ALFALFA IN MARYLAND.

BY W. T. L. TALIAFERRO.

Treatment During Early Stages of Growth.

The first summer is generally a critical time in the life of the young alfalfa plant. Weak as it usually is it is called upon to withstand extremes of wet and drouth and, worse yet, the smothering of greedy weeds.

The mower is the best remedy for these ills. Cut close and often. If the cutting be heavy, haul it off; if light, and the weather be dry, it may be left for a mulch. This frequent clipping is very important. It diminishes the evaporating leaf surface, it promotes branching, and it keeps down the weeds and lets in the sun and air. Alfalfa should never be allowed to stand beyond early bloom. To do so weakens the vitality of the plant and makes it less able to recover. It should not, however, be mowed so late in the fall as not to leave a cover to protect it during the winter.

It is evident from an examination of reports sent in by our correspondents that the greatest enemy to alfalfa in Maryland is weeds. To this cause more than all others can be traced the untimely ending of many a field of it which in the first few weeks of existence gave such fair promise of success. Therefore, it is all important to kill out all weeds possible beforehand and then with the mower to keep down all those which do appear. If the alfalfa be thick and the weeds few they may be controlled by mowing. If the alfalfa be thin and the weeds many it would be better to plow it up and put the land in a cleansing crop for another trial. After the first year if the soil be adapted to the crop alfalfa will smother out all weeds that invade it.

A method of seeding which is practiced by some is to sow in drills about fourteen inches apart and cultivate between the rows. In this way the soil can be kept in better condition and the weeds kept down until the alfalfa has become strong enough to protect itself. While this method involves more labor than broadcast sowing it is more certain to make a crop on weedy land and in adverse seasons. In 1893 a good stand was secured at this station in this way, while a field sown broadcast on similar land was a failure.

This method of drilling the seed and cultivating may be often used advantageously on small lots while larger areas are being prepared for broadcast sowing by means of clean cultivation or cleansing crops.

Cultivating.

Many successful growers in the West have adopted the plan of cultivating it by going over their fields in the early spring with a disc or cutaway harrow weighed and run two ways. For the time the crop seemed ruined but the stirring of the soil and the slicing of the crowns are evidently beneficial for the yield is often doubled by the treatment. This is not generally done till after the third year.

Fertilizers for Alfalfa.

As stated above, alfalfa is a legume and after it becomes inoculated with the nitrifying baceria gathers its own nitrogen from the atmosphere. Until that time, however, it must be fed with readily available nitrogen. This may be given in an application of fifty or a hundred pounds of nitrate of soda per acre, applied just before seeding. A good mixture would be:

Nitrate of soda	50 lbs.,
Acid phosphate	350 "
Muriate of potash	100 "
Total	500 "

Use this quantity per acre.

Alfalfa draws heavily upon the mineral elements of the soil and where these are lacking large crops cannot be expected. It is true that by means of its long tap root it obtains plant food from depths beyond the reach of other crops, but in humid regions the further we go below the surface the smaller becomes the proportion of available plant food.

Four tons of alfalfa hay contain:

Phospheric acid	40 lbs..
Potash	135 "
Lime	272 "
Nitrogen	175 "
Total	622 "

The minerals are all taken from the soil and if that is not to become exhausted they must be returned to it by liberal annual applications of muriate of potash with acid phosphate or raw bone applied before the field is disced in the early spring. Lime should be spread when the field is plowed. As in all cases when fertilizers are used, it is well for the farmer to experiment for himself. To illustrate this point may be cited the experience of Manager McGrath of the National Soldiers' Home and of Mr. J. A. Chapman of Charles County. The former applied fine ground raw bone at the rate of 400 pounds per acre to the poorer portions of his field and with the result that those portions made the best crops. Mr. Chapman on the other hand applied in parallel strips, acid phosphate, raw bone, nitrate of soda, and muriate of potash. The resulting crops were not weighed but when the field was examined two days before cutting there was no apparent difference between these plants and the unfertilized portions on each side of them. Mr. Chapman did, however, get most marked beneficial results from stable manure applied as a top dressing in winter. When alfalfa has become established there is no danger of stable manure making it weedy because it grows so strongly it smothers the weeds. The alfalfa which had been top dressed with manure was as clean as the rest of the field. Not even Bermuda grass nor wax weed, two of the most aggressive plants of that section, were to be found in it, though they skirted the field and occupied some spaces which had been missed by the wheelbarrow seeder.

