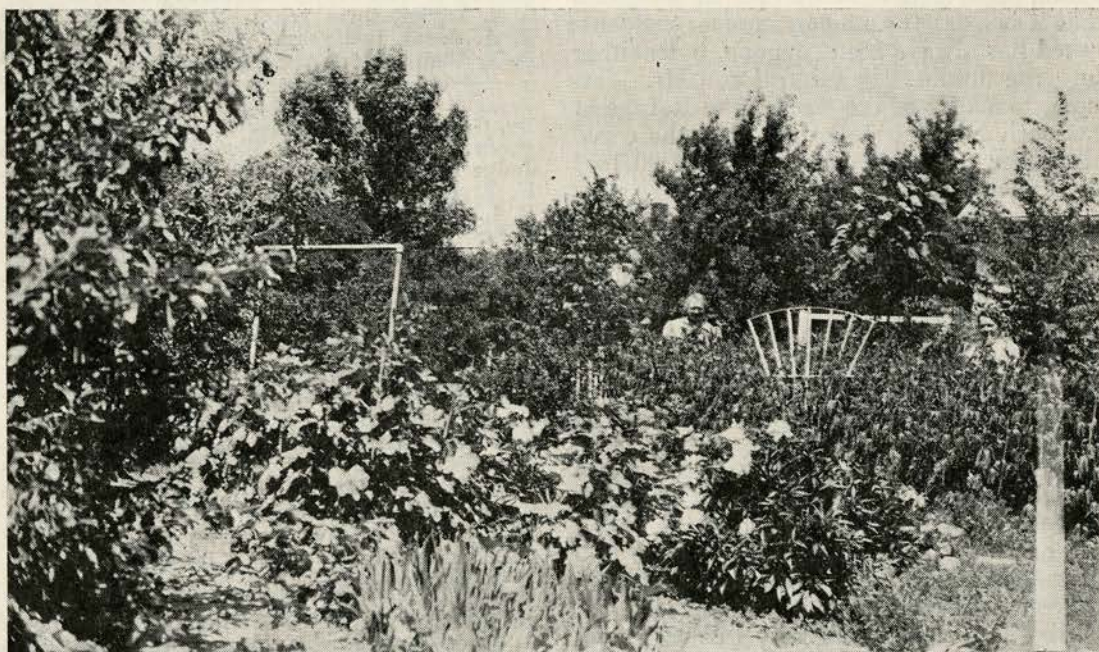


# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

September, 1941

*South Dakota State  
College Library*



Mrs. W. J. Bickert and daughter Gale in the garden back of their residence in Washburn, N. D. Mrs. Bickert is a sister of our Librarian Mrs. F. Briley.





## EARED AND HORNED GREBES

By  
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

These two grebes are not as generally distributed as the pied-billed but they are more nearly typical of the group. In almost any permanent pond or lake of any size we are likely to see one or both kinds. Gracefully they swim along, their slender necks erect, and slender, pointed bills showing. They are not shy and may come within a few rods of a person who is watching them quietly, but their eyes are alert and at any alarm they duck under water.

The two species are frequently confused. Dr. Roberts states that in Minnesota the eared is found nesting through the prairie region, the horned more or less all over the State, but chiefly in the north. Mrs. C. J. Henry at the Lower Souris Refuge in North Dakota, reports that the horned has increased there so that it is a fairly common summer resident; that the eared has always been common, but neither appears in large numbers in migration. Mr. Watson E. Beede, manager of the Sand Lake Refuge at Columbia, South Dakota, tells me that the eared grebes outnumber the horned grebes about 20 to 1 as summer residents there.

In general coloration the two species are similar. The breasts are gray, the backs reddish brown and the wings nearly black. The eared has a black neck while that of the horned is red in front. The eared has a rather prominent black crest on the head and a tuft of orange colored feathers on the side of the head which starts back of the eye and spreads out over a large part of the side of the head. The horned lacks the crest, and the orange tuft is more condensed, starting above and in front of the eye to form a more distinct streak near the top of the head. The black feathers of the lower part of the head form a sort of fluffy collar. Dr. Roberts state that the fall plumages are so much alike that the eared may be distinguished chiefly by its smaller size and different bill which appears slightly turned up toward the tip.

The horned grebe occurs also in Europe and western Asia, no different races being recognized. The original form of the eared grebe is known as black necked grebe in Europe. A slightly different form is resident in southern Africa and the American form occupies the western part of this continent, being rarely seen as far east as the Mississippi Ri-

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ver. Mr. E. A. Preble reported the horned grebe as quite generally distributed through the Athabasca-Mackenzie region of northwestern Canada, but did not find the eared grebe there.

Mr. E. J. Judd of Cando, North Dakota, reported the eared grebe as nesting in all the prairie ponds which retained water in the early days, and noted one colony of over forty nests. The horned grebe nested in the Turtle Mountains but not in the prairie ponds.

