

TOP-WORKING OF OLD FRUIT TREES IS CONSIDERED BEST

Method Gives Very Desirable Crops and Brings Quicker Returns Than by Replanting of Young Trees—Practice of Grafting Is Not Mysterious Art—Few Important Points.

By PROF. O. B. WHITE, Colorado.

It has been proven by long experience that if properly done, the grafting over of old trees by top-working brings quicker returns than the replanting of young trees. In fact, it is not uncommon to see a fairly good crop on the three-year-old top of a top-worked tree.

Top working, as a means of establishing a weak-growing variety on a

bark separates from the wood simplifies the work of inserting the bud, but as the growth is more active the tissues of the bud and the stock are more likely to unite.

It does not pay to graft trees which show poor growth, and it seldom pays to top-work any crab. It is also questionable as to whether it pays to top-work stone-fruit trees. While good tops may be grown on either peach, apricot or almond, it is doubtful whether these crops will bear much quicker returns than young trees set in the place of the old ones.

There are various methods of grafting, the most common in the west being cleft and kerf grafting. These operations are simple and are known to most orchardists.

In cleft grafting, the limb is sawed off squarely, the stub split down about two inches with the grafting chisel, and the clefts wedged open with the scion inserted as a wedge.

The first bud should be left a little below the top of the wedge, cutting the edge of the wedge opposite the bud a little thinner than the other. The scion is then driven firmly into place with the lower bud to the outside, and a little below the top of the cleft.

It is important that the inner bark on the outer edge of the wedge should be brought in contact with the inner bark on the stub. It is between these parts that the union takes place.

Kerf grafting is almost the same as cleft grafting, only the stub is prepared by saw cuts instead of splitting. These are made on opposite sides of the stub and trimmed to thin V-shaped grooves with a saddler's knife, the scion is then trimmed to fit, driven firmly into place and waxed as in cleft grafting.

It is not good practice to remove the whole top of the tree the first year and graft all the stubs. Often this proves too much for the tree and it falls even after the grafts have made a good start. They may linger two or three years and then die.

A better plan is to cut away only enough limbs to set scion for a good

FORM OF THE POLAND-CHINA

Good Sow Should Possess Shoulders of Great Depth and Fair Width, With Ribs Well Sprung.

A good Poland-China sow, says a breeder, should have shoulders of great depth and fair width, the ribs well sprung to give room for the vital organs, and for this same reason the breast bone should be set low down, and be wide, filling out the sunken places just back of the front legs, or shoulders so noticeable in scrubs.

The hips should come forward and connect to the backbone near enough to the shoulders, so that the connecting point is a little short of midway of the entire distance from the shoulder, to the rear of the ham, thereby making a strong back with good, stout coupling, and giving a great top and fore length to the ham.

This shape of hams and back will give deep, full sides with great length of lower line when well let down in the flanks, enabling the sow to carry a good-sized litter without getting so stuffy and clumsy.

FEED FOR VIGOROUS GROWTH

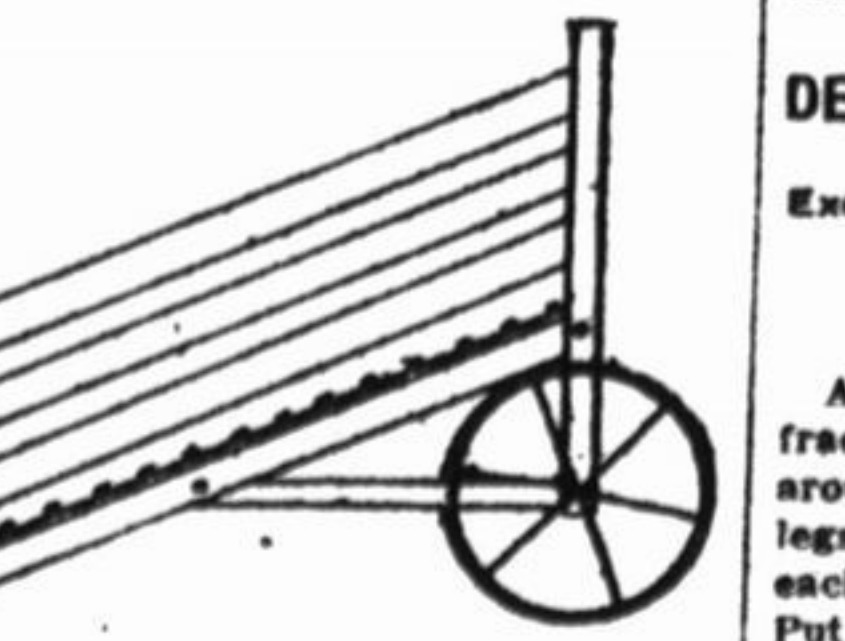
Healthy Sheats Need Bone and Meat Meal Together With Freshly Burned Wood Ashes.