As a Fertilizer or Soil Improver.

Alfalfa being so long lived and more or less difficult to start can never be used as a fertilizing crop in any ordinary rotation. It does, however, improve the land on which it grows both by the addition of organic nitrogen and by opening up and aerating the deeper layers of the soil by means of its fleshy, deeply penetrating roots. When these roots die and decay they leave channels for the passage of air and water to a greater depth than any other cultivated herbaceous plant.

At the Wyoming Experiment Station a piece of virgin land was put in alfalfa for five years and an adjoining piece of equal size put for the same length of time in a short rotation of wheat and potatoes. At the end of the period each field was put in plants of wheat, oats and potatoes The value of the crops was for wheat from $8.00 to $12.00, for the potatoes $16.00, and for the oats $16.00 more per acre for the half which had been in alfalfa than from the half which had been in the rotation of wheat and potatoes.

After all, however, the great value of alfalfa as a fertilizer is in the immense quantity of nitrogen which it takes from the air and gives to the farmer in the shape of protein for his live stock. If the farmer feeds the protein and puts the carefully saved manure on his land he utilizes the full fertilizing value, for in that case there is but little waste of minerals and a constant addition of available nitrogen. But if on the other hand he sells the hay as such the loss of mineral elements will be very great and must be accounted for.

TOURS TO LOS ANGELES

ON ACCOUNT OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Under the Personally-Conducted System of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

For the Presbyterian General Assembly at Los Angeles, Cal., May 21 to June 1, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged three trans-continental tours at extraordinarily low rates. Special trains of high-grade Pullman equipment will be run on desirable schedules. A Tourist Agent, Chaperon, Official Stenographer and Special Baggage Master will accompany each train to promote the comfort and pleasure of the tourists. All Sunday travel will be avoided.

The Pennsylvania Railroad is the only railroad that will run tours to Los Angeles on this occasion under its own Personally Conducted system.

No. 1. Assembly Tour.

Special train of baggage, Pullman dining and drawing room sleeping cars will leave New York May 13, going via Chicago, Denver and the Royal Gorge, stopping at Colorado Springs, Salt Lake City and San Francisco, arriving Los Angeles May 20; leaving Los Angeles, returning, June 1, via the Santa Fe Route and Chicago; arriving New York June 5. Round-trip rate, including transportation, Pullman accommodations and meals on the special train, **$134.50** from New York, **$132.75** from Philadelphia, **$128.75** from Baltimore and Washington, **$120.00** from Pittsburg, and proportionate rates from other points.

Tickets for this tour, covering all features until arrival at Los Angeles, with transportation only returning independently on regular trains via going route, New Orleans, or Ogden and St. Louis, and good to stop off at authorized points, will be sold at the rate of **$109.50** from New York, **$107.75** from Philadelphia, **$104.75** from Baltimore and Washington, **$98.00** from Pittsburg; returning via Portland **$11.00** more.

No. 2. Yellowstone Park Tour.

Special train of baggage, Pullman dining drawing-room sleeping and observation cars will leave New York May 12, going via Chicago, Denver, Colorado Springs and Salt Lake City, with stops *en route*, arriving Los Angeles May 20; returning, leave Los Angeles June 1, via Santa Barbara, San Jose, San Francisco, Seattle and St. Paul, with stops *en route* and complete tour of Yellowstone Park; arriving New York June 23. Rate, including all necessary expenses except hotel accommodations in Los Angeles and San Francisco, **$253.00** from New York, **$251.25** from Philadelphia, **$249.25** from Baltimore and Washington, **$244.00** from Pittsburg, and proportionate rates from other points.

No. 3. Home Mission Tour.

