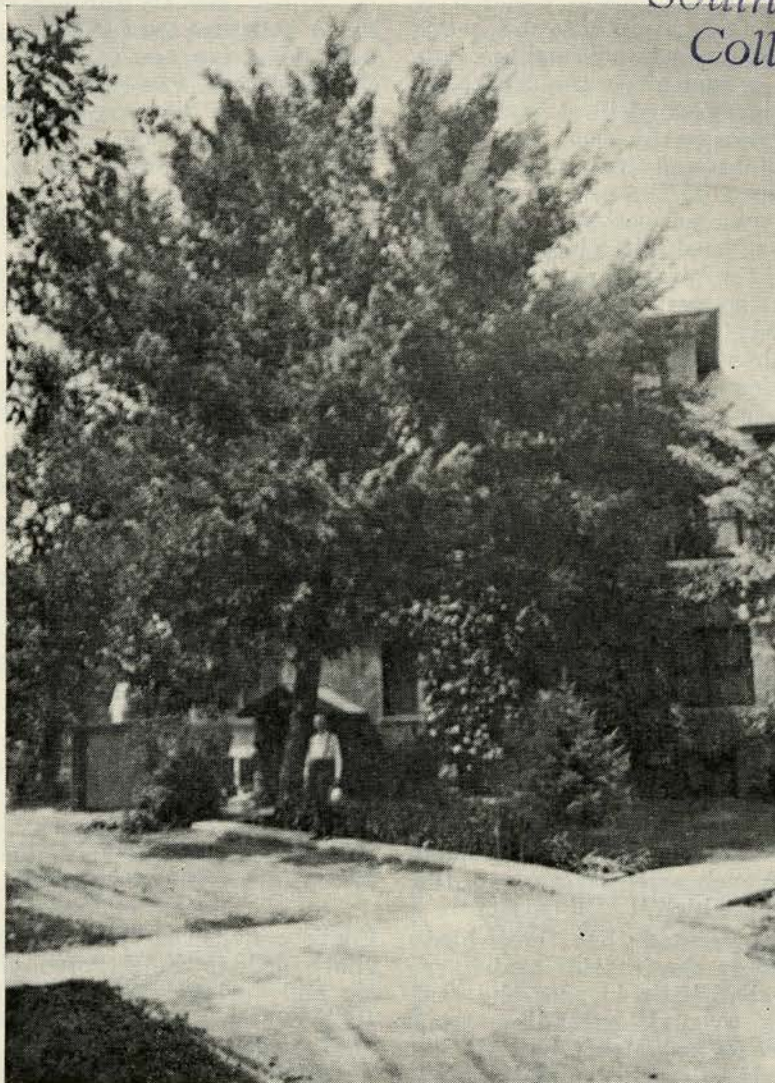


NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

JUNE, 1940

*South Dakota State
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634.05
7811.63 An unusually spreading elm tree on the grounds of Mr. H. E. Dawes, Brookings, with the owner standing beside it. Obtained from Mr. Dybvig in 1920, it is now 63 inches in girth.

Beekeepers plan to attend the joint meeting of the Minnesota-North Dakota Beekeepers Societies at Detroit Lakes, Minn., June 21-22.

THE UPLAND PLOVER

by
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

This species was regarded as first described by Alexander Wilson until a German work published only a year before was brought to attention. Wilson's comments are worth quoting slightly abbreviated and re-arranged): "This bird being, as far as I can discover, a new species, undescribed by any former author, I have honored it with the name of my very worthy friend, near whose botanic gardens, on the banks of the river Schuykill. I first found it. These birds are occasionally seen there during the months of August and September. Having never met with them on the sea shore, I am persuaded that their principal residence is in the interior, in meadows and such like places. Unlike most of their tribe, these birds appear to prefer running about among the grass, feeding on beetles and other winged insects. They run with great rapidity, sometimes spreading their tail, and dropping their wings, as birds do who wish to decoy you from their nest; when they alight, they remain fixed, stand very erect, and have two or three sharp whistling notes as they mount to fly. They are remarkably plump birds, weighing upwards of three-quarters of a pound; their flesh is superior, in point of delicacy, tenderness and flavor, to any other of the tribe with which I am acquainted."

Wilson's friend was John Bartram, farmer, gardener, naturalist, pioneer botanist of America. Bartram traveled and collected extensively in the east, and the natural history of the Lewis and Clark expedition has by some been regarded as an outgrowth of his work. The schoolhouse where Wilson eked out his scant living, was but a short distance away and Bartram was one of his chief inspirations. He called the bird "Bartram's sandpiper," and later a French scientist gave it the genus name, *Bartramia*, which it still carries.

Wilson accurately predicted that these birds would be found to nest in the interior prairie region. He could have had little idea of the vast extent of this nesting ground, extending from southern Michigan to central Manitoba, Alaska, Utah and Oklahoma. His description of its game qualities was entirely too accurate, and seventy-five years later the great numbers were rapidly diminishing. E. H. Forbush thought that the failing supply of passenger pigeons brought attention to the upland plover. In 1870 Major

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Coues considered it the most common of the shore birds in the Dakotas. Breaking of the prairie and spring shooting contributed heavily to their decrease, so that now we have a bare remnant where prairie persists.