Bone and meat meal, and dry, clean, freshly burnt ashes from hardwood are necessary for vigorous, healthy growth in little pigs. One tablespoonful of bone meal and two spoonfuls of meat meal should be given at each feed. Ashes help digestion, cleanse the stomach and is useful in other ways. The ashes should be freshly burnt, well sifted and dry. Burnt corn cobs may be given instead of ashes. No one feed, however good it may be, should be constantly fed. The hog is a grass animal and will do well on grass and clover pasture in summer, and fine cut clover hay, well scalded and mixed with wheat bran, wheat middlings and a small quantity of flaxseed meal during the winter feeding months. Have the pens clean and dry. Give a warm bed of leaves. Have a large yard or small grass pasture for the hogs to exercise in during the winter. Hogs can stand cold, dry weather when taking exercise, but they must have dry, warm, well-bedded pens to sleep in. Wet bedding and frozen sloop are certain to produce disease.

HOG CHUTE MADE ON WHEELS

Pair of Discarded Cultivator Wheels or Almost Any Other Kind Will Make Excellent Device.

The illustration given herewith explains itself. Shorten the long legs of the hog loader, put a piece of gas pipe through the lower end and place a press drill wheel on the outside of



Hog Chute on Wheels.

each post, says a writer in the Farmers' Mail and Breeder. Cultivator wheels or almost any other kind lying about the place will do as well. This makes it easy to move the chute from place to place.

Indigestion in Sheep.

Indigestion is a very common ailment among sheep during the winter months, and attacks are frequent, especially while the flock is confined to dry feed. The ailment may be characterized as a failure of the natural changes which feed undergoes in the alimentary canal. Sheep confined to a dry, narrow ration, without any form of succulent food, are more apt to suffer attacks of indigestion than when on pasture. Ordinarily the ailment is not serious, but if permitted to run its course takes a more acute stage and frequently results fatally.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Make a separate pen for your brood sows and don't have too much straw. A man who will keep his sheep in a muddy lot has small conception of his duty.

Whitewashing stables makes them lighter, cleaner and much more healthful and sanitary.

When a farmer has had silage for his ewes one winter he hardly knows how to keep them without it.

When horses are first put in a strange barn they will frequently not eat well for perhaps a week.

Noon is a good time to supply the stock with some green stuff, such as cabbages or roots of any kind.

A sheep is the most nervous animal on the farm and get into low condition quickly and recovers slowly.

Silage keeps the sappy appearance of the sheeps' bodies and a luster in the wool that dry feed will seldom do.

Don't feed carrots too liberally to the horses; they are a laxative. Cut in slices so they can be easily chewed up.

A pig five months old requires one pound of digestible nitrogenous food to five pounds of digestible carbohydrate.

