

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

AUGUST, 1939



Dr. Kerr picking the large crop of Scout Apricot. One of the things we will see at our visit to Morden, provided we can again tree the Doctor.

Our summer tour to Morden, Manitoba, Canada, will start from Sioux Falls on Sunday, Aug. 13th.

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THE CHIPPING SPARROW

by
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

The chipping sparrow was long known under the name given it by Alexander Wilson, *Fringilla socialis*. He wrote: "I have known one of these birds attend regularly every day, during the whole summer, while the family were at dinner, under a piazza, fronting the garden, and pick up crumbs that were thrown to him. This sociable habit, which continues chiefly during the summer, is a singular characteristic." The accuracy of Wilson's observations can readily be verified by anyone, for this little bird nests in the vines on the porch or a small tree within a few feet of the door.

This sparrow is one of the smaller birds of its family. It is smaller than an English sparrow, slender, with a long tail. Its gray breast is unmarked and its head has a red cap. A narrow black line runs along the side of the head through the eye. The young birds have dark streaks on the under parts but these are lost before they leave us for their winter home. They do not have the red caps until the next summer.

The nests are usually placed a few feet from the ground in a bush or small tree. They are well built and commonly lined with horse hairs. The eggs are pale blue with a few spots of brown at the larger end. These birds are often imposed upon by the cowbirds and frequently one sees a young cowbird trailing its diminutive foster mother. Obviously her efforts to feed one such bird would be as great as for three or four of her own.

The chipping sparrow are among our best friends, for they feed extensively upon grasshoppers, caterpillars and other destructive insects. Especially during the fall and winter months a good deal of weed and grass seed is eaten. The song is often described as a "monotonous chippy, chippy, chippy." In contrast with species such as the song sparrow, the song has little variation, consisting of a rapid succession of similar notes. However, I notice that there is considerable difference in the manner of delivery by individual birds. The ordinary type has perhaps some suggestions of a dentist's hammer or a riveting machine. In other cases the song is more of a whistle, reminding one of the song of its near relative, the field sparrow. Since beginning to write this article I watched a chipping sparrow singing and noted that its long tail vibrated, keeping time with its song.

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The chipping sparrows nest all over the United States except along the Gulf coast, northward into southern Canada and even to southern Alaska. The birds of the Pacific coast are known as western chipping sparrows. Their migrations are rather limited, the birds not usually going beyond the Gulf coast. In the region of Fargo they arrive about April 25. E. A. Preble reported that they reached Ft. Simpson, Canada, (lat. 62°) on May 18.

NEWSLANTS

by
Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

The sixteenth annual meeting of the North Dakota Horticultural Society was not only outstanding because of the many fine papers heard, but was also unusual, from the standpoint of the secretary, in that speakers on the program appeared almost 100 per cent. Those who failed to appear had a good reason for being absent.

It would be difficult, indeed, to attempt to mention all of the points of horticultural interest brought out during the meetings. However, the talks on birds by Dr. Libby of Grand Forks and Judge Thompson of Lisbon, Franklin Page's paper and discussion on peonies, and the talk given by Harry Franklin Baker of Minneapolis on landscaping were very fine.

George Will of Bismark, who needs no introduction to our readers, presented an excellent paper on hardy shade and ornamental trees, followed by our good Canadian friend, W. R. Leslie of the Morden Experiment Station, who listed and discussed ten hardy herbaceous and ten hardy woody ornamentals. While some of these were not new, they are still considered very good and recommended by Mr. Leslie.

Dr. C. I. Nelson of Fargo next led a discussion on ornamentals and added a few of his experiences with various shrubs and flowers in his home planting, especially the growing of shade loving plants, thus utilizing much space otherwise wasted.

The afternoon program of the first day was concluded by F. L. Skinner of Dropmore, Manitoba with a talk on "New Lilies." Mr. Skinner illustrated his talk with many fresh samples of cut lilies from his garden.

At 6:30 p. m. a very fine banquet was served in the Valley City Country Club House with E. C. Hilborn as toastmaster.

Rain the morning of June 27 brought about a change in our program. The tour scheduled for the morning was postponed until the afternoon and the afternoon program moved up to the morning.

Fruit fanciers had a real treat in the three talks on fruits. Professor Alderman in his first appearance before the North Dakota Society reviewed developments in apples, grapes, and currants and listed several recent introductions. W. R. Kerr of the Morden Station followed Professor Alderman with a discussion on fruits in general and brought out several interesting points re-

garding varieties at the Morden Station.

Dr. N. E. Hansen, veteran Horticulturist of the South Dakota Agricultural College, discussed the present status of the hardy apricot and gave considerable time to a discussion of hardy and desirable apricot rootstocks.

New officers elected for 1940 are: President, Rev. J. Ralph McNeil, Carrington; first vice president, E. C. Moran, Medora, N. D.; second vice president, Franklin Page, Hamilton, N. D.; secretary, Harry A. Graves, Fargo, N. D.; treasurer, E. L. Shaw, Fargo, N. D.

