

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GARDENER ---HINTS FOR THE FLOWER GROWER

Teas, callas, farrugium and all plants with smooth, glossy foliage are benefited by a washing with weak suds, afterward rinsing with clear water. Once a week is not too often, once a month is better than not at all.

A bed of chrysanthemums planted in June will make a magnificent show next autumn.

When spraying fruit trees, always a troublesome job, the cultivator may console himself with the thought that it would be unnecessary work if birds were plentiful.

Rhubarb may be canned without cooking. Remove the skin as for cooking and cut the stalks up into pieces about an inch long, place the pieces in a glass jar, fill the jar with water and seal. The sour juices will prevent fermentation and the rhubarb can be used all winter for sauce, after cooking, or for pies.

Paper bags properly wired are now used by seedsmen for bagging grapes. The bags are applied when the grapes are small. This keeps the grape berry moth from causing wormy grapes and also keeps the birds from pecking the grapes when they begin to ripen.

If gardeners knew the abundance of flowers violas produce daily if they are closely picked from spring until frost, there would be few gardens without them. They must not be permitted to dry out.

SWEET PEAS FROM CUTTINGS.

Propagating sweet peas from cuttings is a useful method of increasing the stock in case of rare or expensive varieties. The tops of the plants are cut in the order that they are prepared by removing the lower leaves and cutting the stem just below a joint. Two or three

leaves are left on each cutting, which is inserted in flats of sand or sandy soil and watered immediately. The flats should be well drained and placed in a close propagating frame, where they will root in about two weeks.

SAVE THE WATER FOR CROP USE.

Now is the time to begin a campaign of water conservation for the summer.



There are two chief ways of helping to prevent this, namely: by keeping the soil well supplied with organic matter, or humus, and by maintaining a soil mulch over the surface. This soil mulch or layer of loose dry soil forms a blanket, preventing the soil water from reaching the surface where evaporation is so rapid in hot or windy weather.

Every gardener should start water saving at once. If the newly ploughed and is disked thoroughly the same day it is turned over there is less chance of the furrows drying out badly before the land is planted. Newly spaded land should be covered with the same day the soil is turned.

After planting the use of a weeder breaks up the surface and kills many weeds. The cultivator ought to be started as soon as the rows can be seen and used often enough to keep the surface fine, loose and dry.

Every rain or shower packs the surface soil, and unless broken up evaporation is very rapid from this compact, moist surface. As soon as the fields can be worked after a rain the cultivator should be used to re-ventilate the soil.

Never be satisfied with cultivating enough to kill the weeds. Cultivate often enough to maintain throughout the season a loose, fine, and dry surface. Start at soil mulch now and maintain it all summer. It pays for it means more water for the crops to use.

LILIES FOR PERMANENT BEDS.

The following lilies: Album, lanceolatum, roseum, rubrum, neiponense, turkestanicum, candidum and chalcidicum are suited to a variety of soils and locations and become stronger year after year as the bed becomes older and can be depended on for a fine display of flowers every season.

YUCCA NOT FLOWERING.

Gravel, old plaster and crushed bricks with an equal quantity of old turf, which is kept in a dry place, and watered thoroughly when first planted and no further attention will be required other than keeping the grass and weeds two feet away from the plants. Do not dig out the side shoots. Withhold water until the first of June and then keep the soil about them moist. Two or three years will produce very strong plants that will bloom freely.

APPLE CANKERS.

A constant source of danger to apple trees lies in cankers of various kinds, which persist from year to year, if left uncared for may in time cause the death of a large limb or a tree. In New York State injury by frost is the main predisposing cause of canker, and in severe winters such varieties as Tompkins King, Twenty One, and Hubbardston, as well as some others that are normally less susceptible to the disease, may be seriously affected.

THE CLIPPER

There are three things that destroy the production and quality of apples: the canker, the clipper and the worm. The clipper will drive them all out. Your dealer should have one. It has cut, drop up a line and we will send you one for five cents.

GLADIOLI

ORDER Gladioli, dahlias, roses, phlox, etc. from the largest variety at lowest prices. M. S. PERKINS & CO., Danvers, Mass.

PREPARE SOIL FOR WINTER USE.

If a lot of plants are to be raised from cuttings this summer, or old plants cut back and taken up from the garden for use in the house or conservatory next winter, it will be well to lay in a supply of sand and charcoal to mix with the soil for potting the plants. Summer is the best time to prepare for this work.

Provide a box or barrel of good sharp sand and a box of charcoal. Powdered charcoal mixed with the soil keeps it sweet and seems to benefit the plants. Seeds germinate readily in sand and sand sprinkled over soil in which seeds are sown will keep the seedlings from damping off. Sand is also required for rooting cuttings.