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## NEWSLANTS

By

Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

North Dakota may boast of a more scenic spot than the Fort Ransom Community but I doubt it. Located in a thickly wooded area of the Sheyenne Valley it is said to resemble the wooded valleys of France. North Dakotans in search of scenery might well take the Sheyenne River Drive from Valley City to Lisbon which passes through Fort Ransom. It was while visiting Fort Ransom recently that I met Olaf Hendrickson, one of our members, who has a beautiful location on the west side of the valley a short distance north of Fort Ransom village. He has many things growing of horticultural interest and aside from some heckling by the Nebraska coontails he has had a good survival.

We have for sometime recommended 36 inches as the spacing between rows of garden crops cultivated by horse-drawn cultivators. We now find some folks using a 42 inch spacing. These gardeners are cultivating their garden with two row tractor cultivators and like the wider spacing especially after the vines begin to spread.

We haven't yet recovered from the whirlwind visit the Yeagers paid Dakota, July 19-22. Although time permitted only a half hour with them, needless to say we enjoyed the visit very much. Mr. and Mrs. Yeager and their son, Albert Jr., were enroute to Kansas and Nebraska points from where they planned to drive to Urbana, Illinois. Their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hough, now reside at the University of Illinois where Fred is on the staff of the department of horticulture.

The South Dakota and Morden stations are both well represented in the fruit planting of J. R. Prante and his son, Roscoe, of Milner. J. R. has no end of unusual things in his farmstead planting which was started in 1926. Cottonwood trees planted 4x7 feet (Dr. Stoesz and other close planters please gloat) are thriving and 60 feet high. There is, however, more than appears on the surface. It is a water table where free water occurs 12 feet below the surface. No doubt water in a form available to trees can be found much nearer the surface soil than that. As a parting gift Mr. Prante presented me with two large pine cones from California. Thanks again.

Tomatoes as I have seen them are generally dis-

appointing this year. Ten days late in many cases and rather poorly set, they can hardly measure up to what we hoped for in May.

Any admirer of plant material passing through the Devils Lake Region should budget his or her time to permit a visit to the Dr. Sauer home at Lakewood. In addition to a wide variety of material in a nicely landscaped yard, Mrs. Sauer has house plants galore one seldom sees. Mr. Porter's influence can be noted in many of the outdoor plants.

To Editor Simmons goes a high compliment from a North Dakota member. Once a subscriber to many publications, this person remarked recently that he had reduced them to what he considered the two most worthwhile. What were they? The "National Geographic" and the "North and South Dakota Horticulture."

For the past four years the stenographic work for the North Dakota Society has been handled very ably by Florence Nelson. Many of the readers will remember meeting her at Valley City in 1939 and at Fargo in 1940. Florence and Dr. Warren Witman, botanist at the N. D. A. C., were married August 16, 1941. They will make their home in Fargo. The North Dakota Society extends best wishes.

## "DICK SEZ"

By Richard Ben Freiburger

Most everyone should take some pride, in brighten' up the country-side; an' show the folks they never know, what we on our good soil can grow. This Horticulture is a thing, that joy to everyone can bring; an' puts a gladness in your hearts, when from your efforts beauty starts. By gee! your bulbs go in the ground, an' all those special ones you've found; an' soon a joy—instead of gloom—is yours when posies start to bloom. Some fellers say it is a waste, to putter 'round in all that haste; an' tax your muscles with the toil, while plantin' seeds in loamy soil; but if a guy expects to see, his land agrowin' things by gee! He better plan to buy some seeds an' all the other things he needs; an' in a week, or may be three, he'll be as proud as you or me.

Far more challenging and thrilling than new territorial frontiers possibly could be are the new frontiers of the sciences and technologies, the frontiers of knowledge that we ceaselessly push ahead of us into the unknown.—W. J. Cameron.

It used to be that a parson hard up for a sermon subject could always play safe and tear into sin. That was when there was some people around that at least claimed they was against it.—Foxtail Johnson in THE PRAIRIE FARMER.



## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By

W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

One of the privileges of horticultural investigators at the Morden Experimental Station is to have two of their number go once each summer to Dropmore, and study the latest plant breeding achievements of F. L. Skinner. June 28 was invested this year to revel among the broad acres of trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous perennials developed by prairie Canada's outstanding breeder of garden plants.

Frank Skinner has an amazing range of achievements in controlled plant breeding. He has been long and widely known for his introductions of roses, lilies, lilacs, cherries, plums, dianthus, Sorbaria, and Iris. Two of his recent triumphs are hardy chrysanthemums and hybrid daphnes.

For years prairie gardens have yearned for hardy early 'mums. There were hardy types but they were mostly so late that blooming began about the time of damaging autumn frosts. By crossing these with C. zawadskyi, Skinner has many new forms that are hardy, early, and attractive.

