

order Verbenaceae. Those nurserymen who keep to the old botanical names as far as possible do a service to everyone. Their customers are not misled into buying something under a new designation which they already possess under the old one; and all the world over knows what plant it is when the old botanical name is used.

Improving the Phlox.

Every one of our readers, that was raised in the Northern states, remembers the old Phlox beds so common in old gardens. Some of the new varieties are so much improved that they are hardly to be recognized as belonging to the same family.

Phlox thrives well in this state on good soil that is not too wet.

A correspondent of the Florist's Exchange says:

Along in the fifties, I used to ride over the virgin prairies of Minnesota. They were immense flower gardens. Often I would go through beds of wild Phlox of thousands of acres. It was a wonderful scene. Those cheerful flowers greeting you on every hand, and billows of fragrance floating in the air.

Our wild Phloxes were sent to Europe; miracles have been wrought from them, and we are at the beginning of a new era in their cultivation. We have depended on foreigners for the improvement of the Phlox when we can do this ourselves.

Note the evolution: The wild flowers were the size of a dime; under careful training they grew to the size of a quarter, then as large as a half dollar. Then came the announcement that Crepuscule was larger than a dollar. I secured a quantity. Now, for the west we need a strong, vigorous plant, with a full symmetrical head and flowers that will not sunburn when the mercury soars to 100 and over, as it often does. Our favorite met all the demands. In the West we want size and must have hardiness. This plant is of a dwarf habit. That is all right. It prefers to put its vigor into flowers rather than into wood. The plant continues a long time in blooming.

Around the group of Crepuscule I planted some fine imported ones and some choice seedlings. In the fall the seeds were planted. They came up early and in July were in full bloom, so that in less than a year I knew just what I was doing.

I have seen quite gentle women, who would impress themselves on a whole community, and the whole neighborhood would be changed by their presence. It was so with our favorite.

I let the bees do the crossing, and as the result I found at least twenty kinds of marvelous beauty, most of them with very large flowers, some larger than a silver dollar.

Coquelicot, for instance, is from France. It may be all right there, but in the West it is feeble and the glowing scarlet flowers sunburn badly. But the seeds of these, grown near this genial neighbor, brought plants much more hardy, with flowers twice their former size, which endure the heat much better.

In color Crepuscule is white, with a violet shade, and an extra large purple carmine eye. I noticed with much interest the impress made on the white, for I found some much larger, with most delicate tints of tracery, which made charming flowers.

In animal breeding, what is called prepotency is an important factor, the parent making a patent impress on the offspring. This trait is seen in plant life. The Wealthy and Duchess apples, the Concord grape, and many other fruits exhibit this trait in a remarkable degree.

I raised about 10,000 fine seedling Phloxes this year, and among them are many much finer than we import. I notice one thing in a marked degree; those fertilized by that royal parent

are very much larger than the others.

Now I have sent for the very largest and finest the earth affords, regardless of price. I have a dozen kinds growing. I shall take the choicest seedlings and plant near these, and from the seed I know we will have perfect surprises of loveliness.

Now, when I went into Nature's inner temple to study her miracles and aid her in these marvelous transformations, I left the door wide open, and all of you come in and let us see what wonders we can produce with these charming flowers in a few years! They stand next to the Pony in hardiness and showy bloom. Among Peonies we must wait from five to eight years to know what we are doing. With Phloxes we find out inside of a year. In selecting, we want a full head, symmetrical in form, a good, strong stem, continuous bloom, fine color and large flowers. Remember, that with proper attention you can have these flowers in great masses from June till November. How to regulate the time of blooming and how to multiply most rapidly outside the greenhouse, must be left for future articles.

Notes from a Mountain Farm.

A correspondent of the Progressive Farmer, writes an interesting and valuable letter on a variety of subjects. We omit several paragraphs of the beginning, which were devoted to an account of the very wet season they were having but which are of little interest to us in Florida.

The item about dehorning should have special attention.

His opinion as to the value of alfalfa is so entirely at variance with all others that we give it little weight.

How This Letter Came Near Ending Here.

Since writing this much I have learned a lesson. 'Tis well said that "experience teaches a dear school, but fools learn in no other."

Perhaps we are all fools sometimes.

Our bull was growing a bit impudent and we made a secure lot for him where he would have ample room, shade and water, and would not be subject to teasing by passers. I had handled him from a calf without difficulty, had worked him in the yoke and fed him from my hand.

He had only showed ugly once, and that under provocation, so I snapped a hitch rein in his nose ring and started off with him as usual. As I turned to shut the old lot gate he struck me and gave me a toss. I punished him for that and started on, when he attacked me with real savage intention, threw me to the ground, got his head on my chest and gave me some very bad bruises. One of the boys happening along, he raised his head for a moment. I got two fingers in his nose ring and came out on top. With two lines on him and the boy's help, we put him in his own domain where I think he will stay until he comes out in quarters.

