

FARM AND GARDEN



THE DODDER PEST.

Parasitic Plant That Lives on Alfalfa and Clover and Destroys Their Life.

The appearance of dodder in many alfalfa fields in central New York and other places, has already done considerable damage. The following facts regarding dodder, by L. H. Dewey, of the United States department of agriculture, will be of timely interest: The seeds are generally introduced with impure clover or alfalfa seed, or distributed with hay. They are blown about over the snow or bare ground in winter with pieces of the dead clover and alfalfa stems, but their distribution is effected chiefly by artificial means.

Dodder seeds placed in the soil germinate, under favorable conditions, in practically the same manner as do the seeds of clover or other plants, but instead of two green leaves there appears above the surface a very slender, inconspicuous yellow shoot. This binds to one side, then swings slowly around, lengthening meanwhile, until it strikes a green plant. If no plant upon which it can live is within reach, the dodder seedling dies as soon as it has exhausted the nutriment stored up in the seed. But if the swinging shoot comes against a congenial host, it twines about it, in some places tightly, in others loosely.

One of the most practical methods to complete the eradication of dodder after removing the vegetation from infested spots is to spade or hoe the soil to the depth of about two inches and to keep this stirred so as to prevent the growth of any plants for three weeks. This method is especially recommended if the dodder vines had begun to produce seed before their removal. Fire may be used to destroy the dodder. To destroy by this means seeds that have fallen to the ground, requires a considerable degree of heat maintained for several minutes. This is secured by covering the infested area with light wood or chips well sprinkled with kerosene. Straw or shavings do not produce heat enough close to the ground.

Dodder has been killed in some instances by smothering it with a thick covering of manure, muck, or ashes, but these methods cannot be recommended. A thick sprinkling of wood ashes when the clover is wet with dew may accomplish the desired result, chiefly through the action of potash, but this method also is unreliable. These methods are for application in fields where the dodder is confined to comparatively small spots. They are not practicable where large areas or considerable portions of a field are infested.

One of the best methods for subduing dodder after it has become widely distributed, says Orange Judd Farmer, is to turn sheep on the land, confining them with a portable fence if necessary, so that they will keep the infested areas closely grazed. While pastured in dodder-infested fields, the sheep should not be moved about the farm any more than is necessary, as they are likely to carry dodder seeds and pieces of the vine in the clefts of their hoofs and in their wool. Dodder can usually be eradicated by thorough cultivation with corn or root crops for two successive seasons. For the destruction of alfalfa dodder and clover dodder, any crops may be cultivated except those of leguminous plants; but, as warty dodder and field dodder grow and thrive almost equally well on a great variety of host plants, only such crops can be grown for their eradication as will admit of clean cultivation.

SMOKING MEATS SAFELY.

Method Which May Be Used with Great Satisfaction and Success.

Take an old stove and lead the smoke through a long stovepipe (b), into a large box (a). Set the box (a) a little higher than the stove. Drive nails through the top of the box and bend them into hooks (c), to hang your meat. Make a small door in the side to put the meat through. With a stove you can control your fire, says Farm and Home, and it is also much safer.

Bee Hive as an Incubator.
A farmer in Ohio is reported to have successfully practiced hatching chickens by the heat given off by a swarm of bees. In response to inquiry, the following reply was received: "I can hatch over bees every egg that is fertile. First you need an old chaff hive. Then stretch a piece of cheesecloth above the bees and lay the eggs on it. Put a cushion on its side and top around the eggs. If any have doubt about the temperature being right for hatching eggs, they can test it for themselves if they have a swarm of bees handy."—Massachusetts Ploughman.

A Shed for the Wagons.
If you have no room in the barn for the wagons during winter time, a few dollars will build a shed under which to shelter them from the storms. The saving in paint and strength of wood would astonish you if there were any way to estimate it.

THE GAS ENGINE.

One Man's Experience in Learning to Use This Valuable Adjunct of the Farm.