We were very sorry that E. C. Moran of Medora was unable to be present. Also, we greatly missed Rev. McNeil, our new president, who, because of illness in his family, was unable to present his paper on "Hardy Lawns."

E. J. Taintor voiced a suggestion that met with the enthusiastic approval of the group when he advanced the idea of development and encouragement of horticultural hobbies. Fanciers of crops such as peonies, roses, and other horticultural crops could exchange ideas and perhaps set up a sub-society of their own under the plan suggested by Mr. Taintor. We plan to include an extra line in our membership blank for next year where members can list any particular hobby in

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TREES OF THE DAKOTAS

by
G. F. Will



Dr. Geo. F. Will

The subject of hardy perennials and shrubs has been given a good deal of attention in Horticultural Society programs for some years past. The matter of shade and ornamental trees, however, seems to have been somewhat neglected and Mr. Graves has asked me to take that for my topic for this meeting.

We, of course, are resigned to hearing the designation of North Dakota as a state of bare and treeless prairies. As a matter of fact, however, there are

a great many thousands of acres of wooded land within our state and many more small groves and patches of timber in the coulees and draws of our hills and valley where timber is found. Furthermore, the Red River Valley has proven an ideal setting for the Missouri Valley Cottonwood and is thickly studded with fine groves of that tree. The Red River Valley and Turtle Mountain region never were bare and treeless in pre-historic times. They were undoubtedly like the virgin prairie of Manitoba dotted with clumps of Aspen and Balm of Gilead or other similar trees. The midland section along the east side of the coteau also had many of these small timbered patches scattered over it and the many lakes in the region were usually surrounded by timber also. In the coteau itself the deep draws along the sides were nearly always timbered and in the Missouri Valley the bottom lands along the river and the draws along the sides of the bluff were also originally rather heavily timbered. In the West River country each river valley had considerable areas of timber which has to a considerable extent now disappeared.

The Little Missouri Valley in the Bad Lands still shows a considerable quantity of timber and at one time had a great deal more. It seems reasonable, therefore, to feel that trees in the proper location and properly handled are an integral part of North Dakota's natural condition. In view of that fact it does not seem so foolish, as some would have us think, to continue planting trees and trying to get the benefits which the presence of trees will give us. As a matter of fact, there are approximately fifteen genuine trees which are native to our state, together with several very large shrubs which practically attain to the height of a small tree under proper conditions and are useful as such. Besides there has been a very considerable number of imported trees which

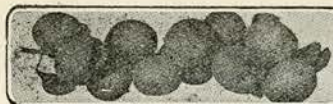
have proved entirely satisfactory in different parts of our state. There is, therefore, no dearth of material to give us beautiful and varied plantings.

Considering the trees in their two classes of deciduous and evergreen, let us take up the deciduous trees first. Of the native perhaps the least used and yet the longest enduring and one of the most beautiful is our native Burr Oak. When handled like Evergreens they are not so very difficult to transplant and the speed with which they grow under the best of care is surprising. We believe that they are going to be increasingly used. With their dark green foliage and their symmetrical shape they are outstanding in any planting.

Perhaps one of the most planted trees over the whole state is the native Green Ash. This is considered slow growing although with plenty of moisture it will often grow several feet a year. It is perhaps one of the most drouth resistant of trees but has fallen into disfavor of recent years owing to its susceptibility to the borer. These borers have ruined thousands of fine Ash trees. However, if the trees are watched for signs of the borers and treated promptly they almost invariably recover satisfactorily. The White Ash is said also to occur in a few places in the southeastern part of the state. This is a somewhat faster growing tree than the Green Ash but is probably not hardy over the whole state.

The Boxelder or Manitoba Maple, which is by the way a true Maple, has also fallen into some disfavor owing to the fact that a great many different kinds of insects have attacked it in the last ten or twenty years. However, after viewing many thousands of these trees both in North Dakota and Manitoba I am convinced that it is one of our most satisfactory shade trees if given proper care and protection. So many of the Boxelders have become misshapen and ugly from careless and ignorant trimming. A perfectly pruned or naturally grown Boxelder is one of the most symmetrical trees to be found, resembling in its habit others of the Maple family. In the same family but not native are the soft Maples, which though far from hardy over much of the state, yet are of value in some of the southeastern parts and from which eventually perfectly hardy strains will doubtless come. I am mindful of two trees from among many thousands which have been set out in Bismarck, which have survived for twenty-five years or more, now have trunks ten or twelve inches in diameter and do not kill back at all any longer. Doubtless grafting from these on Boxelder will produce something pretty well adapted to much of the state. The Ginnala Maple belongs to the class between shrubs and trees. It may be grown to a height of eighteen

(Continued on page 93)



NATURE DEPARTMENT

by
H. L. Hopkins

Fishing Thrills—Fresh Waters

From my earliest recollection I have fished, could swim and have loved water. Had the fates cast me near the sea, I now know that no power on earth could have prevented me from being a sailor. I have spent many, always happy, days on the sea, in sundry crafts, and amid greatly variable weather conditions, and have never missed a meal or experienced a moment's sea sickness. I was born near the banks of a merry little spring brook. It was the native habitat of the gorgeous and glorious speckled trout and the lowly sucker. The wonderful pastime of matching wits and cunning with the fish began with hook, copper wire snare and spear. The contest is still on.

