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NORTH and SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

Volume III

Number IV

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NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

Membership in the South Dakota Horticultural Society is one dollar, fifty cents of this amount is for the subscription to "North and South Dakota Horticulture". The subscription rate for affiliated organizations is twenty-five cents.

Published Monthly at Schubert Building, Pierre, S. D., by the North and South Dakota State Horticultural Societies.

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HORTICULTURE

Walter Philbrick, Turtle Lake, N. D.

Many people say trees won't grow here; that is what several told me eight or ten years ago, now some of them are growing trees on their own farms in this county.

In these few lines I want to say a few words about one of my favorite trees—the Evergreen—the "universal" tree—the tree that greets you with its beauty in the winter as well as in summer.

The White Spruce, a cousin to the Black Hills Spruce, is a tree that forms the great bulk of the sub-arctic forests across Canada and in the interior of Alaska; it grows in the far north in what is known as the "Land of Sticks." It is recommended for North Dakota on all types of soil.

The North Dakota Horticultural Society says the Black Hills Spruce is one of the best evergreens but the principal objection to its use for windbreaks lies in the high cost of the trees. In my experience I do not find them an expensive tree. Several years ago I purchased one hundred Black Hills Spruce seedlings from a nearby nursery for less than \$4. I set them out in a small bed 12 by 16 inches apart, watered them well once and shaded them partly for six or eight weeks and 98 per cent of them grew. Mr. Norling (county agent) made a visit to my farm two years later and admired them very much—they were about twelve inches tall then—and he remarked that they were worth \$1 each. A year later I transplanted nearly all of them to the windbreak. I also sold several at \$1 each which more than paid for their first cost to me. Owing to the hot, dry season we had in 1929, 6 per cent of those that had been moved in the spring died. One that was not moved grew 10½ inches or what is now 40 per cent of its height.

I also have 80 or 90 Colorado Blue Spruce seedlings that cost about 10 cents each that are growing very nicely.

My advice to the person who intends to raise evergreens is as follows: Purchase seedlings of the kind you want and the kind recommended for this locality and your type of soil; set them out not later than the last part of April; water thoroughly at the time they are set out and keep the roots wet while planting. Evergreen trees contain a sap or rosin-like substance which hardens when dry and the application of water will not start it to flow again. After the trees have been in the small bed three years, transplant with a ball of earth when the ground is wet. The seedling bed should be located where there is a heavy soil or clay loam. Transplanting should be done in the early spring or fall. My first experience with evergreens met with complete failure, due mostly to improper planting.

NEWS LETTER—MARCH, 1931

NORTH DAKOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

C. B. Waldron, Secretary

The bill appropriating \$1000 a year for the North Dakota Horticultural Society was duly introduced into the State Senate where it passed without comment or remonstrance, after being reported out favorably by the appropriations committee. The bill was referred to the House but was not brought up until the last day or two of the session. It was placed upon its first reading and referred to the committee on appropriations. It happened that our members living at Bismarck were unable to appear at the particular hour at which the committee met so we have no knowledge of what occurred except that the bill was adversely reported and was killed in the House without a record vote. We were probably lured to a false sense of security because the bill went through the Senate without dissent.

We can easily appreciate the desire of the representatives to keep down expenditures but we cannot help feeling that the small amount asked in this bill would save the people of the state far more than \$1000 each year. We are doing all we can to keep the people on the right track in the selection of varieties of fruits and vegetables for North Dakota but it is hard to cover much territory without funds. We had in mind a program that would provide for the wide distribution of newer varieties of fruits and vegetables such as the Experiment Station is prohibited from making, and also the promotion of general interest in horticulture through exhibits held in different parts of the state. Most other states have found it to their advantage to endow their horticultural societies rather liberally and they can point with certainty to the gain which has accrued to the farmers and other home owners. The necessity for such information is even greater when times are hard than in times when people can afford to waste money and we are looking forward to the time when both houses of the legislature will be convinced of this fact.

At this season of the year numerous inquiries begin coming in concerning the making of lawns. The questions usually involve the matter of grading, preparation of soil, the kind and amount of grass seed to be sown, the use of fertilizer, if any, and the treatment of the lawn for the first season. Since it is usually out of the question to remove much of the earth from around the buildings, one must naturally use the soil that nature has provided in that particular spot. It is, however, much easier to get grass started in fine loam than upon any other type of soil. If the soil in any particular dooryard is largely made up of clay, it is almost necessary to apply a coating of garden loam or a mixture of loam and well rotted manure.

