



Give fount their gold & kneave 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.

Timely and Practical

Those who have, or are about to plant vineyards, must be interested in their possible production and profit, and hence we give the figures of an authority. An acre of vines, in rows six feet one way and eight the other, will give, in round numbers, nine hundred vines per acre. In three years they will average enough over two pounds per vine to yield a ton of fruit per acre, and when in full bearing may be kept at this distance apart, to an average crop of ten pounds per vine. This is nine thousand pounds, or four and a half tons. Even at two cents a pound, this would give \$180 per acre, or far more, after deducting expenses of management and cultivation, than can be made from ordinary farm crops.

Wood Chopping in Spring.—After sap begins to fill the trees, says an expert woodman, they are much more easily chopped or split than in the severe cold of winter, when they are comparatively dry and hard. It may be well enough to leave gnarled and knotty specimens until they can be cut most easily; but the wood is not so valuable, and takes a longer time to dry out. If beech is cut late in the season, and left exposed to the weather, it will never thoroughly dry. Rain will penetrate it as the natural sap disappears, and it will rot rapidly. Hence, beech wood should at least be piled up so as to leave it as little exposed to the rain as possible; and a better plan still is to dry it under a shed, where rain cannot reach it, but where there will be free circulation of air to carry off the surplus moisture.

Farming in New England.—The West has a grand market for its agricultural products in New England, and it would be a mistake to suppose that farming is not profitable in that section. The manufacturing towns have saved New England farmers from fatal competition. The Hartford Courant quotes from the census that the value of farm land in Connecticut per acre is shown to be three times that in California, nearly five times that in Kansas, and half as much again as that in Indiana and Illinois. In 1880 the farms in the six New England States were valued at \$580,721,333, an increase of \$104,000,000 round numbers, since the previous census.

To Retard Blossoming.—An experienced pomologist says that the apricot is the first of our fruit trees to blossom in spring; and this is just the reason why the fruit is so often killed by late spring frosts. The blossoming

time may be retarded by the application of litter, or even snow, upon the frozen ground, under the trees, in mid winter. Plum growers along the Baltic Sea, in Northern Germany, often secure a crop of plums by the same means, when late frosts, otherwise, would have ruined it.

Nitrate of Soda as a Fertilizer.—In reply to numerous inquiries Orchard and Garden states that nitrate of soda is especially valuable for the very earliest garden crops, and on soils which have been heavily manured in previous years. It has somewhat the appearance of salt, and is readily soluble, costing about \$60 a ton, or from three to four cents per pound in smaller quantities. As the article in general is coarse and lumpy, it ought to be broken up fine—on the barn floor, for instance, before being applied. All gardeners are advised to try it for early crops, broadcasting it over the land at the rate of several hundred pounds to the acre. You will be surprised at the result.

Strawberry Cultivation.—In a recent article on this subject, Mrs. A. S. Fuller, the author of a practical work on the Strawberry, says that different varieties often require a different mode of culture in order to obtain the largest yield and the largest berries. The large, coarse growing varieties of the Chili species, or the hybrids between these and the Virginia Strawberries, succeed best when grown in hills or single rows, and they are usually quite unproductive if the plants are permitted to run together, and become in the least crowded; while other varieties yield well, either in narrow rows or wide beds, and where the plants become matted. This hint may prove suggestive to those about planting strawberries.

Feeding Young Pigs.—A floating item declares that the general treatment of pigs seems to be based upon the idea that they are naturally greedy and gluttonous animals, and that this habit should be encouraged as much as possible. Hence all the diseases which so frequently afflict pigs. When a young pig is a tender animal his stomach is not much larger than that of a human infant the same age, and yet people will cram the little creature with sour slop, grease, milk, and corn meal until it can swallow no more, and when the pigs are sick one wonders what is the matter.

Fertilizers not Stimulants.—Here is a suggestive contribution to the discussion on fertilizers. The New England Farmer contends that fertilizers are no more stimulating to plants than is cow's milk to the new-born calf that sucks it. Fertilizers are simply plant food, and if properly made they are so prepared that plants can make them immediately available as food. A table-spoonful of concentrated fertilizer sprinkled into the earth where a hill of corn is to be grown, is simply material for feeding the young corn plants in their earliest stages of growth before the roots have reached out and filled every inch of soil for a space of three or four feet square. The term "stimulant" should be banished from the vocabulary of the teacher of fertilizer philosophy. —New York Independent.

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