

## FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND TRUCK.

### Grow More Potatoes.

A dispatch from Boston says that potatoes are likely to reach 75 cents a bushel wholesale in that city. If this figure is reached it is predicted that there will be heavy importations from the seaboard provinces of Canada and possibly from Europe.

It is a notable fact that America seldom raises potatoes enough to supply the actual demand. It is only the high tariff that keeps out Canadian potatoes in all ordinary years; and sometimes it fails to do it.

This is more remarkable when it is considered that the average value per acre of the potato crop of the United States last year was \$58.86, more than four times that of corn or wheat and more than three times that of cotton. In the South, where we are accustomed to think Irish potatoes cannot be successfully grown, the average values reached surprising figures, being \$68 in North Carolina, \$77 in South Carolina, \$83 in Georgia, \$95 in Alabama, and \$83

in Mississippi. The average yield for the country was 95.4 bushels per acre; for North Carolina, 80 bushels; for South Carolina, 70 bushels; for Georgia, 83 bushels; for Alabama, 95 bushels, and for Mississippi, 90 bushels.

These figures show conclusively that potatoes can be profitably raised in the South, if the proper land is selected for them, and the proper treatment given them. Potatoes will not yield well under adverse conditions. They require an abundance of plant food and moisture, and protection from bugs and blight. A deep, rich, loose, loamy soil is best for them; but they may be grown successfully on clay soils that are not excessively tight, and in the trucking districts large crops are made on almost pure sand by the lavish use of fertilizers.

"More land for potatoes and less for cotton," would be a good motto for many Southern farmers to adopt this coming season.

### HOW TO TRANSPLANT EVERGREENS.

**More Difficult Than to Transplant Deciduous Trees; but Can be Successfully Done.**

Evergreens are notably difficult to transplant successfully. This is due to the fact that being evergreen they are constantly giving off more or less moisture, and do not come to as complete a dormant condition as deciduous trees. For this reason especial care is necessary in transplanting to see that the root hairs are exposed as little as possible. Simply shaking the earth from the roots of evergreen trees seem to injure them. To get the best results with evergreens they are best taken up when the earth is wet about them as in early spring, or they may be irrigated to make the mud adhere to them. In setting they should be very carefully tramped so that there are no holes about the roots. If these precautions are followed as good results can be obtained in transplanting evergreens as in setting other trees.

### Planting Trees Taken From Woods.

Many people complain of having poor results in transplanting trees from woods or natural forests. Let us look at the reason. Young trees grown in the forest under the protecting shade of their mother trees have almost ideal conditions of growth. The forest canopy above protects them from the wind and from the intense rays of the sun, while beneath them the forest floor supplies all the necessities of moisture and plant food. To remove a tree from such conditions to an open field is to give it a great shock if it is not very carefully handled and tended. The soil to which such a tree is removed should by artificial means be made to resemble as closely as possible the virgin fertility of the forest soil. As more roots are removed from a forest seedling in transplanting than from a nursery-grown tree, the top will have to be cut back more. In setting all the spongy leaf mould should be removed from the roots, for when exposed this porous matter readily dries out. In place of this mould the earth should be more carefully packed about the roots. With forest seedlings it is always best to mulch the surface of the ground about them.

PROF. W. N. HUTT.

### HOW TO GRAFT.

**Simple Directions for Work What Any Farmer Can Learn to Do.**

"Please tell me how to graft, and the kinds of trees best suited to each other," asks a correspondent.

There are many ways of grafting, and it would take quite a chapter to tell of all. Apples and pears can be grafted, but peaches and plums are budded. The common method of grafting is to cut off a limb and split the end, and in this split insert a scion of one-year-old wood cut with three or four buds. The lower end is cut wedge-shaped, and inserted into the split so that the young bark will be in direct connection with the young bark of the stock. Then mix a putty of one part fresh cow dung and three parts smooth clay, and cover the graft thickly with this and wrap around with strips of cotton cloth. Or you can use grafting wax made of equal parts of rosin, beeswax and tallow heated together. The scion for grafting should be cut in winter and buried in the ground, and the graft made just as the stock is starting to grow in the spring. Peach trees are budded on seedlings sown in the spring, and the bud is inserted in August in a T-shaped cut made in the bark, the bud being cut shield-shaped from the young wood of the same season. Peaches are budded a few inches above the ground, and the bud remains dormant till the following spring, and as it grows the top of the seedling is cut off and the bud trained up for the tree. Apples are grafted on the roots of seedling apples. Nurserymen do this during the winter by cutting off the roots and making a splice graft, sloping the scion and root alike to fit together and tie them with waxed string. They are then buried till planting time in spring. Pears are grafted or budded either on seedling pear stocks or for dwarf trees on French Angiers quince. W. F. MASSEY.

### Rhubarb in the South.

What is the matter with my rhubarb? Secured roots that were showing sprouts the last of March. Divided eight large roots into about 30 pieces and set a row about 50 feet long, after mixing in the soil eight or ten bushels of sheep manure, and afterwards made another application on the surface. Kept well

cultivated till middle of July when they began to wilt and die.

A. O. R.  
Franklin Co., Tenn.

(Answer by Prof. W. F. Massey.)

The matter is that you cannot under any conditions carry rhubarb through a summer in the South except in the cool high mountain section. No one has ever succeeded in growing rhubarb in the warmer parts of the South. I tried to do so for several years in North Carolina, and finally gave up the effort as useless. You can set large roots from the North and get a spring crop, but that will always be the last of it. Climate is one thing we cannot control.

### Moving an Old Orchard.

I have an orchard now six years old which I want to move. The trees are apples, pears, peaches, and plums. What is the best time to move them, and what to put under the trees?

T. C. B.

(Answer by Professor W. F. Massey.)

You might possibly move the pears and apples successfully, but not the peaches and plums. But you will have to prune off at least half the tops of the trees, and prune the roots around a ball of earth. Peaches and plums bear so early from young trees that you will get better success from planting yearling trees than by attempting to move six-year ones. In fact, I had rather plant young trees of all than bother with the old ones.

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