

Useful Information

AGRICULTURAL NOTES FOR MARCH.
Kinder Stock over the Clovers. — Clover land, if possible, suffice more from allowing cattle and hogs to run upon it during winter than anything. In an open winter we have seen nine-tenths of the clover plants entirely killed and drawn up by the roots by the action of the frost, owing to close pasture and the trampling of the surface of the soil by the stock. Stock should always be turned off clover so early in the fall as to allow the plants to make a growth of leaves sufficient to protect them from the action of the snow and frost of winter. When often off the ground, and the surface becomes too hard and compact, the roots will be drawn up frequently three inches above the surface before spring.

If clover lands have already received close fall feeding, by all means stock should be kept off during February and March, so that the surface may become somewhat lightened by the rains and frosts, that the tender growth of spring may proceed without injury. One hundred lbs. of feed gleaned from a clover or timothy field in the winter or early spring, will cut short the crop of the coming season five hundred lbs. or more; so that it will prove the most miserable economy to allow a hoof to press upon lands that are intended either for hay or summer pasture.

Sowing Clovers. — The sowing of clover seed in this latitude on winter grain can occasionally be performed during the month of February, and whenever the opportunity occurs it is better that it should then take place. If however, as is frequently the case, the seeding is deferred the earlier the work is accomplished in March the more certain the young and tender plants are to get root-hold before the dry weather sets in.

One peck of clover seed per acre is not much if it is to be sown alone, and even if with other grasses; orchard grass for instance. We should advise the use of not less than 12 lbs. of clover seed to one bushel of orchard grass, lightly harrowed and carefully rolled. Scatter broadcast one bushel of plaster to the acre, over every field that is already set in clover.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES FOR THE MONTH.

This will be a busy month in the garden, as a great deal of our success through the season will depend on the careful and active performance of the routine duties now coming thick upon us. In the open ground, seeds of onions, peas, parsnips, etc., should be got in as soon as possible; but should the ground be wet, it will not do to trample on it too much. Where there is convenience of hot-beds, many crops may be sown in them, and transplanted to the open ground when all danger of frost is passed. For this purpose it is advisable to collect horse-mure, which can generally be procured in most places in the country. When collected, it should be laid in a body close together to ferment. After a fortnight or three weeks it will be in excellent order for use. A seed-bed should then be made of it, to raise such seeds that are too tender to sow out of doors at this early part of the season—tomatoes, egg-plants, peppers, cauliflower, lettuce, etc. Sow the seeds in square shallow boxes, half-filled with mould.

After sowing, lay a piece of glass on the top of the boxes, to prevent nice getting at them. Seeds of tender annuals should be sown in the same way, and put in the same frame; likewise cuttings of bedding-plants, that will be wanted for a summer show in the flower-beds.

Fruit Trees. — Finish planting and pruning. Fork up the soil trodden down in doing so, and much newly-planted trees.

Grape-Vines. — Prune, if not done in the fall, and tie down horizontally to make them break the buds near the bottom.

Roses. — Prune, but omit some to be done later for late blooming; apply a mulching of manure.

Shrubs. — Thin out any that may be getting too thick; cut off any branches encroaching on the walks.

Mixed Farm Heat for Fowls. — A correspondent of the *Homestead* says: "A change of diet is very essential to the well-being of the fowls. Variety is the spice of life, and fowls as much as men; and they should have an assortment of food given them, applicable to their wants. Corn-and-pot meal is, on the whole, preferable to a constant use of more solid grain or meat, in either making hens lay or for the accumulation of flesh. Potatoes and bran are an excellent dish for them; also, cabbage heads, chopped up and added to their dough; in fact, any kind of vegetable substances are good for them. Of the choice of grain, for laying exclusively, oats should be furnished them, with a mess of buckwheat now and then. Where they cannot picture gravel, sand or ashes should be liberally strewn over the bottom of their coops; and occasionally they ought to have some clam or oyster shells, powdered fine and put into their food, bone-meal is another good ingredient to give them, all going towards forming the shell of eggs; fresh meat, whenever conveniently to be had, might be added to the list of feed, for the keeping of fowls."

How to Prevent Sons Shoulders from Wearing Holes. — An exchange says: "The plan we have tried, and never found to fail, to get a piece of leather and have it cut into such a shape as to lie snugly between the shoulders of the horse and the collar. This tends of all the friction; as this collar slips and moves on the leather, and not on the shoulders of the horse. Chipping is caused by friction; hence, this remedy is quite a plausible one, and is much better than tying slips of leather and pads of sheepskin under the collar."

A Paris Surgeon is said to have proved by experience, that a bone taken from an animal just killed, unites with the living animal.

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ADVERTISEMENTS conspicuously inserted at the rate of one dollar per square for the first three insertions, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent insertion. Tax lines to constitute a square. If the number of insertions is not marked upon them, they will be continued, until paid, and charged accordingly. A liberal deduction will be made to those who advertise by the year.

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