ORCHARD GLEANINGS

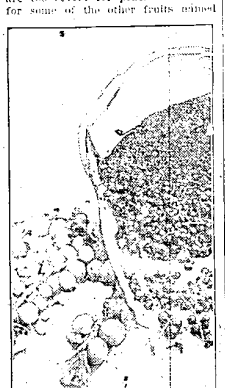
VARIOUS FRUITS IN GARDEN

Home Plat Should Be Planned Carefully to Obtain Supply Throughout Whole Year.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The home fruit plat should be planned carefully and, in general, with a view to supplying fruit continuously throughout the year either in the fresh state or canned or otherwise conserved, say horticulturists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Throughout a large part of the country one may grow in the same garden, if he so desires, the following fruits: Apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, quinces, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, dewberries, currants, gooseberries and grapes.

In the colder sections the winters are too severe for peaches and also for some of the other fruits named



Currants and Gooseberries.

unless they are protected; while in the warmer parts apples, currants, gooseberries and certain varieties of several of the other fruits fail because they are not adapted to the long hot summers and mild winters. But in these warmer regions Japanese persimmons succeed, and in some of them figs and certain other fruits can be planted successfully. Therefore, one of the most important features of the plan for the home fruit plantation is the selection of kinds of fruits, and varieties of these kinds, which will do well in the given locality, and which will serve best the purpose for which they are desired.

SYSTEM OF SUMMER PRUNING

Usually Done to Check Very Vigorous Growing Trees With Idea of Producing Fruit.

Summer pruning is generally used to check very vigorous growing young trees with the idea of throwing them into bearing. It is simply a case of heading back some of the stronger growing branches with the idea of checking the growth and making the tree produce fruit spurs. Sometimes growers complain that their trees are not bearing, even though they are cultivating very intensively and fertilizing heavily. They do not realize that trees making very heavy wood growth brought about by heavy manuring or rich soil tend to delay fruiting. Therefore, it is necessary to check the wood growth, and this is done by doing less fertilizing and cultivating and also by following out a system of summer pruning.

THINNING TO IMPROVE FRUIT

Experimental Work Shows Increase in Next Year's Crop and Better Size and Grade.

In years of heavy crops neglect of thinning is often ruinous to the next year's crop. Sometimes half the total number of apples set will be thinned off so sufficient fruit buds will form to provide for the next year's yield.

Experimental work with both peaches and apples shows not only the increase in next year's crop but also, and this is more important, a vast improvement in the size and grade of the individual fruits produced during the current season. Thinning is not done to decrease the number of bushels of fruit, but the number of individual fruits produced, it is found.

FERTILIZING YOUNG ORCHARD

Highly Essential to Obtain and Maintain Strong Vigorous Growth on Young Trees.

Since it is desirable to obtain a strong vigorous growth on young fruit trees, it is highly essential to plant them in fertile soil, and to use all possible means to maintain the fertility to a suitable degree. Commercial fertilizers are very serviceable in a young orchard, and in many cases are better to use than barnyard manure or cover crops, since they cannot provide a harbor for mice.

EARLY POTATOES NEED GOOD CARE

Weak and Improperly Filled Containers and Lack of Ventilation Cause of Loss.

DISCARD DISEASED PRODUCT

Load With Care to Prevent Shifting and Breakage—Sacks and Hampers Not Suitable—Loading on Bilge Is Not Safe.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

More care in loading cars will prevent much damage in shipments of new potatoes, say specialists of the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture, discussing methods of loading and types of containers in use. Shifting of the loads in transit, weak and partly filled packages, and lack of proper ventilation are found to be responsible for losses in many cars arriving at markets. Caution against loading diseased potatoes is also urged because of the large number of shipments that show scab, wilt, or late blight, and in some cases are practically worthless when they reach the market.

Press Potatoes Firmly in Barrels.

The double-headed ventilated barrel, it is said, appears to be the best package for new potatoes that is now in general use. If properly made, it protects the potatoes as well as holds them in place. Much breakage has been found in cars where the barrels are loaded on end and then when loaded on their bilge. Wooden strips should be placed on top of the lower layers of barrels for the upper layers to rest upon.

There is one serious objection to this method of loading. In some instances the barrels appear to be slack measure when they arrive at the market, due to the jolting in transit. This fault, however, it is said, can be largely eliminated if growers will fill their barrels full and use a press when heading.

