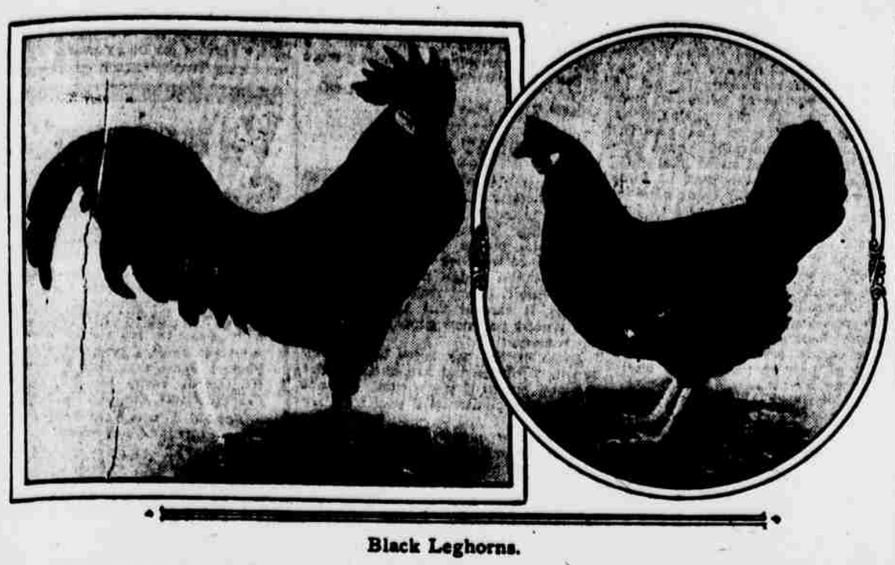
LEGHORNS---EGG LAYING CONTEST---HOME ASPARAGUS BED



Black Leghorns.

The leghorn variety of the Mediterranean class of poultry were, it is supposed, introduced into America in 1835, and at that time created very little interest. Later, in 1853, another lot arrived, which created cosiderable interest, including white, buff, brown and black specimens.

Breeders have developed the leghorn to twice its original size and now claim that this variety gives the largest returns for the least expense in housing and feeding. The silver leghorn has been developed by American breeders. Single comb white leghorns probably enjoy the greatest favor among breeders. Their eggs are large and white, and the highest quotations in the New York market are usually for fancy white leghorn eggs.

All the leghorns are beautiful birds. The white have snow white plumage, bright yellow legs and beaks and red combs that emphasize their plumage. They are made up of curves and their carriage is proud and graceful.

When dressed for the table the carcasses are small, but the meat is fine and tender, and they are fit for broiling long before the heavier breeds.

The chicks from healthy strains are strong and easy to raise if given intelligent care. They are good foragers and begin to lay when about five months old.

Brown leghorns do not lay so large nor so white an egg as the white.

Black leghorns resemble the white with the exception of the color of the plumage.

The demand for eggs for hatching and baby chicks is at its height. The call in many cases has been larger than the supply. Make the best of conditions and grow every possible chick that can be cared for.

JERSEY EGG LAYING CONTEST.

At the end of the twenty-sixth week of the Vineland, N. J., egg laying contest the pen of White Wyandottes owned by H. S. Tuthill, Vineland, N. J., was in the lead with a record of 801 eggs. White Leghorns, owned by John R. Lauder, Vineland, N. J., second with 794 eggs; Barred Plymouth Rocks owned by C. N. Myers, Hanover, Pa., third, 785 eggs.

There was a tie for fourth place with 781 eggs between Barred Plymouth Rocks, owned by Harry H. Ober, Lakewood, N. J., and White Leghorns owned by Thomas Henry, Chester, Pa. Then follow White Leghorns, 729 eggs, owned by W. K. Wixson, Germantown, Pa.; Rhode Island Reds owned by Underhill Bros., Lakewood, N. J.; White Leghorns, 724 eggs, owned by James F. Harrington, Hammonton, N. J., and White Wyandottes owned by Gablewood Poultry Farm, Haddonfield, N. J., 718 eggs. Each pen contains ten birds.

HOME GROWN POULTRY FEEDS.