Special train of baggage, Pullman dining and drawing-room sleeping cars will leave New York May 13, going via Chicago and Santa Fe route, Grand Canon of Arizona and Riverside, arriving Los Angeles May 20; leaving Los Angeles, returning, June 1, via Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Royal Gorge and Denver, arriving New York June 11. Rate, including all necessary expenses except hotel accommodations in Los Angeles and San Francisco, **$156.06** from New York, **$156.75** from Philadelphia, **$152.75** from Baltimore and Washington, **$144.50** from Pittsburg, and proportionate rates from other points.

Tickets for this tour, covering all features until arrival at Los Angeles and transportation only returning independently via direct routes with authorized stop overs, will be sold at rate of **$121.00** from New York, **$118.50** from Philadelphia, **$116.00** from Baltimore and Washington, **$110.00** from Pittsburg; returning via Portland, **$11.00** more.

The tours outlined above have the endorsement of the officers of the Presbyterian General Assembly, and are designed to meet the requirements of those attending the General Assembly as well as those desiring to visit the Pacific Coast at a minimum expense.

Detailed itinerary is now in course of preparation. Apply to Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia.

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Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher
The Kind You Have Always Bought

A Friend Indeed.

We never forget a benefactor or a Doctor who brings us from the pit of of the grave. Why should we? Gratitude is one of the noblest of the graces. Do you think Mrs Whitely, Montpelier, Ind., will ever forget Victor Liver Syrup? She says "After spending One Hundred and Fifty Dollars with Doctors and patent medicines I was cured of a bad case of Liver Complaint and Female Trouble by using only 2 bottles of Victor Liver Syrup. So little, yet so valuable for health. Sold everywhere.

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CAN RELY ON RESULT.

Nurseries Whose Stock is Just as Represented and Whose Methods are Prompt and Honorable.

The Western Trade Journal, Chicago says: Those of our readers who may have been disapointed in their expectations regarding stock ordered of irresponsible nurseries, and who realize that the best only is good enough in this line, will thank us for calling attention to this trustworthy establishment, whose goods we have found to be identically as represented. It is worthy the patronage of all those who value truthful methods and honest representations and who would avoid doubtful results.

There is more than the mere money expended to be considered in making choice and purchasing of nursery stock, for it is always too late for correction after imposition is discovered, and unless a responsible house such as this is selected there is no certainly that another year's time has not been lost as well as the money expended thrown away. Hence the necessity of being right before going ahead.

We write only after thorough investigation when we say that the reader is perfectly safe in dealing with these nurseries, for during twenty one years of journalism we have never come upon more pronounced worth. The stock is first-class in every particular, prices are reasonable and fair dealing characterized all transactions. An immense stock and extensive variety to select from is offered, and as the goods are carefully packed and delivered in excellent condition, those who order once become permanent customers.

The R. G. Chase Co. make a special study of varieties adapted to the various sections in which they do business. This point is worthy of closest attention, for a variety that is valuable in New England may be worthless in the South and one especially suited to the southern latitudes may be unfit for the North. This strong point added to the many desirable features enumerated render it desirable to order goods of this sterling high grade nursery company.

Mr. John W. Startt represents the above firm and will be glad to correspond or call upon any who may need trees or nursery stock of any kind. He has had a long experience of more than twenty years and can render you valuable assistance in making selections. This firm took medals at Paris Exposition, Philadelphia and a number of other places. j24-2mos.*

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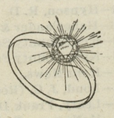
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Our stock of Jewelry, Silverware, Clocks and Watches can't be beaten. Call and see our goods.

☞We do good REPAIR WORK at low prices.



We have just received a large consignment of the newest ideas in RINGS:—Plain and Fancy gold rings, diamond, pearl, turquoise, opal, amethyst, ruby, emerald, topaz and garnet rings, and rings with combination settings. REMEMBER THE STORE IS

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CHESTERTOWN, MD.

CARD OF THANKS.

