

BACK YARD FARMER

Interesting Pointers on Gardening for the City Man or Suburbanite.

WHAT TO PLANT AND WHEN

Advice by an Expert on Agricultural Matters—Strain Counts in Chickens—The Tree Surgeon—Small Fruit Pests.

By PROF. JOHN WILLARD BOLTE.

What is the best breed of chickens? Easiest question in the world. Ask your friends and every one of them can answer right off hand, but each one will name a different breed or variety and when you ask their reasons for their choice, mighty few of said reasons would hold in court.

The fact of the matter is that there is no one "best breed" of chickens. There are four or five "best breeds" with from two to seven "best varieties" in each breed. If you don't believe it, glance through the files of any poultry journal and see the number of "best breeds" mentioned in their free reading notices.

One man proves that the White Orpingtons are the "best breed," because he got Mine, Padarawak to admit she paid \$5,000 for five of his chickens. Another man clinches the pennant for the White Plymouth Rocks by saying that a pen of 30 hens earned \$3,400 for him last year, their eggs selling for \$30 a setting. And so it goes. Asking a poultry man to name the best kind of chickens is like asking an automobile man to name the best automobile.

As far as the city or suburban poultry keeper is concerned, he can make his choice of chickens entirely upon sentimental grounds.

Remember that the breed determines the size and shape of the fowl, and the variety determines the color—choose the shape and color that you think is prettiest and you will have the best breed for you.

Now, however, comes the really important problem of the individual strain of blood within the variety. The difference between profit and loss, eggs and no eggs lies in the individual and not in the breed or variety. There is no marked difference in the production, growth and hardiness of five or six of the principal breeds, and there is the same similarity between their established varieties, but there is a tremendous difference between different flocks or individuals of the same variety. A poultry man who understands his business can take an ordinary flock of any standard variety and he can beat any similar flock of the same or any other variety, which is handled by an inexperienced or careless person.

Inheritance of profitable qualities is of the greatest importance. For this reason scrub or cross-bred fowls are worthless for breeding, because their offspring cannot possibly improve in size or productivity for any length of time and practically never hold their own. Never use anything but purebred chickens. Get a setting of eggs or a pair of young birds from the heaviest laying hen you can find in the variety you elect to keep, and build up your flock from the start. We have known two pullets of the White Wyandottes, one of which laid 17 eggs in a year and the other laid 243. You could not tell them apart by looks, either. Three of the good hen's daughters laid over 300 eggs each in a year. That's why strain counts more than breed.

The Tree Surgeon.

A new profession has recently come into being. We refer to the profession of operating on sick trees in order to save their life and beauty. This is a much more serious problem than it seems to be, offhand, and the various state and federal authorities are spending a great deal of time and money devising ways of preventing and curing tree ills.

Private citizens and public officials have long been awake to these problems in the eastern states, but widespread interest in the west is of more recent manifestation. This is largely due to the fact that practically all of the diseases and pests which infect our ornamental shade trees have first shown themselves upon the eastern coast. Nearly all have been imported from foreign countries on nursery stock, etc.

At the present time large areas in the east are practically denuded of trees through the devastations of the Gipsy and Brown Tailed moths, San Jose, Elm Tree and Oyster Shell scale, chestnut bark diseases, and other serious pests. These pests are moving steadily westward and every inch of their advance must be stubbornly contested if the trees are to be saved.

One of the best and easiest ways to help our trees combat these and other ills, is to prune them properly, so as to conserve their strength, and

at the same time get the best possible artistic results.

Most of the readers of this column have to consider trees which are already planted, rather than newly planted ones. Generally speaking, then, your trees should be pruned at least once in two years and preferably every year.

The tools to be used are a thin bladed pruning saw and a pair of pruning shears. Cut off all suckers or water sprouts, close to the branch.

Remove dead wood wherever found, cutting with a smooth cut as close as possible to the live branch or trunk. If the end of a branch is dead or broken, cut it off with a smooth, slanting cut, well back in the good wood.

