grape vines can be trained over the back porch and fence. Beds of strawberries can be started close to the foundations of the house, or used as borders to the vegetable garden.

Fruit on Quarter-Acre Plot
If there is ample room, as in the rear of a deep lot, it is best perhaps to devote a small tract entirely to the fruit garden, because cultivation is made easier. And it is amazing what fruit can be set out in a plot 100 feet square, which area constitutes approximately one-quarter acre. It gives room for about twenty-five trees, some of them dwarfs, as in the case of apples and pears; some quince trees, which are naturally small; about ten grape vines, ten gooseberry bushes, twenty currant bushes, 100 strawberry plants, and about 300 linear feet of raspberries and blackberries. The trees may consist of five each of peach, plum, cherry, dwarf apple and dwarf pear.

An old-fashioned flower garden flanked on two sides by dwarf fruit trees and bushes make an ideal combination for the person who delights in gardening, but who is least inclined toward growing vegetables. Certainly this combination produces the most beauty, but the cash dividends are not so great, unfortunately.

Soil and the lay of the land have much to do with the success of a fruit garden. In most instances the suburbanite has little choice as to a location. His yard is either suitable or not suitable, and undoubtedly many suburban places have neither the soil nor the location for profitable fruit-growing. This is particularly true of low, wet locations, because all fruits require soil that is well-drained to a considerable depth.

If the ground has a slope, preferably to the south, which usually indicates sufficient drainage, and if the soil has been brought to a fair state of productiveness by cultivation of some sort, or if the ground, however flat or low, is if a light sandy loam with a porous subsoil, which insures drainage, it is safe to undertake fruit-growing.

Hints on Selecting Varieties
The nurseryman's or seedman's catalogue is a valuable aid in choosing the varieties for a fruit garden, but here is a tip worth bearing in mind while making your selection: Don't be influenced by the names which are said to be the most popular with commercial orchardists. Remember that they are producing market fruits, those which are handsome, ship well and keep well, whose virtues are frequently obtained at the expense of flavor and all-round quality. The home orchardist wants flavor and hardness above everything else, and to be sure of these qualities he had better stick to the plain varieties.

Among the apples which are sure to find favor we have the familiar names: Baldwin, Yellow Transparent, Jonathan, Northern Spy, Greening, Winesap, Ben Davis, Wealthy and Red Astrachan. The dwarf varieties include many of these, too.

Bartlett, Seckel and Duchess. The latter is the best dwarf apple. Kieffer is the market pear for canning.

Peaches are probably the most popular fruit for home orcharding because they take up less room than apples and because they come into bearing at an early age. The early sorts are Greensboro and Crawford. The Elberta is the favorite late peach.

Cherry trees are especially suited to backyard gardening because they need little pruning or spraying and are surprisingly hardy. The sour cherry, of which the Early Richmond and Montmorency are the two best varieties, will flourish even in a city lot under the most adverse conditions. Some desirable sweet cherries are the Lambert, Napoleon and Black Tartarian. Birds and small boys are the worst enemies of the cherry.

Japanese Plums Are Ornamental
Plums are among the oldest fruits in cultivation, many of which, particularly the Japanese, are extremely ornamental and worthy of a place in the landscape of any home. The Burbank, which makes a small spreading growth, is very desirable in this respect, and will yield a good supply of fruit. The Abundance and Lombard are two other widely grown varieties.

Grapes are among the most accommodating plants, easily grown under varying conditions. The Concord and Worden are the favorite black grapes; a vine or two of Niagara or Diamond, both white, will add variety; the little red Delaware is nice, and don't overlook the Regal.

Now for the smaller fruits. Berries in general thrive best where there is plenty of moisture, especially gooseberries and currants. These bushes can be set out in the corners and odd places or as hedges. Red currants are the sweetest, which means a saving in sugar. The Downing and Houghton are the well-known American gooseberries.

Raspberries and blackberries do well on any soil adapted to gardening. For the small garden trellises will prove a big advantage in keeping the canes under control and out of the way of the cultivator. Black raspberries require more room than red ones. The St. Regis is a well-known red variety, an early producer and called everbearing because it is supposed to yield fruit all summer. In the majority of times, however, it produces two crops—spring and autumn. The Cuthbert, Syracuse and Herbert are other dependable sorts. The Cumberland and Kansas are black raspberries.

Blackberries are planted and cultivated much the same as raspberries. The Snyder, Eldorado and Blowers rank among the best.

