

Farmers' Column



Give feet their gold & knees their power. Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall. Who sows a field or trains a flower. Or plants a tree, is more than all.

Top Dressing for Wheat.

Francis Sanderson, of Plains Farm, Baltimore county, in a letter to the American Farmer, published in Baltimore, Md., says:

Having used phosphate nitrate of soda and kainit for the past two years, applied as a spring application for winter wheat, and in both instances with marked success, I thought it would be of some use to my brother farmers to give my experience, and so send it to you.

I would here state that my soil is a clay loam and in pretty fair condition for growing most farm crops, and I keep it so by making and using all the manures it is possible for me to make; liming my soil for corn, and then drilling my wheat in on this corn ground in the early fall, using 300 lbs. of good fertilizer per acre, and top dressing the wheat in the spring with a slight application of phosphate and kainit. Now some will think this extravagance and a needless waste of money, but I don't think so. I farm and work for money, and if at the end of a year I cannot see some few hundreds of available money beside my stock in hand, then that is not profitable farming, and a man had better sell out, or work for some one else, as he surely don't know how to manage, and management is the great need of most of us.

In 1882, on the first of April, I top-dressed 100 acres of corn ground wheat, using 100 lbs. of phosphate and 100 lbs. kainit; one month from that time I found a marked difference in that wheat, it being of a darker hue and of a stronger growth.

At harvest my hands found that the wheat was heavier, and the heads larger and longer than where no spring application was applied. When this wheat was threshed we found it brighter and heavier, and the yield was 36 bushels of measured wheat per acre, weighing 62 1/2 lbs. per bushel, whilst the wheat grown on the same soil and right alongside of it, but without this top-dressing, did not do so well by 5 bushels. The first wheat was sold for seed, and brought 5 cents a bushel more, and I could have sold as much more if I had had it. The extra yield by this slight application and the extra price for the wheat paid for the entire fertilizer used on this ten acres.

But again in 1883, I had 2 1/2 acres wheat, 20 acres of which was corn ground wheat; this last being in fine tith and rich, I did not apply any spring application, and I found that I did wrong as kainit would have been the means of making the wheat straw stiffer in the joints and it would have stood up. As it was, it all fell down and did not yield more than 20 bushels per acre. I saved a few dollars and lost many.

But the 20 acres of corn ground wheat, which did not look near so promising, was divided into two square parts as near as it was possible for me to do and sowed at each end. On the one part 200 lbs. of nitrate of soda per acre was used, and on the other 200 lbs of kainit and 100 lbs. of phosphate per acre was used. The part where the soda was used grew faster and ripened a few days earlier and the yield was good, viz: 28 bushels per acre of fine bright wheat, but the part where the kainit and phosphate was applied yielded 32 1/2 bushels per acre of equally as good and bright wheat, all of which was sold for seed. I would also state that the clover and timothy crop was all that could be desired on this field; indeed, I could have cut quite a crop of hay if I had wished in the early fall from it.

I would state here as these articles are very valuable they should not be sown too early in the spring, when the heavy rains occur, as they would be washed off, and not too late, as they require a great deal of moisture I find that April is a very good month to sow it.

I would here make a suggestion to all readers of this, to try this plan even if it is but on a small scale, and report the results the following fall to the American Farmer, and much valuable information would be gained. I will the ensuing spring divide my wheat fields into 3 equal parts, using phosphate and kainit on one, nitrate of soda on the other, and phosphate alone on the third, and whichever is the cheapest and produces the most wheat that is the one I shall use the most of hereafter, although a 3 years test is not quite a sufficient test in every case. Why cannot the different country Granges take up this matter and give us something that will be of sound practical use, that will teach us to think, and at the same time put money in our pockets? We need to do the first, and the latter we must have.

A certain Aunt Betsey was trying to persuade her little nephew to go to bed, and, by way of argument, said that all the little chickens went to roost at sunset. "Yes," replied the boy, "but the old hen always goes with them."

How to Treat Sudden Wounds.

