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South Dakota State Horiculturist Society

SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURIST

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURIST
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THE BOX ELDER, IN ITS PLACE AND OUT OF PLACE

Anson L. Crawford, Brookings

There is perhaps no tree more condemned and more abused in the entire Northwest than our familiar Boxelder, sometimes spoken of as "That weed among trees."

And, on the other hand, there is, I am sure, no other tree that has done as much to redeem the treeless condition of our prairie state as this same Boxelder.

It all depends on the point of view.

If you aim to make the Boxelder your ultimate tree, with no thought or plan of anything better growing to replace it, perhaps you had better heed the advice of the "wise ones" and leave it severely alone. With such a plan (or, rather lack of plan) I am willing to endorse every bad thing said against it. But if you are willing to look on both sides of the tree problem, "Trees for now' and "Trees for the future," my advice is to plant liberally of the Boxelder. In other words, make your plans as to what permanent trees you will want in the future and plant them where you will want them to stay. And then plant about three times as many of the Boxelder for your immediate results.

As a "nurse tree' the Boxelder is not surpassed and I doubt if equalled. It produces "forest conditions" sooner than anything else that is hardy here. But where so many fall down, is in neglecting to remove the nurse trees just as soon as the permanent trees need the room, light and moisture for themselves. It takes nerve and determination to destroy nice thrifty trees when they are just big enough to give you comfort in their shade, and their limbs are holding swings and hammocks, and when the more permanent trees which you are leaving are less than a fourth their size—More nerve than most growers have.

But, take warning. A few years more and the permanent trees become stunted, past all profitable recovery. Then all too soon, the Boxelders reach their usual short span of life, and all you have provided is a few scrubby failures. Your Boxelders are gone, or an eye-sore for ever after. And there you are—trash, and not too much of that.

But in spite of this neglect liable to ensue, I urge the planting of Boxelders, say about three trees between each permanent tree, soon removing the ones nearest the permanent trees, and after a few years more, cut out the last of them.

They will make a fair fuel if allowed to cure in the sunlight. But of course if you let them lay a year or so in the shade of the other trees after cutting , the bacteria of decay gets in its work, and the wood loses much of its value.

It is all right and proper to PLANT the Boxelder, but DON'T neglect to Cut them.

We note that England refuses to allow apples infested with the apple maggot to enter England. "Export Form Certificates" must be secured from the U. S. Government before steamship companies will accept apples for shipment.

New Jersey has absolutely wiped out the gypsy moth. It will not be long before Florida can say the same about the Fruit Fly.

WHY USE CERTIFIED NURSERY STOCK?

E. L. Chambers, State Entomologist

Just as well established trademarks on many other products offered the public are indications of quality so has the nursery inspection tag come to be recognized as an index of quality in nursery stock.

Every state now has a law written on its statute books requiring that all nursery stock sold or moved in the state must be accompanied with a nursery inspection tag bearing an exact copy of the certificate issued by the inspector upon examining the stock and finding it free from dangerous insect pests and injurious plant diseases. In other words, this tag indicates that you are purchasing stock having a clean bill of health. The public can no better afford to buy an elm tree infested with European elm scale or a fruit tree infested with San Jose scale than they could a moth eaten suit of clothes or a crate of wormy cherries.

Very often well meaning folks offer their friends some of their surplus stock either as a gift or at an attractive price which, when compared with high grade thrifty trees and shrubs developed carefully by skilled growers, proves to be a great deal more expensive in the long run. These people would never think of offering their friends moth eaten, outgrown clothing and we do not believe it would be necessary to warn folks not to accept such garments. These folks mean well but nursery pests are frequently difficult to detect. Even experts frequently have difficulty without the aid of a microscope or powerful hand lens and some of our worst diseases, such as white pine blister rust, can not be recognized by even these specialists in the early stages.

San Jose scale proves expensive. The danger of gambling by accepting uninspected nursery stock has been brought home to those who own homes in the several cities of our state where San Jose scale control campaigns have been launched. In Madison, La Crosse, Whitewater, Union Grove, Racine, Kenosha, Rochester, Waterford, and Milwaukee, where it has been necessary to spray all infested properties in order to keep the pest under control sufficiently to permit the continued growing of its some 150 host plants, it was found, without exception, that every infestation center could be traced to uninspected trees and shrubs moved in violation of the state nursery inspection law. The principal offenders were plum trees, although currant and gooseberry bushes, dogwood, lilac, and rose bushes were responsible for many spreads. Scores of instances were observed where one wild plum seedling, already dead as a result of the infestation which it carried, was responsible for killing many valuable trees and shrubs besides requiring a continual expenditure of money and effort to combat the pests with spray materials to save the rest.

If the offenders in these law violations were the only ones to suffer, the situation would not be so bad, but unfortunately the entire community has to pay the penalty and it is for this reason that such laws as our nursery inspection law are written on our statute books. Unlike our neighboring states to the south, Wisconsin has been able, through constant fighting, to prevent this pest from becoming widely established and it never has been permitted to reach any of our commercial apple growing districts where it would play havoc as it has in other states. Our nurserymen are frequently bringing into their nurseries new varieties and species of trees and shrubs from other states and occasionally before they have a sufficient quantity grown to distribute our inspectors find a trace of San Jose scale or other equally serious pests and these trees have to be cut out and burned. No nursery in Wisconsin is issued a certificate or permitted to do business in which any trace of San Jose scale has been found until every visibly infected tree and shrub has been burned as well as those growing in immediate proximity to them. Similar regulations hold for many other pests including European Elm scale, Poplar borer, Birch borer, Pine leaf scale, etc., as well as for such diseases as elm canker, poplar canker, fireblight, etc.

