



# 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.

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## Agricultural.

CONTINUE to plow and sow until the crop is all in, whether the weather is favorable or not.

EVERY issue of the HUSBANDMAN contains \$4 worth of information to the farmer and stock-grower.

In choosing a location for a permanent home a good water right is of paramount importance.

The ground is damp and grain well put in will come up as soon as the season becomes warm enough.

EVERY farmer or gardener should put out a couple of dozen pie plant roots. It will grow with little attention and come into use early, and is an excellent substitute for early fruit.

SMALL fruits are very prolific in Montana and up to this date there has been no off years, and horticulturists pronounce this branch of fruit growing more successful here than in the States.

AFTER this date we would recommend drilling in preference to broadcast sowing as the warm sunny days soon to follow will dry the ground very rapidly, and the drill puts the grain down where there is moisture enough to make it germinate without irrigating.

In planting out shrubs this spring great care should be taken. If the plot of ground where they are to grow is not good soil, a lot of rich vegetable mould from along our creek banks or in our canyon should be put in the bottom of the hole and about the roots, to insure them to thrive well.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Fruit Recorder* says that common tobacco stems, placed on the ground around currant bushes in the spring before frost is out will keep off the currant worm and keep the bushes clean. The tobacco is distasteful to the worms, and they will not crawl over it to ascend the bushes.

If our farmers and gardeners would take the trouble to go into our mountain ravines and get a few wagon loads of rich light vegetable mould, such as is favorably found there, to put about the roots of gooseberry and currant bushes set out this spring, they will find that it will make them as thrifty and prolific as the wild bushes that bloom and bear in such localities. Many attribute the success of the wild berries to their sheltered position in a canyon, but much more depends upon the soil. How-

ever, to have a small fruit garden perfect it would be well to plant out a hedge about it, and keep it trimmed down to four or five feet in height.

A WRITER in the *Fruit Recorder* makes the statement that one of his neighbors planted some cabbage among his corn where the corn missed and the butterflies did not find them. He has therefore come to the conclusion that if the cabbage patch were in the middle of the middle of the corn field the butterflies would not find them, as they fly low and like plain sailing.

PYRETHRUM, it is said, will surely destroy cabbage worms. Mr. Shaffer, secretary of the Iowa Agricultural Society, says that he has tried such so-called remedies for them as lime, ashes, brine, salt, lye, etc., all of which proved failures; that the birds avoided them, that poultry refused to touch them and that his cabbage were in a fair way of total destruction until he struck upon the plan of mixing one pound of powdered pyrethrum leaves in 150 gallons of water and sprinkling the plants, when every worm that was touched by it was killed instantly. While pyrethrum is fatal in its effect upon insect life, it is perfectly innoxious to man.

A GREAT many MONTANA farmers are becoming interested in timber culture and are anxious to know what variety of timber would be best for timber claims. Our native growth, such as cottonwood, aspen, willow, birch and pine, will grow with less attention than anything we know of, but in most localities these would have to be watered for the first few years. As to ash, elm, oak, walnut, Osage orange, locust and Russian mulberry, but little or nothing is known of what their requirements will be, and farmers undertaking to grow either must remember that he is experimenting, and had best not invest too extensively for the first two or three years. We believe a large variety of States trees may be grown here, but as little is known of the mode of culture necessary for our climate, it is well to be cautious. An acre of any variety is sufficient to begin with.

Regarding that incubus under which farmers sometimes labor as well as other people—debt—there is nothing that will hold one back more effectually than a mortgage. With a heavy debt hanging over his head a farmer may never expect to feel happy, for he knows work as he will, he is working for somebody else, and that the labor of his hands, the sweat of his brow, the fruit of his fields and the results of his labors do not belong to him or his children, but to his creditors. The good book says "The borrower is servant to the lender," and it is actually and literally true, and whatever may result the man who is in debt would do well to take the shortest cut to get out of it. It would be better under the circumstances to sell off a corner of the farm—a big corner, too, if necessary, to raise money to cancel outstanding indebtedness, than to hold on and suffer the mental anxiety always attendant on pecuniary involvement. Better to own a small farm only, operate it successfully, make money on it, and enjoy the fruits of one's labor, than to work one's self to death, striving to make money to raise a mortgage or pay a debt.—*Ex.*