The kind of grass to use will depend partly upon the nature of the soil and the treatment that the lawn will receive. With farmsteads where watering is not practical, particularly if the soil is not retentive of moisture, brome grass probably gives the best results. It is rather coarse and is not usually thought of as a lawn grass but when it is kept mowed or pastured it is very satisfactory and has the advantage of keeping green throughout the season. It is equally well suited for school grounds. We have found that when brome grass and blue grass are growing together the blue grass will eventually crowd out the brome grass which might be contrary to ordinary belief. There are several lawn mixtures offered for sale, most of which include redtop and the fescues with possibly some bent grass. These may make a better lawn the first two or three seasons than pure blue grass but in most instances we have found that there is little left except blue grass after four or five years. The question of growing a nurse crop of oats or other grain with the lawn grass often comes up. In some cases that have been brought to our notice it is of undoubted advantage but when the lawn can be watered it is not necessary.

A sprinkling of timothy is a good idea especially on large grounds that cannot be regularly watered. There is no objection to white clover though it is not very permanent.

Possibly the best fertilizer for lawns is ammonium sulfate used at the rate of one to three pounds per square rod. The amount of seed used is ordinarily about a pound or a little less per square rod. A seeding half as heavy will answer if the soil is in the best of condition and watering can be regularly attended to. Old lawns that have become thin through winter killing of the sod or from other causes can be revived by covering with about an inch of garden loam and well rotted stable manure and raking in a new supply of seed. This is much better than to plow up the old lawn. Lawns that are somewhat irregular can be leveled up by putting earth in the depressions at this time of the year. New grass will grow through two inches of earth. Rolling the land as soon as the frost comes out of the ground is found to be very beneficial.

For those who are considering planting the bent grass we will say that it makes an excellent lawn but does not seem to stand dry weather any better or as well as the ordinary blue grass. It does, however, make a thicker turf where it can have good care.

Now that spring is here officially if not actually, the question comes up as to what is the best time for taking the covering off strawberries, roses and other plants that have been protected during the winter. It is a pretty safe practice to leave the mulch on until a fork or spade can be thrust into the unmulched land adjoining. After that much frost is out of the ground it is usually safe to remove the covering. For the plants which start very early it is better to remove the old covering and put on a light loose covering of two inches which will not smother the plants as the weather turns warm but at the same time will give them needed protection if it should turn very cold.

This publication is naturally of more value to its subscribers in the spring than at any other time of the year and we like to think of it as almost indispensable to all those making any particular effort to grow horticultural crops or plants of any kind. All subscriptions not already renewed expire on May 1. We would urge that all prospective members send in their names so as to profit by the premiums which are ready for distribution and that they try to extend the membership among their friends to the fullest possible extent. It goes without saying that a large and flourishing society can be of more benefit to all of its members than one which is just dragging along and losing ground. The times are hard enough without taking chances on losing little or much by not becoming a member of the society.

March 21. The Diamond Willows are in blossom and the bees are busy gathering their first pollen. The Buffalo Berry is another plant that blossoms very early. However, the blossoms are very inconspicuous.

We are sorry to hear that North Dakota did not get the appropriation for their Horticultural Society. It might be well for each member to have a talk with the Senators and Representatives from his part of the country just before legislature convenes two years hence.

We believe in heredity and environment. It just seems that Mr. Stevens should be a little ashamed of those ill bred little wrens in his part of the country.

One cannot help noticing the well rooted trees and shrubs being offered for sale this spring. The past dry season caused the plants to form an exceptionally good root system. General rain and snow has put the soil in fine condition for planting. Do not wait until you see your neighbor planting before you order your stock.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A TRAVELING MAN

W. A. Simmons

February 2.—I have just discovered another perfectly hardy winter apple, namely, our old friend the Duchess—the apple which the American Pomological Society has been working so hard and so fruitlessly to get us to call the Oldenburg. We have had two boxes of them in storage, withdrawing one in early December. We did not get around to take out the other as intended before Christmas and rather forgot about it until today, when we thought we would bring home and give Christian burial to what we supposed were rots but, greatly to our surprise, there was scarcely a rot in the box; the apples were plump and sound. We have also found that there are several things that can be done with them at this time of the year, including even eating them, though they are not a sweet apple even now. Wonderful indeed is storage. How greatly it has added to our winter menu.

February 23.—My car was invaded by hitch hikers today. They came in the windows to the number of five or six and made themselves very much at home, never offering to share in the expense of operating the car and riding three or four miles till Beresford was reached, when they left me. They were honey bees, not too busy apparently to indulge in joyriding. The United States Department of Agriculture has discovered from experiments conducted in Wyoming that honey bees will fly as far as eight miles for the material that goes into the manufacture of honey. Working at this distance from their base, a single pound of honey will require 18,000 trips of sixteen miles each, or a total flight of nearly 300,000 miles. Wonder how many of us think while eating honey of the great amount of toil by these willing little workers that has been necessary for its production.

