



**Rocky Mountain Husbandman.**

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The ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUSBANDMAN is designed to be, as the name indicates, a husbandman in every sense of the term, embracing in its columns every department of Agriculture, Stock-raising, Horticulture, Social and Domestic Economy.

**ADVERTISING RATES.**

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1 week	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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1 month	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3 months	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36
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**Agricultural.**

**FOLLOWING the plow.**

**TURNING the furrows deep and strong.**

**BLITHE and brisk the farmer all a day long.**

**TREES set out for a wind break may be topped, but should not have their lower limbs cut off.**

**SEEDERS, whether broadcast sowers or drills, distribute grain more evenly than it can otherwise be done.**

**Two acres of good hop land in White river valley, W. T., twenty miles from Seattle, have been sold for \$2,000.**

**DON'T let the spring pass without setting out a lot of trees to divest the farm of its naked appearance and make it look homelike.**

**MONTANA will use a large amount of oats the coming season, and this grain is less liable to competition from abroad than wheat.**

**The Hop Growers' Association, recently organized in Seattle, W. T., has secured 700 acres on the Snoqualmie prairie, a part of which will be planted in hops this year.**

**It is well for those who are able, to get shade trees for their yards from Eastern nurseries, but the native trees found along our water courses are far better than nothing, and are preferable for a wind break about barn yards.**

**JOB THOMPSON, a farmer of the Missouri valley, always follows his grain lands, and consequently gets his grain in early and gets a good crop. Owing to having his land plowed, he this season finished sowing grain before the recent snow storm.**

**The Florida Times-Union is responsible for the story of a woman farmer who has not failed to plant her potatoes in the dark of the moon, in February, for the last forty-five years, and she always puts a small bunch of hog's hair on top of each seed potato when it is placed in the ground.**

**Do NOT fail to plant out a nice lot of small fruit this spring. Currants and gooseberries set out this spring will bear some next year and quite nicely the following year, and the third year will yield a good crop. No farmer can afford to do without these luxuries when they are so easily obtained. One acre of ground will grow all the small fruit that any farmer will want, and every one should appropriate half that amount this season at**

least and plant in small fruit shrubs. Gooseberries, currants, blackberries, raspberries and strawberries will grow with great success, and every farmer should have a small fruit garden.

A Cape Cod correspondent of the Boston Journal says that he owns a hundred acres of land, of which some was so poor that it yielded nothing but poverty weed. In 1858 he commenced planting pine seed, planting more or less for ten years, and now has about eighteen acres of quite valuable woodland, which was worthless before being thus planted.

THE exports of wheat and flour since July 1st to March 1st have been equivalent to 87,000,000 bushels of wheat. The Cincinnati Price Current sums up this conclusion: "If the exports of the remaining four months of the year should be at the same rate, the total for the year will amount to 180,000,000 bushels." It is calculated on this basis that the distribution of last year's crop will be approximately as follows: Exports for the year, 180,000,000 bushels; home consumption, by 55,000,000 people, 247,500,000 bushels; used for seed, on 40,000,000 acres, 60,000,000 bushels; manufactures other than flour, 15,000,000 bushels; total, 502,500,000 bushels.

**THE CULTIVATION OF THE POTATO.**

It is commonly thought that any person can grow potatoes, and while it is true that any person can fit the soil and cover the seed, and cultivate the ground so as to keep down weeds and grass, can grow the tuber, yet it is equally true that few farmers in our country grow the potato plant successfully. Perhaps the most obvious reason for the uncertain character of the potato crop is due to the fact that the potato plant is an exotic, that is, not originally native to our climate. Where the potato plant, named by botanists *Solanum tuberosum*, grew wild in its native soil, in South America, it was found high up from the sea level, in the ravines of the mountain sides and upon the table lands, where, according to Humboldt, the temperature only varies from 55 to 80 degrees, by our common thermometer. This gives only a change of 25 degrees in a whole year, and as the plant makes its entire growth in less than half a year, it has been stated that during that time the range of the thermometer does not probably exceed fifteen degrees. It will be seen that this condition of the temperature we cannot have; for after the tuber is planted in early spring the temperature is liable to vary 70 degrees, from 30 to 100. The only wonder is that the potato plant stands the strain of its changed conditions as well as it does. One lesson that may be learned from this is, a naturally cool soil, other things being equal, should be selected for the potato. Hence a north inclination is better than one to the south. Plant corn on the south side of the hill, and the potato on the north side. But if there are no hill sides, but must grow the crop on the almost level prairie, select a spot that does not hold water, a few inches down, as is the case with a thin soil in a subsoil of clay.