### AN EARLY CROP OF PEAS.

There are two distinct classes of peas; those with small round seeds, the others with much larger, irregularly shaped peas, the surface of which is wrinkled. The wrinkled seed, or narrow peas, are as much better than the other as sweet corn is superior to field corn. The round peas, while not so good, are much harder and earlier than the others. Unless the soil is warm and they germinate quickly, wrinkled peas will decay before they can come up. The round peas are vastly better than no peas, and are very acceptable until the others come. To have early peas, they must be sown early—the earlier the better. After the soil has thawed for the first four inches, even if it is solid below, sow peas. If the ground was manured and plowed last autumn, all the better; if not, select the richest available spot and open a drill four inches deep. Peas should be covered deeper

than most other seeds. For varieties, the Early Kent is one of the best; it has almost as many names as there are dealers. Daniel O'Rourke is one of the names of a good strain of this pea. Carter's First Crop is another good variety, and every spring new extra sorts are sent from England, which usually turn out to be the old early Kent, with a new name. The peas should be sown in the bottom of the drill, rather thickly, at least one every inch, and at first about an inch of soil. It is well to put about four inches of stable manure over the rows; this is to be left on in cold days, but when it is sunny and warm pull it off with a rake, and let the sun strike the soil over the peas, replacing it at night. When the peas sprout gradually cover them with fine, warm soil, placing the coarse manure over them as needed, until the covering of soil reaches the level of the surface. If a ridge of soil a few inches higher than the peas be drawn up on each side of the row, it will greatly protect them from cold winds. When the plants are a few inches high draw some fine soil up to them, and stick in the brush. When the soil becomes dry and warm the main crop of wrinkled peas may be sown.—*American Agriculturist.*

### HOP GROWING IN MONTANA.

VIRGINIA CITY, April 16, 1882.

Editor Husbandman: I see in your paper some advice about hop growing, and I wish to state that hops can be grown in Montana in good soil without any trouble. I grow them in my garden, and they as good as are grown anywhere. They are as large and fine as I ever saw in old Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania or Iowa. Should you or your friends need roots of any kind, I can furnish them as cheap as they can be had in New York, or anywhere else. I think I have the best cuttings that grow. I also have artichokes, lilac, mint, tansy, Balm of Gilead and strawberries. It would pay you and your readers to visit the model garden once, and see with what perfection I cultivate these and numerous other plants.

JNO. S. BARTRUFF.

### SMALL FRUITS.

Does it pay for farmers who have already enough to do to bother with strawberries and other small fruits? Is a question often asked by those who have never tried their culture. The answer depends upon the meaning of the word "pay." If health, contentment and happiness are worth working for, the answer is in the affirmative; but if the "almighty dollar" is the only thing in question, then the answer is no, for potatoes can be grown at less cost per bushel and are equally as nutritious food. These fruits are looked upon as luxuries by the wealthy residents of cities, and extravagant prices are often paid for them after they have been transported many miles and exposed for sale for hours in the hot and dusty streets, and it is a pity if the farmer, on whose soil they will grow spontaneously if only given an opportunity, cannot afford the slight trouble they require for the privilege of partaking of them in all their freshness.

Strawberries are probably the most popular of all small fruits. The ease with which they are grown, and the great variety of soils to which the plant is adapted, make the fruit a general favorite. They can be grown on any soil that will produce good corn or potatoes, and with a proper knowledge as to their culture there is no good reason why every farmer may not have his table well supplied with this delicious fruit, during their bearing season. It would be interesting to know the number of bushels of strawberries that are annually consumed by some of our large cities. The quantity is certainly immense, and the commercial value of the strawberry crop doubtless runs into the millions. But, on the other hand, there are thousands of families both in city and country, that seldom indulge in the luxury of a dish of this fine fruit. In starting a strawberry bed choose some spot that is rich and free from weeds. Prepare the soil carefully and set the plants in rows for garden culture) two feet apart, with the plants a foot apart in the rows. Stir the soil fre-

quently with the hoe or cultivator, thus keeping the soil mellow and free from weeds. When the runners start they may be allowed to take root in the rows, but not between them. Thus "matted rows" will be formed, with a space between for a path to stand in while working among the plants or picking the fruit.

Mulching is of great advantage, especially on dry or baky ground. Of the hundreds of different varieties of strawberries no one kind is best suited for all localities and soils. One variety will do best on one kind of soil and in one locality and another in some other soil and locality. Thus, in selecting varieties to set, it is best to test a number of the most reliable kinds, and choose that sort for general culture that seems most suitable to your soil. The Wilson is noted for the reliability; it will succeed where almost any variety will, but there are other varieties larger in size and superior in flavor.—*Ex.*

### The Poultry Yard.

YOUNG chicks are not affected with gaps in Montana to any considerable extent.

AFTER a chick has arrived at the age of two weeks, there is but little danger of its dying.

THERE is money in poultry to every Montana farmer, even if he never markets a fowl or egg.

It is of more importance to every farmer to have fowls and eggs for his own table than for the market.

THERE will not be any marked decline in poultry in Montana until there is a decline in the price of produce.

It is noticeable that where fowls are high, greater attention is paid to raising good stock than where they are cheap.

