

# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA *South Dakota State College Library* HORTICULTURE

JUNE, 1939



Our good Governor, Hon. Harlan J. Bushfield, sets a good example by planting a cottonwood tree on the State House grounds, on Arbor Day.  
—Courtesy of the Argus-Leader.

Don't forget the meeting of the North Dakota State Horticultural Society at Valley City,  
N. D., June 26th and 27th

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## THE CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

by  
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

One of the smallest of the sparrow group and perhaps the least known in comparison to its abundance, is the Clay-colored Sparrow. As the name probably is intended to suggest, it is a drab-colored bird without any conspicuous markings. One feature which is usually considered characteristic, is a gray collar across the back of the neck, contrasting with the otherwise tan or brownish upper parts. The under parts are nearly white without any streaks. The upper parts are streaked and the top of the head is striped with brown and black in narrow lines. One soon learns to recognize the bird by its small size, light underparts, stripes at the side of the throat, and the rather long, pale-colored legs.

This species was first described in 1832 by William Swainson, a well known British ornithologist, in a publication on animals from Canada. The name Clay-colored Sparrow seems to have been used with the original description. Eleven years later, Audubon made his long planned trip up the Missouri River, and gave a good description of its habits under the name Shattuck's Bunting. His illustration of it, perched upon a flowering stalk of Slender Beardtongue, is especially artistic.

In 1873, Major Coues found them abundant at Pembina, in the Turtle Mountains and along the Mouse River. The following year he noted that they were less abundant farther west. At Park River, North Dakota, in June 1931, I found them the most abundant of all birds. They are found in brushy places, especially along the edges of small timber. Major Coues commented that he never found them on the prairie at any considerable distance from woods or shrubby undergrowth.

The nests are built either on the ground or in low branches of bushes. One year I found several at Fargo in grass tufts at the foot of small trees in a lot which had been planted closely to trees. A recent article reports that in northern Michigan, all nests were found in low branches of trees or bushes. The nests are composed of grass stems and leaves or other similar material, often lined with horse-hair. The eggs are about five-eighths of an inch long, light green or bluish-green, usually with a few brown spots, at least at larger end. In trying to remove cowbirds eggs from the nests I found that the spar-

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
The Clay-Colored Sparrow, O. A. Stevens	62
Newsletters, H. A. Graves	63
Our Wealth of Native Shrubs, G. F. Will	64
Nature Department, H. L. Hopkins	65
Manitoba News Letter, W. R. Leslie	66
Secretary's Corner, W. A. Simmons	67
Book Reviews, Mrs. F. Briley	68
Summers Curtain Raiser, W. E. H. Porter	69
Fruit & Vegetable Notes, F. X. Wallner	70
Some Hardy Roses, C. B. Waldron	71
Program Chairman,	72
President's Corner, H. E. Beebe	72

row eggs were very fragile and easily broken unless one were especially careful.

The Clay-colored Sparrows are friendly little birds, almost equaling their nearest relatives, the Chipping Sparrows, in this respect. Their song is readily recognized and is well expressed "zee, zee, zee." I am continually astonished that such a bass voice should come from so small a bird. Probably nine people out of ten often put them

(Continued on page 67)





## NEWSLANTS

by

Harry A. Graves

NDAC Extension Horticulturist



H. A. Graves

A recent communication from a New York Corporation asks for the names and addresses of horticulturists raising small four-leaf clovers. They were interested in the purchase of a large quantity of these rather rare-occurring leaf forms of *Trifolium repens*. I can remember spending long hours as a boy searching for four-leaf clovers in patches of White Dutch Clover. We children felt that they were valuable as a conveyor of good luck. Elders added

mystery to this belief by telling of people strongly suspected of witchcraft who could pick them out of a clover patch at will.

Frederick Wolhowe of Verendrye is interested in the northern limit of the range of the hackberry. He reports one at Verendrye and I wonder if any of our members know of another specimen of this tree growing native in Northern North Dakota.

Typed copies of horticultural class notes taken by the late J. H. Shepperd from Prof. Budd during the spring and fall terms in 1890 are two pieces of literature I value highly. While I haven't had time to carefully read them, I expect to include comments from these notes in this column from time to time.

According to one of our national newspaper columnists who sees all, knows all, and is willing to tell the most of it, Japanese gardens have shrubbery planted in their northwest corners since spirits are supposed to enter from that direction. Here we advocate shrubbery in the northwest corner also, but for another reason—to catch snow for spring moisture.

Temperatures of 23° May 11 gave some of our plant material a severe jolt. Persian lilac flower buds and leaves of hackberry and green ash showed perhaps as much injury as any of the trees and shrubs. A few days later saw blossoms of the common lilac, both white and purple, opening apparently little hurt.

Beach, North Dakota has a garden club organized in 1936 that has met every month since. Home and civic plantings of native plant material in Beach are evidences of what can be the result of a group of this kind. Much native material has been used with special emphasis given to the use of Bad Lands cedar.

Heather would be grown in North Dakota if one of our correspondents could have her wish.

I fear our climate would prove a serious shock to this plant of the Scottish Highlands, although there have been reports of certain species growing on either coast of the United States.

