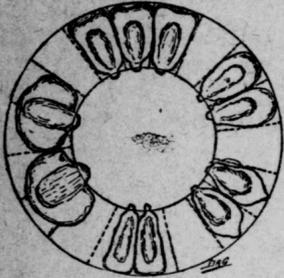


# Farm and Garden

## GOOD SEED CORN.

Selecting It a Matter of Care and Intelligence.

In order to secure the largest possible yields of corn, including grain and fodder, the grower must carefully and intelligently select, cure, test and grade his seed corn. It is true that many farmers obtain their seed corn from the crib in the spring and secure what appear to be good stands and reason-



A STUDY OF KERNELS.

The upper three kernels are well proportioned and occupy completely the space between the circumference of the ear and the circumference of the cob. The upper right hand two kernels are poorly shaped and leave a lot of unoccupied space. The lower right hand two kernels show how the white rice popcorn kernels occupy the space. The lower two kernels are of the shoe peg type. The left two kernels show the relative shape and position of flint kernels as compared with the upper three dent kernels.]

ably good crops. This does not mean, however, that the stand might not have been made better and the crop larger had these same farmers given more care to the selection, storing and treatment of their seed corn.

The condition of corn in the spring of 1908 that had stood during the winter in shock or crib emphasizes in a striking way the risks that are run in using seed that has not been properly saved. Of a large number of ears tested at the Michigan Agricultural college for vitality those selected from the shock invariably produced an exceedingly low number of germinations. More than 50 per cent of the ears produced no germination whatever, and of those that did show vitality it was rare that 100 per cent of the kernels germinated. The conditions under which corn passed the winter were exceedingly bad, but even with the best conditions there are influences, such as freezing, molding and the like, which of necessity tend to reduce the vitality of the corn.

The ear should be selected while it still remains on the standing stalk. The stalk should be of good size, with considerable foliage. The position of the ear should be considered. If too low it is apt to mature late. It is the opinion of the college experimenters that increased yields are secured by the judicious selection of seed from stalks bearing two ears. The ideal ear should be cylindrical, not tapering. Experience teaches that rough top kernels are best.

The selected ears should be placed where they will dry in the shortest reasonable time, and various methods have been employed for this purpose. There is no better method from the standpoint of efficiency than the old one of braiding the ears together by the husks left upon them or tying them in lots by strings and hanging in the summer kitchen or in the attic above near the stovepipe. This, however, requires considerable room and is not altogether satisfactory to the workers in the kitchen. A furnace



PRACTICAL RACK FOR DRYING.

room is a good place, provided it is well ventilated and an occasional fire is built. Frequently the corn is left in crates, and, while this is usually a successful method, there is more or less danger from molding. Corn so stored should be watched carefully until it is known to be thoroughly dry.

The cheap rack shown herewith is used at the college for storing and drying seed corn. It is twelve feet long and ten feet in height, with a capacity for thirty bushels of ears. The posts are 2 by 4 inch hemlock and stand four feet apart. They are set in pairs four inches apart, each pair carrying a tie of corn. Sixpenny nails should be used in nailing on the strips.

**Chemical Action of Manure.**  
Manures act chemically on soils by adding new stores of plant food, and by their decomposition in the soil they give off carbonic acid gas, which unites with the soil waters and increases its dissolving action on mineral plant food. It also provides the formation of humates in the soil and thus renders inert mineral plant food more available.

## BEST EGG PRESERVATIVE.

Lard is Now Preferred by Many Foreign Experts.

Italian and French experts have of late days become convinced that lard as an egg preservative is to be highly commended. Dr. Campanini, an Italian agricultural authority, after reviewing the various known means of preserving eggs—by salt water, limewater, silicate of potash, vaseline and cold storage—described his lard experiments, which showed better results than all others. His theory is that to preserve eggs some system must be adopted that will absolutely prevent the exchange between the air outside and the inside of the egg, for it is this continual exchange that causes putrefaction. Dr. Campanini selected perfectly fresh eggs and covered them with lard so as effectually to stop up all the pores. The shells were thus rendered impermeable, and the exchange of air was prevented, the obstruction of the pores not permitting the evaporation of the water.

The whites and yellows of the eggs retained their colors perfectly, and the taste was not modified in the slightest degree. When properly caked with lard, not too thickly, the eggs are put in baskets or boxes on a bed of tow or fine odorless shavings and so arranged that there will be no point of contact between them; otherwise a mold will develop and putrefaction result. The packing room should be perfectly dry, the question of temperature not being important. By this process Dr. Campanini kept a quantity of eggs for a whole year through a very hot summer and a very cold winter, and they were perfectly preserved. Some authorities take exception to the smearing of eggs with fat or lard. Limewater, on the other hand, is strongly advocated by Canadian poultry experts.

## RAISING DUCKS.

These Fowls Require Treatment Different From the Ordinary.