One of my first really big thrills, and one of the biggest fishing thrills of my life, was in the early summer of 1878, on the Big Sioux River, near where the little city of Estelline, in Hamlin county, now nestles.

I was loitering along the stream and armed with a small spear. There was a deeper and wider bit of channel than ordinary, above an old beaver dam.

I could see the tail fins of several big fish showing occasionally above the surface of the water. I stood just at the water's edge and pondered how to get at them. The surface was very lightly rippled by a little air movement. Finally one of the big fellows righted up and started, very leisurely, directly towards where I stood. I was a half grown lad and had never before tried to take such a big one in to camp. I brought my spear up into position to strike, froze into a statuesque pose, and watched in trepidation. When the fish was within about eight feet I struck with all the power I had. Fortunately I buried the spear in the top of its head. I pulled the fish out and firmly grasping the spear I started scrambling up the steep bank. When nearly at the top the big fellow began to revive and flop, and with about the second shake he flopped free. I threw myself on top of him and got the thumb and fingers of my right hand around his throat and in the gills on each side. I gathered him under my left arm and, dragging the spear, started for camp; and believe me, I was a proud and happy kid. It was a buffalo. My father estimated its weight at about twenty-five pounds.

I got another never to be forgotten thrill that same early summer of 1878. Directly east of the old Hopkins homestead, which is a little to the east of Estelline, there meanders down into the mammoth Big Sioux Valley an immense valley or water course. It is occupied by a puny little

stream usually dry, known locally by the euphonious title of Peemunky Run. Back in the high hills along this run are a number of large, deep, spring fed and permanently water filled ponds. Urged by boyish curiosity, in mooching around, I soon discovered these ponds. Among other fishing gear I possessed a spoon hook. I tried these ponds with the spoon and had no trouble in landing plenty of two to four pound pickerel and kept our larder constantly supplied with fresh fish. After several weeks of this, one day, while at the largest pond, I made a cast with the spoon and as I started to leisurely troll it in it suddenly stopped. It felt as though it was snagged on a sunken log. I pulled on it gently and it slowly moved. After pulling a few seconds the first five or six inches of the front end of the largest pickerel or muskalonge that I have ever seen came slantwise above the water. The big fellow apparently was as much surprised as myself. He had offered no resistance up to that time, but he suddenly gave a powerful side thrust with his mighty propeller tail fin and snapped my line as though it had been a mere thread.

I lost my only spoon hook, which was a very real tragedy, but the tremendous thrill of seeing and feeling that old lunker was worth a dozen spoon hooks.

I candidly believe that fish weighty sixty pounds. I tried diligently for several succeeding years to again connect up with that big lad but never did, and I have never known of his being landed. I wonder if he is still emperor of that little domaine?

From the "Proceedings of the 25th Annual Meeting of the N. J. Mosquito Extermination Association" comes an interesting bit of information about pools. It was found that bladderwort plants eliminated all the mosquitos, the larva of which dive down beneath the surface of the water to feed, where they become entrapped in the vacuum sacs of the plant. The larva of the malaria mosquito, however, swim and feed at the surface of the water and are thus not captured by the bladderwort. Yet, according to the bulletin, there is still some hope for the control of these pests; insects have been brought in with the bladderwort. Whirligig beetles appeared on the surface; also back swimmers, water striders and water boatmen. Within another week these insects had gained complete control even of the malaria mosquitos. Furthermore, it is felt that theripples of the Whirligig beetles, the darting and tumbling of the silver-sided back swimmers, and the skipping of the water strider all add interest to the pool as well as have their utilitarian aspect.—Horticulture.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by
H. E. Beebe

Dakota Horticulturists Should Shun Peas

H. E. Beebe

This advice comes late for this year's planting but should be clipped by every married horticulturist. The Dakota Farmer recently had an article regarding diet having effect on disposition. Psychologists claim that potatoes develop calm thinking (are the Irish an example?) Spinach eaters are men of action while people eating peas develop shallow emotions and women, flirting and frivolity.

Many Blossoms in the Dakotas This Year

During the past month I have had the pleasure of traveling over quite a bit of western North and South Dakota and am surprised that prairie grass has come back. The gramma grass is heading out high up with its brown scythe making patches of almost black on the prairie.

The county agent at Timber Lake endeavored to get a machine that would harvest this gramma grass seed and our North Dakota friend, Mr. Will of Bismarck, had a machine. Mr. Kasson, the Bowman county agent, also expressed a desire that in these years when the "grandma" grass seeded out so well and so high, the seed should be gathered.

Jacobson, the county agent of Slope county, however, prefers the crested wheat grass to the darker and coarser looking gramma.

