

THE ROOKIE

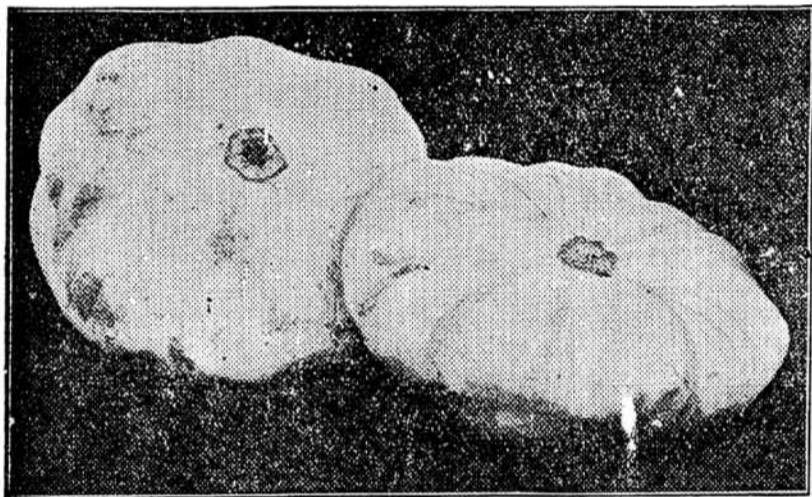


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New for the Farmers

BY JNO. C. BARKSDALE, COUNTY DEMONSTRATOR.

SQUASHES TO RELIEVE FOOD SHORTAGE



ATTRACTIVE ADDITION TO SUMMER GARDEN.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Summer squashes are to many an attractive addition to the home garden. They may be planted yet in practically any part of the country, and their culture is easy. Two or three hills will furnish enough for an average-sized family. They are not fastidious as to soils, though they, like most garden plants, prefer a warm, sandy loam. The most important requirements for their growth are abundance of manure and good cultivation. The hills may be spaced five or six feet apart. The plants will occupy the ground all summer if the fruits are harvested at the most usable stage.

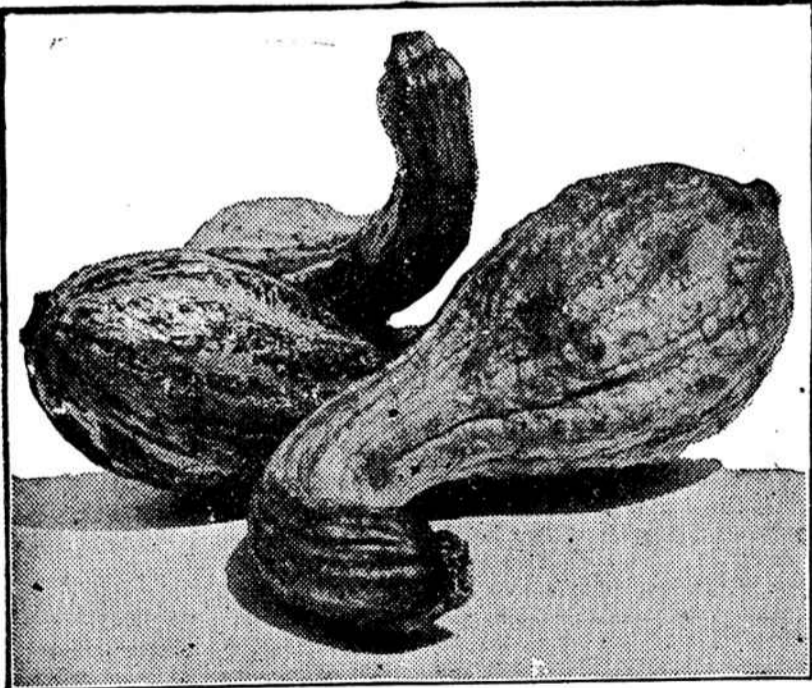
Squashes are tender plants, and cannot endure the slightest frost, so seed should not be planted until the soil is well warmed. Ten or a dozen seeds are planted usually in each hill. These should finally be thinned to one or two plants. The soil must be stirred by shallow cultivation until the plants cover the soil.

There are in use in this country several types of these squashes. They must all be used while very immature;

if the thumb nail does not very readily puncture the skin of the fruit, the best stage for eating has passed.

