Farming and Agriculture :-: Special Features :-: Interesting Observations

Fertilizers for the Small Garden

The use of mineral fertilizers is increasing in every branch of horticulture, and nowhere more than with home gardeners. Animal manures, so long the standby, are becoming hard to get everywhere, even on the farm. At the same time there is a better understanding of the possibilities of concentrated fertilizers, and they are being made easier to get.

The home gardener does not need to know a great deal about the use of fertilizers; there are no special formulas demanded by the different crops he may grow. It is not necessary to work out one combination for his root crops and another for his leaf crops, and still a third for his flowers.

What he needs is a balanced fertilizer, one containing a fair proportion of the three elements of plant food which are contained in fertilizers. They are nitrogen, phosphate and potash.

Nitrogen is said to be chiefly effective upon leaf growth, phosphates on stem growth, and potash on fruit and flower development of plants. But each affects growth generally, and recent experience has emphasized the importance of supplying all three and thus providing a balanced ration for your plants, if you are to have healthy and vigorous growth.

A fertilizer is described by a formula consisting of three numbers with hyphens separating them, thus: 5--8-7. The first number indicates the proportion of nitrogen, or ammonia, which the mixture contains. The second stands for the proportion of phosphates, the third for the potash. Most states have laws which require that the analysis of a commercial fertilizer be printed on the bag it comes in.

For the home garden a balanced fertilizer containing each of the three elements in fair proportion is required. The formula 5-7-5, for example, is well balanced. For a special use emphasis may be put upon one element, as for example, lawn growing, where a formula rich in nitrogen, such as 12-8-8, would often be preferred; or a mixture for flower growing, where an extra quantity of phosphates might be needed. But for the average home garden one formula will be found to do for everything very well.

In using mineral fertilizer special attention must be given to following the directions on the bag with the greatest care. It is easy to apply these quick acting fertilizers too freely. They are quickly soluble, and will often burn growing plants when used too freely. But when properly applied it is surprising the growth which they produce.

Prince Baron (10988)

The Grey Perchon Stallion Prince Baron (10988) dam Miss Warren (12292) is a premium horse of the highest standard.

This horse won first prize at the Provincial Exhibition 1928.

Being perfect on his limbs and feet makes him a perfect draft horse.

Enrolment certificate No. 3.

This horse will be at W. H. Wood's Pownal, May 10th and fortnightly after that.

Mares from far away will be met at a reasonable distance.

Mares at owner's risk.

For terms and particulars apply to owner in charge.

Signed:

HENRY WOOD,
Vernon River.

3742-5-10-41.

WARRENS PRIDE (24984)

Enrolment Certificate No. 5

Sire Ballarat (Imp) 22738 (19343)

Dam Doris 43268

This splendid four year old Clydesdale son of Ballarat out of a many times Grand Champion mare has all the substance, snap, quality and action that is necessary to produce draft horses of a kind suitable to heavy farm work and the demands of a high class market. WARRENS PRIDE was the winner of first prize in the three year old class and also champion all ages at the Charlottetown Exhibition, 1928. He is steadily improving and should appeal to all discriminating horse breeders. Owners should look this horse over before breeding their mares.

WARRENS PRIDE will be on the following route during the season of 1929:—Arrive at Agricultural Hall, Charlottetown, Thursday evening, May 2nd at 7.00 P. M., and will remain at this stand until the following Wednesday morning, May 7th. Leaving Agricultural Hall at 8.00 A. M. thence through Marshfield to Dunstaffnage, standing at or near the factory at noon. Leave Dunstaffnage thence through Scotchfort to Mount Stewart over night. Leave Mount Stewart at 10.00 o'clock on Thursday, May 8th, thence to Morell for night. Leave Morell Friday, May 9th at 10.00 A. M., thence to St. Peters for noon, leaving again at 2.00 o'clock for Rollo Bay where he will stand until the following Thursday, May 16th. This route will be repeated fortnightly during the season.

