

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

MAY, 1940

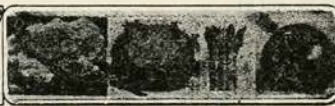
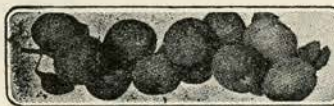


Aspen, Basswood, Ash and Ferns predominate in this cool, moist sylvan glade in the sandhills near Federal Park, Richland County, N. D. Photo by Mr. H. A. Graves.

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THE MARBLED GODWIT

by
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

This species seems to have been rather neglected for one of the largest of its group and a bird which is conspicuous in a fashion. The reasons may lie in the similarity in coloring of various species and their inconspicuous appearance at most times. Mr. W. L. McAtee, in his Local Names of Game Birds, reported no common name in general use, but some form of curlew, snipe, or marlin used locally, especially along the Atlantic coast. In the books they are usually called godwit, an old name of Anglo Saxon origin, and often thought to express one of their common call notes.

The godwits comprise a group of only four species, two in America, one in Europe and one in both Europe and America. Our bird is found chiefly in the prairie region, nesting from southern Alberta and Manitoba south to South Dakota. Formerly they extended into Utah, Nebraska and Wisconsin, but the breaking of the prairies has driven them back into the less densely settled parts of the country. During winter they are scattered widely along the southern coast, sometimes wandering as far as Peru. Audubon found great numbers of them near Cape Sable, Florida in 1832, but recent records in that state are scarce.

The godwits are large, brownish birds, standing about a foot high. Their bills are four inches long and slightly curved upwards, this being quite a distinctive feature. On April 23, 1939, we drove past a small pond in the edge of a prairie field in Clay County, Minnesota. Godwits had been seen there before so we looked sharply and were rewarded with the sight of one or two. We stopped the car and observed them from within. They paid little attention to us though only a few rods away. Sometimes they hunted casually for food, sometimes they merely stood or stretched their wings. Among the old grain and weed stems they were difficult to see when not moving, and we finally counted a dozen or more.

Godwits can be very inconspicuous as they walk among the prairie grasses, but when disturbed on their nesting grounds they fly up and circle around with great clamor. P. A. Taverner interprets one call, "Your-crazy-crazy-crazy" and another, "korect-korect." They have a characteristic habit when on the ground, of raising the wings upright. The nest is only a slightly hol-

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lowed spot among the prairie grasses. Four eggs are usually laid. They are quite pointed at one end, olive-buff with brown spots, two inches or more in length. The young are on the move as soon as hatched and by mid-July the birds may have left their nesting ground. Their food includes various insects and small animals found in mud and shallow water, also grasshoppers and other insects from the prairie.

The godwits have suffered from hunting. They are large birds and not difficult to shoot, especial-

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NEWSLANTS

by

Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

In a recent column I expressed the desire to join the organization known as S. P. P. P. P. P., otherwise the "Society for the Prevention of Putting Parsley on People's Plates in Public Places." Since, I have learned that membership costs 11c. As yet I have not joined but a membership fee of this magnitude interests most of us who had ancestors who wore kilts because of the knee high wet heather of the Scottish Highlands. Perhaps we should admire the attractive green of parsley. Parsley growers are almost certain to look with disfavor on the substitution of a parsley bordered highway from the Gulf to Canada for their usual table market. While Secretary McIntosh, of the Minnesota Society, apparently strings along with the S. P. P. P. P. P. at heart, he comes up in the April issue of the Minnesota Horticulture, which he edits, with the following: "A dietician at Battle Creek, Michigan, says parsley is the best of all sources of vitamin A and therefore should be a stable feature on the bill of fare of every family." "One ounce of parsley," he further quotes, "will supply 30,000 units of vitamin A. Furthermore, when fresh and raw, it is a large source of vitamin C." I must have discarded at least 11,000,000 units of vitamin A in the boneyard beside my plate. If the dietician is right, our motto in the future should be "Parsley not Pills."

Someone, whose name I cannot recall, wrote recently asking about fruit of the Cistena plum. Not recalling seeing it in fruit, I wrote Dr. N. E. Hansen who does not recall seeing it fruit either. Personally, I have never seen it bloom, but I have Dr. Hansen's letter and other assurances that it does bear pink blossoms sparingly. Cistena has contributed plenty already to the color of horticultural plantings with its foliage and we can excuse it for not fruiting if such actually is the case.

Thanks to Morris Harter of Highmore, South Dakota, for the kind words of March 16. Thanks also to Secretary Simmons for relaying them. The fact that they come indirectly only adds to their sincerity.

To our desk recently comes a suggested new use for soybeans. They listed results of experiments where soybean flour was used as spreader for orchard sprays. Because it is chemically inactive, it is believed to be compatible with practically all agricultural sprays. The flour used in

this manner is the type made by grinding and processing soybeans after the oil is removed.

Circular of Information No. 51, from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, is authorized by A. B. Strand, N. D. A. C. major in Horticulture class of 1926. Associate Horticulturist at the Tennessee station, his bulletin bears the title "Bean and Corn Varieties for Canning." A. B. is a brother of Oliver Strand who for several years was foreman for the Department of Horticulture at the North Dakota Experiment Station.