As an indication of the losses sustained by nurserymen to maintain

this high standard, it is interesting to note that approximately 5,000 elm trees alone were condemned in less than 42 of the 351 nurseries certified this year. 1500 poplar trees were condemned, 612 for poplar canker and 888 for the poplar borer in 21 nurseries, and 1635 raspberry bushes were dug out in 76 of these nurseries because of the mosaic diseases.

Every nursery agent selling nursery stock in Wisconsin is required to carry a copy of the certificate issued his firm by the state Department of Agriculture and Markets and he will gladly present these credentials for your examination if you wish to make certain of his reliability. Agents refusing to show their credentials should be dealt with cautiously and reported to the department for investigation.

The last legislature amended the nursery inspection law as it concerns dealers so that a registration fee of $5.00 is required besides the usual sworn affidavit listing the sources from which the dealer proposes to purchase nursery stock for reselling. Each store in a chain store group is required by this law to take out a certificate individually, and these stores are likewise required to furnish an inspection tag with every package of nursery stock sold or delivered by them. Any store not complying with this requirement should be reported to the State Entomologist and the stock refused unless a copy of their certificate can be furnished.

Anyone having a surplus of nursery stock growing on his premises which he would like to dispose of should arrange with the State Entomologist for its inspection and certification. Arrangements can be made for the inspection of single bundles through the Madison office; usually, however, it will be found much cheaper and more satisfactory to purchase nursery stock from your local nurseryman since, unless very well packed, the roots become dry in transit and are valueless. Since nurserymen transplant their trees and shrubs several times to develop a desirable root system, are equipped to dig and pack them properly, and will stand back of their products, we believe that with the prices of nursery stock as low as they have been during the past year or two it would be foolish to pay express on the type of stock frequently received for inspection at our office. The practice of digging up evergreens in the woods and hauling them home on the running board of your car is likewise to be discouraged for this same reason and it is a waste of what might be good future timber. The practice is not only unlawful but wasteful.—Wisconsin Horticulture.

NATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW TO BE HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS, MARCH 29 TO APRIL 6

The eleventh National Flower and Garden Show is to be held in Minneapolis March 29 to April 6, when it is expected that nearly 100,000 square feet of space in the immense new Municipal Auditorium will be filled with exhibits. Plans are being made to take care of more than 200,000 visitors at the show, and sixty jurors will spend a week awarding the prizes which total more than $25,000 cash.

Minnesota horticulturists are active in arranging for the event, which is sponsored by the Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturists. The forty-sixth anunal convention of the society will be held on April 1, 2 and 3, in connection with the show.

Exhibits will range from displays of shrubs and flowers best adapted to small yard planting to elaborate formal garden effects, carried out with living trees and flowers, real lawns and blossoming shrubs. Garden furniture, fountains, pools, trellises, pergolas, all kinds of garden equipment will be shown with the trees and shrubs best suited to them.

Flower and garden shows in other cities have invariably resulted in greatly increased interest in gardening, shown by organization of garden clubs. Chicago had eleven clubs prior to the show held there, but now has 85. Thirteen garden clubs were organized last season in Buffalo, N. Y., immediately following the show there in April, 1929.

Theodore Wirth, superintendent of parks in Minneapolis, is chairman of the local executive committee.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A TRAVELING MAN

W. A. Simmons

Dec. 5th: If you haven't already received it, better send to State College, Brookings, South Dakota, for Dr. Hansen's new bulletin entitled "Hardy Roses for South Dakota." It is written in the author's usual clear and interesting style, and contains the experience and information gleaned from a lifetime of careful observation by a mind of unusual keenness with an insatiable thirst for information.

He tells of his requirements in a rose, hardiness sufficient to survive our winters without winter protection of any kind, and lists the following as having come up to his standard in this respect, at the Sioux Falls rose garden: Rugosa hybrids, Conrad F. Meyer, Agnes Emily Carman, Mme. Charles Frederick Worth, F. J. Grootendorst, Belle Poitevine, Sir Thomas Lipton, Hansa, Mrs. Anthony Waterer, Ames Rose, Roseraie de l' Hay, La Melusine, Prof. N. E. Hansen (named for the Doctor by its originator, Prof. Budd of Ames, Iowa) Tetonkaha, and Tegala, the latter two being Dr. Hansen's own contribution to beauty in the northwest. "Climbing American Beauty was hardy last winter when left on the ground," adds the author.

Concluding the booklet is a very interesting and valuable symposium of advice as to winter protection, from the pens of such gifted experts as Dr. John Donahoe, Sioux Falls; A. C. Ellerman of Yankton; Prof. A. F. Yeager and Dr. James P. Aylen, Fargo, N. D., Dr. H. S. Woutat of Grand Forks, N. D.; and Mr. F. S. Skinner of Dropmore, Manitoba.

Jan. 1st, 1930: Am writing a few lines today merely to practice putting down 1930 on the date line.