By this time, no doubt, all of you will have received copies of the program for the annual meetings of our Society at Valley City, June 26-27. The impressive list of names of folks appearing on the program should speak for itself. Mr. Hilborn, who has charge of local arrangements, has given much time and effort to local details and Mrs. Kannowski, our president this year, has been a great help in working out the details of the program. The meetings were changed from their customary dates in August to give lovers of early flowers an opportunity to see flowers such as the Iris and Peonies in bloom. Also, it was felt that a larger number could find time to attend at this season. We will know more about it by June 27. Try and make a special effort to be with us. Mark these dates on the calendar now!

Gerald Movius, former Fargoan now in Washington, D. C., appears not to be too impressed with the famous Japanese cherries. Anyhow he thinks any good crabapple tree can do as well. Perhaps he has had the privilege of seeing the old tree of *M. bacata* on the Experiment Station grounds here. In full bloom today with a few stray petals blowing in the wind it is a sight to behold. C. B. Waldron recalls that it was planted about 1903. My guess as to its dimensions are: trunk one foot from ground, 15 inches in diameter; limb spread, 30 feet and height, 20 feet.

Notes taken May 15 on trip through horticultural plots: Wampum, Okreek, Wasata and Wanta, apparently sandcherry seedlings in heavy bloom. Stakes labeled S. Dak. 1937. Original tree of Red River crab shy on blossoms this year. Florence and Dolgo covered with blossoms. These same trees have borne heavily since 1935 at least. Looks like a crop of Cooper sandcherry if blossoms are any indication. Chokecherry much behind plums in blooming—few out yet. Wonder if this later blooming doesn't explain one reason why these cherries are such a sure crop? F1 seedlings of Siberian cherry X chokecherry earlier blooming than the run of chokecherry parents. Minn 638 apple has an attractive pink cast to its blossoms. A hedge of *Lonicera Morrowi* has attained a height of 7 feet since 1936. Makes a dense attractive hedge. Promises to be less woody than *L. tatarica*.

See where that fellar who married the 10 year old girl is suing for divorce. He sez that he didn't mind her serving mud pies for supper but when he got up in the night and fell over her scooter, that was the last straw.

—Gabe Caffrey, in the Argus-Leader





## OUR WEALTH OF NATIVE SHRUBS

by  
G. F. Will



Dr. Geo. F. Will

Of the sumacs we have two, quite different in range and appearance. The smooth sumac comes into the eastern part of the Dakotas and is typically of the woodland type. With its handsome foliage and its gorgeous fall coloring it is one of the joys of autumn, and it thrives almost anywhere with sufficient moisture and a little shelter. The other sumac, *rhus trilobata*, sometimes called skunk bush, sometimes aromatic sumac though it differs from the real aromatic which is *rhus canadensis*, is one of our hardiest and handsomest shrubs. It thrives all along the Little Missouri and blithely grows on the dry bluffs of the Missouri itself. The leaves are small, dark green and three lobed, the flowers yellow, small and inconspicuous, but the fruit is the brightest of coral red, appearing in clusters of separate berries. The foliage has a very pleasant scent which is enhanced by bruising and which is very similar to the odor of the rose geranium. The fall color is a very dark purple.

In the Killdeers grows a distinct species of birch, sometimes though erroneously called black birch. It is a broad shrub, seven to eight feet high, with typical birch foliage and bark, though the bark is a dark brown. It is a handsome, though not a spectacular shrub, and very hardy.

The pin cherry, small tree or large shrub occurs in the Killdeers and the Pembina and Turtle Mountain regions. It is handsome in bark, foliage which is typically of the cherry type, and fruit which consists of clusters of small, bright red cherries.

It is said that the elder appears occasionally in the southeastern part of Dakota, but I have not personally observed it. The handsome euonymus or wahoo bush also occurs sparingly even so far north as the southeastern part of North Dakota.

The silverberry with its gray foliage, olive shaped gray berries, beloved by the birds, and its small but very fragrant yellow blossoms, is of the northern plains and grows much more luxuriantly in Canada than here. It is the American cousin of the Russian olive.

There are several native roses in Dakota. The river and stream bottom lands are dense with the tall growing woods or canyon roses which enhance the view and perfume the air in June and

furnish beauty in the fall and winter with their bright red berries which are also food for birds. The little prairie rose which grows only a foot or so high, has even larger blossoms, ranging from dark pink to white, and larger red berries. Both are valuable in shrubbery plantings.

In low sandy soil where moisture is near the surface grows our native spirea or meadow sweet. It grows like the billardi spirea with a pyramid of handsome white bloom and is hardy almost anywhere.

The ribes family is represented by several members. The gooseberries of which there are at least three species are useful primarily in landscape work because of the very early appearance of their bright green leaves. The flowers are inconspicuous and the valuable purplish fruits are well hidden under the foliage.

Outstanding among our native shrubs is the beautiful flowering currant, a native of our Dakota Bad Lands, and popular throughout the world. Its lovely and fragrant yellow flowers appear in May and are followed by large fruits, mostly black but occasionally yellow or red, which are useful as well as decorative. The fall color is a dark red. Not so well known is the river bank black currant which is less conspicuous and perhaps more useful for its clusters of black fruit resembling the cultivated currant than for its beauty. There is also a pink flowered currant with hairy red fruit which occurs infrequently in western Dakota.

