WHENCE COMES POTATO FLAVOR?

Is It from the Soil, the Seed or the Fertilizer?

1. Does the flavor of potatoes depend much upon the soil in which they are grown? 2. What kind of soil produces the finest and what the poorest flavored potatoes? 3. Does an excess of water in the soil injure the flavor of potatoes? 4. Is a potato ever poorly flavored that cooks "dry and mealy?" 5. Can experts recognize familiar varieties of the potato by their flavor? The foregoing queries were recently answered in The Rural New Yorker. J. J. H. Gregory, of Essex county, Mass., said: 1. Yes, to a degree. 2. Wet muck or heavy clay is the poorest; land with some clay the best. 3. Yes. 4. Yes; sometimes they have a disagreeable scurvy taste. Mealy potatoes certainly vary in flavor; the old Chenango was typically good.

Professor Goff, of the University of Wisconsin, replied: "For some time I held the opinion that the flavor of potatoes is chiefly dependent upon their starch content, and that the more starch and the less water they contain the milder and more agreeable their flavor. Recently, however, samples of potatoes were submitted to me for trial upon the table. They cooked fairly dry, and were decidedly flaky when baked, and the flesh was of a pure white color, but to my surprise the flavor was decidedly bad. There was no indication that it had been observed from anything else, because there was a carload of the lot, and I was informed that they all had the same peculiar earthy flavor which caused them to be rejected by all who had sampled them. I was unable to learn their history. The variety was not certainly known, but they had been bought for Beauty of Hebron, and there was something in their appearance to deny this. Mr. F. A. Hechner, a very intelligent potato specialist of Manitowoc, Wis., tells me the flavor of potatoes is not necessarily dependent upon their starch content, and that tubers produced from seed are always inferior in flavor for the first generation or two, though their starch content is as high the first year from seed as it ever is, under the same conditions. I believe it is perfectly well established that the quality of potatoes of the same variety grown on different soils is often very different; but I had until recently believed that the variation was chiefly due to differences in the water supply of the soil, which produced a corresponding variation in the starch content."

The statements made by Professor Voorhees, of the New Jersey experiment station, were highly interesting and instructive, whether considered from a practical or scientific point of view. It is found that both manures and fertilizers increase the water content of the tuber, that the form of potash used influences both the water and starch contents, kainit giving the most water and least starch; next come yard manure, muriate and finally sulphate of potash, the last giving the highest content of starch accepting only the tubers raised without manure of any kind. As to quality, the difference in flavor was marked. Those raised with sulphate were decidedly superior to all others; those from yard manure next, from the muriate next, and finally those from the kainit raised lowest. As to yield, it appears that muriate stood first, sulphate next, kainit next and yard manure last.

The Cause of Hogs and Their Cure.

This disease consists, at least so far as actual symptoms extend, in a number of small worms which infest the windpipe and cause the chicken to gape for breath. If taken early it will be sufficient to give every day a moderate dose of camphor gum the size of a grain of wheat, and to put camphor in the drinking water, or a little turpentine may be given daily in meal. In fully developed cases the worm must be removed. There are various ways of accomplishing this, the most usual one, perhaps, being the introduction of a feather stripped almost up to the top into the windpipe, turned round and drawn out. Some persons oil the feather. One authority advises swabbing it with a solution of twenty grains of carbolic acid and one ounce of glycerine. Another plan is to make the infected bird inhale the vapor of carbolic acid by placing a few drops on a red hot shovel, and holding the bird in the fumes until it is nearly suffocated. Another plan is that of placing the chicks in a box, covering the top with a piece of muslin and blowing the fumes through the cloth. The chick breathes the fumes, and as it comes in contact with the worms these are dislodged by the coughing of the chicks.

Except when communicated by others, pupils never come unless there has been foul water, exposure to wet and want of nourishing food. A frequent occurrence of pupa, therefore, is a sure sign of poorly cared. If cleanliness and carbolic acid disinfection are ...ly practiced pupa will be unknown.

Rolling the Soil.

