

# THE MAGAZINE GUARDIAN For Parents, Pupils, Teachers, Farmers, Dairymen, Horsemen

## TO THE FARMER

Farmers and others interested are invited to contribute to The Farm, The Dairy, The Turf and Good Roads departments of the Guardian either by question, correspondence or otherwise. Answers will be given to all questions of general interest and space will be given to any articles that will in any way help to advance Prince Edward Island interests.

Contributors are asked to have their articles at this office early each week, as only a short emergency item can be handled as late as one p. m. Wednesday. All received after that hour cannot appear until the following week.

## THE SCHOOL AND THE HOME

Contributions for this department should be addressed to P.O. Box No. 116, Charlottetown.

## UNSATISFACTORY FLOWERING PLANTS

There are some whose experience with purchased flowering plants has not been satisfactory, the blame is often put upon the supplier, when it should perhaps be attributed to the buyer. The plants, it is true, which come into the market have generally been grown under a high state of culture. They have been regularly watered, potted in soil according to their different tastes, and placed in pots according to their size. The heat, light, and air have all been arranged and regulated so far as the utmost skill and experience could suggest. The transition from all this regularity to the tender mercies of some amateur is often soon felt. The pots are put in pans or saucers, or, on the other hand, no water is given and the plants are left to their fate. Nearly all the evils attending plants in such a situation can be traced to these two causes; therefore, the happy medium should be adopted. Light is a great and invariable requisite. They also need air, and there can be no trouble in supplying this by opening the window, and on nice days, the top ventilation, although draught is to be especially avoided. Dead leaves and decaying flowers must be removed. Another important matter is the fact that, however gratifying it is to see a plant in full bloom, it is most satisfactory to have those which will last longest in perfection, especially those which have a succession. They should, therefore, be procured before fully out, and every day of development will possess a fresh charm, I have had cyclamen last two months.

## THE ILL-USED FERN

A much ill-used class of plants is the fern, two or three kinds of which are commonly subjected to torture during the winter. Over-heated by day, chilled by night, now soaked and then baked, the ferns, if they should be careful potting in fine well drained soil with room for the foot-dressed roots to spread and feed. The worst friends should be cut away and young ones encouraged, and the new home is reasonably sheltered from extremes a second and long life is before our ferns. They will grow large and require shift after shift until it is a surprise to remember how little space they once occupied.

Hyacinths, Tulips and similar sturdy bulbs ask but little care, just enough moisture to keep the life in them, warmth to make the prettiest blossoms open, light to keep them as long as they can, and then the best place, and that is all. When the flowers are dead, cut them off, leave in the foliage and drawing out the bulbs put them where they can dry gradually. Then store until autumn when planted in some secondary place they may make a modest display to repay the attention bestowed, or better still set them out in the garden border as soon as spring comes.

Roman Hyacinths, good patient and sweet things that work so well, and give the most desirable spots and beds, well deserve saving for a better fate in future years, in time to recover sufficiently to go through the ordeal again. The china bowl and the metal dish are ornamental in themselves, and often a little extra care will make them healthy also. Whenever possible a pan or flowerpot duly provided with drainage should be the real plant-holder, and this should be sunk bodily into the outer cover or basket. A pot is a poor substitute for the open ground, but the hole in it and the layer of stones below of drainage and the earthenware sides are slightly porous. A wood, or metal, or china holder shuts in all the damp and waste matters of both plants and soil, and shuts out the fresh moisture and fresh air that are so necessary. A health giving plan it is, though not always a possible one, to take the potted plants out of the decorative stands at night and when

## THE FARM

### ABOUT CURRANTS.

Among the peculiarities of treatment which many things in the gardening way receive in different districts that of pruning the bushes of the smaller fruits stands prominently forward. Take the red currant; in some places one sees the bushes cut into short spikes, from which the fruit, particularly on the older trees, comes together in dense clusters, the individual berries having little chance to swell out. Those anxious to obtain berries long bunches should retain some of the last season's shoots and from them, if strong and healthy, will be found the finest and richest colored fruit.

