

Problems of the Soil

By Robert McLean
 1st News - Questions relating to the farm and garden problems will be discussed in this column in the order of their receipt. Questions should be addressed to 22201 53rd St., San Diego 10, Calif.
 County Agricultural Commissioner

op—I have a dozen Mexican avocados, the fruit of which is about worthless, although the trees are very vigorous. Do you advise working them over to good varieties, or just to get any slugs that were missed at the first treatment, or that have hatched from eggs previously laid.

By all means work these trees instead of rooting them, planting others. There are a lot of good reasons why, among them, the fact that this is the best method, in place, and the most numerous seedlings of certain types, of course, take part of it when they are moved, and they lose the top root system, and large roots may better grow more rapidly and make fine trees. Look for the seedlings to be planted in the Mexican avocados, were they into bearing.

Another fact is that a large number of the seeds of avocados, particularly those of the "Mexican" type, do not grow at all, or at least at a very slow rate, and it is not until they are planted in the soil that they begin to grow. At the end of the year, the plants are usually found to be dead, and the only reason for this is that the seeds have not been planted in the soil.

Question—Will you tell me how to grow a large number of these plants?

Answer—The amount of time to use depends somewhat on the type of soil and the purpose for which it is to be used as well as the kind of time available. In general it may be said that 5 to 15 to 20 pounds of fine ground limestone, unburned, for 100 square feet can be used, or from five to 10 pounds of ordinary building lime, which has been burned but not air-baked, better it over the surface and spaded in well. Air-baked lime can be used in the same amounts as ground limestone. Quick lime, on the other hand, has been burned and air-baked, and should not be used where it will come in immediate contact with seeds or plant roots.

Slugs are attracted to watered plants and may be controlled with a greater or lesser degree of success, by using poisoned baits composed of lime, green and red lead. A mixture of one pound of each of these poisons, with one pound of slaked lime, and one pound of water, will make a good bait. This should be applied to the plants in the form of a spray, and the plants should be watered immediately after the application. The plants should be watered again in a few days, and the slugs should be killed.

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Marketing Legislation

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 12 (A.P.)—New federal and state agricultural marketing legislation will be discussed by outstanding governmental and farm leaders at the 86th California Fruit Growers' and Farmers' convention here Dec. 4, 5 and 6.

A. A. Block, state director of agriculture, who selected Sacramento as the convention city for 1933, following the established custom of alternating the meeting annually between northern and southern California, expects the December conference will be "one of the liveliest and well-attended in recent history."

Putting it on the soil—L. F. W. Answer—The amount of time to use depends somewhat on the type of soil and the purpose for which it is to be used as well as the kind of time available. In general it may be said that 5 to 15 to 20 pounds of fine ground limestone, unburned, for 100 square feet can be used, or from five to 10 pounds of ordinary building lime, which has been burned but not air-baked, better it over the surface and spaded in well. Air-baked lime can be used in the same amounts as ground limestone. Quick lime, on the other hand, has been burned and air-baked, and should not be used where it will come in immediate contact with seeds or plant roots.

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