It is well also to provide earth for autumn and winter use. This is piled up until they rot makes the best potting soil, but if they are not available make a pile of soil by laying up the soil in layers about two inches high and sprinkle powdered agricultural lime over it very lightly. Then add another two inch layer of soil and spread a good coating of prepared horse or stable manure and build up several layers in this same manner. If there is no convenient spot in the garden use a box or barrel in the stable cellar.

In the autumn when the soil is wanted for potting it should be mixed thoroughly and sifted. Then sand can be added as wanted and mixed thoroughly with the soil to make it light, keeping it from becoming hard and compact and insuring good drainage. A little powdered charcoal can be added at the same time with the sand and this will make very good potting soil for all general purposes.

FARMERS SHOULD SAVE THEIR OWN HAIRY VETCH SEED.

The greater part of the hairy vetch seed now in the United States has been imported from Russia and Germany, the annual importations increasing from less than 100,000 pounds in 1906 to over 2,000,000 pounds in 1914. On account of the conditions resulting from the European war only 179,000 pounds of seed were imported.



How to Tie Up Plants.

Use raffia for tying. Figure at left of illustration shows a plant properly staked and tied. The second figure shows how the raffia is first tied to the stake, the raffia is then looped loosely around the plant stem and tied. The figure at the right shows a plant tied closely to the stake, which is improper and will spoil the plant.

In tying up carnations in borders do the work neatly. Use light bamboo canes and be sure to have the canes long enough to take care of future growth. Wire supports are also used. Raffia is the tying material. If large

rooms are wanted the plants will require careful staking.

Gladioli and dahlias can be staked up with bamboo canes by the same method employed for carnations.

Warm; stir them well together, and strain after a day or two through a cloth; to every gallon of the liquor put two pounds of sugar, and bring or let it close up in a convenient vessel for a month or two till you think it is clear. Then bottle and put into every bottle a lump of loaf sugar.

"Raspberry wine, to make, &c.": Boil water as making currant berry wine, and when the water is clear you may make wine of raspberries, strawberries, cherries (but take heed in stone fruit not to break the stones, which will make the liquor bitter) and plums, only observing more or less of the fruit requires.

"Elderberry wine, to make, not inferior to hermitage claret: Take four gallons and a half of water, and a peck of elderberries, clean picked from the stalks, boil until they begin to disintegrate, then strain off the liquor, and to every gallon put two pounds of sugar, and boil it an hour; let it cool in a tub, not in the thing you bottled it in, for that would make it taste ill. As soon as cool, or new milk warm, make a toast of white bread and spread yeast upon it, and put into the liquor to work three days every day, stirring it once or twice; when done, strain it through a fine sieve, and put into a vessel not too big, and when it has stood twenty-four hours, add to each bottle a lump of loaf sugar. When ripe, drink, which will be in three months time.

"Apricot wine, to make: To every quart of water put a pint and a half of apricots, wash clean, boil them in water till they are strong of them; strain the liquor through a sieve, and to every quart put four or five ounces of sugar, boil again, and when done, add any yeast you wish, and pour it into an earthen pot, which has stood twenty-four hours, bottle and to each bottle put a lump of loaf sugar. It will be soon fit for drinking, but will not keep long."

GROWING CHICORY FOR PROFIT.

Several readers inquire as to the possibilities of growing chicory, now that the European product has been cut off, or its importation greatly restricted.

As we have previously advised, in growing any new crop begin in a small way, and increase the acreage and production as results warrant. Opportunities of a single season may be missed in this way, to be sure, but on the other hand large losses will be avoided.

Large quantities of chicory are imported from Germany, Belgium and France. The war will, no doubt, greatly reduce the foreign supply. In the United States the bulk of the chicory is raised in Michigan.

The industry here has been developed in the neighborhood of a factory for preparing the roots, the product of a specified number of acres at a stipulated price a ton for the roots, five dollars a ton for the product is the customary price and six tons to the acre is the average yield, possibly a little higher some seasons. Careful culture is required and under ordinary conditions the profit from growing this crop cannot be large.

Chicory has a long tap root, somewhat resembling the parsnip, other varieties have a more rounded root, resembling a turnip. The leaves resemble the dandelion leaf. The plants are perennial.

Chicory root is used medicinally, covers over four to six feet of ground, and winter use is for adulterating coffee.

OWLS DESTROY FIELD MICE.

Under certain conditions field mice may become extraordinarily abundant, and as they are injurious to crops, methods for controlling them are of importance. Unfortunately most of their natural enemies are being destroyed or driven away from the farms so that they are becoming more and more of a serious pest.