W. N. Craig, noted writer and lily specialist of Weymouth, Mass., has this year imported and offers for sale small wild dug bulbs of the auratum lily. It is believed that these bulbs will be free from disease and while they may not give as many blossoms per plant the first year, will be of far more permanence in our gardens than the large bulbs ordinarily sold. The auratum was first introduced in this country in 1863 and created an immediate impression and sprang at once into great popularity. These early importations were all dug from the wild where they were found growing in the volcanic detritus of Mt. Fuji and in poor, gravelly soil in other waste places, as up to this time the Japanese had not cared enough about them to attempt to grow them in their gardens.

We read of these early importations living on from year to year, growing a little taller each season and with an increased number of blossoms until they attained a height of eight or ten feet, and in some cases carrying as many as two hundred of their wonderful blossoms. When the Japanese found they could sell the bulbs, they began to take an interest in them and began to scour the wild places for them. But at last the supply of large bulbs from the wild became exhausted and smaller ones had to be substituted. The gardeners of Europe and America refused to buy them. Then the Japanese hit upon the expedient of digging the small bulbs and planting them in the rich soil of their gardens for a year or two until they had attained the mammoth size demanded by the trade, and these are the bulbs ordinarily offered for sale. But these lilies abhor rich soil, and while they will survive for a time in it, they seem to become deceased and are short lived. It is believed that if a start is made with these small clean bulbs direct from the wild and if they are planted in the poorest possible soil a foot or more deep with a heavy mulch provided in winter, we can raise these lovely lilies and have them with us as almost a permanent feature of our gardens. At least it seems worth trying, and I intend to try it this year.

March 5.—It is to be hoped that our highway commission will soon

find it possible to complete United States Highway No. 18 from Rosebud to the White River west of Oglala, as no other route to the Black Hills offers the scenic attractions of this route. Tourists from the east would be immensely interested in driving through the Indian villages along this route and in being able to see our friends the Sioux going about the daily tasks incident to their ordinary existence. Also it would give them an opportunity to acquire the many beautiful things these artistic people make, without paying the profits of too many middlemen, and it would give the Indians a much better opportunity to dispose of these articles which now have to be sold at sadly unremunerative prices.

There is a good graded road all the way at present, and short stretches are being gravelled each year, but in case of rain much of the road becomes an uncomfortable place to travel. Much of this route is through a broken and hilly country with the ridges adorned with pine trees, and certain wild flowers are found there that are seldom seen elsewhere. Among the finest of these is the bush morning glory, an herbaceous perennial growing to the height of a tall peony and adorned in mid July with large fragrant pink morning glories. The root of this plant is usually found at a depth of about four feet and resembles in size and shape a large straight neck summer squash. I have tried to grow these in my garden from seed but they do not seem able to get down through our hard subsoil, but in a more open soil I have no doubt they could be made to thrive.

This highway leaves the railroad at Winner and one sees no more of the iron horse until Smithwick is reached. The villages along the way are all supplied from the railroad that runs through northern Nebraska at distances varying from twenty to forty miles. Stores, eating places, garages and gas stations are available all along the route distances never greater than fifteen miles, and if one takes this route during a dry period it can be safely and enjoyably traversed, and one will see much of interest there not found elsewhere in the state.

March 8.—Through the generosity of Mr. Hilborn of Valley City, N. D., our members are given an opportunity to get a very wonderful rose as a premium this year, the Amelia Gravereaux. This I believe is the finest hardy rose we have, a fine red rose of good size, perfectly double, and a monthly bloomer. It has the pretty Rugosa foliage and I have never known it to kill back in winter. It requires no winter protection either at Fargo or, Sioux Falls.

Another outstanding premium is Golden Gem or Golden Sunshine Sweet Corn. Paul W. Dempsey of Massachusetts, writing in *The Gardener's Chronicle*, has this to say about this variety: "I believe that the Golden Sunshine variety, recently introduced by Professor Yeager of the North Dakota Agricultural College, will in a short time become the standard variety of sweet corn. One of the leading seed houses in Boston already reports selling almost as much Golden Sunshine seed as all other varieties put together. It is earlier in maturity, larger in ear and of almost as good quality as the old fashioned Golden Bantam."

Better prepare a treat for your family by planting some this year.

RASPBERRY MOSAIC

As a general rule it does not pay to start digging out mosaic infected plants in any raspberry being grown for fruit production. If clean, healthy plants are used to start a planting it would take several years for the mosaic disease to do any appreciable damage if it got a foothold. I am enclosing a circular of information regarding the mosaic disease which will give you further detail information.

Should you desire an inspection made of your planting to determine its condition with respect to mosaic this department will be glad to make this inspection upon receipt of the usual \$2 fee. In case you should wish this service, please notify us at once as our inspector will be in Duluth in about two weeks.—J. D. Winter, Asst. State Entomologist.—Minnesota Horticulturist.