We have entered into correspondence with W. L. Kerr, of the Morden Station, who is Secretary this year of the Great Plains section of American Association for the Advancement of Horticultural Science. The North Dakota Society would like very much to have their August meeting just before or after the meetings of the Great Plains group at Morden, also in August, in order that we might enjoy the fellowship of some of the group at our meetings. We still hope to hold our meetings August 21-22 at Fargo and are waiting to hear from Mr. Kerr.

There has been a long felt want by Extension specialists, et al, in potato growing areas for non-perishable potato tubers for educational work. We have recently received some very realistic composition models of the following varieties from R. C. Rose, University Farm, St. Paul: Russet Rural, Green Mountain, Katahdin, Warba, Triumph, Early Ohio, Burbank Russet, Chippewa, and Cobbler. Some of the tubers are good enough imitations to fool folks long familiar with the Irish spud.

A few issues ago, comment was made regarding the gardening activity of Alexander Henry, the younger, in Walsh and Pembina Counties in the early 1800's. Only a short time ago the Third Annual Potato Edition of the Grafton News and Times came off the press, containing a very interesting article by Judge C. W. Buttz, of Devils Lake, on Henry's venture in potato growing in this same area. Judge Buttz also had an article in the Second Edition of this Potato Issue last year on Henry's gardening activity covered in much more detail than mentioned in this column. Both are very interesting.

President McNeil, of Carrington, has done a large amount of work in the yard of his Federated Church at Carrington. So far he has confined most of his activity to a large rockery and pool in the area between the church and parsonage. However, a small nursery in his garden and tentatively drawn plans give promise of horticultural things to come. I enjoyed a nice visit with him just the other day and of course we talked Horticultural Society. We plan to get together soon on meeting plans.

(Continued on page 58)

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

The Morden Experimental Station is now concerned with pruning. A generality sometimes heard states,—Pruning time is when the saw is sharp. Of course, the saw, the knife, and the chisel should be sharp or not used on tree, shrub and vine. In Manitoba, tree fruits are best pruned in March and April. This is immediately before active sap flow, thus allowing most favorable conditions and the longest growing period for the healing of wounds. Pruning of trees in

autumn and deep winter exposes the cut surfaces to drying winds and frost checks. Considerable injury is liable before life forces become active in April and May.

Some trees are known as bleeders and may best be pruned in autumn or very early spring, and all exposed wounds treated promptly with a protective covering. Tender grapes are pruned in October, laid down and covered with soil. They do not require dressing of wounds. Currants and gooseberries are pruned in November. They have small branches and like a dog, or cat, are capable of caring for themselves. Among the bleeders are Japanese Walnuts, maples, birches and mulberries.

Raspberries are pruned to best advantage right after the wind-up summer picking of fruit. Old canes are weakened and should be carried off and burned to lessen disease hazard to the patch.

Pruning of shrubs requires a subsequent newsletter. In general, there are two classes as marked by their time of flowering. One class blooms on wood of the current season growth and bloom comes from midsummer onward, such as tamarix and Japanese spireas. They are pruned rather severely in April. The second class bears flowers on last season wood, usually blooming in May and June. This includes most of the hardy shrubs and climbers, such as lilacs, honeysuckles, cotoneasters and mockoranges. Pruning is delayed until the flowers have faded, but is then done before seed setting occurs.

Pruning may not be necessary to health. Its purpose is to keep plants within certain limits, to train direction of growth, to eliminate decayed, broken, and worn-out branches, to thin out overcrowded or interfering cross branches, to permit sunshine in to fruit spurs and to lessen danger of double leaders splitting on trees, such as elms. Furthermore, pruning is an economical way to thin fruits, preventing overbearing which is espe-

cially exhausting in dry prairie plantations.

On trees, cuts are made close to the trunk or supporting branch. Stubs lack nourishment, soon dry up and die, inducing rot fungi to enter and do hurt. Large branches are cut off in two operations to escape bark stripping. A cut is made out about 10 inches from the trunk on the underside of the branch until the saw binds. Then the branch is sawn off about 12 inches from the crotch. The stump is then cut off smoothly, flush with the bark. The wound is treated with a dressing, such as white lead and oil free of all turpentine.

Each year many failures in spring propagation of tree fruits are directly traceable to unfavorable conditions under which scions had been stored prior to use. Scionwood should be fresh in appearance, but dormant, with buds plump but not swollen.

The two factors, temperature and moisture conditions of scion storage, are probably equally as important to success as is propagation technique.

The most satisfactory environment has been that of the cool basement earthen floor, covered with about two inches of damp moss. At the Morden Experimental Station scions so stored have been kept dormant until August and then given a moderate stand of buds. It is very important that the moss be not wet. The temperature may vary considerably under such conditions, but a fairly constant temperature, ranging between 30 and 40 degrees F., is preferred. Should such conditions not be available, sand or sawdust may be used instead of moss. Buried out-of-doors on the north side of a building has also been satisfactory. A refrigerator or ice-house may be used if available.

Parcels of scions should be opened on arrival and if not used immediately, stored as indicated. Scions should not be stored in large bundles as the inner ones frequently either dry out or become mouldy. Should there be any serious delay in transit and the scions arrive in a dried out, blackened, mouldy, or badly sprouted condition, it is well not to use them.

