

PECAN-NUTS.

J. S. COTTERELL, Manawaru, Auckland:—

Information is desired as to growing Pecan-nuts. Is this climate suitable for them?

The Horticulture Division:—

The Pecan-nut tree (*Carya olivaeformis*) is one of the hickories. The tree thrives well in this country. Specimens are known that are upwards of twenty years old and more than 25 ft. high. So far as we know, however, no nuts have yet been produced. The fact is the tree is variable; some bear well, some do not. Selection would be necessary, and apparently this has not been done even in America, where the English walnut is regarded as a better commercial proposition. The trees are grown from the nuts, which should be sown as soon after they are ripe as is possible.

CARE OF SHEEP ON GREEN FEED.

J. F. NICKLANS, Jun., Upper Fendalton:—

Would you kindly let me know the best drench or treatment for sheep when blown on green feed. We always suffer badly when feeding off crops or any green stuff. The trouble is just commencing again now (September).

Live-stock Division:—

Prevention is always better than cure, and in this case it is specially applicable. It is well known that where intense cultivation with its accompanying manurial preparation is carried on great care should be taken not to keep animals upon green feed for too long a time, otherwise indigestion will surely follow, as evidenced by scouring or blown animals, and even death. In cases of indigestion the best drench for a sheep would be 2 oz. of Epsom salts dissolved in a pint of water with the addition of a dessert-spoonful of ground ginger.

WIREWORMS IN THE VEGETABLE-GARDEN.

“WIREWORM,” Pohuenui:—

Kindly advise as to the best method of getting rid of wireworm in a vegetable-garden. The soil is a rich loam, and has been at different times well manured with sheep-manure. The wireworms mostly eat the vegetable-seeds as soon as they germinate.

The Horticulture Division:—

The best way to rid soil of wireworms is frequent and thorough cultivation, so as to enable birds—which are particularly fond of them—to pick them up. Salt applied at the rate of 5 cwt. or 6 cwt. per acre when the land is in fallow will kill wireworms, but it could not be applied in effective quantity while crops are growing. Wireworms are the larvæ of click-beetles, which abound in grass; therefore keep the ground free of such growths. Peas may be protected by strewing soot freely on them before covering them with soil, and lesser quantities of soot strewn on other seeds should have protective power. Never dig in cabbage-stumps or similar vegetable debris, as they form very congenial harbour for wireworms.

PIG-FEED.

MR. JAMES RITCHIE, Blyth, Nightcaps:—

Kindly state which, beans or potatoes, is the cheaper food for pigs, taking the foods at £4 per ton each.

The Live-stock Division:—

The difference is about four to one in favour of beans. Bean-meal added to boiled potatoes makes excellent pig-feed.