IN DEFENSE OF THE WRENS

Mrs. F. M. Heath, Grand Forks, N. D.

I note that my Friend Stevens has made some very serious charges against one of my especial favorites, the house wren, and I also note that Friend Yeager is very busy at Ames and cannot scowl, keep quiet, at me. And as the greatest book that was ever written says "Train up a child in the way it should go and when it is old it will not depart from it." And as I was brought up in the belief that is someone was being tried on a serious charge and I had the knowledge of their innocence, it was my duty to testify in their defense even though someone would rather have me keep quiet.

I note that Friend Stevens says "Lack of close acquaintance has probably obscured numerous shortcomings," and I will add that that same lack of close observation is unquestionably at the root of much misinformation along many of life's pathways.

From earliest childhood I have been a great admirer of wrens and I missed them much when coming to my prairie home and it was a happy day indeed when the first wren decided to spend the summer with us. That was many years ago and with the exception of 1929 they have been with us ever since. They have had their nests in many and varied receptacles about my home including a clothespin bag that hung on the clothesline, and where rather than disturb their nest a new bag and a new set of clothespins were purchased. And in all those years I have never known of but a single once when they disturbed the nest of another bird. This time they gave up a favorite nesting place in a granite teapot to English sparrows that had set up housekeeping during their sojourn in the south. They scolded considerable about it but let the sparrows have it and went and established a new home in an old syrup pail and the following spring when they again returned and found sparrows in their new home they cleaned out those sparrows as quickly as I would have done it if someone had taken possession of my home in my absence. And I have always loved them the more for defending their own property. Neither have our English sparrows shown any disposition to destroy the nests of other birds. And at one time there was a sparrow in one drawer of a little toy bureau the drawers made from cigar boxes. A wren in another drawer while a robin had its nest on the top. At another time a dove, wren, robin and sparrow each had a nest on a single shelf in our summer house. It was on this same shelf where the little bureau stood. Many birds nest in our grove and all seem to get along very nicely.

To be sure, they each have their own domestic troubles and in this the supposedly "gentle as doves" seem to have the greatest amount of trouble. And these gentle?? creatures are even guilty of wife beating. English sparrows, too, are very jealous of their wives, and it is not uncommon to see a Bronz Grackle trying to beat up his mate.

I am sure there are fully 50 nests in the acre that surrounds our home as we counted 14 in less than a third of an acre. Our summer tenants include besides those mentioned goldfinches, kingbirds, both the common and Arkansas, Baltimore and Orchard orioles, cuckoos, catbirds, brown thrasher, flickers, yellow warblers and Redwing blackbirds. These last are among the most interesting as it is amusing to watch how the husband will strut around and show off his bright colors and urge his wife on with his kong-quer-ree, kong-quer-ree, but he takes good care that at no time does he lend a helping hand in the work of building the home. It is generally supposed that blackbirds build their nests in something standing in water but one bird has its nest two rods from our back door and will sit quietly on the nest while we go about our gardening operations less than six feet away.

The beautiful bluejay is the only bird that I have first hand evidence against. But let one of these birds fly through our grove and they leave a trail of broken up eggs and nests in their trail. For this reason

(Continued on page 61)

THE WINTER MEETING

J. A. Munroe, State Entomologist, Fargo, N. D.

That beekeepers are interested in hearing discussions and talking over methods which will help them in their business was well illustrated at the annual meeting held at the Agricultural College, Fargo, in January. Delegates were welcomed by Dr. H. L. Walster, dean of the School of Agriculture. In the course of his remarks he related some very interesting facts in the history of beekeeping. W. F. Boylan, presiding officer, told the dean that the beemen were enjoying the fine arrangements made for them, and followed with a discussion of the activities of the association during the past year.

Talks on cost accounting and other phases of beekeeping were given by H. G. Ahrens, instructor in beekeeping, University of Minnesota. He stated that studies conducted recently showed that a unit of about 400 hives of bees can be operated by the owner with smaller cost per hive than units which are larger or smaller than this number.

The aims of the American Honey Institute were outlined by E. W. Atkins of the G. B. Lewis Company of Watertown, Wis. In regard to this organization, he stated that the institute is doing a great work in this country by acquainting the public with honey as a food and that it is an undertaking worthy of the support of every honey producer.

Miss Helen L. Pickard, Home Economics Division, Kellogg Company, Battle Creek, Mich., in discussing honey and cereals in the American diet, pointed out that honey was the only concentrated form of sweet known by the ancients and that it should be used to a greater extent in modern times.

Discussions relating to the preparation of honey for market were well presented by E. B. Kain, Amenla, N. D.; Paul Johnson, Detroit Lakes, Minn., and T. W. Roberts, Moorhead, Minn.