Like the other shore birds, they are great travelers. Their winter haunts are the pampas of Brazil and Argentina. There they again suffered from hunting and especially market hunting. W. H. Hudson reported there that they

(Continued on page 67)

NEWSLANTS

by
Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

Last fall both Ole Grottodden and I left our Dry Weather strawberry plantings unmulched. Personally, I wanted to see how much winter this variety could stand. When the past winter turned up almost snowless until late February, I bid the strawberry patch farewell and began looking through the seed catalogs for new plants. It was a pleasant surprise then, this spring, to find plantings coming along in fine shape. To my knowledge, the Dry Weather strawberry is not listed by any nursery. I don't know if it ever has been listed in the past. It appears to be worthwhile as to fruit, sets plants fairly readily, and is very hardy. Introduced some years back by Dr. Yeager from the cross Americus x Premier, there are few plantings of it left in the Fargo area.

Last spring after receiving much valuable advice from J. H. Gerbracht, Frank Skinner, et al, I started three seed beds, each 4'x12'. Two of these beds had lath covers, one did not. Good soil was leveled off and firmed and the various seeds planted directly on the surface. The seeds were then covered with about one-half inch of the cleanest sharp sand we could find. We met with almost 100% success. Perhaps the only failure was with Pygmaea Caragana. Good stands were obtained with Lilacs, named, Common and Villosa; Dolgo crab, Prunus triflora koraeana; Prunus tomentosa; Rhus trilobata, the western North Dakota Sumac; Pentstemon grandiflora, or Giant Beard-Tongue, and last but not least, Darwin tulips. It is beyond my fondest hope to ever become a nurseryman, but like Mr. Gerbracht, I wanted to see for my own satisfaction if it could be done. Certainly little can be expected of the tulip seedlings, but they are coming along vigorously the second season and far be it from me not to give them a chance.

Casualties of the winter were two Splendid and one Fiebing plum. This loss was offset somewhat by about one dozen good husky plants of Red Lake currants that rooted well in the mounds last winter, and all of the Siberian Larch, that I planted myself, doing well except one.

Wild life and its many interesting ways is almost a hobby with me. I am no hunter. I no longer care to even shoot gophers, and certainly not the Nebraska cottontails that have almost become domesticated around our farm home. However, I prize my few Scout apricots—so do the

cottontails. What to do? Why they should bother a few small trees, such as these apricots, with over 50 acres of native timber all about is beyond me. If it comes to a showdown, and I am afraid it has, I fear the apricots will triumph.

J. R. Prante, of Lisbon, writes recently of the shrub Wahoo, *Euonymus atropurpurea*. He thinks highly of it as an ornamental shrub. This shrub was first pointed out to me a few years ago by Prof. Stevens. It grows wild in the same area illustrated in the May cover picture. While Prof. Stevens formerly believed it to be confined to a fairly small area, he found it more widespread last year.

The arrival of a fine box of glad bulbs from our good friend Frederick Wolhowe, of Verendrye, starts us hoping that the new location for them this year will serve as some protection from grasshoppers. Last year our glads suffered heavily and this year we are warned that another severe infestation impends unless the weather interferes.

Belle de Nancy, Hiawatha, a Persian and a Villosa—all lilacs planted in 1938, are well loaded with buds this year. Contrast this early blooming with a common white lilac nearby that spent 12 years after it was moved making up its mind to bloom.

THE PIONEER SEED HOUSE

*Nursery-Greenhouses of
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Founded at Bismarck, in Dakota Territory,
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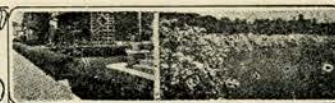
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MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

Crows returned about mid-March and marked the near end of the mildest prairie winter for many the year. Since first projects began at the Morden Station in 1916, no other winter has compared with that just past in point of gentleness of air movement, consistently high temperatures and lightness of snowfall. The total snowfall from November through March was 35 inches. Then came April. On the third day a general fall of 18 inches of springtime snow, soppy wet, blessed the territory. This precipitation was keenly needed in the absence of accumulation of winter snow and because the soil has been but little moistened since August. Commonly, ten inches of snow is reckoned as carrying one inch of water. The early April snow was at least fifty per cent richer. Most of the resulting water was absorbed by the soil where it fell, or slid down the drought cracks into the sub-soil.

The crow is a black bird and noted for his evil deeds to nesting birds and newly planted corn. His virtues include an appetite for grasshoppers, a tendency to thoroughly harvest white grubs and other larvae turned up by the spring plough furrowing meadow and other fields. To his credit side is his March month song. His husky confident calls, while snowdrifts are yet evident on every hand, are counted as melody. In April the penetrating caws lose charm as liquid songs, whistles, warblings and trillings come from scores of kinds of more cultured bird throats.

Among the evidences of the kindly winter are the numerous year-around birds. Starlings, a year ago, seemed to dwindle from a flock of 62 in December to nothing by March. The flock at the Experimental Station this winter numbered from 37 to about 26, and conditions seem favorable for heavy increase of these purplish dark grey birds, which are not considered desirable. Hungarian partridges have been paired off for weeks, and in late afternoon are seen by the hundreds of couples as they trot rapidly onto the gravel highways for their daily portion of grit.

Some Canada grey geese returned the first week of April. The main migration was noted day and night from April 17 to 20. The flight seemed even more populous than that of last year.

Late April sees brush covering removed from perennial border and rock garden and straw from tender roses. The earth mounds remain on rose

bush and grapevine until early May. Straw cover on the strawberry patch is not disturbed until leaf development commences beneath it.

Topworking and spring budding of fruits is done the second week of May. Then the cambium is active and growth processes auspicious. Mr. A. Andries, Deloraine, Manitoba, is remarkably successful in his topworking. He uses inner tube of tires to make an inverted cone below the graft. A handful of soil is dropped in and this moistened from time to time.

