

Value of Timber.

In America, as well as in Europe, the destruction of forests has, for some time, been a subject of anxious consideration. In Europe, the value of timber has been better appreciated than in this Western World, where the great object was, until lately, to cut down the timber, and clear the ground for the plow. But extensive as were the forests, they have given way to the incessant clearing, and now great endeavors are made to clothe the naked ground with trees. From the *Western Farm Journal* we make the following extract of an article on "The Value of Timber":—

That the cultivation of timber is remunerative there is no longer reason to doubt. Any person can satisfy himself of this by visiting the many groves and belts now to be found in any of the older settled portions of the country, where the cost may be figured, and the cords of wood or cubic feet of timber per acre may be very easily estimated.

Where we live, cottonwoods planted sixteen years ago, along the street, will now measure from 16 to 22 inches in diameter near the ground, and will average nearly a cord per tree if felled. Had they been planted 16 feet apart, and kept free of weeds for three years, their average would have been about 16 inches each in diameter, and they would have made over one-half cord each of wood; certainly 80 cords per acre. Wild cherry, planted at the same time, are twelve inches through near the ground.

A row of balsam firs, planted eight feet apart for a wind-break, are from nine to fourteen inches through, about forty feet high, and so thickly clothed from the ground up that a man cannot separate the branches to break through them. A Norway Spruce, standing single, is thirty feet high, and fourteen inches through near the ground, the branches regular from the roots up, and of a circumference of sixty feet.

A black walnut of the same age is thirteen inches through near the ground, and a white walnut—butternut—is of the same diameter; both have borne regular crops—a half bushel each per year—for the last six years. Golden willow are twenty inches in diameter of trunk, and linden twelve years planted are eleven inches in diameter.

Thus we see that hard wooded timber will, in this time, be large enough for any of the ordinary uses of the farm, and that soft and fast-growing timber, will, in from twelve to sixteen years, become large trees, and will be worth for fuel, in any region where fuel is scarce, fully \$350 per acre for cord wood.

White willow will grow nearly as fast as cottonwood, and is an excellent substitute for hardwood for fuel and rails, until better can be grown.

A good deal has been said, first and last, about the nuisance of planting lines of trees along the road-side as wind-breaks; that thus they cause snow to lodge in the road, often rendering it impassable in winter, and keeping it wet and mirey for a long time in the spring.

Another objection, and in many cases a serious one, is, that crops suffer for three or four rods next them may be pasture or meadow. Grass will do fairly next trees where other crops will not. Why? Simply because there is generally moisture enough in the spring and fall for the grass, but the roots of trees in the summer absorb a large share of the moisture, to the detriment of crops of grain, and especially corn.

How, then, shall we obviate snow-drifts from roadside plantings?

Either by planting at such distance, and of such trees as create but little impediment to the wind, or else by planting lines of sufficient width to catch the snow within their own area.

Trees planted at a distance of from thirty to sixty feet, with the limbs sufficiently high to allow the passage of teams under them, do not collect drifts.

Lines of trees for wind-breaks should be sixty to one hundred feet in breadth; thus they will catch the snow-fall and drift within their own shade.

The great mistake made by railway companies in planting along the line of their roads is, the lines of trees have not been of sufficient width to catch the snow, but have, in many instances, allowed it to sift through and fill the very cuts they were intended to protect.

Now protection from drifts would have been certainly accomplished if either deciduous trees, or better, evergreens, had been planted in strips of sixty to one hundred and fifty feet wide, according to the annual snow-fall and experience, the latter width being sufficient for any climate except some mountainous districts.

Verbenas from Seed.

Those who are limited for room in their green-houses, and still like to make a good show of bedding plants as possible during the summer months, will find it by far the best plan to raise their stock of verbenas from seed. This can be easily done in the following manner:—Take a few seed pans, and, if these be not at hand, a few shallow boxes will suffice quite as well (if the latter be selected, some holes must be made in the bottoms), cover over the bottom with some broken crocks, and fill it to within about half an inch of the top with a light mixture of rotten loam, leaf mould, and a good dash of silver sand; make the surface level, and press it a little, so that when watered it will not sink. On this surface the seeds should be evenly sown, and then covered over with a light mixture of the same soil that they are sown on; they should be watered with a pot that has fine holes, and then placed in the greenhouse close to the glass, and if put so they will receive a little bottom heat, so much the better. They should not be allowed to get dry, but still never over water them, as that would be much more fatal. When strong enough the plants should be potted off, and so grown on till it is time to stand them out to harden off before being put into the beds in which they are to bloom. When verbenas are about to be raised in this way the seed should always be purchased of some good seedsman to ensure the varieties being good. Pctunias can also be raised in a similar manner.—*A. Hasard, in the Garden.*

Value of Trees in Towns.

