IN THE GARDEN.

Hand Hoes of Various Shapes—A Portable House for Tools and Seeds.

While trying all the while to make the wheel hoe take the place of the hand hoe in every possible case, we have not yet learned to dispense entirely with the latter. But in order to do good work we need good hoes, suited to the special purpose or to the individual performance or peculiarities of the user. In the first place, let us understand, writes T. Greiner, in American Gardening, that it is waste of time and effort to use a clumsy or dull, warped hoe, such as is shown at B. The profitable hoe is shown at A. It is a new and sharp one, hoed at the right angle and fastened to a light but strong and elastic handle. Keep the blade bright and sharp and you will feel pleasure in its use. A reader in Michigan, J. F. Gillet, suggests transformation B. The wide upper part of the blade is cut away, as shown. Any one can do that with a hammer and cold chisel. He says that he uses the hoe, thus remodeled, for every purpose that a hoe is used, except for tilling and covering seeds. Some gardeners would prefer transformation C, especially for weeding in rows of vegetables, for which purpose the sharp points come very handy.

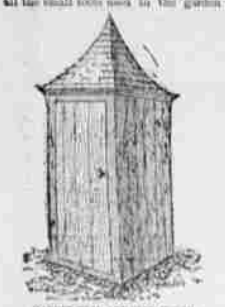
HOE TRANSFORMATIONS.

An old, warped hoe, D, with a most useless and aggravating thing in this shape, can easily be turned into an excellent weeding hoe by cutting down to the shape as appearing in E or as in F. Mr. Greiner always keeps a number of old hoes, thus transformed, on hand, and they serve an excellent purpose for stirring the soil and cutting out weeds among closely planted vegetables, especially among onions grown on the new plan.

Will Dunsell, in the journal already quoted, gives an illustrated description of a tool and seed house about which he says:

If one's garden is at all removed from his stable or outhouse, he is pretty sure to find the going back and forth from the garden to those buildings to get a fork or a rake, or some other tool that he has forgotten to take gardenward with him, to be something of a burden. Then there is running back and forth for seeds, and much trouble to return those articles to a safe place when night comes. A small, portable tool and seed house will be found an exceedingly convenient attachment to a garden, and the cost can be made comparatively at small expense, especially if it be located in the midst of some small shrubbery.

In such a house, square in shape, with a dishing roof, the sides being of matched boarding, glazed and painted, all the small tools used in the garden can be kept, while shelves are provided for the accommodation of seeds. A wheelbarrow can also be placed upright in such a house, as will be a supply of commercial fertilizer. A lock on the door keeps all safe. The carving of steps by such an arrangement will be appreciated when the convenience is at hand.



GARDEN TOOL AND SEED HOUSE.

SUMMER FOOD FOR LIVE STOCK.

Do Not Attempt to Fatten Animals in Hot Weather.

The secret of success with all live stock in summer is to keep them on a cooling diet. This is not the season for fattening, and the owner that attempts to force cow, steer, hog, sheep or chicken into a fat condition during the hot weather is running the risk of losing the creature. It does not necessarily follow from this that the animal must be kept at a standstill, for the old, oft repeated saying is true that the animals must be kept growing from the time they are born till they are laid in the slaughter house. This is true, but there is a difference between growing and growing fat. All of the young animals should be growing rapidly this summer, but growing in size, bulk, strength, bone and sinew and not in fat. The many breeders do not place sufficient emphasis upon the distinction between these terms.

Hogs fed on corn right through hot weather will be very apt to develop bowel troubles. The diet is too heating and fattening for their systems in summer. Poultry fed on grain, corn and chopped meat daily and given little else, will lay on such quantities of fat that they will quickly succumb to the effects of the heat. There is little danger of the sheep and cows suffering in this way, for they are so much generally on the grass fields and are compelled to pick up their living in this way. And, when you come to think of it, how very few summer diseases either the sheep or cows have! They are rarely sick, and it is seldom one loses either of them. Their diseases come chiefly in winter, when they are exposed to the inclement and severe weather. Now, in not the largely due to their cooling diet of green grass, brooks and vegetables? This keeps their blood cool and healthful, and their systems are not clogged up with unhygienic food.

The summer diet for all of the farm stock should be such as to make the animals grow and thrive well, but not to fatten them. The green grass, roots and vegetables are full of nutritious substances that will make the animals grow rapidly, and when a little grain is added to their daily ration they will lay on muscle and bone as well. Our grass diet costs and purifies the blood, and it cleanses the system so that stronger and healthier food can be digested with ease. A little grain should consequently be given in the summer to make bone and muscle, but the chief diet with the horse and chickens should be green truck.

Horses can stand this diet, too, although these enjoy a hard work most more grain than grass. Nevertheless our farm horses would be better off if they had a chance to eat more green truck and fodder in the summer. There is no better green fodder for a change than green cornstalks, and these should be planted every two weeks in the fields, so that a steady diet of them can be had right through the hot weather and well along in the autumn. The first season's growth of most of the stock is very important, and it will be made almost perfect if the animals are fed plenty of green food, with a small portion of coal, bran or grains.—E. P. Smith in American Cultivator.

The Alfalfa Cutworm.

In some sections the alfalfa cutworm is doing much damage. An alcohol lime mixed with fine coal dust or flour to modify its caustic quality has been suggested as a possible remedy. Spraying over the field just after a rain.

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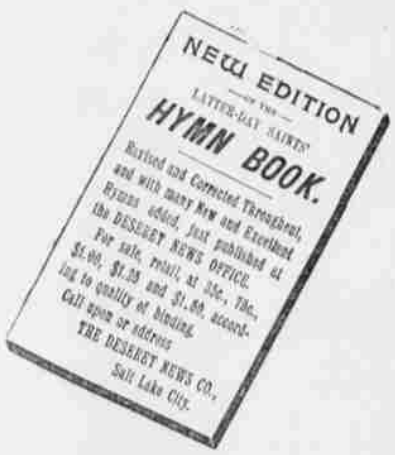

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