The lawn is a prominent feature of the home grounds. On the prairie long spells of dry, hot weather during summer are hardships. As few farms have facilities for irrigating, it is important to choose durable varieties, sow the seed at favorable periods, and have the area sheltered by tree belts to protect against drying winds.

To develop a smooth velvety lawn, considerable preparation is necessary. The surface should be even when finished but should slope very gently in a direction away from the house so that surface water will not collect in pools to become stagnant, or form a sheet of ice during winter thaws. The first operation is to remove the rich black top soil to one side. Then grading is done and well rotted manure tilled in at the rate of a cubic yard or more to 1,000 square feet of ground. The addition of fine rotted peat is also helpful. The removed top soil is spread back over all. Ten pounds of ammonium phosphate may well be worked in the upper soil of each 1,000 square feet.

Where watering is possible, lawn grass may be sown from April to late autumn. However, the favorable periods are during the first week of September and the first week of May. The former should give substantial seedlings by freeze-up. The other choice is when the soil is moist with snow waters and still cool. Summer seeding may fail from dry hot weather.

There is a choice of grasses. The Morden Experimental Station lawns are mostly 7 parts by weight of Kentucky Blue grass, 1½ parts Canadian Blue, and 1¼ parts of Red Top, with about 3 per cent of Wild English White Clover, sown at the rate of 3 to 4 pounds to 1,000 square feet of lawn. The Red Top is quick growing and acts as a nurse for the blue grasses.

Creeping Red Fescue is approved at the School of Agriculture, Olds, Alberta. It withstands dry conditions and tolerates light soil better than does Kentucky Blue grass. However, the former is rather loose and does not form a compact turf. Use 6 parts Creeping Red Fescue, 3 parts Kentucky Blue, and 1 part Red Top, at the rate of 4½ pounds for 1,000 square feet.

For shady locations, Chewings Fescue is to form about one-quarter of the grass mixture.

(Continued on page 68)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by
H. E. Beebe



H. E. Beebe

Nature has never been very enthusiastic about trees on the open Dakota prairies and is it not perhaps best to take advantage of natural drainage and in some places natural protections such as gullies in planning our plantings.

Final Report of Best Dakota Plantings

In the March issue of the State Horticulture Magazine was Mr. Ford's report on the success of the 432 miles of trees planted in 1938. I will now continue with

the percentage of survival of the next best varieties.

Common Lilac, 76 per cent; Hackberry, 76 per cent; American Elm, 75 per cent; Red Cedar, 70 per cent; Caragana, 61 per cent; Chinese Elm, 59 per cent; Russian Olive, 42 per cent. If this list is clipped along with the information in last month's issue it is a very good guide as to what should be planted within the next month.

In general it is best to specialize in not over four kinds of trees and get acquainted with them, altho in case of a shelter belt Mr. Rockwell's grading of the trees with the shortest and most hardy on the outside is important.

England Interested in Horticulture as Well as Hitler

The South Dakota Horticultural Society has enrolled Mrs. E. F. Smith of Edgehouse, Stroud, Gloucestershire, England, and we hope that in case Pres. Roosevelt and Postmaster General Farley and our own assistant postmaster general, W. W. Howes, formerly of Wolsey, S. D., decide to grant the 1½c per pound flat rate for postage that we will be exchanging for some English heather or is it Scotch. This reminds me of the orange-colored Crocus dug up in the grass in Siloam Springs, Ark., which I hope will greet some of our own pasque flowers in Ipswich this spring.

Spring's Te Deum

Dedicated to Adeline M. Jenney of Valley Springs, S. D., this poem is by Alice Churchill Chaphe, of Vermillion, S. D., and written especially for the South Dakota Horticulture Magazine:

SPRING'S TE DEUM

When all the wildwood buds are opening,
And jade-green spears of grass
Are pricking through the sod,
When all the world begins its birth
From out the womb of Mother-earth,

Each tiny atom of the universe
Gives praise to God.
And we who live and breathe
And share in all this wonder
Of a new creation,
Find little leaves and spirit buds
Opening within our hearts,
And thus we have a part
In earth's sweet jubilation.

WIFEHOOD OF THE BUTTES

I looked upon the rugged buttes,
And hated their barrenness;
Despised their deep cut gorges,
Barefaced—a rocky wilderness.
I saw them as a woman
Unmarried—childless—old,
And breathed a prayer of pity
That life should love withhold.

I changed these rugged gorges
For the greensward of the west,
And loved the Sound—the orchards
With their rich productiveness.
But, here, I found that circumstance
Withheld the joy I sought,
That life, devoid of purpose,
Was one with pity fraught.

My heart, with many a burning,
Returned to Dakota's hills,
And, now, as I look upon them
My soul with their beauty thrills.
Constant—grave and resolute
Against the storms of life,
Wind ravished—river-torn maiden,
A loved and honored wife.

Then scouring up deep canyons,
I find them filled with love;
Bursting with reproduction
Quaint flowers, gnarled trees and
wide skies above.

In the antiquated wrinkles,
Lay bare her courageous soul,
And ever God's Hand is evidenced
As He fills each cup or bowl
With flowers profuse in color
Unnamed by the unwise,
Unknown by those too busy,
Or complaining with tear filled eyes.

They are there in radiant beauty
For those who will search and see,
God's flowers—God's trees—God's
tenderness,
In Dakota's transcendy.

