

PREPARING SOD LANDS FOR FRUIT.

It is not desirable to set small fruits directly after a tough old sod. You should use one or two cleaning crops, that is, crops that will receive careful cultivation, before you set out fruits. Such sod may be plowed this Fall, leaving the furrows standing up as straight as possible. The frost and air will destroy a good many of the grass and weed roots, and also help to break up the soil. In the Spring cross-plow or work up the sod with a tool like the Cutaway harrow; then plant either corn or potatoes in hills, using what manure or fertilizer you can afford, and giving constant culture, so as to keep the weeds subdued. At the last cultivation of the corn, we would sow 12 pounds per acre of Crimson clover. If this makes a fair growth, which is likely, plow it under the next year, and either repeat the crop or set out small fruits as seems most desirable.

—Rural New Yorker.

WRAPPING FRUIT IN TISSUE PAPER.

There is nothing very mysterious about the success of the California fruit growers. In the first place, they take pains to produce high grade fruit; then they fix it up in the nicest packages they can devise, and wrap every pear, every peach, every fruit except cherries, in tissue paper, some even having their brand printed on the tissue paper. And this fruit they send, and capture the fancy market. The way to beat California is to beat her at her own game. If it pays them to buy tissue paper and wrap their fruit it will pay you. It won't cost very much to send a box or two to market and see the difference in price. I don't care if you charge double price for the tissue paper and wrapping, and so on. Charge everything to the expense of the venture that you like, that your conscience will permit, and then make an estimate after you are all through. Fruit which is wrapped is of better quality. The wrapping retains the flavor. Why do the Florida people wrap their oranges? They

wrap oranges with skins as thick as sole leather, because it retains the aroma. With a pear, the longer that fragrance escapes the poorer it is. The peach, pear or plum that is wrapped is better than if not wrapped.—Ranch and Range.

THE SAN JOSE SCALE.

We fear our readers may become tired of seeing this heading in the various farm papers, but we assure them there is reason for a frequent mention of this pest. We know that some men that have orchard stock to sell are trying to belittle the danger, but the danger exists in spite of their efforts to lull the country into a fancied security. The state entomologist of California says that without doubt the San Jose scale is the greatest pest that has ever menaced the orchards of this country. In California it has become so prevalent that it is no longer considered possible to eradicate it. The only thing left to do is to fight it in every orchard and try to grow fruit in spite of it. Spraying has only the effect of keeping down the generations of young ones when they make their appearance on the orchard trees in large numbers. But in the forests where the scale has got a foothold no spraying that will be effective can be done. This should stimulate the horticulturists east of the Rocky mountains to do what they can to prevent the spread of the scale, knowing as we do that once the pest is among our wild trees it will be impossible of extinction. Every state should take energetic measures to protect its borders. We raise troops and spend millions to keep out foreign invaders when they come in the form of men. Why not spend money as freely when it is necessary to repel an insect invasion?

—Farmers' Review.

In nearly all the talk about farming I hear only about the payment in cash. It is quite as important to get the payment of happiness.