

Farm and Garden

FOUL CLOVER SEED.

Makes it Plain Where the Weed Crop Comes From.

The Connecticut experiment station is doing a great work in testing clover seed. It obtained fifty-one samples of the seed just as it is sold by Connecticut seed dealers. These samples were tested for weed seeds and also to see what per cent of the clover seed would sprout. The result of the test shows that only one-sixth of the seed as sold was fit to use. Three samples were adulterated with a worthless plant, and forty-one had more or less dodder, the most dangerous weed or parasite which can get into the crop.

Few days pass without a complaint from some one who finds the dodder in his clover. Samples are often sent in showing the clover plants strangled by a pest which twines around them and sucks their life away. The cut shows a mild form of the affliction. Think of putting the seeds of this curse into the ground when you seed your clover! Yet that is just what is being done when we buy ordinary clover seed. In one sample of this Connecticut clover seed 6,441 seeds of the dodders



DODDER ON CLOVER PLANT.

were in one pound of clover seed. In that same sample there were 12,769 seeds of plantain, 1,695 of foxtail, 1,017 of sorrel, 226 of bindweed, 2,147 of lamb's quarters, 1,808 of wild carrot, 226 of curled dock, 1,243 of tumbleweed and many others, making a total of 44,522 weed seeds in a pound. In another sample there were 78,604 weed seeds in one pound sold as clover seed. Just imagine what a farmer does when he sows six or eight pounds of such stuff on an acre!

Another thing was the low quality of the clover itself. It has been demonstrated that the heaviest seeds give the strongest plants during early growth and in most cases largest yields. This Connecticut bulletin states that clover seed of average quality should run 302,000 to the pound. While lighter seed may give a greater number of plants, a greater proportion of them would die out or do poorly. In twenty-six out of fifty-one samples the seeds weighed less than the standard. As for vitality, the average of these fifty-one Connecticut samples was 86.6 per cent—that is, the number out of a hundred strong enough to put out a sprout. One sample showed only 64.2 per cent of seeds with any life to them. One sample was so poor that only 48.1 per cent of the seed was clover, and only 84 per cent of that would sprout. Three samples were evidently adulterated with black medic. Seed of this plant is imported from Germany expressly to adulterate clover seed. It is so much like clover seed that an expert is needed to detect it. In one sample there were 11,615 seeds of dodder in one pound of clover. With a seeding of eight pounds per acre this means two seeds of dodder to each square foot, and tests prove that this dodder is not dead seed.

Hints to Mushroom Growers.

In turning up a portion of a bed maggots may be discovered in the manure. A few may do no perceptible harm, but a large number will eat up the spawn, leaving not even a thread to develop a single mushroom. Many kinds of insects are apt to swarm in warm cellars, together with the egg laying varieties which cause the maggots, regardless of foul air which may often accumulate and which is an injury to the mushrooms. In each succeeding bed in large cellars insects follow up the new beds and become more vigorous. A high temperature such as we had last fall is conducive to their continued existence in summer garb. A good crop, however, can be secured in spite of them when the houses are kept at all times cool.

When mushrooms are grown in glass houses the return pipes are best run under the walks. In the usual way of heating, where the pipes run under the benches, paper placed over the beds will be found beneficial as a protector from excessive heat and drying. With good, vigorous spawn, properly prepared compost and care about the requirements of heat and moisture, a good crop is a positive certainty. There are garden crops equal to if not surpassing the mushroom as money makers to the producer, but no one need complain of well managed mushroom.

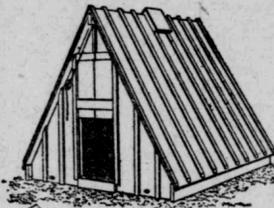
INEXPENSIVE HOG COT.

Easy to Build and Fulfills All the Requirements.