About 11 years ago I bought a run-down farm, and in order to bring it to a high state of cultivation determined to keep as many cows as possible and supply butter to private families living in the neighboring city. The cows purchased, the next step was to build an ice house and get a cabinet creamer. This outfit worked fairly well, but the ice crop was uncertain, and the distance to draw it long. At this time there were no cream separators in this immediate vicinity, but I bought one. My power at this time was supplied by hand and for awhile the separator appeared to run quite easily; but after the novelty wore off it began to run very hard. I bought a one and a half horse power gasoline engine. It was an experimental machine, but appeared to work nicely. I blocked the engine up underneath the floor in the milk room, put up a line of shafting and was soon separating and churning with none of that tired feeling which I had so lately been experiencing, says a writer in the Orange Judd Farmer.

One morning on attempting to start the machine it absolutely refused to go. I made a hurried trip to the city and the good-natured inventor accompanied me to my home and upon taking off the cylinder cap found that the platinum exploding points had simply gummed over, thereby preventing their sparking. Again all was smooth sailing and with an occasional cleaning up of points my engine for awhile worked very nicely. But one of these occasional cleanings, after it had refused to work, I found the head had drawn out the platinum points so that instead of a spark being made as the electricity jumped across the short interval between them, they touched one another. The current passed without sparking and no explosion took place. A knife blade passed between the points separated them and thus remedied the difficulty and I was again doing business.

It was evident that had I been properly supplied with instructions at the beginning I should have been spared a great deal of trouble. My engine is now working as well as it ever did at any time during its best behavior, although it has been in constant use for five years. I run both the cream separator and a 50-gallon churn at the same time. I have simply to give the balance wheel a whirl when it starts off like a thing of life.

In the same manner belts may be run out through the window and other machinery run. In fact there is almost no end to the variety of work this handy little machine will accomplish. As I have already shown, my engine was an experimental one, and I a green operator without proper instructions. Until experience and a little study had given me a knowledge of its principles and workings, it was not a success. Since then two of my neighbors have each purchased an engine, though larger in size and vastly improved, and both are giving satisfaction.

A GARDEN ROLLER.

Two Gallon Jug Makes a Very Serviceable Tool for Preparing the Soil.

Take a two-gallon jug, pick a hole in the center of the bottom with a file or something sharp, and fit a piece of hard wood to go through the jug. Fill the jug with sand to give it weight, run stick through and fasten each end with a nail. Attach light frame. It makes one of the best rollers for garden I ever saw.—Eplottist.

THOUGHTLESS.

If you can't be cheerful—be cheer half full.
Spray your ignorance with a 100 per cent. solution of study and experience. Do not try to persuade men until you can persuade a living out of the conditions which surround you.
Work smartly to save all the barnyard manure you can. You will soon want it to put on the spring crops.
"Mummied" fruit on trees ought to be cut off and burned, else rot and fungus-growth will be carried to next year's crop.
In fighting insects with poison, it has been found that, unless they are destroyed by the first application, they are less and less afflicted with it, and finally become practically immune.
The demand for the teaching of elementary agriculture in the schools is growing. Let us not forget that there must be a broad and liberal foundation for this special work.—Farm and Fireside.

Rhubarb in the Cellar.

Nice brittle stalks of rhubarb are easily frozen in a dark cellar, provided the temperature can be held up to from 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit, either by the furnace (in a furnace-heated house), or by means of a couple of lanterns set inside an inclosed corner where the clumps of roots are set rather closely together, and covered with about three inches of soil. The plants should be exposed to freezing before we attempt to force them. Asparagus may be handled in much the same way.

The Cover-Sod.

The beneficial effects of a cover-sod are not confined to the nitrogen it contains; the mechanical effect is loosening the soil, especially heavy soils, is an important item, and it also serves as a mulch, retaining moisture in time of drouth.

CONSOLATION FOR JAMES.

When His Lordship Unbecomingly the Butler Thought Himself Well Off.