A beekeepers' banquet, followed by a program of talks, featured the evening. Hon. J. A. Kitchen, commissioner of agriculture, Bismarck, N. D., and W. H. Magill, Fargo, and others gave talks.

Charles Engle, Fargo, in outlining wintering methods, made the statement that where proper care is given to colonies, the loss during winter will usually be negligible.

Very interesting talks on nectar producing sources and structure of flowers were given by Professor O. A. Stevens and Dr. Herbert C. Hanson of the Department of Botany at the college. H. A. Hailey, Fargo, discussed labor saving devices in the apiary.

Officers elected at the meeting include: Charles S. Engle, President, Fargo; J. D. Beals, Vice President, Dwight; J. A. Munro, Secretary-Treasurer, Fargo, and for directors, Charles Hausmann, Hillsboro; Paul Johnson, Detroit Lakes, and E. B. Kain, Amenla.

Invitations from several points in the state have been received for the summer meeting of the association. As yet the time and place have not been decided. According to word from Charles Engle, President, a meeting of the executive committee will be called during April to decide the matter.

Hats off to J. D. Beals, Dwight, N. D. He is listed as the first North Dakota contributor to the American Honey Institute, having sent the organization \$40 during 1930.

P. J. McGlynn of Fargo has just recently completed the building of a portable extracting house on wheels. We hope that he will report on the results of this venture at a future meeting of the association.

The regular membership fee of \$1.50 in the American Honey Producers' League entitles you to annual subscription to the American Honey Producer (official organ) and any other bee journal you may specify, according to a recent announcement in Wisconsin Beekeeping. If you wish to become a member of this national organization send your application, accompanied with the proper remittance, to Professor V. G. Milum, Secretary-Treasurer, American Honey Producers' League, Champaign, Ill.



The American Honey Institute is prepared to supply to those who contribute to its support, a zinc etching for printing letterheads with the American Honey Institute seal here reproduced. The block is mortised so that the year the contribution was made can be changed to bring it up to date.

North Dakota beekeepers are assured of apiary inspection for the coming biennium. At the recent session of the state legislature, the sum of \$3000 was approved for this work.

A report of bee inspection work in North Dakota for the past two years shows that 17,108 hives of bees were inspected in 35 North Dakota counties and of this number 338 colonies were diseased. These were burned in an effort to stamp out the disease.

Of late a number of inquiries have been received as to the care and attention necessary for colonies during the spring months. Our advice has usually been to see that the hives are protected by a shelter belt of trees, are well provided with stores and other conditions within the hive satisfactory for brood rearing.

Inquiries have been received recently as to what arrangements are being made for the purchase of package bees for members. The following are the prices: 2 pound package of bees with queen (in lots of 1 to 4 packages) \$2.75 each; in lots of 5 packages or more, \$2.50. Any member wishing to avail himself of this service should send his order, accompanied with remittance in full, to J. H. Beatty, 1032 First Street North, Fargo. The packages will be ordered for May 15 to 20 delivery, unless otherwise specified.

I am taking this means of reaching every member of the North Dakota Beekeepers' Association. At the annual meeting of the Association held in Fargo, January 21, I was appointed to approach every member for support to the American Honey Institute. The plan of contributing \$1.00 for each ton of honey produced was discussed and approved at that time. A number who were present at the meeting pledged support, on this basis, to the extent of nearly \$300.00 for the coming season.

The Institute is developing new uses for honey and is greatly increasing the demand for this product, consequently every honey producer should be glad to contribute to its support. This service must be continued, otherwise many of us will be forced out of the business due to under consumption of honey and consequent low prices.

There are two ways in which to increase the demand for honey, viz: spend one million dollars or more on national advertising or a few thousand dollars to carry on the American Honey Institute educational program. The plan of the Institute is to educate the public to the true value and uses of honey as a food. The Institute cannot carry on this work without funds and as the honey producer is the one who will benefit most from this service, he should defray the costs. Other states have joined in this support. Why should any beekeeper put off this matter any longer and expect "George to do it." I do not consider any support he may give a "gift" or "donation." It is simply investing money which will pay him back in big dividends later on. You have read the bee journals and know well the purposes, aims and accomplishments of the American Honey Institute to date. If you have not already pledged support, then fill in the following blank and mail same to J. A. Munro, Fargo, North Dakota, or to J. D. Beals at Dwight, North Dakota.

I, _____, do subscribe to the American Honey Institute the sum of one dollar per ton on all honey produced by me during the season of 1931. If the season is normal, I expect to have a crop of _____ tons. I will pay this pledge on or before September 1, 1931.

Signed, _____

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Max Pfaender, Landscape Architect, Sioux Falls, S. D.