In late June his Cottage Maid peony was impressive. It is a live pink with very sweet fragrance and resulted from a cross of Delachi and Festiva Maxima. It stands upright without support of stakes.

A valuable newcomer is his yellow form of Coral lily. Compared to its definitely yellow golden hue, the variety Golden Gleam is considered more red than golden. The lily concolor racemosa was larger than the type and is a deserving candidate for the lily garden.

A willow picked up near Canal Flats in British Columbia is striking, with woolly velvet gray leaves. It adds yet another subject for a composite planting of gray subjects.

In a collection of Engleman spruce many were clothed with blue silver needles. In contrast with the stiff bristly foliage of the popular Colorado spruce, the Engleman is soft.

Manchurian baswood has long pointed foliage. Mongolian oak and Manchurian hazels are thriving. Both purple and yellow fruited forms of oriental plums have good sets of fruit well distributed over the bushes, which indicates adaptability to prairie conditions. The seedling plum introduced as Mandarin adds a new type to the approved fruit list.

One regret is that the Carpathian Walnut continues to kill back in winter to the snow line, and must be considered as unadapted.

Rock garden plants and herbaceous perennials by the score commanded arresting notice. The onion Allium nutens is mild in flavour and probably will become a valued resident in the perennial vegetable garden.

The Morden Experimental Station was in good fortune as to 1941 weather until late June. July has been very dry and lawns, pastures, flower borders, vegetable gardens, orchards and vineyards have suffered from drought and heat as the month proceeded. A few miles to the south, east, west and north rains and showers have been frequent during July, and some near-by points have experienced a surplus that injured crops.

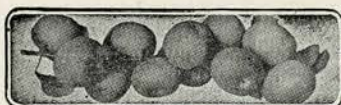
Soil conditions in early summer favoured general seed germination. Weeds of the field were very numerous. So were seedling trees and shrubs and vines of some species. Among these woody subjects that have been more than usually common as volunteers, or escapes, or unwanted guests, in gardens and borders, are box-elder or the so-called Manitoba Maple, red elder, dwarf Asiatic elm, common elm, caragana, cottonwood, honeysuckle, crab apple, Tatarian maple, golden currant, and native white clematis. Of these various vagrants, box-elder and cottonwood are most annoying. They often are found growing right up through a valuable shrub or flower, when the wind-carried seed lodged in the moist soil under the cherished plant and grew. Both grow rapidly and may not easily be extracted if unnoticed for a few weeks.

In late July, four renowned scientists of the U. S. D. A. Soil Conservation Service spent a day to the distinct advantage of Station workers. One of these visitors seemed familiar with every species of the local native grasses. He was impressed with an annual, the Dropseed, Sporobolus neglectus, which has made widespread invasion of the fairways of a local golf course. The grass attains a height of from three to five inches and is fine and curly. The drawbacks are the difficulty to gather seed and that in a year which the seed drop fails the soil area will be bare. It is interesting to note that this annual grass has superseded other native grasses and brome grass on the sandy soil of the hillside golf course.

Iris may be moved in August better than in September. Tulips, lilies, peonies, rock garden and other early perennials, raspberry plants and fruit bushes benefit from moving in early September. Lilacs, roses, larch, mock orange, dogwoods, spireas, and most of the deciduous ornamental stock may be

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By

H. E. Beebe



H. E. Beebe

By the time this is read the 1941 meeting will be historical, and Gurney will be wondering where all the chickens went. This is like the conversation between two hens after the preacher had stayed for dinner. Hen No. 1, "I haven't seen your son lately. What is he doing?" Hen No. 2, "O, he has gone into the ministry." Hen No. 1, "That's fine. Our little biddy is not so large, so we have decided to make her a laymember."

Even tho this is written before the meeting it is safe to say, "A good time was enjoyed by all." Miss Sensor of the Dakota Farmer, and many others have given the meeting unusually good publicity. Now back to the garden, as cleaning up time is approaching.

May I say again, do not clean too much, leave the holly hocks and other stalks to catch snow and the ground rough to hold water.

A young Edmunds County farmer, Harris Swanson, duck foots in the fall, and last spring he drilled grain on the ridges, a week before other farmers could get into their flat fields.

A week of tractor farming makes a difference between catching an early rain or losing it on a great many acres. On the 10 percent of the yield is the big profit. May our flower gardens profit by ridging this fall.

A clump of dry vegetation shelters the birds, as per director Cluett's suggestion. A favorite food of small birds is millet. It will be cheap this fall. Sioux Falls residents can probably buy a half bushel around Sept. 15th, for 50c at J. Earle Gardners feed store, and this amount will last thru the winter. Drop a hand full each morning in a pile and watch the birds make a Town Hall of that spot.

