Winter Months on the Farm

How to Improve Them

CORN BREEDING

How to Build a Good Strain Suited to Local Needs While Will Yield Abundantly

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An essential of profitable farming little appreciated in this part by the general farmer is the development of strains of seed corn well adapted to local conditions. Heretofore the corn grower has not practised rigid selection to find the variety best suited to his environment. He has not appreciated that he could introduce into his locality grades of corn which have proved successful in other states and then acclimate this corn to his local conditions thereby gaining greater yields.

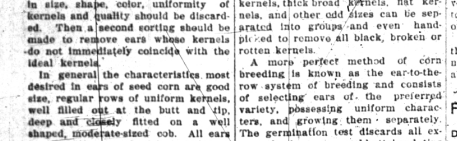
It is a relatively simple matter where a standard variety is grown to select the best ears from the year's crop, cure them properly, store them for the winter, and plant those showing the highest germination test the following spring. What little extra time the farmer consumes in these operations is amply repaid by the larger net returns he realizes from his next crop. Field experiments comparing the character of the crop resulting from the use of rigidly selected pure-bred seed and that from seed corn as ordinarily handled on the farm prove conclusively the vast superiority of the rigidly selected, pure-bred strains. Yields of 55 to 60 bushels per acre resulted from use of the former grade, while returns averaging 36 bushels attended the use of the latter variety.

Begin by Selection.

In the attempt to eliminate all poor ears the best plan in the case of cured corn is to lay out all the ears in rows on the floor. A best ear should be selected as an ideal, so that in going over and sorting the corn the ears corresponding most closely to the ideal will be selected. All others which do not correspond to the ideal in size, shape, color, uniformity of kernels and quality should be discarded. Then a second sorting should be made to remove ears whose kernels do not immediately coincide with the ideal kernels.

In general the characteristics most desired in ears of seed corn are good size, regular rows of uniform kernels, well filled out at the butt and tip, deep and closely fitted on a well shaped, moderate-sized cob. All ears having defects and undesirable features should be rejected.

The selection of seed corn from the general field crop is usually attended by poor success. A special seed plot is essential where field selection is practiced. The advantages of this system are that there are better chances of fertilization; the plot is isolated from other corn fields precluding crossings by undesirable



Corn from two rows, one planted with selected seed and the other with ordinary seed.

strains; crossing may be controlled on the plot; the elimination of undesirable plants and the marking of exceptional rows of plants is possible as well as the determination of yields of the crop from certain plants.

A quarter-acre or a half-acre plot should be chosen and the soil put into the best condition. A good plan is to select the finest ears and to plant one row from each ear to discover the superior strains and to control pollenation. When the plants begin to tassel each row should be carefully inspected and every plant detasseled that indicates barrenness or undesirable characteristics in order that they may not pollenate any desirable plants.

To eliminate chances of injury from freezing the seed ears should be selected from this plot as soon as the crop is well matured. The ears to select are those that grow reasonably low on moderately strong shanks just long enough to allow the ear to bend over and hang down. The husks should not be excessively long. The stalks should be from six to seven and one half feet tall, strong at the butt, tapering gradually to the top with perfect, strong brace roots, and broad healthy leaves free from diseased spots. The foliage should be of such a character as will elaborate an abundance of plant food and produce good fodder.

Grading the Seed.

The next process consists in grading the seed for the planter. The ears should be butted and tipped because the middle kernels produce more and are more regular in size and shape and accordingly are more regularly dropped by the planter. Each ear should be shelled and grad-

A short, thick cob will carry more corn than a long, slender one. Long ears are not the largest producers.

ed. In some cases two or three gradations can be made profitable. Thin kernels, thick broad kernels, flat kernels, and other odd sizes can be separated into groups and even handpicked to remove all black, broken or rotten kernels.

A more perfect method of corn breeding is known as the ear-to-the-row system of breeding and consists of selecting ears of the preferred variety, possessing uniform characters, and growing them separately. The germination test discards all except the best ears, and butts and tips in these tests in each case should be rejected. This seed is planted in an isolated plot, the grain from each ear being put into a separate row. Throughout the growing season all poor stalks should be removed.