(Paper read at the annual meeting of the South Dakota State Horticultural Society at Mitchell, S. D., January 7, 1931)

Just what does this term mean, "The City Beautiful"? It implies more than its apparent meaning. Briefly defined it refers to the harmonious and artistic development of a well planned and properly zoned city, in reference to its streets, park areas, location and approaches of public buildings, development and planting of public and private grounds, abatement or removal of unsightly nuisances such as bill boards, dumping grounds and beautification of the approaches into the city.

Every city has character, its spirit, a soul. This is the collective expression of its dominating individuals and organizations, and of its main activities.



Max Pfaender

Since this is the nurserymen's session, it is no doubt desired that the discussion should be based on the relationship between the city beautiful and the nurseryman. In the past the nurserymen have supplied most of the trees and other plants used in the planting of the various cities of the state as well as of the United States. This has been done through the aid of catalogs, personal salesmanship and by patrons coming personally to the nursery. It should be understood that the plantings in any city represent only a single small item, although a very important one, in the long list of essentials that are required to create the city beautiful.

The city beautiful depends on the ideals, plans and originality of those in power during its birth and future development, including good water, sewer systems, police force, lighting system, garbage disposal, billboard removal, weed cutting, tree planting, paving, public buildings and hundreds of other items.

From the nurseryman's standpoint, we feel that our predecessors and contemporaries have done a grand and noble work. We feel and believe that we, as nurserymen, are in a grand and glorious profession, elevated and inspiring, and proud of the choice of our life's work. In South Dakota, in the future, even more so than in the past, the nurserymen will play an increasingly important role in the development of every city beautiful.

Since there are many outside factors at work, besides the many logical inside factors, in the development of the city beautiful, it at once becomes apparent that for the best and quickest, as well as most efficient results, the keyword of all these activities, of these various factors working towards a single goal, would be: cooperation. In these remarks I will confine myself to activities that effect nurserymen only, as I am not prepared to go into the matter of paving, lighting, etc.

All over the United States, the one city body which can especially interest the nurseryman is the park board and its appointed executive officer, the park superintendent. Where the park officials and the nearby

nurserymen have shown a desire to cooperate for the good of the city the results have been most gratifying. In other cities, where the park board or the nurserymen refused to cooperate, results have been quite unsatisfactory and in most cases, at the taxpayers expense.

It is suggested that for the good of the city the park board or park committees of city councils, cooperate with the nurserymen of the state as by this method the greatest good can be accomplished.

We as nurserymen should soon awaken to the fact that with the trend of time and with the coming events and future developments seen clearly it will be almost necessary for our very existence to heed these warnings.

We should organize and offer our cooperation to every city in the state. If we don't, it will not be long before every city will have its own nursery and not only grow trees for city purposes, but even grow them for sale. This is no idle dream, for a city could grow and sell trees for less than we do, the taxpayers will make up the deficit and such items as selling expense, advertising, interest, rent, office expense and others do not enter into the cost figures, as they must with us.

Sometimes you find a city where just such a condition prevails and we wonder why. It's just because the park superintendent felt that the taxpayers (the city) had to pay too much for their trees needed in their parks and streets. Then instead of the nurserymen reasoning and cooperating with such official in a friendly way, they would jump on him, denounce him and threaten him in various ways. This is poor policy.

Both are right, and both are wrong. They can easily get together, iron out their difficulties and everybody would be satisfied. Whenever a city actually goes into the nursery business and sells trees to outsiders as well as to its own citizens, there must be something wrong with the nurserymen, who would be the logical ones to supply the trees in that city. The next step is to find out what is wrong, and when that is ascertained the situation can be remedied.

The average park superintendent would not undertake any such flagrant violations of his real and important duties unless he had been influenced by some individual who may be a fanatic on the subject of cheap or free trees. His duties are sufficiently extensive without scattering his energies and funds to go into the business of growing trees.

The duties of a park board and its superintendent are: To secure and develop and maintain park property. To develop and supervise play grounds and recreation areas. In addition he can be of great help to a city in spreading the gospel of landscaping, better homes and tree planting.

A park superintendent, due to his education, training and experience in architecture, art and horticulture, is the one individual who can do the most towards the creation of the city beautiful. This will keep him busy.

The ethics of his profession has taught him that he supplies brains, services, original ideas, plans, systems, schemes, organizing ability and executive management, in fact anything in that sphere, but not to buy and sell materials or supplies or defile his professional hands by merchandising the articles and materials necessary to carry out the ideas and plans that he is paid for to originate.