At the Wisconsin experiment station, according to Professor King's report on rolling an unrolled land, 1. Rolling raises the temperature as one and a half inches below the surface from 1 to 9 degs. Fahr. warmer than similar unrolled ground in the same locality, and at three inches 1 to 4 degs. warmer. 2. Rolling land, by firming the soil, increases its power of drawing water to the surface from below, and the influence has been observed to extend to a depth of three feet. 3. The evaporation of moisture is more rapid from rolled than from unrolled ground, unless the surface soil is very wet, and then the reverse is true, and the drying effect of rolling has been just to extend to a depth of four feet. 4. In cases of broadcast seeding grass, rolling is more rapid and complete on rolled than on unrolled land.

Where Hops First Came In.

It was in the very early portion of the Eighteenth century that the hop perfumed ale. The cities were not settled, but there was a kind of public drinker established in a town, the better planted, the ellow among reflick. In this no end of a black silk petticoat having a red and white calico under it, three cornered hat trimmed with lace and ribbon, a red and dove colored damask gown, flowered with large flowers, a yellow with green, trimmed with white Persian silk. The ribbed petticoat and flowered gown dates from about 1720 to 1730, when Mr. Pitt brought in the petticoat, with wire powder out of fashion. Hair powdering came into existence for with the introduction of the hops perhaps at the Restoration. Hops and malt were worn in George I's reign—1714-1724—and it was in George II's time—1727-1760—that the much powered fashions were introduced, and men and women dressed as shepherds and shepherdesses.—Arthur Hall in London Queen.

Are Women Cruel?

A woman is not usually supposed to be cruel. Still, facts are against the assumption that she is not. Her friends was sure to be down when the gladiator looked up to the tiers of the millionn for the verdict of the people, her shoot was always from when the gladiator and the bull placed on the earth together.

It is more commonly to speak of her as "gentle," but, enforcing in pain, suffering recreated on tragedy, it is woman and not man who shows the lasting power after all. History has proved her pitiless, has proved her the originator of many crimes at which men would shrink, and be able to look on at sights at which the stranger are would cringe; still it has been and of man that she is selfish and hard, and the cruelty most cruel.

The man which brought this to mind was of a man who, on his deathbed, was, in spite of the pleading of his physicians, deprived of the soothing influences of an opiate because his wife wished him to have the full sense that he might complete her when he died. He had been ill for a long time and was dying a lingering death of terrible suffering. All hope that he would be helped was gone. It was the question of a few hours, and the humane doctors were in favor of easing these last moments of pain. His wife refused, on the ground that he might be sight without recognizing her at the last.—Boston Home Journal.

The Wife's Obedience.

While denominations of Christians have dropped the word "obey" from the marriage service. The great Roman Catholic church never had it inserted, and even in the Episcopal church it is occasionally omitted—I have personally known several instances, or which omitted, it is usually explained by the parties concerned, or even by the clergymen, as a thing to be taken with a mental reservation. Two things have contributed to this—the constant increase in the number of women who earn incomes of their own, and the vast progress of the higher education. Either of these experiences very soon expands the wings of a strong feminine nature, and a relation to the husband is thenceforth impossible. It is out of the question to give women equal education and equal property rights and yet keep her in the position attributed to the sex, when her earnings belonged to her husband, and when the law denied her the safeguard called "pin money" on the ground that it was not responsible she could read or write.—Harper's Bazar.

How Mrs. Lincoln Set the Table.

Talking about the queer ways of women, of all queer women and changeable the most queer and changeable Lincoln, as everybody knows, was the most so. No one could or meant for her needs; they were as variable as the wind. Here is a story told about her by Senator Palmer, of Illinois:

"She was a queer woman," said he, "but none to her now. She was a good one when and we all more or less crazy, the best of us.

"It was way back in the time when I was managing the state for Douglas against Lincoln, where Abe and I met in Douglas home town. Nothing would do but Abe must have me come to his home to dinner. I went, of course. Mrs. Lincoln met us in the parlor.

"'Mary, my dear, here's the fellow that's trying to keep me out of office. Choke him on a real Illinois dinner, will you?' he said, in his chaff, hearty way.

"I knew Mrs. Lincoln, and I saw right away she was moody. She greeted me stiffly, and shortly after called to the dinner. When we sat down to Lincoln's table she looked around and his face clouded; only an instant, however.