To avoid tearing down the bark, always make an under cut before cutting through a heavy branch from above. By cutting off a limb as close as possible and parallel to the trunk, the bark will heal over it. It is a good plan to paint all fresh wounds with white lead to prevent decay setting in during the healing over process. If decay has already set in, cut away the decayed wood as far as possible and fill the cavity with a good rich mixture of cement.

No branches should be permitted to grow low enough to obstruct the view on deciduous trees. Crossed, deformed and interfering branches should be cut out as early as possible.

Small Fruit Pests.

Garden vegetables are remarkably free from diseases and insect pests.

This is due to the fact that they are nearly all annuals and they are grown in small quantities and on different locations every year or so.

Small bush fruits, on the other hand, are almost certain to be seriously damaged by a number of parasites unless they receive the necessary care to protect them. The conditions under which this class of back yard crops grows is favorable to the development of these pests.

The plants are long lived and frequently carry the larvae or the spores of their respective parasites over from season to season. As handled by most people, the diseased stems, leaves and fruits are left on the ground about the bushes, and parasites propagate in such rubbish with vigor.

Probably the most general and the most destructive pest encountered on the bush fruits is some form of foliage eating worm, like the larvae of the saw-fly. These worms appear almost as soon as the leaves are out and they will soon strip the entire bush of its foliage unless they are promptly exterminated. It is fortunate that they can be killed very easily if properly treated, and the treatment will apply equally well with any leaf-eating worm.

The saw-fly's eggs are laid on the under side of the leaves, especially those leaves located well down in the center of the plant. Watch your berry bushes closely and get busy as soon as you notice little holes in any of the lower leaves, as that means that the worms are there and are getting in their work of destruction. If taken in hand now, there will be little trouble or expense involved, so act promptly. Get some powdered white hellebore and dust it on all of the foliage in the region where the worms have begun work. Scatter it thickly and get it on both sides of the leaves. Do the dusting early in the morning, before the dew is off the leaves. The powder will then stick fast and will remain until the next heavy rain.

If it should rain immediately, powder again. The whole bush should be treated if the worms have got a good start, and if you allow these worms to strip the foliage the fruit will be small, shriveled and tasteless. Remember that the leaves are both the digestive and respiratory organs of the plant, and without them it can neither eat nor breathe.

If large numbers of ants appear on the bushes, investigate the under surface of the leaves for tiny green aphids, or plant lice. A good spraying with tobacco water will fix them.

Cane borers, gall beetles, tree crickets, etc., kill individual canes and the only remedy is to cut out and burn all infected canes and clean up all rubbish.

Red rust is prevalent in some sections and it is very deadly and especially contagious. It is a parasitic disease which causes spots of rusty-looking fungi to appear on the stems. Cutting out and burning diseased canes and spraying the rest frequently with Bordeaux mixture is the only means of combating it. This mixture is hard to handle in a small garden.

Anthraxnose is another deadly disease and is indicated by the presence of purple patches on stems and foliage. Treat as for rust.

Certain varieties are more resistant to these diseases, and these should be planted in localities known to be infected.

For mildew on currants and gooseberries, use powdered sulphur and apply it in the form of dust while the dew is on the leaves.

Winter Cow Care.

The winter cow deserves good feed and care for she is a sure revenue producer.

FOR THE LITTLE ONES

FASHION'S DICTATES OF THE SEASON PERMIT DISPLAY.

Accordion-Pleated Crepe de Chine Model, Shown Here, is One of the Prettiest That Has Been Evolved This Year.

This is an age when elaborate and expensive clothes are not only permissible but essential to the small child who is dressed according to fashion's word. To be sure, play clothes and street frocks are simple, even if they are expensive, but afternoon clothes are not only expensive—they are elaborate as well.

The frock illustrated is one of the charming accordion-pleated crepe de chine models made for little girls. The dress is simple enough in outline, but the yoke is of real baby Irish lace, and the crepe de chine, to be durable and yet soft and thin, must be expensive.

Some of the frocks for very little girls, like the one described, have high waist lines, but many of them have the belt fastened well below the knees. Ribbon belts are almost exclusively used for little girls. Sometimes the crushed and folded ribbon is fastened about the frock with invisible stitches, sometimes it is run through embroidered heading, sometimes through buttonholed slits in the skirt of the frock.