LIVE STOCK



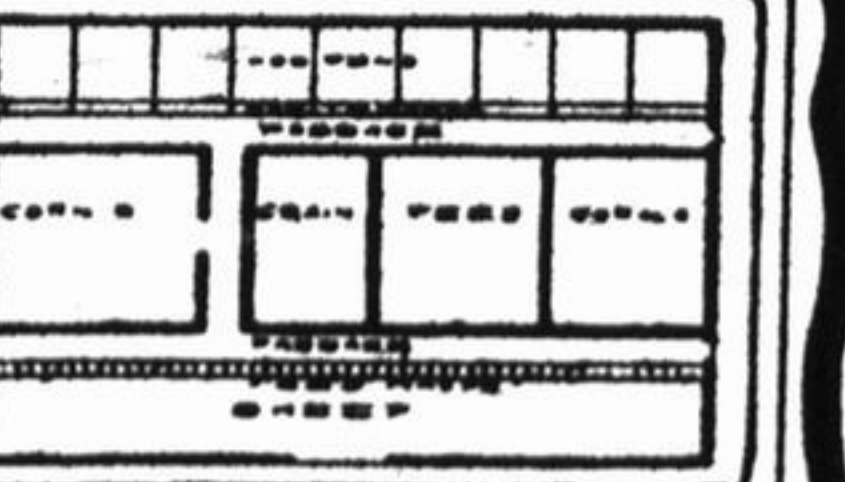
BARN FOR SWINE AND SHEEP

Illustrations Show How Missouri Farmer Changed Small Building Into Commodious Structure.

The accompanying illustrations show how a Missouri farmer solved the problem of changing a small barn into a commodious structure for feeding sheep and hogs. While there is nothing very complicated or out of the ordinary in this building it will perhaps help some one who contemplates a change in his live stock, says the Homestead. In this particular instance it has been decided to change from steers to hogs and sheep and to



Combined Hog and Sheep Barn.



do so required a building in which to feed them. The old barn formerly used for storing hay a part of the season and for a cattle shelter the remaining time had the two sheds added on either side as shown in the exterior view and the floor plan. The old building was divided into corn cribs, feed room, grain room, etc. The sheds were arranged as shown on the floor plan, one side for hogs and the other side for sheep, the loft holding the rough feed for the sheep. In building the barn and installing the interior partitions, racks, troughs, etc., everything was so constructed that in case a second change was made necessary by the ever fluctuating price of live stock the interior arrangement could be rearranged at a minimum cost.

DEVICE FOR THROWING HORSE

Excellent Plan is to Place Surching Around Body of Animal Just Behind the Forelegs.

An excellent method of throwing a fractious horse is to put a surcing around the body just behind the forelegs, with three rings on it, one on each side and one under the body. Put a strap around the front legs just above hoof, with a ring in each. Then take a rope 15 or 20 feet long, run through ring on left side, down through ring on left foot, back through ring on belly, down through ring on right foot, back to ring on right side, and tie. Then take hold

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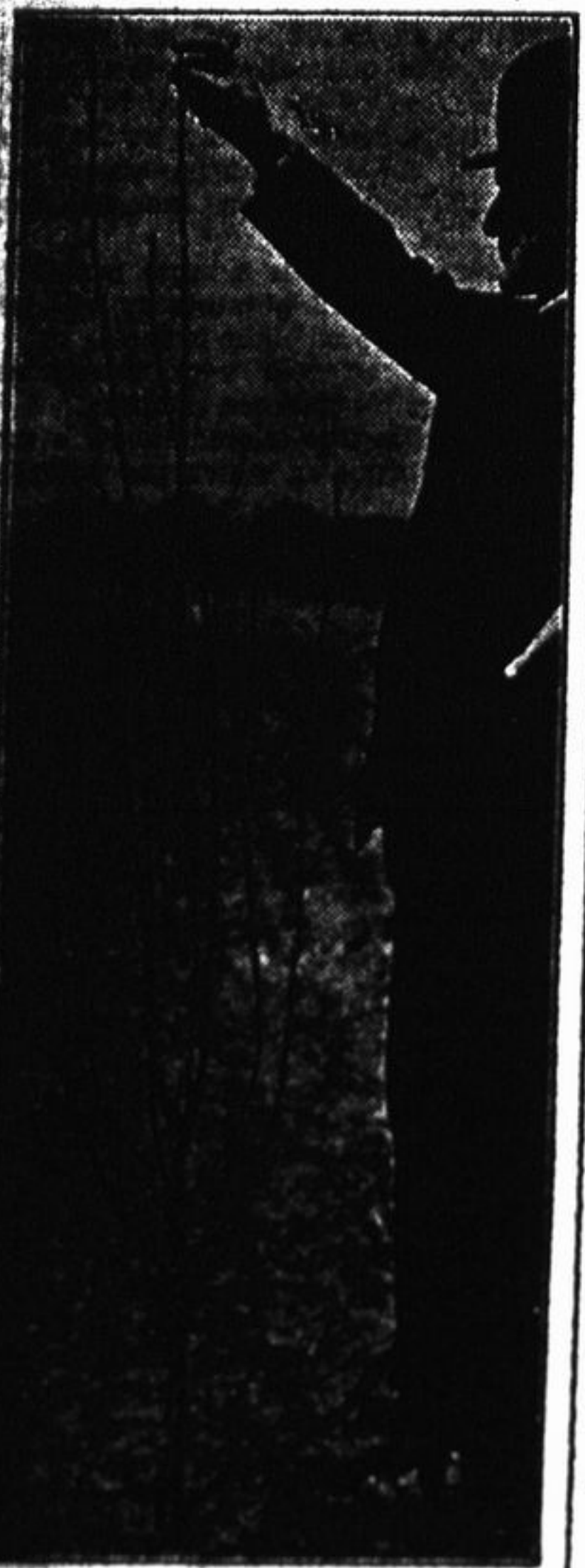
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Teaching Tree How to Grow.