—Bessie LaRue Moran.

THE 1940 TREE ORDERS

by
E. H. Everson and C. S. Weller



E. H. Everson

South Dakota's seventh annual program of tree distribution for farm planting is almost at an end. Ten varieties of hardwood trees and two of evergreen have been contracted, assembled here at Pierre, packed in lots of all the way from 100 up to 5,000, dispatched by parcel post or pre-paid express to every county, save one, in the state.

The most popular broadleaf variety, as heretofore, was the Chinese Elm, the runners up being Cottonwood and Russian Olive. The evergreens offered were Pines and Cedars, the latter be-

ing by far the favorite.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture buys its hardwood seedlings from South Dakota nurserymen. It gives all a chance to bid on the varieties which they are best qualified to supply. Obviously it is to the advantage of all concerned to favor the South Dakota producer of nursery stock, his plantings are of seeds obtained from South Dakota acclimated stock of the introduced varieties and of native trees.

It is a time of activity and concern when the break of spring comes and we must fill our warehouse with a balanced assortment of approved varieties from the seven contracting growers of broadleaf trees. Quantity estimates are based upon past experience and the indication of early orders. The volume of a season's tree sales is gauged upon the favorableness of the season and the degree of the farmers' hope and optimism, which, to speak practically, is dependent upon whether he has any money in his pocket. Now is a good time to record that many of the little plantations of trees were made possible because some faithful patient woman parted with her egg and poultry money, saved for dress or menu.

Three-fifths of our annual tree orders are received here before April 10th, the approximated

or anticipated shipping date. The larger part of the remainder follow within two weeks, though some scatter along until about the 20th of May. Even though the season was perhaps ten days late compared to a year ago, former experience is about to be repeated.

At this writing the stock is badly broken and in most varieties exhausted, although we continue to fill orders with direct shipments from the contracting nurseries. These late offers are divided because the nurseries likewise have broken stocks. We congratulate ourselves that because of the several sources of supply our stock was quite complete.

Our main supply of evergreens are propagated at the Federal nursery in the sandhills of northwestern Nebraska. It is interesting to note that the Cedar seed stock used there is from parent trees growing along the gumbo banks or on Farm Island of the Missouri, four miles down the river from Pierre. The Ponderosa Pine seed is from the Black Hills. Our allotment of Cedars was limited. Our estimate of our Pine needs was supplied but late additional orders for Pine could not be filled from this nursery, because what appeared to be a surplus had been removed from the beds and planted in the adjoining forest preserve. We were able to obtain a small emergency supply of Pines from a Wyoming Federal nursery that enabled us to fill some late orders. However, that supply, before the season ended, became completely exhausted, as did other sources, and we were forced to reluctantly admit inability to fill some last minute requests for Pines. In the case of Cedars we were enabled to obtain an additional supply from a North Dakota Federal nursery and have succeeded in filling practically all orders.

We brag that our mistakes are seldom, but humbly admit that we make them. We have endeavored to tag all different varieties in shipments, although not all bundles. In some cases we are sure we didn't use enough tags. Inexperienced planters can easily become confused over the looks of a baby tree variety.

Our contracting nurserymen supplied good size as to length and caliper. We receive practically no kicks except that Cottonwoods do not always look quite as nice and full sized as the other varieties. The best source of Cottonwood supply is from the high banks of the Missouri, in other words, through collection of wildlings. A baby Cottonwood 12-18 inch, for example, does not have a caliper comparing favorably with our other standard varieties, and even though the bundle may contain nothing under 12 inches, still they do look small. Cottonwoods require more soil moisture than any other of our varieties. We get

(Continued on page 70)



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 relat-
ing to Horticulture and
Forestry.

How should I care for Poinsettias and Azeleas after they are through blooming?

After the poinsettia leaves have fallen, put the plant in a cool place, between 40 and 60 degrees, and allow the soil to dry out. Do not water the plant in this stage, which should last until May. Then, if there is too much old wood to make a shapely plant for next winter, cut it back. Shake the old soil from the roots. Provide drainage in the bottom of the pot. Fill it with fresh soil—three parts garden loam, one part well-rotted manure, and one part leafmold.

Put the potted plant in a warm, light place and water it whenever the soil seems to be drying out. When the maple trees are in full leaf, set the poinsettia out of doors in a sunny place, still in its pot. Bury the pot in the soil up to its top. This saves repotting in the fall and disturbing the roots. In a very hot climate it's better to place the poinsettia where there is some shade at midday. As soon as growth starts, provide wooden or wire stakes to support the plant and keep the stems straight. It may be necessary to repot the plant once during the summer in a larger pot if it becomes potbound.

In the fall and when there is danger of frost, it is time to bring the poinsettia indoors. Keep it in a light, dry part of the house, out of drafts, where the temperature ranges from 60 to 75 degrees. Higher temperature will make the leaves drop. Keep the soil moist and give it a little liquid manure at weekly intervals.

If you use the poinsettias as cut flowers, sear the flower stems immediately after cutting by dipping them in hot water or holding in the flame of a candle or lamp.

The so-called Indian Azeleas are sometimes used as potted plants for winter forcing. The early sort may be forced for Christmas or mid-winter. As they are rather specific in soil requirements, the grower frequently finds this plant difficult to grow.