It gives us pleasure to note that Montana farmers are becoming interested in their poultry yards and want a choice variety of birds.

CHICKENS, when first hatched should not be hurried out of the setting nest. For until the earliest commence to show themselves it is better to leave them under or with the hen mother. They need no food for a day or a day and a half usually.—*Colorado Farmer.*

SOME of the best successes made with poultry have been by miners living in a deep gulch between mountains, who keep a dozen or so hens for their own use. Having no other chores to do, the poultry receive good attention and were a success accordingly. These men have also invariably bought their feed.

GESE, turkeys and ducks should be grown as well as chickens. This country is peculiarly adapted to ducks. They are raised with less care than any other fowls and seem to be quite as ready sale. Geese are also easily raised, but it seems to be a little difficult to make a success of growing turkeys, yet they are the most profitable fowls that can be produced.

NEVER cross non-sitters, such as the Leg horns and Black Spanish, or Polands and Hamburgs, for the progeny of the cross between any two of any two of them usually turn out to be scrub. The good qualities of both parents are lost in the union, and good sitters and indifferent layers are the result. The non-sitters cannot be improved in their dominant peculiarity (disinclination to sit) by any kind of a cross. They must be bred pure, each breed distinct.

A MOST excellent food is wasted when fresh bones are allowed to lie neglected about a chicken house. Raw bones of about all kinds are greedily devoured by fowls, and the more marrow or meaty matter adhering the better. The latter, however, they will trim off if allowed the opportunity, and then if the bones are crushed under an old axe, hammer or sledge, they will put every fragment out of sight in a hurry. A chicken has no sentiment in such matters.

### NOTES FOR SITTERS.

A great deal of the success of the year depends upon the wisdom displayed in the care of and provisions of nests for the sitters.

When convenient locate the nests where the hen will not be disturbed. Privacy is natural, and our aim should be to imitate nature.

Make the nests concave to keep the eggs together; but be careful not to make the sides so steep that they will roll together and break, or lie a-top of each other. A box with top, bottom and sides covered, and one end open, makes a good receptacle for the nest. Fit a piece of wire netting to the end, and use it at the time of the hatching, to keep in the chicks and keep out the rats.

Some breeders leave dry grains and water in dishes close by the sitters, from which she can partake without leaving the nest. Better follow nature and encourage her to go in search of her living.

We do not often see the nests for sitting hens properly made. Hay is most commonly used, but its seed attracts mice, and it is scratched about by the hen in search of the seed as food. Besides, it is too dry, and eggs must be kept damp in some way, as they lose water steadily by evaporation. We prefer damp earth, hollowed out and covered with finely cut straw, which will not become tangled in the feet of the hen.

This may seem useless advice; and "what is the need of it?" Don't hens bring out chicks on the hay-mow or under the barn? Oh, yes! Some children, too, come into the world under very unfavorable circumstances; but we pity them, and are very happily disappointed if they turn out well.—*Poultry World.*

### The Household.

**Pot Roast of Beef.**—Slice a quarter of a pound of salt pork and lay it on the bottom of a dinner-pot; peel and slice a medium-sized onion, and lay it over the pork; then put into the pot a rather square, solid piece of the round of beef weighing about six pounds; season it with a tablespoonful of salt and a salt-spoonful of pepper; add sufficient hot water to reach one-fourth up the side of the meat; cover the pot and set it where the meat will cook slowly; about half an hour to each pound of meat is generally the time required for cooking. Turn the meat occasionally, and cook it very slowly until it is brown and tender; take care to keep only sufficient water in the pot to prevent burning. When the meat is done keep it hot in the oven, while a tablespoonful of flour is boiled for two minutes in the gravy; then serve the gravy and pork on the dish with the pot roast.

**Sponge Cake.**—For a large sponge cake, or for one which may be baked in two tins, use this formula: One pound and a quarter of sugar; beat fourteen eggs, the whites and yolks separate; then with the yolks beat the sugar and a little powdered mace; then beat in the white of the eggs and sift the flour in through a colander. Beat this all thoroughly and bake with an even heat until the cake begins to shrink away from the edges of the tin. If you wish to frost this cake reserve three of the whites of the eggs for this purpose; but it is better "form" not to frost a sponge cake. Take pains with the baking, and the top of the cake will be much more pleasant to the eye than frosting can make it.

**To Restore Color.**—When the color on a fabric has been accidentally or otherwise destroyed by acid, ammonia is applied in order to neutralize the same, after which an application of chloroform will, in nearly all cases, restore it to its original color. The application of ammonia is very common, but of chloroform is comparatively little known.

**To Keep Eggs Fresh.**—Rub them all over with a little butter when taken from the nest.

**Leaf Work.**—It appears that the leaf of a plant can transform into useful work as much as forty per cent. of the solar energy it receives and absorbs.