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GARDEN NOTES.**SUMMER SPRAYING.**

Early in the spring months mildew becomes prevalent, more especially upon apple trees, attacking the undeveloped leaves. The damage this disease causes upon young apple trees at this season of the year if left unchecked is enormous. Those who grow apples to any extent should seriously attend to the keeping down of mildew.

Trees planted in an open, sunny, and airy position are rarely affected to any alarming extent. Trees in cold, damp, and shady positions—places where cold currents of air are prevalent—are always more liable to this disease than those in open situations.

Bordeaux mixture is the best for spraying to eradicate mildew. The summer formula is 4lb sulphate of copper, 4lb fresh rock lime, 40 gallons of water. Dissolve the sulphate of copper in 20 gallons of water; slake the lime slowly, and make up to 20 gallons; strain this milk of lime into the solution of sulphate of copper, stirring briskly whilst adding the one to the other. Sulphate of copper is easily dissolved in hot water. Where only a few trees are kept it will not be necessary to make the full amount, but care must be taken to use the proper proportions. Badly-affected trees will require two or three sprayings, about 15 days between each spraying. This is also an excellent spray for apple and pear scab, shot-hole fungus in apricots and plums, rust attack on peaches and plums, and also peach curl or blister.

THE CODLIN MOTH.

The moths appear early in November, and the females lay their eggs on the blossom or in the eyes of the fruit. The caterpillars hatch out and at once commence to bore towards the centre. When fully grown the caterpillars bore a way out, find suitable hiding-place, spin cocoons about themselves, and in time turn into pupae, from which moths emerge in due course. Bands of sacking folded and securely bound round the tree stems near the ground (after all loose bark has been scraped off) are very useful as traps, as they cause ascending and descending caterpillars to hide and collect in them. The traps should be frequently examined and the pests destroyed. Spraying the trees with paris green immediately the blossom has fallen and before the fruit turns down is a good remedy, whilst all fallen apples should be cleared away as soon as possible.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Take every advantage after rain to earth up potatoes. It often happens that the ground is of such a nature that it is almost impossible to do this work satisfactorily when very dry, therefore take every opportunity of doing this whilst the ground is workable, for it makes a vast difference to a crop of potatoes whether moulding be properly done or half-done. This should be done before the tops are too large, as the less injury the tops get the better crop will be produced.

There is still time to sow onions for winter use, if this has not already been done. Though they will not be so large, they become large enough for ordinary kitchen purposes; indeed, medium-sized tubers keep longer, and will probably come in after autumn-sown ones are past in the spring, which is a great consideration where they have to be supplied nearly all the year round. Make the ground rich by deep digging and manuring, and make it very smooth and level by raking and treading. Firm it must be for good, sound tubers cannot be procured upon loose soil. If the ground be loose, they grow rapidly enough, but all to neck, like a young leek. Autumn-sown onions should have occasional waterings during dry weather. Thin out spring-sown ones before they get too large.

Keep down weeds. Thin out such crops as turnips, carrots, onions, etc. Transplant cabbage and cauliflower, and sow for succession peas and French beans. When these have been badly blackened with frost it is as well to sow again at once, for they very rarely recover sufficiently to be of much good. Marrows also will not stand sharp frosts, and it will be advisable if these are badly touched to replant them also.

Plant out leeks in trenches as for celery, and give a good soaking immediately after planting. Dig in good manure in the trenches, but do not tread the soil. Plant deeply, and cut off just a small amount from the tips of the leaves when planting. This strengthens the plant by diverting the sap into other channels.

Stake runner beans. Drive in long sticks on either side of the row, and they are made more steady if tied at the top. The plants are also the better of a little earthing up on either side to form a kind

of channel. This tends to retain moisture longer, and keeps the roots cooler. They are very much the better of a good soaking during dry weather.

Early-sown broad beans that are setting or have set the first lot of beans should have the extreme points of each stem pinched off. By this means a better crop is secured.

Sow for succession lettuce, radish, mustard and cress.

Pasture Notes.**MANURING FOR POTATOES.**

The potato needs to be rightly fertilised if maximum yields are to be harvested. Only a well-balanced fertiliser can be relied upon to produce the best result. There are two broad classes of fertilisers which concern the farmer, namely, natural and artificial. In order to produce maximum crops economically, it is desirable that a favourable amount of vegetable matter be present in the soil, and that it be supplemented by applications of a well-balanced artificial fertiliser suited to the requirements of the particular crop it may be intended to grow. It is essential also if full crops are to be marketed that the land be sufficiently drained, and that it contain a fair proportion of lime. If these conditions are not fulfilled, fertilisers, whether natural or artificial, however judiciously chosen, can never be fully effective.

Natural fertiliser is the product resulting from decayed vegetable and animal matter, including stock excreta. It may be regarded as the oldest and most effective fertiliser and soil improver. Virgin lands are usually well endowed with abundant supplies. If, however, unfertilised crops are removed from them for a number of years, their original store becomes considerably depleted until a stage is reached when it becomes necessary, if they are to retain their full crop-producing power, to adopt a system of cropping and fertilising which will ensure a favourable amount being maintained in them.

A farmer cropping intensively can ensure this by periodically applying dressings of dung and compost, or under certain circumstances, by ploughing in quick-growing green crops such as certain legumes. On the other hand, a farmer cultivating extensively can bring about the same condition by growing crops and feeding them off sufficiently often by stock. A system of farming where feeding off is practised is not nearly so exhaustive as where all crops are removed from the land, and sold on the farm. Moreover, by such practice considerable quantities of fertilising material accumulate in the soil which, supplemented by suitable dressings of artificial fertilisers, will enable future crops to be grown profitably.