In forcing, the plants are left out in cold-frames or put into a cool greenhouse (40 degrees F.) until December, when they are taken into a 60 degree F. house and kept at this temperature until they bloom. A variation in temperature may cause a corresponding variation in date of blooming. After the blossoms have fallen the plant is generously watered, fertilized and kept in semi-shade until midsummer. Some pinching may be necessary to retain the desired shape. Little water is applied after midsummer so that the plant will be hardened for winter conditions. About October 1 the plant should be stored in a cool place (40 degrees F.) until time to bring out for forcing.

The more common practice is to take cuttings after the blossoms drop and place them in sand. They form roots in a few weeks and may be cared for in the same manner as a plant coming from the nursery.

THE UPLAND PLOVER

(Continued from page 62)

were widely and evenly distributed over the region, beginning to arrive in September, starting to leave in February but perhaps some remaining into April. They have been recorded a number of times in various parts of Europe.

Nests are placed in tufts of grass or sometimes on rather bare ground. A slight cavity may be made and sometimes a few grass stems or leaves added. Four eggs are most common. They are nearly two inches in length, somewhat pointed, pinkish or buffy with small brown spots. The birds are rather easily recognized by their habits since few of the waders are to be seen in the grass. Here they are hard to see, but usually they will fly up and circle about with long whistles or will stand on a fence post as one drives past. The bill is usually short for a sandpiper, which it is, rather than a plover, as suggested by its most commonly used name.

Patents have recently been awarded for: A life-saving suit that keeps the wearer afloat in a standing position, dry and warm, too. A shirt with a spare collar which can be turned up when one becomes soiled. An adjustable steering wheel which can be raised and lowered to accommodate the size and girth of the driver. A plant spray which coats buds, leaves and branches, acts as insulation, keeping plants from freezing.—Gib Swanson in Capper's Farmer.

If your happiness depends on getting things, the odds are against you. No matter how much you get, there are more things you haven't got.—Quillen in Santa Monica Evening Outlook.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

by
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

The National Turkey Growers Ass'n. has been advised that the third Thursday of November will be Thanksgiving Day, this year. They are informed in time to prepare the birds for that date. A peck of a new potato, kindly sent by Dr. A. T. Erwin, of Ames, Ia., was planted May 1st; it is the Pontiac, and some of new No. 500 were also included. The Pontiac is a red potato, looks a little like Bliss Triumph, while the No. 500 is a white potato, very smooth, and with shallow eyes. I hope they will show up fine this fall and will report on them then. A record price for a lug of tomatoes was established from a shipment from Puerto Rico, the price being \$8.40, but most of the shipment brot less, down to \$4.10. Cuban stock brot much less, down to \$1.70 per lug of small poor grade. Few people realize that melons can be transplanted when grown and, handled properly, just about as safely as cabbage or tomato plants. Indiana growers are setting melons in the field from May 10th to the 20th, and the crop matures in about 60 days, 75% of the acreage will be set from plants and 25% planted by seed. I wish our vice president, Mr. Gurney, would tell us what kinds of plums are still left in the Whiting orchard, to the east of his house. As I remember we picked Miner, DeSoto, Wolf, Wyant and Forest Garden in 1909-1910, about where those large trees were in bloom on May 12th. On May 12th, I went thru the grounds on Marty Hill, back of the hospital, to inspect the trees set by Geo. Whiting in 1909-1910. My brother William had not seen those trees since that time and remembered how those pines had stood the drought of the past several years while many of the other trees are gone. The lilac hedge, also buckthorn, is also still doing well. Growers at Hope, Ark., grow the largest watermelons in the U. S. A. The world's largest melon, 195 lbs., was grown in 1935. Other records have been from 140 to 165 lbs. All fruit is picked every few days and only one is left on a vine, 30 feet from another vine and only about 50 are grown to an acre. Henry Wallace seems to think the chain stores would not be so bad if they saved their economies and discontinued their abuses. True enough, but when are they going to stop their abuses? Who can grow bunched stuff so they can sell it for a penny a bunch? I will grow Henry a patch of radishes, furnish land, seed, fertilizer, water and labor to mature the crop and he

will be in the red, just to harvest and market the crop, at the price the chains have paid, the past several years. (Take notice, Mr. Dawes). Few people realize the damage that is done by careless burning of weeds and brush, near shrubbery and trees. Now that it is time for trees and shrubs to show green the dead shows up where the fires were let get too near, or go thru the planting, but some of the boys and even older people cannot be told that heat easily destroys the trees and shrubs. As I sit here today, I see the lone spotted pony going by that is hitched to the little buckboard, the only horse-drawn rig going by about once a week, to market. Long ago I feared that they would be struck by a car on this busy thorofare, Minnesota Avenue, on highway 77 and on out west near the old airport farm. Last summer, on a hot day, she drove into a super-service station and asked the astonished attendant if he would water her horse. He said he had watered lots of cars but never before, a horse, at his station. The village of South Sioux Falls has a live garden club that meets every month and has planned to beautify many places in the village. The clump of buffalo berries were finally located at Pasque Knoll, so that any one, doubting their existence, will be shown that they are in thriving condition, while those on the north side of the road, on the top of a rocky ridge, are most all dead.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

(Continued from page 64)

This grass alone composes some fine lawns in prairie cities.

Creeping Bent grass is for those who have water in plenty and who are prepared to spend much time watering, brushing, rolling, cutting and fertilizing their lawns.

Fairway strain of Crested Wheat grass deserves consideration of the homemaker wishing a farm lawn that will stand partial attention. It is notably drought-resistant, greens early in spring and tends to give good autumn effect, but is likely to be dull during the height of summer. It is at best a coarse lawn grass. Crested Wheat grass is sown alone at the rate of about 5 pounds to 1,000 square feet.

