AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

THINNING OFTEN PAYS.

By thinning fruit we mean the removal of a portion of the crop immediately after the "June drop" (or natural drop) to prevent overbearing by the trees. Thinning is just one of the many factors upon which the production of fancy apples, peaches, plums, etc., depends. No amount of pruning or thinning, or care in picking and packing the fruit will insure a fancy article unless suitable protection has been given against insects and diseases by thorough spraying. Some growers are good prunners, but poor sprayers. Others spray their trees well, but do little or no thinning. It is not often that an orchard be seen where all conditions are favorable for a maximum production of a fancy grade of fruit.

Facts about thinning fruit are presented by W. H. Darrow, fruit specialist, as follows:

"Trees very often set a great many more fruits than they can properly mature. In such cases thinning will do much to bring out the excellent qualities of the variety and to increase the size and color. A gardener who will allow twenty melon plants to grow in one hill would be considered an ignoramus by his neighbor, who at the same time, expects his apple trees to mature fruit as close together as they can possibly hang on the tree.

All market gardeners know that beets cannot be raised as thick as they grow in the row—that the crop will increase greatly if a large per cent. of the beets are pulled out and thrown away or sold as greens, thus giving the remaining beets proper room for their development. The same principles apply to our fruits. An apple tree in its attempt to reproduce its kind often sets an enormous amount of fruit.

A small apple is as efficient as a large one for this purpose. The seeds may be as large and as numerous in small apples as in large ones. Man, however, uses the fleshy part of the apple as food, rather than the seed and fewer apples per tree allow each to secure greater development of the fleshy part of the fruit.

BLUE VITRIOL USED TO KILL WEEDS

This is the time of year to rid grain fields of mustard, kale, wild turnip or other large, porous-leaf weeds. Fields of wheat, oats, or of any crop having a small oily leaf may be beneficially treated by spraying with blue vitriol or with sulphate of iron.

Blue vitriol should be used in the quantity of 15 pounds to 50 gallons of water, whereas, 100 pounds of sulphate of iron may be mixed with 50 gallons.

Two methods are available for either of these sprays. One way is to spray first when the weeds are forming their sixth or seventh leaf, and again within four days. The few weeds that will grow later may be easily pulled out by hand.

The other method is to spray when the weeds are just beginning to blossom, using one and one-half times the amount recommended above. While not as effective as the first, this method will virtually forestall the presence of weed seeds in grain fields at harvest time.

The ordinary potato sprayer is suitable for this work, provided it is washed out well after using, so as to prevent corrosion of the metal tubes. Sprayers may be adjusted so as to have the nozzles 18 inches apart, the best arrangements for thorough spraying.

SEED CORN MAGGOT ATTACKS EARLY POTATOES

A very severe outbreak of the seed-corn maggot, accompanied by a fusarium rot, in seed potatoes is prevalent in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, extending from North Carolina to the eastern shore of Maryland and practically covering the important early potato regions in these states, according to reports to the bureau of entomology, United States Department of Agriculture. Specialists of the bureau of plant industry look upon the situation as a very complicated one, saying that it is evident that while part of the decay followed the damage done by the seed corn maggot a good deal of the damage is traceable to other initial causes, including especially the unusual seasonal conditions that prevailed during the early part of March.

The relative amount of insect or fungus injury varied in different instances. In some the insect damage predominated, while in others it was absent, and fungi seemed to be entirely responsible for the decay. Among the secondary factors that aggravated the conditions were the planting of seed pieces directly on the fertilizer, the fact that seed was sometimes cut and kept in barrels for several days to two weeks before planting, and the use of home-stored northern seed as compared with cold-stored northern seed.

Reports from New Jersey say that the maggot has appeared in large numbers over the southern third of the state and has done damage to pea and bean seed, to lettuce plants, and in some instances to potatoes. The rapid advance of the destruction from North Carolina, through Virginia and Maryland, is thought to indicate the possibility of damage in the early-trucking section of Long Island.

FUNGUS DISEASE DESTROYING PLUMS

Insects answering to the name of curculio, a fungus disease known as brown rot, and a lack of thinning provide the three main reasons for the sparseness of the plum crop of Massachusetts, in the opinion of R. A. Van Meter, extension specialist in pomology at the Massachusetts Agricultural College.

The plum curculio is a small insect that cuts through the skin of the fruit and leaves a crescent-shaped scar from which a drop of gum often exudes. Burning over the grass and weed patches around the orchard will destroy their winter hiding places, judging from the experience of commercial plum growers. When the plums are half grown they may profitably be sprayed with a mixture of four pounds of fresh stone lime, four pounds of sulphus flour, and enough water to make 25 gallons. The extension department of the Massachusetts Agricultural College will supply full details for mixing and spraying.