Loading barrels on their bilge is said not to be a safe practice unless headliners (strips to prevent heads bulging) are used. It is said that the use of headliners would prevent nine-tenths of the breakage in all types of loads with barrels. Records show that practically every car has from 3

What Happens When Barrels Are Loaded on Their Bilge—Characteristic Breakage in a Car of Double-Headed Barrels—The Heads Give Way and the Barrels Collapse From the Weight Above, Causing Bruising and Mashing of the Potatoes.

to 30 or more barrels broken on arrival at the market. Extra bracing is needed when barrels are loaded on their bilge.

Prevent Barrels Rolling.

Wooden strips should be placed across the floor at frequent intervals in order to prevent the lower barrels from rolling. Use of rocks for this purpose localizes the strain and causes much breakage. Strips should also be placed across the doors to prevent the barrels on the upper layer from falling against and jamming the doors.

The sack, it is said, is not a suitable container for tender new potatoes. It offers no protection from bruising, and when loaded is hard to ventilate. If sacks are to be used they should be of no greater capacity than 120 pounds. This size sack can be handled with much greater care and lends itself to ventilation better than larger sizes. Neither are hampers, it is said, suitable packages for potatoes. They do not have the necessary strength for the weight of their contents, and offer little protection for the potatoes.

Crates of various sorts are being used, and, according to reports, appear satisfactory where the strength of the crate is sufficient for the weight of its contents. Weak crates should not be used under any circumstances, and crates with wide opening tend to wilt the potatoes while in transit. Crates must be loaded tightly and firmly, and no slack space left without suitable bracing, while stripping is recommended.

No matter what container is used, it is said, the grower should exercise great care to keep diseased and injured potatoes out of it. A very high percentage of the cars arriving at northern markets show much scab, bacteria wilt, late blight, or all three. Growers should also see that their packages are well filled. Weak packages should not be used.

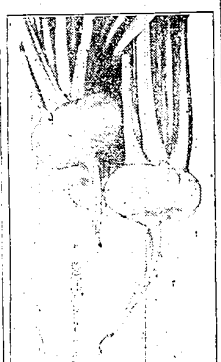
GROW TWO CROPS OF TURNIPS IN GARDEN

Tops Make Excellent Greens in Southern States.

If Sown in Drills Soil May Be Stirred Between Rows and Plants Kept Growing Rapidly—Will Stand Considerable Cold.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Turnips are one of the most universally grown of all garden crops. In the northern states turnips are planted in midsummer and stored for winter use. In the southern states they are planted early in spring for early summer use, also in the fall for use during the winter. Turnip tops make excellent winter greens throughout the greater part of the southern states. For early spring culture it is customary to sow the seed in drills about a foot apart and thin the plants to about three inches in the drill. By this method



An Excellent Type of Turnips.

the soil may be stirred between the rows and the plants kept growing rapidly so as to attain reasonable size before the heated term of early summer sets in.

In the North it is customary to sow the seed broadcast about the 25th of July on land from which early peas, early potatoes, or some other early crop has been removed. The land is raked smooth and the small seeds simply scattered over the surface, then covered by again raking the soil. No cultivation is required where the seeds are sown broadcast.

In the southern states turnips are frequently destroyed by plant lice that suck the juices of the leaves. These insects are rather difficult to control, spraying with nicotine preparations being about the only remedy.

Turnips stand considerable cold, but those that are to be placed in pits or in the cellar for winter use should not be allowed to freeze before being stored. If they become frozen in storage, they should not be disturbed until they thaw naturally.

PLAN TO ERADICATE SORREL

Apply Ground Limestone, Hydrated Lime or Quicklime—Rotation of Crops Is Good.

A good treatment for sheep sorrel, according to the United States Department of Agriculture specialists, is to apply ground limestone two tons per acre, hydrated lime one and one-half ton per acre, or quicklime one ton per acre. The quicklime can be used to advantage by slaking with water and sprinkling the mixture freely over the sorrel. The liquid will injure the leaves as well as help correct soil acidity. Sorrel can be destroyed by spraying with solution of sulphate of iron (copperas), two pounds to the gallon of water. The treatment will not permanently injure grass and will destroy the weed if repeated as often as the sorrel tries to send out new leaves. Spraying is useful where sorrel occurs as patches in a good stand of grass and around rocks and fences. Iron sulphate is deadly to clovers and to many broad-leaved weeds, but is not injurious to animals or the soil. Sorrel can easily be destroyed by a short rotation of crops. If possible, the rotation should be arranged so that the soil will be cultivated at different seasons of each year.

BETTER PROFITS IN POULTRY

Specialists of Department of Agriculture Give Reasons for Favoring Standard-Breds.

Here are five reasons given by specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture for keeping standard-bred poultry:

Standard-bred poultry is more uniform in size, type and color.

Standard-bred poultry is more attractive in appearance and appeals more strongly to purchasers of stock and eggs.