The native dogwood, *cornus stolonifera*, surpasses both in beauty and hardiness the much planted Siberian dogwood. It occurs in abundance along all our streams. Its dark red bark enhances the winter snows. Its small, fragrant white flowers, white berries, and handsome foliage give continual beauty throughout the growing season.

One of our finest large shrubs, for some reason apparently but little appreciated, is the native hawthorn or thorn apple. No plant that I know makes a more beautiful or denser hedge and one which, due to its long brown thorns, is more impenetrable. The apple like leaves are a bright and glossy green, the flowers, resembling those of the apple, cover the branches with white clusters in spring and are followed by bright red, apple-like fruits a half inch or more in diameter. There are several species in Dakota, but they are almost indistinguishable.

The buffalo berry, familiar to all dwellers in the Missouri River drainage, needs no description. It is outstandingly hardy and makes a most excellent and beautiful hedge. Recently it has been in increasing demand by eastern nurseries.

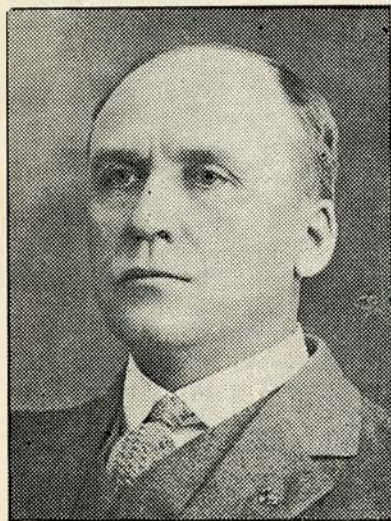
(Continued next month)





## ARE WE NOW LIVING IN AN INTER-GLACIAL PERIOD?

by  
H. L. Hopkins



H. L. Hopkins

that goes today for what is generally accepted and believed in geological matters is based on plausible theories.

The solid rock of absolute certainty, on which all can stand and agree, unalterably, in these matters, is exceedingly limited.

The few certainties come almost exclusively from nature's records written in the earth rocks.

The past, even yesterday, geologically speaking, because of the elements of time, so vast as to be incomprehensible, and changes in the physical relationships of land and water, is, at best, deeply shrouded in the mists of expiring time.

Is the old earth heading into another glacial period? Climatic conditions of late have been exceedingly erratic.

For example, during the year 1936, weather records of every kind were all smashed to smithereens.

The winter averaged the coldest on record.

The summer averaged the hottest on record.

The year as a whole was the driest on record.

Almost within the year 1936, or during January 1937, the great Ohio River basin developed the highest floods on record, accompanied with the greatest loss of life and property on record.

Apparently the natural and normal relations of sun and earth are again out of gear.

Do these strange and freakish things in nature portend the early visitation, in the temperate zones of the earth, more of the great glacial ice sheets that have plowed down from the north in the past?

No human being has seen a glacier form, (the writer refers to a real old time glacier and not to one of the present little dinky high mountain affairs) or disappear.

There is no evidence or records handed down from humans of that day, if any, from the veiled past, for our guidance and information.

We can only speculate and theorize, in fact, a large per centage of all

## How Glaciers Are Formed

Several theories have been advanced as to the cause of the formation of glaciers. Among them a shutting off of, or material change in the direction of the flowage of, warm sea currents from the equatorial regions northward.

Another theory is that a vast upheaval or elevation occurs in the area where the glacier is formed, carrying that region into frigid or high mountainous climatic conditions.

Another theory is that of the earth shifting its position and changing its polar axis.

The writer is going to advance another theory. It is based on variations in the heat of the sun. Doubtless sun spots play their part in this.

Eminent scientists have discovered that marked variations occur, in periods of variable length, in the heat energy given off by the sun.

During several years preceding 1816 sun heat gradually diminished and the average temperature for the year 1816 made general climatic conditions decidedly frigid. 1816 has since been termed: "The year without a summer".

Quite recently there occurred another sub-normal sun heat period. For example; the average temperature of the year 1924 was four and one half degrees sub-normal.

Careful sun heat records are being kept by government officials at Washington. There are also quite frequently periods of abnormal sun heat.

My theory of the formation of glaciers is simply that one of these sub-normal sun heat periods continues long enough to give birth and being to a full fledged glacier,

This is theorizing strictly within the realms of purely natural forces and agencies. It does no violence to the earth's crust or the human imagination.

It is certain that continued fridity of climate always causes congelation of water, and that is glaciation. All of the elements necessary are water, time and sufficient coldness.

## N. O. MONSERUD

### Landscape Architect Tree Surgeon

Office—First National Bank Building  
SIOUX FALLS, S. DAK.  
PHONE 555



## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by  
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

The first of May at Morden finds the landscape a pleasing prospect. The inch of rain that fell one day in late April was an event of much blessedness. The soil needed moisture to break down the lumps on the surface of field and garden. Grass and all perennial crops and trees responded at once to the rainfall and the accompanying high temperatures.

The last day of April saw bud growth behind that of a year ago but developing at an unusual rate. Silver buffaloberry and Russet buffaloberry, as well as native elm and Dwarf Asiatic elm, were in full bloom. The only plants to precede these in flowering were the native alder and some of the willows, notably the Violet willow, which displayed their catkins a week ago. The Box-elder, or so-called Manitoba maple, is almost in full bloom at the first of May, and catkins are extending from the poplars.