A good story deals with a learned judge called Littledale, who was very much under the thumb of his wife. Littledale had a butler who had been in the family many years, and with whom he would not have parted on any account; he would sooner have parted with her ladyship, relates London Tit-Bits. One morning this excellent butler came to Sir Joseph Littledale and said, with tears in his eyes: "I beg your pardon, my lord—"

"What's the matter, James?" "I'm very sorry, my lord," said the butler, "but I wish to leave." "Wish to leave, James? Why, what do you wish to leave for? Haven't you got a good situation?" "Capital situation, Sir Joseph; and you have always been a good, kind master to me, Sir Joseph. But, oh, Sir Joseph! Sir Joseph!" "What then, James, what then? Why do you wish to leave? Not going to get married, eh—not surely going to get married? Oh, James, don't do it!" "Heaven forbid, Sir Joseph!" "Eh, eh? Well, then, what is it? Speak out, James, and tell me all about it. Tell me—tell me as a friend! If there is any trouble—"

KINDNESS IN SICK-ROOM.

The Right Kind of Nurse Is the One Who Honestly Wants to Help.

There is hardly any place where genuine kindness goes so far as in caring for the sick. Although there are a great many grumbling invalids, says a home journal, there are also just as many invalids who appreciate what is already being done for them and hesitate to ask further favors. The nurse who is ever ready to find out through tact and judgment exactly what the patient really needs or desires can make herself a veritable angel. The person who does and says kind things in an abrupt manner, as if she wanted merely to clear her conscience, is entirely out of place in the sick-room. To be the right kind of nurse you must honestly want to be of help.

It has been said that a good nurse is born, not made, and certainly it does seem as if some people have a natural gift in this direction. They are many admirable women—sometimes they are even doctors—who make abominable nurses. They understand all the intricacies of the disease in question, and give the best treatment and medicine for the case, but they completely lack all the gentleness, tact and sympathy that soothe and help a sick patient. Though their intentions are excellent, they do what they know is best for you as if it were a disagreeable duty and you were repellant to them.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DRESS.

Small Items of Feminine Finery Which Lend Tone to the Season's Costumes.

Pinking on broadcloth is a recent innovation upon imported models. Blouse patterns of silk and of cloth beautified by broderie anglaise are shown in all the new shades. Handsome new laces with colored silks darned in and out of the net are shown in the best shops. New corsets carry out the two-tone idea, being made of flowered brocade and lined with pink or blue. Silk hosepacking comes in the loveliest shades, and is even more distinctive in its rough weave than pongee. Beautiful ostrich feather sets, muffs and long rounded boas, appear this year in the shaded effects, which are to be found in so many things. Braids of all kinds are well liked, and a majority of them have shir threads in their upper edges so that they may be drawn up and applied in any shape desired.

Cheese Pudding.

Soak one heaping cupful of bread crumbs in one pint of milk; add one cupful grated cheese, two beaten eggs, a level teaspoonful minced or chopped parsley, a saltspoonful of salt, a teaspoonful of mixed mustard, and a teaspoonful of Worcestershire sauce. Mix all together lightly, place in a buttered dish, sprinkle with crumbs and dot with bits of butter and bake, not too fast, until a delicate brown.—Los Angeles Herald.

Pork Scallop.

Put a layer of cold boiled pork, chopped fine, in a buttered ramekin; season with salt, pepper and minced onion, then strew over it a layer of cracker crumbs, and moisten with milk. Add another layer of meat, and so on until the dish is filled, finishing off with a layer of the crumbs. Cover closely and bake. Ten minutes before it is done uncover and let brown. Serve with onion sauce.—Good Housekeeping.

Celery Patties.

Stew some washed and diced celery in a little salted water until tender; have patty shells ready, make a white sauce and heat the celery in it; fill the shells and add a little minced parsley.—Good Literature.

Crying Need.