It is convenient to choose enough variety in the strawberry plants to provide a succession of fruit throughout the season. Corsican, Klondike, Excelsior and Lady Thompson berries are widely grown.

Fruit trees are set out either in the fall or early spring. The fall is preferable.

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HATCHING DEATHS CAN BE REDUCED

Development of Embryo Depends Upon the Amount of Evaporation.

POSITION OF AIR CELL.

Remove Chicks From Under Hens: Do Not Meddle With Incubator Door.

By H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS.

If hatching eggs are held more than a couple of days it is well to turn or alter their position once a day. In so doing the yolk is kept aloft in about the center of the albumen or white, where it belongs, supported by the density of the white.

When eggs are allowed to remain in one position for a considerable time their yolks are likely to gravitate to the membrane lining the shells and to adhere to these linings, which condition seriously interferes with the development of the embryos.

Revolving cabinets are made for holding hatching eggs. They are very convenient. The eggs are packed in the cabinet which is revolved as desired. Similar results can be obtained, however, by packing the eggs in cartons or ordinary egg crates, which are turned over from side to side each day.

If possible, it is well to avoid hatching brown-shelled eggs and white-shelled eggs in the same incubator or under the same hen, inasmuch as the former require from twelve to twenty-four hours longer to produce chicks. This is due to the fact that the brown egg has a much thicker shell, consequently more time is needed for the heat to penetrate it.

All egg shells vary in thickness, however, whether white or brown, which variation, in conjunction with the variations in the ages of eggs, likely to cause an uneven hatch.

Remove Chicks from Restless Hens
When greatly uneven hatches occur under hens, particularly if the hens are found to be restless, it may be advisable to remove the early chicks as soon as they have dried off and to place them in a basket lined with some soft warm material and to place this basket in a warm corner indoors. Otherwise the hens may neglect the delayed eggs or in remaining on them they may trample and kill some of the early-hatched chicks.

No particular attention need be paid to uneven hatches in the incubator. It is well to let the chicks remain in the incubator for about twenty-four hours anyhow, and in the majority of times the early chicks will find their way into the nursery compartment, thereby relieving any congestion on the egg trays.

The incubator operator is cautioned not to meddle with the machine while the eggs are pipping. Needless opening of the door at this time has injured many hatches. It permits the escape of moisture, which is essential to the work of breaking the shells. In a dry atmosphere the egg membranes become exceedingly tough and resist the efforts of the chicks to free themselves.

