

## TESTING SUGAR BÉET SEED.

Upon It Rests Ability of Roots to Produce Maximum Quantity of Sugar.

Testing the roots is one of the most important steps in the production of beet seed, since the value of the seed depends not only upon its quality from the standpoint of germination, but also upon the ability of the roots produced to store a maximum quantity of sugar with a minimum quantity of salts. With our present knowledge of seed production the standard of high grade seed can be maintained only by the most careful and rigid testing and elimination of all roots that are not of a satisfactory quality. Having selected roots of suitable size and shape, a typical core is removed by means of a drill which is passed through the beet at an angle, as shown in the illustration. This core is tested for sugar by the usual polariscopic methods. The ability of a seed grower to maintain high quality in the root is one of the most important conditions in the establishment and maintenance of the beet seed industry, says the year book of the department of agriculture.

There is a great deal of confusion in the minds of plant breeders regarding the real purpose of the selection of the roots from the standpoint of sugar content. Careful observation would seem to indicate that breeding and selection for high sugar content have to do mainly with the elimination of those individual roots that will not respond readily to favorable conditions of soil and climate with respect to the formation and storage of sugar and the preservation and perpetuation of those roots that will respond to those conditions. High sugar content, therefore, does not seem to be a fixed character in the same sense as are color, form, etc., but will vary to a marked degree when the conditions of growth are changed. For example, seeds from the same plant when planted in different parts of the country have been known to produce roots having a difference of



SEED BEET SHOWING METHOD OF TESTING FOR SUGAR.

more than 7 per cent in the sugar content, while the shape, color and general habits of growth remained the same. The importance of selecting the seed for sugar content cannot be overestimated, and, because of the importance of this work and the difficulties attending it, sugar beet seed growing can be carried on successfully only with special equipment, by the exercise of the greatest care and consequently at considerable expense.

### Charcoal as a Fertilizer.

Charcoal has but little plant food, yet it usually shows results. It gives light soils a darker color, thus making them warmer. It also makes soils porous and increases their power to hold water. Charcoal is a fine absorbent for gases. When worked into the soil it will no doubt prevent the escape of some of the ammonia formed when organic substances decay. For these and other reasons charcoal will help, especially on light soils.—Rural New Yorker.

### FARM NOTES.

Few farmers know the names of one-tenth the weeds and grasses that grow on their farms. More knowledge in this direction would help.

When you give the boy a calf to raise don't pocket the money as soon as it is sold. That might teach the little fellow to be dishonest.

A prominent dairy journal declares that the dual purpose cow is a failure in the dairy herd. The dairy type cow is decidedly the most profitable.

It is better for both mare and colt for the latter to come in the spring. It is the natural growing season and causes less friction and hardship.

A hog that weighed 1,608 pounds alive and 1,336 pounds when dressed was recently slaughtered in England. It was a Jersey red boar, two and one-half years old.

Market products must be viewed from the buyer's side and not your own. You think to sell a two pound male chick is waste, but the customer will pay more than after he has had two of these odd little ones.

## THRASHING CUCUMBERS.

How Colorado Farmers Make Profit by Preparing Seed.

In eastern Colorado, where most vine crops grow "to perfection" on the irrigated lands, hundreds of cucumbers, cantaloupes and watermelons are reserved for seed by seed companies and by farmers who grow them for the seed houses. It is a common sight from the first of October to the first of December to see machines in the fields of cucumbers and melons thrashing them for their seed.

The growing of cucumbers for seed is considered very profitable, and often the owner clears from \$100 to \$150 an acre. While it is possible to sell the cucumbers to a canning factory, many farmers prefer to let them remain for seed, as the expense of gathering is not so great and the income an acre is nearly as much. The thrashing continues for only a short time and costs a moderate amount.

The cucumber thrasher is a peculiar looking machine. It is built on a wagon-like frame with great wide wheels and is drawn by two horses. At the rear of the machine is stationed the little two horse power gasoline engine which operates the machinery of the thrasher. Just in front of the engine is the crusher, which looks something like a common cider mill. It contains two iron rollers moving together and crushing the cucumbers as they pass between them.

Against the crusher is set the framework containing the real seeder. When the cucumbers are crushed they pass out into this large cylindrical seeder, the outer surface of which is a wire netting with meshes large enough to permit the seed to drop through into a vat below, but holding back the crushed cucumbers. As the cylinder slowly revolves the seeds drop through the netting into a box.

### SAVING THE PEACH CROP.

Uncle Sam Tells How to Cure "Black Spot" and Other Blights.

For years the peach brown rot has been recognized as a most destructive disease of stone fruits. This is a fungus disease, and it is widespread and very destructive to the peach crop. The loss which it inflicts on peach growers will easily average \$5,000,000 yearly. The loss to the peach crop of Georgia alone is estimated at \$1,000,000 a year.

Much work has been done with a view to discovering a satisfactory remedy for this trouble. Spraying with diluted bordeaux mixture has been most commonly recommended, but its injury to the foliage has made it unsatisfactory, since the remedy must be applied during the growing season.

The peach scab (often called "black spot") is another disease which seriously affects the peach crop in all sections east of the Rocky mountains, although not causing such serious losses as brown rot.

As the result of experimental work by the United States department of agriculture a cheap and simple remedy for this disease has been found in the self boiled lime sulphur wash. This can be applied during the growing season with very little danger of injuring the fruit or foliage, and it is very effective. Furthermore, by mixing arsenate of lead with the fungicide the curculio can be destroyed at the same time.

