

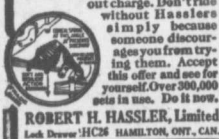
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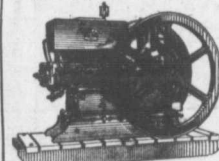
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Orchard and Garden

Insecticide for Potat Beetles

POTATO growers in Canada who have extensive acreage, might save money by using the insecticide sodium arsenite, which is so largely used by Maine growers. This can be made up at home by boiling one pound white arsenic and one pound of soda in one gallon of water until dissolved. One-half gallon of this is equal in poisoning value to one pound of Paris Green. It should never be used, however, except in conjunction with Bordeaux mixture. Otherwise it will kill the foliage badly. Where large acreage is being grown it would be worth while giving this a trial.

Good Strawberries

A FEW years ago a young chap came out from the city and bought a few acres of ground on the corner of one of our large farms. He built a little shack for his wife and himself and started to grow strawberries. We all wished him well, admired his pluck, but shook our heads doubtfully when we discussed his prospects.

The other day I cranked up the Ford and went over to get a crate of berries from him. I never saw such berries. Large, luscious and firm, they were a delight to the eye and palate. I went out into the patch and found that the berries I had purchased were not especially picked. They were just a fair sample of an abundant crop. It was the first time I had been on the little farm since it was purchased and I had gone expecting to find it a waste of space. To my surprise, I stayed to learn how to grow strawberries, for the green city man of a few years before, I found, had developed into an expert gardener.

I found that he was nothing special in the methods followed. The plants were set out in rows four feet apart and about 18 or 20 inches apart in the row. They were then given thorough good cultivation. In the first season, never a weed being allowed to show itself and, when the ground had frozen in the fall, they were covered six or seven inches deep with straw manure. I believe that this manure has as much as anything to do with the success of my young friend in growing strawberries. When it is raised off between the rows in the spring, a considerable amount of litter is still left between the plants. This keeps the berries away from the soil and at the same time conserves moisture and induces a rank growth. This young farmer has now acquired a team of horses, a few dairy cows and a lot of expert knowledge of fruit growing. I for one am now willing to prophesy for him a successful future as a farmer.—F. R. E.

Renewing the Strawberry Plantation

By J. C. Hoffman.

THERE are several methods of renewing a strawberry bed, and these depend on the way the plants were originally set. Most garden strawberry patches are originally set and trained for the mature row system, but if neglected they become a matted bed. This reduces size, flavor, and quality in the berries, and makes it difficult to pick them. To overcome, or guard against this condition, the plants must be kept thinned out and healthy.

For a small garden patch, thinning is a difficult task, and consists only in removing the excess plants. This is done by the use of hand tools such as the common hoe or spade. Some sort of cultivator should be used first to tear up as many plants as possible, then the remaining ones that are not to be saved are cut out by hand. The plants to be saved are left in a narrow row where the original row was planted. From this

row, the weak and old plants are removed and destroyed, thus leaving only the strongest and most vigorous plants properly spaced to form the basis of the new bed.

The plants selected to remain should be young ones, and preferably those that have never borne a crop. The cultivation and fertilization operations are the same as for a new plantation.



Poultry Secrets

By Michael K. Boyer.

IT is remarkable how people will hang on to old-time superstitions, and how many theories they have which they safely guard as "secrets." It was not long ago that the writer was told that there never would be a "p-or hatch" if a horse shoe was placed in the bottom of the nest. My informant believed it, too, and said he tested the matter for years!

Another wrote that he discovered a secret to increase egg production. He used about a half dozen of China eggs in each nest. "The hens, seeing such a large number of eggs at once determine to increase the pile, and accordingly add to it. He said this secret never failed!

Another writes: "I have a real secret always set your hens in the full of the moon. It means a big hatch." As the moon gets full but once a month, the hen can hatch and start brooding her young before the next hatch starts.

Another: "Hens become poor layers in houses that are painted red." As red is the color that adorns all the buildings of the farm of the writer it will now be in order to have the color changed—to green, for instance. Another: "Eggs will not beat up well if they are laid by unmated hens. My mother says she cannot beat up such eggs to a froth." My! What an injustice we poultrymen have practised all these years!