In the field, scions may be kept in good condition by being wrapped in a wet sack. When grafting, scions with two or three buds are preferable to longer pieces. All cut surfaces should be waxed as soon as the graft is completed.

The most favorable period for top grafting, or crown grafting, or spring budding, is when growth commences to be apparent in the stock. During normal years this usually occurs early in May. Buds on the stock to be worked swell and show green color, then the bark of the stock "slips" readily, and conditions are prime for grafting and for spring budding.



BOOK REVIEWS

by
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

The Small Garden, by Katherine Storm. Published by Frederick A. Stokes Company, 443 Fourth Ave., New York. Price \$2.50, 43 illustrations from photographs.

After reading and reviewing The Garden in Color, by Louise Beebe Wilder, last month, it was a joy to be given the privilege of reviewing The Small Garden, a book in which she was personally interested and one that she encouraged. At a friend and neighbor of the Storms, Louise Wilder had intended to write the preface of this book but passed away and her son wrote it in her stead. The book is dedicated to her by the Storms, "without whose inspiration and encouragement this book would never have been written." The Small Garden is the story of a home and a garden, instead of a house and some flower beds. The authors have written it with the firm belief that a living, breathing garden book must be written in one's own garden, must grow as the garden grows and come out of the earth as the garden itself has come. They also believe and give proof from personal experiences, that with the proper equipment, a few practical books for reference and a love of flowers deep in the heart, anyone who is willing to get down on his knees and work can become a gardener. They would make it compulsory that the life history of trees, the care of trees, respect for and love of trees, be included in the curriculum of every school in the country. Some important subjects discussed in the book are: Landscaping the small place, Bank Plantings, Stone Walls and Plants that love them, Harmonious and Beautiful Hedges, Vines, and Indoor Gardening.

Gardening for Fun, Health and Money, by A. Frederick Collins. Published by O. Appleton-Century Co., 35 W. 32nd St., New York. Price \$2.00.

The catchy title of Gardening for Fun, Health and Money suggests enough points to make the book sell itself. It truthfully does present gardening in an interesting way, emphasizing the three diversions fun, health and money. The information sounds workable, the style is direct and the book is popular among the amateur gardeners. The author says: "The purpose of this little book is to acquaint you with the fundamental facts of gardening and, if you heed them you will have the finest flowers and vegetables that

can be grown, and a bumper crop when you harvest it." What more information than this can an amateur gardener expect to find in a book on gardening?

The word "fun" is not used in the sense that gardening is an uproarious affair, but instead, a diversion that gives you unalloyed pleasure. Health is the all-important thing in this life and the close contact with the earth, the rays of the sun, the pure air, and the exercise that you get will do more to make you well than any kind of sport. As to making money, the author tells you just how this can be done with his book and a garden spot. The appendix is most valuable with a botanical classification of vegetables, data showing vitamin content of vegetables, a food budget, list of State Experiment stations, etc.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
Mrs. B. M. Getty

Bird Stories No. 1 and Bird Stories No. 2, by Prof. Deitrick Lange, have found their way to my desk and brot with them much pleasant reading. The good professor certainly loves the birds, sees and hears them and tells what he sees and hears in a most charming way. The only possible criticism I could offer would be that he does not mention our Kentucky Cardinal, but I am of the opinion that there will be Bird Stories No. 3, someday, and I hope then he tells of the Cardinal and I surely hope to posses it should No. 3 appear. These stories, as I understand it, have been running in The Farmer, a publication of St. Paul, Minnesota. They have organized a Farmer Bird club and from them, at 10 cents each, these dear little books may be obtained: The Farmer Bird Club, 55-79 E. 10th St., St. Paul, Minn. These little paper covered books are neatly arranged, with blank pages and spaces for notes, making them splendid for teachers or bird students, Scout leaders, etc. Here are a few quotations from Bird Stories No. 2: "The Robin. In this region they generally nest in trees but make themselves at home in many other places. I have found a robin's nest on a small shelf nailed against the wall of a summer cottage; another nest was built on the beam of a railroad bridge. One was placed among crates left on a railroad station platform. Robins are good parents; it is decidedly unhealthy for Jays, Crows, Blackbirds, squirrels and cats to approach a robin's nest or young if the parents are present. You can do a real good turn by placing a squawking, spotted youngster who has fallen from the nest, in a safe bush or tree where the parents will soon find

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L. L. Davis

QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPARTMENT

by
Professor L. L. Davis

Ask Horticulture & Forestry
Department
South Dakota State College,
Brookings, S. D.

Staff members will gladly
give what help they can in
answering problems relating
to Horticulture and
Forestry.

In improving my shelterbelt, I find there are a number of crooked and slow-growing trees that should be removed. Can I treat the green wood with a preservative and use it for posts?