### PRUNING BLACK CURRANTS

The pruning of black currants consists in cutting out the older growths as they become too crowded, and in a few cases shortening them back, but only to keep the bush in shape, as the bunches come upon the maturing growths. Pruning, if circumstances admit, can be done in the winter, but light and air in the more moisture-loving plant than the red or white one indeed, in dry soils it will often fail to yield a crop through drought, and for this reason mulching and watering are more necessary. The fruit will, under no circumstances have long upon the bushes, but if it is wished to prolong the time in which it can be gathered, retarding by shading the tree when the fruit is still green may answer this purpose.

In making fresh plantations the ground can be prepared in the same manner as for the red currant, and the bushes planted at about 6 feet apart each way.

### TURKISH RUGS

There are two kinds of Turkish rugs—the kind that is made for use and the kind that is made to sell. Not all Oriental rugs are good rugs, although the Orient produces the best, finest, most artistic and most useful floor coverings and draperies that the world has ever known. The desirable rug is the one made or used. The labor entering into it is so great that first of all the material must be the best that can be secured. The collection of it often begins many months before the rug is made. So great is the importance of the material that many breed their sheep to get the best. In shearing and sorting the wool only the best is taken. When it comes to dyeing, the dyer is not so foolish as to use aniline, as it is a mineral and would work a great injury to the wool. He carefully washes the wool without the use of chemicals, which would save him much labor, and with great trouble secures the vegetable dyes. At least the great quantity of yarn with which to begin is spun and dyed.

The mere stringing of the frame takes a long time, for the Orientals do not spin the threads as do our machines. Theirs must be tied end to end, and so there is another long and laborious time before the weaver is ready to begin to weave. Then, not after knot, in some cases hundreds of the square inch, intricate designs are wrought in wonderful color schemes. Nothing is too difficult, complicated or laborious to sidetrack the main purpose—the production of a rug that will last for generations.

Now as to rugs made to sell. In all Oriental countries, particularly India, there are men who will raise or buy wool, the cheaper the better, wash it, with the dirt eaten away from the wool, dye it with some aniline dyes and spin it by machine. When at last the warp is on the frame the only part that is native is added, tying in the knots. The more hoddie the product, the more profit, the closer imitation, the higher price it will bring.

This rug is cut from the loom and then comes the worst of all the bad things that have happened to it. This is what is known as antiquing it, that is, coating it with acid. In strong sunshine and as the effect is reached stopping it with a brush. This has the supposed effect of fading the colors, but instead gives the rug a sickly look which is readily distinguishable if it is studied carefully. This does more to injure all rugs that has gone before. This rug was made to sell and does many times the price of the former. With little study the purchaser can quickly see the difference. This "washed" rug, as it is sometimes called, has the fine fuzz of a new rug on the back, but sometimes it is singed just as a cook does a chicken, when the lugging shows even quicker. Bend the nap apart and look deep into it and if the rug is a treated one you will see the difference in the color on the surface and in the depths. Compare it with others and with little study you will soon be confident of their being more made-to-sell rugs in the market today than any other. They should be sold for what they are, and not for the better kinds.—Evening Wisconsin.

## THE FARM

### THE EARLY CHICKS.

To the small poultry raiser not equipped with all the latest devices for handling the early chicks, the brooding problem is often a trying one. If the eggs are hatched under hens two chicks may be given to one hen and the other soon returned to laying duty, yet if the weather is still cool and stormy it is best not to give one bird too many to care for. A separate building or compartment in the poultry house should be devoted to the chicks. If there are several mother hens kept in the same room they must be kept apart in some way, otherwise one of them is liable to tyrannize over the others. The house, or room, should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and the old birds frequently dusted with insect powder. A dust bath should also be provided, as this is nature's way of getting rid of the vermin. Chicks hatched after the weather becomes warmer are stronger and more vigorous if housed in small coops out of doors with runways attached, if liberty is not possible.

Incubator chicks can be safely taken care of with a good brooder, no matter how cold the weather. This may be home-made after some of the many models described in poultry books and magazines, or purchased from a reliable firm. It is time to get the brooder when the chicks begin to hatch. First have it clean and put a layer of paper at the bottom. This will help with the cleaning out. An inch of fine chaff on top of the paper helps to keep the feet of the chicks warm. The temperature should be kept in the vicinity of 90 degrees for a week, after which it may be gradually lowered to 70. As the chicks become older they exercise more and do not need so much warmth. If the birds are found closely huddled it should be taken to indicate that more heat is needed, while if the brooder is too warm for the chicks themselves will often indicate the degree of heat required. It is well to give the chicks a chance to leave the brooder by the fourth day. They may readily be taught to get to the source of warmth by gently pushing them back into the brooder with the hand. Thus a little watching and attention will be necessary for a week or so after which they will take care of themselves. If there is a sudden cold snap they should be looked after especially as chilling may bring on cholera of their troubles.—C. H. Chesley.