Standard-bred poultry offers a greater combination of practical and useful qualities suitable to the needs of the farmer and poultry keeper.

The products of standard-bred fowls are more uniform in quality, are in greater demand, and bring better prices.

Standard-bred poultry means greater success and better profits.

GOOD COMMUNITY HOUSE BENEFITS

Distinct Pleasure Experienced by People of Neighborhood in Owning Buildings.

MANY VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS

Structure Should Be Large Enough to Serve Needs of Every Organization, and Should Be Located Conveniently.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A community can "live around" from church building to church building from schoolhouse to schoolhouse, from hall to hall, but so long as it lives that way it will never experience the distinct pleasure that comes from occupying a home of its own in the form of a community house. A good community house adds something to the life of the community, in the opinion of specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture, set forth in Farmers' Bulletin 1173, "Plans of Rural Community Buildings," now ready for distribution.

Before a community decides the question of erecting a building, says this bulletin, it should make a thorough study of the local situation. The study should show that an actual need for the building is felt by the varied organizations of a public nature and by the people themselves. It should demonstrate that the building can and should be maintained as a permanent institution. After it has decided to erect a building numerous questions arise, upon which the bulletin gives much helpful information and many valuable suggestions, together with pictures and floor plans of a wide variety of community buildings now in actual use.

Make Survey of Community Needs.

The original study, it is pointed out, should not only determine the need of a community building, but also the most desirable type. The bulletin advises that the building be large enough to serve the present needs of every member of the community and every organization, regardless of party, creed, or class, no matter how distant they may be, and should be located at a place naturally frequented by all members of the community.

Raising the money for the undertaking is cited as one of the important problems. The ambient may be secured cannot be accurately estimated in advance. Department specialists advise

Neighborhood House in Arizona.

that before an attempt is made to estimate the funds available a well-directed campaign of enlightenment be carried on through all the surrounding country with the object of making known the benefits to be derived from the erection of the building.

Every community will have its own particular uses for a building, and these can be determined only by the people themselves. A standard community building, however, it is pointed out, should have as a minimum these accommodations:

Accommodations of Every Building.

An assembly room, perhaps with movable seats, that can be used as a meeting place for the people or for various organizations. With the seats removed the room will be available as a gymnasium, as a game room, as a dining room, or for dances and exhibits.

A stage on which lectures, plays and various entertainments can be given and which may have a screen for motion pictures.

A kitchen where food may be prepared.

A place where luncheons, suppers and banquets may be served.

The more advanced communities would need, it is thought, other accommodations. These should be carefully estimated in determining the size of the structure. It is well to take future growth into consideration. Details of the various features of planning, constructing, and maintaining a community house are contained in the bulletin (Farmers' Bulletin 1173), which may be had upon request of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Department Bulletin 825, "Rural Community Buildings in the United States," another publication of the department, gives the history of the community building movement.

Dehorn Market Cattle.

Dehorned steers or heifers not only can be handled more conveniently on the farm than cattle with horns, but if put on the market either as stock calves, feeders, or finished fat cattle, will sell for more.

WHITEWASHING WILL KILL MANY INSECTS

Spraying Is Effective in Destroying Vermin.

Cleanliness Is of Utmost Importance in Keeping Many Pests Under Control—Provide Abundance of Light and Fresh Air.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Whitewash is effective in killing mites and other sorts of vermin and may be used freely in spraying the poultry houses, brood coops and roosts, scientists of the United States Department of Agriculture say. In badly infested places it is advisable to clean and spray with a stronger disinfectant, and in 48 hours follow with a good spray or coating of whitewash. An effective whitewash for this purpose is made as follows:

Slake half a peck of lime and dilute it with 20 gallons of water; add one pound of salt previously dissolved in water; to this mixture add two

Whitewash, if Properly Applied, Destroys Parasites and Makes House Fresh and Clean.

quarts of crude carbolic acid. Apply with a spray pump or brush. This, if properly put on, not only kills the mites, but destroys all their eggs and makes the house or any building where it is used fresh and clean.

Cleanliness is of the greatest importance in keeping lice, mites, fleas, and other insects under control. The poultry houses, roosts, dropping boards, brood coops, and all other places that the fowls occupy should be kept clean. An abundance of light and fresh air should be provided. While these things cannot be depended on to keep away lice and mites, they make it easier to determine when the pests are present and help to keep the fowls healthy, vigorous, and better able to withstand an attack of lice and mites. Sick or diseased fowls are always the first victims of these parasites, which makes it important that the fowls be kept healthy.