Treat the green posts with zinc chloride within 48 hours after they are cut this spring sometime after the frost goes out of the wood. A 5% zinc chloride solution, made by putting one pound zinc chloride in one gallon water, is poured into a piece of an automobile inner tube stretched tightly over the large ends of the posts. The preservative is poured into the tubes and allowed to soak for 8 to 24 hours with the posts resting at an inclined angle. The solution will drip out the small end of the posts. The bark should not be removed before treatment. Blue vitriol may be used in place of zinc chloride but is more corrosive to nails. Creosote is the best preservative for seasoned posts. It cannot be used on green posts as outlined in the above procedure.

My elm and apple trees were almost completely defoliated last year by a worm that I am told was the cankerworm. It is difficult for me to spray the trees. Can I kill the worms in some other way?

The female adult cankerworms that are wingless will be emerging from the ground on the first warm spring days to crawl up into the trees to lay their eggs. If the trees are banded with a sticky substance such as tanglefoot the insects will be caught. Press a 2 or 3-inch band of cotton tightly into the crevices around the trunk of the tree so that the worms cannot crawl under. Place a 5-inch band of tarred paper over the cotton. Spread a thin layer of tanglefoot or other sticky substance that will trap the worms over the paper. Do not scrape the tree trunk before using as it disfigures an elm tree.

I have some old spirea that has never been pruned. There is a lot of dead wood in the bushes. Will it hurt to cut them off within about one foot of the ground early this spring?

In order to prune wisely one must consider the reasons for pruning. We prune: (1) To balance the root and top at planting time. (2) To obtain young, vigorous branches in place of the old branches, and thus (3) increase the bloom. (4) To keep ornamental twigs attractive, as only the young wood of shrubs like red dogwood are highly colored. (5) To remove diseased and damaged branches. (6) To rejuvenate old and unsightly shrubs, or (7) to create a particular form.

Your old bushes are probably in need of rejuvenation, which may be accomplished in two ways, (a) by cutting all branches within 6-8 inches of the ground before they leaf out this spring, or (b) by pruning clear to the ground about one-third of the oldest branches immediately after flowering this spring. In the course of the next two years, all old wood can be removed. If the latter method is followed, some flowers will be produced each year. All early flowering shrubs should be pruned immediately after they flower; the late spring or early summer flowering shrubs should be pruned in late winter or early spring if blossoms are wanted every year. Early flowering shrubs, as lilac and spirea, already have their blossoms formed. If pruned now, those blossoms would be lost. Consequently they should be pruned immediately after blooming and before too much short growth occurs.

I would like to try some new varieties of marigolds, but the seed catalogues have so many different varieties of marigolds listed that I don't know which are best. Can you give me any help?

In the trial test gardens at Massachusetts State College and in the Department of Horticulture, South Dakota State College, we have found the following varieties most satisfactory: All Double Orange, Burpee Gold, Crown of Gold, Early Sunshine, Fire Cross, Flaming Fire, Golden Ball, Golden Gem, Golden Glow, Guinea Gold, Harmony, Improved Lemon Queen, Mrs. Lippincott, Orange Delight, Improved Orange Prince, Orange Queen, Orange Supreme, Primrose Queen, Red and Gold Hybrids, Royal Crown, Royal Scot and Shaggy.

To a Lady's Hands

Your worn hands have dealt with unspeakable things,

Washing children's torn garments, fitting diamond rings;

And in the spring building furrows with your hoe,
Then place each seed that some lovely thing may grow;

And once or twice, I think, when no one was there

I found you kneeling by a little mound in prayer.
—From the scrap book of W. E. Ver Beke, in
Exploration and Scientific Research.



SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

In the early years of the century, Mr. A. J. Phillips, of West Salem, Wis., was the leader in the advocacy of the topworked apple trees and used to tell of his first orchard, purchased in 1870. The trees in this orchard were transcendant crabs, topworked to Pearmain, bellflowers, Jonathan and other high quality varieties, none of which were reliably hardy in Wisconsin. Soon he attended a meeting of the Minnesota Society, where a Mr. Sias had offered a prize of \$5 for the longest growth of crab or apple wood in one season and won the prize himself with a sprout, 7 or 8 feet long, from a Virginia crab. After seeing this, Mr. Phillips set only Virginia crab trees in his orchards, topworking them to high quality varieties. Now, it appears, this practice is taking root in the best apple districts of the east and many advertisements appear of Virginia crabs and Hibernals for topworking. In many states they are going a step farther and are advocating double worked trees, that is starting with a hardy root, grafting this to Virginia crab, to supply a hardy trunk, and then grafting on the varieties wanted on this trunk. John Robertson had an even better plan; planting the apple seed where the tree was desired to stand, grafting on the Virginia crab or Izo crab for the trunk and then topworking this to better sorts. The latter plan saved the tap root, which Mr. Robertson deemed an advantage and his orcharding success perhaps was partly due to this system. From State College, Brookings, we have just received a very valuable 16-page bulletin entitled "Fruit Tree Pruning in South Dakota," Extension circular No. 388, from the pen of S. A. McCrory, Assistant Professor of Horticulture and Forestry. This is very interestingly and clearly written and all steps in forming a strong and lasting tree adequately illustrated. This is a good bulletin to obtain and preserve and we heartily recommend it. Mr. S. H. Bober writes from his home at Newell: "We too had more moisture this month than in any other month of March the past six years and we are very happy about it. I had a busy winter cleaning, grading and distributing seed and I expect that I will be busy for several weeks to come, then I will be ready for a vacation. The only trouble about that is that last summers trip (to Europe) which was so interesting spoiled our ideas about ordinary

vacations. I appreciate your kind words about my articles in The Dakota Farmer. You know most writings on Russia are gross exaggerations. They paint that vast land of varied conditions either as an earthly paradise or as a veritable purgatory. We tried to paint a picture of the conditions as we observed them."