At harvest the best ears from each row are picked and cured for breeding seed for succeeding seasons. An accurate record is kept of the number of each row and the number of ears used from each row. The remainder of the corn from the seed plot is placed in numbered sacks and used as seed for the main crop of the subsequent year. The breeding seed first chosen is subjected to rigid selection; the corn retained for the breeding plot for each succeeding year is taken from the best producing rows.

Accurate records regarding selection and careful management practised in the breeding of seed corn are just as essential as tests of the milk and butter fat production of dairy cows, to determine the wage-earners. Inferior management and selection of breeding corn decreases the efficiency of the farmer. When one considers how easily the countryman can checkmate this handicap by a simple system of selection and discrimination in the various strains of breeding corn, one almost believes the relative simplicity of the problem is its greatest drawback. The farmer will not or can not comprehend that such an easy method in breeding corn will increase his yield to 40 to 50 per cent, and will correspondingly improve the quality of his product.

Shapes for Spring

BY JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

THREE of the prettiest shapes among the new hats for spring are shown here. One might choose with the eyes shut and be sure of possessing grace, style and real beauty in any of these. They fit well and are only moderately large.

Hemp and milan appear to lead in the point of popularity, but there are innumerable lovely models in other braids as well—hair braid, pyroxylin, chip, leghorn, tuscan, in fact every braid, including the rough Japs, finds a following, and there is no lack of variety in size or shape.

The hair braids and hemps are greatly favored for dress hats to be trimmed with French plumes and lace or ribbon—or both. Milans and hemps are liked for big masses of flowers. Many of these trimmed with big bunches of lilacs are blooming in triumph at Palm Beach just now.

A great many shapes are shown with borders (called "flanges") of velvet, and some are faced with velvet. Small shapes with upturned brims nearly always are improved by a velvet facing on the brim or coronet. The velvet flange is an undoubted advantage, adding finish and distinction to the shape. Its placing is a matter of perfect workmanship.

It will be noticed that crowns in the hats are conservative; they are not specially large or high or noticeable in any way. The achievement of grace in outline is the paramount idea in spring shapes and is more highly regarded than any other feature. This is a good sign. So far there seems to be an absence of freakishness this season, in any direction.

It looks as if flowers were to catch the fancy of all women young enough to wear flower-laden shapes. They are so pretty. Both the hats and flowers come in great ranges of lovely colors. Milans in the yellow or natural color and hemps in all colors give a choice from grave to gay and all the notes between.

There is a shape for every face. It is very essential to pick out the most becoming one and this is a serious matter.

FOR CHILD'S WEAR IN SPRING

Dress of White Dimity Is About the Most Dainty That Can Possibly Be Devised.

Tige and I are sweethearts—all that troubles me is that his old brown coat never gets too old to wear, so I can't make him nice new clothes like what mamma makes for me. This is my new white dimity for spring. Mamma says she likes to have all her sewing done by the time hot weather comes. The dress has a long blouse and double

ruffle on the skirt and this is my blue sash. I wear it when I have the blue ribbon in my hair and usually I wear pale blue or white stockings. Mamma says these are "Gibson" plaits over my shoulders, and there are two narrow insertions of lace down the middle of my blouse. Mamma considers short sleeves the best for summer or winter, and she says she likes to have the skirts of my dresses solid embroidery because they are so fluffy. Sometimes I wear kid shoes, but usually black slippers—they're so sensible—and pretty, too. I'm six years old.—Anna M. Denniston in the Chicago News.

Making Pretty Ornaments.

Women and girls with time on their hands and ideas aplenty for their own adorning are using both to make dainty little chains and ornaments for day and evening wear.

These new "jewels" are easy enough to make—there are gold beads, corals, French pearls and semi-precious stones, which may be procured singly or by the dozen and combined in any one of a dozen or more odds or unique fashions.

A girl may show her artistic taste by the colorings she combines or the designs she works out and it will be easy to plan ornaments to fit one's blouses, gowns or temperament, if she so desires.

And since one may employ "mock" jewels, the finished ornaments, chains or pendants, need not cost so much as to greatly disturb one's allowance or make deep holes in one's purse.

Now for Turned-Up Hats.

Once more will it be possible to see women's eyes and hair. Hat brims still will be large, but they are to be turned up. Hats with straw brims that turn up boldly in front, at the side or front and back are seen among the models for the fast coming spring time. They come in all sizes. One of the new forms is 18 inches long and 23 inches wide. Extra large hats, however, will be worn only be the extremists. Even women are weary of them, for they have been carried to such absurd measurements that they no longer are picturesque.

