

Modern Farm Methods As Applied in the South.

Notes of Interest to Planter,
Fruit Grower and Stockman

Plant Waste Land in Trees.

Lands Suitable For Planting—On many farms, especially in the middle and western portions of North Carolina, there is some field, the cultivation of which has not been profitable. This may be due to various causes. The slope of the land may be either too steep or the surface too rough or rocky or the soil too shallow for a good farming soil, or perhaps the field has been so deeply gullied by washing that it cannot be profitably reclaimed. Along some of the rivers, and to less extent along the creeks and small streams, there are bottom lands which have been cleared, but which cannot be cultivated. Some of these bottom lands are frequently flooded during high water in the stream, causing the soil to wash, or sand and gravel bars are deposited over them, not only preventing their use for growing cultivated crops, but for growing grass as well. Where lands of this character do not naturally restock in trees, they can profitably be planted in some desirable species. This will not only insure some earning from such land, but will protect it from further washing or deterioration. Occasionally a field is only partially stocked with trees or (and this is especially the case on wet land) is being restocked with undesirable kinds of trees, like gums, alder, maple or willow. In conditions like this, planting with a desirable species to thicken the stand will frequently add greatly to its ultimate value. Such waste lands can be planted during the winter, when there might not be enough farm work to keep labor employed.

Kinds of Trees to Plant—Native trees and those which are naturally adaptable to the soil conditions should be selected for planting. On the uplands of the Piedmont the native pine is a desirable tree, especially for raw and shallow soils. On slopes or where the soils are not so dry or raw the pine might be mixed with the native red oak. On bottom lands which are not too wet, and on lower slopes, poplar and oak make a desirable mixture, or ash can be substituted for a part of the oak. For planting on wetter lands, ash, walnut and cottonwood are desirable species. These trees make rapid growth; they root quickly when planted, and they make timber suitable for many farm uses. Second-growth poplar and cottonwood are not held in high esteem in this State. While they are not equal to pine for many uses, they nevertheless produce a timber which, when dried, is serviceable for weatherboarding, if kept painted, and for all interior woodwork, except for flooring. The growth of white oak and hickory is too slow for them to be recommended for planting, although young trees of these species should be protected when growing in the forest. Ash and poplar, both of them species of rapid growth, cannot be expected to make large trees on ordinary upland soils, and should not be planted except on the best soils, like lower slopes and bottoms. Both black oak and span, or Spanish oak, are inferior to red oak, and for this reason should not be planted.

How to Collect Seedlings—Young plants raised from seeds in a seed bed and having compact roots are superior to those which are gotten from the forest. It requires, however, at least two years to grow specimens for planting from the seed, while it is possible at any time to get enough young trees from an old forest or from second-growth woods with which to plant a small area. Red oak and pine will be found abundant near old trees of these species on the uplands. Small poplars will be abundant in second-growth or culled woods on steep north slopes and in hollows, while young ash will be found on wet bottom land. Cottonwood is not a very common tree, and young trees of that species are not common. Slips or cuttings can be taken from large trees of this species, rooted in a garden bed and planted in place of seedling plants, since its cuttings root extremely easy. Young trees which are dug up for planting should be from one to two feet high. They should be dug up with a sharp mattock or grub hoe, the roots being broken as little as possible, and they should be heeled in a cool place and protected from the sun until ready to plant. When lifted for planting from the trench in which heeled, the roots should be kept covered with a wet sack. The hard woods should be cut back two-thirds, but the pines should not be cut back. Poplars have a long, deep tap root, so that only small specimens of this species can be taken. Broken and long roots should be cut off with a sharp hatchet, as well as the tap root.

Preparation of Land—If the land which is to be planted in trees can

be plowed, check it with a broad-pointed shovel plow, with furrows five feet by five feet. Two men can plant to advantage. One man with a mattock makes a hole every five feet at the crossing of the furrows; the other carries the plants in a basket hung over his shoulder, places the plant in the hole, covers the roots and presses the earth tight around the roots with his feet. Roots should be spread out in the hole as much as possible when planted. When the land cannot be checked with a plow, poles placed at each end of the field can be used for marking, and the holes dug with a mattock in a line between the poles, and the rows can be kept straight in one direction by means of them, while the distance can be stepped in the other. In fields which are partly stocked with cedar, sassafras, pine or other trees, only the blanks or thin places need be planted, the planted trees being spaced about five feet apart in holes dug with a mattock. Red oaks can be planted among sassafras sprouts, and if the sprouts are not too thick the oaks will soon outgrow them. When two species are mixed in a plantation they should be alternated in the rows.

