

### AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

#### WAYS TO MAKE UNPROFITABLE ORCHARDS PAY

Measured by the abundance and regularity of the crops of high grade fruit produced, there are many apple orchards of bearing age that are not successful. Because a large number of these unprofitable orchards can be made to yield good crops of high quality fruit by special treatment, the United States Department of Agriculture has prepared "Farmers' Bulletin 1224, Apple Orchard Renovation," by H. F. Gould, which discusses the principal practices found useful in bringing neglected trees back into profit-producing condition.

Orchards in need of renovation are found not only in sections where the home orchard or fruit garden is the prevailing type of fruit growing, and in regions where orchards of considerable size occur occasionally, but also in the recognized commercial apple-growing districts. Some orchards are not worth the time and expense necessary to renovate them. In deciding what is to be done the following factors need to be considered: The orchard must be on a good site with no rock ledges or hardpan near the surface, well drained and without unusual drainage from frosts; the trees must have good vitality, without decayed trunks, cankers that girdle the limbs, or weakness that would make good growth impossible; and, finally, the varieties must be good unless it is profitable to top-graft the trees.

A neglected orchard is always a menace to other orchards in the neighborhood and in sections where there are many commercial plantings much damage may be done by insect pests and diseases that have their source in badly infected trees. In some states a neglected orchard is practically declared by law to be a public nuisance and is treated accordingly. If the owner will not clean it up, public officials do it and the expense becomes a lien on the property until paid.

As a rule, says the author of the bulletin, a much-neglected orchard does not justify its expense. If an orchard is worth keeping it is worth giving good attention; otherwise, the trees merely encumber the ground and interfere with its use for other purposes. If an apple tree is not of value for fruit production it may be worth converting into tool handles, plane blocks, and other useful things.

Are you paying too much for your feed stuffs? To determine this requires a knowledge of how feeds are sold by mills, market conditions, quality of the product, and methods of purchasing, says G. C. Wheeler, investigator in marketing feed, United States Department of Agriculture. Although feed stuffs constitute the second largest item of expense to American farmers, wheat

feeds alone in 1920 representing a value of approximately \$200,000,000, little is known by the average buyer about the marketing of this commodity, says Mr. Wheeler.

The availability of feed stuffs locally produced which may be used as substitutes, and potential supplies and production in surplus producing sections are said to be the most important factors controlling local feed prices. Wide variations in prices in heavy consuming and producing centers, and in sections where only moderate supplies are handled are attributed to the prices paid by individual dealers, unaided feed in transit which is frequently disposed of at a sacrifice on arrival, grade, quality, whether the feed is bought for cash or credit, and whether the purchase is for immediate or future delivery. Mr. Wheeler advises buyers to ascertain carefully all these facts in connection with prices quoted before placing orders.

Mr. Wheeler has made a careful study of the marketing of mill feeds and his findings are contained in United States Department of Agriculture Bulletin 1224, entitled "The Marketing of Mill Feeds."

**MARKETING MILL FEEDS**

Are you paying too much for your feed stuffs? To determine this requires a knowledge of how feeds are sold by mills, market conditions, quality of the product, and methods of purchasing, says G. C. Wheeler, investigator in marketing feed, United States Department of Agriculture. Although feed stuffs constitute the second largest item of expense to American farmers, wheat

**NEW PLAN FOR SOLVING AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS**

The commodity council plan is the name given to a new way of handling certain of the big agricultural problems by the United States Department of Agriculture in the past few years. It is a crop situation, for instance, have been handled separately by the various bureaus and offices. The new plan which recently has been put into operation brings all the various persons interested in the problem together into a council where each may present his views and where a definite executive policy may be decided upon.

Already councils have been called to discuss the cotton and potato situation and recommendations have been made for action that would be beneficial in view of present conditions. Department men who are specialists in the culture of the crops, on soils, diseases, pests, grading, and marketing each contributed to the final recommendations. From time other commodity councils will be called to take up problems that are troubling the producers of various other crops and live stock.

As a result of the potato council it is expected that the usual waste and loss resulting when a very large crop is raised may be greatly reduced. The per capita consumption of potatoes in the United States is usually about 3.2 bushels, but this year a very large crop has been produced to supply each person with about four bushels. Because of this situation which was discouraging to potato raisers the department, through this council, made certain recommendations, which were sent out to the principal potato-producing states. The council recommended that farmers be advised to carefully grade their crop and ship only the best, suggesting that if all of the crop, including culls, were shipped food would rot or spoil in the central markets or in transit, markets would be glutted and the price forced down to a ruinous level. Such marketing would result in much waste all

along the line from the field to the market. The council also made recommendations on the utilization of the poorer potatoes and culls kept on the farm, such as storing for future marketing, feeding to live stock and, in certain localities, selling to starch and flour factories.