The undersigned, having sold his Wire and Wire Fence business to the firm of DAVIS & McINTYRE, of Chestertown, Md., herewith tenders his hearty and sincere thanks to his many customers for their very liberal support in the past and bespeaks a trusty continuance in that line to the new firm, both of whom are gentlemen and worthy of your patronage.

Jan. 31, 1903. JOSEPH GUEST.

ANNOUNCEMENT.—The undersigned will continue in the Roofing Business and offers Ruberoid, Felt and Galvanized Steel Roofing for sale, and will carry a full stock of Carrara House Paints, the best paint now on the market. While it costs a little more per gallon it will cost less per house, as its covering capacity is far greater than the very best lead and oil paints. It will not blister, crack, chalk, peel or fade, holds color and gloss, and outwears the best of lead paints. Is not affected by gases, grease, acids, salt or changes in temperature. Color cards and prices gladly sent on application by

JOSEPH GUEST,
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Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher
The Kind You Have Always Bought

ANNOUNCEMENT

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BY WROTH, THE SHOE MAN.

A Remarkable Offer to the Public:

Commencing with December 2, 1902, and ending April 1, 1903, I will distribute among my MANY PATRONS, ABSOLUTELY FREE, every hundredth pair of Shoes. A careful and accurate record will be kept of each sale made for the cash, and after the ninety-ninth pair has been sold, the person desiring to purchase each hundredth pair of Shoes, Boots or Arctics will be presented with the article which he or she desired to purchase, free. It matters not whether it be a pair of twenty-five cent shoes or a five dollar pair of Boots, Shoes or rubber Goods, if it be the hundredth customer, it goes

FREE

This is a perfectly fair, legitimate offer, with none of the 5-cent prize package blanks and numbers about it.

T. G. WROTH,

Under Stam's Hall. The Shoe Man.

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We bring Philadelphia and its best Clothing Store to your very doors.

This is How:

You pay excursion, railroad or trolley fare. Come to our stores buy your Clothes, your boy's, your girl's, your wife's. Same price to everybody. Show your railroad ticket for fare paid. We pay you exactly its cost if you buy a certain amount. How much? Can't tell—depends upon your carfare.

Wanamaker & Brown,

Outfitters to Men, Women, Boys and Girls.

Oak Hall, Sixth and Market Sts. Philadelphia.

FEBRUARY BARGAINS!

Men' Heavy Top Shirts, all wool, we sold for 75c, now.....49c
Men's Top Shirts we sold for 50c, now for only.....35c
Men's All Wool Under Shirts we sold for 1.25, now.....75c
Men's Heavy Fleeced Lined Under Shirts we sold for 50c, now.....35c
Men's Fleeced Cotton Under Shirts was a bargain for 50c, now.....15c
Boys' Fleeced Lined Under Shirts, all sizes.....15c
Boys' Heavy Cotton Sweaters well worth 50c a piece, now.....25c
Boys' All Wool Suits, was selling at $3, now.....$2.00
Boys' $2.00 and $1.50 Suits now selling at.....90c
Misses Fine Trimmed Coats....75c to 90c
Ladies' Wool Skirts.....19c
Heavy Wool 11x4 Blankets.....71c
Heavy Wool 10x4 Blankets.....49c
Comforts.....49c
Good Heavy Outing that was selling at 10c yard, now.....7½c by the piece
33 Different Patterns Flannelette was a bargain at 12½c, now.....7½c
A Very Fine Dress Goods, was selling at 12c and 15c, now.....7½c

Carpet Bargains

All Wool Carpet, very fine patterns, was a bargain at 59c per yd. now.....29c
A Good Heavy Ingrain Carpet was a bargain at 25c, now.....19c
A Very Heavy Rag Carpet, the heaviest made.....19c
Floor Oil Cloth 1 yd., 1¼ yd., ½ yd. and 2 yds. wide of different styles.....21c
Stair Oil Cloth.....10c

SHOES.

Women's Storm Rubber Shoes.....29c
Men's Artic Rubber Shoes.....95c

GROCERIES.