Another cause of failure in the cultivation of the potato arises from the fact that while the plant is a rank feeder, its roots cannot run far for food. Hence it needs a naturally rich soil or one made so by proper manure. But what is proper manure for this crop? and when should it be applied? The plant is not as particular as to kind of manure as it is to its condition. Fresh manure from the barn-yard, whether made by horses or cattle, is not well adapted to the healthful growth of this plant; while old, well seasoned, of almost any kind, may be used to advantage at time of planting. A long experience at the East taught the writer that the best way to manure the soil for the potato is to apply a heavy dressing broadcast the year before, and use none at the time of planting. Our choice would be, to apply from 10 to 20 or 30 cords of good barn-yard manure, to land having a good stand of red clover. Haul it on during the winter or before the frost is out during the early spring. As soon as the frost is gone spread evenly. Two heavy crops of hay can be taken off the following summer, or one for hay and one

for seed. Then plow deep during the following fall, and turn well under all the aftermath, not pasturing it at all. The next spring, as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry, run a cultivator as deep as it can be done without disturbing the soil. When the soil is well pulverized, open furrows five to six inches in depth if it is practicable, and three feet apart for erect growing early sorts, and three feet six for peach-blow or other tall viney kinds. If the object is to grow the largest possible crop from the ground without regard to economy in labor, plant in the open furrows, dropping the seed about eighteen inches apart. But if square feet of ground are more abundant than strong hands, then plant the tubers crosswise of the rows, and the same distance apart that the furrows were opened. In either case the seed may be readily covered with an adjustable cultivator with two covering teeth in the outer end of the frame, running crosswise of the furrow. Or a light-harrow with short teeth will answer every purpose.

**AMOUNT OF SEED.**

It planted in drills, use only a two eyed piece at each eighteen inches; if in hills, use two such pieces for each hill. Some prefer whole tubers at each place. But it has always seemed to the writer to be a waste to do so; for, if the tuber is cut to single eyes, every one will germinate, and if two-eyed pieces both will usually start well. But if whole tubers are planted before sprouting much, then but a few of the most forward buds will grow, while the others will remain dormant and soon die, set as though conscious they would not be needed.

It will be seen that three in drills or two in hills, at the distance mentioned, will take the same amount per acre, which will require, if large tubers, from six to eight bushels, and if smaller ones, correspondingly less.

The most suitable soil for the healthy growth of the potato plant is a sandy loam, and if mixed with gravel or slate, it is no objection; but the soil should contain but a small per cent. of clay, unless it is thoroughly mixed and well drained. If the soil contains considerable lime it is no particular damage, and if it contains potash or phosphorus all the better. A small handful of wood ashes thrown around the young plants just as they break ground will greatly increase the soundness and table quality of the crop, and will well repay where they can be procured for the price of half a bushel of the crop for each bushel of ashes.

**PREVIOUS CROPS.**

It is mentioned above that a clover sod is to be preferred; but as this is not always to be had, then plant in a timothy or June grass—i. e. Kentucky blue grass—or white clover sod, in all cases treated as mentioned for clover for a large crop. In case no preparation has been made the previous year, then plant on stubble-ground after wheat, oats, or rye. A very good preparation is to turn under a field of rye, the last week in April or the first of May, and after carefully harrowing with a short, fine-toothed harrow, plant at once. A good crop may be looked for. There is great objection to high hills in a hot climate. On a dry or well-drained soil plant deep, then never use the plow among the growing plants, but run a narrow harrow or cultivate frequently, but make no hills. The level surface, well stirred, will not dry out and cause the plants to suffer like the hilling process. If the ground planted is so level as to make it desirable to give it surface drainage, then run a small double mold-board plow at the middle between the rows, one way only, having arranged the rows so adjacent from it may be secured. Tile drainage, is of course, better, but it is often lacking.—*Cor. Farmers' Review.*

**LOOK TO YOUR GARDEN HERBS.**

Every well-kept garden should have a due proportion of garden herb, but with the exception of some coarse fellows, which know how to take care of themselves, such as catnip and chamomile, these seldom any to be found. Sage, thyme and parsley are seldom grown except for market. Of parsley we have frequently given hints. It must be sown very early, and on cool, rich ground;

and if the seeds do not appear for a month one must have patience, for it often takes a long time to decide what it intends to do about it. In regard to sage, many have it for a year or so, when it disappears. To have sage continually, it is best to take it up every second year, split it apart and set in the ground much deeper than it was before. Roots then come out from the vigorous young wood, and the plants seem better adapted to stand extremes of heat and cold than when the branches are exposed on long stalks. Sage is not so liable to get killed out in the winter when it is cut back in the fall. Many cut back some of it for drying. Indeed, dried sage is the form in which it is chiefly used. Thyme usually manages to live, though nothing be done to it; but it is also better for being cut back close every, and for an occasional replanting.—*Germanstown Telegraph.*

**THE FAMILY ASPARAGUS BED.**

No one even with the most limited garden should be without an asparagus bed. Sufficient for a moderate sized family occupies very little space. By this time we all ought to know how easy it is to raise this very delicious vegetable, and how desirable it is to have a dish of it fresh from the garden. Truckers grow it with the same facility that they do a patch of potatoes or cabbage, using in preparing the ground a plow and harrow, the latter being commonly employed in the spring, after the top dressing has been removed, without injury to the crowns or roots. Some truckers possess the knack of growing it to a very large size, which takes the eye in the market and frequently sells at two or three times the price of that of the ordinary size, though it is really not so good, as some of it at least has a rank taste and is not so tender. In the first week or ten days in this month the coarser part of the winter's covering of manure should be removed and the rest forked in. This should be followed by a coat of coarse salt—that from the meat or mackerel barrel will answer—which will suffice for any additional manure for the season, and at the same time keep down the weeds. Care, however, must be taken not to apply any salt to new beds for at least a year after being old enough to be cut, or serious results may follow.—*Germanstown Telegraph.*

**The Poultry Yard.**

It is not always possible to make a hen lay, but most of them can be kept from setting.