Oats may be sown until the middle of May, though earlier if possible. They are not exacting in soil requirement, but for grain don't grow on too rich or heavily manured land, as lodging is liable to occur. Corn stubble land may be sown to oats without ploughing; simply disk and harrow thoroughly. Don't use too much manure, especially hen manure; 600 to 1,000 pounds per acre is ample, and it should be supplemented by acid phosphate (one-third to one-half as much by weight as of hen manure). Spread all hen manure broadcast. Use 2 to 3 bushels of seed per acre. Treatment with formalin for smut is worth while.

Spring wheat yields somewhat less than winter wheat as a rule, but is a possible "war measure" crop. Soils, preparation and fertilization are similar to oats. Use at least 2½ bushels seed per acre and sow early, certainly not later than the middle of May.

Beardless barley is very apt to lodge before the grain is ripe. Barley may be safely sown for grain later than oats or spring wheat, but is questionable after the middle of June. Soils, preparation and fertilization are similar to oats, though barley will thrive better on poorer soils than spring wheat. Threshing and cleaning are more difficult than with oats, especially if the straw is not real dry.

Mangels are a very desirable green feed for winter. They require rich loam soils and somewhat heavier manuring than for corn, and lime is desirable. They need careful, thorough cultivation and weeding to be successful. Plant 28 or 30 inches apart in drills and thin to 8 or 10 inches apart. Either Long Red or Half Sugar varieties are good yielders, though hens eat the Half Sugar and Globe varieties better than the Long Reds. Get the best seed obtainable. Do not harvest until late fall. Yields of 30 to 40 tons per acre can be secured.

Corn is the greatest single home grown feed the poultryman can raise both in yield and general usefulness. There is no difference in feeeding value, pound for pound, between flint and dent corn if equally mature. Flint corn will mature sooner than most dents, and the real small flints, like early Canada and Rhode Island White Cap, can be planted even to the middle of June in southern New England with good prospects of ripening the grain. Dent corn may grind or crack somewhat easier than flint. Almost any soil taht is not wet or very sandy will answer for corn, though fertile loam soils well supplied with decaying organic matter give the best yields. One thousand to 2,000 pounds of hen manure can safely be used for corn, and even more on land not recently manured or fertilized. Supplement with 400 to 600 pounds of acid phosphate per acre. Do not plant until the weather warms up, usually from May 10 to June 1. Plant in hills, three or four kernels each and three to three and a half feet apart each way. Seed needed for an acre varies from ten to fourteen quarts. Cultivate well as long as possible. Let the ears harden well before cutting.

Soy beans are a new crop for grain, particularly for poultry, but very high in protein and hence worth trying. Plant the smaller varieties at corn planting time, in drills thirty inches apart, approximately one-half bushel seed per acre. Don't cover too deeply and broadcast. All fertilizer or manure. Don't use as much hen manure as for corn. Leave standing until most of the leaves have dropped, if pods are not shattering. Dry in small bundles or piles with as little handling as possible. Thresh only when dry and let grain dry well before grinding.

Buckwheat is an easily raised crop that can be sown until the middle of July. Not exacting in soil requirement, but responds to fertilizer. Six hundred to 800 pounds hen manure is enough and none is needed on land previously manured. Seed with a grain drill or broadcast, using two to three bushels per acre. Buckwheat is easily threshed by poultry and the straw serves for litter.

Winter wheat can be sown until October 10, but before September 30 is safer. Don't sow on heavy, clayey land that heaves badly over winter, nor on land having water standing on it through the winter. Manure and fertilize the same as for oats, and sow 2½ to 3 bushels per acre. Winter wheat is an excellent crop in which to seed clover in the spring. Dawson's Golden Chaff, Klondyke, Jones's Red Wave, Fultz, Early Windsor, Poole and Gypsy are suggested varieties.

Every corn field that is not seeded to grass or winter wheat should have rye sown on it during August, in the standing corn or after the corn is harvested. Rye can safely be sown later than winter wheat and should be fertilized about the same. It can be sown after buckwheat. Use 2 to 2½ bushels per acre, possibly 3 bushels if sown very late.