All of these early tree and shrub companions contribute pleasure to the home-maker as they mark the steady establishment of spring and usher in seed sowing in vegetable garden and flower border. The parade of bloom will increase on every hand with each passing day. The pink of apricot and Russian almond, and the white of native plum, is already in evidence. It is hoped that the present hot spell will not be followed by an equally drastic reaction and low temperatures injure the set of seed and fruit. Present indications are for a bumper crop of elm seed.

The buffaloberries are somewhat unusual in that they are dioecious, each plant bearing but one sex of flowers. It is well to plant them in groups using about four pistillate or fruit-bearing subjects to one staminate or pollen-bearing bush. The elms produce perfect flowers and a single isolated tree is capable of seed development.

Birds have returned in large populations. Robins, flickers, mourning doves, and meadow larks are numerous. May first was featured by the largest flight of geese that has passed over the Station farm in many years. It is a stirring experience to watch and listen as they pass overhead in serried ranks by the tens of thousands chattering melodiously.

Even before the rain, it was possible to commence harvest from the garden. The Sharpleaf Dock or Perennial Spinach had developed sufficient leaf to supply a pot of greens. This crop is approved for those persons who enjoyed a long

season of vegetable harvest. Dandelions are more tardy in development. Welsh onions are ready for harvest in late April. Egyptian Top onions and Chives are others classed as first early. Asparagus comes shortly, and rhubarb. Each of these subjects supplies healthful salts and juices and contribute to the popularity of springtime.

Many persons are sowing the early tomato varieties as seed in the open garden. Farthest North and Redskin are leading prospects for this culture. Abel is an early variety with long, vigorous vine that won first renown by developing in heavy clay soil near Winnipeg, to heavy production after sowing seed in the garden row the second week of May.

The continued high temperatures of late April and early May, accompanied by an inch and a quarter of warm rain, hastened early fruit bloom at the Morden Experimental Station. Siberian apricot was in full bloom May 3, and the Manchurian species was about a day later. The former tends to be much richer in bud colour, sometimes attaining a red pink. Each species exhibits a considerable variation in colour of seedling bloom. However, when at the height of full bloom all trees give a general effect of whiteness.

The Scout apricot, which was a seedling introduced under name at the Morden Station in 1937, retains a pink effect during blooming period to larger extent than most of its sister trees. Again this spring the original tree is full of bloom to the top branches and on all sides. This valued variety is holding up in hardiness year in and year out and is bearing a crop of fruit annually. A considerable amount of nursery stock of Scout is being sold by commercial nursery firms, and shortly information will be gained as to the range of adaptability of the scout and its kindred. This spring an acre of edible apricots has been set out in a closein portion of the old seedling apple orchard. In this planting are many hybrids from the Dakotas. Apricots are comparatively resistant to drought and deserve wide investigation.

The Chinese Wild Peach, *Prunus Davidiana*, lost all of its fruit buds. It appears hardy in the leaf buds and the tall bushes are leafing out right to end of the terminals. However, the flower buds are brown and dead. It looks as if the only prospect of successful peach blood growing in southern Manitoba will be in diluted form as hybrids with sand cherries and hybrid stone fruits.

Russian Almond is blooming luxuriously this spring. It is one of the most reliable shrubs. Its heavy suckering habit is unfortunate. Some enterprising nurserymen are budding it on non-suckering stock and thus eliminating its straying tendency. There is a chance to do much good work in isolating superior seedlings with large, rich coloured bloom and shapely habit of bush.



## SECRETARY'S CORNER

by  
W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

Our wrens returned from their winter spent in the south-land a few days ago, looked over the houses on our property, apparently decided they would not do, and left again. It looks as though we would have to get a Government loan and modernize, or run the risk of losing all our summer tenants.

Under date of April 29th., Mr. J. W. Parmley writes as follows: "I received word this forenoon of the passing of John M. Downer on the 25th., at the

ripe age of 91. Had it reached me earlier, I would have been able to pay a small tribute to the memory of a wonderful man by attending the funeral this afternoon. The life of Mr. Downer and his remarkable life companion has been outstanding, not only in Turner County, but in the state and the northwest. He filled his niche and accomplished his task and the world is better for his having passed through it. I do not think you can do better than in our magazine, tell of his successful career, not simply in gathering gold and land, and distributing it two years ago to those he wanted to have it, but in his exemplary life, as a citizen, as a state builder, as a man." In this, Mr. Parmley echoes the thought of all of us who were privileged to know this fine man.

Our Lilac Hedge friends, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Canney, of Stamford, the former a life member, celebrated on May 6th., their golden wedding day. The Canney's gained much favorable newspaper notice by the half mile lilac hedge on his farm and annually holding a lilac day, when settlers in the west river came for many miles to share the beautiful blossoms. The prolonged drought has done the hedge no good and their 73 years of life is slowing up the activity of the owners, but both will long be remembered.