### MAGAZINES MAKE MANY MERRY

In the July issue Brother Graves spoke of a beautiful Dakota picture in Successful Farming, of Letness a Potato grower, and his daughter. Many of our readers may have noticed the good looking limbs in the apple tree which Simmons picked for the August cover. If the Directors for the Society approve I would urge that prizes be given for photographs of beautiful scenes taken in the Dakotas. These can be used in our magazine and other publi-

cations. Suggestions on this will be welcomed. What has Virginia that we do not have? Is it hams?

Talking of beautiful pictures borrow the National Geographic magazine of August 1939 from your library and read, "Floral Garlands of the Prairie," by Edith S. Clements. The pictures are true to life, and I am especially interested with page 221 giving for the amateur a picture of the types and the parts of flowers, enabling one to classify. On page 265 regarding the spider lily it says, "When the sun rises high, the petals wilt." I have not noticed this in our Edmunds County Spider Lilies, but I do notice that the clump brought me by Bro. M. Plin two years ago, is assuming a more prostrate form and leaves seem to be narrower.

This National Geographic goes to Mrs. Briley for our Library, and I know you will enjoy borrowing it.

### PLIN PASSES

Yesterday afternoon a ditch across the road grown high with weeds stopped the car, and as I got out to choose the best route, a flock of ducks got up on the long pond paralleling the road and about 100 feet away.

I thought of how my brother Plin would have watched this and would have foretold how far they would go, and on what part of the pond they would light again. Also I remembered his vivid interest in all wild life, and his bringing in May, to band, a towhee, an oven bird, and a Northern yellow throat. These birds were enjoying the trees, shrubs, and plants on the south side of his home. And in this garden he planted a plot about 20 feet square of tall prairie grass, wild flowers gathered on his many trips thru the State.

These flowers will blossom unheeded by him, the ducks will fly south this fall, but he will not be here to watch, the wealth of natural beauty will put on its ever changing show in vain.

And so, to my good brother I wish to dedicate the poem for September by B. J. W. of Madison which appeared in a recent Argus Leader.

### PHEASANT SEASON

Harvest's over in Dakota,  
Straw piles glisten in the sun.  
Husking contests in the corn fields  
Make of work a world of fun.

But today both farm and village  
Are deserted. Get your gun.  
Come with me along the highway  
Where the Chinese Ringnecks run.

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## FRUIT & VEGETABLE NOTES

By

F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

This has been a very disappointing growing season. Starting with fairly good moisture conditions, a cold June and early July, the rains suddenly stopped in mid-July and have not appeared again up to this, mid-August. As next week is our fair week, perhaps the weather man has been saving up for that occasion. But getting back to the past, the heat was turned on about mid-July and continued till a few days ago, since which time it has failed to reach 90 in afternoons. Whether the weather man is slipping, or merely running out of heat, is a matter of opinion. The week of July 21st, to 25th, must have been the most blisteringly hot as I cannot recall a time when so many tomatoes and cucumbers were literally cooked on the vines. Boys carrying a thermometer on their wrist claim it went above 135. Several thermometers in the green house broke when they reached 120. Of course it was only the early varieties of tomatoes that were cooked, those being a little sparse with vine, much of the fruit not being covered. Cucumbers left in a box from noon to 2 P. M. were cooked thru but it did not cook the onions that were being pulled. The heat sure made that early patch of 7 tomato varieties look bad, too much so to be able to make any fair comparisons but Bounty, Victor, Dakota Red and Firestone Bison will be tested another year. Earlier in the season I told about the tomato plants not doing so well on ground where we used chemicals to eradicate creeping jenny. I notice now that none of the plants have died but the foliage is of a very light color, the vines are small, as is the fruit. This is after the expiration of five or six years since the weeds were treated to a very strong solution of sodium chlorate. I think it is a much better plan to grow an early crop on the weed infested ground and then keep them in check by weekly cultivation, for the balance of the season. It is claimed that one third of the carrot crop of the U. S. is grown in California; the crop was valued at 3 million dollars, but the prices were disappointing during May and the expected higher prices later, did not develop. The new American canal, about 232 feet wide at the head and 20 feet deep, is supplying water for a million acres, half of which has been irrigated by wells and the old canal. The new all American canal ex-

tends north 130 miles to Coachella Valley, north of the Imperial Valley. The land area of the nation is 3352 Square miles larger now than it was in 1930, one third of this increase is in California; the decrease in inland water area and more accurate surveys is the cause of the increase. The growers of this nation have shipped 80 percent of the fruit and vegetables that are imported into Canada during the past 15 years. Evidently some states have had plenty of rain, all five reservoirs of the Salt River district in Arizona have been spilling over, while last year they were at the lowest. There is one million nine hundred thousand acre feet, enough for all farms and 8 hydro-electric plants. Aphids, or plant lice have been very destructive this summer and as the season advances, they multiply rapidly. A new patch of cucumbers planted late, are just coming in blossom and are irrigated, but the lice may take them before they bear. Many people called me up earlier, telling of their vines being covered with them. A certain kind of grass in the carrot patch is covered with them. The gladiolus Picardy is far ahead of any sort we have grown, the past 30 years. The size, color and substance that will stand heat, all are valuable points in this wonderful gladiolus. The earlier types of onions are maturing before the drought and thrips stopped their growth. The Sweet Spanish and globes are still green and growing, where they have had plenty of irrigation. Mr. H. N. Dybvig of Colton, our most important officer, the Treasurer, has an interesting theory about the loss of many chinese elms, last winter. He says they are no mollicoddles and unused to going into the winter with wet roots. He says that in nearly all instances of loss he has investigated, they were trees that the owners thought they were doing them a favor by watering them in the fall. In the shelterbelts, where irrigation was impossible, they came thru with flying green leaves, this spring and apparently the best of health. Here is the poem of the month.

