

Horticultural Points

GROWING CROPS IN ORCHARDS

Cost of Bringing Trees to Profitable Bearing is Reduced and Cultivation Promoted.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

One of the difficulties of fruit growing, either as a small industry or as an incidental to general farming, is the length of time that must elapse before the orchard begins to yield returns. When, as in many sections in Iowa, a freeze destroys or greatly reduces the expected crop, the loss to many growers, including those who expected to harvest their first fruit in 1921, is likely to be serious. The loss under some conditions can be partly offset and other benefits can be gained by growing vegetable crops between the rows of young fruit trees, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Experienced orchardists frequently find it advantageous to grow crops between the tree rows until the trees reach bearing age. After bearing begins it is impracticable to "double-crop" an orchard. As a rule, intercropping cannot be practiced in a peach orchard after the third season from planting. Six to eight years is usually the limit for an apple orchard, the exact time depending on the variety, vigor and growth, and other factors. Further, the trees will usually shade the ground too much for the growing of vegetable crops after the time the eggs mentioned are reached.

In an "off year," with an orchard that is expected to come into bearing for the first time, many fruit growers will find it to their advantage to plant crops of potatoes, corn, soy beans, cowpeas, shell-beans, or sweet potatoes, in states where they can be raised between the orchard rows. The growing of potatoes, however, in an orchard in the "northern fruit belt" is a doubtful practice, since the digging of them amounts practically to a late cultivation of the ground, and under some conditions this might stimulate a late growth of the trees, which would be undesirable. In this way the farmer can utilize about half the space of his orchard land without injury to

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SPECIALISTS GIVE DIRECTIONS FOR PUTTING DOWN EGG SUPPLY



What is Needed in Preserving Eggs for Winter Supply.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Eggs and girls who are members of poultry clubs, or those who are interested in any way in chickens, should learn how to handle and preserve eggs. Cuddling means the sorting out of bad eggs before a strong light in such a manner that the rays of light come to the eye through the egg so that the contents can be seen and the condition noted.

The shell of a newly laid egg has a soft "glow" or "blow" which is a sign of perfect freshness. This glow or bloom is destroyed by handling, and in any case disappears after the egg has been exposed to the air for a short time. After that it is difficult to distinguish a fresh egg from an old one by the appearance of the shell, so candling becomes necessary if you want to know that the egg is good.

Candle Eggs in a Dark Room.

Eggs can be candled best in a dark room, by the use of a bright light reflected in a box or case having a hole a trifle smaller than an egg directly opposite the light. The egg is held at this hole for examination. An ordinary hand lamp, a lantern, an in-

dicant first stages of decay. An egg that appears very dark or black, except for a large fixed air cell, contains a chick at an advanced stage of incubation.

Fresh eggs, properly preserved, may be kept from six to ten months and be almost as good for household purposes as fresh eggs. Another reason for preserving eggs in water glass for instance, is the fact that they do not acquire the objectionable "cold-storage" odor.

Allow Three Dozen to Gallon.

To preserve 15 dozen eggs in water glass these directions are given by the specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture:

Select a five-gallon earthen crock, clean it thoroughly, scald, and allow it to dry. Heat ten to twelve quarts of water to the boiling point, and allow it to cool. When the water is lukewarm, measure out nine quarts, put into the crock, and add one quart of sodium silicate, commonly called water glass, which can be bought at any drug store. Stir well, so that the solution becomes thoroughly mixed.

The solution thus prepared is ready for the eggs, which may be put in at once, or from time to time as they are obtainable. Care should be taken in putting them into the jar not to crack or break the shells; also be sure the solution covers the eggs at all times. Put the crock containing the preserved eggs in a cool dry place, and cover with a tight lid or wadded paper to prevent evaporation.

To preserve a smaller or larger number of eggs, the solution should be mixed and prepared in the same proportions.

Only Clean, Fresh Eggs.

If best results are to be obtained the eggs should be clean and fresh, and preferably infertile. For this reason it is always best when possible to candle the eggs carefully before preserving them, so that they are known to be strictly fresh. If an egg is only slightly soiled a cloth dampened with vinegar may be used to remove stains, but eggs should never be washed with water or soap and water, as water removes the protective coating on the shell and may tend to cause the contents to spoil. Never use hard-soiled or cracked eggs. They may spoil all the others.