First Year—Oats or spring wheat as early as possible, April 15 at least. Winter wheat to follow the oats.

Second Year—Seed to clover very early—before April 1.

Harvest winter wheat.

Cut clover rowen, or leave to be ploughed under.

Third Year—Corn or soy beans; to be seeded to rye or winter wheat in the fall, or Mangels on all or part of the field, then sown to oats or spring wheat the next spring.—BENJ. G. SOUTHWICK, Connecticut Agricultural College.

Eggs are composed of 57 per cent. white, 32 per cent. yolk and 11 per cent. shell.

The food value of the egg is not affected by the color of the shell nor the color of the yolk. Some customers prefer white eggs and some the brown. Around New York city white eggs are in greater demand, probably because buyers do not know that brown eggs are equally as good. The color of the yolk depends largely on the kind of food the fowls have had.

The only really fair way to sell eggs, fair to producer and consumer, is by the pound. A dozen eggs may weigh as much as 32 ounces to the dozen, while others will weigh only 20 ounces to the dozen, so it is manifestly unfair to charge the same price for the two lots, one weighing a third less than the other.

There is no one best breed. Each standard breed has special qualities and particular values. Breeders do best with the breeds they like best for their special purpose.

There is no excuse for poultry or garden slackers. Every patriotic family having the room will either raise and keep hens for food or make a productive garden or do both.

Motorists have been asked by the Food Administration to be careful not to kill fowls on highways. The right of the motorist does not enter the question. The fact is we cannot afford to destroy a particle of any food that can be used to sustain life and release meat and wheat for our boys "over there."

A baby chick reproduces its own weight many times over during the first eight weeks of its life. Proper food, warmth, bedding, fresh air and careful attention are required to permit rapid growth. Green food, mineral food, grit and animal food in proper proportions are necessary, also baby chick scratch grains and mash food. Cleanliness is essential. Lice and mites must be kept under control.

A clean, warm, dry, sunny place should be ready for the pigs, lambs, calves and other young animals when they arrive. A good start in life tends to make healthy rapid growing animals. Let the boy or girl show what can be done with the orphans or weakly pigs, lambs or calves that do not seem to be worth saving because of the rush of other work.

Housefliies are said to dislike anything blue. They avoid rooms decorated in blue. Flies dislike oil of lavender, and if this is mixed with an equal quantity of water and sprayed about a dining room from an atomizer the flies will depart. Flies dislike the perfume of geranium, mignonette, heliotrope, white clover, honeysuckle and hop blossoms. Bouquets of these flowers on a table will keep flies away, at least that is the report of one who claims to have carefully tried the experiment.

May 15 is usually a safe date to make a second planting of sweet corn and beans. If frost does not injure the first plantings put in early in the month there will be early corn and beans for the family.

For late plantings use the white radishes, such as Icicle. They do not become so hot and tough as the red ones.

Small plantings every week of lettuce and radishes will supply fresh, crisp plants for the table.

MAKING A HOME ASPARAGUS BED.

By M. G. KAINS.

It is an exploded idea that the asparagus bed must be prepared in the old fashioned way with quantities of bones, leather and other organic matter to supply the plants with unlimited food. Nowadays it is found necessary merely to prepare the soil deeply and thoroughly, though best results are secured when considerable quantities of organic matter, such as natural fertilizer from the stable, is buried as deeply as the plough can be made to turn it. This supply of plant food is not by any means enough to keep the plants going indefinitely; additions must be made from time to time to replace that lost through seepage or by its utilization by the plants. Such supplies can readily be given, preferably in the autumn, by means of heavy dressings of natural fertilizer, this to be raked off or incorporated in the beds by means of a spading fork in the spring.

The first consideration in planning to start an asparagus bed is the source of the plants. As a rule amateur gardeners purchase plants one or two years old from seedsmen. These plants, even the best of them, give only indifferent results when compared with home grown plants, and the differences are most marked when two year plants are chosen. As with trees and shrubbery it is well to rely on one year plants rather than older ones, because the loss of roots in digging them is much less and the younger plants recuperate much more rapidly and make better producing crowns than do the older ones.