This convenient hog cot is constructed by nailing inch boards on six joists 2 by 4 inches by 8 feet long for the floor. Beneath the joists are nailed three stringers 2 by 6 inches by 8 feet long, which serve as runners for moving the house. Next is spiked a piece 2 by 8 inches 9 feet 4 inches long at the ends of the joists, having the bottom of the 2 by 8 even with the bottom of the joist, which will allow it to project above the floor three inches. It will also extend out seven inches at each end. This 2 by 8 forms a plate to which the rafters and roof boards are nailed. The seven inch extension of the plate at the ends supports the lower corners of the roof, which otherwise would be easily split off. These 2 by 8's, besides strengthening the house, raise the rafters and roof boards nailed to them at least three inches off the floor and thereby materially increase the floor space and the capacity of the house.

If the house is to be used in extremely cold weather an easily manipulated door is necessary. The cut shows a door two feet wide and two feet six inches high, made to slide up and down and held in place by cleats. It is suspended by a rope which passes through a pulley at the top and is fastened to a cleat at the side near the roof. The cut also shows two iron eyes, bolted into the front joist of the building, to which the hitch is made when the building is moved.

A rear door, identical in size with the front door, is held in place by cleats nailed across it on the inside and by buttons fastened on the outside. This door is not opened regularly, but provides ventilation in summer and aids in handling sows at farrowing time. Above the rear door is a small sliding door 8 by 12 inches to



THE A SHAPED HOG COT.

admit light and air. There is a ventilator on top made by sawing off ends of two roof boards and covering the hole with a cap so arranged as to leave openings 3 by 12 inches on each side of the roof.

Lumber required: Nine pieces 1 by 12, sixteen feet long, and eleven battens sixteen feet long for roof; five pieces 1 by 12, fourteen feet long, for ends; one piece 2 by 4, ten feet long, for ridge; two pieces 2 by 8, ten feet long, for plates; seven pieces 2 by 4, sixteen feet long, for rafters and braces in frame; three pieces 2 by 6, eight feet long, for stringers, and four pieces 1 by 12, sixteen feet long, for flooring.

SILAGE FOR MILK COWS.

Most Profitable Way to Feed This Valuable Ration.

By M. A. GOODRICH.

Perhaps there is more benefit derived from silage by feeding it to milk cows than by feeding it to any other kind of stock. At any rate, it is used more and thought more of by dairymen than by any other class of farmers.

Cows should never be fed exclusively on silage. They need some dry forage to go with it; they need a variety. Besides this, corn silage is a carbonaceous food and needs some more nitrogenous food to go with it to make a well balanced ration. About thirty or at most forty pounds a day of silage is as much as should be fed to each cow. It should be fed from the top of the silo, taking off about two inches in depth from the entire surface each day, for if it is long exposed to the air it will be damaged. If the feeding commences immediately after filling the silo—and this is a good way to do it—there will be no damaged silage at all. Care should be taken at each time of feeding to leave the surface smooth and even and not pick and stir it up with the fork, for that will let in the air and cause damage.

My way is to feed the silage ration in two feeds, both night and morning, and it is better to feed after milking, because the peculiar odor of the silage might affect the flavor of the milk.

Cows as well as other stock have a wonderful liking for silage, and I believe much of the success in feeding it can be attributed to its palatability. They even prefer it, to a certain extent at least, to fresh cut forage or good grass in the pasture. I have seen cows in June when on good pasture which had been fed silage every day come to the gate at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and bellow and ask to come to the barn and get silage, which they would eat greedily and apparently with great relish. I have seen the experiment tried of offering the cows at the same time corn cut fresh from the fields and silage that was put up the year before. Every cow chose the silage and ate that first. It is true these cows had been fed silage every day all summer, and it may be the habit of eating silage had something to do with their preferring it, but they surely would not have done it if silage had not been pretty good feed.

There is a better and cheaper feed to supplement short pastures, which we are almost sure to have every summer on account of drought or other causes, than good silage. I know some of the most successful dairymen in the country who feed silage every day in the year, winter as well as summer.

HIS NINE CHEESES.

An Old Time New England Story of a Stingy Parson.

