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NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

CHANGING THE SEX OF CHICKS

Science is forging ahead in curious fashion these days. Last year I read of the use of X-rays in changing the sex of chicks, and expected some pronouncement from the scientists engaged in the task. Little has been said about it to the present however, but I gather that the egg is exposed to the X-rays for the purpose of killing the chromosome which would produce a male bird and at the same time stimulating the female chromosome, which will produce a pullet. As the fertile egg contains these elements of both sexes, the result of the treatment is to produce 100 per cent. pullet hatchlings, according to Paul R. Hadley, of Fanwood, N. J. Experiments to confirm this are being conducted at Guelph, and up to the present the treatment costs about \$4 per pullet produced. This might be looked upon as discouraging, but excessive cost is the invariable initial accompaniment of new methods, and as time goes on the cost will be lowered. It is thought that some similar method may be found to treat hens so that they will produce infertile eggs—though that is not so important, since that particular control is in every poultryman's power.

kerosene emulsion can hardly be carried out. It is better at that season of apply equal parts of pyrethrum powder and dry cement, dusted along the back of the animals. Or mix thoroughly four ounces of sublimed sulphur, 8 ounces lard, and 2 ounces kerosene, and smear along the back and side of the neck.

LIMESTONE AGAIN

Since writing the article stressing the need of lime on sour soils, I attended the convention of the Live Stock Board, and heard a discussion on that question. There is no doubt that all were in favor of the use of lime, and some had found it to "work wonders;" nevertheless Professor Baird sounded a note of warning. The value of lime is, in great part, due to its power of rendering available the plant food already in the soil; it must not be regarded as fertilizer. The crop following the application will be larger because of the great amount of plant food it can withdraw from the land, and so to that extent the land is poorer. A succession of applications would exhaust the soil, and hence arose the old Scottish saying that "Lime makes the father rich and the son poor."

KEROSENE EMULSION

All the various forms of animal life which man has gathered round him for his comfort and subsistence are troubled with external parasites, in the form of lice or mites, and in order that they may thrive it is necessary to watch for and exterminate these pests. For this purpose there is scarcely any insecticide more effective than the contact "poison" known as kerosene emulsion. It is harmless, cheap, easily made and readily applied, and may always be at hand as a "stock" mixture.

The stock solution may be prepared in a small quantity by boiling together one quart of soft soap, 1-4 lb. hard soap, and two quarts of water. When dissolved add one pint of kerosene, and stir until the oil is intimately mixed. When almost cool run into a wide-mouthed container and cover.

When required for use, dilute with 8 or 9 parts of warm water, and mix thoroughly. Kerosene by itself would scald an animal's skin, but when beaten or stirred well into the soap is quite mild.

This makes an excellent spray for the inside of farm buildings such as the cow stable, pig-house or hen-house, and may be applied to the animals themselves in warm weather but not of course to the hens.

In cold weather washing with

But applied with judgment, and followed by a proper rotation together with barnyard and chemical manure, lime will prove its value every time, and the "son" will be richer instead of poorer.

Late Spray of Apples Needed

M. B. Davis, Central Experimental Farm Ottawa, Ont.

Not infrequently letters are received at the Central Experimental Farm from growers complaining that although they have sprayed their trees, their fruit during that particular year has been badly affected by apple scab. Upon close inquiry it is generally ascertained that only the first two or three sprays have been given and that late infestations of apple scab have caused the trouble.

Growers should realize that there is no set number of sprays required, no rule of thumb method whereby economic control can be guaranteed. Some years the late sprays are all important, while during others the reverse is the case. The calyx spray which goes on before the calyx closes is generally the third spray and in some seasons may have to be followed by at least two or three more. To obtain control of apple scab it must be remembered that it is necessary to practically keep the foliage and young fruit covered with a good fungicidal spray. Only by doing so can the fruit be safeguarded against late infection.

Very frequently fruit is kept clean until late into August and then on account of a few days of close muggy weather, sufficient scab appears on the fruit to cause serious loss. Growers should be constantly on the alert to avoid such a condition, and if in doubt, should immediately consult their nearest spray service. In a large number of the fruit districts these spray services are now well underway and offer the grower a means of obtaining much better guidance than has been available in the past. Another important reason for keeping control of the scab right through the season is the bad effect of scab on foliage. Loss of leaves prematurely due to any cause means loss of crop the following season.

Herr Ludwig Geuer rode 1,070 miles from Neu Munster, Germany, to Budapest, Hungary, to attend the recent equestrian tournament.

Spinning and Weaving

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 shipping name and address on all parcels and owners name and instructions inside otherwise I will not be responsible for losses. Send early.

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

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PINT SIZE for all small fruits. Special prices in lots of 5000 boxes, and over. For sale at our SEED STORE.

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FARM ENGINES—Large and small.

PUMP JACKS for deep or shallow wells.

Second hand machines in stock.

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Everything fully guaranteed.

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Practical Notes On Potato Sprays

R. Hurst, Dominion Experimental Station, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Late blight and rot of potatoes is controlled by bordeaux mixture, but must be applied before the plants become diseased, and for this reason, particularly in Eastern Canada, spray must begin when the plants are about six inches high. Observations made at the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology Experimental Station, Charlottetown, show that applications should follow with ten days intervals throughout the growing season, with neglecting the exceedingly important late sprays. In cloudy weather the interval should be shortened to six days.