### By the Side of the Road.

Let me live in my home by the side of the road,  
Where the tourist clans go by;  
For someone will sell them hot dogs to eat,  
And it might as well be I.

Author undisclosed, but suspicion points to Editor Rahmlow, anyway it appeared in his magazine, WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE.

A party of Hollywood actors is going to South America on a good will tour. That's the way the U. S. returns ham for beef.

Foxtail Johnson in THE PRAIRIE FARMER



## GARDEN NOTES

By  
W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

Perhaps nowhere than in the garden is the flight of time so revealing, imperceptible apparently, but with all relentless. Here one associates April with our native pasque flower, blue and white Glory of the Snow, intense blue of scilla siberica, then as April fades into May, the cheerful white of penny cress, gold of alyssum, chequered modest bells of fritillaries, warmer carpets of moss phlox in pinks, blues, lavender, white etc. and in early June, the first red of May Queen poppy and tulips in all their glory, to mention a few high lights in this particular spot of Eden. For the diversion of our flower loving members, here are some of my summer observations: June 26th. 5 point stars change green mats of Sedum acre to shining yellow. Large 5 inch orange-red six segmented chalices of Liliun dauricum, candle stick lily, add their quote of midsummer display a lily that not only withstands all our harsh vicissitudes of climate but also complete neglect and never fails. With other madworts past flowering, alyssum markgraffi now carries knee high heavy massed golden corymbs, much after order of very dwarf idaeun; also a second bloom on new dwarf Syringa microphylla that ever blooming lilac, fragrant, with corolla of 2 colors, outside lilac, inside white. Barr's Oenothera lavendulifolia suddenly burst into large primrose bloom—a neat dwarf and dense masses of blue Anchusa affinis, good for background, tho why this 2½ ft. plant has been called an alpine is to me incomprehensible. Dark orange of Anthemis Saneta Johannis comes out simultaneously with, to my mind, the much more attractive and commoner lemon yellow of Kelwayi, every garden visitor here who has not got it, likes to obtain a plant or two of the far too prolife Kelwayi. Midsummer color also splashes the prairie with pale orchid wild penstemon, white or cerise yarrow zonal banded blanket flower and perhaps most beautiful of all the white foamy masses of Galium boreale. June 28th. With a south wind, hot and dry as from the Libyan desert, some of my lately thriving plants vanish, which included all Oenothera Illumination, but am pleased to note that all seedlings of the pretty crown vetch Anthyllis dilleni lately transplanted, successfully defy such attack. This rare thing is a native of Cornwall; the green foliage is beautifully edged with silvered Ciliation and flow-

ers are said to be rose to red. In this terrible year of 1941 we regard anything coming from England with a feeling akin to reverence after reading the official account of the Battle of Britain, August to November 1940 when those brave Islanders, tho outnumbered many times, routed the mighty German Luftwaffe, taking as their motto "Per ardua ad astra" also expressed in Anglican hymnal in these lines: They climbed the steep ascent of heaven thru peril, toil and pain, heaven being symbolic of English way of life without which life itself is not worth having. This metaphor is exemplified in Miss V. Sackville West's latest and most charming book "Country Notes in Wartime." In English rural life, tradition treads on hallowed ground. June 30th On investigation I find that altho well protected the riccantoni Fuschia did not survive our North Dakota winter. July 2nd. The beautiful Penstemon heterophyllus planted in partial shade is out with narrow base, anthers and tubular blushing of rhodamine purple, the flower itself flax blue with two bas relief of white on lip. At last I have a flowering perennial climber that can thriftily survive in North Dakota; it is Convolvulus japonica, sometimes called the California rose, planted late last October it is now climbing all over a fence and covered with large double pink rose-like flowers; Rex Pearce is the dealer. July 8th. Four A. M., daybreak, robin singing for all its worth, whole sky suffused with pink, followed by 3 hours beating rain from the south. Among my delphiniums is a very beautiful pale blue with sepia bee. Wood's new variety of Bellis perennis already in bloom, seed sown indoors in April; from a rosette of leaves arise large double red buds expanding to a bright pink with disk florets yellow and always reverse of ray florets red. Contrary to accepted opinion these plants are thriving in full sun, altho sub-soil is well soaked; an extremely pretty flower for the rock garden Borsch's new cream delphinium is out, tho in my case it is white, very large and double, well worth the price. July 9th. Cool, first tansy aster in bloom, divided clumps of Lakeside daisy which at this time part easily. Saw a lovely newly emerged painted lady butterfly Vanessea cardin, the larva of which feed on thistles, or is it nettles? Have a new stray Lychnis vespertina: white flowers much after the order of pink Flos Jovis, but very fragrant at night. July 17th. Some of my bird friends are cooperating in the potato patch; several times I have planned using a spray for potatoe bugs but each time by tomorrow they have vanished. Looking over my seedlings I find that F. L. Skinner's seeds from Dropmore, Canada, show a higher percentage and greater vigor than any others excepting my own of