Fresh eggs preserved according to these directions usually will keep for six to ten months, and can be used satisfactorily for cooking and for the table. If, however, preserved eggs are to be boiled, a small hole should be made with a pin in the larger end of the shell before placing them in the water, to allow the air in the egg to escape when heated, and thus prevent cracking.

Old Phosphate Fertilizer.

Phosphate is the oldest of phosphate fertilizers and has long been in great demand. In availability it stands between acid-phosphate and rock phosphate and is particularly good on fall wheat, clover and alfalfa.

by the use of appropriate sieves, cleaning devices, or other practical means, to separate the foreign material present. Foreign material other than dockage is the foreign material that is not separated in the screening and remains in the dockage-free sample and is a factor in the grading. definite percentages being permitted within each numerical grade. Dockage does not affect the grade.

Cut Clover for Seed.

Clover should be cut for seed when most of the seeds have become fully mature, but before the heads are so dry that much shelling will take place while the cutting is being done.

No Flies on Cows.

To keep cows quiet and contented they should be sprayed to keep flies off. A good time to spray is before milking in the morning and before milking time in the afternoon.

Grow Legumes for Humus.

Productive soils must have humus. It is cheaper and better to make it at home. Grow legumes.

POISON TO KILL INSECT ENEMIES

Gardener Must Keep Up the Fight From Time of Sowing Until Harvest Time.

LIVE OVER WINTER IN SOIL

Principal Means Effective Against the Destructive Pests Are Applied as a Spray or as Bait in Form of Bran Mixtures.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Destructive insect pests give the gardener or farmer a fight from the time he puts his seed into the ground until the crops are ready for market. Left alone, they would devour every useful plant in the garden. The successful gardener is the one who studies the habits of these pests, knows the means of combating them, and keeps constantly at it.

Use Some Kind of Poison.

In spite of the best precautions, insects will attack healthy plants. The principal measures effective against them are various kinds of poison, generally applied as a spray or as a poison bait, in the form of bran mixtures. The kind of poison to be used depends upon the insects' method of feeding. Some bite and chew the leaves and other parts of the plants, and these are best destroyed by arsenical stomach poisons, such as Paris green, arsenate of lead, and arsenate of lime. Of these, arsenate of lead is the best and safest for general use, and also adheres better to the foliage. Paris green is likely to burn some plants, such as beans, seriously if not carefully applied, but on account of its long use can be obtained at every drug store and seed house.



Beetles Devouring Young Potato Vines.

The most destructive garden plant enemy, and one which made its appearance within the last half of the nineteenth century, is the common Colorado potato beetle, known to farmers as the potato bug. This potato beetle passes the winter in the ground and emerges early in the spring, so that he is on hand when the first potato leaves begin to push through the ground.

Easily Destroyed by Poison.

An arsenical may be applied dry, mixed with 10 to 20 parts cheap dry dust or hydrated lime and dusted on, preferably between the leaves, or by means of guns or blowers, so as to cover the plants and leave as little as possible. The application must be repeated as often as new larvae hatch. A spray is generally preferred. It is prepared by mixing the arsenical with water or Bordeaux mixture at the rate of one pound of poison to 50 gallons of the liquid. A small quantity of kerosene in the mixture will prevent scorching the leaves.

Keep Poultry Yards Clean.

It is almost as important to keep the poultry yards clean as it is to observe proper cleanliness inside the house.

Capon Devops Quickly.

Leghorns and other small breeds are better than heavy breeds for castrating quickly, ahead of the larger breeds.

Strawberry Needs Care.

The strawberry will not thrive and produce profitably unless neglected, or indifferent care.

Keep Surroundings Sanitary.

The health of the chicks as well as the net profits from the flock will be greatly improved and maintained by keeping the surrounding in a sanitary condition.

Care of Young Chickens.

Keep the chickens under a suitable brooder if they are incubator chicks or with a hen that will care for them.

Clean Lamps Daily.