Another: "Hens won't begin to lay until you mate them." That's news, indeed, but what on earth has started our hens to lay?

Another: "You can tell the sex of the egg by its shape, or rather its shell condition." He said he selected 200 rooster eggs, and when they hatched there was but one pullet, and he is sure the egg producing it was a fraud. He also selected 50 pullet eggs which hatched 50 pullets. He says the pullet eggs are smooth on the ends, while the rooster eggs have a zigzag mark or quirt on one end.

Another: The way to tell eggs that are impregnated, is to hold the egg with one hand, the large end upward, near a lamp or candle, in front of the eye, and then bring the other hand, with the fingers half closed, down over it, and the incubation spot will be clearly seen on the yolk."

There are still another who bemoan the fate of their eggs should a thunder storm come up during the progress of incubation.

And so on might be mentioned scores of similar foolish beliefs.

But bona fide secrets do exist. Men in all vocations of life, if they carefully study their subjects, and follow out the dictates of their work, will sometimes come across a method that will help them to succeed. Such methods, after thoroughly tested, evolve themselves into secrets. It is not unusual, however, to find that someone else has had the same idea, and is working along the same line.

A publishing firm some time ago advertised to pay a certain sum for real bona fide secrets of the feeding but. The writer was delighted to be the judge. Fully 500 replies were received, and of these easily 300 referred to "a cure

for cholera," "a cure for rages," "methods for destroying lice," and "cure for every known ailment." The text of the majority of their replies were ridiculous—even recommending "ecroactive sublimite in the drinking water" for chicks afflicted with cholera.

The poultry world wants good, bona fide secrets—secrets in feeding, secrets in housing, secrets in breeding, secrets in management, secrets in successful operation. But there is no need for secrets in fighting disease. It is far better to know how to keep fowls well than to endeavor to cure sick fowls.

Men who are in the business because they find great interest in it, will soon discover a secret, but they may not get to that point until they have reached years of discretion. When such men as Welch, Williams, Rankin, Zinsner, and others, who have been identified with poultry for from 30 to 50 years, declare they are "learning every day a secret," it follows that there is little to be learned by the beginner becoming the possessor of a great secret of his own finding.

If the beginner will start out with the determination of covering every detail, and gradually improve his methods, he will eventually find a secret, but it may take him ten, yes, 30 years to do so, just like it took Welch, and Rankin, and Williams, and scores of other veterans.

Use of Leg Bands

IT is now an axiom of poultry craft that hens are most profitable during their second laying season, and, comparatively speaking, not profitable at all from then on. Many owners of the poultry business have a rule to change their entire flock at least every other season. In our own flock we have found it most profitable to keep the birds for just one laying season, and then carrying over on a breeding flock into the second year.

Where the pullets and hens run together as is the case in all farm flocks such as ours and in grocery store flocks, it is well, there is always great difficulty in distinguishing the hens from the pullets when the former are to be disposed of. It is a skilled poultryman indeed who can make this separation without making more than a few mistakes. The difficulty can be easily overcome, however, by the use of leg bands. There are two types of leg bands, the one made of wire, and the other of metal. The wire bands are commonly used, the colored celluloid band and the nickel plated strap band. The latter band is the more durable, but it takes longer to put on and it has the disadvantage that each hen or pullet may be picked up by the leg band examined before the age of the fowl can be determined. Celluloid leg bands are available in many different colors, and if the pullets of each year are banded when they go into the laying houses in the fall with bands of a different color, the age can be determined even at a distance and the problem of separating the older birds when the time comes to dispose of them is solved.—J. L. P.

Grain for the Calf

WHEN skim-milk is substituted for whole milk in feeding the calf something needs to be added to replace the butter fat removed in the creaming. One of the best methods of doing this is by adding good advantage. It is better cracked than ground fine. Bran is good and ground oats are splendid. A mixture is better than just one of them. The calf will be better when two to three weeks old, and should have access to it. The best way to feed grain is dry, and care should be taken not to allow any of it to be lost in the corners of the feeding but as it will sour and may cause digestive troubles. Boiled ground flax seed is also used with skim-milk to make up for the fat removed.—N. D. A. G.

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