

Bedding Sweet Potatoes

A citizen asks for information about bedding sweet potatoes. About the first of March is the proper time. Prepare the bed by throwing out the earth a foot deep. Dig up the next layer and break it fine. Spread stable manure over the bottom and a few cotton seed on top of that. Cover that with three inches of fine earth. Place the potatoes on that as close as possible without letting them touch each other. Then cover with three or four inches of fine earth. The next thing is to cover them with plank so that rain water will not get in the bed. Get plank two or three feet longer than the bed and elevate one end so that the water will be easily carried off. The potato will get moisture enough from the ground to aid in the sprouting. The heat generated in the stable manure and cotton seed will bring about early sprouting. As soon as first plants begin to appear take off the plank cover and let the bed take the rains. Often apparently sound potatoes rot after they are bedded. Sometimes the cause of that is the cold rains which fall in March. Covering the bed prevents all that. If you wait till the middle of April to bed potatoes you can smooth the top of the ground with a rake, place the potatoes down and cover with fine earth about three inches deep. It will not be many days before they begin to show above ground.—Spartanburg Journal.

Are Your Premises Painted?

Dr. North is a character in one of David Grayson's books and a good many charming stories center about him. One of them worth passing on is as follows: "A neighborhood man by the name of Horace" tells how he once met the doctor driving his old white horse in the town road. "Horace," called the doctor, "why don't you paint your barn?" "Well," said Horace, "it is beginning to look a bit shabby." "Horace," said the doctor, "you're a prominent citizen. We look to you to keep up the credit of the neighborhood." "Horace painted his barn." Is your barn painted, Brother Subscriber? We don't ask about your house, for of course, that is.—Progressive Farmer.

MANURE FOR CABBAGE

Deep, Rich, Mellow Soil Is of Importance.

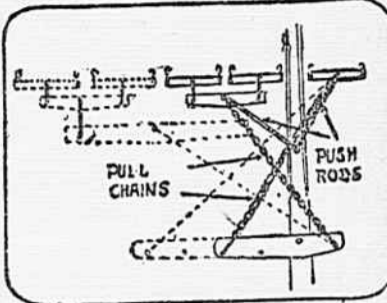
Winter Variety is Mostly Grown on Early Potato Ground—Hotbeds Are Prepared in February and Seed Sown in Frames.

Cabbage likes a deep, rich, mellow soil. For summer cabbage, a mellow, sand loam will bring the earliest crop. The early June cabbage that is shipped to the Baltimore markets is mostly grown on the deep river bottom lands of the lower portion of Baltimore county, says the Baltimore American. A large portion of this cabbage is grown from night soil which, after fermentation, is sprinkled along the rows, just before the plants are set in the fall. If this fertilizer is thoroughly mixed through the soil it is said not to injure the quality of the cabbage. For the fall and winter cabbage crop, plant on deep, mellow, red clay soil. As the value of the cabbage is in large solid heads, the best fertilizer to use is that of rotted manure from grain-fed horses and cattle, with the addition of 1,000 pounds of high grade vegetable guano sown to the acre and well harrowed in before planting. Winter cabbage is mostly grown on early potato ground. This land, being heavily dressed with fertilizer for the potato crop—not more than 600 to 800 pounds of fertilizer will be needed for each acre planted. The fertilizer is nearly always sown in the drill. The drill rows are then covered in and the ridges rolled. Large growers now use the planter; the machine sets and waters each plant, very few plants fail to grow. Plants set by machine are better firm in the ground than plants set by hand. The old method of starting early plants in the fall and wintering them in a cold frame has now been abandoned in favor of sowing the seed in a hotbed. The hotbeds are prepared in February and the seed sown in the frames by the middle of the month. When the plants are two inches in height they are transplanted into cold frames. The plants are given abundance of air in the middle of the day, but well protected by glass and thick straw mats when the weather is cold and stormy. In the New England states early plants are raised in hot houses heated by hot water. Expert gardeners grow large quantities of early and late cabbage for their retail trade. Truckers grow for the wholesale markets. Their principal crops are kale, spinach, tomatoes, corn and eggplants.

OVERCOMING DRAFT ON SIDE

Four-Horse Evener Arranged So That No Horse Would Need to Walk on Plowed Ground.

In reply to a query for an arrangement of four-horse evener on plow so that no horse need walk on the plowed ground the Farmers Call and Breeze prints the following. Many three-horse eveners do not overcome side draft. The power is so far to one side that the two horses push the tongue over against the one horse. Here is a remedy for any number of horses on one side of tongue and one horse on the other: Put the tongue hole, or pull pole, in evener so that the length of shorter end will be to the length of the longer



DOTTED LINES SHOW EXTENSION. Explanation: Diagram shows evener for three horses. Dotted lines show how it would work if extended for five horses.

one in the proportion of 1 to 2, for three-horse evener. Or in the proportion of 1 to 3 or 1 to 4 if you have a four or five horse evener. Fasten a chain from short end of evener to doubletree, which will be on opposite side, and run a chain from long end of evener to singletree. Put in push rods from center of power on either side to tongue, or if there is no tongue from center of one power to center of the other power.