Start a garden now and a little later have vegetables like these.

Where one is so situated that he can raise his own plants he may well take the extra time and space to do this. The first calculation should be as to the number of plants required. One ounce of seed will be sufficient to sow one hundred feet of row. The seeds should be soaked in lukewarm water for twenty-four to thirty-six hours before being sown, as this will save time in the appearance of the little plants. It is a good plan to sow the seed rather thinly, say an inch apart, and then to sow in the same row a quick maturing variety of radish, the seeds of which should not be closer than two inches apart. The only object of using the radish is to have the radish plants serve as indicators of the exact position of the asparagus rows, so that cultivation may begin within a week of the time the seeds are shown. Without such markers it would be impossible to distinguish the tiny asparagus plants for several weeks, during which weeds might easily get the better of them. When the radishes are large enough to eat they may be pulled without having done any damage to the asparagus plants.

The next operation is to thin out the asparagus plants to stand not closer than three inches; four to six would be even better. In doing this thinning it will be well to allow only the sturdiest plants to remain, as these are likely to make the best crowns. During the summer and until autumn is well advanced the plants should be kept free from weeds and the surface of the soil between them loose and open by frequent cultivation. When the tops have died down they may be cut and burned. It is a good plan to cover the ground with a strawy litter mulch which must be removed in the spring about the time that the trees are breaking into leaf. The object of the mulch is to prevent the heaving and settling of the soil due to the alternate freezing and thawing during warm spells of winter.

In the latitude of New York city and of the highlands of central Pennsylvania asparagus beds may be set out between the middle and the last of April or perhaps as late as the first week in May. The plants may be dug by means of a spading fork, the most robust of them picked out as first choice and taken to the position of the permanent bed, which should have been prepared as indicated in the first paragraph. It is a good plan to have furrows not less than six inches deep to receive the plants. If horse cultivation is to be used the rows may be made four feet apart, but if only hand cultivation can be given the distance may be shortened one-half. In the rows the plants for horse cultivation should be two feet apart; for hand cultivation they may be as close as fifteen inches, but eighteen to twenty-four would be better, because sturdier crowns will result and there will be finer stalks to cut, also a larger quantity as a rule.

As with other plants the roots should be spread out in various directions and earth should be worked firmly among them and pressed down hard. It is not necessary to fill the trench at once; a covering of say three or four inches will be enough at the start. After the plants have begun to send up stems the earth may be worked into the trenches gradually until the soil is level from side to side and end to end of the bed.

During the first season in the permanent bed no stalks may be cut, because this would injure the crowns for future production. During the second year one, two or at most three scanty cuttings may be allowed, but certainly no more, because the object should be to have the crowns become as strong as possible, so as to have the bed in prime condition for its twenty-five to fifty years annual production. After the third year the permanent bed may be cut over frequently for six to eight weeks. It is a good rule to cease cutting when the earliest garden peas are ready for the table in the same garden.

There are at least half a dozen well recognized varieties of asparagus obtainable from American seedsmen. One of the oldest and most popular of these is Conover's Colossal. For thirty or forty years this has been one of the leading commercial as well as garden varieties. Palmetto, a Southern variety, is particularly popular for the production of green rather than white asparagus, because its stalks are naturally a vivid green. Bonvalette's Giant is an improved strain of Palmetto, which is said to produce larger stalks than its parent. Columbian Mammoth is the popular variety for the production of white stalks, because it is not necessary to do as much earthing up as with most of the green stalk varieties. The white stalks are also nearly as fine flavored as those of the best green stemmed varieties. Giant Argenteuil is a popular French variety, which has a considerable hold upon American palates. It produces large thick stems. Barr's Mammoth produces very large stalks—often an inch in diameter—with few leaf scales. It is characteristic of this variety for the stalks to retain their thickness from base almost to tip and then to end in blunt round heads. During the last ten years this variety has been steadily gaining in popularity.