Young hens are often very unreliable setters, and if those old faithful biddies can be had, it is best to keep the young hens laying.

Do not try to break up a setting hen by cruel treatment. Put her in a nice coop and feed her well on stimulating food. The end is much more easily accomplished by this method than any of the inhuman ones in vogue.

**INCUBATORS VS. HENS.**

Whether there is more profit in artificial hatching than by the services of setting hens is an unsettled point, for everything depends on the management in either case. That there are good, reliable incubators is a fact, but that a "chick can manage them," as is claimed for some, is not established to the satisfaction of many adults who have engaged in such work. The advantages in favor of incubators are that chicks can be hatched at any season, the danger of vermin is lessened, and cleanliness is facilitated by the method. By early hatching, the chicks come into market to sell at high prices and the pullets that may be kept over will lay in the fall and through the winter. The disadvantages are, the possibility of danger from oil-lamps that are kept continually burning, and the liability of accident, or irregularity of heat, which may destroy all the eggs. A slight accident to an incubator holding several hundred eggs, at a time when eggs are scarce, occasions a heavy loss, and one or two occurrences of such character rather weakens the

faith of the operator. It is better, therefore, if large numbers of chickens are to be hatched, to use several small incubators, in preference to a single large one, for then an accident to one incubator will not occasion an entire loss. No matter how well they may be regulated experimenters will have to watch them carefully, as the weather, turning the eggs, and providing moisture call for regular and prompt attendance at certain periods. Some incubators are heated by gas, some by projections of the stove-pipe, and others by large quantities of hot water. Nearly all of them will hatch, by prompt attention and management, but that they bring forth ninety per cent., as claimed, cannot be depended on. After the chicks are hatched they are reared in brooders, which are heated in several ways, generally with hot water, the heat being appreciated by the chicks when it is above them, as few survive when the heat comes from below.

In managing the hens, however, the nests should be placed in warm locations in winter and cool places in the summer. If the flock is large, the hens will commence setting at different periods, and an advantage may be taken of hatching by using the following plan: Suppose on the first day of April eggs are placed under a dozen hens; as all can be set at one time by keeping those that get broody before the others a few days, and suppose after the lapse of ten days a second dozen are set; and we will further suppose the breeder to continue the practice by placing eggs under all the broody hens on the same day, when a sufficient number is ready. Now, we go back to our point: When the first dozen have finished hatching, give all the chicks to as few hens as can properly carry them, and take eggs that are under the second lot and place them under the remaining number in the first lot. Then reset the second lot with fresh eggs. We can by that method keep each hen at work four and a half weeks, and two hens will hatch three broods. We give the above as a supposition. It is entirely practicable, and also profitable, and with the same care and management as is required for incubators will give much better results.

The hens and incubators may be managed together by placing eggs in the incubator every day or two, and when the chicks are hatched give them to the hen to be cared for. This will save valuable time on the part of the hens, and will enable the breeders to raise a larger proportion of chicks. We have no doubt that many of our breeders dread the care of the chicks more than the fear of bad hatches, but the hens will assist the incubator in that respect.—*New Southern Poultry Journal.*

**The Household.**

**Ham and Eggs on Toast.**—Chop fine the trimmings from cold boiled or roasted ham. Toast and butter slices of stale bread. Spread the ham on these and place in the oven about three minutes. Beat six eggs with half a cup of milk, a little pepper and one teaspoonful of salt; put this mixture into a saucepan with two tablespoonfuls of butter, and stir over the fire until it begins to thicken. Take off and beat for a moment; then spread on the ham and toast. Serve immediately.

**Boston Brown Bread.**—One cupful of sweet milk, two cupfuls of sour milk, three cupfuls of corn meal, one cupful of flour, one cupful of molasses, one teaspoonful of salt, and three teaspoonfuls of soda. Steam or bake slowly three hours. This makes a good sized loaf.

**Cream Biscuit.**—One pint of sour cream (not too rich), one teaspoonful of salt, and three teaspoonfuls of soda, and flour enough to make a little stiffer than baking powder biscuit. Do not knead or work the dough much, roll to medium thickness and bake in a moderately hot oven.

**Baking Powder Biscuit.**—Into two quarts of flour, sift five teaspoonfuls of baking powder, mixing it in evenly. Rub into this a piece of lard the size of half an egg. Mix with good sweet milk into a soft dough. Do not knead. Roll medium thickness, cut out with a biscuit cutter and bake in a very hot oven.