Our Christmas cactus seemed influenced by the Postmaster's plea for early starting of Christmas presents this year and not by the usual injunction ,"do not open 'till Christmas day." But little color was left on it on the day it is supposed to perform, but a gorgeous Amarylis bud, the first of four, opened a few days later, also several paper white narcissus opened during the holiday week. These latter, seem much better than we have had since importation of foreign bulbs was stopped; evidently American bulb growers are becoming more successful in producing worth while bulbs. Have hand pollinated the Amarylis blossoms and the seed pods seem to be developing satisfactorily, and I think I shall try growing some from seed. The Amarylis is a glorious sight when in bloom and well worth waiting a year to see. If mine is at all heterozygous, as Dr. Hansen has it, or if it contains any of the mixed "egg shells" that Monsignor O'Meara declared himself "off" from, perhaps some variation will appear in the seedlings. It probably won't require over four or five years to find out.

The Gorgeous Amarylis

Jan. 11: Our annual meeting has come and gone, and in looking back on it in retrospect, it seems to have been one of the pleasantest and most harmonious in the history of the society. In line with the present

day tendency of intensive effort, the experiment of cutting down the length of the meeting from three to two days was made, and this seemed to work well and all sessions, including the two evening ones, were very well attended and fully occupied. President Hansen made a very charming presiding officer, and the papers presented and the talks made, were all good.

In Japan when a foreigner runs up against a government law or ruling that causes him loss, and the governing officials have no intention of modifying it in his favor, he is told, "I am sorry for you." If you did not attend the meeting, that is all the consolation we are able to offer at this time, coupled with the hope that it will not occur again.

A constitution was adopted which in our opinion will work for efficiency in the office of Secretary as it removes the position from the influence of politics. Hereafter the Secretary will be elected by the executive board instead of by the members present at the annual meeting. In addition to the five constitutional officers of the society, five new members of this board are provided for in this constitution making a board of ten members. At this meeting all five members were elected for terms ranging from one to five years, but at succeeding meetings but one member will be elected and for a uniform period of service of five years. This makes a semi-permanent governing body, each member of which will have become, during his long tenure of office, highly conversant with the aims and affairs of the society and make for a highly desirable continuity of policy and effort. It also makes for democracy in setting the governing body of the society on a broader base and rendering one man rule impossible. In Mr. J. B. Taylor, Geo. W. Gurney, F. X. Wallner, E. A. Gates and W. F. Michel, the society has selected a splendid body of men for this executive board, every one of them absolutely unselfish and with the single desire and purpose of serving the society.

Another innovation in the constitution is in the time and the manner of electing the officers. Heretofore the election has been held early in the morning of the last day of the meeting. Invariably this would be the poorest attended session of the meeting, and the officers would be elected by a mere handful of voters. By the new constitution candidates will be nominated from the floor at 11 a. m. on the first day of the meeting. The President will then appoint a committee of three to have supervision of the balloting and the polls will be open from 12 o'clock noon to 2 p. m. each day of the meeting so that each member attending will have plenty of opportunity to register their choice without being under the necessity of attending any one special session. The local committee had done their work well and thoroughly and some splendid papers were presented, many of which you will see published in our magazine. The new Codington county court house, in the community room of which the meetings were held, is a rare gem of architecture and the last word in comfort. It was decided to hold the next meeting in Mitchell, which is very centrally located and where the attendance should be good. All we have to do now is to renew our memberships for the coming year and get as many of our neighbors to join as possible.

To make obtaining new members worth while, I shall be glad to send a regal lily bulb, for each membership sent in. The member you secure will get our magazine for a year and their choice of our plant premiums, and you will get the lily bulb for your trouble. In order that no one will be overlooked, I am going to ask you to send these new memberships to me. Make your checks or money orders payable to the secretary, R. W. Vance, but send them to me at Sioux Falls, so I can be sure of sending lily bulbs to each one that has earned them.

We want to increase our annual membership to a least one thousand this year and we can easily do so, if each one does his part. You know who among your friends and neighbors is interested in horticulture and it only requires a little explanation on your part to get them to join. Don't talk to them about it, and then leave them to make up their minds later; get their dollar and let them do anything they please with their minds.

FLOWER SHOWS BENEFIT COMMUNITY

Mrs. J. C. Lepler, Watertown

Flower shows are said to have originated in Holland, and the village ale houses of England. From this beginning the idea has spread to all civilized countries, and wherever flower shows have been held, we find gardening has become increasingly popular.

The past decade has been especially fruitful. Towns and cities everywhere in the land now count their flower shows necessary adjuncts to community life. As a nation, it seems we are becoming truly flower conscious.

In many large cities flower shows are the result of the combined efforts of several agencies, such as professional florists, horticulturists, park boards, museums, and city officials. Oftentimes professionals are engaged who spend weeks in working out the details of an exhibition. Then too, we have two great groups of women gardeners, viz: the Garden Club of America and The Federal Garden Clubs. These organizations have been especially active in setting high standards of taste in display and have made gardening and knowledge of flowers popular. As a result, those towns and cities have been made more beautiful. Last year in the 15th International Show in New York the Pasadena (California) Garden Club contributed a most remarkable exhibition. The collection was called a "California Desert Exhibit". The plants were collected by the Pasadena Club on several trips to the desert, and were brought east by refrigerator car and airplane. Even the sands and stone used in the setting were brought from the desert, and an artist painted a back drop of desert scenery.