TERMS

For season, $15.00 at time of service or $12.00 on approved note payable November 1st, 1929. Mares at owners' risk.

W. H. TOWNSHEND, Rollo Bay Owner.
PRESTON BRYENTON, Rollo Bay, in Charge.

4838-4-27-6Sats.

The Mallard Duck

The mallard is the most cosmopolitan of all ducks, either wild or tame. In its wild state it inhabits the greater part of the earth. It is easily domesticated, and its offspring have followed settlement and civilization into every land. In its albino form, the Pekin duck is the chief pereque producer in many a poultry plant, and has become an important food supply in the Chinese Empire. It is the principal and most reliable waterfowl for the thousands of game preserves in Europe and America, and its importance and value constantly increase.

The mallard's size and excellent flavor bring it into great demand as a table bird, while its value to mankind is still further enhanced by the fact that it is so easily domesticated.

Before the settlement of the West, the ponds and sloughs swarmed with mallards, which nested there by thousands, and in fall and winter, as migrants and residents, covered the water-courses of the South. Today there is a different story to tell. Many of the mallard's old breeding grounds are today farms, and the bird is now represented by a few hundred, where once there were myriads.

While the mallard may be the most numerous duck west of Lake Superior, its near relative, the black duck or dusky mallard, as it is sometimes called, is much more plentiful in Ontario, and in the Maritime Provinces and along the Atlantic seaboard its place is entirely taken by the black duck, the mallard being a rare visitor. On the Western prairies the conditions are entirely reversed, the black duck being looked on as an occasional straggler.

Not only is the mallard a valuable bird from an economic standpoint, but the male, in its spring plumage, is one of the most beautiful of our waterfowl. Its head and neck are a rich glossy green, with a white ring like a collar defining the dividing line from the rich chestnut breast; underneath, greyish white, finely marked with waving black lines; black, dark greyish brown, shading to black on the lower back and tail. An outstanding feature is that four black upper tail feathers curve backward; rest of tail white, black below. Speculum or wing-bar rich purple with green reflections and bordered with black and white. As is usual with most of the waterfowl, the difference between the brilliant colors of the male and the most sombre hues of the female is most striking. The plumage of the latter is generally brown varied with buff; the wings showing the only touch of color, a small patch of green or purple, bordered with black and white. Great is the mallard.

FOX FURS ADVANCE

NEW YORK, May 9.—Silver fox advanced 10 per cent here today at the fur auction. Four hundred dollars was the best price received and it was brought by a choice three-quarter silvery pelt. Fitch, with a top of $7.70, was the only other article to advance. With six days of selling ahead, the grand total is now $1,575,000.

Brown bear sold to $14 and declined 10 per cent from the prices received at the winter sale of the New York Auction Company. Black bear was unchanged, with a top of $13.50.

May be Burned-out Fuse

When the lights flicker and go out, the best first guess as to the troubles source is a loose or burned-out fuse.

Experiences In Chicken Raising

An Interesting Letter

(By Egg Shells)

In starting to outline my life-long experience with poultry, naturally I want to start from my first actual work, thirty years ago, and I hope that the readers of this paper will get a kick once in a while from my long experience in this game. I have always felt that what I have done others can do, for I am quite sure I am not blessed with any more brains than the next man or woman. However, I have always tried to study bird life as near to nature as possible and I think in this way I have overcome very many difficulties which I experienced from time to time.

Excuse me for just a moment, I have got to flap my wings just here and have my usual crow.