stronger root system than its own, is coming into high favor.

The practice of grafting is not a mysterious art, as many suppose, but is so simple that any careful orchardist can and should do it himself. All common fruit trees can easily be budded or grafted.

The apple and pear may be inter-grafted upon each other, and this is true of the peach, plum, apricot and almond. However, such wholesale mixing is not good practice, and the pear and apple never take a good union.

Peach grafts start vigorously upon apricots, and plums upon the peach trees.

Growth in diameter of the tree only takes place in a very small region between the bark and the sap-wood. This part of the stem is called the cambium, and in this thin layer of tissue the cells are still active while the activity of each succeeding layer on each side grows less and less.

The important point in grafting is to see that the cambium layers of the stock and the scion are matched at some point. When the growth is active we say the bark "peels." Budding is done during this period, not only because the ease with which the



Fig. 1. Attempt at Working Over Old Transcendent Crab Tree, Showing About as Good a Selection of Stubs as is Possible With Such a Subject. Fig. 2. Same Tree One Year Later With Quite a Promising Top, but Enlargement at Base of Scions Shows That the Union is Not Perfect.

top, generally about half of the tree. Working of more stubs results in too dense a top, or necessitates their removal later.

The remaining limbs may be shortened, but some foliage is needed to protect the stubs and trunk from sun-scald, as well as to supply nourishment.

KEEPING LITTLE CHICKS HEALTHY

Mixture of Lard and Coal Oil Applied to Head of Youngsters Will Be Found Excellent.

(By HELEN JACKSON.)

I want to tell how I got rid of the white diarrhoea in chicks. When they are old enough to take off the nests, say about 30 hours after they are hatched, take lard and coal oil in equal quantities, mix thoroughly and rub one drop on top of the head and on the vent.

Put them in a box and give them some sand and a little ground oats and no other feed until they are one week old. The second week they may show signs of the white diarrhoea, but repeat the treatment described.

I raised 200 chicks last year and never lost one with the white diarrhoea. This is the way I always treat my chicks.

Do not give the chicks any more food than they will eat up clean every time. I always feed German millet to the chicks when I can get it as I think it better than chick feed.

When the chicks are first taken off the nests I feed them about every two hours—but a little mother's oats. For the first week you can give the mother's milk some corn or oats but always have some sand in the box so the chicks can get it.

Never let the chicks get wet or chilled as they stand them.

FARM ANIMALS CRAVE FOR SALT

If Placed Within Easy Reach They Will Consume Just What They Need and No More.

All farm animals have an instinctive craving for salt. But if it is so placed as to be always within their reach, they will consume just as much as they need, and no more. It is only when it has been kept from them for a long period that there is danger of their eating too much. It is therefore an excellent practice to keep it in a box or boxes where they can have access to it whenever they desire. When they are salted, as is the practice with many farmers, only once a week, while some may get enough, others may suffer from a deficient supply. Salt promotes an active circulation of the blood, which never becomes thick and sluggish so long as the supply is plentiful; it assists digestion, and is often a preventive of disease. It is so cheap that no stock-raiser can really afford to deny to his animals all they want of it.

Value of Stover. When it is known that three tons of corn stover is practically equal to one ton of mixed clover and timothy hay, any farmer can easily figure out whether it will pay him to save his clover or not.

Corn Feed for Cattle.

Stuffing the cell with hay or straw, or any very coarse feed, will spoil the milk. Keep this ration down by the use of some grain and less coarse feed.