MANY USE NEIGHBORS' SIRES

Minnesota Breeder Keeps Up and Improves Quality of Live Stock by Simple Plan.

That the use of good purebred sires does not necessarily involve ownership is shown by developments in the "Better Sires—Better Stock" campaign, which is improving the quality of domestic animals in the country. A Minnesota breeder in Kittson county raises four classes of live stock—cattle, horses, swine and poultry. He owns a purebred bull but uses a neighbor's Percheron stallion and also a neighbor's purebred boar. To obtain poultry of improved breeding he purchased eggs from a breeder of standard-bred fowls.

Another live stock owner in the same county states in a letter to the United States Department of Agriculture: "I do not own a purebred bull, but all cows are bred by a purebred bull owned by a neighbor." In these cases the quantity of farm live stock kept was relatively small and under such circumstances the arrangements stated are both simple and practical.

MAN'S GUIDE TO FERTILITY

Black Soils Stand First and Are Followed by Browns, Dark Grays and Yellows.

Color has always been the practical man's guide to soil fertility and the scientific man finds it just as useful after working out the reasons back of it. In relative fertility black soils stand first, followed in order by the browns and dark grays, and these by the yellows and light grays, the lightest of which are nearly white.

CHICKS DEVOUR DANDELIONS

Little Birds Eat Them in Preference to Grass, but Are Liable to Ruin the Lawn.

Little chickens are good dandelion diggers. They will eat them deep into the ground and in preference to the grass, but should not be allowed to run on the lawn too long at a time for fear of ruining the lawn

POULTRY CACKLES

RIGHT FOWLS FOR BREEDING

Hens Are Preferable to Pullets as They Lay Larger Eggs—Free Range Is Favored.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

If cockerels or pullets are used in the breeding flock they should be well matured, poultry specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture advise. Hens are better than pullets. They lay larger eggs, which produce stronger chicks. Yearling and two-year-old hens are better than older ones. Pullets used as breeders should be mated with a cock rather than with a cockerel. If a cockerel is used he should be mated with hens rather than with pullets. As a rule, well-matured cockerels will give better fertility than cocks.

When possible, free range should be provided for the breeding stock. It is better to provide it during the entire fall and winter before the breeding season, but, if this is not possible, free range just preceding and during the breeding season will be of great value. Birds on free

Breeding Flock on Government Poultry Farm, Beltsville, Md.

range will get more exercise and, therefore, will be in better health and will give higher fertility, better hatches, and stronger chicks.

The breeding flock needs careful supervision to make sure that the fowls keep in good breeding condition. The birds and the houses should be examined often to see that they are not infested with lice or mites. Either of these pests in any numbers will seriously affect or totally destroy fertility. Care must be exercised also to see that the male does not frost his comb or wattles. If these are frosted his ability to fertilize eggs will be impaired and may not be recovered for several weeks. On very cold nights when there is danger of the combs being frosted the males to be used as breeders must be put in a warm place, such as a box or crate of suitable size partly covered by a bag or cloth. The breeding male should be examined occasionally after feeding to see that his crop is full and that he is not growing thin. Some males will allow the hens to eat all the feed, with the result that they get out of condition. If this happens the male must be fed separately from the hens at least once a day.

Provide the breeding stock with comfortable quarters. The house must be draft proof, yet well ventilated and dry. The birds should not be crowded. If the birds are yarded, 4 square feet of floor space per bird should be allowed, but on free range from 3 to 3½ square feet per bird will be enough.

The breeders must be fed so as to keep them in such condition that they will produce eggs. Any good laying ration is suitable for this purpose. Beef scrap should not run above 10 or 15 per cent of the total ration. The birds should be kept in good flesh but should not be allowed to become excessively fat. All whole or cracked grain should be fed in litter. This forces the fowls to exercise by scratching for it. As a supply of green feed is usually lacking late in the winter or early in the spring, sprouted oats, cabbage, mangels, or cut clover or alfalfa should be fed.

GIVE CHICKS SKIMMED MILK

Considered Desirable for Youngsters During First Week, According to Specialists.

Skimmed milk is considered by specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture very desirable for chicks during the first week. In order to insure that all chicks get the milk it is advisable to dip the chick's beak in milk before it gets any other food. (This can best be done when removing chicks from the incubator.) Give milk to drink as long as it is advisable.

MUCH LOSS IS PREVENTABLE

Farmers Lose $15,000,000 Every Year by Selling Fertile Eggs—Rooster Is Cause.

Selling fertile eggs for market purposes during warm weather cost farmers $15,000,000 a year, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. This loss is preventable. The rooster makes the egg fertile. The fertile egg makes the blood ring, which spoils the egg for food and market.