In the March issue of the Minnesota Horticulturist, Dr. R. B. Harvey of the Minnesota station has a very interesting article entitled "Use of Chemical Stimulants, Hormones and Vitamins in Plant Culture," from which we quote what he writes regarding to us, a new rooting material: "The rooting of cuttings in several cases has been shown to be more rapid after treating the bases by setting them into a one-half inch layer of potassium permanganate solution. The chemical is obtainable at all drug stores and in many cases has been shown to be several times as effective in callus and root formation as the best of hormone treatments. Potassium permanganate solutions should be prepared fresh from the dry crystals just before using. The solution should be 0.1 per cent and the time of treatment in the solution 24 hours." If this solution will do the work, in root formation, it is certainly a cheap and easily obtained material and is certainly worthy of a trial.

Writing from his home in Gordon, Neb., Mr. Otto Pfeiffer says: "I would like to write to all of the contributors to Horticulture and thank them for their good and faithful work in making Horticulture a success. I miss John Robertson and Dr. Yeager and I suppose you do too. Now I like W. R. Leslie, for that is the line of work I am interested in." Am sure we all miss the articles of John Robertson and Dr. Yeager, tho the latter is still with us and kindly still contributes an occasional article, which is always of high quality and joyfully received. At this time good householders are out with rakes, cleaning out the leaves from the lawn and I fear, in too many cases, burning the leaves. This raking job is rendered necessary by our temerity in tackling a job that nature never had the nerve to attempt, growing trees and grass together. The leaves are fine for trees or shrubs but they smother the grass, so when we are growing both trees and shrubs in the same place we must remove the leaves and then attempt to keep our trees alive by fertilizing and irrigation.

There does not seem to be any more time available than there was before we began saving it.—H. N. Owen in The Farmer.

Unhappy the man who is looking for insults. He gets plenty.—H. N. Owen in The Farmer.

MAY

by

W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

March, coming in like the proverbial lamb, finds the land carpeted with a foot deep blanket of windless snow and what was most unusual, no subsequent drifting, the benefit accruing to our thirsty land being beyond conception; the first month since last August with over 1 inch of precipitation. March 23rd. Altho spring has officially arrived, our deep snow continues, supplemented during the whole of the month from time to time and side roads are now practically

impassable for cars, with night temperatures of sub-zero; last night 15 and previous night 8 below. Am glad to note the number of premium requests for seed of *Allium montanum*; this onion is a good feature in any part of the garden, whether by the pool or on the hottest and driest rise, its rich green strap-like foliage clumps and midsummer silver plated mauve umbels lend an illusion of moisture and coolness even where none exists. The field of flowering onions is vast, Bailey lists over 100, goodness know how many Rex Pearce has, and is well worth exploring, ranging in size from our lowly native white and rose cernum to the stately giganteum that grows 9 feet tall in its native Asia. I had to send to Thompson & Morgan of England to secure a packet of this rare beauty, containing 14 seeds, so my modest collection for this year numbers 19 species. Flowers of known species have about every color range in the rainbow and all onions seem to be hardy in the north temperate zone with propagation of the easiest, not only seeds and volunteer seedlings, which pop up all round the clump, but the clumps can also be divided as easily as the garden multipliers. March 26th. Altho sunrise recorded 4 below zero spring seems to be in the air with a March sun blazing out of a clear sky and windless, all day, so I decided on a tour of inspection thru the garden for the first time within a month and footprints on the snow in every direction showed that I had been preceded by many rabbits. It is now apparent that the larch trees that I failed to wrap under the impression that they were too bitter for a coney's palate, need no more protection for they are gnawed to the snow line, but at the same time junipers and the broad leaved mentor barberry equally unprotected altho carefully investigated, by the rabbits, were untouched. The latter, a hybrid of dwarf Jap barberry and in no way con-

nected with the rust barberry of evil fame, untouched possibly on account of its numerous fine needle-like barbs, still carries about 15% of last year's foliage, now a brilliant red and next year will probably retain all. However, our thorny sweet briar rose was well trimmed, as also the New England thorn tree *crataegus punctata*, as far as the shoots were reachable. April 1st. With nature still reposing under a deep snow blanket and unplowed country roads blocked to car traffic, the weather man indulges in a time honored seasonal joke, so for the present, it is indoor gardening or none. Personally I limit very strictly house seed sowing as in spite of all known precautions there always occurs considerable damping off, with germination slow and uneven. However, I have recently found one outstanding exception with the species *Elsholtzia farquhari*, a perennial of the mint family which has germinated about 100% in 4 days from sowing. Little seems to be known of this genus and practically none at all of the species tho Rex Pearce carries seeds and plants and highly recommends it, describing as late blooming, of spicily aromatic foliage and long one sided bloom spikes of an attractive lilac purple, carried candelabra fashion on many branching stems. From an illustration in Bailey's dictionary it appears as a low growing shrub and comes up every year as an herbaceous peony. In "Toilers of the Sea" Victor Hugo says "beware of a delayed equinox storm." As the laws of nature and the eternal verities are synonymous this rule still holds. We wake up on April 3rd to find a knee deep and in places thigh deep fall of snow over night, snow continuing to fall all next day and into the following night and on April 5th a clear sky with hard frost at 12 above zero.