In any case, if someone will develop the machinery for harvesting these prairie grass seeds, there is no question but what it would be a very profitable source of income during the years when they do seed as they have in 1938 and 1939.

Since the rains started in the middle of June, the prairie flowers which normally blossom at this time are unusually vivid. The yellow flowered cactus in eastern Corson county was the most beautiful in May. Many hillsides on the road from the Sakakawea monument northwest to Wapakala were fairly covered with clumps of these yellow blossoms.

The Martin Messenger of June 15th says, "Talk about the prairie flowers in California, they don't excell the 30 acres of yellow wall flowers in the Hunt pasture north of Batesland, or the flowering yuccas in the Budd cattle pasture on Highway 27 between here and Gordon. The purple and lavender beard-tongue (pentstemon) are now in bloom and make a great showing. Wm. Weaver and Jack Telliferro have transplanted some to their gardens and find them very satisfactory

for cutting. The blue bells finished blooming but made a great showing the past three weeks. The wild roses are now in bloom and scent the air with fragrance."

Perhaps the drouth period is over and the Dakotas will come back fast.

Wild Flower Gardens More Numerous in the Dakotas

Perhaps I have been looking especially for wild flowers being cultivated during the past few months. Noteboom of Selby writes in his paper:

"The writer has a wee corner in which native wild flowers have been planted from time to time for three years now. This year we have yucca, Indian paint brush, yellow, blue and white violet, bluebells, sage, crocus, yarrow, puccoon, blue flag, Canterbury bell, wild geranium, buffalo berry and gumbo lily along with a couple of clumps of native grass, and a buck brush, all striving for possession, hiding the rocks and furnishing a playground for the bees and butterflies. Let's have a flower garden, begin to plan one now for next year."

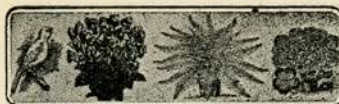
The Mobridge Tribune also had an article about a local party having a wild flower garden and the bluebells brought by M. Plin Beebe on one of his trips around the state and planted in my garden have produced sprays of flowers this year 16 inches long and just as pretty as any cultivated variety.

The blue "snake flower" was also blossoming this year, having been put in last year. The experience of other readers would be appreciated in this transplanting of our native wild flowers.

The esteemed fellow horticulturist, J. W. Parmley, is again putting Ipswich on the map with a zinnia garden on the vacant lots north of his office on the Main street of Ipswich. Several years ago Ipswich was known as the "Zinnia City," but the succession of very dry years dampened the enthusiasm of a great many who at one time planted practically all of the vacant lots in the city of Ipswich to zinnias. The property just south of the city library in Ipswich was presented by M. Plin Beebe to the city and landscaped by the auditor, William Thielen, this spring.

Joe evidently thought that the rest of the lots in Ipswich should measure up to this standard and has put in zinnias this year which, in spite of the first seed planted being of low germination, will present a mighty pretty sight to the traveler by August 10th. Joe's garden, along with the city park with the band stand in the rear, will transform the appearance of the main street of Ipswich and it would pay other city commissioners to make a special trip to Ipswich, and become inoculated with this fever for beautification of our small prairie towns at a low expense.

(Continued on page 96)



MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

There are a number of conditions which from time to time are responsible for failure of an apple, pear, plum, cherry, or other tree to set fruit.

At the Morden Experimental Station some of the causes of fruit failure are frost injury to the fruit buds during winter or to the opening buds in early May, such as experienced this spring; drought, ineffective pollination, due to sterility, incompatibility, uneven dates of bloom or adverse weather at

time of bloom; unbalanced nutrition of the tree; tree not sufficiently exposed to sunlight; and tree smitten by disease or insect pests.

Winter injury is shown by a tender variety bearing only on lower protected branches while a hardier type similarly situated has fruit distributed over the whole tree. Often fruit buds are frozen while the leaf buds survive a hard winter. An example is Tokata plum. Few fruit pistils withstand a six degree freeze when the flower buds are opening.

Drought increases the June drop of young fruits and, when severe, may cause drying up of the fruit buds and complete loss of crop. A generous irrigation in early October of a dry autumn is an important benefaction to the tree. The prairie fruit plantation should not have to compete with grass or weeds for soil moisture.

Pollination is nearly all performed by insects. Cool and windy weather restricts and at times prevents activity of bees and other helpful insects. Cool weather after pollination may so delay pollen-tube growth that fertilization is not effected before the pistil deteriorates. It may be considered that all fruits should be cross pollinated. With many fruits, such as hardy plums, native grapes, and buffaloberries, the pollen of a different variety is essential. In many cases a sister-brother plant is acceptable. All or nearly all prairie plums are totally unfruitable to their own pollen, and the hybrid plums tend to bear better to native plum pollen than to pollen from their sister tree. The pollen tree must be in full bloom during the period the mother tree has its stigmas in receptive stage, and they must be compatible. Morello cherries set to pin cherry pollen but not vice versa. Hence, Compass cherry, and Cooper bloom late—Native Canada plum, early. Hence, at least two varieties of early or two late bloomers must be neighbor trees.

