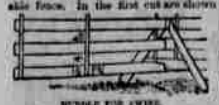
A PORTABLE FENCE.

A Fence That Can Be Used for Hurdles Gates, Dividing Pastures Lots, Etc.

We are indebted to Country Gentleman for the accompanying drawings of a portable fence. In the first cut are shown

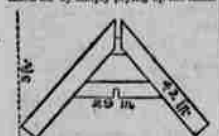


HURDLE FOR SWINE.

two sections coupled; in the second cut is illustrated a support for the same. Country Gentleman says:

This fence is the most durable and perfect that I have ever seen. Forty rods of it can be drawn at one load and put up by two men in an hour. In making the panels be sure and have the 2 by 3 uprights, to which the boards are attached at the ends, on different sides of the boards as shown in the cut. The 2 by 3 should extend one foot above the top board, so that in case the fence is used to inclose cattle or horses a wire can be run on top, and secured by driving an eightpenny wire nail about half its length in the top and turning it down over the wire.

By this arrangement the wire can be taken off by simply prying up the nails.



SUPPORT FOR SECTIONS OF HURDLE.

This fence is in constant use with us in fencing or dividing pasture lots, and in securing stacks from the stock.

Smut of Oats Prevented.

An experiment, conducted at the Ohio experiment station and just reported, in steeping oats in hot water indicates that by this method the greater portion of the loss from the smut of oats may be prevented. The process, briefly stated, is as follows: Have two vessels, in one of which water is kept warmed to about 130 degs. Fahrenheit, and in the other to as nearly exactly 133 degs. as possible. Have a basket of wire netting, or a loose splint basket covered with cloth. The water baths must be large enough to admit this basket. Fill the basket with seed grain and immerse it in the cooler bath, keeping it there and stirring it around until all the grains are warmed, then lift it out and plunge it into the hot bath, where it should remain from eight to ten minutes, being stirred or agitated meanwhile. Then remove it and dip it into cold water, or spread the grain out and throw cold water over it, after which dry it sufficiently for sowing.

The effectiveness of this method depends upon having the water hot enough to destroy the smut germs which may be adhering to the outside of the grains of oats, but not so hot as to destroy the germ of the oats. Experiment has demonstrated that this may be accomplished by soaking the grain in water of the temperature indicated. The reason for using two vessels is that if one vessel were used the water would be cooled too much by the cold grain to accomplish the purpose in view, or, if it were heated hot enough to do this, it would be so hot as to destroy the vitality of much of the grain.

Two Crops in the Orchard.

Many farmers endeavor to secure two crops from an orchard—fruit and grass—the result being that the grass robs the trees, while the trees in turn shade the grass and draw upon the land for their share. Some fruit trees, such as the peach, will perish in a single year if grass covers the ground of the orchard, and though such is not the case with apples and pears, yet the lessen from the condition of the peach tree under such conditions teaches that grass is at least a drawback. It may not be proper to force the young trees too rapidly at first, and it is true that an occasional grass crop plowed in has given beneficial results, but to keep an orchard as a pasture is to occupy the ground with undesirable fruit trees. An orchard should be kept neatly trimmed, well fertilized or manured and cultivated thoroughly at least once a year, says the Philadelphia Record.

Regrafting Old Apple Trees.

So long as a tree has a sound trunk it is worth taking the best of care of it, says American Cultivator, and this includes regrafting if the variety is unproductive or otherwise undesirable. On most old trees some free growing variety succeeds best, as it is less likely to run to wood than it is on its own stock. The check caused by failure of the old stock to supply enough sap for the graft dispenses it to fruit bearing. Thus with apples the Northern Spy graft on any old tree will bear in two or three years, while a young tree of this variety takes a very long time to come into bearing.

What Others Say.

A man of family who has land and will not grow some grape vines should be deprived of citizenship, says Popular Gardening.

Rural New Yorker advises trying a few hills of the Fordhook squash, as concurrent testimony ranks it as one of the best all year round varieties in cultivation.

Plowing and liming the poultry runs purifies the soil. It probably needs it.

The young broods will do better if placed on new ground, away from the old runs.

The sheep industry in the United States is rapidly changing from a wool to a mutton basis. This will give it a permanency.

Give cows bran, salt and fine meal. Too much dry and rich food will make rapy or stringy milk. Succulent foods will prevent this, says The Farm Journal.

Rust in Wheat.

To prevent rust in wheat Field and Farm advises the destruction of the spores of the rust fungus in both the soil and manure. This may be done by working the land in hot weather, burning off the stubble immediately after harvest and plowing deep, and by steeping the seed in a solution of vitriol and arsenic, drying it with wood ashes before sowing, and sowing but a half bushel of seed per acre—an amount that has been proved wholly adequate under proper conditions.

