

ing and drying plants to be built will care for a great deal of the surplus product, and the prospects of canneries being established are good.

J. E. Baker, state horticultural commissioner, says the unusual forwardness of the season seems to have overtaken the fruit growers of Western Washington in a greater degree than those of the eastern part of the state.

There are 3000 acres in bearing prune orchards in Clark county, that is, exceeding five years of age; and seventy evaporating outfits of a combined capacity of two hundred and ninety tons of green fruit per day.

The late frost that came down over the Yakima valley caught the apricot trees and killed the young blossoms. The other kinds of fruit are reported to have suffered but little and on the whole the loss will be slight.

The recent cold has affected none of the important fruit districts injuriously. All damage yet reported is from remote sections, the injury to which is not of a serious character.

One of the best means for saving soil moisture from evaporating is by shallow cultivation after every rain, but farmers usually limit this to the period of crop growth, and permit waste of moisture after the crop matures.

Moisture in the ground, if in sufficient quantity, or on growing plants will often prevent injury from the frost. Experience has shown that when all conditions were favorable except that a slight rain had fallen in the evening no frost resulted during the night.

The actual value of stable manure as a whole is greater than the value of its constituents. The same in a commercial form would not have the beneficial mechanical action that manure has in loosening the tough clay soils and in compacting lighter sandy ones. Either green manuring or stable deposits should supplement the use of commercial fertilizers always.

In view of the fact that many sections in the Northwest had potato blight last year it will no doubt be profitable for potato raisers in districts in which the blight prevailed last year to spray their potato vines this year with Bordeaux mixture. This has become necessary in many portions of the United States and other countries, and the returns amply justify the extra work. At the Kalmars agricultural college, Norway, when potatoes not treated yielded 1,426 pounds per acre, those sprayed once with Bordeaux mixture yielded 2,116 pounds, and those sprayed twice, 2,858 pounds per acre.

Many persons do not understand the action of the poison ivy, and some have supposed the irritation caused by coming in contact with the plant to be done by a minute insect. The irritating medium of the plant is a viscid exudation from the leaves and bark, and brushing the plant causes this poisonous secretion to flow. When this fluid comes in contact with human skin an irritation results, and it depends upon the individual as to how serious or how mild the case of poisoning will be. There are other plants which are poisonous and cause irritations in much the same way as the poison ivy. One that is worse than this ivy is the poison sumac, sometimes known as poison elder.

The Twin City express leaves Portland via Northern Pacific at 11:30 p. m., and arrives at Tacoma at 6:00 a. m.; Seattle, 7:45 a. m.; Spokane, 10:40 p. m. Puget Sound passengers get a night's sound sleep on this train. This train runs solid via Seattle.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Spitzenberg Apple:—J. H. B.: It is claimed by many that the E. Spitzenberg apple will not bear well west of the mountains. Will some one who knows please tell us if it can be depended on for a commercial orchard near the Sound.—Answer: The Spitzenberg does not yield as heavily as other commercial varieties in Western Washington. It does best in the irrigated sections of Eastern Washington.

Prospects for Hops.

The reports from the hop fields in Southern Washington and Northern Oregon are encouraging so far as the growing crop is concerned. In some sections there is uneven growth, but this is believed to be due to the planting of different kinds of hops. Weather conditions are said to have been very favorable and the vines have made a good healthy growth. It is the opinion of those who keep in touch with conditions that more hopyards are being plowed up than reported, and that many more will be plowed up before the sowing season is over. Unless there should be a rise in the price of hops, growers will continue to be discouraged and will sow their yards to hay or wheat. In the plowing up of yards and the reduction of the acreage of hops produced it may be possible we will have a solution to the question of overproduction, and there can be little doubt but what next fall will see a far better price paid for hops than last season.

Two late sales of Yakima hops consisted of 73 bales grown by William Davern, on the Cowiche, for seven and a half cents, and 13 bales by Henry B. Scudder, which sold for nine cents. These were bought by J. J. Carpenter, who estimates that there are only 700 bales of the crop of 1899 remaining in the Yakima valley. The growers are expecting at least 15 cents this fall.

The United States department of agriculture has just finished distributing circular number 24, which treats of red clover seed, defining its points of quality, some of the adulterants used by unscrupulous dealers, how to test the seed, which is the same method twice defined in this journal, what seed is best to buy, etc. There is great liability that much of the seed now on the market is adulterated, on account of the great advance that has been made in the price recently and the probability that there will be still more of an advance. No one who uses clover seed should buy the cheap kind, for it will either be adulterated or so poor that it will prove the most expensive in the end. Pay a higher figure for your seed and be certain you have something that will germinate and grow.

That bees will sting one person more than another, is worse than nonsense; bees don't know any difference in people. It is the way some people act that get them into trouble. Put on your wide-rimmed hat and wrap some kind of thin veiling about your head and tuck the ends under your suspenders, then, put on your gloves and you can handle them with impunity. Doing this a few times you will soon learn to handle them without net or gloves.

In the poultry business as in stock-raising fifty-cent wheat, if properly disposed of, will bring more money than if sold direct to the mill or elevator.

The North Coast Limited, the new Northern Pacific train to be put on April 29, will leave Portland, 11:30 a. m.; Tacoma, 5:25 p. m.; Seattle, 4:25 p. m.; Spokane, 7:35 a. m., every day and arrive in St. Paul at 3:00 p. m., in time for all outgoing night trains.

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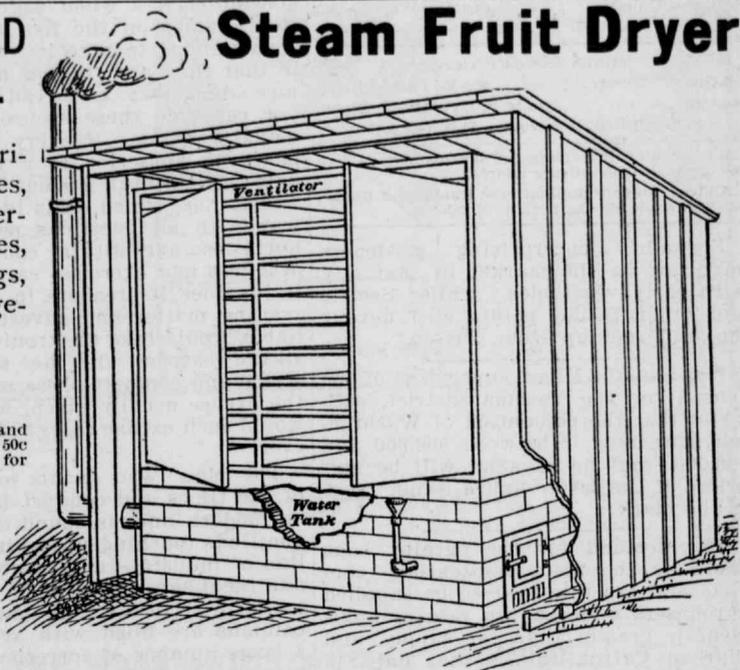
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