### AN AMERICAN TURKEY COUNTY

It is estimated that Cole County, Missouri, produced last year about 20,000 turkeys for market. The average price paid for the early deliveries was about \$2 each. In some instances the birds were driven on foot to the trading centres, where they were sold for the St. Louis and Eastern markets.

### KINDNESS TO THE KINE

The dairy cow is easily influenced one way or the other, by feed, weather, general surroundings and even psychological influences. Wrong thought waves, as our mental therapists call them, will cause the cow to use energy to overcome the effect which would otherwise be used in making milk. Use cheery words in the cow barn, even if you have just come from domestic disturbances. It will mean money in your pocket.

### HINTS FOR THE FARM GARDENER

We have already taken the initial step toward our garden of this coming summer, writes Johnson Andrews in Farm and Dairy. We have spent a couple of delightful evenings planning that garden, going through seed catalogues, and making our selection. What used to be an extra burden, the kitchen garden has become a source of pleasure. Let me name over some of the things we already have on our list:

First come bush beans, the Golden Wax variety being preferred. We plant a drill of beans about 20 feet long about corn-planting time, and we continue to plant every three weeks until quite late in the season. In this way we have beans available for over two months. Cabbage's Ear-ly Egyptian heads are planted as soon as the land is workable, and these, too, we plant in rotation through the summer, as we enjoy the greens and the beets themselves are more acceptable when small than when they get larger, coarser and stringier.

A few feet of drill of Chantney carrots are also planted in the home garden just to be handy. All other vegetables are handled in the same way so that we will have them from early in the season until late in the fall.

The first greens that we have on the table are asparagus and rhubarb. Our half dozen heads of rhubarb are more than sufficient for all the requirements of the family. The asparagus bed we could not do without. These are perennials and are better to be placed at the edge of the garden, where they will not be disturbed by the plough and cultivator in the spring and fall. Both of them may be manured to almost any extent, and will respond in proportion.

The plants for cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes and celery we buy at the grocery store in town, as we consider this much less trouble than bothering with boxes in the windows of the house. In tomatoes particularly it is advisable to have a couple of varieties, early and late. The late varieties usually have more meat in them than the early varieties. Our garden is always laid out in long rows and all the cultivation is done by horse-power. Likewise it is near the house so that the wife can go out and get vegetables for dinner any time she pleases.

Now let me give a little preaching. I know that in the average farm home the supplying of the sumptuous dinners of the household is the want to please her, to bring back the glad light to her eyes, and enter again the happy and true partnership of which you dreamed when a young man, just propose to her that you plan a good garden together. If you intersperse the vegetables with flowers you will have added beauty and added joy.

## THE FARM

### THE EARLY CHICKS.

You separate the milk on the farm right after milking and feed it directly to the calves they will get used to it at this temperature. Of course, the calf ought to have something besides skim-milk; it has a balanced ration. You should get some fat from another source, and as I have explained many times, there is nothing better than ground flaxseed meal for this purpose. The calf should be started on roughage just as soon as possible give him just a little wisp of clover hay when he is two weeks old. He may eat only a spear of it at first, but will gradually eat more until he relishes clover hay and will eat large quantities of it. Next give just a little handful of good corn silage. At first he may not like it at all, but if he leaves any in the manger take it out and put in some fresh. Soon you will find that the calf likes silage.

Start him on grain by giving him a little ground oats as soon as he is through drinking his skim-milk. Do not give him over a tablespoonful at first, and gradually increase it as he grows older. In this way we do not depend entirely on skim-milk.

Of course, the calf ought to have whole milk, its dam's whole milk, for the first two weeks anyway. Then gradually take out a little of the whole milk and put in skim-milk and increase the skim-milk until you take the whole milk entirely away from it. When you have done this substitute a spoonful or a gill of ground flaxseed jelly. If pains are taken not to overfeed, you will be certain to have thrifty calves.

