Horticultural News

IMPORTANT FACTORS IN GROWTH OF TREE

"Nitrogen and moisture are the two most important factors in tree growth and it is the presence of these two factors during the height of the growing season that determines the growth to be made during the season," says H. R. Niswonger, extension horticulturist for the North Carolina State College of Agriculture.

Mr. Niswonger states that fruit trees make their greatest growth during the first few months of their growing period. At the same time, however, the trees are trying to set a crop of fruit and therefore it is necessary to assist them by early fertilizing and cultivating.

For the nitrogen fertilizer, Mr. Niswonger recommends the quick-acting inorganic ammonates like nitrate of soda. "Make an application," he says, "a few feet from the base of the tree under and beyond the branches just as the buds are swelling. For apple trees 10 to 15 years of age, an application of three to four pounds per tree is sufficient with the amount being varied according to the size of the tree. On young trees, two or three years of age, one-half pound is sufficient.

"Trees in sod will require more fertilizer than trees under cultivation.

"For peach trees five to six years of age, of good size, make an application in the same manner as for the apple, varying the amount again according to size and age, but use a total of only one to two pounds per tree. For young trees from one-fourth to one-half of a pound per tree is sufficient."

White Blackberries Are an Interesting Novelty

White blackberries or white dewberries are not the most common things in the world, yet they are not new. Of course the dewberries are really blackberries that lie on the ground instead of standing upright, so that we can consider them as a group for a moment.

Iceberg is the most familiar variety of white blackberry. It is not of commercial importance in the East, but in California it is found rather frequently in the home garden. It is certainly an interesting novelty, and a berry of good quality, says H. B. Tukey in the Rural New Yorker. Many other white seedlings have been known, but none of them have received the attention that the Iceberg has.

White dewberries have been recorded in literature since 1871, at least, and they are reported from such diverse regions as Colorado and Pennsylvania. Undoubtedly there have been many more that have never been listed on the printed page.

Practically every plant throws white seedlings or sports now and then. We have yellow raspberries, white strawberries, and so on. Occasionally one observes a white corn plant in the field, but since it is without the green chlorophyl that is necessary to continued growth, it soon dies and leaves no record of its attempt.

New Lime-Sulphur Spray From Oregon for Pears

A new lime-sulphur spray, called "Oregon cold mix," was worked out at the Oregon station last year, and pear growers tried it out last summer. They say it controlled pear scab perfectly and did no damage to the tenderest fruits. That is saying a lot. It is also effective against brown rot, they say.

The Oregon cold mix requires finely ground sulphur—superfine flour. Eight pounds of the sulphur flower are mixed with four pounds of hydrated lime. Two quarts of skim milk are diluted with two quarts of water and poured into the sulphur and lime, which is stirred to a smooth paste. If too thick more water is slowly added. Several gallons of water are added to this paste, which is well stirred up and poured through the strainer into the spray tank. The tank is then filled with water to make 50 gallons of spray.

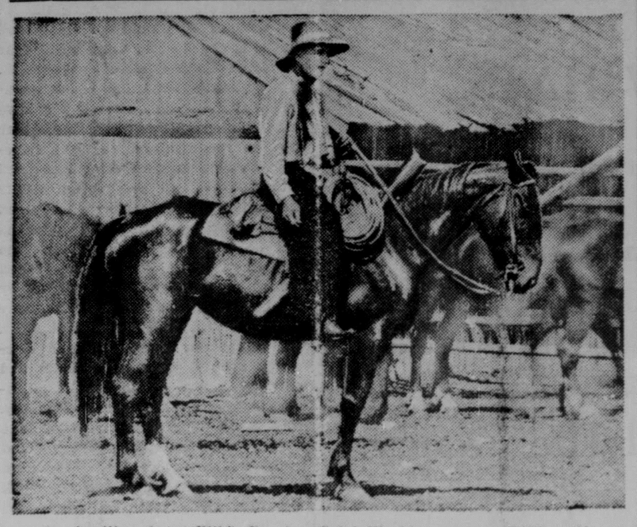
Ladybird Beetles Most Beneficial of Insects

Ladybird beetles are among the most beneficial of insects. Almost all of the members of this family, both the adult beetles and the larvae, feed upon plant lice and scale insects. Very often the farmer, not having a knowledge of entomology, will see that some insect is destroying his plants and finding the ladybird beetles present will conclude that they are doing the damage, when in fact they are helping him exterminate the real pest that is working on the plants. As far as is known there is no way of encouraging or increasing the numbers of these useful allies but they should not be killed through ignorance of their true worth.