He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals.—Benjamin Franklin.

THE MARBLED GODWIT

(Continued from page 50)

ly as they have a habit of circling back over the hunter. Audubon wrote of his experience with them in Florida in 1832: "Four or five guns were fired at once, and the slaughter was such that I was quite satisfied with the number obtained, both for specimens and for food. For this reason we refrained from firing at them again, although the temptation at times was great as they flew over and wheeled around us for a while."

Editor: Have always been greatly interested in this bird as I have seen it in western North Dakota and have wished it might become more numerous. I think this is an entirely beneficial bird that should be permanently protected.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and other southern states have reduced the cotton acreage and increased tomatoes and other vegetable crops to 10 to 60% over 1939, but surely the vegetable growers are due for many setbacks. Only the large operators were able to replant, working 24 hours with tractors and teams after the freeze, to beat the little growers, but the crop in most cases will not yield the operators a profit. The government's effort to reduce the cotton crop and increase vegetables is not to the best interest of the thousands of small growers. This season we will have several new varieties of tomatoes; the new wilt resistant Bonny Best, seed at \$3.00 per ounce, is the highest price, others from 40 to 80 cents per ounce. One under number from Burpee, S. D., Station and N. D. Station, a new one Bo-k from the south and more of the good standards like Marglobe, Rutgers, Grothens, Break of Morn, Pinkhoma and the 10 early types of the North Dakota Station. The season will be late for seeding and setting hardy plants but it may be best, as often so much is lost with the late freeze, because of the advanced weather in March. A gardener having many plants on hand ready to put out takes more risks than is necessary for one having just a few to set out. A good rule is to wait till June 1st for tender plants as tomatoes, eggplant, peppers and vines, while parsley, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, can be put out much earlier. Florida vegetable growers have had a hard time bringing a crop to maturity. First the freeze in December took a million dollar crop, then the replanting was almost due for harvesting when the extreme hot weather in March destroyed from 20 to 60% of the crop. The health content of cabbage is not very well known by the consuming public. It has vitamins A, B, C and D, it gives 143 calories of body heat per pound and is one of the best vegetables cooked or raw, and also the kraut raw or cooked. There are many signs when spring is here but the only one I go by and that never fails, is when Dr. McNamee, from Canova, comes to get his onion sets and pay his annual dues to the Society. He has found the small onions, about one in size, make quicker, nicer green onions than regular small sets and that is very true as we, also prefer them for green onions. The Imperial Valley melon crop that will begin ripening in April is one-fourth

less than last year or 24,820 acres, but the balance of the country will have a big increase of acreage in cantaloups. In Salinas Valley 85 acres of carrots were seeded in November, 324 acres in December, 272 acres in January and 311 acres in February. These all go out as green bunch carrots. Dorothy Dix advises the girls to become onion eaters, rather than spend their life nagging about it. The onion eater is joined to his idols and when you ask him to give up onions you strike not only at his heart but also at his stomach. She warns the girls that they are taking a big risk when they are asking the boys to give up this succulent and odorous vegetable. She says there is no onion scented kiss about onion eaters. As newspapers told of the severe freeze of vegetables and fruits during the winter in the southern states and even as late as April 8th to 12th, I felt real sorry for those growers, but I was caught also, rather unexpectedly, losing many tender plants such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplant, in the two plant houses and three frames. But to have them all go after they are out in the field is of course, a much greater loss. Some eastern states are planting very heavy of Chippewa and Kahtadin potatoes and discarding the old standby, the Irish cobbler (take notice, Secretary Fitch). They appear to be more disease resistant, stand drought better and, best of all they yield more bushels. The 1940 planting of these two varieties is the largest ever planted. 125,000 boxes of grapes were shipped to New York on a boat, in March, from Johannesburg, South Africa. More will arrive if this first shipment pays out.

BOOK REVIEWS

(Continued from page 53)

their hungry cry baby." Of the Indigo Bunting he says: "I love and admire the indigo bird for the energy and high spirits he displays all summer from May until August. He is blue all over, but he never feels blue." Of the Goldfinch he says: "If I could be a bird during a month of summer I should want to be a Goldfinch. It seems to me they have learned the art of having a good time." Of the western Meadow Lark (South Dakota's State bird) he says: "They seem to me to utter a message of bubbling, overflowing joy, with a ringing voice, 'My life is a joy.'"

There is good reason why Deland, Fla., possesses so many beautiful oak trees: the city council in 1886 offered a 50-cent tax rebate for every tree inches or more in diameter, provided the tree was one year or more old and in healthy state. Response in tree planting was so great that the city's tax revenue was seriously curtailed and it finally became necessary to repeal the ordinance.—Gib Swanson in Capper's Farmer.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by
H. E. Beebe

May Musings of the President



H. E. Beebe

Editor Sudlow of the Bison Courier heads his editorial page with "This appears to be a good year to plant trees." Amen, Brother, and if they will grow in Perkins County trees will more than flourish in South Dakota counties farther east.