Spraying with Bordeaux reduces early blight, controls late blight, and promotes increased yields. Reduced to its simplest terms spraying is a cheap form of insurance which gives good returns whether there is blight or not. Leaves that are kept covered with the spray are larger, darker green, and have a greater capacity for manufacturing starch. Copper sulphate and lime are the two chemicals required. These combined in the presence of water form Bordeaux mixture. To obtain the best solution, these two chemicals are first dissolved separately in water and the two solutions mixed in the most dilute form possible, otherwise a heavy precipitate will form which will clog the nozzles and settle rapidly if allowed to stand. In preparing the spray, therefore, always dilute one, or if possible both solutions, before mixing, and never mix them until you are ready to spray. Quick lime is the best form to use because it gives a very fine precipitate when mixed properly. Hydrated lime is satisfactory, but the amount indicated in the formula (4-4-40) should be increased by about one-third and only the best grade used. Air-slaked or carbonated lime is not suitable for making Bordeaux.

For best results, spring operations should be performed with three nozzles to the row in such a manner that one nozzle directs the spray downwards while the other two spray upwards to cover the lower surface of the leaves. The pump should be capable of delivering the spray under an even pressure of 150 to 200 pounds. However, it must be understood that success is measured by the extent to which the leaves are coated. Growers, therefore, must adjust the boom and nozzles so as to thoroughly coat the leaves with spray. The nozzle arrangement should be changed for each application to keep pace with the plant growth. Machines have a tendency to lose pressure at the ends of the rows, with the result that the plants in these areas are not properly sprayed. This is remedied by skipping every four rows going one way and spraying these on the return trip. In this way the sprayer covers sufficient distance on the turn to maintain the pressure.

To correspond with the weekly tobacco rations for men, the purchase at Wandsworth, England, will issue candy to the women.

A fleet of airplanes, twice as large as those already in use and capable of carrying 40 passengers each, will be added to the India air mail route.

Radio fans in Wellington, N. Z., recently heard a nightingale sing in England.

Wild Plants Of P. E. Island

XXVIII. UMBELLIFERAE

Hairy Sweet Cicely, Osmorhiza Claytoni (Michx.) Clarke. (M:612).

Spotted Combane, Musquash Root, Cicutula maculata L. (M:614).

Bulbiferous Cowbane, Cicutula bulbifera L. (M:614).

Caraway, Carum Carvi L. (M:614).

Water Parsnip, Sium cicutae-folium Schrank. (M:615).

Scotch Lovage, Ligusticum Scoticum L. (M:618).

Parsnip, Pastinaca sativa L. (M:620).

Cow-paranip, Heracleum lanatum Michx. (M:621).

Angelica; Angelica atropurpurea L. (M:622).

Wild Carrot, Daucus carota L. (M:623).

XXIX. ARALIACEAE

Spikenard, Aralia racemosa L. (M:606).

Bristly Sarsaparilla, Aralia hispida Vent. (M:606).

Wild Sarsaparilla, Aralia nudicaulis L. (M:606).

XXX. CORNACEAE

Bunchberry, Figeon Berry, Cornus canadensis L. (M:624).

Round-leaved Dogwood, Cornus circinata L'Her. (Bain, not M:624).

Red Osier Dogwood, Cornus stolonifera, Michx. (M:624).

Alternate-leaved Dogwood, Cornus alternatifolia Lf. (M:625).

XXXI. CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Bush Honeysuckle, Diervilla lonicera Mill. (M:754).

Mountain Fly Honeysuckle, Lonicera caerulea L. (1:755).

American Fly Honeysuckle, Lonicera canadensis Marsh. (M:755).

Snowberry, Symphoricarpos racemosus Michx. (M:757).

Twin-flower, Linnaea borealis L. var americana (Forbes) Rehder. (M:757).

High-Bush Cranberry, Viburnum Opulus L., var americanum (Mill.) Ait. (1:758).

Arrow-wood, Viburnum acerifolium L. (Bain:759).

White-Rod, Viburnum castnoides L. (M:760).

Larger White-Rod, Viburnum nudum L. (Bain, in error? 760).

Common Elder, Sambucus canadensis L. (1:761).

Red-berried Elder, Sambucus racemosa L. (M:761).

(To be continued)

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With 46,000 meshes in a single roll of fox netting, you will realize the security and protection that is given by PRINCE EDWARD fox Netting, with EVERY MESH SIX TIMES STRONGER THAN THE ORDINARY—every mesh solder-sealed into an immovable, time and weather resisting safeguard for your foxes.

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Ranchers have dug up PRINCE EDWARD wire, in use 13 years, and found it good as the first day it was used. PRINCE EDWARD is specially made for the salt-laden atmosphere of the Maritime Provinces, and is superior to the ordinary as safety is superior to risk. USE PRINCE EDWARD and save future regrets.

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R. T. Holman, Ltd., Summerside.

Hayes, McKay & Sharp, Tyne Valley.

J. H. Myrick & Co., Alberton.

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