In the 16th International Show held in New York last summer there were exhibited forty (40) little models of sculpture suitable for small gardens. These models were the outcome of competition held by the Garden Club of America.

A flower show used to be merely a display of plants. Today it is often a display of gardens, and parts of gardens, pool gardens, rock gardens, and period gardens. Definite planting problems which trouble hundreds of home owners are worked out by experts in concrete form.

Truly it is hard to estimate the great benefit of a flower show to the community. Those who carry the brunt of the burden of sponsoring them may perhaps be pardoned if they wonder occasionally about the good they are accomplishing. But surely it is not the floral spectacle alone that counts but what matters most is the enthusiasm invoked. Pitting one against another in friendly competition, it furnishes a healthful, sporting form of recreation. There is also a general quickening of interest in the art of growing things, a rising standard of quality reflected not only in the character of the exhibits, but in the artistic skill shown in their display.

Ladies of the Watertown Community Club who have sponsored a local show since 1924 have noticed the marked improvement in each succeeding flower show.

In those earlier years gardeners were often content to bring in a crowded bunch of flowers, many of them half wilted. Gradually the exhibitors learned through observation and experience the value of an artistic arrangement, and these last years it has been common practice for the exhibitor to rise early the very morning of the show, gather the choicest specimens of his garden and then with bowls, vases, or baskets to accentuate the loveliness of his wares, spend hours in getting an artistic arrangement.

That "Seeing is believing" holds true in the matter of flower shows. Many who have believed that a certain flower couldn't be grown in their own locality have been easily convinced by seeing it on display at their show. Last year a local dahlia enthusiast exhibited so beautiful a display that one after another of the crowd had to be convinced that the exhibit was not an artificial one but "honest-to-goodness' home grown dahlias.

Flower shows have been called the barometers of the Gardening world in that they register the development of flowers, vegetables and fruits, and faithfully record the fashion of the seasons. They are an outward sign of progress that is being made in the horticultural world. But more than that it reveals that people in all stations of life are realizing that horticulture is a necessary and vital part of their daily lives and they are striving to grow something beautiful and satisfying to body and soul.

Beautiful towns and cities do not just "happen to be that way." They are the result of definite effort, the intelligent and purposeful cooperation of its citizens. There is nothing that will do more to stimulate interest in city beautifying than a local flower show. Through lack of means and facilities we may not be able to stage so elaborate an exhibition as do the Horticultural Societies of larger cities with their great buildings and scores of trained workers, at their disposal. We can, however, put on some sort of a flower show, and in this way do more for ourselves in the matter of city beautification than we can possibly gain from visiting a distant exhibition, be it ever so fine.

If you live in a South Dakota town that has never sponsored a flower show, get busy and have one. The Show may be very meagre the first few times but the interest aroused in beautifying your own home town will more than repay your efforts.

STREET TREE PLANTING AS A FUNCTION OF PARK DEPARTMENT OR TREE PLANTING COMMISSIONS

W. E. Webb, Superintendent of Parks, Mitchell

Implanted in the hearts and minds of a majority of our citizens is a love of beauty, a need for shade, a desire to improve the appearance of our surroundings, and even in some cases the knowledge of the increased values in dollars and cents that such improvements can bring to our property. It is also true that most of us have our own ideas and individual plans as to how this may best be done, and as to what is most pleasing to ourselves. It is well that this is so in most respects, otherwise our yards and gardens would have a monotonous sameness of design, planting, and color that would detract from the pleasure we now obtain in working out, each for himself, our own ideas of beauty. In one instance however, this individualistic tendency operates not only against the appearance of our own properties but against the best appearance of our cities as a whole. This instance is in the case of shade trees planted in the parkings along our streets.

Most of us have seen and admired in certain cities throughout the country, or at least in pictures, streets lined with magnificent specimens of trees of a uniform kind, height, and spacing. Such a vision long remains a pleasant memory, and causes most of us to try to reproduce this effect in front of our own homes. It is at this point that our individual ideas come in to spoil the effect that we are attempting to create. One man remembers the long rows of beautiful elms in some New England town; his neighbor has visions of the shadowy aisles beneath a street lined with majestic, old, soft maples; across the street lives one who thinks back to the time when he played beneath an oak; next door is one who loves the autumn colors of the Norways or hard maples; still another prefers the evergreens, and another who originally came from a dryer region thinks only of cottonwoods. Each plants the tree or trees of his choice according to his own ideas of spacing, and the net result is not beauty but rather chaos and lack of uniformity where uniformity itself brings beauty. Each is envisioning only his own place, not realizing that it will be swallowed up and lost to view by the sight of the street as a whole.

Imagine for a moment that you are turning a corner into some residential street. If that street is lined with trees of one kind, uniformly spaced to allow each tree to fully develop in its required amount of sunlight, do you notice if each lot has the same number of trees as the

one next to it? If in front of this house a tree has been planted just so many feet each side of the service walk or from the property line? You do not. The individual lot is lost sight of in the realization that here is a beautiful avenue of trees that sets off each home far more effectively than any other means could do.