The other conditions mentioned are readily

understood. Sunshine is required to develop a tree fruit bud. A vigorous young tree is too busy growing wood to produce fruit buds. An old tree may be too lacking in food reserves to bear fruit. Disease and insects deteriorate the tree.

Early July sees the first tree fruits ripening at Morden. Nanking cherries, sour cherries, Saskatoons, Mulberries and some apricots mature this month.

Fruit crops at the Experimental Station are spotty this season. The May 11th frost damaged bloom on most fruit trees to some extent. Those suffering heavily were apricots, some plums, and some standard apples. A second adversity arose in June with a virulent epidemic of fire-blight which called for the removal of whole trees of crab apples and pears and considerable cutting out on thousands of others.

Crop indications are good on some apples, crab apples, pears, plums, sand cherry hybrids, sand cherries and sour cherries. Scout apricot is carrying a better crop than other apricots but the yield will be less than half of last year. Many apricot trees are void of fruit. Light crops are developing on mulberries, some types of cherries, plums and apples.

Among the plums and hybrids in moderately heavy fruit are McRobert, Assiniboine, Mammoth, Tecumseh, Pembina, Fiebing, Red Wing, Radisson, Underwood, Winona, Oziya, Minnesota numbers 17 and 161, Sapa, Opata, Ezaptan, Mina, Mordena and Mansan.

Melba apple was heavily laden but blight smote this quality variety in disappointing degree and has lessened the crop by two-thirds. Haralson and Erickson were little effected by disease and are carrying a good load of fruits.

One Transcendent crab apple, purchased as a young nursery tree for Pewaukee apple, is this summer blighted out. For fourteen years the Morden Station has avoided Transcendent owing to its intense proneness to Fire Blight and thus its hazard in inviting disease to the orchard. The tree in question has been very vigorous and has borne annual bumper crops but now is a stump, nearly a foot across, and ready for extracting. Other varieties severely injured by this bacterial disease include Olga and Osman crab apples.

Treatment of diseased trees has been cutting out of diseased branches about six inches below the visibly infected part and disinfecting of tools after each cut in a one to five hundred solution of corrosive sublimate.

Milkman (to suspicious customer): "You won't find nothing wrong with our firm's milk, mam, all our milk's been paralyzed by a government anarchist."—Gabe Caffrey in Argus-Leader.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

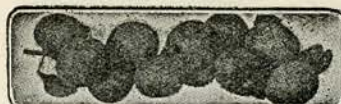
by
W. A. Simmons

The annual meeting of the North Dakota State Horticultural Society was one of the pleasantest and most valuable we have ever attended. The printed programs were artistic gems and the Secretary, Mr. H. A. Graves, brought together an array of talent seldom gathered together on one platform. One would cheerfully travel a long distance to hear any one of these men but when one could hear Dr. Alderman of Minnesota, Mr. Skinner, Dr. Kerr, Dr. Leslie and Mr. Ure, of Canada, Professor Waldron and Mr. Will of North Dakota, and Dr. Hansen of South Dakota, all on the same program, it was something decidedly out of the ordinary. The President, Mrs. M. B. Kannowski, the talented park superintendent of Grand Forks, presided with rare tact and wit and never allowed a dull moment in the sessions. The Valley City people worked hard for the success of the meeting and held a very pretty flower show, where we from the south were again able to see and enjoy flowers that had long been gone in our gardens. The highlight of the meeting for a lily lover like the writer was the appearance, with a large box of his hybrid lilies, of Mr. F. L. Skinner of Dropmore, Manitoba. We esteemed it a great privilege to be able to meet and converse with this internationally known lily authority and we were fairly overwhelmed when, at the close of the meeting, he bestowed all of the lovely lilies he had brought, on us. He has done a very great work with lilies, the object constantly in mind being to make difficult lilies easy, by hybridizing them with those that are more robust, producing a race of lilies of great beauty and of easy culture. The hybrids that were in bloom at the time of the meeting and which he showed, were a cross of the dainty but most difficult native lily, the philadelphicum with the strong growing umbellatum. These retained the form and foliage of the umbellatum with the more vivid coloration of the native and also had its attractive spots. As he showed nearly fifty flower stalks, no two of which were alike, you can imagine what an interesting race of lilies of easy culture we will have to vary our plantings, as soon as a stock has been worked up and made available by our nurserymen.