Thirty years ago there lived a young boy at Richmond, Surrey, England, who had a great fancy for chicken. Of course, this reference is absolutely confined to the feathered variety. His dad had, during his life, always been a real poultry enthusiast, always having a certain portion of the garden laid off for his hobby, and believe me, nothing was too good. When I was about ten my father noticed that I his youngest son, was very interested in that corner of the garden, and knowing that none of my older brothers and sisters took any interest in his hobby, he asked me if I would care to be his partner. From then on I became his head cook and bottle washer in all his poultry hobby, raising the chicks, feeding them, and cleaning out the coops and runs, etc. This was, of course, all done after school hours. In those days incubators were hardly heard of and all the hatching was done by the hen and I remember so well one year I had terrible luck, would hardly hatch a chick. I had done everything I knew to get results by thoroughly preparing the broody hen, dusting her, etc., and I felt confident that this particular hen was able to go through her period of setting. I want to chirp in right here and say to those who are still hatching by the good old hen, that a lot of your trouble has been through using hens which are totally unfit to go through with this period picking out any old hen just because she is broody and putting her on any old eggs and expecting results. To get results you must know your birds. If you don't know them, you should. You should acquaint yourself with every bird you have. Keep your eyes open and you will soon know all your brids and it is quite certain that you will have one or two which will be the birds you want. Look for birds that you know are in good shape and condition. Get after them, and get them absolutely free from lice. Don't think that one dusting is sufficient, it is not. You may kill the living lice, but what about the nits? Do it at least two or three times, using the hen very gently. You know I always talk to my hens when I am handling them, or in fact at any time. Do they get to know you? Why sure they do. They love being fussed with just the same as human beings. You may think I am making some rash statements, but this is my actual experience and my love for the work proves to me beyond all doubt that I am right.

"FUSSING" GETS RESULTS

I mention "fussing" when handling your birds, talking to them and giving them the kindest kind of treatbeing in this country I have had considerable farming experience. I also love horses and in my stable I had 22 registered Clyde mares once. I know full well what I say about chickens applies to horses as well. Some of the men you hire to work on your farm are rough. All they do is to shout and curse at your animals. If they want your horse to get over in the stall, up comes the fork. I have seen the same thing in many of your poultry houses. If a poor old hen gets in the way, up comes the boot causing scare and fright to the whole flock. Have you, in all your experience, ever seen horses, cattle, poultry or any other kind of living creature, thrive under such conditions? No, and you never will. I have proved this in my feed bill.

Now, going back to my bad luck in hatching that I spoke about. My dad and I discussed the trouble and I well remember him saying, "What is the cause of this, are we trying to go against nature in any way?" He said: "Take a bird in its wild state, who has nothing more than the mother earth to live on and raise young and support itself. Is there anything we are doing that is contrary to these conditions?" He then went on to say that he thought we were wrong in setting our hens in boxes with wooden floors and that perhaps they got dry and uncomfortable from that fact and perhaps moisture would be drawn up to the eggs by the heat of the hen's body if we put her to set on the earth. So we went to work and tried out his idea, and I can assure you that we certainly had wonderful success right away and if I were ever setting hens today that would be the only system I would work under. Whether my dad was actually right in this or not I do not know, but we got success.

SPOTTING BROODY HENS

I suppose you all know how you can tell when you are going to have a few hens come broody. In case someone does not, here it is. Watch your nest boxes and when you are collecting eggs if you see breast feathers in some of the nest boxes, look out in a few days for the broody hens. Broodiness is nothing more or less than a fever and I have often heard it called the broody fever, and the feathers will always fall out when the fever starts. You can find this out for yourself. Pick a broody hen up and run your hand down either side of the breatst bone and you will see then for yourself. That is where the body heat comes from directly to the eggs. Have you ever seen, heard or noticed, the old hen turn her eggs? When a hen has been off her eggs for feed and returned to her nest, just get on your knees and listen to her arranging her nest. If you have marked your eggs in any way, have you ever seen the same eggs in the same place day after day? No, she is consistently arranging her nest and turning the eggs around. This I shall tell you more more about when I get to incubators.