Although there are some fifty species of field mice known to exist in the United States, but for the farmer who is concerned only with getting rid of them there are only two classes—meadow mice and pine mice. The runs of meadow mice are mainly on the surface of the ground under grass or some sheltering litter. These runs lead to shallow burrows which serve

as winter homes. In summer the mice use surface nests of dead grass. The young may be brought forth in either.

Meadow mice destroy grass, cut down grain, clover and alfalfa, eat straw left standing in shocks, injure flowers and vegetables—in short, do harm in a hundred ways. In the lower Humboldt Valley in Nevada in 1907-1908, they totally ruined 18,000 acres of alfalfa. Trees and shrubbery are also attacked and large nurseries of young apple trees have been known to have been almost wholly destroyed by the mice cutting through the bark at the surface of the ground.

Pine mice ordinarily live in the woods and are not, therefore, found on open places, though they like land that is not frequently cultivated. They tunnel their way from fence rows, hedges and woods into gardens and cultivated fields, where they live on seeds, roots and leaves. Like meadow mice, they also destroy fruit trees, particularly orchards. They attack the trees below the surface, so that their work is frequently not revealed until the tree is dead.

Field mice are the prey of many species of mammals, birds and reptiles. Unfortunately the relation that exists between the habits of rodents and the numbers of their enemies is not generally appreciated; otherwise the public would exercise more discrimination in its warfare against carnivorous animals. It is the persistent destruction of these, the chief and harmful allies, that has brought about the present condition of growing scarcity of predaceous mammals and birds and corresponding increase of rodent pests of the farm, especially rats and mice. The relation between effect and cause is obvious.

Among the mammalian enemies of meadow and pine mice are coyotes, wildcats, foxes, badgers, raccoons, opossums, skunks, weasels, shrews and the domestic cat and dog. Among birds, their enemies include nearly all the hawks and owl species, buzzards, cranes, gulls, shrikes, cuckoos and crows. Among their reptilian foes are black snakes and bull snakes. Not all these destroyers of mice are more beneficial than harmful, but the majority are, and warfare against them should be limited to the minority that are more noxious than useful.

Owls and Field Mice. Owls as destroyers of mice are deserving of special mention. Not only do they destroy mice, but they are the great horned owl, is to be classed as a noxious. Especially beneficial are the short eared, long eared, screech and barn owls. All these prey largely upon field mice, and seldom harm any other mammals, birds or reptiles. They should be limited to the minority that are more noxious than useful.

The short eared owl, while widely distributed in the United States, is locally, within the United States, but wherever field mice become excessively numerous these owls usually assemble in considerable numbers to prey upon them. Examinations of stomachs of the short eared owl, taken during the winter months, consist of short tailed field mice.

The barn owl is rather common in the southern half of the United States and breeds as far north as the forty-first parallel of latitude. That mice are the chief prey of this bird has been demonstrated by Dr. A. K. Fisher of the Biological Survey, through examination of stomachs of many barn owls and also of large numbers of pellets (castings from their stomachs) found in the barns and outbuildings. In Washington, D. C., he found 1,991 skulls of short tailed field mice, 656 of the house mouse, 210 of the common rat and 247 of the short eared owl. Very few remains of birds were found.

In 360 pellets of the long eared owl Dr. Fisher found skulls of 374 small mammals, of which 349 were meadow mice. Stomach examinations give similar testimony to the usefulness of this bird.

The common screech owl feeds mainly upon mice and its habit of staying in orchards and close to farm buildings makes it especially useful in keeping premises free from house and field mice.

When mice, both meadow and pine, are in small numbers trapping is probably the easiest method of getting rid of them. From twelve to twenty traps on an acre may often be set with advantage in the mouse runs. Where the mice are numerous, however, the use of traps is a quicker means of extermination. Several formulas for poisoning are given in Farmer's Bulletin No. 670 of the United States Department of Agriculture. Field mice may also be driven away by thorough cultivation of the soil and the elimination of fence rows. In the case of trees, clean tillage and the removal from the neighborhood of weeds and grass will prove an effective precaution.

SIMPLIFIED SPELLING.

The Simplified Spelling Board held its annual meeting recently at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York. The last year, according to the reports of five field agents, has been the most successful in the history of the board.

Eighty-six universities, colleges and normal schools have approved the principle of simplified spelling and have adopted some of the forms for use in official correspondence and publications. In an issue of July-five since April, 1914, among these institutions were: Columbia University—Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York University, Ohio State University.

It will be the policy of the board to defer the recommendation of further changes in spelling until those already put forth are more generally adopted.