Mr. H. R. Woodward, Hot Springs, S. D., writes as follows: "I have in recent years, been gone in the summer time having a Naturalist position in Yellowstone Park with the National Park Service. We will leave our house and garden here in the hands of someone who will take care of it. I have a fear for the Robertson Memorial Park, however, we have had a dry winter, and so far the spring has been very dry. No moisture to speak of since March 5th. I find the soil dry on top and quite powdery as one goes down. It would be nice to have a well out there, but the cost may be too great on account of the depth. If we had a well there with a pump, one

could drive out there from town of an evening and water all sufficiently. If any of your readers happen to come to Yellowstone this summer have them look me up. I note in the magazine occasional references to Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge. I was in charge last summer at Old Faithful with a rank of Senior Naturalist. The summer before I was at Fishing Bridge."

If there is any prettier spring shrub combination than *Prunus triloba*, the Japanese flowering cherry and *Snow Garland Spirea* (*arguta*), which bloom at the same time, I have yet to see it. And how the rabbits do love the *triloba*. They do all, and more than the proper amount of pruning every winter. Our good neighbor had just disposed of two old rabbits when we discovered they had left two lively young rascals, as progeny, to carry on their nefarious garden operations. Now we are trying to induce some able bodied tabby cat, to make cat fur of the offspring. The Men's Garden Club of America are preparing for their annual meeting, July 13th., 14th., & 15., at Elmhurst, Ill., the hosts being our old friends of the Elmhurst Men's Garden Club, who publish the most interesting monthly magazine "The Earthworm", from whose pages we often purloin many good items. A distinguished array of speakers will be present, including F. F. Rockwell, Alfred Hottes, Adolph Kruhm, Paul Freese, Harry A. O'Brien and Prof. H. B. Dornier. Speaking of meetings, don't overlook the North Dakota Society's meeting at Valley City, June 26th and 27th.

## THE CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

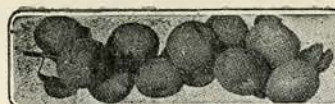
(Continued from page 62)

down as "grasshopper sparrows" when first noticed. This is perhaps because of the fact that the song usually has been described as a "weak, insect-like trill," a description which is certainly misleading. The Grasshopper Sparrow is a bird of similar size and appearance but it inhabits the open meadows or prairies and its song is far weaker.

The Clay-colored Sparrows inhabit the region from northwestern Illinois to central Manitoba and Great Slave Lake. They are only seen rarely from Indiana eastward. In winter they move southward to southern New Mexico, Texas and norther Mexico. The southwestern part of their nesting range meets that of Brewer's Sparrow, a very similar bird which inhabits the sagebrush plains. At Fargo, I find the Clay-colored arrives quite regularly the first week of May.

I do not find much data regarding the food of these sparrows, but one can be sure that they consume quantities of small grasshoppers and other insects, shifting more to weed seeds in the fall.



**BOOK REVIEWS**

by  
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

The Garden of Larkspurs, by L. H. Bailey. The Macmillan Co. 60 Fifth Ave., New York, Publishers. Price \$3.00.

At a luncheon, last summer, an authority on plants was asked to tell the difference between larkspur and delphinium. She replied that it depends on where you bought it, and how much you paid for it. L. H. Bailey seems to take the same stand for he says that delphiniums are larkspurs and larkspurs are delphiniums, and the subject is to

be so understood in his book. He vividly treats the delphinium as a noteworthy subject, both in the wild and in cultivation.

The chapter on the breeding and cultivation of delphiniums are most encouraging to those who have been fearful of growing them. Valuable contributions on diseases are presented by L. H. Leonian, editor for the American Delphinium Society, and also on pests by W. E. Blauvelt, Professor in the College of Agriculture at Cornell. In the accompanying key there are 113 varieties that are identified. Another important feature of the book is a scale for judging hybrid delphiniums. The blues of the larkspur are a haunting memory of old homesteads, long sturdy rows by fences. They belong with habitations of poor and rich alike, giving an "amen" of good will. This book belongs on the book shelf of every gardener.

The American Lily Book, edited and published by The American Horticultural Society, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Bld'g., Washington, D. C. 1939, Price \$1.00.

When at first the reader skims this book, by turning the lovely glossy pages, and looking at the life-like photographs, he feels like shouting some of the expressive words one hears today—stupendous, colossal, terrific.

The book is made up of a collection of articles written by successful growers of lilies. Their success has been the outgrowth of many discouragements and errors. The only explanation given by Mrs. Helen M. Fox for her success is a lily version of the famous story of Robert Bruce and the spider. When the discouraged hero was hiding from his pursuers in a barn he noticed a spider attempt, over and over again to fasten the silken threads of its web to the ceiling. He was so inspired by the persistent effort that he went forth once more, full of courage to defeat his enemies. As applied to the garden, the secret of raising

lilies is to try untold times to grow the same species. The experiences of lily authorities that are offered to us in this book and their value to lily growers, cannot be over estimated. There is also included a bibliography of lily books, and a list of lilies indexed from 1938 catalogs. With 150 species and varieties offered as bulbs and at least 75 species and varieties offered as seeds, one shouldn't go wanting for lilies.

**BOOK REVIEW**

by  
W. A. Simmons

Lilies For American Gardens, by Dr. Geo. L. Slate. Published by Chas. Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth Ave., New York. Price \$3.50.

The author, Associate in Research, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., needs no introduction to our readers as he was kind enough to contribute two fine lily articles to our magazine a few years ago.

