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Horticultural News

ACT OF RIPENING OF FRUIT

Should Function of Throwing Off Carbon Be Suspended Fruit Dies or Will Dry Up.

Fruits do not act on the air in the same manner as do leaves. Fruits at every stage of their growth, both in light and darkness, suffer a loss of carbon while leaves absorb carbon. The loss of carbon by fruits is essential to their ripening, for should the function of throwing off carbon be suspended (as demonstrated by experiment) the ripening stops and the fruit dies or will dry up on the tree. Fruits which are enclosed in shells ripen, however, as the membranes which forms the husks are permeable to the air, the atmosphere within the shell furnishing the same qualities of oxygen and nitrogen as the air we breathe. When fruits are separated from the tree and placed in atmosphere deprived of oxygen they will not ripen, but the power of ripening is only suspended and may be induced to act by placing the fruit in an atmosphere capable of taking carbon from it; but if left too long in the deoxygenated situation it will lose the power of ripening, even though it preserves the same external appearance.

PREVENTING SCALD IS EASY

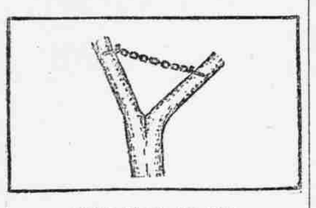
Occasional Renewal of Air of Storage Room Is Recommended by Department of Agriculture.

Apple scald of green and ripe fruit in storage can be entirely and easily prevented by an occasional renewal of the air of the storage room, according to the United States department of agriculture. Apples are living organisms which breathe and, like other living things, have ventilation requirements which, if not met, lead to smothering. Accumulations of carbon dioxide (carbonic acid gas) produced by the apples in storage, the lack of air movement in the storage room, and the depositing of moisture on the fruit are all declared to be factors that may [illegible] the production of scald. Experiments indicate that high humidities may be maintained in storage without the development of scald, and prove conclusively that an occasional renewal of the air of the storage room will completely prevent the disease. Scalded fruit is more mealy and poorer in flavor than unscalded. Scald, in addition to rendering the fruit unsightly and reducing its market value, renders the apples extremely susceptible to certain storage rots.

CHAIN BRACE ON APPLE TREE

There Should Be a Swivel So That Screws May Be Tightened to Hold Limb Firmly.

A big fruit crop is likely to mean a good many injured trees from limbs breaking and splitting off under the load of frlit. Propped-up limbs are



Chain Brace on Tree.

the rule in many young orchards around picking time. Where a big tree is heavily burdened it is possible to keep it from splitting by the time-honored device of using lag screws and a chain or the screws and a couple of rods with a turnbuckle. The chain will work just as well, however. There should be a swivel in the chain, corresponding to the turnbuckle, so that the screws may be tightened up and the weakened limb held firmly. The device may be left in place and will be of permanent value.

WATCH CLOSE FOR CLINGERS

Dried-Up, Diseased Fruits That Stick to Branches Carry Disease Over Until Spring.

It is not enough to destroy all of the insect-laden and fungous-disease-infested fruit that drops before or during fruit harvest by feeding same to the hogs, sheep, or other stock. There are quite often dried-up, diseased fruits that cling to the branches, for weeks after harvest-time, which carry the spores (germs) of disease over until spring and then scatter them broadcast by wind, insects, and birds. There is just as much in preventing trouble as curing it.

PREVENT PEACH LEAF CURL

Best Plan Is to Spray Trees While in Dormant Condition—Use Boiled Lime-Sulphur.

The method almost universally in use as a means of preventing peach leaf curl is that of spraying the trees while in the dormant condition. A number of sprays so applied will give almost perfect control, but the one commonly used is boiled lime-sulphur, as it is also effective in controlling the San Jose scale.

ROAD BUILDING

NATION-WIDE BOOST IS SEEN

All States of Union Have Availed Themselves of Opportunity Offered by Government.

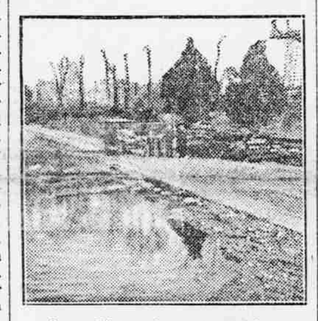
(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

That the better roads movement is receiving a nation-wide boost is shown by the fact that all the states of the Union have availed themselves of the opportunity of participating in the benefits of the federal aid road act, which appropriated $75,000,000 for the construction of post roads and $10,000,000 for forest roads, according to the report of the director of the office of public roads and rural engineering, United States department of agriculture. That the passage of the act has stimulated road building is shown by the fact that in 1916, there were approximately $41,000,000 of state funds expended for all highway purposes, and it is estimated that in the calendar year 1917, the aggregate expenditures of state funds for this purpose will be at least $60,000,000. A number of the states have made specific appropriations to meet federal aid dollar for dollar. Among these are New York, Illinois, Michigan, Rhode Island, Nevada, Iowa, Florida and Vermont.

BUILD ROAD CULVERTS RIGHT

Waste of Time and Money Unless Work Is Done on Approved Plan Under Competent Direction.