The decay of stone fruits on the tree is often due to the brown rot, a fungus living either on the trees or on the ground. Such dried fruits should be gathered in the fall and burned or buried deeply.

Successful growers thin out their plum trees before the fruit is half grown, thus avoiding the possibility of even the mature fruit rubbing together and spreading disease.

kin come back to skool.

ROSE BUGS.

Reports of damage to grape vines and rose bushes by rose bugs come from all over the country.

"The best way to prevent these spiny-legged insects from ruining the prospects for a grape crop and from completely defoliating rose bushes is to spray with nicotine sulphate, or "Blackleaf 40," two teaspoons to one gallon of water. As soon as the first spray dries, spray again with a mixture of one and one-half ounces of powdered lead arsenate or three ounces of paste lead arsenate to each gallon of water," says one horticulturist.

LEGHORNS COME INTO FIRST PLACES IN STORRS CONTEST

Egg production in the laying contest at Storrs continues to ease off a little as it is expected to do from this time on to the end of the hen year. Last week the hens dropped down some 8 eggs, which means that they laid 4,246 or a yield of nearly 61 per cent. Summer is, of course, the season when the Leghorns get in their best work. It is not, therefore, surprising that with one exception Leghorns are the only breeds mentioned in the first three positions for the week.

Andrew L. Ohr's White Leghorns from Wallingford, Conn., and Max Axelrod's pen of the same breed from Westfield, Mass., tied for first place with a yield of 57 eggs each. Three pens of Leghorns entered by Hollywood Farm, Hollywood, Wash., Imperial Poultry Farm, Elizabeth, N. J., and White Springs Farm Geneva, N. Y., all tied for second place with 56 eggs each. A Connecticut pen of Buff Wyandottes owned by H. P. Cloyes from Silver Lane laid 55 eggs and tied for third place with the four following pens of Leghorns: Richard Allen's, of Wethersfield, Conn., Mountain View Poultry Farms, Rutland, Vt., Mrs. J. L. Theusen's, New Haven, Conn., and Burchell and Janson's from Thetis Island, British Columbia.

From time to time there have been made in these columns various suggestions that are believed to be helpful in getting the maximum number of eggs from any given flock of hens. These included segregating the males after the hatching season, supplying an abundance of green food both summer and winter and close inspection of the hen houses for lice and mites. Facts and figures from a large number of Connecticut poultry farms seem to indicate that there are thousands of hens in the state that are laying less than one hundred eggs a year. This is not enough. It is almost certain that with a little better care, a little better management and a little better selection these hens could be made to lay another two eggs a month, which two dozen eggs during the year would be almost all velvet.

The four leading pens in each of the principal varieties are as follows:

Plymouth Rocks.

W. H. B. Kent, (Barred) Cazenovia, N. Y.	1365
Rock Rose Farm (Barred), Katonah, N. H.	1116
Jules F. Francais (Barred Rocks) Westhampton Beach, L. I.	1000
James F. Macdonald (White Rocks) East Pembroke, Mass.	985

Rhode Island Reds.

Charles H. Lane, Southboro, Mass.	1313
H. S. Bickford, Gossville, N. H.	1194
F. S. Chapin, Longmeadow, Mass.	1190
Henry P. Walker, Hudson, Mass.	1162

White Leghorns.

L. E. Ingoldsby, Cooperstown, N. Y.	1234
Hollywood Farm, Hollywood, Wash	1233
James O. Le Fevre, New Paltz, N. Y.	1219
Ernest H. Scott (White Leghorns) Farmington, Conn.	1204

Other Varieties.

Obed G. Knight (White Wyandottes)	1373
H. P. Cloyes (Buff Wyandottes) Silver Lane, Conn.	1124
A. E. Hampton (Black Leghorns) Pittstown, N. J.	978
Harry D. Emmons (White Wyandottes) Plymouth, Conn.	876

MT. PLEASANT SCHOOL GIRL WINS FIRST ESSAY PRIZE

Miss Lois Virginia Latimer, a pupil in the eighth grade at Mt. Pleasant street school is the winner of the first prize of $10 in the essay contest for grammar school pupils of the state, conducted by the Colonial Dames of the State of Connecticut. The announcement of the award of the prize has been received by Principal J. B. Stanton of the Mt. Pleasant street school.

Miss Latimer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Latimer of 167 Mt. Pleasant street. Her essay subject was Methods of Travel in Early Colonial Days.

Thirtd prize in the contest goes to Romeyn Holdredge, also of the Mt. Pleasant street eighth grade, who wrote upon Paul Revere. The prize is $3. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Holdridge of 43 Dunham street.

A certificate of merit for her essay upon Myles Standish was awarded to Miss Alta Belt, eighth grade Mt. Pleasant street. She is the daughter of Mrs. Miriam Belt of 14 North Thames street.