### KEEP HARNESS AT ITS BEST

A harness should be cleaned at least once a year. This is one of the slack time jobs that should not be neglected on the farm. In cleaning harness, the job is better done thoroughly, if only half done, it might almost as well not be done at all. A lot of the straps should be unbuckled so every part of the leather can be gotten at. All of the dirt should be cleaned off with soap and a stiff bristled brush. If there are gummy substances that the soap will not take off, use a little turpentine or benzine. Hang the harness near a stove and as soon as dry, apply Neat's foot oil with a paint brush or swab.

### TO PREVENT OAT SMUT.

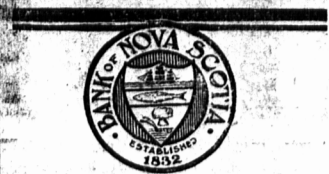
Oat smut can be entirely prevented at a cost of a few cents per acre. From your drug store obtain formalin (a solution of formaldehyde of usual strength, about one-third of an ounce for each bushel of seed oats to be sown).

Put one ounce of formalin into each three gallons of water. Wet seed completely with this solution by soaking or thorough sprinkling, meaning stirring the seed. Drain off surplus water. Cover pile or sacks of oats to retain the fumes 8 to 10 hours. But uncover and dry the oats by stirring before sowing can possibly begin. Wash with a stronger formalin solution all old sacks or floors in which treated oats may be stored.

### DOCTORING FRUIT TREES

Many fruit growers find it hard to realize that their fruit trees are subject to diseases as numerous and difficult to control as human diseases. One advantage, however, that the tree doctor has over the human doctor is that he can sacrifice with impunity the individual for the benefit of the masses.

Methods to control or eradicate these fruit tree diseases and pests have been developed so rapidly in recent years that many growers are confused by the apparent complexity of these operations, and they hold up their hands and pray for good luck before really giving the subject much thought. Good luck, however, comes



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### ISLAND BRANCHES

Charlottetown - Summerside  
St. John's - Lunenburg  
O'Leary - Montserrat

### GREAT INTEREST IN PUREBREDS

Possibly never before in the history of this country was so much interest shown in the breeding of pure-bred live stock. This is particularly true at the present time of the cattle of both beef and dairy breeds. As an indication of the value which breeders, deep in the game of pure-bred stock breeding and those just commencing the business places on them, one only needs to point to the high prices and keen bidding which prevail at the sales of pure-bred live stock this spring. Sales are numerous, but their numbers do not seem to be keeping the prices of good stock down. Western Canada is waking up to the fact that she must go into mixed farming, and mixed farming means the keeping of large numbers of live stock. Eastern Canada, already engaged in mixed farming, is seeking to strengthen her position, and realizes full well that the only means of doing so is by using the very best blood of the different live-stock breeds available. Breeders from the East and West gather in large numbers at each pure-bred live-stock sale of any magnitude, and consequently prices run high. While many sales are being held they cannot be taken as an indication that we have an over-supply of pure-bred stock, even in the most thickly settled districts of the old Province of Ontario. There is a keen demand, and breeders are taking advantage of this to disperse their good stock amongst a number of the smaller breeders, and ultimately do a great good to the stock-breeding industry of the country. One cannot estimate the stimulus a district receives when a member of the community goes out and buys a good sire for use on his own herd and these only his own. Even though he only buys one or two females, the very fact that these are to be seen in his herd encourages his neighbors to get some good stock for their herds. The season of highest prices is not always the best time to buy. A man in search of the best individuals with the blood behind them must buy a good figure at all seasons. Present indications point clearly to the fact that now is a good time to keep the best stock already in the herd, and put forth the most strenuous endeavors to improve that stock by breeding to the best sires available.

### THE DAIRY

#### THE ART OF MILKING

An efficient milker is of more importance than the ordinary farmer who keeps cows realizes. I venture to say that 90 per cent. of the cows in this country today do not yield what they would if they were properly milked. Leave condition with reference to feed, breed and care exactly as they are, and the cows would produce more if they were properly milked. My opinion, which is based on observation and experience with a great many hired men is, that few people are A. No. 1 milkers. I presume that the per cent. of good milkers among cow owners who do their own milking is a great deal larger, and yet I suspect even here the art of milking is one that has never been fully acquired by a great many of them. It is very evident to my mind that no cow will ever make a record worth bragging about unless she is milked by one who understands not only the art but the science of milking, by one who realizes that the hand-milker has to take the place of the calf, that it is his duty not only to draw the milk from the cow efficiently, but that likewise he should get her to think well of him so that she will endeavor to do her best by him. Perhaps you will say that there is more sentiment in this than ought to be, but don't believe it. I know well enough that a cow who likes her milker will give more milk for him than she will for anyone else. Some cows are so national that you can scarcely chance milkers and get anything like fair results.