Mr. Griffiths, the Medical Officer of Health for Sheffield, in his report of the sanitary condition of that town during 1874, makes the following remarks in reference to street trees:—In the formation of new streets, and on the eve of the contemplated widening and alteration of old ones, it is to be hoped that an effort may be made to provide for the planting and establishment of trees wherever practicable. The pleasing appearance of verdure in summer, and the agreeableness of the shade afforded by the foliage to pedestrians, are benefits to the inhabitants well worth the effort and the cost. Whoever has visited the boulevards of continental towns, or even the squares of London can testify to the advantages of verdure as offering pleasure to the eye and gratification to the mind. Moreover, from a sanitary point of view, the benefits are of incalculable value. It has been asserted that the aggregate surfaces of the leaves of well grown elm, lime and sycamore trees, with their six to seven million leaves, equal to about 200,000 square feet, or about five acres; and these are almost constantly absorbing and digesting the carbonic acid and various exhalations given off by the putrefaction of animal and vegetable matter, and, as if grateful for such support, return into the air pure oxygen, which reinvigorates and renews animal life. Trees thus remove poison from our midst, and to be without them is an oversight. Trees can be had which will exist, with suitable attention, in any part of the city.

In reply to the request of "An Old Subscriber," we give two methods of removing stumps. Though our fields are becoming pretty well cleared up, there is much to be done yet in clearing land and removing stumps.

REMOVING STUMPS.—A friend asks us what can be done to get rid of stumps in fields—whether crude oil would not cause the stumps to burn readily. In our experience, we have found it preferable to remove stumps with machines made for that purpose, and burn them afterwards, if desired. It is slow work burning isolated stumps in a field, and the same amount of time spent in uprooting them will be much more effective. A good team, horses or oxen, with a stump machine, will clear quite a space of ground in a day, and if the ground be stony, the work may be further progressed by filling the holes where the stumps came from with stones to within eighteen inches or two feet of the surface. Crude oil is not very inflammable, and unless used in large quantities, its only effect is to char the surface of the stump, and make it last even longer than it otherwise would.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Poultry Yard.

Crushed Bones for Poultry.

As hens, turkeys, geese and ducks are not provided with incisor, canine nor molar teeth, it is folly to feed bones to them unless the hard substances are first reduced to small fragments. Fresh bones are valuable feed for poultry of any sort, provided the fragments are so small that the birds can swallow them. Once in the crop of a fowl, bits of bone will soon be changed into soft and palatable food. Our own practice is to have a dish in the kitchen specially to receive the bones that are purchased with the beefsteak, mutton, and other meat. Then every day those pieces are taken to a chopping block and, with an old axe, having a sharp cutting edge, they are crushed with the head of the axe, and cut into pieces not larger than kernels of Indian corn. The fowls devour them with a ravenous appetite. Bones are worth more to feed fowls than the same number of pounds of prime grain. For a chopping block, a small log about two feet long, with square ends, is placed on one end, as the end of a block is far better for such a purpose than the side of a log. Bones are usually cast out of the back door or in a garbage barrel to feed worthless dogs. But, if prepared for fowls as suggested, every pound is worth two or three cents, which will be returned generously in the form of luscious eggs and juicy meat for the table.—*New York Herald.*

White Dorkings.

This is a purely English breed of fowls, and have their great popularity. The ladies are said to fancy it more than any other breed, which may be accounted for on its beauty and great excellence as a table bird. This variety does not stand much in-and-in breeding, as they reduce rapidly in size by this treatment. Fresh blood must often be introduced. The White Dorking is supposed to be the original breed, and are somewhat smaller than the colored. A cross of a White Dorking cock with light-colored Gray Dorking pullets has a good effect upon size. The Dorking make excellent mothers, but are not good layers, except while young. They produce liberally up to two years old.

Dust Baths for Poultry.

Cleanliness is important in fowl-houses, for experience shows that poultry are unfavorably affected by the emanations from filthy quarters, and, besides, working in places where roosts and floors are covered with the droppings, is decidedly unpleasant. Dry earth, in the form of powder, scattered everywhere, will absorb the bad odors, giving a wholesome atmosphere to the hen-house, and, at the same time, preserve the manure in the least offensive condition. Besides these purposes, a box of dry earth should be in a convenient corner of every fowl-house for the fowls to roll in. Dust from the highway is the most convenient. Replace the same by an equal quantity of good gravel, and the public will be the gainer.

Beans as Poultry Food.

If you have any beans that you cannot market, you may make good use of them for your fowls. They will not eat them whole, however, as every boy knows, but they must be cooked. Boil them well, and, when done, stir in at once about one part corn meal to two of beans. The mixture can be kept several days, and the hens will be found to thrive well upon it.

Warm Poultry Houses.

In clear winter weather, no matter how cold the air is, if the sun shines brightly, and the air inside the poultry house cannot escape, a surprising amount of solar heat may be collected in the house by having considerable glass on the south side.

Mr. Daniel H. Parker, of New Bedford, Mass., has 55 hens that have paid him \$158.49 in ten months. He has paid for food for them \$58.18, leaving himself a profit of \$100.31.

THE enormous crop of mangel, produced by aid of sewerage irrigation on Lord Warwick's farm in England, was referred to last year, but this season has produced even more surprising figures. At the cattle show, recently held at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, Messrs. Carter & Co., of Holborn, exhibited roots from a crop weighing 84 tons per acre. This is said to be the heaviest root crop ever recorded.