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## SECRETARY'S CORNER

By

W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

We acknowledge with thanks, receipt of "Lily Bulletin 1941." Published by THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, 821 Washington loan and Trust building, Washington, D. C., Price 25 cents. This was prepared for the Society by the Lily Committee under the direction of the chairman, Prof. L. H. McDaniels, Ithaca, N. Y. and contains the last word on these beautiful flowers. This Society published Lily Year books in the years 1939 and 1940 at a nominal price of a dollar each and I presume this bulletin is to take the place of the 1941 year book. While not a large book, 24 pages it is full of very practical suggestions regarding lily culture, including culture, propagation, winter care, diseases, advice as to the varieties to raise, their soil and shade requirements, giving lists of those easy to grow, those moderately easy to grow and finally, those considered difficult to grow. We will be glad to forward orders for this booklet and doubt if such condensed and up to date lily information can be obtained elsewhere. In the July number of GARDNER'S CHRONICLE OF AMERICA there is a very common sense article by Alan MacNeil entitled "What lilies shall we plant." He begins by discussing the mosaic disease of lilies, which he says we have probably always had, tho only recently recognized, and assures us that there are many varieties immune to it, others that are tolerant some that may succumb to it after many years and only a very few that cannot survive if exposed to it. The latter short list includes auratum, formosum, japonicum, cernuum, rubellum and superbum, varieties not much used in the ordinary garden anyway. If we crave these sorts, he advises that we treat them as tho they were biennials, plant new bulbs frequently and be satisfied if they bloom but once. All other lilies come in one or the other of the first three classes and can be enjoyed in the garden. Most of us can remember when we did not expect to get a fine box of Washington apples for less than \$3 to \$4. In recent years the price has ranged from \$1 to \$2 for a fine box, nicely graded as to sizes. What these last named prices have done to the growers, is indicated by the aid the Federal Government has recently been compelled to extend, in order that these wonderful apples could continue to come to us. In a recent article in his magazine

THE MOUNTAINEER GROWER, Mr. Carroll R. Miller explains the situation as follows: "A study of Washington's apple situation by Farm Credit Administration indicated that the growers have been averaging to lose 15 cents—maybe 25 cents per packed box yearly for the past 10 years. Private capital several years ago declined to finance further any except a comparatively few orchards there. Mortgages have damned up to average around \$700 per acre. Returns to growers too often in recent years have not, or barely, equalled that year's actual production costs, leaving nothing for interest and retirement. No private money was in sight for most growers for their spraying, thinning, water, and all harvesting costs. Things were actually that bad. Pressed by leading Washington growers and handlers, the U. S. Dept't. of Agriculture has stepped in. The plan is, Federal Government, thru U. S. Dept't. of Agriculture, will finance all Washington apple growers who "sign up" for the program; will provide money for the season's operating and living expenses, and will "scale down" the existing high per-acre debt with the creditors; the Government paying these creditors (at 20 cents or 80 cents on the dollar) with the Government carrying the reduced debt-load, to be amortized by the grower. Immediately, a big reduction in growing expenses is necessary, said the Government specialists; to offset that 15 to 25 cent loss per bushel the past 10 years. All concerned were called into conference; growers, shippers, storages, power companies, supply firms etc." All eased up slightly in their charges to make an estimated saving of about 8 cents per bushel and an effort is now being made to save 7 cents per box on the freight charges. "All this was done voluntarily, in one sense; in another sense it was forced upon them. The growers lacked money to produce the coming crop and the Federal Government was the only source. The Government men presented the plan and said, softly but definitely, "Do as we suggest, or there will be no money." "No money" meant no commercial apple to store or sell and in a couple of years, no apples whatever; there was no alternative. About 85 percent of Washington's apple tonnage is signed up with the plan." Moral; growers have to eat, same as other people, something it seems to take business and consumers a long time to realize and when denied cost of production, the time soon comes when they can no longer produce.