From this point on the plantings should be expressive of our individual tastes. Different houses require different treatments in planting in order to bring out the best effects, and a variety in the use of shrubs for base plantings and in flowers for borders is highly desirable. If one has a desire to plant a certain kind of tree by all means do so, but plant it in the back yard or close to the house in front where it will not interfere with the growth or spoil the effect of the parking trees.

It is not the purpose of this article to specify what trees should be used for parking plantings. Too many conditions enter into the selection of a proper variety, such as the width of the street itself, the class of buildings on that street, atmospheric conditions as to make smoke or gas, the width of the planting or parking strip, etc. The conditions of soil and moisture also vary so greatly within this State that some trees that might be excellent for one locality, would be impossible to grow in another. Such things can be easily determined however. The real problem is to obtain uniformity, and by uniformity is not necessarily meant the use of only one kind of tree for the entire city or even for the entire length of a street. Because of a change in soil conditions, in the class of dwellings, or perhaps in the width of the street itself, it might often become desirable to change the variety of the trees along some streets. This should only be done however at that place on the street where the change is not conspicuous as at some intersecting street or at a point where the street turns, widens, or narrows. In general the planting should be uniform over as much of the length of any street as possible, and this same variety kept in definite, blocked out areas in the city itself.

The best solution for this problem of uniform planting is of course through the designation of some department of the city government to take charge of this work and then to furnish them with the funds needed to plant, trim, repair, or remove all trees in the parking. This system is being followed in many cities through their Park or City Forestry departments and this system insures of the quickest results. It is however, possible to secure much the same results in a longer period of time without what might be considered the burden of additional taxation. All that would be necessary would be the appointment of a Street Tree Commission invested with the control of all future plantings, removals, trimmings, etc., of the trees along the parkings. Such a Commission should determine what species of trees were best suited to the needs and conditions of its own town, decide upon the kind best suited for any street, and through the use of a permit system allow only that kind of a tree to be planted, and then only in its proper location. Gradually over a period of years all undesirable species would become eliminated even from the older portions of the town, and eventually a uniform planting would result. In the case of newer sections of the city, results would be seen much more quickly. Such a system removes all personal choice in the matter of selection of street trees, but in the benefits derived, not only to the whole community but to each property owner, the end justifies the means.

The writer has had too much experience in street tree work to believe that such a program can be adopted in any community without considerable opposition. Such opposition however, is usually based upon lack of knowledge of the results that are being striven for. In such cases an intelligent explanation is usually all that is necessary. Others will oppose such a plan with the arguments that they will not live to obtain the benefits of which you speak or else they desire to plant whatever

(Continued on page 11)

DAHLIA-GROWING IN THE BLACK HILLS

L. S. Hamm, Black Hills Bulb Gardens, Rapid City

The culture and care of the dahlia deals with the finest fall flower that nature, with man's assistance, has ever provided and, with the possible exception of the rose, is the most difficult to successfully grow in the Northwest, when we take into consideration the difficulty of handling the tubers through the winter. There are many problems which confront the amateur grower which only practical experience can solve. Someone has said that dahlias are as easy to grow as potatoes. This is true as regards the tubers but not as regards the fine flowers in which we are most interested. Conditions for dahlia growing in our Black Hills region, with its high, arid altitude and short growing seasons, are not as favorable as they are along the seashores or in locations of longer seasons and more abundant rainfall, as moist air seems to be a wonderful stimulus to the flowers and noticeably so if cool. Because of this somewhat unfavorable natural situation we must select varieties which prove adaptable to this region. The blossoms of some of the larger flowering varieties will not stand up under our intense midday sun and of course must be discarded. It seems that some dahlias, after having been grown in a new locality for some years become somewhat adapted and shorten their blooming period to some extent. We have found also that the tubers become hardier and winter better under these conditions. Some which we have grown for many years seem to keep through the winter without care, while many of the imported ones must be watched very closely, and then we lose a few. We find that loosely packing them in boxes and covering with sawdust retains just about the proper amount of moisture to prevent drying out, and allows enough air to circulate, so that they will not mildew. Never line the boxes with paper when packing in sawdust as this tends to prevent air circulation.

We had a call for some gladiolus to be used to beautify the Summer Whitehouse grounds at the State Game Lodge so we delivered these in person about June first and took some of our best dahlia bulbs to plant as an experiment, to ascertain if possible the advisability of growing in such an unfavorable location. You who have visited this place with its four to five hours of daily sunshine and intermittent snows realize the difficulties encountered in attempting to produce dahlia blooms. Notwithstanding this natural handicap, one of these dahlias, Elsie Davidson, a medium size yellow decorative, bloomed in about sixty days from date of planting and thirty days ahead of frost. I doubt if any dahlia direct from the coasts would get out of the way of frost in that region if planted so late. So any of you who grow dahlias will obtain better results from northwestern, inland grown, acclimated tubers.