"Every dish on that table was cracked or broken! There wasn't a whole or respectable plate on the cloth. The table was usually beautifully spread, but it looked now as if the plates had been rummaged for old baking dishes and damaged ones of all kinds.

"But the dinner was good enough, and after that brief cloud Old Abe's good, homely face beamed as if the best china had been brought out for the occasion. He laughed, joked, told stories, and made everything so pleasant that we had no time to think of the spread. I forgot to say there were other political friends of his there, but though he must have felt as mortified, he never betrayed it by apology or otherwise."—Louisville Post.

Just Like a Woman.

"We went up to look at our new nest last week," said the tall man, as he whittled a metals into a toothpick.

"Yes?"

"Wife has been wanting to get into a larger nest, and as the Jackdaws were getting to have the big house on the hill, I thought I would attend a little surprise and please her. She's been aching to get into that house for years."

"She's tickled with the place, of course?"

"Well, no; she's talked about that house for a year—about the view and the trees, but we never imagined it must be. You know we weren't acquainted with the Jackdaws. When we got the key last week and went up to look the house over, what do you think she did? Went to the windows for the view and look at the decorations? Well, not much! She just plunked down on her knees and peeked under the sick and around the mopboards for fifteen minutes.

"After a while I managed to get her up to the north window for a look over across the lake, but she was only near enough to carelessly accept on the scenery, and then she turned and glared again at the corners of the room. Finally, I didn't that a hundred times! She fairly withered me. 'Husband!' It's the neatest, dirtiest house I ever did see, and I'm a good maid as I ever had to out not to have a step into it. I always did say that I didn't believe that Mr. Jackdaw was much of a housekeeper, and I want you to just look under the pantry shelves. Catch me scheming up for women!

"Now, isn't that just like a woman?"—Lewiston Journal.

Selecting Commercial Fertilizers.

The approximate market value of the different brands of fertilizers, says Director Goessmann, of the Massachusetts Experiment station, can be ascertained by the respective agricultural value—that is, their crop producing value—for the higher or lower market price of different brands of fertilizers does not stand in a direct relation to their particular value, without any reference to the condition of the soil to be treated and the special wants of the crops to be raised by their assistance.

To select judiciously we ought to feel confident, first, that the particular brand contains the guaranteed quantities and qualities of essential plant food at a reasonable cost, and second that it contains them in such form and such proportions as will best meet existing circumstances and special wants.

While the above will be quite generally accepted as true, it still remains to be remembered that nothing will be found more difficult than for the average farmer to select a fertilizer with reference to some supposed special wants of his soil. This can only be determined satisfactorily by actual experiments, and in the absence of such trials it will be found safer to use such as contain in proper proportions all the necessary elements of plant food.

Peer Niagara.

There is one international park in the world, shared amicably between two nations, each of which maintains its own side of this magnificent pleasure ground. The park is at Niagara Falls. One hundred and seven acres of it are on the American side of Niagara river at the falls, and 154 acres are on the Canada side. The state of New York bought the ground from private owners for nearly a million and a half dollars, and Canada did the same on her side for about $337,000.

The tourist can therefore now visit this mighty natural wonder free of charge. Formerly every visitor was taxed a dollar's toll. Over half a million persons go to the American side of Niagara every year. The New York Park commissioners have done much to improve the place.

In one way scarcely less wonderful than the falls itself is the finesse by which the power that will bring to Niagara in time probably the most stupendous manufacturing interests this ever entered in one spot.

Nearly one cubic mile of water falls over the abyss at Niagara every week. If this immense water power could be harnessed and driven for the use of man, what could be not accomplish with it? This has been the idea of manufacturers for years and at length the idea has taken practical shape and is nearing completion. The hydraulic tunnel, 100 feet deep, begins just below the Suspension bridge, and is cut through solid rock around in a circuit up to a mile above the falls. When completed it will furnish the equal of 120,000 horse power. By July 1, 1892, the mills run by water from this hydraulic tunnel are expected to begin operations. Then things will hum at Niagara.

Dear Me, How Shocking!