The grass seed may be sown by a special grass seeder but is usually sown broadcast on the rolled soil. The clover is sown separately, as its seed is much heavier than the grass. The surface is then gently raked up and down and across, and rolled both ways. Brush strewn on the surface gives the young grass seedlings some protection.

Women are wiser than men because they know less and do more.—Mrs. Duell.



JUNE

by

W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

Altho writing for the month of June, there seems little to record excepting the happenings of a very late spring. April 6th. Heard and saw a Meadow Lark, later a junco on the doorstep. April 11th. 3 above zero, my indoor garden shows mound lilies pushing up, that were sown on March 23rd. This species *Yucca gloriosa*, is a full hardy dagger lily that with age develops a true tree trunk. Rex Pearce recommends it highly, but unfortunately only occasionally is seed available and as this is one of those favored years, members can secure same for 20 cents per packet, about 18 seeds, from Rex Pearce. April 14th. First spring day, sky an Italian blue, 52 in shade. While planting out some newly arrived junipers in afternoon, the sodden soil was quite warm to a depth of 2 inches, although a deep snow drift was only a few paces distant. April 17th. With strong south wind the deep snow is rapidly disappearing and once more for a short period the sloughs reflect clear blue of a cloudless sky. In the old sod-busting days an English artist who worked for me one spring, considered that a sole redeeming feature of our sombre prairie landscape. The garden residents show a prompt response to the sun's kiss; thorns on Mentor barberry change to bright orange and greens and grays of rockets cruciferous babies breath *Isatis glauca*, sweet william, *dianthus penstemon*. Basal growth of the latter seem to be evergreen, *unilateris* showing winter change to bronze green. Perhaps originally all *penstemon*s were evergreen like the bush *fruticoccus*, *unilateris* seems spreading over garden. Its flowers of cobalt violet suffused with rose, are of unique beauty and it is hardy as the commonest weed. April 20th. Spring avian migration much in evidence; overhead arrow formation of geese, many robins in grove and a killdeer in the garden; temperature 63, a few isolated patches of snow remain on the north side of ridges and in groves, last refuge from harrying sun rays. By evening, last of tank ice has vanished and I heard plaintive cry of swans passing north, also a noisy flock of blackbirds are here. April 27th. Our few sunny, spring-like days have succumbed to cloud and damp strong east winds, temp. in the 40's with a chilliness that goes to the marrow, but what perfect planting conditions. My winter selection of perennials, shrubs, etc., are arriving, which makes me wonder why I do not curb my enthusi-

asm somewhat. However, as I can always enlarge the garden by the simple expedient of moving the fence at the expense of the farm, the effort will be worth while. Of all these new arrivals, the palm of beauty rests with a rock garden plant, a madwort, *Alyssum idaeum* that hails from the Island of Crete, a golden cloud a few inches high over and thru the small silvered foliage. It has the reputation of blooming the whole summer long. The catalog description of "rare treasure" is accurate and not over drawn; it can be purchased from Wm. Borsch & Son, Maplewood, Ore., for the absurd price of 50 cents and postage. April 29th. Temp. 36 after 2 inches of rain lasting for 24 hours. Grape hyacinths and *Glory of the Snow*, our first spring bulbs, are showing. English lavender has proved winter hardy and is putting out shoots. May 2nd. A glorious sunny spring day, 68 shade temp. The mourning doves are again telling us that life holds much sadness, single peony Harriet Olney is up and also scillas, our first garden flower *Chionodoxa* (glory of the snow), a blue and white Jubilee Gem *Centaurea*, January sown seeds, coming. Of all perennials that respond to spring's touch, none are earlier than the creeping *Veronica repens* and *amenthestina* and *pectinata rosea*. Tulips coming en masse. May 5th. Cold north rain with day temp. of 39. The two *spirea*s ocean spray and douglasi, rose *spirea*, are budded, proving winter hardiness in North Dakota, the latter a native of Pacific coast line from British Columbia to Calif., both fairly tall shrubs. Clumps of Star thistle, seed sown a year ago, promise some interesting new species. Hardy Star of Bethlehem, *unbellatum*, also parrot tulips are up and seedlings of *Adonis vernalis* still straggling along from seed sown last June. Rich blue tufts of *Scilla sibirica*, not to be outdone, now compete with paler bright spires of *Chionodoxa* and the later *Scilla campanulata*, a Spanish bluebell, but fully hardy here, is just pushing thru the soil. In the grove inflorescence clothes the naked branches of poplars, elms and boxelders, making a charming silhouette against the clear sky, but as with life's pleasures, fleeting before the oncoming burst of leaf and so swells the rising chorus of Nature's annual resurrection.