It was also the advice of the potato council that fields be picked clean of culls and diseased tubers so as to protect succeeding crops from disease.

Another group of department men was called together by the assistant secretary to take up the problems of the cotton farmers. These men are working on the problem of what the department's policy shall be for the present in making recommendations for fighting boll weevil, the development of one-variety cotton communities, the growing of a diversity of crops, etc. A plan similar to the commodity council plan was used recently when a group of men from various bureaus was brought together to consider the question of the use of peat as a soil improver or fertilizer. As a result of all the information brought together and discussed from various angles the department decided to make a public statement to the effect that peat has a very low fertilizing value, contrary to the claims frequently made by those wishing to sell it for fertilizer.

It is thought that the council plan will result in getting out prompt recommendations in emergencies and farmers and others will be able to get a clearer view of the department's stand and the reasons for making recommendations.

**PEAT FOUND TO HAVE LOW FERTILIZING VALUE**

Peat in recent years widely advertised as a fertilizer is not to be compared with mineral fertilizers as a means of increasing crop production. This is the essence of a statement that has just been made by the United States Department of Agriculture as a result of many investigations on the subject.

Special processes, such as the "bacterization" of peat, occasionally are allowed to give it unusual fertilizing powers, but tests have not substantiated these claims. An English investigator a few years ago reported good results with the use of "bacterized" peat, but experience in this country has not supported his theory. Not laboratory process for the "bacterization" of peat has been discovered which materially improves it for fertilizer.

The peat or "humus" that has been marketed in this country as a fertilizer or plant stimulant has shown a decided lack of uniformity, but this is to be expected when it is known that peat deposits are the slow accumulations of layers of plant material of different kinds. The rather high percentage of nitrogen occasionally found in peat and muck is due not to the presence of available nitrogen, but the accumulation of nitrogenous material that is not available for the use of plants, the more soluble substances having been lost. A well decomposed layer of peat has in it very little available plant food of any kind.

Some kinds of peat are very useful



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for stable litter and for composting. While peat is too lumpy and too poor in available plant food to serve as a substitute for manure or mineral fertilizers, certain kinds of peat appear to be suitable in the growing of specialized crops or as potting soil in greenhouses. In the manufacture of mixed fertilizers the use of peat as a conditioner, as well as a filler, appears to have been satisfactory to the mixer. Several varieties of peat and muck soil are farmed, frequently showing high productivity for many kinds of truck crops or as grass land. Any peat deposits, however, are agriculturally unsatisfactory, and some peats contain substances distinctly injurious to plants.

**PROPER METHODS FOR STORAGE OF POTATOES**

"Improper storing of potatoes is the chief reason for what is commonly known as 'black heart' in potatoes," says one county agent who advises potato farmers of Hampden county to minimize losses and spoilage of their potatoes this year through better storage methods.

"Black heart may be the result of chilling of potatoes, or it may be due to heating or sweating; or still again it may be due to a combination of these causes, but probably the biggest cause is the lack of ventilation.

"In storing potatoes there are certain principles which must be kept in mind if good results are to be obtained. First, the storage place should be cool so as to keep the tuber dormant; 35 to 40 degrees is preferable. Second, a certain amount of moisture is desirable; that is, the air should not be so moist that a moisture film is deposited on the tubers, but it should be high enough to prevent evaporation of the moisture contents of the tuber. Third, aeration is essential for best preservation. Fourth, light should be kept from the stored tubers.

"If only a small amount of potatoes are to be kept, probably the best place is the dark house cellar with the potatoes stored in peach baskets. If quite a number of bushels are to be kept, a crated bin could be built in the cellar with the tubers not more than three feet deep. "Of course if many potatoes are to be stored a regular potato storage space should be built. Generally speaking, however, for this county, the house cellar that is kept cool, dark and well ventilated, where tubers are kept in small bins which are not piled too high is the best place to store spuds. Where many thousands of bushels are to be kept, a regular potato storage plant should be built. The county agent will be glad to talk over plans for such a plant if anyone in the county is interested.

Many men in this section place their potatoes in wood sheds until the weather gets cold, before placing them in the cellar. This is a good plan, but the potatoes should all be in the cellar, now, because of danger of freezing."

stand for an hour. With an insufficient amount of water the lime is "scorched" and not all converted into hydrate; on the other hand, too much water retards the slaking by lowering the heat.

"Scorched lime is generally lumpy and translucent, hence the use of the proper amount of water for slaking and an after addition of water to bring it to a brush or sprayer consistency.

For use in a sprayer all whitewash should be strained through a piece of cheesecloth.