Where a city park department grows nursery stock for sale to its citizens, instead of speeding up the work of the campaign for the city beautiful, in reality it retards, hinders, delays and belittles this campaign. The average citizen will buy two or three dollars worth of shrubs from the park department and plants this on his lot, feeling that the job is done. To do himself justice and to really help to make the city beautiful he should have spent much more than this. In a city where this condition prevails, nurserymen will pass it up, as business is hard to get, and many are the beautiful yards that might have been but are not and won't be.

TOMATOES—(Continued)

Thos. W. Hobart

(Written especially for the North and South Dakota Horticulture. Garden talks broadcast over KSOO Mondays and Thursdays, 4:30 P. M.)

Potting Stage

We never transplant. With a sharp short bladed butcher knife a slice is made between each row of plants in the flat clear to the bottom; this is done the afternoon before potting is to commence and the plants are thoroughly watered overhead or by setting in the watering tank as before until the soil in the flat is soaked; they are then allowed to drain overnight; by the next morning they are ready to pot. We now carefully lift every other row of plants from the flat and fill the space between the remaining rows with soil prepared the same as we made up at the time we filled the flats for sowing. (I had better state here, though, that for the last twenty years or so since the sterilized and pulverized sheep and cattle manures have been available, that we have used them in place of all other manures as they are so much cheaper and handier for the purpose). Now we use the shredded cattle manure for the layer in the flat bottom and the pulverized sheep manure in its place in making the soil, for seed sowing and for all potting soil and to fill in between the rows as above.

We use Wizard Brand in preference to all others after many trials because of its reliability at all times in quality, perfect sterilization and constant fertilizing value. The soil for potting made with the sheep manure is just the same as described with our home prepared cattle manure, with the exception that only about two-thirds as much sheep manure is used. The quality rose growers bone meal used remains the same).

The flats with the remaining plants are set back on the bench and treated just the same as before as to wilting and watering. In two to three weeks more they are to be potted and will by this time be about four inches high and stronger than any transplanted.

Soil

All the potting soil to be used each day is prepared the night before and is placed on the potting bench in layers four to six inches deep, each layer being watered enough so that by the next morning the whole bulk will be so evenly moist that when compressed in the hand it will hold its shape perfectly. This can only be learned by experience.

Pots

Two and one-half inch clay pots are used for all potting, first because the watering, drying out and wilting process which must be carried out until the day the plant is sold to be set in the ground, is easier and quicker controlled in this size. Second, the experience of over twenty-five years has proven conclusively that the plants rightly grown by this process in this size pot gives better results in early and continuous fruiting and size and quality of the fruit than do plants grown in any other larger size of pot. All sizes have been thoroughly tried out over a period of some ten to twelve years by myself and other growers who have tried this method of growing; in fact, this size of pot has considerable to do with the success of this method. (We have in a pinch used two inch pots but they require too close watching and more care).

Paper pots or plant bands cannot be used as they hold moisture too long and tend to grow soft light green stemmed spindly plants, which belong in the same class as those grown by the old ways and defeat the ageing and hardening of the plant secured by the wilting process that produces the early, prolific bearing of high quality fruit plants.

Potting

The plants that you have lifted from the flats if at all uneven in size (they should not be) are sorted to even sizes and when potted set in separate places so that there will not be mixed sizes on the bench. If there are but few of inferior size we destroy them.

To pot, hold the plant stem about two inches from the bottom of the roots between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand with the other three fingertips resting on the top edge of the pot; hold the plant in the center of the pot with the roots touching the bottom; with the right hand grasp a handful of soil and drop it in the pot with a motion that throws it all around the plant, then with the forefinger and thumb of each hand press the soil very firmly with a single pressure or motion (this pressure should be so great that you can lift the plant with the earth and pot by taking hold of the stem, without the pot or earth dropping off) and leave the earth in the pot one-half inch below the top of the pot to hold water. This is the secret of successful plant potting. We have had boys and girls do this at the rate of from three to five hundred pots per hour, for which we paid fifteen cents per hundred.

The plants are now set in the bench and watered, they seldom show signs of wilting, if they do they recover in an hour or two; growth commences immediately.



Plant at eight weeks from seed, ready for the garden. Root and top growth in perfect balance.

(To be

The alternate watering and wilting by drying off is kept up as before.

These first early potted plants will require about four weeks in the pot because of the short days and lack of sunshine. At this time or when the plant is eight weeks old, if my directions have been carefully followed, Earlianas will be in full bud and many blossoms open. Jewells and other second earlies will be showing embryo buds and all will be ready for setting in the open field. In no case should any of these plants be more than five and one-half inches above the pot with stems one-fourth to five-sixteenths inches through and dark brown or brownish purple or green. An even height of five inches will denote the better growing.

The latter pottings from the alternate rows left in the flats, when potted up, will become root bound in the pots and have heavy bud and flower development in ten days to two weeks from potting, they being more mature in the flat and the days having become longer.