An authority on ducks says that they require different care from other fowls, and especially chickens. The same care and feed that will produce good results with chickens are not good for ducks. They require vegetables, animal matter and a good supply of green food, as well as plenty of water for drinking purposes where they are not allowed to run to a stream. They are



PRIZE PEKIN DUCKS.

good layers when fed and handled properly, and as a seller on the market the duck is in good demand at all times.

Pekin ducks are great layers, but are of no account as mothers; consequently, if they cease laying and remain on the nest, shut them up, feed them well for a few days, and when they are turned loose they will soon begin to lay again. As they will do this the season through from early March till late in November in warm latitudes with only a little rest in midsummer, a large flock can be raised from a very few to begin with. If one does not care for eggs later than the summer months the ducks may be picked, the feathers being a source of considerable profit, whether kept for one's own use or sold, but the ducks must not be picked during the period eggs are wanted.

While ducks will usually commence to lay in February, it is not advisable to begin hatching too soon. Dampness is more fatal to young ducks than anything else, and early in the spring it requires considerably more work to look after them than later on, after the weather becomes more settled. For the reason that they make better mothers and bear the necessary confinement better than ducks it is best to hatch the first brood under hens. Fear keeps them confined until the ducks are well fledged. There need be but little, if any, loss, and after the ducklings get well started to feathering they are quite hardy and can be turned out to look out for themselves. If given good care for the first ten days, there are few fowls that can be raised with less trouble.

## Fall Care of Orchard.

In sections where the ground is very rough the orchard should not be cultivated, especially in the fall. In hilly sections where the ground does not freeze and where there is a great deal of rainfall during the winter the ground is apt to be mellowed by the cultivation, causing the best part of the soil to wash away during these winter rains. But in sections where the ground will freeze during the winter, in level locations, fall cultivation will prevent the soil from wasting away. To turn up the mellow ground to the action of the frost renders many of the insoluble minerals plant food elements available for the trees, which is valuable in developing and maturing the fruit. Cultivate between the rows, allowing the ground to be reasonably porous, so the freezing will be as beneficial as possible, but the dirt must not be allowed to remain in large lumps, which will expose the roots of the trees to the cold weather.

## NEW DINNER TABLE DAINTY

Champagned Grapes Devised to Tickle the Palates of the Very Wealthy.

Champagned grapes are among the newest dainties for the dinner table. A hole is punched in each grape and part of the meat and most of the juice is removed.

The champagne is squirted in through a tiny silver nozzle, and the plug that has been removed to hollow the grape is put back in its place and cemented there with liquid sugar. All that is done without breaking the grape from its stem.

Each bunch, when champagned, is put on ice, and the fruit is served frozen. Most of the gas is out of the thimbleful of champagne by the time the grape is eaten, but the wine flavors the fruit, and the taste is altogether out of the ordinary. Besides, it is a conceit that has the advantage of being expensive.

## CHARACTERISTIC EXPRESSIONS.

A photographer gives the following directions to his customers: "When a lady sitting for a picture would compose her mouth to a bland and serene character she should just before entering the room, say 'broom,' and keep the expression into which the mouth subsides until the desired effect in the camera is evident. If, on the other hand, she wishes to assume a distinguished and somewhat noble bearing, not suggestive of sweetness, she should say 'brush,' the result of which is infallible. If she wishes to make her mouth look small, she must say 'flip,' but if her mouth is already too small and needs enlarging, she must say 'cabbage.'"

## BEST APPETIZERS.

We all know how an appetizer acts, but do we know why? A famous German physician says that hunger is caused by lack of blood in the stomach. That lack acts on a special nerve which is a branch of the nerves of the tongue. Therefore, when a spice or sharp acid is applied to the tongue it stimulates the nerve to action, and those pricks and spurs to appetite are not merely the gratification of cranky "notions," but a response to natural demands. It is, therefore, a scientific fact that those foods which bite the tongue, which gives a relish, in short, are the best appetizers.

## RUDDERLESS AIRSHIP.

Mme. Poppova, a Russian woman, has invented a rudderless airship, which she has named the annulated dragon because of the peculiar shape of its body. This airship is said to adapt itself naturally to every variety and strength of wind. Persons who have examined the airship declare that, in spite of its peculiar appearance, it is a practical sailer.

## WONDERED WHY SHE LAUGHED.



Little Binks—Ah, Miss Sweet, how beautiful is everything in nature!

## MUCH RELIEVED.

The Highwayman—Hands up! I've got you covered!  
The Public Man (much frightened)—Wh-what have you got there?  
The Highwayman—A revolver.  
The Public Man (much relieved)—Oh, that's all right. I was afraid it might be a compromising letter.—Cleveland Leader.

## SOMETHING OF A TOSS.

"Robber!" growled the victim, "you said that house was just a stone's throw from the station."  
"Well?" demanded the real estate agent.  
"Well, the distance is half a mile at least."  
"Is that all? Time and again I've seen a blast from a quarry that would throw stones upward of a mile."

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Now is the time for the up-to-date business man to take advantage of a golden opportunity. The Merchants of Winchester never had the same chance before to reach the buyers of Winchester and Clark county. Every week day in the year over 1,400 homes in this county receive the News. And they read it, too.

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