With the preface dated February 1st, 1939, it would be impossible to find a more up to the minute lily books and equally so to find a better one. The son-in-law of the late E. H. Wilson, discoverer of the Regal and many other fine lilies, it is natural that Dr. Slate should take a great interest in this lovely flower and to have grown most of those which are able to survive the trying climate of his state. He explains the difficulties many growers have with some of the best lilies to be due to the fact that mosaic is present in the stock and as many are propagated asexually, by bulblets and natural division of the bulbs, the disease is carried on into the new plants. To clean up the stock of mosaic, he advocates growing them from seed, as the disease is not carried over into the seedlings. He figures that to rogue out their stock and start again from disease free stock would be, not only the honorable, but also the profitable thing for bulb dealers to do, as with clean stock, the increase would be rapid and they would greatly decrease their own losses. He explains in clear and concise language, every step in lily growing and propagation, from many years of experience in growing acres of them and then gives a clear description of every lily grown today or in the past, most of them being shown among the many fine illustrations. The up to the minuteness of the book is well shown in the descriptions of many hybrids of very recent origination. In this connection, many references are made to one of our distinguished life members, Mr. F. L. Skinner, of Dropmore, Manitoba, Canada, whose many fine hybrid lilies are highly commended. He explains that Mr. Skinner has taken many difficult lilies, crossed

(Continued on page 70)





## SUMMERS CURTAIN RISER

by  
W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

April 11th, 3 above zero, lowest record for this date, white landscape, snow squalls, icy N. W. Wind, many rabbit tracks in the garden; highest afternoon temperature 31. April 14th, light west breeze, cloudless, shade tem .59. For the first time since last November the stock tank is free from ice.

Although mulched with hay tritomas succumbed to North Dakota winter. April 19th, Robins are back, tulips peeping. Planted Hansen's red Siberian peony and new shilka iris. April 20th. Saw 3 herring gulls beating north against heavy snow squall; in evening hear sweet plaint of mourning dove from poplar grove. Clear cold with prospect of heavy frost; Burnett's new Pink Sensation Delphinium arrived, with of all things, a flowering stem; later nipped this off to induce better growth. Also Oscar H. Will's Ada Black Jack phlox, Pyramid and Bougton Pink and New Zealand Delph. April 22nd. Coincident with disappearance of last remnant of snow in our grove is first bloom of Siberian squill, a matchless blue. April 26th. After 24 hours of continuous to intermittent rain, the weed and thinning out problem has arrived. About the worst offender in the latter class is perhaps the annual Delph. ajacis, and considering the many colored continuous blooms, all summer long, regardless of heat and drought they are discarded rather regretfully. A few evergreens arrived from D. Hill of Dundee, Ill., an object lesson both in packing and quality. The twice transplanted Hicks (Jap.) yew, a foot or more high, have much the appearance of the columnar Irish yew and of course are the very best for either specimen or hedge and at last I have run down some small, 2 to 3 ft. high European larch from the same source. This is a much better and more ornamental tree than our own swamp growing tamarack, thriving on a drier upland, vigorous and free branching, and even before the needles appear, of handsome appearance with bright tan branches and pink buds. Though planted April 27th, fresh needles appeared on both these species on May 7th. My advice is to apply for Hill's list and then yield to temptation. April 30th. Crocusses and daffodils are showing though Shakespeares allusion to daffodils "that take the winds of March with beauty" does not apply to North Dakota, let us at least be thankful that they are winter hardy. 70 in shade boxelders and hybrid Chinese elms in bloom. May

1st. A rise of 10% with spontaneous universal and rapid burst of spring and leafage showing on Daphne mezerinums and daphne scented honeysuckle; also many seeds sown on evening of April 14th coming freely, including Rex Pearce's hotch potch of Salmagundi, which we are informed are not pickles, in this case but a mixture of 1937 vintage, some rare, all good, and judging by appearance I have already got my 20 cents worth.

My new bed straw Galium rubrum, chocolate flowering, altho a native of southern Europe, is up and spreading matlike in every direction and combines well with our own lovely white G. boreale. Tree peonies leafing out and also Hansen's Siberian fern leaved. Undoubtedly both much earlier than herbaceous peonies, though planted last October the former show well developed flower buds, the Vermont purple flowering raspberry Rubus odoratus, coming from root. May 3rd. Glory of Snow in bloom, also the cheerful yellow Dutch crocus and C. W. Woods supremely lovely Viola Govii, a fragrant large pink violet with darker striae. This plant was set exactly a year ago, and one snowdrop up. How spring flowering bulbs defy tradition in North Dakota. Though planted in 1934 our French hybrid lilac Congo is going to bloom freely for the

(Continued on page 71)

## THE PIONEER SEED HOUSE

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## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by  
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

For the third year, the lettuce growers of Arizona have plowed under one third of the crop, or about 5300 acres, in order to strengthen the market and get a price above cost for the two thirds that is to be shipped out.