Thinning Helps Apples

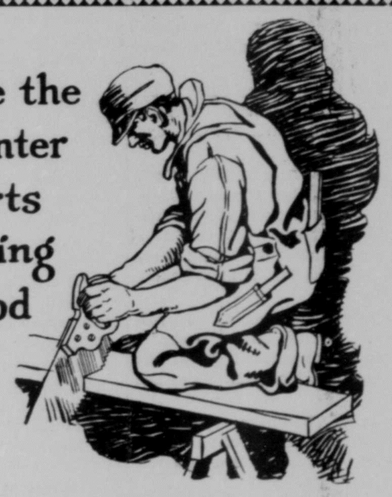
Thinning apples on overloaded trees prevents the breaking of branches and increases the size of the remaining fruit. Many trees set more fruit than they can carry or properly mature. Unless they are thinned the result is broken branches and inferior or unmarketable fruit. Removing defective fruit and thinning so that the apples are about six inches apart on the branches, will go a long way toward insuring a maximum yield of first grade fruit and saving the trees.

SECRETARY LIKES THE RODEO



In the West he's "Bill." But in official Washington he's William Marion Jardine, secretary of agriculture, a member of President Coolidge's official "family." Secretary Jardine has been invited to attend the Chicago Roundup and World's Championship Rodeo, to be held for nine days, beginning August 15. Those who know him say that he will be on hand for this greatest of all cowboy contests, as Secretary Jardine has not lost the spirit of the West where years ago, he rode the range and punched cattle with the best of them.

Back in Idaho they like to tell how the secretary of agriculture busted broncbos and threw a rope. They're proud of their "Bill" and they're willing to wager that he could ride into the arena at the Chicago Rodeo and make some of the expert cowhands hustle for honors. The competitions will be held under the direction of Tex Austin for the world's championship titles belts and trophies and $30,000, the largest cash purses paid anywhere.



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DOMESTIC SCIENCE

Miss C. J. H. Cowdroy, head mistress of one of the principal schools in London has advanced the all too novel theory that girls who cannot cook, sew, iron and wash clothing are not well educated even though they hold the degrees of all the universities under the sun.

Some educators, according to Miss Cowdroy, want girls to be trained like boys with an eye to their future careers, but since ten out of every eleven women marry, this fact ought to be considered in feminine education.

"I deprecate the view some educationalists hold that a woman can possess far higher qualities than those which go to make a wise wife and mother" said the head mistress. "Some think the clever girls too good for that, the dullards being good enough to continue the race.

"I understand that in some British schools for girls the pupils are divided into two sections, the clever half studying sciences and the dead languages, while the duller girls give their time to cookery and housewifery. I also understand the second set refer to the first as the 'brainy old maids,' so perhaps they are not so dull after all.

"A girl should be proud that she can cook and sew, iron and wash and that she can save some money wisely and well. I hold that a girl who cannot do all these things is not well educated, although she may have been awarded the degrees of all the universities in the world."

In America we hear a great deal nowadays about the flapper and her inefficiency in regard to domestic pursuits. Despite popular belief, however, it is a good bet that the average girl of today is just as capable of evolving into a good housewife and becoming a good parent as was her mother before her.

Modern invention has taken away a great deal of household drudgery which was formerly regarded as inevitable. It has not however taken away the domestic and maternal instinct of the modern girl. If given the opportunity and treated right she will perform her part of the bargain.

There is, however, a great deal of food for thought in Miss Cowdroy's remarks on some of the theories of modern education.

If the taxpayers do not get relief pretty soon, some public officials are likely to be relieved from their jobs.

Claimed American students do not respect their elders, but anyway they are willing to take their valuable time to give them instruction.

Apparently the only way to prevent people being run over at the railroad crossings, is for the trains to stop until the automobile get by.

LIVE STOCK

LAMBS AT WEANING TIME REQUIRE CARE

Lambs are no longer of that class of live stock that can be left to fend for itself. They assume rather the nature of the white hope of the live stock world under present market conditions.

