Farm and Garden

HAIRY VETCH.

This Crop Is Particularly Valuable in the North.

Two vetches in particular are cultivated in the United States, the common vetch, or tares, and the hairy, or Russian, vetch. The former is much used as a winter crop for hay on the Pacific coast and in the southern states, being commonly sown with oats, rye or wheat. It is also extensively grown in the citrus orchards of California as a winter green manure crop. In the northern states it is very likely to winter kill.

Hairy vetch is in a general way like common vetch, but decidedly more resistant to cold. It will ordinarily survive the winter in most parts of the United States and in Canada. In fact, it is more resistant to cold than any other annual legume grown. On this account it is particularly valuable in the north, according to the bureau of plant industry. In the Connecticut valley it has received much favor as a winter green manure and cover crop on tobacco lands. Where the winter temperature is not cool enough to prevent growing, as in California, it has been found that hairy vetch grows much more slowly in cool weather than the common vetch, and the latter is therefore preferred. Hairy vetch, however, grows very rapidly as the weather becomes warm.

HAIRY VETCH.

Vetches are somewhat objectionable where small grains are used in rotation, as they become somewhat weedy in grainfields. Except for this, vetches are a very valuable crop and deserve much more extensive cultivation.

As a rule, hairy vetch can be safely sown from the 15th of August to the 15th of September, says an authority on this subject. When grown as a cover crop it should be sown alone.

What Overripe Hay Lacks.

The trouble with overripe or damaged hay is lack of palatability and, worse than this, indigestibility, remarks a writer in New England Homestead. It bears the same relation to good hay that a skim cheese does to a full cream cheese. You eat the former and never want to see its kind again. Chemical analysis does not discover the trouble, but the stomach does. The city feeder is a much better judge of quality in hay than the farmer, because he looks for results. There has been less improvement along this than any other line of farm work. It should be a question of how good as well as how much. It is easy to cause a depreciation of 25 or even 50 per cent in feeding value. The worst feature is the guilty party does not appear to notice the difference.

Sweet Corn.

In some Canadian tests the three varieties of sweet corn, Ringleader, Mammoth White Cory and Golden Bantam, required eighty-four, eighty-seven and eighty-eight days respectively to mature for table use, according to New England Homestead. In comparative value Ringleader stands first, but in table quality Golden Bantam was the leader.

Handy Pen Gate.

The accompanying sketch shows a sheep gate in use on several sheep stations, for woolshed pens and outside pen gates. It works on a stout bolt at the foot of one of the uprights and runs between the post and an upright fastened as shown. On the opposite side the gate as it shuts drops in a similar groove. This is said to work more easily than the guillotine gate and is less liable to get out of order. The gate as shown is half open. When fully open it is thrown quite back, and to close the gate it is thrown forward till it falls into its place in the opposite groove.—Leader.

SHEEP PEN GATE.

For Dwarf Pears.

For dwarf pears I would not advise any one to let the trees stand in sod, says T. G. in Farm and Fireside. It will mean ruination to the trees and unprofitable crops right along. The ordinary run of standard winter pears are not so particular, and we have usually grown very good crops on trees in sod.

STACKING WHEAT.

Loss to Farmers From Leaving Grain in the Shock.

Years ago it was a common custom to stack the wheat as soon as it was well cured in the shock, but gradually this custom was abandoned until in many parts of the country it was a rare sight to see a stack.

Learning From Experience.

Of recent years a reaction seems to be slowly taking place and stacking is again coming into fashion, according to a writer in American Agriculturist. The reason for this is not in doubt. It is the bitter and costly experiences that have come home to farmers through leaving their grain in the shock until the machine came around. Of course, when nobody stacked and the thrashing season occupied six weeks or more, a majority of the crops were necessarily left standing in the shock for weeks, exposed to storms and winds.

In Midsummer.

Now, of course, while it is a fact that rainy seasons in July are uncommon, they are of sufficiently regular occurrence to make the damage they inflict far outweigh the cost of annually stacking or storing the grain.

Protecting the Crop.

Stacking can be carried on every moment of the day that the wheat is dry enough to handle. If the stack is uncompleted at night or when a shower comes up it can be covered with a tarpaulin. With his grain once safely in the stack the farmer is independent of the weather and the machine boss and can go about his other work serenely conscious that he has done his duty in safeguarding his principal cash crop.

LOW DOWN BARROW.

Its Capacity Is Double That of the Ordinary Kind.

The drawing shows a low down barrow in sufficient detail to enable any one to make a similar one. We think that next to the low down cart it is the handiest thing around the buildings and garden that we have, says a writer in Farm and Fireside. Its capacity is more than double that of the ordinary kind, and the load is much more easily put aboard. It has the advantage of getting into close quarters where the cart would not go, and for use about the feeding alleys, the stable, the lawn and the garden there is hardly anything that will take its place.

For the framework get two pieces of hard wood 2 by 2 inches which will project to form handles on one end and for the wheel frame on the other. At front end of box in rear of wheel a piece of the same dimensions is mortised into the frame to hold it rigidly and to make the front end of box frame. Pieces 1½ by 1½ inches are also mortised into the bottom of the legs, both front and back. These form

LOW DOWN BARROW.

the foundation for the floor, which should be of three-quarter inch boards. The legs are mortised into the shaft or handle pieces, the front ones resting about three inches from the ground and the rear ones securely braced, as shown in the cut.

If desired the sides may be built from the floor solid and straight up, but we find it better to have a permanent bed from floor to top of handles, with removable side boards to slip on for use in handling bulky stuff.

Heavy material, such as bags of fertilizer, large stones, etc., are easily handled with this type of barrow, as they may be loaded between the handles directly from the ground.

Sowing Crimson Clover.

Crimson clover gives the best results when sown in late summer, preferably from July 15 to Sept. 1. It is most commonly planted in corn or following a small grain crop. In the latter case the land should be plowed and put in good condition before seeding. Considerable difficulty is often experienced in obtaining a stand of crimson clover. Indeed, it is a common saying that it must be sown between showers in order to be assured of a stand. It is important always to use fresh seed, as the germinating power deteriorates rapidly. Ordinarily twelve to fifteen pounds per acre are used, but good results have been obtained with smaller quantities. In some cases the failure to obtain a stand has been attributed to the lack of inoculation. In any event it is always desirable to inoculate the seed or the soil before planting on land for the first time. Even if a stand is only obtained two times out of three, crimson clover is still a very profitable crop to grow.—C. V. Piper.

English Sparrow Useful.

In regard to the English sparrow as being destructive to locusts a Medora (Ill.) letter says that thirteen years locusts have appeared in large numbers in Macoupin county, in the woodlands, and fears are expressed that they may damage crops. The discovery has been made, however, that the English sparrow, condemned as one of the farmer's worst enemies, is an avowed enemy of the locust, against which it is waging war and is killing them by the thousands.—Country Gentleman.

A Man's Time.

It is little else than foolish to pump water, shell corn and do other things of this sort by hand when a mechanical means is possible, remarks a writer in Iowa Homestead. If a man considers his time worth much, it won't take long to save enough time as well as energy to pay for a windmill or have the corn shelled.