Mr. Everson's price list in the last issue of this magazine of practically \$1.00 per hundred for 12-inch to 18-inch seedlings should start hundreds of thousands of ash, cottonwood, Russian olive, and the other seven varieties in Dakota this spring.

With the aid of the tenant on that part of Homewood farm south of the Yellowstone Trail and just east of Ipswich four acres will be put in to cottonwoods, ash trees, and between those will be Russian olives and Chinese elm. In four years I am hoping that Jos. Schiltz will be taking his good looking family for a picnic in the shade of those trees. If Jos. has the skill of Ford we will be cutting ties in ten years—at least that is the impression we all get from the picture of the shelter belts that Ford brings around to our Horticultural meetings.

Hoing Well Soon Will Tell

Now is the time to turn over the pages of the seed catalogs and then the back yard.

"W. J.," said Mrs. Tiffany, "shall we have a garden this year?"

"Well," replied her husband, "have you the time to keep after me so it will be weeded."

Some time ago I was obliged to tell my better half that we would have to cut down the size of the garden if she did not keep it weeded better. There's a thot for every husband.

Encouragement comes from Harold Mattson, State Horticulturist of North Dakota, who sends North Dakota No. 40 Tomato seeds. I hope they grow like 60. Mrs. Mater, the champion flower grower of Ipswich—dry or wet seasons and no holds barred—will try some of these, as will John Taylor. Ipswich is getting a start on a tomato cannery. Watch this paper for later bulletins—mostly bull.

Like an echo across the prairie of a distant halloo in the twilight come letters from friends who made the recent visit along the Pacific coast so pleasant. All the way up from Los Angeles to San Francisco the residents said, "Have you seen the desert flowers?" It is generally too early

or too late just wherever you are but the cards in the 5 and 10 show that it was or will be, very beautiful.

A letter from an old school friend of the early days at Ipswich describes her Easter visit across the fields of flowers near Oakland, California. The great event in our lives in the spring was the finding of the first crocus. This blue tinted flower more politely called the Pasque with its white inside cup and yellow petals is truly Dakotan and some day there will be a prairie park in South Dakota where the crocuses will blossom each year followed by the Johnny-jump-ups, and brick red geranium. But to get back to the boasters along the coast. From Seattle writes a U. of S. D. graduate, "You'd never get over the thrill of three hundred daffodils winding their golden way thru the woods, the yard dotted with violets and grape hyacinth, dogwood by the back door in full bloom."

I wonder if she really likes that as well as quite a few years ago, an evening boat ride on the Vermillion, but why bring that up. Every state has its advantages and what is more beautiful than a warm spring evening in Dakota with a purple band along the horizon and maybe a last rose tinge in the northwest.

Dakota Spring

Carrie M. Crofoot, probably a former Aberdeen resident, writes from California about Dakota in the April Pasque Petals (should be Crocus Petals) as follows:

But now comes May, with magic in her touch
The frail new green of young and growing things
Spreads like a filmy veil upon the land.
The sky is clear and blue while all the earth
Gives forth a smell of life. Here meadow larks
Send up their thrilling song of Hope and winds
Run gentle fingers lightly o'er the fields,
As an adoring mother strokes the hair
Of some beloved child who wakes from sleep.

The time for planting is now.

NEWSLANTS

(Continued from page 51)

Just as we write these closing paragraphs, a picture of President Beebe of the South Dakota Society arrives from Mr. Simmons. As we look at the picture now, we are reminded of the kind hospitality extended the North Dakota delegation by the South Dakota folks and of the gracious and capable manner in which President Beebe presided at the South Dakota annual meeting held in Sioux Falls late last fall.

Taint fair. Just about the time we learn to pronounce the name of the French premier they slip the cut on us and change premiers.

SOUTH DAKOTA TREES

by

E. H. Everson and C. S. Weller



E. H. Everson

During the past two weeks the Division of Horticulture of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture has engaged in the annual rush of the State's tree selling program under the Clark-McNary law, which, under certain restrictions, provides part of the distribution costs.

As stated before, we sell trees to farmers at an attractive price and the farmer may plant them where, when and how he pleases and do with them as he may desire. We find that our farmers are blessed with a liberal amount of planting

sense. Generally speaking, they instinctively realize the importance of firmed earth about the baby tree roots and the fact that a tree needs moisture, and to be relieved from root competition by weeds or other growth, if it is to survive the shock of transplanting. Our farmers understand that native trees have proven their adaptability to South Dakota conditions and should receive first consideration when one selects varieties for a homestead windbreak and woodlot. Introduced varieties such as Russian Olive and Chinese Elm came from parts of the earth with conditions very similar to this region of the American Great Plains and have proven their worth.