There is one phase of dahlia culture which applies equally to all locations and which I believe is the most misunderstood and abused of any part of dahlia growing and that is disbudding. This must be done if we are to give the plants a chance to do their best. No intelligent farmer would allow ten stalks of corn to grow in a hill; if he did so he would get only nubbins, if anything at all. So if we allow an excessive number of dahlia buds to develop they will necessarily produce small blossoms if anything at all. Without disbudding we get some flowers five to six inches in diameter, by disbudding we get eight to nine inch flowers. Time will not permit a description of the proper method of disbudding but we expect to explain this matter in detail in our spring price list and I believe that all growers should stress this feature very much more than they have in the past. I might mention some of the dahlias which have proven very satisfactory in our South Dakota climate, including some of the older varieties and a few of the later originations: Bonnie Brae, Dr. Tevis, Frank A. Walker, Elsie Davidson, Jack Rose, Purple Manitou, Millianaire, Mina Burgie, William H. Slocombe, Gladys Sherwood, Mrs. Ethel F. T. Smith, A. D. Livoni, Augus Megar, Miss Helen Hollis, Robert Broomfield, White Swan, F. W. Fellows, Princess Juliana, and Judge Marean.

The following will do well in our climate and include some of the finest yet introduced: Ambassador, Champagne, Elinor Vanderveer, Pride of California, Mrs. Carl Salbach, Mrs. I. de Ver Warner, Jersey's Beauty, Jersey's Beacon, Kitty Dunlap, Edna Ferber, Marmion and Trentonian.

As dahlias have been my hobby for years and more interesting to me than any other of the bulbous family I will mention six "don'ts" to which I strictly adhere:

Don't plant when soil is wet.
Don't plant in soggy, poorly drained ground.
Don't cultivate when ground is wet.
Don't allow more than two stalks to grow in a hill—one is just as good.
Don't water until blooming time unless absolutely necessary, then soak well when needed.
Don't merely sprinkle.

We have a few people who can express themselves in an exceptionally pleasing manner. Our good friend Elmer Eddy, of Sisseton, gave an account of his trip to the State Horticultural meeting in the Sisseton Courier. We hope to hear from Mr. Eddy in the future. The following is part of one of Eddy's Eddytorials":

Just last week I journey down
Through the cold to Watertown
To meet with people of renown
and gather information.
The business people of that city
Are very wise, alert and witty,
Had their town all clean and pretty.
And gave us inspiration.
The reason for the town's success
The people credit to their press
And it isn't just an idle guess
They've had some demonstrations.
Last year the papers let folks know
The town would have a flower show
And everybody had to go
To see the decorations.
And now their papers make it known
That at our meeting folks are shown
How 'choice flowers and fruits are grown:
That demonstrates their worth.
Were I an artist (which I aint)
With flowery words I'd surely paint
The horticulturist a saint—
And editors the "Salt of Earth."

STREET TREE PLANTING AS A FUNCTION OF PARK DEPARTMENT OR TREE PLANTING COMMISSIONS

(Continued from Page 9.)

they choose in an attempt to obtain the quickest results. Arguments and education are usually of little avail against such people, and the adoption of this or any plan of civic improvement depends mainly upon which class of citizen is in the majority. There is no denying the fact that the results of such a plan are slow in appearing. It is also self evident that without a plan of some kind the present condition merely perpetuates itself. Our towns and cities are very young. Why should we not start now to plan for their appearance fifty or a hundred years from now? Why not insure to our children and to the children of generations to come that love for their birthplaces and that appreciation of beauty and order that is bred into those who grow up in pleasant surroundings beneath beautiful, stately trees?

GARDEN NOTES

F. X. Wallner, Sioux Falls

As the different seed catalogues arrive, we study them and order different stocks from several firms, as few have all the good things.

Get the earliest types of vegetables. It is very important in the growing of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and melons.

What makes the new Campanile Tower at Brookings lean?

I sure enjoyed the meeting at Watertown, but missed my vegetable exhibit, as usually there are many questions asked in regard to the different vegetables. I have not missed showing vegetables at the meeting since I joined twelve years ago.

The latest thing in presses is a small family cider press to set at the table, to press apples or other fruits, to give the children fresh fruit juices with their meals. We will bring the presses if John Robertson will bring the apples next year and we will have the "Robertson Blend" fresh from the press, no danger of it being too hard or old.

I cannot understand how our little black kitty could catch the big goldfish out of a keg of water a foot from the top; got there in time to see the wiggling tail disappear. The boys threaten to dispose of the kitty, but still we are not for a catless world.

The winter wheat crop is reported unharmed by the cold and snowless winter, but look to your newly set shrubs and trees that have not been protected. Its best even this late to cover with straw or coarse manure.

Some of the best papers we have ever had were read at the Watertown meeting and still we cannot get them into an annual report, but some will get into the monthly magazine and some into other papers. Some of the best material was lost because we did not have anyone to take a shorthand report of the meeting. We are promised a shorthand report of our meeting at Mitchell.

Seth Hulburt says the cat spoiled the apple crop, John Robertson says the birds spoiled the apple crop; a ten minute debate between these two fruit growers for the Mitchell meeting ought to fill the hall.

The Government estimates that each rat causes a loss of two dollars a year. I think it amounts to much more than that in this country. Even a field mouse will do that much damage in three months. I just brought in twelve shocks of sweet corn fodder that has been out only three months, and it was about worthless. The mice had piled the dirt all through it and taken all the corn.

The "Cockloft" says, "The credit structure of America for the next twelve months depends on the ability of the factories disposing of their wares at a profit, but it makes little difference if the Dakota producer must sell grain, fruits and vegetables year after year at a loss.