Continued)

IN DEFENSE OF THE WRENS

(Continued from page 55)

we have never encouraged them to nest in our trees. And on a couple of occasions when they were caught destroying nests real near the house they were also "caught with a charge of birdshot."

At times there is considerable back talk about which birds are to have some particular nesting site but most of this is where the sparrows have taken possession during the absence of the rightful owner.

A few times they have built in the holes that flickers have spent many hours of patient toil in enlarging to meet their family needs and usually the flickers keep about five sticks in the air at a time while cleaning house.

Once a sparrow built its nest near the top of a six by three inch two foot deep box while the wren was away and on their return they worked a passageway past the nest and raised its family near the middle of the box. So if wrens disturb other birds' nests I am very pleased to testify that our wrens are better behaved.

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

(Continued from page 59)

On the other hand, in cities where there are one or more good nurseries, the effects are very noticeable, and we should mention in South Dakota the following cities where there are or were nurseries: Madison, Colton, Lennox, Centerville, Beresford, Rapid City, Ipswich, Yankton, Freeman, Brookings, Watertown and last but not least Sioux Falls.

In the past there has been much swindling by nursery agents, many unknown tree peddlers have fleeced the public. Reliable nurserymen are making every effort to annihilate these vultures. We have a good state nursery inspector; and every agent must have a license, that he may show to prospective buyers when asked to do so. Agents that are crooked or practice any form of deception either as to price, variety, hardiness or other matter, should be reported at once and their license will be revoked, making it unlawful for him to sell nursery stock. Complaints and reports should be sent to R. W. Vance, State Nursery Inspector, Pierre, S. D.

Anything that can be done by the state and by individuals to discourage the undesirable tree agent and to encourage the legitimate nurseryman will help and hasten the advent of the City Beautiful.

SOUTH DAKOTA NURSERYMEN

Invite you to send for their representatives or for their catalogues to compare prices and quality of nursery stock offered.

TREES, SHRUBS and FLOWERS

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Your money stays at home and is kept in circulation when you buy from the South Dakota Nurserymen.

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To any of the South Dakota Nurserymen for information as to what varieties do best in your locality, how and when to plant and expert advice as to the best and most artistic arrangement.

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Try our **Jumbo Tomato**, earliest and largest, for sure results and an improved substitute for the late Ponderosas. Also



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Size	Each	Per 10	Per 50	Per 100
12 to 18 inch	\$.50	\$ 5.00	\$ 1.85	\$ 3.50
18 to 24 inch			2.50	4.50
2 to 3 foot			2.75	5.00
3 to 4 ft. trans.	.30	2.50	12.00	22.00
4 to 5 ft. trans.	.50	4.00	20.00	38.00
5 to 6 ft. trans.	.65	6.20	30.50	60.00
6 to 8 ft. trans.	.80	7.70	39.00	75.00
8 to 10 ft. trans.	1.25	11.25	55.00	100.00

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2. Champa Cherry, 1 plant.—Oscar H. Will & Co., Bismarck.
3. Japanese Peas, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint.—B. L. Schmitz.
4. Tartarian Honeysuckle, 4 plants.—Wildrose Nursery Co., Wildrose.
5. Virginia Creeper, 1 plant.—Wildrose Nursery Co., Wildrose.
6. Amelie Graveureau Rose, 1 plant. (Regular price \$1.50)—The Northwest Nursery Co., Valley City.
7. Asa Gray Peony, 1 plant. (This peony rates S.I.; color, lilac pink.)—Riverside Gardens, Enderslin.
8. Pixwell Gooseberry, 2 plants.—Horticultural Department, N. D. A. C.
9. Abundance Gooseberry, 2 plants.—Horticultural Department, N. D. A. C.
10. Ash Leaf Spirea (Sp. Sorbifolia) 2 plants.—Hort. Dept., N. D. A. C.
11. Chief Raspberry, 2 plants.—Horticultural Department, N. D. A. C.
12. Red-twigged Willow (Salix Britzensis), 12 cuttings, Hort. Dept., N. D. A. C.
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15. Golden Gem Sweet Corn, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.—Originated by Hort. Dept., N. D. A. C.

Tear off the coupon and mail with \$1 to R. W. Vance, Secretary, Pierre, South Dakota, if you live in South Dakota, or to C. B. Waldron, Fargo, North Dakota, if you live in North Dakota.

Please enter my name as a member of the South Dakota Horticultural Society for the year 1931 and place my name on the subscription list to receive your monthly magazine regularly. Fifty cents of the dollar is for my subscription to the magazine. Stamps will not be accepted.

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29. Sweet William, Everbearing, two roots.
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31. Spruce, Black Hills, 6-12 inches, well rooted.
32. Caragana, 6-12 inches, 10 plants.
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