With keenly developed auditory organs, the dog is capable of hearing sounds which are not audible to his master. On the market today are high-frequency dog whistles which produce no sound whatever for you and me, but call dogs to action. Without a dog in your presence, you can blow one of these highly-pitched whistles and not know whether sound is produced or not.—Gib Swanson in Capper's Farmer.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

by
W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

The flower that has attracted the most attention in the office of late, is the Ismene, Peruvian Daffodil, Spider lily, Hymenocallis calathina, hailing originally from South America, probably from Peru, as one of the names would suggest. All of the above names are applied to this flower, so you can take your choice, tho the one most commonly used here, Peruvian daffodil, does not seem to have the sanction of some of the books, Rockwell in his book of bulbs, uses it. It is a large bulb, looking much like an Amaryllis, to which family it belongs, but it has the Daffodil characteristic of rapid multiplication, and the foliage is much like the Amaryllis. As I could not possibly improve on Rockwell's description, I am giving it here: "If you can imagine a 'cactus-flowered,' pure white amaryllis of delicious fragrance, blooming continuously for a long period, you will get some conception of the Giant Ismene, or Peruvian Daffodil, one of the finest of our summer blooming bulbs, and very easily cultivated; yet comparatively little known. Plant in fairly rich light soil, preferably in groups of half a dozen or so in late May or early June, covering three or four inches deep. Hold over winter in a fairly warm place, as for tuberous begonias. They multiply readily and an extra supply, which will soon accumulate, may be used for winter flowering, as they are extremely useful for this purpose." I pot mine up, at intervals, in late winter, leaving about half of the bulb protruding from the soil, as we do with the Amaryllis. In a very short time the blossom stem appears and the plant is in bloom within a few weeks. After frost danger is past I set the plant in the garden at a depth of about 6 inches and they pass the summer there, their attractive leaves manufacturing plant food to be stored in the bulb for the next blossoming period and the bulb growing numerous offsets, as in the case of the daffodil. Just before frost, I dig them and store them in very dry soil and keep them in a dark place in the warm office. Even tho kept dry, they contrive to tell me when they wish to awake, by sending up a sprout. They bloom best when planted shallow and increase most when planted deep. The above method makes use of both methods of planting, shallow when potted for indoor blooming and deep, when set in the garden for their restorative period of growth.

U. S. Dep't. of Agriculture's Farmer's Bulletin

No. 1044, The City Home Garden, is so interesting that I ordered 50 extra copies so that our garden club members could be supplied. This may be had free of cost from the Sup't. of Documents, Washington, D. C. As the author, W. R. Beattie says in the foreword: "The city home garden utilizes idle land and spare time for food production. Thousands of acres of idle land that may be used for gardens are still available within the boundaries of our large cities." From school Superintendent H. R. Woodward, executor of the estate of the late John S. Robertson, Hot Springs, comes the good news that with the help of NYA labor, he has done considerable planting in the Robertson Memorial Park, this spring. This planting is listed as follows in a clipping he enclosed, from the Hot Springs Star: 2 Cotonaster bushes, 2 honeysuckles, 2 red haw shrubs, 12 2-ft. Chinese Elms, 12 2½-ft. native cedars and ground junipers. It reports that "Pines and 4 thornless honey locusts are doing well. An apple tree, planted by Tom Miller, has survived last year's attack of grasshoppers." They also report that there are flower beds of iris and tulips. We have ordered 100 seedling cedars to be sent to Mr. Woodward, for planting in the park and hope there will be sufficient moisture to give them a start. A letter received from a large tulip growing firm in the Netherlands, states that the Dutch government had forbid the growing of many of the more common types of tulips and advised the selection of the better sorts, which would be no higher in price than the older kinds. Since the recent happenings in that once happy and friendly land, we wonder what will become of our fall tulip supply.

1940 TREE ORDERS

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some kicks on Cottonwoods, and sometimes we are tempted to discontinue offering them. Nevertheless they are generally considered the typical state tree and are loved by most in spite of the few days of flying cotton.

This year we for the first time had 18-24 inch broadleaf seedlings on our list. Heretofore our sizes had run from 12-18 inches. As the reader may judge, there is a considerable spread in the price between the two sizes, caused not alone by the moderately advanced price for the larger size but the materially increased cost of packing and postage. About one-fourth of our orders for broadleaves were for the larger size.

Filling orders from 1,100 customers scattered over the state gives one a pretty good idea as to how much prosperity exists among our farmers. Requests for credit, which we have no right to grant, is an indication in some cases. In a few

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NATURE DEPARTMENT

by
H. L. Hopkins

A Dainty Pair



H. L. Hopkins

top of the high, steep bank and then pussy-footed noiselessly around to the right place. The air movement favored us. We very cautiously peered through the foliage and the buck was still standing in the water, and right below us, was the mate, feeding on the little shelf between the steeper bank and the water's edge. We remained motionless, hardly breathing, and keenly studied every movement and outline of the graceful creatures for several minutes.

They were in their native haunts and unafraid. The nearest one, the dainty little female, was not over thirty feet from us, while the male was about forty. It was a fascinating picture of grace and animation; bowered in wonderful beauty of stream and evergreens. Such scenes are truly "a joy forever," to the beholder. After four or five minutes a gaily uniformed blue jay came winging that way. He doubtless was interested in a nest in that vicinity. He discovered us and began to scold, in his raucous tones. All animate nature, of the wild, know the danger signals. The buck suddenly threw up his shapely head and emitted a short, sharp blast or snort. Both deer were instantly all aquiver. With white flags flopping they cleared the stream with a few graceful bounds and stopped, about twenty-five feet from the water's edge, on the gently sloping opposite shore. Here they "felt the air" with their sharp muzzles and took a hasty look all around. They then moved leisurely on about one

One fine May day Uncle Hiram Park and the writer were following an old logging road up the Ounce, and saw a beautiful white-tailed buck deer feeding on tufts of grass, growing from little hummocks in the middle of the stream. We were perfectly screened from view by heavy pines and were on a considerable elevation above the stream. We marked the spot by the vegetation at the

hundred feet, to a little park or open space, where they again tried the air, and then quietly resumed their morning meal.