Here is what Mr. W. R. Leslie has to say about the Scout Apricot, pictured on our cover page this month: "The end of July saw the original tree of Scout apricot ripening a substantial crop. A typical fruit is one and a half inches long, an inch and a quarter deep and somewhat broader. The tree is hardy, drought resistant, and is proving an annual cropper. As canned or as jam, Scout

apricot is recognized as a quality fruit. Commercial nurserymen are listing this promising newcomer in tree fruits for next spring shipping." Again the Stark-Burbank Institute of Horticulture, of Louisiana, Mo., is conducting their annual new fruit contest, with \$1,500 in prizes offered for the winners. The judging results will be announced on August 19th. The contest includes seedlings or bud sports of Apples, Peach, Plums, Cherries, Pears, Grapes, Berries and miscellaneous sorts, ripening between now and August 19th. There is no entrance charge, the cost being the postage on the fruit. Entries can be sent in at any time before the closing date. Another contest will be held later for fruits that ripen in the late fall. As Mr. Stark says in the announcement circular, "This institute enables owners of new fruits everywhere to get quick national recognition for their new and better fruits." To gladden the hearts of gladiolus growers by spreading death and destruction among thrips, the Department of Agriculture recommends the following spray: water 1½ gallons, tartar emetic, 1 ounce and brown sugar, 4 ounces. As tartar emetic is very poisonous and, as Mark Twain once remarked about another matter with an equally lethal end result, "There are pleasanter ways of going to hell," it is recommended that users allow the thrips to do all of the drinking. A green fingered neighbor, on a recent trip, discovered a colony of Superbum lilies, growing in a ditch about four miles southeast of Canton on the Iowa side of the river. It was the first time we had heard of this fine native lily growing this far west. The books give its range from eastern Minnesota to the Atlantic ocean. It is decidedly a lily worth having and very much resembles a lily we have long grown, the Leopard, or Pardalimum, about the only difference being that it lacks the patch of green in the cup of the latter. Its petals are recurved, like the familiar Tiger lily, but it has a far more vivid color. While in the wild, it is usually found in wet places; it is said to thrive in our gardens and is not an expensive lily, being for sale at a very reasonable price by most lily bulb dealers. It blooms in July, about two weeks ahead of the Tiger and about a week later than Regal.

Tiny floating lawns through which crocuses or other small bulbs are pushing their way are being used on winter dinner tables. The base for these floating gardens is a large piece of cork in which holes have been cut to fit the bulbs, placed so that as the cork floats in the bowl the base of the bulb just touches the water. Store in the dark until roots are formed, sow thickly with grass seed, and bring into light and warmth.—Readers' Digest.



SUMMER'S CROWDING BLOSSOMS

by
W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

As summer's zenith approaches, the tempo of growth and color quickens and what greater thrill than the discovery of newly expanded bloom on dewy mornings? Here are some random notes: June 9th. Ice-making frost last night, tomatoes and dahlias frozen to the ground. First dark blue Delph, a Colorado species; *Daphne* scented honeysuckle in bloom, a pale pink, very fragrant. This dwarf bush much resembles *Spiraea* in growth and foliage. Owing to a cool A. M., *lewisii* flax stayed in bloom until late afternoon. A sport of crimson star columbine is very beautiful, flowers large with blue calix and white corolla. Lilac blooms with the exception of one spray on *Leon Gambetta*, all ruined by May frost. We note that our new member, Burnett Seed Co., of 25 Warren St., New York, can supply seeds of *Odonis vernalis*. Two geraniums *sanguineum* and *Wallichianum* in bloom. June 14th. Our first spider lily in bloom—species *Tradescantia bracteata*, color petunia purple; bulb planted last October; also our late lilac *Syringa villosa*. June 16th. Cold, heavy rain from northeast; first bloom on *Lychnis chalcedonica* with a few late stragglers on *Phlox subulata*. Picked out first gooseberries from Carrie bushes and even a few from rooted cuttings of Pixwell, donated us in May. Evening temperature 52; the tall wand-like stems of *Coreopsis tripteris* now contribute to garden beauty. The airy grace of feather palm, which it much resembles in appearance and so hardy that in three years I have not lost one plant, clumps are easily divided and transplant without mortality. Carpet-like mats of *Achillea chrysocoma*, a yellow, defined as aureolin, makes the bloom appear to shine on a cloudy day and both the above are perfect border plants. June 19th. Cloudy April-like day with chilly N. W. wind and showery. *Veronica* blue of *veronica teucrium* trehane, with its bright golden foliage as of golden elder, makes a fine border accent and though magenta harmonizes with few colors, the white downy foliage and magenta flowers of *Lychnis Flos Jovis* and taller feathery plumes of *Thalictrum aquilegifolium*, a pale Bishops violet, compel attention. June 20th. Two more white flowers out from last year's sowing, they are a geranium *pratense* variety album and *salvia sylvestris* alba. June 22nd. Following yesterday's downpour, today will be fine for our scarlet pimpernel (poor man's weather glass)

which is fully expanded. June 27th. Large plants of *Centaurea dealbata* flaunt their full pink blooms, adding a very gay touch, also *Cent. montana alba*. July 4th. Our customary tropical warmth seems to have at last come to stay and our Rocky Mt. Delphs are now in full bloom, from darkest *Victoria* violet to pale butterfly blue; also our first *convolvulus tricolor*, var. *azureus* (deep wedgewood blue with gold throat) a dwarf bushy type, one of our few survivors from the May frost. Beautiful indeed at this season are clumps of annual *Delph ajacis*, commonly known as larkspur, eliminating yellows, a veritable blaze of rainbow hues and although *Pentstemon grandiflora* has passed its prime, *unilateris* reaches its zenith of charm, the multitudinous riot of bloom on each plant, a cobalt violet, combining with any setting and even perfect in isolated clumps. As I am the fortunate possessor of a copy of Vol. 1 of Royal Horticultural color chart, which is the very last word in scientific color research, consisting of 100 color sheets, each sheet showing four hues of that color, and the day being warm and sunny, I collected blooms for analysis. Here is the result, except those listed above:

Asperula azurea—*Lobelia* blue.
Lotus corniculatus—dark aureolin.
Lychnis chalcedonica—mandarin red.
Lychnis salmonea—palest crimson.
Dianthus, semi dwarf, double—fuschia pink.
Hesperis Matronalis—Bishops violet.
Linum Lewisii—flax blue.
Linum Flavum—canary yellow.
Penstemon grandiflora—mauve.
Anthemus Kelwayii—lemon yellow.
Geranium sanguineum—Petunia purple.
Geranium pratense—Campanula violet.
Geranium Wallichianum—Aster violet.
Polemonum coeruleum—Aster violet.
Salvia Jurisicii—Campanula violet.
Syringa villosa (late lilac)—pale mauve to white.
Verbascum phoenicium—violet.
Anagallis arvensis (pimpernel)—pale scarlet.

TREES OF THE DAKOTAS

(Continued from page 88)

or twenty feet and makes rather a handsome small tree to include in a home planting.

Among the Poplars the outstanding one is the northern Cottonwood which has demonstrated its great value, over all of the states of the Northwest, and in spite of the warnings by horticulturists who are prejudiced against it, has survived drouth, wind and the other vicissitudes to which trees are subjected in Dakota better than almost any other variety. In addition it is a rapid grower and will produce many crops of wood during its life time by properly cutting it back at the top.

(Continued in next issue)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by
F. X. Wallner

The Penitentiary gardens are yielding several bushels of Bison tomatoes, quite a bit ahead of our own Bisons or other North Dakota varieties. Ruby, another North Dakota variety that did well here last year, was also on the top of the list of all varieties at Fargo last year. Idaho has potatoes more than a month earlier than usual, as they have the early Triumph also, this year. The Idaho Russets, Burbanks, McClures and others are late potatoes, well known, but they have gone into the early market in a big way with Early Triumphs. Potato growers of Maine are up in arms against Dr. Dafoe because he has banned potatoes from the food list of the quints, and also the nurses. All sorts of bulletins are being sent the doctor to prove that potatoes are not fattening but are needed in the daily diet of the precious five little girls. Acorn, or Table Queen squash vines are looking the best in years, but the others are beginning to die and it does not seem it is the black bugs that I always blamed for the wilted vines. There are no borers to be found in the wilted vines but the striped beetles have been very numerous all spring and may be the cause of the wilt. Expansion of the frozen food industry has been so rapid that they have entered the summer season with a huge carry-over. Another worry of the industry is that the frozen foods deteriorate in the hands of the retailers as they are not kept cold enough and they cannot compete with summer fresh fruits and vegetables. Attention Professor Davis. In early June I saw a patch of early sweet corn that was very uneven, some of the rows were only about half as tall as the rest. On inquiring, I found that the poor corn was on ground that was only disked and had a cabbage crop on it last year, so I thought it was because the ground was not plowed. But about two weeks later I saw another patch of sweet corn in the northern part of the county that was also very uneven. On investigating I found that this was also cabbage ground last year, but was plowed this spring. Now I rather think that the cabbage crop robbed the soil of the available potash and phosphate and that is the reason of the poor showing of the corn. I think had the green cabbage been plowed under last fall before being frozen, it would have helped the soil considerably. The corn borer and the corn ear worm are reported much worse this season than ever before. Spraying and dusting oil recommended. Last year we went over a five-acre patch by hand, starting by clipping the tip of each ear but ended up by working at the tip of ears showing where worms were working. I still think that corn ear worm is the second gen-

eration of cut worms, having an easier time than in the earlier spring when there is no green corn stalks with sweet silks, to feed on. Plowing under the field after the corn is harvested, but while still green would lessen the damage another year and surely put more humus in the soil than to wait till the stalks are dry. North and South Dakota Horticulture gets a monthly write-up in the Argus-Leader in the weekly book review, which gives a complete story of its monthly contents. Many thanks, Mr. Derome. Chain stores admit that loss leaders break and damage the market and would now ban the practice. Describing the benefits, an official said: "Elimination of loss leaders as a merchandising practice will prove of decided value in giving farmers a steady and dependable market which will be regulated by laws of supply and demand, rather than by artificial means. Under the present system," he declared, "many of the merchants wage price wars with competitors through use of loss leaders and as a result, reduce their own margin of profit, ruin the market and engender a feeling of dissatisfaction and distrust among the farmers whose existence depends on a steady market." evidently the chains are experiencing a change of heart while they are defendants in a nine million dollar lawsuit the berry growers of Louisiana are waging against them. Missouri will harvest about 1,049,000 bushels of peaches this fall, or more than nine times as much as last year. Iowa will have about 112,000 bushels of peaches and 148,000 bushels of pears this fall along with 5,700 tons of grapes. All fruit for Iowa, including apples will be 10 to 25 per cent above last year. Potatoes and onions in Iowa will be 10 to 15 per cent under last year's crop, canning peas were more than 50 per cent under last year's crop. Green beans are becoming more popular each year and as they are more immune to disease, the northern grower may as well plant them as the yellow sorts. We have just harvested three long rows while three of the flesh that were next to them, all went down with a disease. South Carolina furnishes 400,000 bushels each year of the nation's 11,307,000 bushel crop. Babies begin on them, grow fonder of them through childhood, middle age and into old age hold steadfast to the succulent green bean that is good for the body and the mind.