Scallop or Pattypan squashes occur in white and yellow colors. Yellow Summer Crookneck is also much planted and is a good variety. These squashes have short vines and are usually called bush forms. English forms of summer squashes are called vegetable marrows, and can be obtained from many American seedsmen. There is also an Italian summer squash under the name of Cocozelle, which is offered by a few seedsmen. These last have long vines, and should be given as much as eight or ten feet between hills.

Winter squashes such as Hubbard, Green and Yellow, Delicious and Boston Marrow require the cultural treatment given above, but should be given to twelve feet distance between hills. Winter squashes should be stored in a dry place where the temperature does not go below 45 degrees or 50 degrees F. An upstairs room is much better for this purpose than a cellar. The fruits must be thoroughly ripened, but not frosted.



CROCKNECK IS POPULAR VARIETY OF SQUASH.

GUARD ALL ALFALFA LEAVES SPRAYING FOR POTATO BUGS

Two-Thirds of Feeding Value of Plant Is in Leaves—Rake Into Windrows Before Dry.

Mixture of Arsenate of Lead and Water Makes Excellent Solution to Destroy Pests.

Two-thirds of the feeding value of the alfalfa plant is in the leaves. If the leaves are left in curing only one-third of the feeding value remains. This fact is regarded as important by farmers who advocate that alfalfa be cured so as to save the leaves. This means that the alfalfa must be raked into windrows before the leaves dry and fall off. Raking can be done two hours after cutting, thus saving the leaves and preserving the green color and desirable flavor.

A good spray for potato bugs consists of a mixture of two ounces of arsenate of lead to one gallon of water. The arsenate of lead should be well dissolved in a small quantity of water before being diluted. Enough of the solution to spray two-thirds of an acre can be made from six pounds of arsenate of lead and 50 gallons of water. This spray sticks to the plants better than paris green and does not burn them as paris green sometimes does.

A MYSTERY SOLVED

Old Uckersted's apartments in the hotel were nothing like as expensive as Jimson's. Jimson knew enough of the man to be sure that he paid the lowest price possible for them. The meals were a la carte, if the guests preferred, or there was a fair table d'hote at a reasonable fixed price. Jimson invariably ordered a la carte, and expensively, being particular in his eating. Old Uckersted took breakfast a la carte—oatmeal and milk or some other grain preparation and milk, and hot water. Lunch this man of stocks and bonds and railroad shares ate downtown, generally at the board of trade counter. It was a light lunch. Dinner he ate at the hotel, table d'hote, and it may be said that he made up for his abstemiousness of the day and got the worth of his money.

In spite of this the proprietor of the hotel bowed to old Uckersted with absolute obsequiousness while he merely favored Jimson with a nod of good-fellowship. Jimson drew a big salary from a wholesale house downtown—and spent it like a prince. He patronized a fashionable tailor, wore as many diamonds as good taste permitted, perhaps sometimes more. He was of an eminently sociable disposition and pleasant to everybody. Old Uckersted had his millions (so it was reputed), spent no more than was absolutely necessary, was almost shabby in his attire and morose in his manner.

It amused Jimson to see the slavish deference paid to Uckersted's wealth. It was the way of the world, he said—natural enough. As for the proprietor of the hotel, it was quite reasonable that he should kowtow to a man who could buy him out with a few strokes of his pen. Jimson did not want any man to bend himself double on his account. The friendly nod was good enough for him. He found no fault with the humbly respectful demeanor of the clerk toward the millionaire; that was natural, too. But what puzzled him particularly was the behavior of William, the waiter.

Very suave was William, cat-footed, low-voiced, deferential, blandly impassive, bald and neat-whiskered—the ideal waiter. Jimson was very fond of him.

"Look at him," said Jimson to a friend who was breakfasting with him one morning. "Mark the reverence in his humbly drooped eyelids, as he feeds old Croesus his crackers and milk; note the anxious assiduity with which he places the hot water at the magnate's elbow; get on to the solicitude. And here reposing in my trousers pocket is a silver half dollar and he knows it will soon be in his. We want more of these crawfish, but that cuts no ice with William."

