

APIARY AT UPON, EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Dwarf Fruit Trees Are Suitable For Home Garden

OTTAWA — Dwarf fruit trees can be restricted to a six to eight foot height and are suitable for the home garden. They will eventually require a circular area of about ten feet. According to Blair and Spangolo of the Central Experimental Farm, a well grown six-year-old McIntosh tree or Malling IX roots should produce a half bushel of apples, but they say much will depend on good pruning, fertilizing and spraying. Only varieties recommended for your district, should be selected.

Prunus besseyi. This rootstock and Prunus tomentosa, are suitable for dwarfing peaches. The graft union should be placed above the soil level at planting time. Trees will not remain dwarfed if this is not done. It is well to remember that dwarf trees are shallow rooted and require staking. Trees should be tied to angle iron, strong wooden posts, or a wire trellis.

PRUNING
Much more detailed pruning is necessary for a dwarf tree than for a standard tree. The top third of the tree should be removed at planting time so that lateral branches will develop. Thereafter, annual pruning should be carried out in early spring. Develop the tree with six main lateral branches with the first one no farther than twelve inches from the ground.

ROOTSTOCKS
The Malling IX rootstock is the most suitable for apples. Although this rootstock is sometimes injured by severe winter conditions it is recommended in all districts where apples are commonly grown.

FENCES OF YESTERYEAR WERE VERY DIFFERENT THAN TODAY'S

The idea of fencing land probably developed from the earlier days when the different tribes built stockades or walls to protect their homes, encampments, towns and cities from enemies. Fences are a very ancient device used either to protect property from marauding animals or to restrain one's own from wandering from the homestead. The various types of fences that have been used in this country indicate the steady development of our farming industry.

RAIL FENCES
In clearing land, it was necessary to rid it of stumps and logs, and, by placing these between the boundaries, a double purpose was served. The earliest fences were often made of stumps of trees which were old pine "rampikes" that had remained from earlier forests, and which when put together so that the stumps of one interlocked with another, would stop any animal, and most people would go a long way around rather than try to get over them.

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First Set Of Floor Prices Under New Act

The first set of prices established under the Agricultural Stabilization Act include mandatory floor prices for six of the nine key commodities named in the act and guaranteed yearly prices for three commodities, butter, hogs and wool. Prices have been set by the Government following recommendations made by the Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Stabilization Board.

Guaranteed yearly prices, which may be called the working support prices, include a Federal Government agreement to purchase Canada First Grade creamery butter at a price of 64 cents per pound effective May 1, 1958 basis delivery Montreal with appropriate price and market differentials for other markets and butterfat in other forms which the Board may specify. This is approximately 107 per cent of the base price. The average price for the last 10 years. The previous support price on butter was 58 cents.

The working price support for hogs to be in effect for the next year effective April 1, 1958, is \$25.00 per 100 lb. for warm dressed weight from Grade A carcasses basis Toronto with appropriate differentials for other public stockyards throughout Canada as may be established by the Board. This is approximately 84 per cent of the base price. The previous support price for hogs was 23 cents.

ZIG ZAG TYPE
Rail fences were constructed in many different styles. The stake and rider snake fence being one of the earliest when wood-fencing materials were abundant everywhere. These zig-zagged along a strip of land from six to eight feet wide with the longers or rails lapping over about twelve inches where they lay across each other at every turn in the snake fence.

Most of these fences were six or seven longers high, with pickets about one and a half inches in diameter and eight feet long driven well into the ground about eighteen inches on either side of each turn in the snake fence, where they formed an X that held the rider or top longer and acted as braces to strengthen the fence.

STONE FENCES
Stone fences, because of their durability, were often used on the line between neighbors. When stones were carefully selected and properly laid, stone fences were erected that have withstood the elements for centuries, and with the exception of goats have restrained the wanderings of most farm animals.

The original blazing of a line for a fence between neighbors, through the woods and over the hills, without instruments, often resulted in some deviation to the right or left of the correct line.

DYKE FENCES
Throughout many districts in Prince Edward Island, the early settlers constructed many earth and stone dykes, largely along highways, and about the boundaries of their farms. Some of these were over a mile long, with openings for gates.

They were usually constructed with sods and layers of clay between well set up layers of uniformly sized stones. There would be three or more tiers of stones in the dyke. Most of these dykes had a ditch on one or either side of the dyke from which the sods and clay had been taken, adding to its height.

They were seldom high enough to stop sheep or breachy live stock, unless a few rails were built along the top of the dyke, or trees planted there to form a hedge.

A pair of rats left to breed unmolested may multiply to a total of 800 rats within a year.

A. I. Breeding Growth Noted

The Provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have co-operated and worked together on their Artificial Breeding Programme in cattle. The Province of Nova Scotia has developed their own breeding programme with their bull battery located just outside of Truro.

Several meetings have been held during the last two years to discuss the possibility of establishing one unit for the three Maritime Provinces. It is felt that this would be more practical and of greater benefit to all the cattle owners within the three Provinces. It would present an opportunity to operate at a lower cost and develop more efficient Sire Selection.

Various sub committees of the group have been established to look into all aspects of such an operation. It is evident from the report of the transportation committee that if a Maritime A.I. unit was established irrefragably to the location of the bull battery it would only be practicable to operate on a frozen semen basis.

With the more recent development in freezing techniques this would be a practical venture. The committee is still conducting its deliberations and investigations.



Ken Walker is artificial inseminator for the East Prince Artificial Breeding Club.