Novel Collar.

The string ties which women are wearing with their tailored shirt waists come in the loveliest of colors. The materials used are innumerable, but all, of course, have the silky finish.

A novel collar shows to good advantage a string tie of ciel blue corded silk. The high, straight, turn-down collar fastens in front. Wide, vertical eyelet slits appear around the collar at intervals of about two inches, and through these is run the tie, which is knotted in front in four-in-hand fashion.

WOLF HUNTING WITH EAGLES

Kirghiz Train Great Birds to Hunt Gazelle, Foxes and Even Wolves.

All wanderers are lovers of the chase, but for sheer love of sport and daring exploits the Kirghiz take the palm, declares a writer in the Wide World Magazine. Central Asia is the home of falconry, which was introduced into Europe until the Crusaders brought back falcons with them from their eastern wanderings. But imagine the ambition of the men who fly their birds at wolves and foxes instead of at quails and partridges! Not content with hunting game birds with small falcons, the Kirghiz capture and train the great golden eagles, with which they hunt such game as gazelle, foxes and even wolves. A well mounted Kirghiz falconer, carrying on his wrist one of these magnificent birds, is a fine sight. The weight of the eagle is such that the owner requires a support for his wrist, and the hunters are usually to be seen with a little wooden bracket that supports the arm against the hip. The eagles are hooded, as all falcons are, but can only be used in winter when they are hungry and keen. In summer they are fed on marmots and live a restful life, sitting in the sun in front of the tent doors. When gazelle or wolves are the objects of the chase, the eagles are allied by long sleek greyhounds, of a small breed, the dogs running in and pulling down the quarry when the eagles have sufficiently bewildered it

School Ship for Cooks.

An old frigate is moored in a canal close to the most fashionable center of Copenhagen. On it is a school of ship cooks. There is an awning on deck. Tables are laid out and numerous inhabitants of Copenhagen take their meals there, for they are both varied and inexpensive, such as are served to passengers on sea voyages.

Why Men Marry.

In 50 per cent of the marriages the man wouldn't marry if he had every assurance that no other man would get her

MEDIUM STYLES FOR SPRING

Coming Millinery Will Offer Many Choices, So That Surely All May Be Suited.

The woman who cannot find millinery to suit her this season will indeed be very difficult to please. Not in many years has it been made possible for women to be so sanely and, at the same time, so fashionably hatted as at present.

The styles are medium in all things. Crowns are moderately high, brims are neither too wide nor too narrow, and trimmings are in no wise exaggerated.

The smart-looking turbans are most attractive and come in a variety of models and colorings to suit every type of face. As a rule, two colors are combined, and not infrequently two fabrics besides the trimmings. A soft, coarse, rather, wide straw and the fine braid of crinoline are a favored combination. The crown in folds will be of the heavier straw and the crushed brim of the crinoline or hair. The golden shades, which include lemon, ecru and leghorn, are preferred for the crown, while the brim will be of a contrasting color, as blue, dark red, green or black.

No less attractive than the shapes are the trimmings. The cockade of chanticleer red velvet decorating a hat of golden and black tones is an example of smart, becoming lines. A modified sugar loaf hat, the crown entirely concealed under tiny rosebuds, and the brim of black flexible straw, is another pretty model. A tiny blackbird nestling on the left side is the only trimming.

The fashionable trimmings are small flowers, single quills, small birds, medium wings, soft ribbons and velvet.

Novel Bags.

Bags of brocade suspended by long twisted cords of silk are modish. In some instances these cords are so long that the bags hang below the knee. They are generally fitted up inside with a vanity outfit, looking-glass, powder box, nail file, coin purse, card case, etc.

Rheumatism Advice

Gives Prominent Doctor's Best Prescription—Is Easily Mixed.

"Get one ounce of syrup of Sarsaparilla compound and one ounce of Toris compound. Then get half a pint of good whisky and put the other two ingredients into it. Take a tablespoonful of this mixture before each meal and at bed time. Shake the bottle before using." This is not new in this city, as many of the worse cases of rheumatism and backache have been cured by it. Good results come the first day. Any druggist has these ingredients on hand or will quickly get them from his wholesale house. Any one can mix them.

STRIKING PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY.

Servant—Heavens I have knocked the big flower pot off the window ledge, and it struck a man on the head.