The subject of one of the lectures for instruction in First Aid to the Injured, delivered by Dr. D. L. Woodbridge, of this city, was 'What to do in case of a sudden wound when a surgeon is not at hand.' He said in part:

An inexperienced person would naturally close the lips of the wound as quickly as possible, and supply a bandage. If the wound is bleeding freely, but no artery is spouting blood, the first thing to be done is to wash it with water at an ordinary temperature. To every pint of water add either five grains of corrosive sublimate or two and a half table-spoonfuls of carbolic acid. If the acid is used, add two table-spoonfuls of glycerine, to prevent its irritating the wound. If there is neither of these articles in the house, add four table-spoonfuls of borax to the water. Wash the wound, close it, and apply a compress of a folded square of cotton or linen. Wet it in the solution used for washing the wound, and bandage down quickly and firmly. If the bleeding is profuse, a sponge dipped in very hot water and wrung out in cloth should be applied as quickly as possible. If this is not available, use ice, or cloths wrung out in ice water. If a large vein or artery is spouting, it must be stopped at once by compression. This may be done by a rubber tube wound around the arm tightly above the elbow or above the knee, where the pulse is felt to beat; or a improvised tourniquet may be used. A hard apple or stone is placed in a folded handkerchief, and rolled firmly in place.

This bandage is then placed so that the hard object rests on the point where the artery beats, and is tied loosely around the arm. A stick is then thrust through the loose bandage and turned till the flow of blood ceases.

Why Do We Dream?

A Dr. Granville writes to the London Times: 'Many persons who are not by habit dreamers are dreaming a great deal just now and wondering why they do so. The answer is very simple. When cold weather sets in suddenly and is much felt at night, the head, which is uncovered, has the blood supplied to it driven from the surface to the deep parts, notably the brain—the organ of the mind. The results are light sleep and dreams. The obvious remedy is to wear a night-cap or wrap the head warmly, at least while the cold weather lasts. I believe we of this generation suffer more from brain troubles than our predecessors, because we leave the head exposed at night and the blood-vessels of our cerebral organs are seldom unloaded.'

To Cure Stammering.

Dr. Dio Lewis in his magazine gives a rule for the cure of stammering, which is certainly simple enough, and which the Doctor says has cured three-fourths of all the cases he has treated. The stammerer is made to mark the time in his speech, just as it is ordinarily done in singing. At first he begins by reading one of the Psalms, striking the finger on the knee at every word. 'Time can be marked,' says the Doctor, 'by striking the finger on the knee, by hitting the thumb against the forefinger, or by moving the largest toe in the boot.' The writer believes the worst case of stammering can be cured if the victim will read an hour every day with thorough practice of this thing, and observing the same in his conversation.

Choosing a Husband

Mixed with the humor and nonsense of the following selections are many shrewd and valuable hints to those young ladies whose minds are prone to thoughts of love. First, catch your lover. Hold him when you have him. Don't let go of him to catch every new one that comes along.

Try to get pretty well acquainted with him before you take him for life. Unless you intend to support him, find out whether he earns enough to support you. Don't make up your mind that he is an angel. Don't palm yourself off on him as one, either. Don't let him spend his salary on you; this right should be reserved till after marriage.

If you have conscientious scruples against marrying a man with a mother, say so in time, that he may get rid of her to suit you, or rid of you to oblige her, as he thinks best.

If you object to secret societies and tobacco, it is better to come out with your objections now than to reserve them for certain lectures hereafter.

If your lover happens to fancy a certain shade of hair, don't color or bleach to oblige him. Remember your hair belongs to you and he doesn't.

Be sure it is the man you are in love with, and not the clothes he wears. Fortune and fashion are both so fickle, it is foolish to take a stylish suit of clothes for better or worse.

If your lover is one that happens to get intoxicated don't get angry, but talk kindly to him about it, and if he cares for you he will stop drinking.

If you intend to keep three servants after marriage, settle the matter beforehand. The man who is making love to you may expect you to do your own washing.

Don't try to hurry a proposal by carrying on a flirtation with some other fellow. Different men are made of different material, and the one you want may go off to a fit of jealousy and forget to come back.

If you have a love letter to write don't copy it out of a 'letter-writer.' If your young man ever happened to consult the same book he would know your sentiments were borrowed.

Don't marry a man to oblige any third person in existence. But remember at the same time that love is blind, and a little friendly advice from one whose advice is worth having may insure you a lifetime of happiness or prevent one of misery.

In love affairs always keep your eyes wide open, so that when the right man comes along you may see him. If you have no fault to find with him personally, morally, religiously, or any other way, he is probably perfect enough to suit you, and you can afford to believe him, hope in him, love him, marry him.

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