It is well known that in most cities and many of the large towns of the Union good and rich ladies in high life have established homes for working women, where for a consideration smaller than that paid at the average city boarding house the working women can get food, lodging, "There are gentlemen in these homes. Of course, say the ladies, rules are necessary, when one brings together a number of girls and women from the working classes. Wherever else they lack, therefore, these homes are well supervised. It is naturally supposed that the hearts of the working women go out in gratitude to the good and rich ladies who thus establish homes for them. But hear how a writer in the New York Recorder "goes for" the working women's homes. It is enough to draw tears from eyes unused to weep:

In all the principal cities of the west there are established homes or clubs for working women where the price of living is much cheaper than in ordinary boarding houses, many and more being willing more than twenty dollars a month for board and lodging. But one does not find in these home clubs the best type of the independent self-supporting American girl. Well to be some charitable, they have a flavor of charity which an independent woman does not relish, they are hampered by numerous rules and are generally under the vigilant eye of some strait laced, domineering matron.

The women who finds at these are usually a melancholy set; they mope about their rooms after work hours, or assemble in the drawing parlor. The people interested with the housing invariably select slippery, hard, uncomfortable chairs in semicircle shapes, with a grounding carpet, apparent or two of some hideous, and perhaps a few cheap chromos of a conventional pattern. The most not, except the piano, where there is always a doubtful looking girl laboriously picking with one hand "Rock of Ages," or some similar tunes.

Requirements of the Celery Plant.

For growing celery, the New York World says the main requisite is a good soil—one deep and mellow enough to produce a fair crop of corn. Gardeners often select the land cleared from an earlier crop that has been well fed with fertilizers. Celery may be planted on land grouped if the soil is rich and mellow. When the soil needs some fertilizer, it may be upon furrows with a plow about four feet apart, and fill in with fine, well rotted yard manure or compost.

In the northern states gardeners begin setting out celery plants in July, and for winter use in August. The plantseed in July will be ready to be earthed up in September. Surrounded with good varieties are the White Plume, Golden Self Blanching, Giant Pascal, Kalamazoo, Boston market, etc.

Training and Trimming Tomatoes.

At the Kentucky station a trial was made with a dozen plants, each of a few well known varieties of tomatoes, to test the effect of different modes of trimming and training. The trimming consisted simply in cutting off five or six of the terminal branches at blossoming time. It was found that the vines that were trimmed and framed produced the largest and most ripest fruit. Vines that were trimmed and left lying on the ground produced the largest fruit in size, but unsound. Vines that were not trimmed and left lying on the ground produced an abundance of fruit of small size and unsound vines. Vines that were trimmed and not trimmed produced an abundance of sound fruit, but small.

Lasting Gate Posts.

"Some years ago," writes a Virginia farmer to Southern Planter, "a man took up some gate posts which had been in the ground seventy years, and he said they were perfectly sound. They were common pine posts, and were skinned to the sapwood, while partially dry, and left until the turpentine had come out and formed a complete cement, and were then cut and fired. The tops of such posts will have to be covered to protect them from the action of the weather."

Feeding Fertilizers Automatically.

The consumption of purchased and shavings is assuming effects a great economy in feed. While sawdust is easily handled the larger chips from planers are not so readily disposed of, and are often so bulky that if manipulated in the ordinary way much labor is entailed. An ingenious mode of overcoming this difficulty has been introduced, consisting of a system of ventilation and bolter fitting that removes all the chips and dust from the machines, transports them to a special building and thence carries a supply to the bolters. The whole system is entirely automatic, and is under simple and perfect control.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

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Is but what is needed. Read what is said by Mr. G. Plimpton, 413 Bridge Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.: "I take Hood's Sarsaparilla as a spring tonic, and I recommend it to all who have that miserable tired feeling."

"Perhaps I was not every spring, but last year was. Hood's Sarsaparilla in February and have not seen a sick day since." G. W. Shaub, Milton, Mass.

That Tired Feeling

Is a dangerous condition due directly to impoverished or impure blood. It should not be allowed to continue, as to be debility the system is exposed to attacks of serious sickness or disease. It is remarkable how beneficial Hood's Sarsaparilla is in this enervating state.

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