PARISH MASS OF REQUIEM FOR REV. JOHN H. BRODERICK

Rev. James A. Broderick came to Norwich from Terryville Tuesday to celebrate the parish month's mind solemn high requiem mass for his brother, Rev. John H. Broderick, rector of St. Patrick's church, who died April 30th. The deacon of the mass was Rev. Dr. Michael A. Sullivan, of Hartford, Rev. William H. Kennedy, of Greeneville, was sub-deacon and Rev. Myles P. Galvin, of St. Patrick's was master of ceremonies. The acolytes were Rev. Michael Foley, of Colchester and Rev. Henry F. Chagnon of Taftville and the censar bearer was Rev. Nicholas Maletico, chaplain at the submarine base.

Other priests in the sanctuary were Rev. Fathers Joseph E. McCarthy, Meriden, Eugene P. Cryne, Waterbury, Alexander Wollschlager and John J. McGrath, New London, William J. Fox, Groton, Richard P. Morrissey, Plainfield, Ignatius Macejewski and Philip J. Mooney, Norwich.

Organist Frank L. Farrell directed the music and Mrs. Farrel sang the psalm beginning "De Profundis," also other solos during the Gregorian mass.

In the congregation were relatives of Father Broderick from Meriden, Waterbury, Bridgeport, Willimantic and Providence. The upper grade pupils of the parish school, with their teachers, the Sisters of Mercy, occupied special pews.

John P. Corcoran was usher.

APPOINTS CHAS. L. STEWART AS PUBLIC DEFENDER

Charles L. Stewart of Norwich was appointed public defender for New London county in place of Judge-elect Allyn L. Brown at the naming of various court officials Monday by superior court judges at their annual meeting held at Hartford. Hadlai A. Hull was appointed as a prosecutor for New London county.

George E. Parsons was reappointed clerk of the superior court at $4000 and Hibberd R. Norman, assistant clerk at $3,000. N. Douglas Sevin and Walter Fitzmaurice were chosen as jury commissioners for New London county.

Five members of the state bar examining committee to hold office three years from July 1, 1921 were appointed as follows:

Gardiner Greene, Edward M. Day, Milton A. Shumway Dennis J. McCarthy, Francis W. Cole.

Judges—James H. Webb, John P. Kellogg and William H. Maltbie were appointed a committee on allotments for the ensuing year.

SISTERS RECEIVE DEGREES AT NEW ROCHELLE COLLEGE

Miss Sadie Marguerite Mahoney, a graduate of the N. F. A., class of 1917, received the degree of Bachelor of Science in secretarial studies at the commencement exercises of the College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, N. Y., Monday afternoon.

Miss Mary Eleanor Mahoney, her sister, who graduated from New Rochelle with the degree of B. S., in 1919, received the degree of Bachelor of Arts with the class of 1921. Since her graduation she has been an instructor in secretarial science at the college. The degrees were presented by Archbishop Patrick J. Hayes of New York.

The Misses Mahoney are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. James Mahoney of Falls avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney attended the commencement exercises.

CENTRAL BAPTIST PASTOR TO PREACH SPECIAL SERMONS

The new pastor of the Central Baptist church, Rev. Daniel A. Pitt, D. D. has announced a series of sermons during June and July on the general theme, The Master's Method of Making Men Great. Among the topics considered will be the following: The Greatness of the Master Himself, The Master's Idea of Greatness, The Master's Method of Dealing with a Man's Past, Salvation Through Expectancy, Greatness Through Association with the Master Himself, Putting Us to Work at a World Task, The Power of an Endless Life.

GAVE ENTERTAINMENT FOR PATIENTS AT SANATORIUM

Under the auspices of Norwich branch of the Connecticut council of Catholic Women, an entertainment was given Monday evening for the patients at the Norwich state tuberculosis sanatorium at the Norwich state tuberculosis sanatorium. Every number of the programme was encored and the patients thoroughly appreciated the kindness of those who entertained them.

The following was the programme:

Solo, A Birthday, Mrs. Morgan Cronin; butterfly dance, Miss Rose Driscoll; cornet solo, My Isle of Golden Dreams, Raymond Woods; solo, I'll Be Your Valentine, Miss Evelyn Caron; dance, Miss Celene Bowen; solo, Birds Are Singing, Miss Sadie A. Driscoll; solo, Little Mother of Mine, Raymond Woods; solo, The Magic of Your Eyes, Henry La Fontaine; duet, Look for the Silver Lining, Miss Driscoll and Mr. La Fontaine; solo, Typical Tipperary, Edward T. Connelly.

Enlists in the Navy.

Samuel Swartzburg of 107 High street applied for enlistment at the navy recruiting station in New London and was accepted and sent to New Haven for further transfer.