Lamb profits, in fact, may be the only genuine profits to be credited to farm stock this fall, returns from other lines having to be largely charged to maintenance. They will then well repay a little extra attention through the summer and particularly at weaning.

Oftentimes the lambs are not separated from their mothers early enough. The ewes reach a point where they no longer give much milk, and the lambs, depending more than they should upon what little they can get, annoy them by persistently wanting to nurse. When a ewe without much milk nurses a pair of robust lambs weighing 65 pounds or more, she goes through a pretty rough experience that is none too good for her udder, because the lambs in suckling bunch at the udder so hard that the rear parts of the ewe are almost lifted from the ground. In hot weather, if only a little milk is to be had, it does a big lamb, old enough to wean, little good to keep thrusting its nose after the teat under the hot flanks of the ewe. Both mother and lamb are better off if separated. There is a natural weaning period, that is, there comes a time when the ewes will wean the lambs, but they ought to be weaned before this time comes.

If the lambs are weaned fairly early and placed on pasture or forage that has not been grazed by the sheep, they are less likely to become badly infested with parasites. This is an important consideration in places where parasitic troubles must be kept constantly in mind. If the weaning is not delayed beyond the proper time, the ewes will have time to recuperate and get in proper condition for the breeding season.

If possible, all of the lambs should be weaned at the same time, but in case there are some very late ones, they should be allowed to stay with their mothers until they are of sufficient age not to be checked in growth or stunted by being deprived of milk.

Raise More Horses for General Work on Farms

Farmers are facing a serious situation in respect to farm power. They must either decide to buy and use tractors almost entirely for their farm work or get busy and raise more horses. The horses on farms at present are for the most part getting on in years and there are few colts being born to take their places when they have passed the period of their usefulness. This point is well brought out by Professor Overton of the Purdue (Ind.) experiment station. Twenty-three per cent of the horses on the 238 farms investigated were at least fifteen years old, 29 per cent were from ten to fifteen years old, while 36.9 per cent were from five to ten years old. Slightly over 70 per cent were between five and ten years, an average of seven years old. Only 10.8 per cent were under five years and less than 2 per cent were yearlings and two-year-olds.

Professor Overton states that in four years from now 52 per cent of the farm work horses will be at least fifteen years old and will have about come to the time for their retirement. As it takes from three to five years to raise a colt to work age, isn't it time to begin thinking about the future supply? Tractors, useful as they may be, cannot entirely take the place of horses on all farms. There will always be a need for some draft animals. The man who raises some good colts will find a market for them when they are ready for the harness. Now is the time to start raising them.

Cow's Milk Favored for Raising Colt by Hand

Cow's milk may be used successfully to raise a colt by hand if treated in the following manner. In the first place it is best to use milk from a fresh cow if possible and preferably from a cow giving a milk low in fat content. To a tablespoonful of sugar add warm water to dissolve, then three to five tablespoonfuls of limewater, which tends to correct digestive troubles and enough fresh milk to make a pint. Feed about one-fourth pint every hour for the first few days, always warming to blood heat. An ordinary nursing bottle with a large nipple is a satisfactory utensil for feeding the colt, but whatever is used great care must be taken to thoroughly cleanse and scald it before each meal.

Raising Early Lambs

The raising of early lambs requires better equipment, greater skill on the part of the shepherd, more time and labor at lambing, and more expensive feed. This extra labor, however, comes at a time when there is not a rush of other work, and by the time for the rush of farm work, the flock will require the minimum of attention. The lambs will be ready to make good use of the early pasture and will make a strong growth before the weather gets hot.

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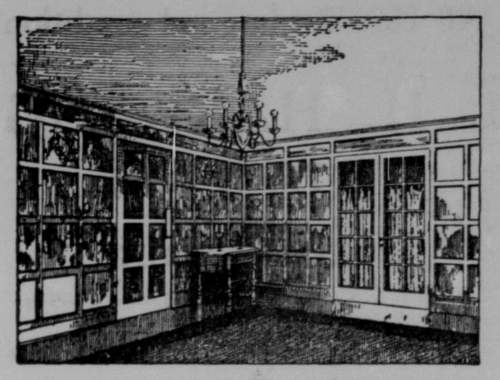
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