No culvert that is improperly built is safe or economical. On the contrary, it is a waste of money to spend it on such work unless the work is well done on an approved plan under competent direction. There must be



Low Water Concrete Bridge.

calculation as to the volume of water the culverts are to carry off in rainy season and flood time, not in dry weather, and as to the durability of the material used in their construction. There can be no skimping on culverts or bridges or drainage without waste. It is better to have these three things permanent and adequate than to have an expensive form of road surfacing if a choice must be made. The man who built his house on shifting sand instead of solid rock has been regarded for centuries as the prince of fools.

AUTOMOBILE IS BIG FACTOR

Present War Has Found in Roads and Motor Cars Means of Moving Great Numbers of Men.

Two conditions of civic life emphasize the necessity for good roads. One is war. The Roman roads were built because Rome had vast armies to move. The present European war has kept thousands upon thousands of men busy in eastern Prussia and western Poland building roads in territories where before there were only swampy trails. Many of the roads in Belgium and northern France were built during previous wars, when vast armies must be moved quickly, so that the present war has found in roads and motorcars the means of moving great armies as never before. Good highways have made possible a rapid transportation of troops which is astonishing the entire world.

IMPORTANCE OF ROAD DRAGS

More to the Work Than Standing on Implement Holding Reins Over Team of Horses.

Perhaps the ease of dragging the road and the simplicity of the King road drag has been overemphasized. At any rate, there is more to road dragging than standing on a drag and holding the reins over a team of horses. And there is more to drag building than merely pinning together of the two slabs of a split log. On the other hand, almost any sort of driving down the road with the roughest possible pair of slabs, slapped together in any old way, will change the ordinary road for the better.

Concrete Culverts Best.

Concrete culverts are, without doubt, the best to use in point of durability and cost of maintenance. There are several reinforced and plain concrete pipes manufactured in most states which make very satisfactory culverts.

Don't Disturb Sow.

After farrowing the sow should not be disturbed, and if she lies quietly for 10 or 12 hours, so much the better. When she wants anything she will go to the trough for it.

CULTURE HERE BEFORE 1492

Did America's Pre-Columbian Civilization Come From Egypt? Is Now Question.

Prof. Elliot Smith developed in an extraordinarily interesting manner the thesis that the pre-Columbian civilizations of America—or at least many important features in those civilizations—were not truly aboriginal, but came in a cultural wave from Asia across the Pacific ocean, the original starting point of the most remarkable characteristic being Egypt.

Professor Smith believes, says Science Progress, that the extremely peculiar culture of Egypt was spread eastward by mariners, mainly Phoenicians, for several centuries after B. C. 800. To quote the author's own words, he thinks that "the essential elements of the ancient civilizations of India (the pre-Aryan civilizations), further India, the Malay archipelago, Oceania and America were brought in succession to each of these places by mariners, whose oriental migrations began as trading intercourse between the eastern Mediterranean and India some time after 800 B. C., and that the highly complex and artificial culture which they spread abroad was derived largely from Egypt (not earlier than the twenty-first dynasty), but also included many important accretions from other sources, and that after traversing Asia and Oceania and becoming modified on the way, the stream finally "continued for many centuries to play upon the Pacific littoral of America, where it was responsible for planting the germs of the remarkable pre-Columbian civilization."

WAYS OF KEEPING YOUTHFUL

Man Who Is Determined Not to Grow Old Really Has Only to "Make an Effort."

I see it in my changing hair,
I see it in my growing heart,
My growing thirst for early peace,
It is a fact. I am growing old.

And so growing old is just a case of finding what one's looking for, observes the Minneapolis Journal. A man decides that the time has come for him to be old, and so instead of bracing up, ignoring the symptoms and finding some other explanation for the change in the color of his hair, he neglects his dress, walks with a stoop, uses a cane, stops taking exercise, eats too much, indulges in reminiscences, retires from business, and in general acquires the foolish habit of growing old.

He should remember that it is possible to keep a youthful spirit, an active mind, an interest in current events and a purpose to serve his fellows, and that he who does these things will always be young.

The fact that women generally decline to contract the old-age habit and that some men have also resisted the temptation to fall into it would seem to indicate that if those who do yield to it would only take the advice of Dombey to his wife, and "make an effort," they would learn how foolish and how unnecessary it is to grow old.

Henry Clay's Diplomacy.

The following is an instance of Henry Clay's readiness in getting out of a difficult situation. On one occasion a vote he had given in congress offended one of his constituents who unbraided him for it and declared he would never again support him for congress.

Meeting this constituent on the court green Mr. Clay said to him: "I am sorry you will not again support me for congress because of a vote I gave on a certain measure. When your rifle misses fire do you throw it away?" "No," replied the constituent, "I do not throw it away." "What do you do with it?" asked Mr. Clay. "Why, I pick my flint and try it again," replied the constituent. "Well," said Mr. Clay, "are you going to throw me away because I have missed fire once? Won't you let me pick my flint and try again? Won't you treat me as you do your rifle when it misses fire?"