To produce white or blanched asparagus—which, by the way, is usually not as fine flavored or as free from stringiness as the green stems—all that is necessary is to bank the earth from the sides of the row over the plants. This is done as soon as the first stalks begin to appear in early spring. Cutting is begun as soon as the stalks peep above the mounds of earth. This method of growing asparagus is not applicable in all soils because loamy and other heavy soils tend to bake and become hard. It is practicable only when the soil is light and friable. After the cutting season has passed care must be taken to level the mounds of earth and to allow the later stalks to develop their tops. It is always a good plan to cut the fully matured stalks before they drop their berries, as these would fill the bed with seedlings.

NEW POTATO ASSOCIATION.

Two hundred and fifty prominent potato growers of New Jersey have organized the New Jersey Potato Association.

The objects of this association as stated by the constitution are "to organize the potato growers of the State for mutual advantage and to group together these growers for the development of local interests; to cooperate with and serve the interests of the United States Food Administration and the United States Potato Association; to assist in standardizing potato grades and to establish better markets for New Jersey potatoes; to assist the State Experiment Station in carrying on fertilizer and other experiments for the benefit of potato growers; to serve as the official medium through which potato growers of the State may acquaint the national Department of Agriculture with their needs and as the medium for disseminating information to growers from that Department; to gather information looking toward the securing of better seed potatoes."

The officers of the new potato association are: President, Earle Dilatush of Robbinsville, N. J.; treasurer, Walter L. Minch of Bridgeton, N. J.; secretary, W. B. Duryee of the State Department of Agriculture in Trenton.

SPRAY FOR ASPARAGUS BEETLE

If beetles and larvæ are at work on the foliage of asparagus plants, one or two applications of lead arsenate will kill them. Two pounds of dry lead arsenate or four pounds of lead arsenate paste to fifty gallons of water or Bordeaux mixture will make a spray of sufficient strength. This treatment, made after the cutting season, should lessen the number of beetles next year and also enable the plants to make a healthy growth. The two species of beetles affecting asparagus and various methods for eradicating them are described in the United States Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 837, "The Asparagus Beetles and Their Control."

The common asparagus beetle is distributed over a wide territory extending from Toronto, Canada, through New York and New England, except Maine, to southern North Carolina and westward to the border line between Illinois and Iowa. It has also been reported from one locality in Colorado and three in California. The bulletin gives brief descriptions of these pests in their various stages and prescribes, in addition to spraying after the cutting season, a number of measures which may be used to control the early broods.

STRAWBERRY PRESERVES.

Specialists in commercial handling and preserving of fruits in the bureau of chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, have worked out the following accurate directions, which may be applied also to household conditions, for preserving strawberries so that just enough syrup of the proper consistency can be made in advance. With this amount of syrup the berries can be packed attractively without floating and no syrup will be left over, which in many cases means an important saving in sugar.

Sterilize Jars—While the berries and syrup are cooking place the empty clean jars and caps in tepid water and bring to a boil and allow to boil for at least fifteen minutes. Remove the jars from the water only as they are to be filled and the caps only when they are to be placed on the jars. Simply drain jars and caps; do not wipe them. One of the inexpensive jar lifters will be convenient in handling the hot jars.

Sterilizing Rubber Rings—Do not boil rubber rings for any length of time. Just before placing them on the jars dip the rings for a moment into a quart of boiling water into which one teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda has been added.

RECIPE NO. 1.

Syrup—Add 35 ounces of sugar to a half pint of water, bring to a boil and skim.

Preserving—To this amount of syrup add exactly 2¾ pounds of washed, capped and stemmed strawberries. Boil the fruit until it registers 222 degrees Fahrenheit on a candy or chemical thermometer. If no thermometer is available boil until the syrup is very heavy—about as thick as molasses. Remove scum from the preserves.

Packing—Fill the sterilized jars full of hot berries. Pour in enough of the hot syrup to fill the jar, leaving as little air space as possible. Put sterilized rings and caps on at once, but do not fasten tightly.

Sterilizing Packed Fruit—Stand the sealed jars in tepid water up to their necks if possible. Bring this water to a boil. Let pint jars stay in the boiling water for at least 15 minutes and quart jars at least 25 minutes, then close tightly at once. At the conclusion of the operation stand each jar for a moment on its cap to make sure that the seal is absolutely tight.

RECIPE NO. 2.