When a man in Holland wants the police to stop an automobile that is going too fast—if anything goes fast in Holland—the machine is away across the border before he has finished the sentence, for the name of the automobile in Dutch is snellpaarveloosoondeerspoorwegspitrolrijtuig. There ought to be a cry among the automobile owners of: "Stop the language!"—Brooklyn Eagle.

Solomon declared that there was nothing new under the sun, but Nahum, the Elkshite, evidently foresaw the automobile when he wrote: "Charities shall rage in the streets; they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways; they shall seem like torches; they shall run like lightnings."—Boston Globe.

There are men who finally consent to go to work if they can't make a living in any other way.—Philadelphia Record.

IT'S THE TERROR OF ALL WOMEN.

Backache Quickly Cured by Dodd's Kidney Pills—Mrs. W. H. Ambrose Tells How Her Pains Vanished Never to Return When She Used the Great American Kidney Remedy.

Dover, Ky., Feb. 13th.—(Special)—So long has backache been the terror of the women of America that the numerous reports of the complete and permanent cures of this ailment now being made by Dodd's Kidney Pills are causing wondrous satisfaction, and not the least remarkable of these cures is that of Mrs. W. H. Ambrose of this place. Mrs. Ambrose says: "I had such pains in my back at times I could hardly move, and other symptoms showed that my kidneys were affected. One box of Dodd's Kidney Pills drove away all the pains and I have never been troubled since." Backache is the kidneys' first notice that they are out of order and need help. If they get that help in the form of Dodd's Kidney Pills all will be well. If they are neglected, the disease may develop into Diabetes, Bright's Disease or Rheumatism.

Men are so hungry for office in this country that occasionally one turns up who really wants to be pension commissioner.—Kansas City Journal.

To Cure a Cold in One Day Take Lavative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 50c.

They are always talking about lambs in Wall street, but our experience is that the lamb there is mighty tough.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

It Cures While You Walk. Allen's Foot-Ease is a certain cure for hot, sweating, callous, and swollen, aching feet. Sold by all Druggists. Price 25c. Don't accept any substitute. Trial package FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

It takes more than molasses on the lips to make honey in the heart.—Chicago Tribune.

A Guaranteed Cure for Piles. Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. Your druggist will refund money if Pills do not cure in 6 to 10 days. 50c.

Merely Robbery. "In the business world to-day there is too much 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'."

When a footpad approaches you seize him by the center of the arm and press your thumb violently against a nerve in the inner elbow joint. The footpad will then probably shoot five bullet-holes in you while he shrieks with pain. This is jiu jitsu.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Criticism hurts some people so much that the only thing that stings them is the absolute knowledge that they are always right.—Puck.

Girls will be girls, all right, but the trouble is so few of them ever realize an age limit.—Chicago Chronicle.

Health of American Women

A Subject Much Discussed at Women's Clubs—The Future of a Country Depends on the Health of Its Women.



Mrs. T. C. Willadsen Miss Mattie Henry

At the New York State Assembly of Mothers, a prominent New York doctor told the 500 women present that healthy American women were so rare as to be almost extinct. This seems to be a sweeping statement of the condition of American women. Yet how many do you know who are perfectly well and do not have some trouble arising from a derangement of the female organism which manifests itself in headaches, backaches, nervousness, that bearing-down feeling, painful or irregular menstruation, leucorrhoea, displacement of the uterus, ovarian trouble, indigestion or sleeplessness? There is a tried and true remedy for all these ailments. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has restored more American women to health than all other remedies in the world. It regulates, strengthens and cures diseases of the female organism as nothing else can. For thirty years it has been curing the worst forms of female complaints.

Such testimony as the following should be convincing. Mrs. T. C. Willadsen, of Manning, Ia., writes: "Dear Mrs. Pinkham— I can truly say that you have saved my life and I cannot express my gratitude to you in words. For two years I spent lots of money in doctoring without any benefit for most irregularities and I had given up all hopes of ever being well again, but I was persuaded to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and three bottles have restored me to perfect health. Had it not been for you I would have been in my grave to-day." Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Succeeds Where Others Fail.

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