This year the State's selection of varieties is similar to what we have used during the seven years of the tree distribution program, it includes American Elm, Caragana, Chinese Elm, Cottonwood, Green Ash, Honey Locust, Hackberry and Russian Olive. The innovations of this season were Boxelder and Sandcherry, the latter intended for outer row planting, and with the idea that farm boys and girls will gain a thrill in picking the often bountiful yield of slightly sweet, mildly flavored, fruit. Another value of the Sandcherry is that it provides food and shelter for wild birds

and indirectly returns pay to the Fish and Game Department, which supplies some of the funds that are used in the state's distribution at cost of tree seedlings.

The 1940 season has been late. We contract our supplies from the South Dakota nurseries located in the Black Hills, and along the northern, eastern and southern borders of our state. Nearly up to the middle of the month most of these nursery grounds were still frozen or in the case of the one along the Sioux river in Minnehaha County, under water. This year's experience verifies our judgment that about the 10th of April is the earliest it is practical for us to start shipment of nursery stock. This year's season we consider about a week or ten days later than usual. The rate at which we have received orders indicates that last year's record of more than a half million trees sold in lots of a few hundred at a time, will be duplicated; that our customers will number 1500 to 2000. Heavy rains which may yet occur could give a late impetus to tree planting and we may yet have an unexpected welcome flood of orders.

I want to take this occasion to call attention to the South Dakota law pertaining to nurseries, intended to prevent the spread of dangerous plant diseases and insects. The law says: "It shall be unlawful for any person in this state knowingly to permit any dangerous insect, arachnid, worm, or plant disease, hereby declared to be a public nuisance, to exist in or on his premises. It shall also be unlawful to sell or offer for sale any stock infested or infected with such insect arachnid, worm, or plant disease."

The law further provides for an inspection of all nurseries and other places where nursery stock is kept for sale, says that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall cause to be issued to the owner of any nursery in the state, after the stock has been officially inspected and found to be apparently free from injurious insects, arachnids, worms, or plant diseases, a certificate setting forth the fact of such inspection and the number of acres or fractions thereof inspected. For such inspection and certificate a fee of ten dollars per annum shall be paid to the Secretary of Agriculture at the time of inspection and before the certificate is granted; provided, that in case any dangerous insects or plant diseases are discovered in any nursery or on the premises of any dealer or agent, a certificate shall be withheld until the nuisance shall have been abated, as provided in this chapter; and the Secretary of Agriculture shall have authority to revoke any certificate at any time, for sufficient cause, including any violation of this chapter or failure to comply with any rule or regulation promulgated in pursuance thereof.

(Continued on next page)



"Any nurseryman without the state may obtain a certificate to sell nursery stock within the state by filing with, and paying to, the Secretary of Agriculture a certified copy of his official inspection certificate and a fee of one dollar.

"Every dealer located either within or without the state, engaged in selling nursery stock in this state, shall first secure a dealer's certificate. Such certificate shall be granted only to an individual who purchases his stock from a certified nursery in this state or from a foreign nursery whose stock which is to be sold in this state has been inspected in this state and found apparently free from injurious insects, arachnids, worms, and dangerous plant diseases. A fee of ten dollars shall be paid by the dealer to the Secretary of Agriculture at the time of inspection or before a dealer's certificate is granted.

"Every agent located within or without the state and engaged in selling or soliciting orders for nursery stock within this state shall secure and carry an agent's certificate bearing a copy of the certificate held by his principal. Such certificate shall be issued only to an agent authorized by his principal or upon request of his principal, and upon payment of a fee of one dollar.

"Any merchant or other person engaged in retailing nursery stock or acting as agent shall be required to obtain an agent's certificate, and when acting as a dealer shall be required to obtain a dealer's certificate.

"Any person who shall engage in the selling and shipping of nursery stock in this state shall be required to attach to the outside of each package, box, bale, or carload lot so shipped or otherwise delivered, a tag or poster on which shall appear an exact copy of his valid certificate. The use of tags or posters bearing an invalid or altered certificate and the misuse of any valid certificate or tag shall be unlawful."

You have our wishes for a good growing season and health and happiness for all.

GRAPES IN A PRAIRIE GARDEN

by
Claude A. Barr

(Continued from April issue)

Edapa's preference over Beta for eating is due to its freedom from the sharpness that stays with Beta almost to the end. It is otherwise practically the same. When and if we have an abundance of Fredonia possibly we can dispense with Edapa but, on the other hand, that one may call for winter protection or show some other weakness, here.

For Azita imagine a medium size grape, closely packed in the bunch, with the full, delightful,

foxy flavor of the little wild grape, possibly even better, and with very little of the wild sharpness, in fact agreeably sweet. A fair keeper and still pleasant eating after it has begun to shrivel, I imagine that nothing will ever replace Azita in our choice.

Others of the thirty-two Hansen originations that have been attractively described I would gladly try, but where may they be had by name? I prefer to purchase a new grape at least with the benefit of a variety description. Do these grapes, or any of them, exist in any South Dakota nursery where, if anywhere, they should be? At any rate, why must the Hansen grapes continue in the realm of the mysterious for so many years? Why not let us make use of them—or give the subject decent interment?

With movie producers it is only one generation from shirtsleeves to no shirt.—Boston Globe.

I am thinking of the lilac trees
That shook their purple plumes,
And when the sash was open
Shed fragrance thru the rooms.
Stephens, in Horticulture.

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