Seeking a spray for fruit trees that will prevent blossoming too early and so risking damage from frost, Prof. C. G. Vinson, University of Missouri, found that an extract of last years dead leaves will delay flower opening, as also will tannic acid solution.—NATIONAL SEEDMAN.





## BOOK REVIEWS

By  
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

Plant Growth Substances, their chemistry and applications, with special reference to synthetics. By Hugh Nicol, published by Chemical Publishing Co. Inc. 148 Lafayette St. Brooklyn, N. Y. Price \$2.00. New and revised edition, 1941.

The author, Hugh Nicol, was born in 1878 and is Hon. Corresponding Editor of *CHRONICA BOTANICA*, the international plant science news magazine. He has written *MICROBES BY THE MILLION*, a laymans introduction to the spirit of microbiological and other sciences. "Bees burnt to ashes, and a ly made with the ashes, trimly decks a bald head, being washed with it." (Unconfirmed quotation from N. Culpeper's Herbal, 1653).

The above quotation introduces the preface to the second edition which is found as chapter 3 in *Plant Growth-Substances*. The chief changes since the writing the first edition have been of horticultural value and interest, together with growth substances, the use of synthetics in grafting, and the questions of bud inhibition and retarding of flowering. The book therefore is about drugs that produce, control, or regulate growth in plants.

Our Secretary and Editor will be especially interested to find one of his favorite plants identified in the chapter on scientific work on effects of the synthetic growth substances and is a *kalanchoe daigremontiana*, Mr. Simmons? A tropical greenhouse species, and in fig. 3 of that chapter the plant of K. d. is shown untreated, while to the right is an illustration of a plant K. d. showing the collar of white roots, induced near the top of the stem ten days after local treatment with a lanolin preparation containing 0.05 per cent methyl 3 indole acetate. The book is full of just such experiments and makes most fascinating reading.

*Gardening With Brains*, by Henry T. Finck, has been donated to the library of the Horticultural Society by our President, Mr. Beebe. The book is a very readable guide for lovers of choice flowers and juicy vegetables.

It has chapters on rapid transit to the table, meaning for corn, tomatoes and potatoes, favorite garden flowers, when vegetables get pneumonia; two thousand acres of sweet peas, gardeners who paint the lily, do apples keep the doctor away?

Why not grow pa-paws and other thot producing topics. In the name of the Society thank you Mr. Beebe.

## BOOK REVIEW

By  
Mrs. E. W. Gould



Mrs. E. W. Gould

*Herbertia*, 1940. Published by the American Amaryllis Society, Orlando, Florida, Price \$3.25.

*Herbertia*, 1940, is dedicated to Latin America, the amaryllids of that continent and to some of the prominent botanists and collectors of that region. New species of amaryllis are described by some of these, notably Senor Alberto Castellanos and Dr. Rudolph Phillippi, have discovered and described many.

Valuable cutural and plant breeding papers on the amaryllids are also included from Dr. T. H. Goodspeed of the University of California. Mr. W. M. James, of Santa Barbara, Calif., Mr. E. J. Anderson of Florida and others, important contributions being by L. S. Hannibal, Dr. J. C. Uplof, also several appreciative notes on Carl Pury of California, who was the first to send native seeds and bulbs to foreign growers and who has covered the state and mountains in his many collecting wanderings. A surprisingly large number of plants are classed as members of this family as listed in this new year book of the American Amaryllis Society as among the Amaryllids are included such widely different subjects as *Agave*, *Alstroemeria*, *Clivia*, *Cooperia*, *Crinum*, *Cyrtanthus*, *Eucharis*, *Galanthus*, *Hippeastrum*, *Hymenocallis* (Peruvian Daffodil), *Leucojum*, *Lycoris*, *Narcissus*, *Nerine*, *Sternbergia*, *Zephyranthes*, *Chlidanthus* and other plants less well known. The Society is also extending its interest beyond the botanical family limits held by most botanists, when it deals most instructively with large family of *Hemerocallis* as well as *Agapanthus*, and

Continued on Page 108



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By

S. A. McCrory



*Q. Is there any way garden flowers can be preserved so they will retain their natural shape and color?*

A. The chief problem in preserving the natural appearance of summer flowers is to remove the water and prevent contraction of the drying parts. If the flower can be placed in a container and gently covered with fine, dry sand for a few weeks it will dry and yet retain the natural appearance. Brightly colored flowers

lose very much of their color when exposed to light and air. Chemicals such as allum, plaster of Paris, borax and sulfur have been reported as satisfactory materials. Their use can not be generally recommended for all flowers.

*Q. At what stage of development should gladiolus spikes be harvested?*

A. Cut gladiolus spikes when the first blossoms open. If harvested early in the morning while cool and placed in water they will last much longer as cut flowers.

*Q. I have a poinsettia carried over last winter in the basement. This summer it was placed in a shaded place on the lawn. Can it be made to blossom at Christmas time?*

A. If the poinsettia has made good growth it should blossom at Christmas without special care. Leave it outside until there is danger of frost. Then bring the plant in the house and give it about the same amount of light and care that are given ferns. It should be in full blossom by Christmas.