Another course has been added to the navy trade schools that are now open. Ex-navy and ex-marine and marine corpsmen who have had some experience at clerical work can take a course at the yeoman school upon enlistment or re-enlistment. Applications for Victory Medals will be accepted from all ex-navy men and ex-members of the naval reserve force who have received an honorable discharge from the service.

DANIEL J. BROWN WILL OBSERVE 85TH BIRTHDAY

Daniel J. Brown of 6 Summer street will reach his 85th birthday today, June 8, and will spend it at Fisher's Island. This is the 48th year that Mr. Brown has gone to the Island to be there on his birthday anniversary.

Hostesses at D. A. R. Meeting

The hostesses at the D. A. R. meeting this afternoon will be Miss Jane E. Cassidy and Mrs. Louis A. Wheeler.

SHEEP RAISING IN WINDHAM COUNTY

HENRY HOPKINS OF CENTRAL VILLAGE FINDS SHEEP PROFITABLE

CENTRAL VILLAGE FLOCK STARTED FROM PET LAMB

The chances are that if little Francis Hopkins had not been the unfortunate victim of a serious accident and wanted, when convalescing, a lamb for a pet, Henry Hopkins, his father, of Central Village would not now be the owner of a nice flock of sheep.

Mr. Hopkins rents and lives with his family on what was formerly the Locke farm situated on the Green Hollow road. This road is a continuation of Broad street, Danielson.

Henry Hopkins is a quiet, retiring man and did not care to talk for publication; he felt, however, that if his experiences with sheep would help some other farmer he would submit. There are four very fine, well-mannered children and Mrs. Hopkins is a hospitable, optimistic woman and a helpmate. The atmosphere of the home is pleasing.

On this farm sheep raising is the principal occupation. From the one which was bought for Francis additions have been made but they feel that a small flock does better so at the present time have a flock of thirty-eight, but have had as high as sixty. The wool and meat is sold and while the prices have dropped they find a fairly good market for both. Mrs. Hopkins remarked, "The demand for sheep is all right but people do not want to pay much."

The four children, Ruth, 13; Francis, 11; Wallace, 10; Eleaner, 8; each have their own little flock of sheep and have had for some time. They give them good care and are fast learning how to be proficient shepherds and shepherdesses.

On the Hopkins' farm is found a well appearing flock of Southdowns and Shropshires and they intend always to have a thoroughbred ram. Some of the sheep have been brought up on the bottle when the mother has died or for some other reason. Mrs. Hopkins has given them a mother's care in many instances. In cold weather they have been carried to a warm comfortable place, fed and given all necessary attention and many comforts. This has been done time after time in lambing season.

At the present time Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins are a bit discouraged because of the prices received and the fencing question. Mr. Hopkins has not tried top poling with which Oliver Downs of Brooklyn has been so successful but has tried putting birches on the walls which in time blow or fall off. Neighbors do not want to be bothered with other people's sheep and call up and say so. During the cold winter of 1920-1921 in spite of everything done many baby lambs were lost but this past winter more lambs were saved.

As Mr. Hopkins does butchering, gathers up young lambs to sell, and is able to do many other things he is in great demand among the farmers; for these reasons he does little farming therefore the sheep are allowed many acres of the hundred which comprise his farm. At night the sheep are put in an enclosure. There is barn space for cold and chilly weather and for hot nights, he has made a covered arrangement for them in the fields.

His wife takes great interest in the sheep and was able to give much information. The whole family speak in very affectionate terms concerning sheep and show their fondness and knowledge that they have gained from close observation and care.

"There are differences in sheep," said Mrs. Hopkins. "Some sheep which one buys have been well taken care of and this same kind of care must be continued in order for them to do well."

Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins feel that sheep need good care, good grain and feed and good fences. If one is able and willing to supply these things sheep raising can be made a joy and a profit they think.

Wednesday Specials

BEST SHOULDER Steak, lb.... 12½c

SUGAR CURED SMOKED Shoulders, lb. 12½c

LEAN Salt Pork, lb. 12½c

FRESH-CUT Lb. Hamburger. 12½c

Best Cut Chuck Roast BEEF, lb.... 12½c

LEAN CUTS Corned Beef, lb 10c

FRESH Pork Chops, lb. 25c

FRESH PIG Shoulders, lb.. 18c

LEAN POTTING BEEF, lb..... 10c

FRESH MOHICAN CREAMERY BUTTER Pound 33c

FRESH SELECTED EGGS, dozen.. 29c

MILD, TASTY CHEESE, lb... 20c

CONFECTIONER'S SUGAR, 2 lbs.. 19c

MINCE MEAT, 2 pkgs. 25c

PURE Olive Oil, pint. 59c

BEST POTATOES 6 Pounds 25c

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