

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

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Starvation Period For Young Chicks

(Experimental Farms Note) Experimental work carried on at the Poultry Division, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, to determine the amount of time that should elapse between the completion of the hatch and the giving of first feed, has shown some interesting results.

An experiment carried on during 1925 gave rather indefinite results but showed no greater mortality on feeding after twenty-four or thirty-six hour periods than when the birds were starved for a longer time.

A continuation of this experiment during 1926 showed the greatest gain in weight up to three weeks of age to be made by chicks fed twenty-four hours after the completion of the hatch. The weight gains decreased gradually until forty-eight hours after which point decrease in weight gains was more marked. Mortality was equal for all lots excepting the last fed in which lot there was a slight increase.

This experiment was again continued during 1928. In this case the greatest gain was made by the birds fed sixty hours after hatching fol-

lowed by those fed seventy-two, twenty-four, forty and ninety-six hours after hatching respectively. Mortality was equal and greatest for the birds fed forty and seventy-two hours after hatching with those fed sixty and ninety-six hours next in order. There was no mortality amongst those birds fed twenty-four hours after hatching. In no case did the birds starve until ninety-six hours after hatch compare, favourably with the earlier fed lots.

The results obtained to date would seem to indicate that chicks may be fed as early as twenty-four hours after hatching with no harmful results either upon weight gains or mortality. It is just possible, however, that there is a happy medium in the neighborhood of from thirty-six to forty-eight hours after hatching. These results seem to indicate that the fact that chicks will go as long as one hundred hours or more before receiving their first feed is to be looked upon more as a fortunate circumstance which permits of shipping over great distances rather than the best method of husbandry.

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NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

THE GARDEN

Practically everyone cherishes the ambition of a garden some day. Even the golfer or ardent fisherman who usually disappears on the first fine Spring day secretly plans a display of flowers or a supply of vegetables but like too many of us puts off the matter until it is too late. But there is really no need why even the busiest man in town should not have both his own grown flowers and vegetables because very little time is required and there is but trifling expense. Only a small piece of ground is needed; even the apartment dweller with a window ledge or two at his disposal can have something. A few hours planning by the fireside now and the laying in of a small stock of seeds, fertilizer, and one or two tools will result in amazing returns later on.

MAKE PLANS NOW

It is possible, of course, to put in a garden without a plan, but the results will not be as satisfactory. It is advisable to lay out the vegetable plot and the flower garden on paper, roughly drawing the same to a scale. Where space is limited, the vegetable rows for those narrow-growing sorts like spinach, carrots, beets and lettuce, may be cut down to twelve inches with the more spreading sorts like beans, peas, corn, tomatoes, fifteen to eighteen inches. This, of course, is very narrow, and one would have to be careful in cultivating. To make the space more effective it is well to alternate the quickly maturing stuff such as lettuce, spinach and radishes, with the vegetables which are not harvested until late in the season. Then, before these later sorts need full room the earlier ones are removed and eaten. There are a few flowers, too, which should be included in the vegetable patch, either because their foliage is not particularly attractive or where the blooms are to be used for cutting material to fill the vases indoors. In the small city garden it is a good plan also to have a few showy annuals in the vegetable patch, merely for the sake of good looks, because in this case it is often impossible to screen off the flower beds. Sweet peas, which are among the first flowers planted, usually do best in the vegetable patch grown in a straight row and given frequent cultivation.

FLOWER PLANS

In planning the flower garden, three or four important factors must be considered. Among these, the time of flowering, color of bloom and the height of the plant should be particularly noted. Where at all possible, avoid straight rows and plant in clumps of one color and one variety. Straight edges, such as walls of buildings, fences and paths, should be disguised by arranging clumps of shrubbery and flowers in front. As a general rule, use dwarf edging material—seed catalogues will be found to list the heights of all flowers—at the front of the bed, with the taller sorts towards the back. In laying out the garden, one should include sufficient varieties so that something will be in bloom practically all summer, and clumps must be arranged so that the disappearance of the early bloomers will not leave great gaps but some later flowers will come on to take their place. Artistically-inclined people may be shocked unless care is taken to choose non-clashing colors among flowers blooming at the same time.

SPRING PROTECTION

There is one job which calls for carrying out immediately. At this

Eggs and More Eggs

(Canadian Poultry Review)

Eggs for breakfast. Lunch up town, "Put two on." Late home from the afternoon drive, something for supper that can be prepared quickly—eggs and bacon.

And so it is from day to day, and as a result Canadians are today eating on a per capita basis more eggs than any other nation. The most surprising thing is that eggs may be served in such a variety of ways that the chances of tiring of them are very small. Boiled, fried, poached, scrambled, omelet, and innumerable other ways give a round of egg dishes for every day of the week.

Canadians eat 29.67 dozen of eggs per person in a year, or nearly an egg a day. In the United States the consumption of eggs is 207 eggs per capita, in Belgium 213, France 133, Germany 117, and in Great Britain 110. Canada has invariably taken the lead in poultry advancement, and the position of "chief egg consumer" rightly belongs to her. She preaches egg production and practices egg consumption.

The poultry population of Canada last year was: Turkeys 1,890,203, geese 1,185,139, ducks 981,032 fowls 46,172,005, a total of 50,178,485 and the value of this poultry was placed at \$52,958,000.

There is always a reason why people eat certain foods and it is not hard to find in the case of eggs. We eat food in order to live. It is true some are accused of living to eat, but even with them a certain amount of their food functions in the body in the maintenance and building of body tissues.