Hand tucking and hand embroidery are combined with expensive lace to make children's clothes elaborate. One lovely frock shows a band of tiny pink



roses embroidered just above the hem of the fine lawn skirt, another band about the neck, and others about the edge of the elbow sleeves. Fine val lace is set in below the embroidery on the waist in elaborate design, and the skirt is finished with homestitching.

Shepherd checks in black and white wool are popular for street frocks for small girls. These frocks are simply made, sometimes in Norfolk coat style, with black patent leather belts and flat linen collars, sometimes in Russian house style with collars of Irish lace.

Leather handbags for children are sold to match any conceivable colored frock. They are carefully made of good leather and are simpler as well as smaller than full-sized bags.

Handkerchief linen is used for some of the daintiest of the small girls' frocks. Fine India and linen lawn are also used. Marquisette and voile are used, too, and prove serviceable as well as dainty. It should be made up rather simply, as it is itself decorative, and rather heavy for children. It is especially pretty for children if it is trimmed only with heavy cluny lace. Tucks, too, look well in voile, and a model child's frock of the material is made with three tucks about an inch and a half deep running around the skirt just above the three-inch hem. They are machine stitched.

MADE HAPPY BRIDAL TABLE

Novel Ideas, a Feature of Recent Dinner, May Be Worth Keeping in the Memory.

At a dinner given by some college lads and lassies to a couple who had been very popular and whose engagement was made during their college days, the following were some of the novel features: For a centerpiece there was a good-sized sailboat afloat on real water, which was supposed to represent the "Sea of Matrimony" and the name on the boat's side was "Just Launched." The two college colors were flying and the cargo consisted of white roses and red carnations, the two class flowers. When the clear soup was served, a tiny bark made of thin bit of toast with toothpickmast and paper sail floated in it and the lee of the end were in the shape of ships, the harbors were in tiny canoes. The two class colors were also in evidence in great bows of red and white tartan, which adorned the chairs occupied by the honored guests. The guests acted as sponsors for the happy pair, and all gave toasts in honor of the newly launched craft, which was aptly called "We Two" in a rhyme read by one of the guests.

HEALTH AND GOOD LOOKS

Proper Fitting of Corset Means Appropriate Care of Both These Important Items.

Various doctors and artists have been once again discussing the vexed question as to whether women should wear corsets, and they have once again come to the inevitable conclusion that if they wear the right corsets they are considerably improved by them. If ever the waag waist asserts itself again among us it will be something to grumble at, but the corset of today is really beneficial rather than harmful, if it is properly made and properly worn. It may be that we ought not to require the support of corsets, but life in these days is artificial, and surely it is better to have a good figure by means of a good corset than to have a bad figure without it.

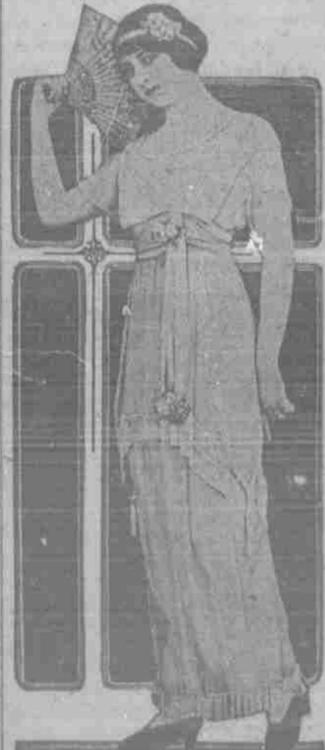
Just the same, a good many women are not sufficiently careful about their corset, and then they wonder why their gowns never look well. Better a cheap, ready-made blouse robe on a good corset than an elaborate frock over a shapeless one. It will not only be better from the point of view of health and carriage, but it will even give an air to the gown. French women have built up their reputation for dressing well, not on their taste in gowns, but by their attention to the corset.

KIMONOS IN ALL DESIGNS

Dainty Negligee Garment May Be Had in Practically Any Form That Can Be Required.