**Whitewash for Walls and Ceilings.**

1. Sixty-two pounds (1 bushel) quicklime, slake with 15 gallons of water. Keep barrel covered until steam ceases to rise. Stir occasionally to prevent scorching.
2. Two and one-half pounds rye flour, beat up in a half gallon of cold water, then add two gallons of boiling water.
3. Two and one-half pounds common rock salt, dissolve in two and one-half gallons of hot water.

Mix (2) and (3), then pour into (1) and stir until well mixed.

This is the whitewash used in the large factories and recommended by the insurance companies. The above formula gives a product of perfect brush consistency. Add more water for use in a sprayer.

**Whitewash for Buildings and Fences**

1. Sixty-two pounds (1 bushel) quicklime, slake with 12 gallons of hot water.
2. Two pounds common salt, one pound sulphate of zinc, dissolve in two gallons of boiling water.
3. Two gallons skimmed milk.

Pour (2) into (1), then add the milk (3), and mix thoroughly. If too thick to apply with the sprayer, add more water.

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**NORWICH HONOR ROLL LIST**

SHOWS 1918 NAMES

(Continued from Page 13)

Alexander Sweeney, Joseph Szalkowsky, Alexander Sulborsky.

George A. Tagua, Ernest Tanguay, Joseph Tarnowski, Jr., Mackey Henry Tarnowski, Richard Lane Tarrant, Ellis Taylor, Emile Teller, Lucio Tempesta, Edmond E. Tetreault, William M. Thomas, Dennis J. Thompson, James Joseph Thompson, Frank Robinson Thresher, Percy Harold Thurlow, Francis M. Toomey, Leslie F. Tourtelotte, Fred A. Towne, Thomas J. Tracy, Jr., Leroy J. Trysaway, Frank D. Treckman, William Treckman, Alfred Akopius Tremblay, Henry Tremblay, Minnie W. Tryon, Albert James Turner, Frederic Turner, John Touron.

Frank Eccles Ulmer, John Wyma Ulmer, H. Turner Upton.

James Vellis, Whitney M. Vergason, Albert M. Vetter, Arthur Harris Vetter, Julia Vostch, Peter G. Vuono.

Raymond B. Wade, Joseph Wajeniewicz, Thomas James Waldron, James P. Walsh, John Lawrence Walsh, Nicholas Vincent Walsh, Leslie Fletcher Ward, T. A. Ward, Arthur Gordon Warwick, Earl Way, William Otto Weber, Benjamin Weinstein, Samuel Weinstein, Edward Weisgraber, Edgar Clark Weiden, George Weller, Jr., Russell Welles, Augustus Henry Welch, Edward James Whalon, Herbert Louis Wheeler, Ernest D. Whitford, Leroy H. Whitmarsh, Julius Wideman, Thomas J. Wignall, James F. Wilber, Myron Lester Wilcox, Hyder M. Williams, Julian La Pierre Williams, Edward J. Williamson, Percy James Willis, Claude Royal Wilson, Clifford Edward Wilson, Frank Stuart Wilson, George M. Wilson, Bronislaw Winarski, Albert Wisniewski, John Wisniewski, Edward Otto Wisniewski, Joseph Paul Workiewicz, Fred J. Wolfensberger, Fred D. Wood, John Herbert Wood, Clarence H. Woodworth, Dewey H. Woodworth, Everett C. Woodworth, Hipolit Woselowski, William Earl Wright, Oliver Reynolds Wolf, Anton Wunderlich, John Wunderlich, Frank Wyron.

Frank Yakubelski, Victor Yankowski, Spragay Yanutz, John Yarbox, Cecil George Young, Harold H. Young, Edward William Young, Frank Yerrington, Joseph Russell Yerrington, Charles John Yedonowski, Charles Robert Young, James Mitchell Young, Jr., John Burton Young, Richard W. Young, William A. Young.

Alexander Zabrowski, Mike Zan-Young, Alexander Zabrowski, Mike Zan-Young, Stanislaw Zawisanaki, Anthony Zelchill, Edward Zeranski, Frank Zeranski, Jacob Zimmerman, Andrew Zysk.

The honor roll tablet is to be placed at the Chelsea parade. The inscription will be the following:

1917 Roll of Honor 1918 Dedicated to the Men of Norwich, Conn. Who Served Their Country in the World War

The base of the tablet is 3 feet 4 inches by 3 feet 10 inches, the slab is 7 feet 8 inches by 7 feet 4 inches. The shaft is 1 foot 6 inches in thickness, while the bronze plate bearing the names is 6 feet 4 inches by 8 feet 7 inches. The outer portion of the tablet is of pure white stone.

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