Anecdotes in which the mean and grasping man is outwitted or held up to ridicule are popular everywhere and always. Few ancient towns are without their historic or traditional instances of stinginess punished or sharp practice defeated. In one village of New England, says the Youth's Companion, there is still current such a tale concerning an unpopular parson of more than a century ago.

Although a learned man of impressive manners, this clergyman was noted for undue reluctance to expend and readiness to acquire. He had a habit of pleading poverty and hinting for gifts.

The parish, although with some murmuring, had responded with fuel for his kitchen, hay for his horse, Thanksgiving turkeys for his table and a "subscription cloak" of black satin for his wife when her wedding maiteau became shabby. The murmurs increased when it was found that the parson turned an honest but over-shrewd penny by selling instead of using many of these donations. But they were not loud enough to disturb his stately calm, and he went his way without condescending to notice them. At last, however, fortune played him trick for trick.

One pleasant winter day he made a round of calls, and at each house, when just about to leave, he casually asked his hostess if she could let him have a little piece of cheese, as his wife happened to have none in the house and unexpected company had arrived. In each case the good housewife, instead of a little piece, generously presented him with a whole cheese, which he graciously accepted. As he turned from the door stone at the close of the last visit, while the mother of the family and her brood of nine children stood politely gathered to watch him drive away, he carelessly pulled the wrong rein, the sleigh tipped sharply on a drift, and out from under the ministerial lap robe rolled nine large cheeses, which spun friskily away in all directions on the icy crust.

His hostess understood the situation at a glance.

"Don't disturb yourself, pray, sir," she said politely as he made a motion to descend. "It is quite unnecessary. The children will gather them up, and none will be overburdened or will there be any quarreling for the privilege. See; it is just a cheese to a child."

So it was, and the embarrassed parson, unable to escape, was obliged to receive back his cheeses, with due thanks to each giggling volunteer as they came up in glee-filled procession one by one.

Too well he knew that by the next day the whole parish would be laughing at his misadventure, although he could scarcely have guessed that the joke would be recalled a hundred years later.

Nature's Cunning.

Protective mimicry, that cunning device of nature to preserve animals from their enemies, is well known in the eggs of certain fishes, notably the California shark, known as Gyropleurodus francisci. The shark is of a sluggish habit, lurking among rocks, and its dark egg resembles a leaf of kelp or seaweed folded up spirally. It is deposited among the beds of kelp and clings to the leaves by the edges of the spirals. The young shark bursts open the end of the egg and swims away. Another shark's egg of the Pacific coast has tentacles which clasp the seaweed and also imitate its appearance.

Mozart and Bretzner.

When Mozart was at the height of his fame he composed the music of Bretzner's "Belmont und Konstanze" ("The Abduction From the Seraglio") at the request of Emperor Joseph II. The author of the drama was so angry at this that he inserted the following notice in the Leipziger Zeitung: "A certain fellow of the name of Mozart has dared to misuse my drama, 'Belmont und Konstanze,' for an opera text. I hereby solemnly protest against this invasion of my rights, and I reserve to myself further procedures. (Signed) Christoph Friedrich Bretzner, Author of 'Rausch-chen.'"

Long Necked Belles.

Eastern standards of beauty differ, like the customs, from those of the west. In Malacca, we are told, the small waist and velvet eyes do not count, but instead the length of the neck is the criterion of beauty. The girl of Malacca at a very early age is fitted with a metal collar, which compels her to keep her head erect, and as she grows the collar is increased in size, and by this means the neck is gradually elongated.

Quite Enough.

"I should think you'd go slow," said the cautious friend. "You know, as Lincoln said, 'you can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people'!"

"That's all right," interrupted the sharper, "but I find it's always possible to fool enough of the people enough of the time."—Philadelphia Press.

The Worst of It.

Suffragette Lecturer—Yes, my sisters, man has tyrannized over us, oppressed us, abused us, maltreated us, scorned us, ridiculed us, and—Ancient Maiden (in audience)—Yes, and what is worse, he never married us.—Kansas City Independent.

Lots of people fool dollars away and then howl that the reason they don't get rich is that no one gives them a chance.—Atchison Globe.

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