"Give it up," said the friend. "Because he's got the money, I suppose."
"Not at all," said Jimson. "As far as William is personally concerned it is I who have the money. Moralists give us fits as a nation for dollar worship. They're mistaken. We don't care a hang for the coin. It's only the power that it symbolizes that we reverence. William knows that Uckersted is a power and he bows down before him. It isn't that he expects to get any of Uckersted's money. In Europe the peasant abased himself before the peer. Why? Because the peer had power. He or his ancestors won it with the sword—by murder and might and leadership. The result is that in Europe they are getting to be more democratic than we are, in a way. That is, they respect the aristocracy less than we do the plutocracy—see? I, therefore, acquit William of sordid aims. Still—hi! William!"

Until more than a year after this conversation Jimson had been abroad looking after his firm's interests and when he returned William was gone and a James—an altogether inferior being—handed him the bill of fare when he took his old seat. One evening Jimson got into a street car and opposite to him he recognized William—with some difficulty and doubt, for the model waiter had grown rather portly and was dressed most magnificently. A silk hat William wore; his suit was of superfine black; his cravat was fastened with an undeniable pearl pin and he rested his gloved hands on a gold-knobbed cane.

"Come over here and sit by me," invited Jimson. "I want to talk to you. You're looking well, William. Where are you working?"

"I'm occupying a responsible position in Mr. Uckersted's household, sir," replied William. "I am his butler, in fact—major domo, you might say, sir. He married, you know, sir."
"I did hear something of it," said Jimson. "Well, well. You seem to be prospering, certainly."

"Pretty well, sir, thank you," admitted William. "The salary isn't very large. Mr. Uckersted is a very careful gentleman in some respects, but—" William allowed one eyelid to flutter down—"there is something in the commissions. Mrs. Uckersted entertains a good deal. And then," added William, "through Mr. Uckersted's kind suggestions I have been able to make some lucrative investments. Yes, sir. In fact, sir, if it were not for the opportunities I have for obtaining hints in that direction, I think I should resign my position. I have really no occasion to work for anybody."

"I think I understand William and the general attitude toward moneyed men better now," said Jimson to himself as he got off the car.

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FOR INCREASED CORN YIELDS

Gain of 6.31 Bushels Per Acre by Thinning Secured at Ohio Station on Tested Seed.

Thinning corn has resulted in a gain, as a four-year average at the Ohio experiment station, of 6.31 bushels per acre in the case of seed tested for germination before planting, and of 8.47 bushels in the case of untested seed. The average time required for thinning an acre of corn was 5.7 hours.

In one case three kernels were planted per hill, and on the plot in comparison a generous quantity of seed was dropped and the plants were thinned to three per hill when 6 to 8 inches high. With tested seed an average yield of 59.28 bushels per acre was obtained with corn planted three kernels per hill, and 65.59 bushels per acre was harvested from thinned corn. With untested seed a yield of 53.38 bushels per acre was secured from regular planting and 63.85 bushels per acre where the corn was thinned. With corn at only 50 cents a bushel, one would make 65 cents an hour by thinning on this basis.

VACANT LAND ALONG FENCES

Not Many Farmers Ever Think of Amount of Waste Strips on Either Side of Barriers.

Few farmers stop to think how much land is taken up by the fences. The fence itself takes little room, but it is impossible to grow anything for several feet on both sides of the fence. The department of agriculture reports that the ordinary rail fence occupies a strip over 12 feet wide. About 3,600 feet of such a fence takes up an acre of land. Hedges take up a little more than the rail fence, the width varying according to the width of the hedge row.

ESTIMATED COST OF DUCKS

Ranges From Eight to Twelve Cents Per Pound, Depending on Current Prices of Grain.

It is estimated by poultrymen making a specialty of growing ducks that the feed cost per pound of producing duck meat ranges from 8 cents to 12 cents, depending upon the current prices of grain and other feeds.

BREEDING FOR HEAVY LAYERS

Two Hundred-Egg Hen Is Possibility When Attention to Essential Points Is Given.

The 200-egg hen is a possibility when selection and breeding are given the necessary attention. The few who took up this line of breeding, with such startling results, soon created a spirit of emulation among other fanciers. Now there are a great many flocks of pure-bred fowls that have been line-bred for egg production for years.