#### MILKING

Milking is not as simple a thing as some people would think. There are many things to take into consideration. In the first place, you must have a good large strong hand with plenty of forearm muscle, and you need the knack of milking, which some people never get. They don't seem to know that you must shut down the forefingers in front first, to press the milk down to the end of the teats, then the balance of hand to squeeze the milk out. And yet it is all done so near together that the movements of the different fingers of the hand would seem to one that it was all done at once. The man who simply opens and shuts his hand is not a good milker. The hand should not only be opened and shut, as suggested above, but it should be done

#### KEEP HARNESS AT ITS BEST

Fredrickton horsemen have made many notable additions to their stables recently. Besides A Game of Chance, Miss Keefe and Lillian Patchen, the horses stated to have been purchased by Tommy Raymond and A. E. Quartermain, Fredrickton, the list of the others is as follows: Nellie Chimes, a five-year-old black mare weighing 1025 lbs., paces with Roy Wilkes, dam is by Chimes. She is credited with a trial of 1:10 and has been purchased by J. E. Sullivan. Danger, black four-year-old pacing gelding about 900 lbs., by Ebony Patchen, dam by Raven Wilkes, has never been worked. P. S. Watson purchased him. Florence Pan, five-year-old, black trotting mare by Beau Patchen, dam by Pan. She weighs 1,100 lbs., and is a beautiful show mare. Purchased by H. and S. Limerick. Georgia Tel, trotter, brown filly, three years old, by Alle Tel, dam by Winks. Oulah, brown trotting mare, weighing 1,000 lbs., by Parol, and as a three-year-old had a trial of 2:30. She was purchased by T. P. Colter. There is a matched team of driving horses, weighing about 1,200 each, for H. G. Kitchen. A spotted pony was brought along for W. P. Keenan.

## OK, HAD PESTS CLASSIFIED

There are five main groups under which the diseases and pests of fruit trees come. These groups are as follows:—

1. Insects which obtain their food by actually chewing the leaves, fruit or wood. We have an example in the codling moth, which is chiefly responsible for wormy apples.
2. Insects which obtain their food by sucking the juice from the leaves, fruit, or wood. Examples of these are the San Jose scale and the common plant louse or green aphid.
3. Fungous diseases or parasitic plants which live in or on the leaves, fruit or wood. The apple scab is a good example of a fungous disease.
4. Bacterial diseases which get their food in much the same way as the fungi do. Pear or fire blight is very prevalent in apple and pear orchards.
5. Diseases or troubles caused either by a "living fluid," lowest down in the scale of life, as for example the so-called "peach yellows" of the peach, or by wrong conditions of growth. Sun scald, for example, of the splitting open of the bark on the trunk of the tree caused by alternate freezing and thawing.

### METHODS OF CONTROL.

In general, tree troubles are to a large degree overcome by proper cultivation, fertilization, pruning, and disinfecting, with a last resort to pulling out and burning individual trees.

Spraying will control nearly all the serious diseases and pests coming under the first three groups. Spraying for biting insects and fungous diseases is usually done in anticipation of the trouble. Spraying for sucking insects is done as soon after their presence is known as possible.

To have success in this operation one must determine the pest or disease and then at the right time spray thoroughly with the proper material. Biting insects must be killed by poisoning their food. The best poison to use on fruit trees is arsenate of lead, and the next best is Paris green. Sucking insects must be dealt with by a substance which kills by penetrating their bodies. Lime-sulphur solution, tobacco products, and kerosene emulsion are used for this purpose and called "contact insecticides." Fungous diseases are controlled by spraying with a fungicide, which will actually prevent the so-called spores (eggs or germs) from germinating. The three leading fungicides are Bordeaux mixture, lime-sulphur solution, and self-boiled lime and sulphur.

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# Use Tip Top Tea With Its All-Satisfying Flavor