We still are the leaders of cheap groceries, such as
American Granulated Sugar.....5c lb
Levering Coffee, always fresh.....9c
English Breakfast Tea, sells everywhere for 50c lb., we sell it this month....25c
Grated Cocoanut, per packages.....3½c
Seedless Raisons per lb. package.....7½c
1 Pound Package Dates.....5c
Hand Picked Corn-field Beans, pt.....4c
Lima Beans, very clean and nice..5½c lb
Cod Fish.....4c lb
Smoked Bloater Herrings.....1½ a piece
Sea Gull Yeast Powder.....4c bottle
Magnolia Soap, 5c bars, very large...3½c
Quaker Rolled Oats, pckge.....4½c
1 Dozen Boxes Globe Matches, best made.....8c

We take all kinds of Poultry, especially Ducks, live, for which will pay 12 cents cash.

Abe Cohen,

A Clothing Sale!

—OF THE GREATEST AT THE—

Chestertown Bargain House.

Men's, Boys' and Children's CLOTHING AND OVERCOATS at a saving of 20 to 40 cents on the Dollar. That means to clear the store of all our Clothing and Overcoats, Men's Pants and Underwear.

MEN'S SHIRTS, Heavy Fleeced, at.....39c. Up
MEN'S SUITS, from.....$2.00 Up
MEN'S OVERCOATS.....2.79 Up
BOYS' SUITS.....2.39 Up
CHILDREN'S SUITS.....89c. Up

SPECIAL SALES in Ladies Coats and Skirts and Millinery at 60 cents on the Dollar. Now is the time to buy Bargains. Come and see for yourself the Bargains. The object is to clear the room of all Winter Suits and Overcoats, to make room for our large Spring Stock.

SHOES AND BOOTS at 25 cents on the Dollar. A Good Pair Boots for **$1.25.** Come at once for the Bargains at the CHESTERTOWN BARGAIN HOUSE.

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Next door to J. S. Bradley's Grocery, CHESTERTOWN, MD.

R. F. PARKS & SON.

1903. 1903.

February Clearing Sale

Facts worth knowing:

Prices down
Values up

This declaration is simple but true. February 16 we start the Ball rolling.

NOTE THE OFFERINGS:

6¼c buys 7, 8 and 9c 4-4 Bl'ch'd Muslin Remnants.

10c buys 12½c Light or Dark Percales, in Remnants.

4½c buys 6c Apron Gingham, in Remnants.

5c buys Child's Merino Pants and Vests, 16 to 20.

12½c buys Misses Double Heel and Toe Hose, 5 to 9½; value 15 and 18c.

Horse Blankets,
Carriage Robes,

Special Discount off for CASH.

Bed Spreads,
Bed Blankets,

White and Colored, to go at a Discount.

27½c. per yard. Remnants of English LINOLEUM, 1 and 2 yards, worth 40 and 50c per yard.

16c buys Choice of Patterns. 500 to 1000 yards HAMBURG EDGINGS, ranging in value from 10 to 30c yd.

Only 6½c. 300 yards TORCHON LACE, value 8 and 10c per yard; 6½c per yd. buys your choice of Patterns.

Choice Selections in New Percale, Madras, Gingham, White Goods, etc., 5Oc.

Bargains in Shoes for the month.

Only 50c. 120 pairs WOMEN'S SHOES, any pair of the lot worth $2.00 to $3.00, per pair 50c.

Only $1.00. 10 dozen pairs MEN'S SHOES—some worth twice the money—any pair of the lot goes for only $1.

Only 25c. pair. 60 pairs of RUBBERS, Men's and Women's, some with pointed toes, of best makes, Boston goods.

Only $1.25. Best PLOW BRIDLE on the Shore. Examine it and be convinced.

Wagon Harness,
Carriage Harness,
Dearborn Harness,

ALL SPECIAL BARGAINS.

$10 Our CARRIAGE HARNESS is special good value and can't be beaten. $10

CLOVER, TIMOTHY AND ORCHARD SEEDS

☞No Discount Stamps with Clover, Timothy and Orchard Grass Seed, but with all other cash purchases of merchandise.

Yours very respectfully,

R. F. PARKS & SON

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