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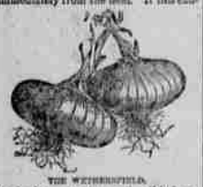
ONIONS.

Harvesting, Curing and Storing—Popular Market Varieties.

When the bulbs of onions growing for market have reached their full size and maturity, as indicated by the dying down of the tops, the crop is ready to be harvested. Pull the onions by hand or rake them out by means of a dull steel rake, taking great care to avoid cutting into them; then leave in windrows on the ground to cure. Afterward twist or cut off the remnants of the top and roots, if there be such, and try to sell the crop immediately from the field. If this cannot be done, store in a rather thin layer on a dry floor or loft until they can be disposed of. Greiner, from whose work on "How to Make the Garden Pay" we quote, does not advise the novice to attempt wintering even a part of the crop, as this is a task which involves risk even for the more experienced.



THE WETHERSFIELD.

Onion sets are also harvested when the tops begin to die down, either by lifting out with the onions and attachment of the Planet, Jr., wheelhoe or by raking in windrows five or six rows together, care being taken of course to get the roots well under the bulbs. They are left on the ground for two or three days to cure and then taken under shelter and spread out on a dry floor to be cleaned and cured. This is done by rubbing the bulbs between the hands to remove remnants of tops and roots and adhering soil or sand and by running through a fanning mill afterward. All bulbs that will not readily pass through a grain sieve with ½-inch meshes are too large for sets and should be sold or used for pickling onions. Another method of harvesting consists of running a large garden trowel lengthwise under the row, lifting up the bulbs with soil adhering to them and throwing into a small meshed sieve to sift out the sand and soil.

In storing for winter, the bulbs—sometimes mixed with chaff—are piled up four or five inches deep in a dry loft, there allowed to freeze and covered with a foot or so of straw or hay until spring. Or they may be stored in shallow open crates and protected from alternate freezing and thawing.

THE WHITE GLOBE.

The Wethersfield is the leading red market variety—large, coarse, solid to and exceedingly prolific; skin deep purplish red; flesh white, flavor strong; unsurpassed as a keeper, according to Greiner, who pronounces the White Globe the most popular white market sort. This is a beautiful silvery white in color and of perfect globe shape; large, prolific and reliable; should be cured in the shade, otherwise it is apt to become discolored; keeps well.

Winter Killing of Clover.

It is believed by the editor of Hoard's Dairyman that a great deal of the loss through so-called winter killing of clover comes from another cause—the allowing the clover to mature too far before cutting. He says: "Clover is a biennial plant—that is, it lives two years or until it seeds, and then it dies. The same root never seeds twice; hence it must die. The way to keep it alive and strong is to cut it before the formation of the seed in the head and cut it rather deep later in the season, say in September, cutting than also before any seed is formed. In this way the plant does not perform the purpose of nature and object of its life, which is the production of seed. As long as it is thwarted in this purpose the plant struggles to exist and is vigorous. There is great loss annually through the killing of clover, and whatever is caused by too late cutting can be remedied by paying attention to the laws which govern its life. Besides this, the farmer will have, if the clover is cut twice, from every acre a largely increased crop of better feeding value and a much more standfast meadow. We have seen clover fields that had been cut in this way for nine years with the profit all around. Two or three quarts of seed, sown early every spring before the frost is all out of the ground, is also a good thing."

WHEAT CULTURE.

Causes of Poor Crops—Suggestions About Marketing.

Sowing foul seed is one prime cause of sorry crops, according to a writer in Ohio Farmer, who expresses the follower opinions: "If all the foul seeds with our wheat were harvested by themselves and measured it would surprise most farmers. Yet this is not all, for it costs as much to sow and reap this foul growth, bushel for bushel, as it does the wheat, and robbed the soil of as much fertility, and, moreover, it must be got rid from among the wheat or make inferior flour, which will add another cost to the crop.

"A proper preparation of the soil is too much neglected by most farmers, and this adds another cause for poor crops. The thorough preparation of the soil before sowing is more necessary for wheat than most any other crops. All we can do to insure a good crop ends with the sowing of the seed. Cultivated crops may be planted on a poorly prepared soil and by after cultivation the soil put in order. But this cannot be done with a wheat crop. Moreover, the greatest enemy of the wheat crop is the freezing and thawing of winter, and a well prepared, compact seed bed enables the wheat to root down in firm solid earth and be less liable to be thrown out of the ground, and the very fine, mellow surface makes a quick growth, enabling the plant to grow sufficient blade to furnish protection to the root. But an impression in the seed bed would not only do all this, which would increase the yield in the end, but would require less seed, which would go into the thousands of bushels saved, and counting up profits it will be found more in what we save than in what we make.

"Another reason for poor crops in the farmers' hands are growing thin from excessive cropping and they dare not manure their land in any way. If the farmers would manure their land liberally with good stable manure or sow clover they would greatly increase their yield.

"Another point I wish to suggest to the reader is the marketing of their wheat. I believe many of our farmers sell their wheat at a disadvantage, and believe many times twenty-five cents more might be realized by having their wheat made into flour and sell it and feed the bran to their stock, and thus a good portion of the fertility would be returned to the soil. A little additional cost for a better quality of seed, a little more work in preparing the soil, the more liberal use of good manure, will return to the farmer an increased yield of wheat, and thus greatly enhance the profit of wheat growing."

Potash and Soda.

Dr. E. H. Jenkins says, in The New England Farmer, that a dressing of salt sometimes has a very marked effect on the following crop. The Rural New Yorker, commenting on the foregoing, says as also may an application of carbonate of soda. The same is true of coppers and other salts. But this does not prove or even indicate that these salts can in any way "replace" potash in the plant. They no doubt increase the solubility of the plant food in the soil. Both potash and soda are necessary to the plant. Neither can wholly replace the other, though the quantity of soda which is absolutely necessary is extremely small.

Chicken Cholera.

Shelter the affected birds from the sun and give every five hours a teaspoonful of castor oil, into which has been dropped five drops of henbane, until the diarrhea ceases; give soft, moist food, with cayenne pepper; this is a recipe in common use in this case, as in most others, however, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; keep the birds in clean, dry quarters, with plenty of clean, pure water to drink and food to eat, and there will be no diarrhea and consequent cholera.

An Economical Manger.

The food which most horses waste is a factor that adds largely to the cost of keeping them. Horses that are led about wasting their food should have a manger especially arranged for economy. The New England Homestead gives a cut of a manger for preventing waste, of which the use who planned it says:

The animal accustomed to take a mouthful and then turn his head will rarely turn far if he has to back before

PLAN OF MANGER.

doing it. With the manger boarded, as in Fig. 1, leaving just room enough for his ears; access to the feed, what grain is dropped he will find again. The upright boards should be nailed to the manger on its inner side. If the horse merely rests the cut food around, a good will prevent waste. This consists of an 8-inch board nailed to the manger, as in Fig. 2 at A. It will catch anything that is thrown up under it, and food dropped on it will roll back.

How to Obtain Oil of Rose Geranium.

Fill a wide mouthed bottle with fresh rose geranium leaves that have been gathered when dry, and pour in as much perfectly pure glycerin as the bottle will hold. Cork it securely and keep in a warm place for several weeks, when it will be ready for use. It is good for the bath, also for rough or chapped skin.

How to Remove Paint Stains from Floors.

Soak the stains with benzine or turpentine for a short time, then rub with emery paper or pulverized pumice stone.

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