The egg constitutes a perfect food for the developing chick. Its body cells are developed from the egg until it can seek an independent existence. Bone, flesh, organs, down, have all been formed when the chick hatches, and there is sufficient egg left over in the body cavity to supply it with nourishment for several

time, most of the damage to wintering flowers, fruits and shrubbery occurs. With snow protection gone, the roots are exposed to sharp freezing at night and thawing in the day time. The freezing contracts the top layer of the soil, breaking off the tiny fibrous feeding roots and thus weakens or kills the plant. Of course, on a northern exposure there is less freezing and thawing as the sun does not get around to this position, and on this account tender plants often do better on the north side of a wall or fence than they do elsewhere. Of course, if no sun strikes this northern position at all during the year, very few plants will thrive, but where there is protection from the sun for part of the day at this time of year the position is often a favorable one. Make sure that roses, ivy, shrubbery and tender fruit bushes or trees are well covered around the roots. Straw manure, leaves, or vegetable rubbish of any kind is good for this. If the tops were not cut down last year, and unless badly diseased, old perennial tops should not be removed until Spring, they will protect the perennial border to a large extent. Do not remove this cover until the weather really warms up and sprouts commence to appear, but do not leave it on too long or growth will be too spindly. Heavy, close packing material should not be used as it is liable to smother the plants.

FLORAL PLANS

On account of the action of the Department of Agriculture in legalizing standards for eggs, the housewife can now purchase eggs according to grade and her own estimation of value. The occasional bad egg has gone, it simply cannot appear in eggs bought on grade.

Canadians need not fear extinction from these causes, but the weight of evidence is in favor of a greater use of eggs.

Dr. Shutt, Dominion Chemist, has found lime water and waterglass distinctly superior to other preparations for the preserving of eggs for home use. One pound of freshly burnt quick lime slaked with water to the consistency of cream, and further diluted up to five gallons of water is a satisfactory solution.

He gives three essentials for good preservation. Use perfectly fresh eggs, completely immerse the eggs during the whole preservation period, and store in a cool place.

Discuss Plans For Marketing Frozen Fish

MONTREAL, Feb. 11—The executive of the Canadian Fisheries Association will meet here today to consider the best means of placing on a commercial basis for the benefit of consumers throughout the Dominion the fish conserving process worked out at Halifax, N. S., and St. Andrews, N. B., by the biological board of Canada. Believing that the experiment carried out by placing the first products of these plants on the market in Toronto recently, had proved that the fish reached the consumer practically as fresh as when taken from the sea, the question will now be discussed as to how the product can be marketed throughout Canada.

Dr. A. G. Huntsman, head of the Board, spoke before the association executive Friday and explained how the process had been developed whereby the fish products are frozen in such a manner that all the natural freshness of flavor and food values remains undisturbed. The plants at Halifax and St. Andrews were for experimental purposes only, he said and their output was limited. The Canadian Fisheries Association Executive agreed with Dr. Huntsman and decision was reached to take up the matter in detail tomorrow.

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REPAIRING WINTER DAMAGE TO LAWNS

Winter damage to lawns is not caused by cold weather but by thawing and standing water. Permanent grasses are not injured by freezing, but they can be smothered by water standing over them and they can be lifted up out of the soil by the heaving action which accompanies alternate thawing and freezing.

Even on a well-drained lawn there is likely to be some heaving of the turf, which may destroy contact between the matted grass roots and the soil beneath. This contact must be restored, otherwise the wick-like action of the soil in bringing water up from below to feed the grass roots will be interrupted and the grass will dry out and die. For this season the lawn must be rolled as early in the spring as possible; that is, as soon as it is fairly dry.

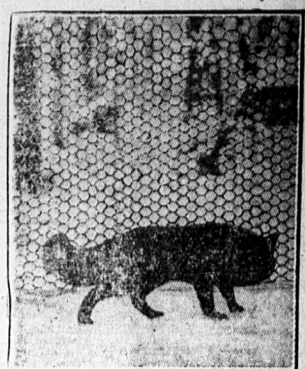
Rolling requires care. Do not roll a wet or muddy soil, and do not use too heavy a roller. It should be just heavy enough so that footprints do not show after rolling. Sandy soil may be rolled much oftener than clay soil, since the sandy soil needs all the compacting it can get, but a clay soil can be packed so closely that the grass suffers and baking and cracking in the summer is encouraged.

Earth worms are sometimes a nuisance on fine lawns. The exterminator used by golf clubs is corrosive sublimate (bichloride of mercury dissolved one-half ounce to fifteen gallons of water, which will be enough for 25 square feet. After this is sprinkled on the lawn the worms will come to the surface and die.

The United States Department of Agriculture has shown that arsenate of lead, a familiar insecticide for hewing insects, can be used cheaply and efficiently against angleworms and various grubs and weeds, as well as having some fertilizing effect.

The method of applying the arsenate to a lawn is to mix five pounds of the arsenate in crystal form with two bushels of soil or sand moist, but not wet, and sprinkle it at the rate of five pounds of arsenate so mixed to 1,000 square feet of soil. The arsenate is carried into the soil and the feeding worms and grubs are destroyed. As it is a poison animals must not be allowed to eat the grass and poultry should be kept away from such a treated surface.

The arsenate dressing has also proved effective in killing chickweed and crab grass, the latter a pest that affects lawns in summer.



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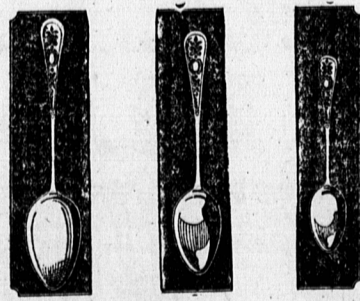
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