Bishop Whipple

Uncle Hiram Park related a little episode, with extreme pleasure, in connection with Bishop Edwin Whipple. Bishop Whipple was a dearly loved pioneer preacher and educator of southern Minnesota. He was the founder of the Shattuck institutions at Faribault. The incident fits in aptly with these reminiscences.

The good bishop was a frequent member of trouting camp parties, on Wisconsin and Minnesota streams, in the seventies and eighties, of the last century and enjoyed them hugely. The party, on this particular occasion, consisted of about a half dozen old fishing pals, including the two above mentioned.

The bishop had looked after the commissary department and had provided only one quart bottle of first-class hard liquor. Uncle Hiram stated that he had never known of the bishop indulging except on the streams and then only after wading in the cold water for a considerable time. It was his practice to wade the stream, attired in old clothing and an old pair of boots and without the ordinary water-proof wading gear. When he returned to camp he changed to dry clothing and invariably took on a generous portion of hard liquor to offset the chilling effects of the cold water.

It was their first afternoon in camp. When they returned toward evening the bishop changed clothing and then secured the, as yet unopened bottle, genially remarking that he would now indulge in his "usual libation."

He was very deliberate and dignified at all times. He carefully inserted the corkscrew and tried to remove the cork. It came hard. He finally clasped it between his knees and gave it a jerk. It slipped from his hands, fell to the ground, struck a small rock and broke. The bishop straightened up, with a half disgusted and half comical expression, glanced hastily around at the animated faces about him, and dryly remarked: "I think it is very much in order for one of you laymen to say something."

Rocky Mountain Trouting and Trappers Lake

For a number of years I indulged in a regular mid-summer vacation, of several weeks' duration, among the higher altitudes of the Rocky Mountains, in central Colorado, in quest of trout. One year I went in over the world famous and marvelously scenic, Moffat Line, west from Denver as far as Steamboat Springs.

I made some very satisfactory catches of rainbow and native browns, but the chief thrill was from the scenery. A delightful little diversion

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BOOK REVIEWS

by
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

Trees and Shrubs for Landscape Effects, by Marion Cruger Coffin. Published by Chas. Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth Ave., New York. Price \$3. With more than 60 illustrations from photographs.

This book is second to none in being helpful to those who are facing the problem of creating beautiful landscape effects and a well designed garden. It deals definitely with the essential points necessary in gardening with trees, approaches to the house and grounds, terrace treatment, back-grounds and ground covers, walks, woodland, green and other gardens and planting fundamentals. In the last two decades the interest in gardens and gardening has spread thru our country with unparalleled rapidity. In our enthusiasm and passion for beautiful growing things the majority of property owners have planted too much. In this volume the author states clearly and informally the principles of taste in landscape design, and gives a wealth of suggestions in the choice and placing of material. Altho the book is not applicable to climatic conditions in all parts of our vast country, the ideas are intended to help those who truly wish to increase their interest in and appreciation of the many woody plants that we can now obtain and who would, by their increased patronage, enable the growers to add still further to their stock of the rarer and more desirable species.

Hill's Book of Evergreens, by L. L. Kumlien, dedicated to Mr. D. Hill, pioneer evergreen grower, for nearly sixty years head of the D. Hill Nursery Company, Dundee, Ill., publishers. Price \$3.50.

Oldest of friends, the trees.
Ere fire came, or iron,
Or the shimmering corn;
When the earth mist was dank,
Ere the promise of dawn,
From the slime, from the muck—
Trees.

—Thomas Curtis Clark.

A lovelier, more readable, more practical book on evergreens has never been written and, it is so complete in its content that one feels like saying, never will be written. The book is arranged in four sections: The geological and historic background; the cultural information; the uses of evergreens and the proper selection of trees

for various needs; illustrations and descriptions of the leading hardy evergreens. There is scarcely a page without an illustration or a line drawing, and these, together with 45 color illustrations help to round out a perfect book on evergreens. Most of us in the Dakotas are more or less inclined to concentrate on our own particular corner of evergreens, the Black Hills, but it will add to our love and our understanding if we will read this book and learn more about some of the outstanding evergreens of the world. The book itself is beautiful; the paper is of a high grade and the binding is interesting. The material is very readable and it is a book for all of us who love trees.

NATURE DEPARTMENT

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was a trip to the summit of a high peak by burro transportation. Those slow and sure-footed little creatures are ideal mountain climbers.

Returning to Denver, I took an early morning excursion train for Cheyenne, Wyoming. Here I spent two wonderful days visiting the world's greatest annual roundup—Pioneer Days. It was a swiftly moving exhibition of highly trained and experienced human skill, agility, intelligence and brawn, pitted against the raw, brute strength and cunning of outlaw horse and wild steer. It is a clash of primordial forces. It is exhilaratingly real. It was so real that seven disabled human performers were carried off the field of combat and glory in ambulances, the first day, and five the second.

1940 TREE ORDERS

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instances where the purchaser failed to remit full amounts of the order and the time is short, we do not hesitate to make shipment, regardless. In times past every penny of such shortages in remittance has been paid. We knock wood, believing that all of our customers this year and in the future are equally considerate. Part of our job is to encourage the distribution of trees and we avoid delay during the shipping season over some oversight on the part of our customers. These errors in calculation almost invariably involve less than \$1.00.

In calculating our prices we must include the labor and material cost of packing and the added postage. We must strike a happy medium in judging size of orders. This year some 65 County Agents were actively put in the tree distribution business through certain Soil Conservation awards for tree planting.