It is not too early to plan for next year's meeting at Mitchell. We are all hoping for as good a session as we had at Watertown and we must give all the help possible to the local committee, as so much depends on a livewire; not every meeting place has an Andy Palm, or glad fan like Michel.

At one time carrots were used as food for horses and used in soups, but with the quality raised the consumption doubled in the last few years, even though there are but few city horses left.

Boost for home grown fruit and vegetables by always asking for the home grown products.

Be sure and try the New Zeland spinach, its a dry weather plant and you will have greens until late frost.

It would not be too early to get out the recommended list of vegetables for the State in the February issue but we gave it last year and there would be little change and unless it is asked for we will not give it again. Remember earliness is the main point. Do not chance your whole planting to untried boosted sorts. We are growing some sorts now that have been little improved upon since we first tried them about 1885 to 1890 a long time ago, but still good, while in some lines we have had great improvement.

THE BEEKEEPER SHOULD PREPARE FOR THE COMING SUMMER

The beekeepers' new year has come and gone and already the first preparations for the honey crop of 1930 have been made. The bees are now in their winter quarters and if the colonies are strong and the bees well supplied with an abundance of wholesome food and adequate protection from changing temperatures, all is well, but if the colonies are weak and the bees inadequately fed or protected, the result will be dead or weakened colonies in the spring.

Although it is too late to rectify the mistakes that may have been made in some of these early preparations, there is yet time to provide sufficient protection and thus possibly save many colonies from destruction. For bees that are wintered outside, it is very important that they be well protected from the wind and where natural protection is not available, the erection of a board fence around the apiary is strongly advised. Where bees are wintered in cellars in which there is a danger of freezing temperatures, an embankment of earth thrown up against the outside walls of the cellar will reduce the danger of loss. In such a cellar it is also advisable to reduce the size of the entrance to the hive. If the danger is from too high a temperature a good system of ventilation must be provided to reduce the temperature. A little work now will reduce the number of empty hives next spring.

With the bees all safe and not requiring attention until next March or April the beekeeper now has ample time to prepare all equipment for use in the apiary next summer. Nothing is more discouraging during the active season, when bees are swarming and nectar coming in, than to be short of equipment or to be obliged to hunt all over the place for it. Now is the time to make it ready. First clean and repair all the equipment on hand and at the same time sort the combs, saving those that are straight and consisting mostly of worker cells for use in the brood chambers. Those that are not suitable as brood combs can be used in extracting supers, and any that are broken or consist largely of drone cells should be consigned to the melting pot. Furthermore, considerable time will be saved in the summer if the right number of combs is put into each super or brood chamber as cleaned. Drawn combs are the greatest asset the beekeeper has; therefore, when not in use, they should be stored where rodents or wax moth cannot destroy them. If the supers containing the combs are tiered up with a queen excluder or hive cover beneath and on top of each tier, rats or mice cannot get at them, and if stored where they are exposed to low temperatures the wax moth will not harm them. With the equipment all cleaned and stored, check it up to see if there is enough to take care of all anticipated increase and a maximum crop from the colonies put away for the winter. If not, at once order new equipment to make up the deficiency so that it may arrive in plenty of time to be made up before the bees require attention. With the equipment taken care of, gather together all the broken and discarded combs, scrapings from the hives and the cappings from last year's crop and extract the wax from them. Do not allow this material to be destroyed by rodents or wax moth as there may be enough wax in it to cover the requirements for foundation next summer with possibly enough over to pay for the extra equipment needed. The manufacturers of bee supplies are always ready to manufacture wax into foundation for you or to take it in exchange for equipment. The beekeeper with foresight enough to prepare his bees and equipment in advance for the harvest next summer will be amply repaid in dollars and cents to say nothing of the satisfaction that comes with the thought of being prepared for any emergency.

C. B. GOODERHAM,
Dominion Apiarist.

Scrape the loose bark from apple and pear trees to remove the cocoons of insects especially the codling moth.

TWO STRAINS OF THE McINTOSH APPLE

There is a good deal of contention as to whether there are distinct "stripe" and "blush" strains of the McIntosh. Observations at the Summerland Experimental Station indicate that there are two distinct strains, but that bud-sporting from one to the other takes place quite frequently.

Thirty McIntosh trees have been under very close observation for the past five years. These trees were all planted in 1916 and have received similar cultural treatment since that time. Of these thirty trees, fourteen have borne striped fruits year after year, and seven have produced only blushed apples. Most of the fruits produced by the other nine trees have been blushed, but on each of these trees, one or more branches have consistently borne striped apples. Evidently a good deal of bud-sporting from the "blush" to the "stripe" strain has taken place. Study of a large number of McIntosh trees in several commercial orchards indicates that this condition is quite prevalent in the Okanagan Valley.

Conclusive evidence that there are two distinct strains which can be propagated has been secured by a top-grgafting experiment. In the spring of 1926 three scions from a "stripe" and three from a "blush" tree were top-grafted on six main limbs of a McIntosh tree which had previously produced striped apples. In 1929 these grafts bore a crop and in eacn case the fruits showed the same colour characteristics as the apples on the trees from which the scions had been taken; that is to say, scions from the "stripe" tree produced striped apples and scions from the "blush" tree produced blushed apples even though they were all grafted on the same stock.