Mistress—What! My beautiful majolica?

Went Swimming at 92.

"The Grand Old Man of Highgate Ponds," William McKenzie, long known as "grandfather" by his fellow members of the Highgate Lifebuoys club, has passed away in his North London home. He was in his ninety-third year.

Up to six weeks ago Mr. McKenzie was bathing in Highgate ponds, where he had bathed for many years. His unfailing regularity at the age of 92 probably constitutes a record in natation. Until three years ago he joined in the winter lifebuoy bathing sports. His practice was to walk over the two miles from Highbury and back for his swim.—London Chronicle.

Her Wedding March.

A young girl who had never heard of Mendelssohn's "Wedding March," but was familiar with the more popular parody on it, was witness to a wedding ceremony in an uptown church recently. As the betrothed pair walked with dignified tread toward the altar to be wed and the organ pealed forth Mendelssohn's inspiring march, the young girl was plainly shocked. When she arrived at her home she told her mother of the ceremony and innocently exclaimed: "What do you think, mother, they played 'Gee Whiz! I'm glad I'm Free.'"

OATS—259 Bu. Per Acre.

That is the sworn to yield of Theodore Harmes, Lewis Co., Wash., had from Salzer's Rejuvenated White Bonanza oats and won a handsome $0 acre farm. Other big yields are 141 bus., 119 bus., 103 bus., etc., had by farmers scattered throughout the U. S.

Salzer's Pedigree Barley, Flax, Corn, Oats, Wheat, Potatoes, Grasses and Clovers are famous the world over for their purity and tremendous yielding qualities. We are easily the largest growers of farm seeds in the world.

Our catalog bristling with seed truths free for the asking, send 10c in stamps and receive 10 packages of farm seed novelties and rarities, including above marvelous oats, together with big catalog. John A. Salzer Seed Co., 182 South 8th St., La Crosse, Wis.

Snappy.

"Ten cents' worth of canine pepper," said the little boy in the suburban store.

"Canine?" echoed the astonished clerk. "Why, my little man, I guess you mean cayenne pepper."

The little boy was doubtful.

"Maybe I do, mister," he hesitated, "but mamma said it was the kind of pepper that had a sharp bite, so I thought it was 'canine.'"

SPOHN'S DISTEMPER CURE will cure any possible case of DISTEMPER, PINK EYE, and the like among horses of all ages, and prevents all others in the same stable from having the disease. Also cures chicken cholera, and dog distemper. Any good druggist can supply you, or send to mfrs. 50 cents and $1.00 a bottle. Agents wanted. Free book. Spohn Medical Co., Spec. Contagious Diseases, Goshen, Ind.

The Tragedy That Wasn't.

He raised the shining knife; his face was dark. The woman before him shrank back a step. The knife fell, plunged into the flesh, again, and once again.

Then the woman spoke thickly:

"There's plenty; they're such big chops."—Judge.

All Depends.

"Want a good anecdote about a statesman?"

"Was he re-elected?"

ONLY ONE "BROMO QUININE."
That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of E. W. GROVE. Used the World over to Cure a Cold in One Day. 25c.

Improvidence in trifles never made a millionaire nor swelled a bank account.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

It's easy for a pretty young widow to make a man think he wants to marry her.

All druggists sell the famous Herb remedy, Garfield Tea. It corrects constipation.

Loud apparel naturally proclaims the man.

Kind but Careful.

John P. Irish, the San Francisco orator and officeholder, was entertaining Joaquin Miller, the poet, one night. Upon hearing a particularly funny story by the host the poet fell off his chair in a paroxysm of mirth.

Irish thought the poet had a seizure of some kind and he rushed to the sideboard, took a bottle of whisky and stuck the top of it into Miller's mouth, hoping to revive him.

Presently Miller waved his hands feebly and Irish removed the bottle.

"What is it?" asked Irish solicitously.

"Remove the cork!" whispered the poet, hoarsely. "Remove the cork!"—Saturday Evening Post.

Dare to Be Happy.

Let us never be afraid of innocent joy; God is good and what he does is well done; resign yourself to everything, even to happiness; ask for the spirit of sacrifice, of detachment, of renunciation, and above all, for the spirit of joy and gratitude, that genuine and religious optimism which sees in God a Father, and asks no pardon for his benefits. We must dare to be happy and dare to confess it. Regarding ourselves always as the depositories, not as the authors of our own joy.—Amfel.