Despite the pronounced vogue of Chinese modes in formal garb, the Japanese kimono remains the intimate friend of the woman who has a collection of dainty lounging robes. For those cold mornings when the wind howls outside and the furnace is in sulky mood, there are comforting robes of quilted Japanese silk, daintily hand-worked with light and dark floes. For milder weather there are adorable kimonos of flowered satin with borders of satin or Japanese silk, and some of these have the shirring at the elevated waist line which slightly suggest a blending of the Empire with the Oriental style. Still more fascinating are the cotton and silk crepes in white, sprinkled over with pink cherry blossoms and in blue or rose printed with graceful sprays of white wisteria. To wear the kimono there should be a clinging loose slip of satin in a solid tone matching either the grounding or the figuring of the robe. Many women, however, prefer to wear the ordinary princess garment of Seco silk trimmed with lace ruffles or the one in white lingerie carrying muslin embroidery. Van Dyck point insertions, and edgings of Valenciennes lace.

PARTY DRESS.



Model of pink charmeuse and silver beaded net.

Prize Cleansing Fluid.

A society of arts in England some years ago offered a prize for the best process of cleansing silk, woolen and cotton fabrics—one that would not change their color or injure them in any way. The winning recipe was as follows: Grate two good-sized potatoes into a pint of clear, clean, soft water. Strain through a coarse sieve into a gallon of water and let the liquid settle. Pour the starch fluid from the sediment and it is ready for use. Rub the articles gently in the liquid, rinse thoroughly in clear water, dry and press.

MILLIONS PRAISE

Hot Springs Liver Buttons

The best remedy for liver, stomach or bowel troubles and especially constipation is the famous HOT SPRINGS LIVER BUTTONS. Don't miss getting a box to-day—they tone up the liver, drive out the poisonous waste in the bowels and make you feel simply splendid in a few hours. Cut out Calomel and slimy purgatives. Try HOT SPRINGS LIVER BUTTONS just once and you'll have no use for any other liver remedy. Fine for sick headache, sallow skin, dull eyes and blotches. Druggists everywhere for 50c. Free sample from Hot Springs Chemical Co., Hot Springs, Ark.

Cut Down. Husband—is that pitcher really cut glass? Wife—Well, I got it at a bargain sale.

Turn About. "Mr. Wombat," said the boss, "you have been getting off to go to the baseball a good deal lately." "I know it, sir." "Then would you mind working at the office for a few extra innings tonight?"

An Object of Attention. "I suppose your family will go away for the summer?" "Yes," replied the man in the alpaca coat. "Oh, I'll have a nice time, too. I'm the one who will sit quietly at home and look at the pretty pictures on the postcards."

Eats 'Em Alive. "I understand it takes four years of education to prepare a lion for circus life," said the visitor to the trainer standing beside the lion's cage. "Yes, that is true," replied the trainer. "You must get very tired after four years?" "Oh, I haven't been training this one four years. I am the eight hundred and fifty-second trainer they've tried on this one. I've only been here two hours!"

She Waited. George was famous for being late at his appointments. He was engaged to be married to a young lady in a neighboring city, and when the day of the ceremony arrived, George, as usual, did not put in an appearance. The bride was on the verge of nervous prostration when the following telegram was received from the missing bridegroom.

"Dear Helen—Missed the early train. Will arrive on the 4:31. Don't get married until I get there. George." —Ladies' Home Journal.

No Time to Lose. They had been married just two months and they still loved each other devotedly. He was in the back yard blacking his shoes.

"Jack!" she called at the top of her voice. "Jack, come here, quick." He knew at once that she was in imminent danger. He grasped a stick and rushed up two flights of stairs to the rescue. He entered the room breathlessly, and found her looking out of the window. "Look," said she, "that's the kind of bonnet I want you to get me." —Harper's Magazine.

Please the Home Folks

By serving

Post Toasties

They are among the good things to eat, but not in the cook book, because they require no cooking.

Toasties are always crisp and appetizing—ready to eat direct from the package. You save heaps of time and avoid hot work in the kitchen.

Some rich cream—sugar if you want it—or cool fruit juice, with these fluffy bits of corn and you have a dish that is fascinating for any meal of the day.

Toasties are sold by grocers everywhere.