START HORSE RADISH EARLY

Make Soil Loose and at Least to Depth of Ten Inches—Work in Well-Rotted Manure.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.) Horse radish should be started very early in the spring. It consists of one large root from which springs the crown and a large number of smaller roots.

These roots, small as a lead pencil, or larger, are cut off into lengths of from four to six inches and should be placed in the ground with the thick end up.

The should be planted about three inches deep and the soil above them pressed down firmly to prevent water from reaching them before they start to grow.

Make the soil loose and at least a depth of ten inches. Work into it plenty of well-rotted manure. Sowing horse radish in rows about three feet apart and at intervals of about 15 inches.

Then keep the weeds away from them and the top soil loose with frequent cultivation. A row six feet long will supply a family with all it needs. The plant will be ready for use early in the fall and it makes its best growth then.

It should be dug late in the fall after all other crops are off, the small root tops removed and stored in sand in the cellar or buried in pits in the ground until wanted for use.

PREPARING FOR CLOVER CROP

On Thin Soil It Is Well to Break the Ground Preceding Spring—Grow Fertilizing Crops.

If the aim is to get clover and grass on a thin soil it is often a good plan to break the ground the preceding spring and to grow a fertilizing crop during the summer that can be cultivated and then disked into the surface soil. When cowpeas can be grown they are excellent for this purpose. On very thin land I have gotten the finest clover sod in this way. Expensive way? someone asks. Well, any way of covering thin soil with a heavy clover sod is not inexpensive. I like the plan. The tillage kills weed seeds and frees fertility. The vines are chopped in the surface before they become tough. The humus is just where it is needed, and the soil is firm. If one prefers, rape may be sown the first of September, and then the land fitted for clover in the spring without the plow. Leave the vegetable matter at the surface. Or, timothy may be sown in the fall, and clover added in the spring. Or wheat may be seeded and clover in the spring.

Maggots in Wounds. Should maggots get in the animal's wounds, kill the pests by a light application of chloroform. After the wounds have been freed of maggots and made perfectly clean, apply freely a mixture of one dram of iodoform and six drams of boric acid, and repeat the application two or three times a day.

Farm Operations. The farm operations of the past year must have taught every thinking farmer some lessons that should be of value to him in the future, if he will but reflect on them. It will pay to recall these experiences to memory.

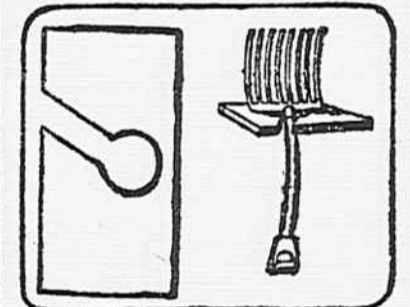
For Laying Hens. A splendid mixture for laying hens is equal parts of cracked corn, wheat and oats, which should be scattered in the litter so that the birds will be compelled to take exercise by scratching for it.

HANGER FOR ALL BARN TOOLS

Notches Cut in Board Afford Convenient and Safe Place for All Kinds of Implements.

Means should be provided to have a place for all tools used in and about a barn. The forks and shovels are usually stood up in a corner, but they can be more conveniently taken care of by making a hanger for them. The illustration, from Popular Mechanics, shows how a hanger can be easily made and screwed to the wall of a barn.

The hanger is cut from a piece of board and has a hole bored into it the size of the handle on the fork or



Hangers for Barn Tools.

shovel, then a notch is sawed into the hole to pass the handle through. The board may contain one or as many notches as there are forks and shovels to be hung on it. The implements are hung with the fork or shovel end upward.

Buckwheat Crops.

No other crop will bring in better return in the northern states for the time it occupies the ground than buckwheat. It is put in after the other crops have been planted and are growing. It is the best grain to raise to subdue a patch of troublesome weeds and to starve out worms in the soil. It comes handy to sow on vacant pieces of ground which have been left because too late to be sown to some other crop. It is a valuable crop to plow under to enrich the soil and give humus.

Wheat Fertilizer.

Phosphoric acid and potash gave a greater profit per \$1 invested in fertilizer than complete fertilizer on both corn and wheat in some Indiana experiments on clay and loam soils. Fertilizer gave a greater average profit per acre on wheat than on corn, and was profitable in a much larger percentage of the experiments.

Seed Potatoes.

In 13 comparisons on the Minnesota station farm new seed, from outside sources, gave an average increased yield of 125 bushels of potatoes to the acre more than seed from varieties continuously grown on the farm for three to twelve years.

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