Time to Plant—Planting can be done in any mild weather after November 1, but it is preferable to do it during February and March, especially in the case of pine. It costs too much to cultivate trees after they are planted, and for this reason the larger specimens should be planted in the grassiest and weediest spots, since small specimens might be smothered by such growth. Plantations of trees must not be burned, and cattle must be kept out until the trees are so tall and strong that cattle cannot break them.—North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey.

The Increased Need of Spraying.

Observant farmers have generally concluded that all sorts of injurious insects and fungus diseases appear much more common than formerly, and in some sections fruit growing and the production of many other crops have been almost abandoned because of the impossibility of producing a satisfactory crop on account of these diseases and the ravages of insects. In some instances new diseases and insects have actually been introduced, while in others conditions have been such as to favor the increase and spread of old enemies which formerly did very little harm. Our lack of proper crop rotation, more extensive traffic in farm products, the destruction of other plants upon which insects formerly fed, and the ruthless slaughter of song and game birds, which is still going on, have all combined to increase the ravages of these enemies to farm crops. If a crop which furnishes suitable food for an insect is grown year after year on the same land this insect has furnished for it the greatest aid for rapid increase in numbers. Without discussing fully the causes of present conditions it may be stated that to grow good fruit and many other crops, profitably, spraying is now a necessity.—Prof. Soule.

One of the Greatest Faults.

One of the greatest faults in the South is the patching of the land, a plot of cultivated land here and a bunch of bushes there, with broom-sedge intermingled. Here in Maryland there are broad clean fields and not a bush to be seen, but every foot of the open ground cultivated, and worked with no terraces and no gullies, for the plow goes deep, and the farmers have a clover sod to turn when breaking for corn, and either wheat or clover on the land in winter.—Prof. Soule.

A Practice to Quit.

It makes us sick to see so many farmers burning off grass, broom-sedge, corn stalks, and all sorts of matter that would rot quickly and build up our waste lands. Turn out an old field and Nature tries to build it up by putting humps (vegetable matter) into it again, and yet after she does a hard year's work, some unthinking farm hand comes along, burns it all up, and the land is in worse shape than before. When shall we quit such things?—Progressive Farmer.

Value of Peavine Hay.

A ton of peavine hay has a fertilizing value of \$10. It also has a feeding value of at least \$10 per ton—compared with wheat bran at its ordinary price in the South it is worth nearer \$20—and three-fourths of the manurial value can be returned to the soil after it is fed. This means that, at a low estimate, a ton of well cured peavine hay is worth \$17.50 to the farmer who has stock to feed.

Shoes in Four Minutes.

How long would it take you to make a pair of boots, do you think? You probably had better not begin it, especially if you need them soon. Even a cobbler in the old days, working with his assistant, would spend a day and a half making a pair of boots, and the cost would be about \$4. But now, of course, shoes are made by machinery, and it is astonishing to hear how quickly they are made. It takes just four minutes to make a pair of boots. And the labor cost is about 35 cents. Of course, no one makes the whole boot nowadays. There are a hundred different men making different parts of it, and each one does the same thing over and over again, and each man learns to do his particular work especially well and quickly. And you should see the buttons sewed on! A boy takes the part of the shoes where the buttons are to go and fits it into a machine, throws in a handful of buttons quite carelessly, turns the machine, and in no time out comes the piece of leather with all the buttons exactly in the right place. No wonder some factories turn out 10,000 pairs of shoes in a day.—Chicago Daily News.

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A COLONIAL CITY.

I wish you could all come to Kingston and see the fine old things here. It is called the Colonial City because it was settled in the old Colonial days, 'way back in 1661, but it was called Wiltwyck then; so you can see it is very old. There are many old houses here. The oldest one is called the Senate House.

When the British burned our city in the Revolutionary War all the houses were burned except the Senate House. Let me tell you something about this house. It was built in 1676, and George Washington had his headquarters here once. It was also the first capitol of New York state. It is two stories high and is made of old stone. It is in good condition, and many people visit it to view the old relics kept there. The last time I went there I saw a spinning wheel, some of George Washington's clothes, old-fashioned kitchen utensils and many other things. There was a cracker over two hundred years old.—Samuel H. Gross, in the New York Tribune.

WHY INDEED?

You marked up the price on the Christmas present you bought her. "I did." "Why did you do that?" "Because I knew the price would interest her more than anything else. Why should I deprive her of one iota of joy?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

THINK HARD

It Pays to Think About Food.

The unthinking life some people lead often causes trouble and sickness, illustrated in the experience of a lady in Fond Du Lac, Wis.

"About four years ago I suffered dreadfully from indigestion, always having eaten whatever I liked, not thinking of the digestible qualities. This indigestion caused palpitation of the heart so badly I could not walk up a flight of stairs without sitting down once or twice to regain breath and strength.

"I became alarmed and tried dieting, wore my clothes very loose, and many other remedies, but found no relief.