A 6% increase in onion acreage to be planted, is in prospect. This means onions will be still cheaper this fall, if there is an average crop in all sections. All strawberry shipping states show an increase in acreage and in most all states the outlook

for a big crop is promising. Sec. Fitch, of the Iowa Vegetable Grower's Society, states in the PACKER that none of the new potato varieties, including Chippewa and Kahtadin, are equal to the Green Mountain, Russet, Burbanks or Cobblers, in table quality. The strawberry growers of Louisiana have brought action against eight of the largest chain grocers for \$8,500,000, for selling the berries at a loss. If the Robinson-Patman law will be upheld, the growers of fruit and vegetables may be saved from bankruptcy. Many states have passed the unfair practices law, otherwise known as the loss leader, or Robinson-Patman bill. The 118 year old apple tree at Vancouver, Wash., received its annual spray and fertilizing early in April. This tree is from seed planted by an officer of the Hudson Bay Co. and came from an apple he received when he left London. Hundreds of acres of over ripe peas were left in the field in California, because labor agitators got among the pickers that were earning \$4 to \$5 per day and told them they should have more. The first 10lb. box of red cherries left Treasure Island, Worlds Fair Post Office, for the President. The air mail package left Treasure Island at 11 A. M., April 23rd, and was due to arrive in Washington at 10 A. M. on the 24th. Fresh Fruit in Washington the day after it is picked in far away California. On May 6th, we set out 3000 cabbage plants on the east side of the 40 acres and on the 11th., we discovered that young grasshoppers had destroyed about all of them. There were 3 or more of them on each plant. One tiny hopper will destroy 3 or more tiny onion seedlings and whole patches are disappearing. We spread about 500 lbs. of the bait on the 12th, a week before the officials are ready to mix or send it out to the farmers needing it, mixing it ourselves. Mr. Dybvig also got some of the material to spread on his nurseries and

gardens at Baltic and Colton. All along I have been certain the hoppers would be more destructive than at any time the past 10 years.

May 14th. Today the Garden Discussion Club met at Pasque Knoll for a general inspection of the grounds and taking a count of the wild flowers, native shrubs, trees and birds on the grounds. I saw a big change in the bog as the water plants are disappearing as the erosion goes on and it will take more work now to restore the place, to put 6 inches of water back on it, as there was, 20 or 30 years ago, but the springs run as strong now as then and would keep a small lake full of pure water. The clump of Buffalo Berries were also found, but to the north, across highway No. 16. The clump at Pasque Knoll has disappeared. It was a little early for the birds and only 14 species were counted and about 100 species of trees, shrubs and wild flowers, some of which we could not identify. All present were favorable to making an effort to have it set aside for a wild flower preserve, as there is not another small plat where there is so much native plant life as here, and the two County Commissioners present were very much impressed with the grounds. On my return from Yankton on Sunday the 7th, I saw for the first time the small lake and resort in its present deserted and dried out condition. With the large number of artesian wells that have been drilled and allowed to run wild, it is no wonder the artesian basin around Yankton has given out. There was a beautiful little lake and the cabins were filled during the summer when I lived across the way on the Whiting Nursery. Many a string of cat fish were left at my door by the keeper of the resort. The first large well to run wild was about a half mile west, or almost in the city limits of Yankton. The large well just across the road, also has given out. Ignorance and carelessness have been responsible for the artesian basin of Yankton county going dry. A half car of grapefruit will be pressed every hour to supply the 71 foot bar, where 20 girls will serve 1000 gals. of fruit juice every hour, all free, by the Florida Citrus Commission at the New York worlds fair.

### BOOK REVIEW

(Continued from page 68)

them with others and produced hybrids that were not only finer than either parent, but also full of life and easy to grow. To assert that this is the best lily book ever published is by no means a reflection on authors of previous books, as the experimental data on diseases, contained in this book, did not exist at the time the previous books were written





## SOME HARDY ROSES

by  
C. B. Waldron



C. B. Waldron

Our calendars inform us that the month of roses has come again, but do our gardens indicate it?

We have talked about roses before in these columns and probably will again, as it takes much preaching to convert most people.

Admitting that it takes more time, patience, and enthusiasm than most of us have to grow a good sized bed of roses of such radiant beauties as adorn the pages of rose catalogs, we can still confidently set forth on a rose growing program that will give us as much satisfaction as anything we can undertake. Until we know our way about in a rose garden and can speak the language of the initiated, let us begin at the very bottom where there is no chance of failure, not undertaking too much until our experience warrants it and our ambition develops.

In the days of our mothers and grandmothers, a door-yard without its rosebushes would be hard to find. The Scotch Pink, Harrison's Yellow, Cabbage Rose, and the moss roses had honored place along the front porch or out by the garden gate.

All of these will grow as well in the Dakotas as in New York or Wisconsin, and since those early days there are now available several other hardy roses even better suited for the northern prairies.

To those interested only in the roses that can be used as cut flowers, like the hybrid teas and hybrid perpetuals, we can say we have a group of roses more valuable for the average home grounds than these aristocrats, even tho these were entirely hardy.

As ornamental landscape plants for hedges or mass planting, the Rugosas are far superior to any other roses and rank well with most plants grown for their beauty of form and foliage. While the Rugosas have received far less attention from plant breeders than the more gorgeously blooming hybrid teas, still there are some forty good hybrids from which to make our selection. Many of our readers are doubtless growing some of these but a partial list is offered at this time as a matter of reference when planting time next comes round. And may we suggest that a garden notebook in which the names of desirable varieties may be recorded for reference and notations made of matters of importance will prove to be of such use as to seem almost indispensable?