TOMATOES ON SINGLE STEM

Set Plants Eighteen Inches Apart in Rows Three Feet Wide—Pinch Out All Shoots.

Where tomatoes are to be trained to a single stem, the plants are set 18 inches apart in rows three feet wide. As soon as the young plant begins to grow after being transplanted it sends out branches or shoots from the axis of the leaves. When these shoots appear pinch them out, which will cause the main stalk to shoot up very rapidly. Put up a stake five feet tall and tie the plant to it. As the plant grows more suckers will form. Continue to pinch these out and train the plant to the stake. The fruit will be formed on flower clusters about six inches apart on the main stem.

The method of training does not produce as many tomatoes per plant, but the fruit is much larger in size and of higher quality. This method allows a great many more plants per acre, therefore the yield per acre is greatly increased.

GIVE HENS PLENTY OF ROOM

Crowding Decreases Egg Production and Increases Feed Bill—Have Nests Clean.

If your house is built to accommodate 50 hens, keep that many, and try to keep them in the best possible shape for profit—you will get it. But if you try to crowd in 50 per cent more you will require more feed and will have fewer eggs. It is pure greed which often renders a flock unprofitable. Have nest boxes in inconspicuous places for the shy pullets, and keep them clean.

MAKING MONEY OUT OF COWS

Seven Fundamental Principles of Successful Dairying—Weed Out All Poor Animals.

There are ten rules for making money out of cows and they all begin with "milk good cows."

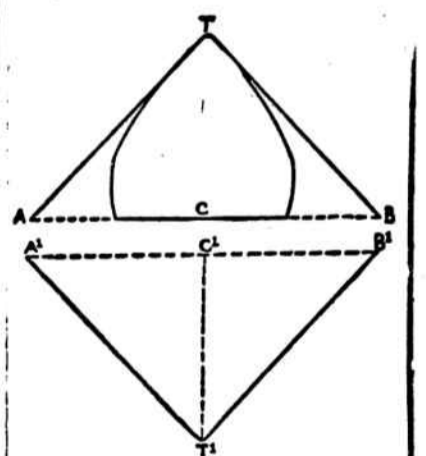
To put the case in a nutshell, or rather to skim the cream from the whole matter, let us admit that there are, say, seven fundamental principles of successful dairying, about as follows:

1. Weed out the poor cows by means of the scales and the Babcock test.
2. Feed the good cows plenty of clean, choice stuff as close to a balanced ration as possible.
3. Eliminate competition by producing a better product than the other fellow and demanding a good price for it.
4. Head the herd with a high-class, pure-bred sire.
5. Raise the promising calves from the best cows only.
6. Develop a market for your surplus bull calves and other stock.
7. Feed the mind of the man behind the cow.

MEASURE HEIGHT OF STACKS

Method Illustrated to Ascertain Number of Cubic Feet Contained in Large Pile of Hay.

To ascertain the number of cubic feet in a stack of hay involves the height of the stack and which may be determined by the following method: Two points are marked on the ground on opposite sides of the rick or stack and at nearly equal distances from its center as possible. A cord is then thrown over the stack, stretched gently from the point A in the accompanying illustration, over the top of the stack to the point B, and marked to show its length from A to B. The cord is then removed and placed on the ground in the position of A1, B1, and T1, the points of A1 and B1 being exactly the same distance apart as A and



Measuring Height of Stack.

B. At T1 the cord should be made to assume the shape of that portion of the top of the stack with which the cord was in contact when it was stretched over the top of the stack. The distance C1 T1 will then be the height of the stack.

INDUCING CALF TO EAT HAY

Animal Should Be Given Clover or Alfalfa as Soon as It Shows Desire for Roughage.

As soon as the calf shows a desire for roughage it should be given a little good hay, preferably clover or alfalfa. Soon after a little dry grain may be placed in a box where the calf can eat it. Sometimes calves manifest a desire for grain at first, that will lead them to eat too much of it, in which case they may refuse it entirely and give the feeder a good deal of trouble. Only a very little grain should be given the calf at first and the allowance should be increased very slowly, always being sure not to give too much. Care should be used also not to feed more hay than the animal will consume in from 1 to 2 hours. The hay the calf does not eat does it no good and while it is not so bad to feed hay to excess as to feed too much grain, it is entirely useless to do so and should be avoided.