The following method is preferred by some because it leaves more of the natural color in the preserves.

To two pounds of washed, capped and stemmed strawberries add 26 ounces sugar, let stand over night. In the morning pour juice thus obtained into a preserving kettle, add berries and cook to 222 degrees Fahrenheit or until the syrup is very heavy. Pack and sterilize as in recipe No. 1.

Equipped with a chemical thermometer, which gives readings from 212 degrees up, the preserver can be certain of uniform results.

The syrup will not reach 222 degrees Fahrenheit until it is cooked enough and is of the best preserving consistency. The reason for this is that the syrup will not reach this temperature until the proper amount of water has been driven off by boiling. Such a thermometer is also very useful in all forms of preserving, in candy making and in other cooking operations where results depend upon exact heating.

RHODODENDRON PRÆCOX.

On one of the coldest days last February I saw in Regents Park, London, this beautiful shrub in profuse bloom, a pure rosy pink. I picked up a floret that had fallen and went with it to the nursery. In that garden of desolation I saw it again in bright contrast with great numbers of shivering naked shrubbery. The florist was surprised that I did not know it, as it came from America. I quote a description taken from the journal of the Royal Horticultrual Society

Rhodora canadensis (Rhododendron). By R. Roth (February 19, 1910, p. 86).—A pretty shrub, with deciduous oblong leaves, whitish beneath. The flowers are small, and produced in umbellate clusters. The author describes the remarkable and pretty effects these flowering shrubs make; ordinarily they grow in the regions of northern Canada in low boggy places in great numbers, surrounded by the graceful birch, and higher up the sombre pine and fir tree. It is one of the first of spring flowers when the snow has not quite disappeared and it is a most delightful sight to see the groups of Rhodora still without foliage in these surroundings. In England during a mild winter Rhodora flowers in February and March, otherwise not till April.

Wonders never cease, at least in the floral world. Now we have a Chinese sassafras, said to be a wonderful improvement upon our lovely native type. A real American sassafras is rarely seen in England, but when you see one you open your eyes in astonishment.

One at Clermont, the late home of the Duchess of Albany, is seventy feet high. And yet another wonder, an essentially native American shrub—our snowberry's, a relative (Symphoricarpos)—has arrived from China with bright blue fruits.

Where we have but few native viburnums at home—the snowball (guelder rose), the blackhaw—here they have dozens, all hardy. Some have pink cylindrical blossoms, blue fruits and waxy foliage; another, with wrinkled foliage and scarlet fruits, all evergreen. Imagine a poplar tree with the leaves 14 inches long by 10 wide, and a Chinse willow tree with leaves 10 inches by 8 inches. This willow is hardy and so easily propagated that E. H. Wilson, who is its introducer, states that he saw a farm yard enclosure made from stakes of this willow, and they had all taken root. I only call your attention to these plants in the hope that they will interest you to further reading of books devoted to them, like Baen's book of shrubs of Kew Gardens, and some of THE SUN'S readers may see live specimens at the Arnold Arboretum near Boston, and probably in Washington, D. C.

The Chinese horse chestnut has flowers over 16 inches long and 4 inches through—and while size does not always mean increased beauty, variation in type is always interesting.

The way in which lovely plants are tripping down the slopes of the Himalaya Mountains on their trip around the world is the wonder of the age. The word pictures that we have and the photographs of floral splendor make one sigh for the wings of an airplane.

There are 160 species of rhododendron in China alone and sixty have been brought here and to the United States alive by one man, Mr. Wilson.

Imagine masses on a mountain slope of rhododendron of bright buttercup yellow; another, "Flavidum," a primrose yellow and dwarf. Most of them are hardy and love shady places and many are fragrant. Is it not a beautiful world? SUSAN P. OKIE.

NEW INSECT IN CONNECTICUT INJURES FRUIT.

As the severe winter has killed practically all of the peach buds in Connecticut and injured the wood in many places it is a good time to cut back the trees. No fruit will be sacrificed, and it will induce a new and stronger growth for the future.