The fertilising elements most usually deficient in soils are nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, hence fertilisers containing these in more or less concentrated forms have been placed on the market. Those in which either particular element predominates are known as nitrogenous, potassic, and phosphatic fertilisers respectively. Having regard to the special requirements of crops grown under different conditions of soil and climate, a fertiliser should be balanced in respect to each element. If such is not the case, maximum yields cannot be recorded. In instances one only of the three needs to be applied, while in others two or all may be necessary. The farmer himself can easily determine whether it will be profitable or not to omit any one from the natural dressing. In order to do this all he has to do is to omit fertiliser supplying any one of these from the manurial dressing, and observe the behaviour of the particular crop towards the respective dressing. Different manurial dressings can be compounded for the potato crop. The three following examples may be given.

It is fully recognised that this dressing is costly and that possibly some of these manures are not procurable. With these conditions it must remain with the discretion of the farmer to decide on the extent of the use of the fertilisers that may be applied. The dressings that may be suggested are:—

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| No. 1. | | | |
| Superphosphate | ... | ... | 4cwt. |
| Sulphate of ammonia | ... | ... | 1cwt. |
| Sulphate of potash | ... | ... | 1cwt. |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| No. 2. | | | |
| Superphosphate | ... | ... | 2cwt. |
| Bonedust | ... | ... | 2cwt. |
| Sulphate of ammonia | ... | ... | 1cwt. |
| Sulphate of potash | ... | ... | 1cwt. |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| No. 3. | | | |
| Phosphatic guano | ... | ... | 3cwt. |
| Superphosphate | ... | ... | 1cwt. |
| Sulphate of ammonia | ... | ... | 1cwt. |
| Sulphate of potash | ... | ... | 1cwt. |

Each of these can be mixed in the proportions stated, and at the rate of 2 to 8 cwt. applied an acre. The smaller

quantity may be applied to the potato on rich land, while the larger amount may be given for the same crop on poor soils. For soils of intermediate quality an amount somewhere between the smaller and higher quantities may be given, depending on whether the land approximate more nearly to the richer or poorer quality.

IRISH WIT AND HUMOUR.

Casey—"Oi see there's bin another rail road wreck due to an open switch."

Cassidy—"Ay, 'tis a pity some wan don't invint a switch thot'll stay shut when it's open."

Doctor—"Now that you are convalescing you make take a little animal food."

Patient—"No, sir. Oi dhrank your grool all right, but Oi'll be don'd if Oi can chew your sthraw."

"Moving again, Casey?" asked Murphy, as Casey came out of the gate with a wash-tub tightly clasped in his arms and trailing a mirror behind him.

"Yes," moaned the afflicted man, mopping his perspiring brow; "I'm going to leave this hole."

"What for? Don't you like the neighbourhood?"

"Oh, no, not that; the neighbours are all right."

"Water not good, maybe?"

"No better can be found."

"The rent hasn't been raised, has it?"

"No. That's the reason I'm going to seek another house."

"What?" exclaimed the surprised Murphy; "moving from a place because the rent has not been raised. Surely you don't object to that, Casey?"

"No, I do not," sadly replied Casey, as he started back for the kitchen set of furniture; "but the landlord does—you know."

An Irish couple, whose married bliss was not without a few "squalls," received a homely lecture from their spiritual adviser, regarding their disgraceful quarrels.

"Why, that dog and cat you have agreed better than you."

The reply somewhat upset him:

"... yer riverence'll tole them tighther, ye'll soon change yer mind."

Sportanan—"Is there much good hunting in these parts, my good man?"

Native—"Sure, there's plenty hunting, but dommed little finding."

"Michael," said his employer, "you are looking very rocky this morning."

"Yes, sor," replied the driver of the delivery wagon. "O've a bad headache. Oi was at the christening last night, sor, an' the kid was the only one in the crowd that took water."

As a gentleman was stepping from his carriage in Harrisburg to take the train for Philadelphia his coachman said: "The oats are getting low, sir."

"Very well," said the gentleman; "you telephone Miller and Jones to send up some."

Mike went to the telephone, when the following conversation took place:

"Is this Miller and Jones?"

"Yes."

"Will you send up six bags of oats, and hurry up with 'um."

"All right, who are they for?"

"Arrah, now, don't you get gay—for the horses, to be sure," and Mike rang off.

Murphy—"What would you do if you woke up some fine morning and found that you had inherited ten thousand dollars?"

Casey—"I'd just roll over and try to dream it over again."

Nora—"Phat time shall I be lookin' for ye to call this evening, Terry dear?"

Terry—"Phat time do the old man be afther puttin' on his slippers?"

Hoolihan—"Phwat's the matter wid ye, Curran?"

Curran—"It's the hay fever Oi hov."

Hoolihan—"An' how did yez get it?"

Curran—"From shlapin' on a straw bed, av course. Any onld fool'd know thot."

"Really, Mrs O'Toole," said Mrs Naybor, "you should send little Denis to the kindergarten."

"Phwat koinid av a thing is that?" demanded the contractor's wife.

"Kindergarten? Oh! that's simply German for—"

"Enough said, ma'am. Oi'll hov no Dutch in moine, thank ye kindly ma'am."

Mr Asquith has stated that the only hope for Ireland is complete and unrestricted government.

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