A KILLING DEMONSTRATION

Just a moment, people, I want to tell you about my first experience of a killing demonstation I had from my father. We had a very, very large bird, a black Langshan rooster coming two years old, which would weight around 12 pounds. My dad had often mentioned that he wanted to get rid of it, so one morning just as he was getting ready to go to his office I mentioned this bird. Although feeling slightly annoyed in having to come back, he came, just took off his overcoat and went with me to the poultry house. I must tell you that our poultry houses were lean-to shape, four feet at back and 8 feet in front.

I caught this massive bird, then inside of the poultry house we went. He took hold of its two feet and with one hand on its head and neck started pulling, twisting, jerking its neck for about five minutes and after exercising himself to the finish, threw the poor brute down and with one exclamation said "Damn it." He started to straighten himself up and came in contact with the roof—bash went his hat over his eyes. Now you can imagine, although I was but a kid, it was one of the most comical sigh's I have seen in my life. Imagine a man, 230 pounds, with a wide strawberry nose, with glasses just fastened to the tip, with a hat bashed over his eyes. The poor old rooster, struggling to get on his feet, which eventually he did, and with a violent effort got a hideous crow out.

All I can say is that my dad didn't kill the bird. He simply severely ruptured its vocal powers, but just before I finish, when talking about my dad's strawberry nose, I often think I must be a chip off the old block as so my many friends have flattered me by saying I have a large nose, but friends, it hasn't any hook in it.

(From The Western Producer)

N. B. The method of having the nest on the ground is logical and effective, as I have personally proved. Being dissatisfied with the hatch of 1927, I placed all nests on the ground in 1928 and out of five settings I got 62 chicks. I kept them on the ground in floorless coops, and reared them all except 6 which were taken by hawks. The coops were moved to a fresh position every two days.

With regard to "Egg-shell's" statement that animals appreciate and thrive better under kindness, my experience is the same. A quiet confidential tone is the proper voice for all animals. A young animal can be taught any of the duties for which we use it by gentle firmness in training.—Agricola.

LIFE'S WORST MOMENT.

Lindbergh and Napoleon and Saint George and these birds are all right, but our own idea of a hero is the church usher who produces a smile after parading down the aisle to show people a seat and then turns around to find that they have quietly dropped into a rear pew.

Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

BIRD NOTES

Talking with a gentleman who makes a specialty of the bird life of the province, I made note of some curious facts. During the severe winter of 1926-7 there was, he said, an great incursion of the Arctic or Snowy Owl which all but cleared off our partridges. Unlike the majority of owls this bird is a very destructive one, and hunts in the daytime, as does the Great Horned Owl. It is fierce and rapacious and of a size which enables it to capture and kill poultry. This observer said that in eleven weeks he had 67 Snowy Owls brought in for examination, and saw the wings of many more used as ornaments. Since that time there has been an entire absence of these birds, which indicates that the weather round Hudson Bay has been milder during the winters, and the supply of food sufficient.

With the exception of the two above mentioned, all the owls found here ought to be protected. They are Nature's busiest assistants in keeping down the various rodents, especially rats and mice, and the chief reason for the alarming increase of these wasteful and destructive animals, is that we have been killing off the natural controls, the owls and snakes.

My friend was insistent upon the harmfulness of the Grackle or Crowblackbird. He admitted that this bird did some good by following the plow and picking up larvae and grubs of various kinds, but rightly contended that this was greatly overbalanced by the harm it did in eating the eggs and young of the smaller insectivorous birds and in stripping the grain fields and stooks. We have been too apathetic in the past with regard to this bird, but when it gets to be as great a nuisance as it is in the grain fields of Western Canada, our farmers will doubtless waken up and treat it as it deserves.

BLACK LEG OF POTATOES.

A Dominion Bulletin, "The Black Leg Disease of Potatoes," is just to hand. This disease, which is readily recognized as the plant produces small green potatoes ("aerial tubers"; on the stems, is not very prevalent in Prince Edward Island, but this is mainly owing to the fact that control measures have been intelligently employed. The stem and tuber may both be infected; in the latter case a storage rot results. In any case the crop is reduced because the starch which should go to the underground tubers, is stored in the little aerial potatoes.