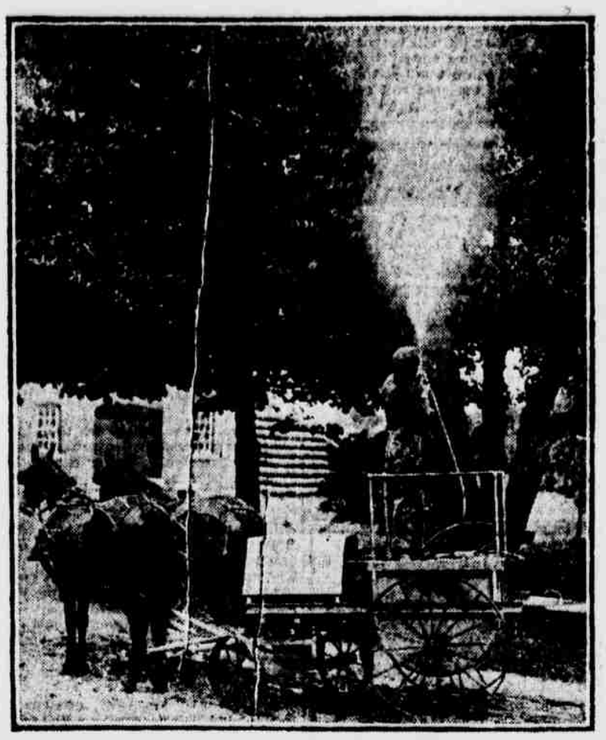
An important new insect pest has appeared in the southwestern portion of the State, known as the Oriental peach moth, Laspeyresia molesta Busck. Though called a peach moth, this insect attacks nearly all kinds of fruit trees. The larvæ are borers in the small twigs and also tunnel inside the fruit. If it should become established throughout this part of the country great losses would probably be caused by it.

The larvæ infest the fruit, not only of the peach but also of the apple, pear and quince, usually ruining it. Tests of control measures are not encouraging.

A small percentage of the larvæ hibernate in silken cases in cavities in the bark on peach twigs, hence all trimmings should be gathered and burned before warm weather comes.—W. E. Britton, State Entomologist of Connecticut.

The sheep killing dog is on the side of the Huns in these days when our soldiers and need all the wool they can get.

Intestinal worms, lung worms, and skin parasites levy a burdensome tax upon the profits of hog raising. Absolute cleanliness will be found valuable in preventing and controlling these troubles, as well as the more serious diseases—hog cholera and tuberculosis.



Friend Power Sprayer at work.

The Friend Power Sprayers are built in three sizes, small, medium and large. The friend goes anywhere, draws easily and puts spray where it is wanted in the proper form.

Seeds of Solanum sown in pots now will make attractive plants, with large bright berries for autumn and winter decoration.

Sow lawn seed now if this has not been attended to earlier. Cover the bare spots in the lawn.

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Kerr's Guaranteed Baby Chicks are bred from pure bred flocks of high utility value which have the benefit of free range and are unusually healthy and vigorous. So Kerr's Chicks are big value and sure profit payers.
ORDER NOW. If any chicks are found dead upon arrival we will replace free or refund your money.
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WILBURTHA DAY-OLDS—We have several thousand White Leghorn, Rhode Island Red and White Plymouth Rock chicks for immediate shipment. These baby chicks are from noted flocks, winners in the showroom and heavy layers in the Egg Laying Contests.
We offer in lots of 25 chicks or over: S. C. White Leghorns, 15c each; S. C. Rhode Island Reds, 20c each; White Plymouth Rocks, 30c each. Come to headquarters and get the best. Safe arrival of every chick is guaranteed. Order direct from this ad. Ask for 1918 Mating List. Bell Phone Trenton 3768J. WILBURTHA POULTRY FARMS, 89 River Road, Trenton Junction, N. J. C. J. Fisk, owner; M. L. Chapman, manager.

Bourbon Red Turkey Eggs, 50 cents each, $4 for 9. Mildred Smith, Mt. Bethel, Pa.

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GLADIOLUS
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April 20, 1918
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Dear Friend:-
The replies from our advertisement in your columns have been very satisfactory indeed.
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With best wishes
Respectfully yours,
A. E. Kunderd.