It is very safe to say that had he not been dehorned I should not have been here.

Cattle Should Be Dehorned.

I did not need this experience to teach me the wisdom of dehorning, however; while I dread the operation I have been an enthusiastic dehorner for many years for the sake of the cattle themselves. The lesson I needed was not to trust a bull too far just because he had once been an innocent calf. Perhaps others need that same lesson, and I sincerely hope they won't have to learn it as I did.

We have had three days fair weather again. I got a few loads of badly damaged oats housed and tried to plow my late corn, but found the ground miry. We then started to scalp out a small piece of the worst with hoes, but rain drove us from the field.

Am having all kinds of a chance to do rainy-day work.

Horses that fared hard for awhile in the spring are "fat and sassy" now. Fortunately they are not a lot of

old plugs that are eating their heads off while they rest.

Thinks Alfalfa May Be Beaten.

The more I see of alfalfa the less use I have for it in this country. Perhaps larger experience will change my view.

Two things I have decided: (1) That it is useless to sow the crop on land that will produce less than seventy-five bushels of corn per acre, and (2) that its only value in this section is for green feeding, under soiling system or perhaps as ensilage. A patch of it to mow and feed green to milk cows instead of allowing them to tramp over acres of land to get half as much feed would, I think, be good farming.

I may be entirely wrong in my conclusions, but I have never yet seen corn, cowpeas and clover beaten for feed crops, and don't believe they ever will be if we give them the show we give the novelties.

The permanence of alfalfa was its only recommendation to me. That characteristic seems to depend largely on circumstances, and I really doubt if it is good policy to let our best plow land lie too long untended. Johnson grass seems to beat it to death making feed, and is as hard to get rid of as alfalfa is to get.

Importance of a Tool Shed.

This season is emphasizing the need every farmer has for a large and convenient tool shed. Not a lean-to on the back side of some barn or other building where fowls will roost on the tools, hogs bed under them, and cattle tramp around and among them; where the tool you want is always behind a lot of others and you leave them out rather than put them away and get them out.

Find the place on the farm where you must pass with everything, if there be such a place, or as nearly that as possible. The gateway to the barn lot is usually such a place.

If circumstances will permit, build the shed right there. Build it across the line of travel, 20 by 25 feet wide, as long as necessary, 10 feet high not 12 to the plates. Posts along each side at intervals of eight feet except one space wider for a harvester and binder if you use one. Use a light but solid truss roof. It may well be covered with steel. Put steel track for roller door hangers entire length of both plates, both inside and outside. Hang doors alternately inside and out. No fixed siding, no cross partitions. Doors can all be run to one end, leaving half the shed entirely open, or any door can be run either way as most convenient. These hangers and track will cost a bit, but they will not sag on the hinges nor knock you down if a gust of wind catches them. Have a space for each wagon where it can be driven and allowed to stand either loaded or empty. (A crab suspended from roof truss to hang harness on makes it handy and beats the rats.)

Spaces for mower, drill, manure spreader, planter—in short, whatever tools you use. Some of course could be doubled up, being accessible from both sides. Hay rake could go in wide space with harvester, etc. Have at least one space for plows, cultivators, etc., that can be stored on beam ends when not in regular use. Length can readily be added as tools increase. Would rather have entire shed floored, but if well drained, dirt bottom will answer. Arrange fences and grade ground so that it will be easier to put every tool to its place than not to. Then—skin the man who leaves one out. Such a shed will not cost a large sum, and will soon pay for itself on any farm.

Be sure to make it large enough. Give room to overhaul, repair and paint your tools in bad weather. Don't attach a corn crib, shop, pigpen or anything else to this shed. It may not be exactly a thing of beauty, but I'm sure 'twill be a joy for many years at least.

"To live well, you must be in the open air every day. This rule is well nigh absolute. Women offend against it terribly in America, and women are

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very apt to break down. Rain or shine, mud or dust, go out of your house and see what God is doing outside. I do not count that an irreverent phrase, which says one feels nearer God under the open sky, than he is apt to do when shut up in a room. I know a very wise man who used to say: "People speak of going out, when they should speak of going in." He meant that you do plunge into the air, when you bathe at the seaside you go into the water. Be quite sure of your air bath. I will not dictate the time, but on an average, an hour is not too long. You will fare all the better, will eat the better, digest the better, and sleep the better, if instead of an hour, it is two hours or more."—E. E. Hale.

Neptune, Fla., June 16, 1905.

E. O. Painter Fertilizer Co.,
Jacksonville, Fla.,

Gentlemen:

I may send a box of grape fruit to N. C. Wambolt. My fruit is grown on flat-woods land where most people here told me I could not grow anything in the CITRUS LINE. The fine quality of fruit is due entirely to Simon Pure.

Yours truly,

J. Thomas Ziegler.

P. S.—If you offered a prize for Kumquats I reckon it would be mine. Since using Simon Pure on them they are much finer in flavor and color than they were when I used

J. T. Z.