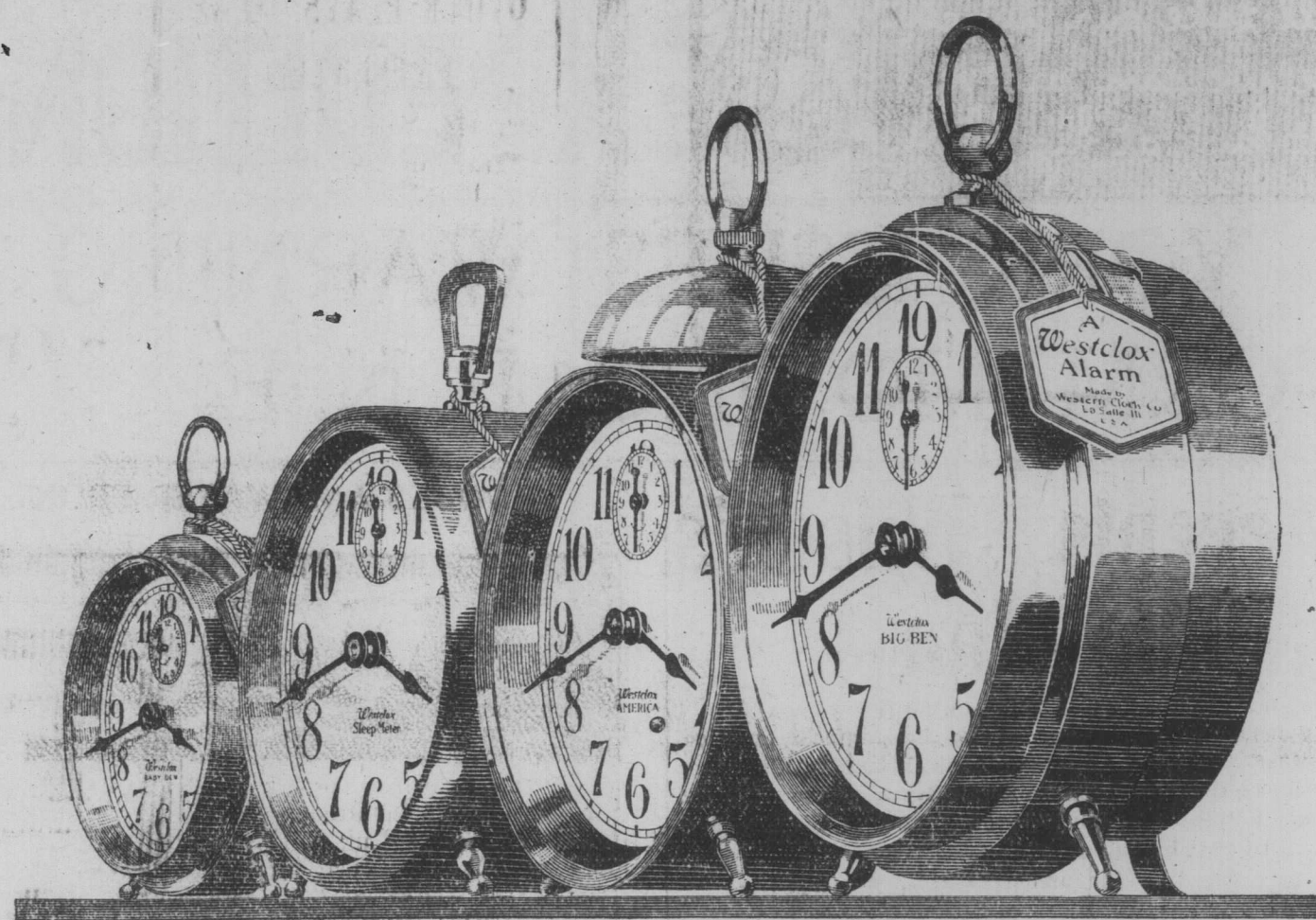
Setting hens sometimes break an egg or two, which damage is sure to mess things up for the rest of the eggs. Rather than allow the hatch to go on with some of the eggs thickly coated with the contents of the broken eggs it is best to make some effort to clean them. Scrape them with a knife blade; this will remove the bulk of the damage and expose the surface of the shells to the air, which is the most important consideration.

Reasons for "Dead in the Shell."
Where a great deal of moisture is maintained the embryo will be large. In fact, if the moisture is excessive the embryo is likely to be so large that at hatching time it completely fills the egg, in which event the chick has great difficulty in turning round inside the shell in order to pip an opening.

It will be observed that the chick pips the shell in a circle at the large end, the air-cell end, of the egg, a task that requires considerable effort, after which it rests. Then, making a supreme effort, the chick attempts to straighten out its body, and thus spreads the two divisions of the shell and is liberated.

If a chick cannot turn round inside the shell by reason of its size, or exhausts itself in so trying, even though it pips a small hole, it soon dies, and thus contributes toward that great

ferred for trees, whereas spring is a cool season for berries. Buy from a reliable nurseryman, who stands back of his goods. Nothing is more discouraging than working with inferior plants.



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Small Chicks Blows Ineffective

The embryo of diminutive size, usually resulting from undue evaporation, which in turn is due to insufficient moisture in the egg chamber or in the nest of the sitting hen, is equally given the chick too much space for its blows to become effective.

Then, too, it sometimes happens that the air cell develops in the small end of the egg or on one side, instead of in the large end of the egg, which is normal. In most cases of this sort, it should be about the size of a quarter. By the nineteenth day it should occupy approximately one-third the contents of the egg.

From this discussion it can be understood why the long egg or extremely round egg is unsuitable for hatching. The former would contract the chick and make turning difficult or impossible, while the latter would give the chick too much space for its blows to become effective.

It seems impossible to furnish any hard and fast rules on the subject of moisture. Much depends upon the make of incubator, its location, the season of the year, climate and the humidity of the atmosphere at the time of the hatch. In general, the operating instructions which accompany an incubator should form a guide and the eggs may be examined from time to time during the first week to ascertain the extent of the air cell, which is the gauge of evaporation.

At the end of three days the diameter of the air cell should be about the size of a dime. At the end of a week it should be about the size of a quarter. By the nineteenth day it should occupy approximately one-third the contents of the egg.

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