Dairy Farmers' Promotion Pays

In commenting on the charge that farmers are always asking for help, Dairy Farmers of Canada, the national producers' organization, points to the three million dollars of their own money that farmers have put into advertising during the past eight years. Officials of the producer organization explain that it has cost farmers, who have participated, an average of about 30 cents per cow per year to play an important part in keeping their milk and milk products before the consumer. If all dairy farmers had participated in the program, which is financed by a set-aside deduction of a cent-a-pound on butterfat marketed during the month of June, about five million dollars would have been available for advertising during the last eight years.

Producers in various parts of Canada who have been supporters of the program have recommended in recent years that the basis of set-aside be increased so that promotion might be stepped up.

PAYS OFF
Moving on to the solid accomplishments of their national advertising and promotion program, Erle Kitchen said that the program has had a subsidiary effect in helping to weld together the 36 member producer groups which go to make up Dairy Farmers of Canada, of which he is secretary-manager. He felt the advertising program was a continuing, tangible project which was paying off for the dairy farmer and the industry at large.

O.J.W. Shugg, who has been administrator of the advertising program for Dairy Farmers since its inception, felt that the real worth of the program has been that it had acted as a gadfly in the field of dairy promotion. Because of the activities of the program, more people in Canada were dairy foods conscious than ever before; more dairy firms were doing more promotion; more producer groups were holding more dairy exhibits; more consumers were writing in for dairy recipes; more newspapers, radio stations and food stores were running more dairy promotions; and finally, because of all this activity, consumers were main-

taing, and in many cases increasing, their interest in dairy foods in spite of tremendous competitive pressure for their food dollars. The fact that more than 4,000 of the largest food stores in Canada would participate in the June is Dairy Month promotion this year was the best kind of evidence of the potency of the program, Mr. Shugg concluded.

NEED PROMOTION
W.B. Rettie, an active dairy farmer as well as president of Dairy Farmers, Canada, thought the population trend indicated that for a long time to come the promotion of dairy foods would be a "must" if farmers were to keep their share of the domestic market. In a message to the individual members of his organization in which he asked for their support in the 1958 June advertising set-aside, he said that the producer program was soundly based, and that this was the individual farmer's opportunity to invest in the preservation of his future market.

What Mr. Rettie was referring to specifically was the 1956 census which showed 40 per cent of the Canadian population to be 20 years old, or younger. Part of the job of the Dairy Farmers advertising program was to keep reminding these young people of the nutritional and money values so that they would form a lifetime habit of using dairy foods. New households being established at the rate of 160,000 a year, were realities dairy farmers could not overlook since the domestic market had become the market vital to the Canadian dairy industry.

Lightish Loam Best For Garden

The ideal garden is one that slopes a little towards the south or east and the soil is a lightish loam and full of humus. It soaks up the water easily and is dry enough to work within a few hours after a heavy rain.

Now such an ideal will not always be found where one wants it, but it is surprising how the most unpromising location can be improved. Even if the soil is very heavy, wet, sticky clay and as flat as a pancake, with a little patience and planning it can be turned into a fair garden. It may be necessary and profitable to have it tilled drained so that it will get rid of surface water quickly. In most cases a few open drains, or merely a furrow or two, will be sufficient. Both heavy and light soil too will be vastly improved by digging or plowing in manure and green materials like a cover crop of oats, peas, rye or clover. A good crop of weeds will help if dug under. All waste matter like pea pods, carrot tops, or corn stalks, should be saved and dug in or piled up just in a compost heap to rot and then spread over the garden. The rotted vegetable refuse dug in adds what is technically known as humus, puts some body into the soil so it will hold moisture better.

With about 15 per cent of the world's sheep, Australia produces 25 per cent of the world's wool.

Broiler Pullets Not Good Layers

Commercial egg production from a broiler strain of pullets is not likely to be profitable unless a market is available at a broiler hatchery for a large proportion of the eggs. Broiler strains have been developed to produce rapid growing chicks — desirable conformation but, as a rule, they do not produce as many eggs as a dual-purpose or egg strains. In addition, adult birds of broiler strains usually are large in size. These factors tend to increase the cost of egg production.

To gain information on the egg production possibilities or representatives of dual-purpose and broiler strains, egg records were compared at the Experimental Farm, Canada Department of Agriculture, Fredericton, N.B., between a well known broiler strain of New Hampshire and a dual-purpose strain of Barred Rocks. On a survivor basis, the Barred Rocks laid 21 eggs more per bird than the broiler strain up to 336 days of age and 36 eggs more up to 500 days of age. Feed conversion figures are not available on these birds but it is known that the large broiler strain New Hampshire require more feed for maintenance than smaller birds. Tests in the United States show that it requires, on the average, over eight pounds of feed to produce a dozen eggs from broiler strains.


Therefore, in order for pullets from a good broiler strain to be as profitable in the laying pens as those from a good egg production strain, a substantial premium would have to be paid for hatching eggs from the broiler strain. The higher market value of the broiler strain carcass at the end of the laying period would only partly cover the higher cost of rearing and maintenance.

MUST CONTROL WEEDS

Since cabbage demands much moisture for rapid development, it is necessary to control weeds and form a surface mulch by thorough, but shallow, cultivation. Great care must be exercised to prevent destruction of the roots, many of which may cross between the rows, within two inches of the soil surface. Especially, avoid deep cultivation close to the plant. Hand-weeding or hoeing is usually necessary to destroy weed growth between the plants in the row. (There are no recommended chemical weed-killers for the cabbage family.) All cultivation should cease when it is impossible to cultivate without damaging plant tops.

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