Brooder lamps should be cleaned every day.

GIVE GUINEA CHICKS WELL-BALANCED FEED

Nothing is Required for First Thirty-Six Hours.

Fowls Are Natural Rangers and Will Pick Up Seeds, Grasses, Insects and Green Vegetation to Supply Much of Their Food.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Guinea fowls are fed in much the same way as chickens, but they require less feed, as they are natural rangers and can be trusted to find enough seeds of weeds and grasses, buds, insects and green vegetation in the fields to supply much of their living. For the first 36 hours after hatching no feed is required, as the sustenance from the egg is sufficient to nourish them for this period. The first meal may consist of a little hard-boiled egg mixed with bread crumb, or bread may be soaked in milk, squeezed partly dry, and fed in small bits. Clabbered milk also is very good, poultry specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture say.

"Three times a day is as often as they need to be fed, one feed consisting



Brood of Guinea Chicks.

ing of clabbered milk or the bread and egg or bread and milk mixture, and the other two of chick feed. If the coop is placed in a field or pasture where green feed is available, the guinea chicks can secure this for themselves; otherwise, sprouted oats, dandelion leaves, lettuce, or onion tops cut fine should be furnished. Water, grit, and a newyster shell should be before them always.

By the end of the first week the young guineas will be finding enough worms and insects to take the place of the egg or milk feed, so this may be eliminated and chick feed given morning and night. If clabbered milk is available, however, it can be continued with excellent success, since guinea fowls are very fond of variety in their ration and it is conducive to quick growth. As the birds grow older whole wheat, oats, and cracked corn can be substituted gradually for the chick feed.

POISON BAIT FOR CUTWORMS

White Arsenic, Arsenate of Lead or Paris Green Mixed With Bran is Effective.

Cutworms appear in early spring and cut off the stems of young plants at the surface of the ground. They are quickly destructive. The best remedy is poisoned bait. For a small garden mix two level tablespoons of white arsenic, arsenate of lead, or Paris green into five pounds of dry bran. Add from four to six quarts of water, in which half a pint of kerosene or cheap molasses has been mixed. After the mash has stood several hours scatter it thinly over the garden or a small quantity at the base of the plants. Put the poison on late in the day, so it will be moist during the night when the cutworms feed.

VALUE OF SILAGE

One ton of silage is equal to about 225 pounds of corn and 613 pounds of clover hay for dairy cows.

One ton of silage is equal to 144 pounds of corn and 390 pounds of clover hay for fattening lambs.

These figures are calculated from Wisconsin experiments.

Poison Grasshoppers.

Farmers need no longer be helpless against the ravages of grasshopper hordes in their fields. If discovered in the early days of their attack, their pests are now quite easy of control by means of poisoned baits.

Not Found on Rich Land.

Sheep sorrel is a weed that is seldom, if ever, found on rich land. On the contrary, wherever this weed is found we may conclude that the soil is in a run-down condition.

FARM POULTRY

EXERCISE BEST FOR POULTS

Confining Young Turkeys Does Not Result in Marked Success—Thrives on Free Range.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Plenty of exercise is essential if the turkey poult is to thrive, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. At all times, when rain or dampness does not prevent, the poults should be allowed to run in and out of the coop at will. Too much stress cannot be given to the necessity of exercise, and the only way to provide for this is to allow the poults at every possible opportunity to range for feed outside the coop. During a long-continued rainy season it is better to allow them to run out of the coop whenever it is not actually raining, even though the grass is somewhat damp.

By confining the mother hen to the coop she will always be ready to hover,



Let the Turkeys Have Open Range.

the poults whenever they run to her, which they will do if they become chilled. The greatest care should be taken to keep the interior of the coop dry, and for this reason it is advisable to choose a sandy slope where the water runs off quickly and where there is also protection from heavy rains. If necessary, the mother-hen can be confined to a roosting coop for a week or more, provided she is properly fed and watered, and the coop moved to fresh ground every day.