By far the most interesting information in the bulletin, is the discovery that the causal organism—a bacillus—passes part of its life in the intestinal canal of an insect, known as the corn-boring maggot. When the maggot (which feeds also on peas, beans and corn) brings the bacillus into contact with the tuber the infection takes place. The maggot is the offspring of a dipterous fly evidently belonging to the same group as the onion maggot and that which attacks the garden radish.

This bulletin which is by Dr. Gussow may be obtained, free, on application to the Department of Agriculture, Attawa.

BLUESTONE

In my article recommending a bluestone spray for the eradication of Wild Mustard, I might have included a hint as to the corrosive nature of the chemical.

Bluestone will eat its way through a metal vessel, and if, after being prepared in such a receptacle, it is used as a drench it may be fatal to the animal to which is is given.

In dissolving sulphate of iron (bluestone) always use a wooden vessel—a bowl, barrel, half-hogshead or the like.

Shrubs Which Attract Birds

By planting trees and shrubs which provide shelter, protection and food for birds we can do much to attract to our gardens these welcome visitors, whose colorful plumage and delightful song add so much to garden enjoyment.

There need be no sacrifice of beauty in design, in order to work into the garden picture a corner of such planting. A charmingly natural planting can be made with a bird bath of pleasing design, set well out in the open, to complete the picture. Here the permanent residents of the garden and transient guests may bathe, in the sunshine, without fear of enemies springing upon them from cover too nearby.

In other portions of the grounds, there may be bird houses for those that prefer a home provided by man. Some will prefer to build their nests in thorny haw trees, which marauding cats will find it difficult to penetrate. Evergreens in the border will break the wind in winter for our feathered friends which brave this inclement season.

Providing food through planting means a judicious use of barberries snowballs, sumacs, elderberries, bittersweet, bush honeysuckles, mulberries and wild grapes throughout the border. In winter time when food for the birds is apt to be scarce, a sanctuary for the birds would offer such trees, plants and vines as bittersweet, hawthorn, euonymus in variety, honeysuckles, buckthorn, sumacs, mountain ash, snowberries, hemlock and viburnums.

Trees, shrubs and vines with attractive winter fruit which birds like include most coniferous evergreens Japanese barberry, flowering dogwood, hawthorn, juniper, privet, bayberry, flowering crab, buckthorn, sumac, mountain ash.

Trees, shrubs and vines with fruits attractive to birds, but seldom lasting into winter, include the spicebrush, birch, hackberry, dogwood weigela, Russian olive, gumi, bush honeysuckle, matrimony vine, mulberry, cherry, currant, blackberries and raspberries, elderberry, buffalo berry, nightshade, snowberry, coralberry, blueberries, viburnum, grape.

LIVE HOGS

We are taking live hogs daily, excepting Saturday, paying highest market prices.

Davis & Fraser

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Send me your wool to be spun into yarn. 25 cents for single and 28 cents for double. Sizes, fine, medium and coarse. Send by parcel post or freight. I pay freight on 100 lb. lots. Weaving done with wool warp and double width suitable for blankets. All white except border where grey may be used. Wool must be clean. Put shippers name and address on all parcels and owners name and instructions inside otherwise I will not be responside for losses. Send early.

WM. LANDRIGAN,
Souris, P. E. I.

3588-5-4-tuethursatimos.

The Charlottetown Fox Breeders Protective Association

is established for the prosecution of any person or persons stealing foxes from the ranches of any of its members and have retained a Detective Agency and Legal Talent of highest repute to accomplish their purpose. Trained Blood hounds are also owned by the Association and are ready to go to work at one minute's notice.

T. B. ROGERS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

The following are members of THE CHARLOTTETOWN FOX BREFEDERS' PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION:

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