Growth promoting substances: They have merit. They increase the rooting of plants that will root anyway. Plants that are hard to root are still hard to root even with these substances. In other words, the conditions (temperature, moisture, proper cutting) must be right for proper rooting regardless of the use of root promoting substances.—The Earthworm.



SHADE TREES

by
C. B. Waldron



C. B. Waldron

In these sweltering days that come to us each year with un-failing and unappreciated regularity, our chief topic is how to keep comfortable. There are many things that help in attaining this end, but for those of us who live in houses either in the town or country, we would say that shade trees are the most important.

In working out the shade tree problem for home grounds, we naturally give consideration to the kinds of trees and their number and distribution. In order to get the best pictorial or landscape effect, the heaviest planting will be at the sides and rear to furnish the background and framework. This is commonly referred to as the structural planting. This does not mean that the trees are to be planted to give the effect of a solid wall, but rather scattered so that each tree may grow into its natural form, the whole interior having an inviting aspect. Trees like the American Elm, green and black ash, hackberry, red and burr oak, and basswood suggest themselves for this purpose. The final distance between the larger and more permanent of these will be about thirty feet, but a closer stand will give a better effect and furnish the desired amount of shade for the first twenty years or so.

The planting just described is the most important but may not be sufficient to give the best effect or provide the greatest comfort. This may call for some more or less detached trees that should not be wholly isolated but should bear some relation to the other plantings or to the buildings. They should, of course, be placed so they will furnish shade where it is most needed.

Just to illustrate and make the picture clear, the most useful, as well as the most ornamental, shade tree on our own grounds is a black walnut some 28 feet high standing on the south side of the drive leading into the garage. If one doesn't wish to drive into the garage at once, or a friend wishes to park his, usually her, car off of the street and in the shade, the sheltering walnut tree takes care of the situation.

Our next special pet is a rock elm planted where it shades the side lawn in the forenoon and the sidewalk in the afternoon. We gladly acknowledge the value of the American elm as a boulevard tree; in fact, we couldn't well get along without it, but as a shade tree for the lawn it is distinctly outclassed by the rock elm.

The rock elm is about as symmetrical and compact as the sugar maple that it rivals in the density and luxuriousness of its foliage. In comparison the American elm looks skimp and straggling. The conspicuous corky ridges on the twigs, that cause this tree to be known, also, as cork elm, give it an interesting appearance in winter. The term "rock" comes from the character of the timber. A pair of bobsleds that my father had made from one of these trees 60 years ago was going strong at the last account, though it may have met the fate of the deacon's one hoss shay by this time.

When we want to give ourselves an inspiration, we don't go around looking at the cottonwoods and willows that we planted thirty and forty years ago, if there are any left, but instead to the noblest tree that grows; that's right—you've said it—the oak. Of the hundred or more species of oak in the country, the only one native to North Dakota, the Burr oak, is one of the most attractive, and for a shade tree on the lawn has no superior in this region. Trees planted in Fargo thirty years ago are about that number of feet in height. A growth of two feet is not uncommon in young trees growing in moist soil. They are not subject to attack by the canker worm that has stripped so many ash and elm this season, and we have not observed any loss from borers as we have with both the ash and elm.

Lawn trees, such as the birch and spruce, can hardly be classed as shade trees and are therefore left out of consideration in this connection. As an interesting pastime, step out and drive a stake where you think a shade tree ought to be growing, and don't neglect to plant it. Almost before you know it, you have transformed the whole place, making it more livable and attractive.

NEWSLANTS

(Continued from page 87)

which they are interested. This list could later be published.

No definite action was taken on the 1940 meeting place.

Van Hook, North Dakota, has named their town "Petunia Town" and will encourage city and home plantings of this flower.

Two samples of white Juneberries have been received and another source reported this year. None of these three sources are the one reported earlier. Why this fruit should go into white fruited forms so commonly seems hard to understand. As near as Professor O. A. Stevens can determine, they are all sports of the common Juneberry. The fruits tend to be milder flavored than the blue sorts. As we mentioned in this column on a previous occasion, seedlings of these

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