The department has just issued a bulletin describing the preparation and use of the remedy. This publication will be of great interest to peach growers in all sections and is supplied free for the asking.

### Keep the Pastures Clean.

The most important point regarding the preparation of waste lands for growing grass is the removal of the useless plants which now occupy them. The space occupied by weeds, briars and bushes cannot be occupied by grass, nor can the plant food used in the growth of these useless plants go into the growth of plants that live stock will eat, and thrive on. Our pastures must be cleared up and kept clean. Cheap or poor lands which are growing timber of value should be left to grow that crop, but lands which are now growing nothing of value should be made to furnish grazing for live stock if it can be done and come out even.

The first cost of cleaning up the land for pastures is considerable and must be regarded in the nature of a permanent investment, but when once cleaned up and set in grass the cost of maintaining it clean is small. This small expense, however, is none the less necessary. It is certain that cotton and corn, for instance, will not grow profitably on land occupied by other plants on which large sums are spent on cultivation to keep down weeds and grass, but farmers never will realize that grasses and other grazing crops must be growing plants in order to produce the most profitable returns.

The small courtesies sweeten life; the great enable it.

## THE SHEPHERD

Caring For the Newborn Lamb. If you find a lamb thoroughly chilled just after being born put him in a tub of warm water and pour a teaspoonful of gin in a pint of hot water down his throat. This will quickly put him on his feet.

Dipping Trough at Small Cost. A trough for dipping lambs can be made for very little expense, and no sheep raiser should be without one. A tank 12 feet long, 4 feet deep and 8 feet wide is big enough for lambs and grown animals.

Importance of Skin Color. Look at the ram's skin. Is it a bright cherry color? If not it should be. A bright cherry is a good indication of perfect health. If it is blue the ram is going out of condition. A white skin is ordinarily infected with parasites.

Don't Be Tempted by Prices. Don't be tempted to sell these ewe lambs just because you are offered a good price for them. Remember, if you sell your best your flock is only weakened thereby.

### PEA VINES PROFITABLE.

Some Farmers "Cure" and Sell Them as Hay or Silage.

Every one is familiar with the story that the packing houses make their big profits from the byproducts, from the materials that formerly were considered absolute waste. Some people know that the skim milk and buttermilk from creameries form an important source of revenue when utilized for the fattening of hogs and stock. Few persons, however, realize that the pea canning industry has an important byproduct in the vines and hulls.

In the early history of pea canning the vines were treated as a waste product, the disposal of which involved considerable trouble and expense. Usually the vines were thrown out in piles to rot and form a fertilizer, which was disposed of at small prices.

In recent years the pea vines have increased in importance until now the canning factories derive considerable profit from them. The vines are utilized for silage or fed to stock in a fresh state or cured for hay. According to the United States department of agriculture, they make a silage superior in value to corn silage.

For silage purposes the vines may be preserved in silos, as green corn is treated, or they may be put up in stacks in the open air. If the stacks are well constructed and tramped decay affects only the surface to a depth of a few inches.

For hay the pea vines are easily cured by spreading them out on sod land to dry, and pea vine hay is considered as good as clover hay, a price of from \$3 to \$5 per ton being realized at the factories for it. Both the hay and silage are excellent feeds for dairy cows and are satisfactory feeds for beef cattle, horses and sheep.

In some instances the vines are hauled away from the factory by the farmers who supply the peas. Usually, however, the factories make use of the pea vines to add to the profits of the pea canning business.

### Chastened.

A Wall street broker, turning the corner of Broad street, saw a friend coming down the steps which lead out of the office of a well known financier. This departing caller had a chastened and bored expression on his handsome face, and the Wall street broker inquired the cause. With thoughtful deliberation his friend replied: "I just have been experiencing the unconscious insolence of conscious wealth."—New York Press.

### Easier.

"Better take a hardwood table ma'am. It is the fashionable thing," the dealer said. "No," said the young woman; "baby will soon be old enough to hammer, and he never could drive a nail into hard wood. I'll take a plain pine table."—New York Journal.



### MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 12th of August, 1910, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week each way, between

### CAMBRAY and LINDSAY

from the 1st October next. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Cambray, Linden Valley and Lindsay, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector at Toronto.

G. C. ANDERSON, Superintendent.

Ottawa, 24th June, 1910.

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### NEWSPAPER LAW.

1. A post-master is required to give notice by letter (returning the paper does not answer the law), when a subscriber does not take his paper out of the office, and state the reasons for its not being taken. Any neglect to do so makes the postmaster responsible to the publisher for payment.
2. If any person orders his paper discontinued he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not. There can be no legal discontinuance until the payment is made.
3. Any person who takes a paper from the post-office, whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for the pay.
4. If a subscriber orders his paper to be stopped at a certain time and the publisher continues to send it, the subscriber is bound to pay for it if he takes it from the post-office. This proceeds upon the ground that a man must pay for what he uses.
5. Courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers and periodicals from the post-office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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No one but those who are afflicted with the dreadful kidney disease, knows what this means, and you who are afflicted will forget all about it in a few days if you are only wise enough to take FIG PILLS. FIG PILLS are guaranteed to cure you. If not, your money back. 25c. a box, at all leading drug stores

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