TRANSPLANTING CABBAGE PLANTS.

Directions Concerning an Operation of Importance to the Prospective Crop.

The best soil for cabbage is a rather sandy loam, not less than ten inches deep and with good drainage. A proper poverizing of the soil is important, and

PLANTING SPECIMEN CABBAGE PLANTS.

when it has been plowed the previous fall as much the better. Well rotted manure for early cabbage ought to be more broadcast.

It ought to be borne in mind that cabbage is a hardy plant, hence when wanted for an early crop may be set out in any section as soon as the soil is dry enough to work.

In the illustrations here reproduced from "How to Make the Garden Pay" are shown various ways of setting the plants. Greiner, the author, says on the subject:

Cabbages may be set either straight down or slanting, according to depth of surface soil and length of stalk. In either case roots will form all along the stems, and the heads will grow closely above the ground, instead of being held high up as if on stilts. The contrast between deep and shallow planting here illustrated speaks plainly in favor of the former. The advantage which deep feeding roots give to a plant by establishing a direct communication with the stratum of uninterrupted moisture is so great that some gardeners even prefer setting tall, spindling plants to short and stocky ones.

RESULTS OF DEEP AND SHALLOW PLANTING.

The Feeding Value of Grains.

Japanese buckwheat differs in no way as regards feeding qualities from our common buckwheat, and as buckwheat is an excellent grain for sheep when mixed with oats or rye, there can be no harm in using the Japanese variety for this purpose. As compared with corn and bran, it is of the least value for feeding, being deficient in fat, which is the most valuable part of the food. The feeding value per 100 pounds of buckwheat has been estimated at seventy-seven cents; wheat bran $1.01, and corn $1.11. Buckwheat, according to this estimate, is the least valuable of all the grains for feeding, and a bushel of it is worth only thirty-five cents for this purpose. It is probable that it could be sold for more than this, and thus could be better disposed of in this way.

But, writes Henry Stewart to Rural New Yorker, it should be said that in practice these theoretical feeding values are considerably modified by circumstances, especially by the mixture of foods, by which they become more digestible. In feeding buckwheat and corn ground together to sows with young pigs I obtained more growth of the young pigs than with as much corn meal alone. And in feeding corn, rye and buckwheat, whole, mixed in equal parts, to sheep, the ewes have done better and the lambs have grown better than with corn only. Then I consider buckwheat a sheep feed at the comparative value then above given. This is due to its effect in increasing the flow of milk, as well as to the better digestion of the mixed food. The nutritive ratio of the mixed grain is 1 to 6.3, which is a desirable one.

To Make Timothy Grass Permanent.

American Cultivator has the following to say about timothy: Timothy is perennial in habit, and unless attacked by the white grub there is no reason except lack of fertility and moisture why it should not remain in good mowing and pasturing condition for years. But as timothy roots are mostly near the surface they soon exhaust it and the timothy disappears, to be succeeded by weeds of coarser grasses. Sowing either red clover or alsike with timothy is a good way to make timothy hold in the soil longer. These die out after the second year, especially the alsike, and their decaying roots furnish pabulum for the timothy for two or three years. If coarse grass succeeds the timothy the soil probably needs to be undertrained.

Permanent Pastures.

In a paper read by John Boyd at a meeting of the Illinois Dairymen's association he named as mistakes almost universal in making permanent pastures the following: 1. Improper preparation of the ground. 2. Poor fertilization. 3. Sowing grass seeds with grain. 4. Seeding too thinly. 5. Sowing too few varieties. The last named is the most common and serious mistake of all. The custom of sowing two or three varieties, all of which mature about the same time, is the real secret of the failure of our pastures almost every season. They all start to grow at the same time, and so long as their season lasts they afford a good bite and the animals do well, but when eaten off, the pasture is about done for; there are no other varieties to take their places, and the consequence is, the animals suffer.

In making a permanent pasture Mr. Boyd advised a mixture of the greatest possible number of soluble grasses that will germinate and thrive in one soil and climate. He gave the following as a good mixture for northern Illinois: Twenty pounds orchard grass, five pounds blue grass, four pounds meadow foxtail, three pounds meadow fescue, two pounds rough stalked meadow, three pounds timothy, two pounds fall oat grass, two pounds red clover, two pounds alsike clover, four pounds crested dogtail, making in all forty-seven pounds per acre. Meadows should be constructed on exactly opposite principles from a permanent pasture—not that a meadow should not contain a suitable mixture of grass seeds, but that they should all mature at the same time.

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