"Hearing of the virtues of Grape-Nuts and Postum, I commenced using them in place of my usual breakfast of coffee, cakes, or hot biscuit, and in one week's time I was relieved of sour stomach and other ills attending indigestion. In a month's time my heart was performing its functions naturally, and I could climb stairs and hills and walk long distances.

"I gained ten pounds in this short time, and my skin became clear and I completely regained my health and strength. I continued to use Grape-Nuts and Postum, for I feel that I owe my good health entirely to their use. 'There's a Reason.'

"I like the delicious flavor of Grape-Nuts, and by making Postum according to directions it tastes similar to mild high grade coffee."

Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.



GRUBS.

Grubs, or warbles, as they are more commonly called, are found just below the skin in the backs of cattle and are the larval form of the beef fly. As they develop, they cause swelling. Over each of these swellings there is an opening in the skin through which the grubs or warbles may be easily squeezed and killed. Applications of kerosene oil will also kill them.—Farmers' Home Journal.

WHEN NOT TO PRUNE.

Do not choose the dormant season to cut back trees that are growing too fast to be fruitful; it will only make them grow the faster in the spring. Wait till they are in full flush of growth in May or June if you want to drive their surplus energies into fruit buds. Be sure to carry a paint pot along with the pruners and whenever a limb as much as an inch in diameter is cut off, cover the wound with oil and white lead to keep out dampness and the entrance of fungi spores that will produce rot. In the spring this cover is not so necessary, for as soon as growth begins the tree will begin to cover its wounds with new wood that will creep over it from all sides.—Farmers' Home Journal.

METHOD OF PRESERVING EGGS.

Taking as a theory that an egg decomposes owing to the entrance of bacteria through the shells, an English firm has adopted a method of preserving eggs by first disinfecting them and then immersing them in a vessel of hot paraffin in a vacuum. The air in the shell is extracted by a vacuum and atmospheric pressure is then allowed to enter the vessel, and the hot wax is pressed into the pores of the shell, which hermetically seals it. Evaporation of the contents of the egg, which has a harmful effect, is thereby prevented and the egg is practically sterile. The yolk of pickled eggs and others artificially preserved will frequently break on being poached, but the egg preserved by this novel process, it is stated, is quite free from such fault.—Inland Farmer.

BICYCLE PUMP FOR MILK FEVER.

I discovered some ten hours after calving a cow was unable to stand, her eyes stared and she showed evidence of pain, placing her nose to one side of the body. There was no fever and the udder was about normal. Concluding it was "milk fever," I went in search of a bicycle pump which appeared in one and a half hours after the cow had become practically unconscious. After milking the cow dry I put the end of the ordinary bicycle pump to the opening of the teats and pumped the udder full of air, rubbed well and pumped in some more. Before the cow could be gotten to the barn, where there was shade, she showed signs of improvement. We braced her up on her bricket with sacks of corn and then threw several pails of cold water over her and two men rubbed her dry, which warmed all concerned. I pumped some more air in, but the cow was steadily improving and ate a little bran mash two hours after first air treatment, and in another hour the report came "the cow is running away." I doubt if she is any worse for the sickness.—A. B. Clark, in the Indiana Farmer.

RAPE FOR FORAGE.

The first year I sowed rape I made only one seeding, and owing to the drouth immediately following, I secured a poor catch.

But what of it survived the drouth made a growth sufficient to convince me that it is a splendid crop to grow in connection with our regular pasture.

The next season following I concluded to make a series of seedings about two weeks apart, so that when one lot would be pretty well eaten down the next would be fresh, and in this way provide an abundance of succulent feed during the entire season for my stock.

For forage I prefer to have my rape heavily broadcasted. It doesn't pay to grow rape only on rather rich soil. After my land is thoroughly prepared I sow at the rate of four pounds of first class seed per acre and cover it lightly with a smoothing barrow.

In about six weeks or when the rape is about six inches high I turn my stock onto it. I am careful not to allow my stock to eat too much until they get used to it, and I have never seen any ill effects from their eating rape.—Indiana Farmer.

AFTER SUFFERING ONE YEAR

Cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Milwaukee, Wis. — "Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has made me a well woman and I would like to tell the whole world of it. I suffered from female troubles and fearful pains in my back. I had the best doctors and they all decided that I had a tumor in addition to my female trouble, and advised an operation. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound made me a well woman and I have no more backache. I hope I can help others by telling them what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me."—Mrs. EMMA IMSE, 533 First St., Milwaukee, Wis.

The above is only one of the thousands of grateful letters which are constantly being received by the Pinkham Medicine Company of Lynn, Mass., which prove beyond a doubt that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs, actually does cure these obstinate diseases of women after all other means have failed, and that every such suffering woman owes it to herself to at least give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial before submitting to an operation, or giving up hope of recovery.

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