These officers were elected: President, Prof. Charles H. Grandgent of Harvard; Secretary, Henry Holt, Treasurer, Gano Dunn. The other members of the executive committee are: Prof. James W. Bright of Johns Hopkins, Dr. Melville B. Van Dine of Johns Hopkins, Prof. Lewis A. Mott, Dr. George C. O. Haas, Prof. De Witt C. Croissant, Prof. C. L. Eaborn, Prof. Maurice G. Fulton, Dr. George H. Danton and Henry Gallup Hayes Ward.

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GREATER CARE NEEDED FOR GROWING CHICKS

Right Kind of Food May Be Given in Plenty Without Overfeeding Danger.

KEEP UTENSILS CLEAN

By DR. THOMAS J. CLEMENS.

Extreme care is necessary in caring for chicks during the growing season in order to secure strong, productive stock. The chicks should be kept in a healthy condition always growing and free from vermin.

It must be recognized that proper feeding is only one of the factors concerned in the rearing of chicks. Proper handling and proper brooding are also of great importance if strong, healthy flocks are to be raised. Scrupulous attention should be paid to numerous losses every year, and too great care cannot be taken to see that all the foods to which the chicks have access are free from any trace of mould or fermentation.

Grains that have heated, though they may not show any trace of mould, are often injurious and should not be fed. Wet foods which have been mixed with water or milk sour quickly, especially if exposed to the sun, and should not be used. There is the slightest trace of fermentation.

It is a great deal more economical in the long run to throw away tainted food than to take the chance of an injured whole flock of growing chicks by its use. All troughs or other utensils used in feeding chicks should be cleaned and scalded frequently and kept scrupulously clean from any trace of mould or fermentation. Great care should be taken in the use of foods which, while neither mouldy nor sour, are solidly packed or mixed with soil or droppings. The danger of infection is such that it is never safe to use foods that are in the condition of being packed or mixed with soil or droppings.

There is practically no danger of over-feeding chicks after they are about four weeks old and running at large. They should then be induced to eat the largest possible quantity of food in order to secure rapid growth and development.

A large proportion of the diseases which affect young chicks is due to improper feeding or to injurious food. Properly prepared and pure foodstuffs which are not in perfect condition are liable to cause sour crop, inflammation of the crop or stomach, diarrhoea and liver ailments, including some forms of so-called "white diarrhoea."

When chicks are out of condition, slight modifications in diet or methods may result in correcting the tendency to disease. It is much better to protect the health of the chicks by careful brooding than to resort to drugs after diseased conditions have developed.

During early stages of the chick's life, when intestinal troubles are common, the use of boiled milk and boiled rice will be of great assistance in correcting any tendency toward diarrhoea or inflammation. Boiled rice should be given to drink, and boiled rice should be supplied twice a day in place of the regular feed. Rice should be boiled in a double boiler until it is thoroughly cooked and as dry as possible. When cold, any surplus moisture should be taken up by mixing it with fine bran, securely fitting ordinary bran through a flour sieve and discarding the coarser grade. Bran itself has a decided tonic effect, and the combination of bran and boiled rice will be of great assistance in correcting any tendency toward diarrhoea. Charcoal also will be found of great value in preventing this trouble.

When whole rice and milk are not sufficient to correct the tendency to diarrhoea, a mild stimulant, such as ground mustard, may be added to the feed. Within a few days there is a thin, whitish discharge, which soon becomes sticky and clogs the vent or there may be only a streak of white substance adhering to the vent.

The lack of vitality becomes more apparent as the disease progresses. The affected chicks become listless and die together. They seem to be chilly and spend much time beneath the hover or the mother hen. The appetite is lost, the wings droop and the feathers are ruffled.

As a rule the chicks which resist the disease are never able to make up the loss due to those which have died. Though they may become fully developed, every effort should be made to eliminate from the flock all birds that have at any time been infected with disease. Perhaps the easiest way to do this is to mark plainly and permanently every chick which makes unsatisfactory development or that has ever suffered from disease. This is the only means to prevent the breeding flock from receiving chicks which are unsatisfactory.

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POULTRY DIRECTORY

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S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS (Wyckoff Strain)

\$7.00 per 100. \$4.00 per 50. \$2.50 per 25.

BARRED ROCKS (Ringlet Strain)

\$9.00 per 100. \$5.00 per 50. \$3.00 per 25.

RHODE ISLAND REDS (Tompkins Strain)

\$11.00 per 100. \$5.50 per 50. \$3.50 per 25.

Terms cash with order. Cannot ship C. O. D., but will guarantee to deliver the chicks to you in first-class condition. If any are dead upon arrival, will cheerfully refund your money or replace them free of charge.