One of the newer of the Rugosa hybrids which originated at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa is the Agnes. Being a cross between the Rugosa and Harrison Yellow, it is naturally of the first degree of hardiness. Its full-formed and medium sized flowers of creamy salmon color are of strong fragrance and its profuse bloom in early June makes it an outstanding plant. The Agnes Emily Carman of the same parentage has bright crimson flowers which makes it the most striking of all the Rugosas.

The Atropurpurea has darker crimson flowers and is a very handsome plant in both foliage and flower. We were looking at some of these plants the other day that we set out four years ago and they gave no sign of ever having seen a North Dakota winter. One of the oldest, and still one of the best of the group, is the Blanc Double de Coubert, a large white, that is considered about the best in its class.

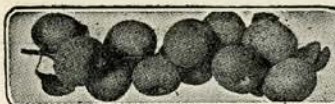
(Continued on page 72)

## SUMMER CURTAIN RAISER

(Continued from page 69)

first time this year. May 4th. Gurney's things arrived, fine big stock, all of them, including the premium apricot trees, a reward for securing new members. Have set them out, being ornamental as well as useful, in a staggered row. I hate rigid lines in a garden and always avoid them when possible. With Hansen's seedlings, purchased last year, I now have an orchard of 12 apricots. Am in receipt of a friendly letter from A. L. Truax, of Crosby, our former President, in which he informs me that Adonis vernalis is perfectly thrifty in our soil and climate. Now where can one get this early spring flower, for it would be quite an acquisition? I have to record the sad fact of the passing of Xmas rose, Helleborus niger, judging by remains it appears to have winter or March killed. However Gentiana septemfida is coming strong which has induced me to try some more of Borsch's lime tolerant gentians, for he has a good collection. May 6th. Altho yesterday registered a high of 93 in shade, today is cool and first Phlox sublata is out, pink with crimson center. In a letter from our new member from England Mrs. E. F. Smith, she records hearing the cuckoo on April 18th, which was early. It looks as if my Juneberries, crabs and choke cherries were all going to bloom at the same time, with lilacs and honeysuckle a close second and for spring perennials, phlox sublata, with their mats of color and rocket (the old fashioned matronalis) tailing the procession and alyssum Montanum and as good a perennial, tho little known, Linum lewisii, an evergreen flax that flowers freely the year it is sown and again early in the spring. Yes, the curtain rises on summers glorious pageant.





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by

H. E. Beebe

### Flowers and Birds



H. E. Beebe

The Commencement season both high school and college is on, and I remember with much pleasure the peonies around Vermillion, at the time of the University Commencement. Perhaps boat rides on the Vermillion river added to the charm. In those days peonies were very rare in this northern part of South Dakota, but now improved varieties grow readily and the dark green foliage comes on early and stays late. I also recommend Bouncing Bet which

self sows and always furnishes a spot of color at most any time of year.

The Stevens article in the May number on the White Crown Sparrow was most interesting. These and Harris Sparrows are my favorite migratory birds. This year the Juncos came early and more than usual, but since then the migration seems to be very erratic and fewer numbers. I live on the north edge of Ipswich, on sort of a bald hill top. The elms 25 years old are less than 14 feet tall, and most of the birds which stop are those who are used to the low brushy country, in which they nest in Northern Canada.

Yesterday morning a male red winged black bird and a female yellow headed black bird, were caught at the same time, and it is most interesting to see the variation between the male and female in the black birds, the female running more to the brown. I suspicion a Cat bird nesting in the granary, and will report later. Last evening a male Cow bird returned which was banded exactly one year and one day before. It seems strange that many birds which winter in Oklahoma, and nest near Hudson Bay, stop off at the Beebe Hotel each year.

### Foreign Flowers Blooming on Dakota Soil

Our Scandinavian Horticulturist N. O. Monsrud whose ad you have seen in these columns, is general chairman for the visit of Crown Prince Olav and Crown Princess Martha, to the Sunshine State.

They will be in Sioux Falls on June 14th, and we expect all of the Horticulturalists in that vicinity to be present, as from the newspaper pictures, Martha is a fair flower.

Perhaps a bouquet of native Dakota blossoms could be presented to our esteemed visitors.

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR



E. C. Hilborn

E. C. Hilborn of Valley City is in charge of local arrangements for the annual meetings of the North Dakota State Horticultural Society to be held in Valley City, June 26 and 27. Program for the two days of meetings at which speakers from Manitoba, Minnesota, South and North Dakota will be heard, will be announced soon.

### SOME HARDY ROSES

(Continued from page 71)

The F. J. Grootendorst is of different parentage than the others, being a cross of the Rugosa and one of the Polyanthas, the small cluster roses. Most of us have grown this and have noted the carnation-like appearance of its cluster borne flowers and its continuous bloom through the season. It makes a fine hedge growing to a height of about five feet.

The Hansa, a double reddish purple rose as hardy as a currant bush, we have had growing for years.

The Mrs. Anthony Waterer, a carmine semi-double very fragrant rose, and the Nova Zembla, white or slightly blushed, are among the good ones of the Rugosa hybrids.

If we were to wander outside of this class of roses we would have too long a story, and besides we like to keep on safe ground where we can't make mistakes.

Dame Nature must have had the Dakotas in mind when she created the Rugosa roses and with the patient help of the plant breeders has given us something of more value than many of us appreciate, and possibly more than some of us deserve.