This ready reply satisfied the constituent and completely won him over, and he was ever after one of Clay's most faithful supporters in his candidacy for congress.

Man Has Copied Nature's Work.

Marble, in nature, owes its crystalline structure to volcanic heat. But ingenious man uses heat to counterfeit the volcanic rocks. By such means, with suitable materials, he makes bricks and crockery, which are artificial stones. The processes employed in the manufacture of chinaware are merely workship imitations of those used in the laboratory of nature.

Volcanic rock—granite, trap or what not—is the very symbol of imperishability; but the artificial stones (such as brick and chinaware) produced by the fusion of particles under the action of heat are among the most enduring of known substances.

For Those Fond of Parrots.

The voyage by steamship is very hard on parrots, which are stored in the hold, commonly in close proximity to the engine room. Consequently they are apt to reach their final destination in a sickly condition. One should be careful to make sure in buying an African parrot that it is a healthy bird.

There are hundreds of species of parrots and the most beautiful of them all are the cockatoos, native exclusively of Australasia. The giants of the tribe are the American macaws. Neither the macaw nor the cockatooo is ordinarily much of a talker, but occasionally specimens are very clever at conversation.

ALL HAVE THEIR UNDER-DOGS

Good Reasons Why People's Sympathies Are With the Fellow Who Is Temporarily Down.

Our sympathies naturally travel the line of likes—that is, the things we feel in ourselves, we feel in others. We applaud the under-dog, because we so often have been the under-dog. We like to lift the other fellow up when he is down, because we also have been down. Sympathy starts at home—or else it isn't sympathy.

Your periodic moods of failure and disappointment are your under-dogs.

So, instead of walking past these under-dogs of yours and casting no sympathy their way, pause to give them your heart and your hope, and soon the picture and fact will be your over-dogs—your victories and your genuine achievements.

No under-dogs can possibly appeal in importance to the under-dogs of your daily experience.

Perhaps you will applaud alone the under-dogs of your personal glooms and shadows, but what of it? As Lowell says: "Daily, with souls that cringe and plot, we Sinais climb and know it not." What difference, what odds, so long as over your "manhood bend the skies?"

Courageously cheer the under-dogs of your experiences and stay proudly by them until their fight becomes a factor of your kingship.—George Matthew Adams, in Good Housekeeping.

GLASS STAINED BY X-RAYS

Experiments Have Shown These Produce the Same Effect as the Light of the Sun.

It is well known that glass exposed for long to sunlight acquires a violet tint. In very old houses the windows facing south are often distinctly violet. Experiments recently made in the laboratories of the General Electric company at Schenectady with X-rays prove that these can be used to dye glass in many colors, principally an amethystine violet and an amber yellow, but also green and bright yellow.

These colors, according to Mr. Rosenthal, who conducted the experiments, are due to modifications of the physical structure of the glass and not to chemical alterations. The color can be made to penetrate to any desired depth, from a mere surface tint to complete coloration of the entire substance. And the same method can be applied to tinting porcelain, enamel and precious stones.

An interesting and important fact about this glass that has been colored by long exposure to X-rays is that it becomes impervious to the radiations that have transformed it. Thus it can be used as a protection against the glare of the sun or the snow and against the X-rays themselves.

Russia and the United States.

The old autocratic government of Russia was always particularly friendly to the United States. During the Revolutionary war Russia offered to mediate for peace and her offer was accepted by the United States but declined by Great Britain. Russia was one of the first governments to recognize the independence of the United States and continued to show her good will by making treaties of amity and commerce with the United States. Several of our early presidents in their messages referred to "the continued friendship of Russia." In 1823, Russia proposed a friendly adjustment through diplomatic channels of the boundary line between American and Russian possessions in the Northwest and President Monroe authorized the United States minister to Russia to attend to the matter. In doing so he said: "The government of the United States has been desirous by this friendly proceeding to manifest the great value which they have invariably attached to the friendship of Russia and their solicitude to cultivate the best understanding with that government."

Love in Fishdom.

This is no "fish" story as the term is usually referred to, but it is a story about fish. Jim Foster, student of fish affairs, vouches for its authenticity.

Jim has a collection of big live fish in a small aquarium in a down-town restaurant and for 12 hours every night he watches them perform.

"The fish are very affectionate," declared the fish student. "They are good-tempered and kind toward one another. See those two largest fish? They are 'married,' I guess, or else in love with each other. They always kiss each other good night and nibble affectionately at each other's mouths. The female of the two never puts her cold fins on the male one's back. And in the morning—say, it's amusing to watch them yawn and stretch themselves."—Detroit Free Press.

How Would You Tie a Camel?

Because of its peculiar swaying motion in walking the camel has been called the "ship of the desert." This title may also have some reference to the extreme stupidity and passivity of the animal, which submits to great loads, which it will often carry for days at a time without stopping for food or drink, with no more urging than a ship would require from the hands of its pilot, says the Popular Science Monthly. The manner in which the drivers hobble the camels when they stop for a rest is interesting. They do not depend upon stakes driven in the deep, yielding sand, but simply double back and tie one of the foreleg of the animal, so that it can lie down or rise up, but cannot move from the spot.

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