Although there are undoubtedly two strains of McIntosh, the occurrence of both strains in the same orchards and sometimes on the same tree will probably make separation of the "stripe" from the "blush" strain impracticable commercially. Storage tests have not revealed any significant differences between the dessert and keeping qualities of the two strains, but the more attractive appearance of the blushed apples leaves no doubt as to the desirability of encouraging propagation of this strain. With this in view bud-wood from "blush" trees has been supplied to commercial nurserymen.—R. C. Palmer.

THE CHINESE ELM

In our last issue we asked our readers to write their experience with the Chinese Elm, stating if it was a fast grower or not. The following letter was received from W. A. Dana of Stonecrest, EauClaire, Wisconsin.

"The Bureau of Plant Industry sent me five samples (very small) seven years ago. These were planted in a sandy soil of poor quality. These trees are now 8 to 10 inches in diameter and about 40 feet tall, very fine in every way. They make a fine shade or street tree of good shape. Am very much pleased with their behavior. The growth is even better than the Moline Elm, and not so particular as to soil conditions. They are said to flourish even in an alkaline soil.—Wisconsin Horticulture.

We have one inquiry which rather stumps us. That is, whether pepper plants can be transplanted, moved indoors, and made to fruit there. We doubt whether it would pay. If any of our readers have made the attempt with success, we would be glad to hear from them.—Wisconsin Horticulture.

In glancing through an English garden magazine I was much interested in learning that the Pasque flower, or May Flower as some people know it, is a native of the chalk cliffs of England. This is also a native of North Dakota and one of our most appreciated spring flowers.—Wisconsin Horticulture.

WHY BEES SWARM

(Experimental Farm Note)

C. B. Gooderham, Dominion Apiarist

Swarming is the bee's method of making increase, but the desire to swarm is created by certain conditions within the hive which give to the colony a feeling of strength and prosperity. Swarming is the result of an overcrowded brood nest and this may occur in weak as well as in strong colonies. In fact, it is colonies of medium strength that usually give the most trouble. Congestion of the brood nest is brought about by one or more of the following factors: The use of hives that are too small to accommodate the queen, thus preventing the proper expansion of the brood nest; the use of poor combs or sheets of foundation in the brood chamber, which often acts as barriers to the queen and thus confine the brood nest to a small part of the brood chamber only; overheating through insufficient ventilation or lack of shade, which causes the inside of the hive to become very uncomfortable and to remedy the condition more bees stay at home to ventilate the hive, but instead of relieving the condition, it is intensified; improper supering, forcing the bees to store surplus honey in the brood chamber instead of in supers, thus reducing the area required for the rearing of young bees; unfavorable weather conditions which may retard brood rearing during the spring, so that at the commencement of the main honey flow, there may be an unbalanced condition within the hive, and the young bees may outnumber the field bees. The same condition may arise from poor queens that fail to reach maximum egg production until too late in the season, or from colonies that are too weak in the spring to give full support to a good queen.

The Fargo Garden Society sponsored a Christmas Lighting Contest this year. They offered prizes for the best decorated and lighted yards and lawns.—Wisconsin Horticulture.

PLANT PREMIUMS FOR 1930

No. 1. Anoka Apple, very early bearing.
No. 2. Ivan Crab, large fruited crab.
No. 3. Olga Crab, large fruited crab.
No. 4. Sugar Crabapple, very fine for sauce.
No. 5. Winnipeg Plum, Manitoba hybrid, very hardy.
No. 6. Perennial Sweet Peas, 2 tubers.
No. 7. Gladiolus, 16 bulbs.
No. 8. Peony, red, one root.
No. 9. Peony, pink, one root.
No. 10. Peony, white, one root.
No. 11. Lilium Elegans, red, three bulbs.
No. 12. Iris, three varieties.
No. 13. Babys Breath, two roots.
No. 14. Delphinium, Gold Medal, two roots.
No. 15. Sweet William Everbearing, two roots.
No. 16. Rose, Crimson Baby Rambler, one plant.
No. 17. Rose, Excelsa-Climber, one plant.
No. 18. Spruce, Black Hills, 6-12 inches, well rooted.
No. 19. Caragana, 6-12 inches, 10 plants.
No. 20. Buckthorn, 6-12 inches, 10 plants.
No. 21. Spirea Van Houettei, 18 inches, one plant.
No. 22. Englemans Ivy, well rooted, one plant.
No. 23. Oka Cherry, one plant.
No. 24. Chinese Elm, 18-24 inches, two trees.
No. 25. Mendel Pear, large fruit, high quality, one tree.
No. 26. Zumbra Cherry, bears early, large, fine cooking, one tree.
No. 27. Tom Thumb Cherry, bears young, very prolific, dwarf, one tree.
No. 28. Dolgo Crab, our finest jelly crab, one tree.
No. 29. Haralson Apple, large red, keeps all winter, one tree.
No. 30. Harbin Pear, small, quality fair, one tree.
No. 31. Shasta Daisy, one plant.
No. 32. Cherry Currant, large red currant, two plants.
No. 33. White Phlox, perenial, one plant.
No. 34. Latham Raspberry, 3 plants.
No. 35. Ohta Raspberry, 3 plants.
No. 36. Alaska Daisy, 2 plants.

Tear off coupon and mail with $1.00 to R. W. Vance, Sec., Pierre, So. Dak.

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