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E. S. Burnham Company, New York City, Premium Department.

And the man who is driven to drink by adversity probably would have it brought to him by prosperity.

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Apply only from Aseptic Tubes to Prevent Infection. Murine Eye Salve in Tubes—New Size 25c. Murine Eye Liquid 25c-50c. Eye Books in each Pkg.

How a married man doesn't enjoy listening to one side of a spoony telephone conversation.

Garfield Tea is Nature's laxative and blood purifier; it overcomes constipation and its many attendant ailments.

Every man is a comer until he reaches a certain age—then he's a goer.

PILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS
Your druggist will refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. 50c.

A woman's club sometimes reminds a man of a hammer.

Spring Medicine

There is no other season of the year when so much is needed as in the spring. The blood is impure and impoverished—a condition indicated by pimples, boils and other eruptions on the face, loss of appetite, lack of vitality, loss of appetite, lack of strength.

The best spring medicine according to the experience and testimony of these same annually, is

Hood's Sarsaparilla

It purifies and enriches the blood, cures eruptions, builds up the system.

Get it today in usual liquid form or chocolated tablets known as Sarsatabs.

Constipation Vanishes Forever

Prompt Relief—Permanent Cure

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS never fail. Purely vegetable—act surely but gently on the liver. Stop after dinner distress, cure indigestion—improve the complexion—brighten the eyes. Small Pill, Small Dose, Small Price.

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A Hopeless Invalid

Restored to Health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

A woman who is sick and suffering, and won't at least try a medicine which has the record of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, is, it would almost seem, to blame for her own wretchedness. Read what this woman says:

Richmond, Mo. — "When my second daughter was eighteen months old I was pronounced a hopeless invalid by specialists. I had a consultation of four doctors and they said I had a severe case of ulceration. I was in bed for ten weeks, had sinking spells, and was pronounced to be in a dangerous condition. My father insisted that we try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and brought me six bottles. I soon began to improve, and before if had all been taken I was as well and strong as ever—my friends hardly recognized me so great was the change." — Mrs. Woodson Branstetter, Richmond, Mo.

There are literally hundreds of thousands of women in the United States who have been benefited by this famous old remedy, which was produced from roots and herbs over thirty years ago by a woman to relieve woman's suffering.

Read what another woman says:—

Jonesboro, Texas. — "I have used Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for myself and daughter, and consider it unequalled for all female diseases. I would not be without it for anything. I wish every mother in America could be persuaded to use it as there would be less suffering among our women. I am always glad to speak a word of praise for Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and you are at liberty to use this testimonial."—Mrs. James T. Lawrence, Jonesboro, Texas.

Since we guarantee that all testimonials which we publish are genuine, is it not fair to suppose that if Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound had the virtue to help these women it will help any other woman who is suffering from the same trouble?

Mrs. E. Pinkham

For 30 years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has been the standard remedy for female ills. No sick woman does justice to herself who will not try this famous medicine. Made exclusively from roots and herbs, and has thousands of cures to its credit.

If the slightest trouble appears which you do not understand, write to Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., for her advice—it is free and always helpful.

MILD, GENTLE LAXATIVE FOR WOMEN GIVEN FREE

So many of the ills of women are due to habitual constipation, probably because of their false modesty on the subject, that their attention cannot be too strongly called to the importance of keeping the bowels open. It is always important to do that, regardless of the sex, but it is especially important in women.

From the time the girl begins to menstruate until menstruation ceases she has always vastly better prospects of coming through healthy if she watches her bowel movements. If you find yourself constipated, with bad breath, dimply complexion, headaches, belching gas and other symptoms of indigestion and constipation, take a small dose of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. It is a woman's favorite laxative. You will find that you can do away with salts, strong cathartics, etc., which are entirely unsuited to woman's requirements.

Mrs. Katherine Haberstroh of McKees Rocks, Pa., and Mrs. A. E. Herrick of Wheeler, Mich., who was almost paralyzed in her stomach and bowels, are now cured by the use of this remedy. A free sample bottle can be obtained by addressing Dr. Caldwell, and after you are convinced of its merits buy it of your druggist at fifty cents and one dollar a bottle. For the free sample address Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 201 Caldwell building, Monticello, Ill.

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