If the weather is warm and dry, as frequently happens when the poults are hatched late in the season, no shelter is required, as they do better in the open; but it is advisable to keep them within a fenced inclosure for the first three or four days until they are strong enough to follow the mother. Weather conditions being favorable, the hen and brood can be given free range after the third or fourth day, but care should be taken to keep them out of heavy dews and to protect them from rain for the first two or three weeks. After this early morning dews or light showers followed closely by warm sunshine will do little harm, as the poults soon become warm and dry. If cold, damp weather sets in, however, they will need to be kept in dry quarters, for nothing is more fatal to young poults than wet and cold.

When about six weeks old, the young turkeys are old enough to go to roost. Practically all turkey raisers allow the birds to roost in the open trees or on fences or other roosts especially provided for them. In sections where high winds prevail, it is customary to build the roosts next to barn or shed, where there is some protection. When this is done posts are driven into the ground and poles laid across them four or five feet from the ground. By driving them to the roosting place and feeding them there every evening just before dark, young turkeys can be made to roost wherever desired. For the first few times it is sometimes necessary to keep them under the roost until dark, but they will finally fly up, and after a week or so will no longer have to be driven, but will come up every night to be fed and to roost.

During the summer and early fall turkeys can be had in abundance of feed on the average farm. Grasshoppers and other insects, weed and grass seeds, green vegetation, berries, and grain picked up in the fields all go to make up the turkey's daily ration. When this natural feed is plentiful very little need be added until fattening time, except for the purpose of bringing the turkeys every night to roost and to keep them from straying from home. For this purpose one feed of grain every night just before roosting time is sufficient.

POULTRY NOTES.

Oats are as good an all-round feed as can be had but should not be fed exclusively.

The best tonics you can give your stock are fresh air, exercise and a variety of foods.

Kerosene the roosts, upper and under side, once a week. Also the nests every couple of weeks.

Idleness cannot be classed as a disease, but it certainly is a condition that quickly leads to disease and lack of thrift.



Beans Are One of Best Crops to Grow in Young Peach Orchard.

the trees, or seriously hampering the temporary crop. Tomatoes and other truck crops may also be grown in the orchard. These are sometimes classed as "catch crops"—crops planted for a quick growth.

Where such catch crops are planted it is well first to make a hasty survey of the operations of other farmers in the vicinity and of the available market, since often where similar conditions prevail throughout the country there is a tendency for many farmers to enter on a certain line of temporary agriculture, with the result that the supply far exceeds the local demand. A little foresight may prevent disappointment.

These rows between the trees are somewhat more difficult to cultivate than in the open field, and may require considerable handwork, but in many cases the crops which are planted yield a comfortable profit.

The intercropping of young orchards has an additional purpose besides the mere direct financial gain. It furnishes an incentive to keep the orchard cultivated, and as a rule this is highly desirable from the standpoint of the trees.

An off year from a row shows a good time to put the orchard in order by close pruning, such as the orchardist could not easily afford if it meant roosting in hourly distress.

Produce may sometimes be found in a saved crop. Buckwheat is often a good thing when sowed among young trees. The buckwheat may not pay for harvest for grain, but if it is moved before fully mature it makes a good mulch, or if permitted to mature enough grain may be obtained to materially cut down the expenditure for poultry feed. Buckwheat can be sown in June or even in July and still make a satisfactory growth. Field peas, cowpeas and various other crops that make good forage can be used as occasion suggests, and the soil be improved thereby.

The fruit grower should realize that it is the abuse rather than the use of double-cropping systems that may result adversely to the trees. And again, an interplanted crop which is to be harvested and not used entirely for soil improvement should be looked upon as a means of reducing the expense of maintaining the trees rather than a crop which represents a definite cash income.

CUT CLOVER EARLY

Do not delay overmuch in getting off the first crop of clover; often the early cut field will yield a really worthwhile crop in September, and price or no price, clover in the mow is a comforting asset when the winter snows drift over the fields and yards.

MATERIAL FOUND IN WHEAT

Specialists Define Terms Used in Federal Standards—Dockage is Easily Removed.

There are two terms in the federal wheat standards which apply to foreign material, explain specialists of the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture—"dockage" and "foreign material" other than dockage. The term dockage is applied to the foreign material which can be removed readily from the wheat