*Q. Should fruit trees from which the grasshoppers have eaten the leaves be watered now?*

A. There is danger that trees from which leaves have been removed prematurely will start growth when water is applied. This late growth will make the tree very susceptible to winter injury. It would be better not to apply water until after frost. After that time water should be applied freely before the ground freezes.

*Q. My spruce trees are turning a brownish color and seem to be covered with a web like material. Can anything be done to restore the natural green color?*

A. No doubt the evergreens are being injured by red spiders. This insect is very common over most of the state every year and becomes especially bad during dry hot weather. It is a little late to

prevent the injury this year. The adult lays eggs early in the summer and if weather conditions are favorable they soon build up a tremendous population. They feed by sucking the sap from the leaves of the plant.

The most common control measure is a spray of lime-sulfur. As the spray may give some injury when the weather is hot it would be well to use a spray made from dry lime-sulfur instead of the liquid. In either case the dilution suggested by the manufacturer should be followed. Two applications made at ten day intervals during June should control this insect.

## EARED AND HORNED GREBES

Continued from Page 98

Florence Merriam Bailey, writing of the birds in Glacier National Park, commented: "In manner, also, it (eared grebe) is quite different from the cocky little horned grebe, which comes up from below with a shake of its feathers, points its bill down and is gone; for it will sit quietly on the water looking at you with gentle interest for some time."

Mrs. Bailey spent two summers in North Dakota about 25 years ago. Among her notes of that time occurs the following: "When the eared grebes of Stump Lake had become familiar friends, two horned grebes appeared along the shore and were seen for three or four days, when they disappeared as suddenly as they had come. They were noted with interest by a party of eared grebes who turned their heads to look at the strangers as they swam by. The visitors were generally so wet from constant diving that it was hard to tell their dry colors, and their soaked crests were so flattened that they looked round headed."

The nests float on the water among the rushes, but the eared grebe nests in colonies, while the horned grebes nest in single pairs. The eggs are white, about one and three fourths inches long. As with other grebes, the birds cover the nests when leaving. Dr. Roberts describes a colony. The eared grebe feeds largely upon aquatic insects. The horned eats a considerable number of small fish of no value.

## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

Continued from Page 100

out to advantage in deeply moist soil during the latter half of September. Any foliage that adheres to the subjects to be moved should be gently but firmly pulled off.

There seems to be important benefit to shrubs and trees that are moved in autumn by incorporating a pailful of acid peat with the mellow soil that is to be packed about the root of each specimen. All newly set stock should go into the winter with well moistened roots.





## DORMANT LAWN SEEDING

### Good Lawn Mixture Unaffected by Severe Winter

While it is customary to complete the seeding of new lawn areas and the renovating of established lawns during September it is quite feasible if necessary to defer this work even well into December. The largest operation of this nature was undertaken on a 10-acre tract: Sippo Park, Massillon, Ohio. The seeding in this instance, through force of circumstances, was not completed until December 15, 1939 and that winter was the severest on record in the previous twenty years and it was followed by a cold, wet spring. By May, 1940, in spite of the lateness of the seeding and the drastic winter, a uniform growth of young grass of brilliant color was achieved.

Tests at the Scott Lawn Research, as well as those conducted independently by several State experiment stations, have shown conclusively that when, for one reason or another, seeding has to be deferred until winter, it is still entirely possible to achieve a good lawn the following spring if certain fundamental practices have been observed.

### Fall or Early Winter Ideal

Of course, lawn seed sown after early October in sections north of the Mason-Dixon line will not germinate before winter sets in, but the seed will lie dormant and unharmed until the first days of early spring. Such seed, over-wintering in the soil, will germinate and develop into grass much more rapidly than if seeding had been delayed until spring.

### Effect of Winter on Grass

A well-fertilized, sturdy sod will withstand practically any extremes of temperature according to J. W. Lentz, Director of the Scott Lawn Research. The plants merely go into cold storage and, though they may perhaps lose their color for the time being, they will continue to live and breathe in readiness for the period of active growth in early Spring. A thick sod, this same noted authority on lawn problems declares, is highly resistant to the action of frost. Its sturdy, fibrous roots actually bind the surface soil together and its long blades shade the soil and thereby reduce the amount of thawing during mild spells.

The use of any kind of a mulch on lawns during winter should be avoided as it has been the observation of the Scott Lawn Research that the use of a mulch is one way to introduce weeds into a lawn, to say nothing of the tendency of a mulch to smother the grass when it becomes matted. For the same reason, falling leaves from the trees should be removed by carefully raking the grass with a flexible rake. A good precaution, too, is to rope off the

lawn area with the advent of cold weather as walking on the brittle grass is apt to do considerable damage.

### Good Lawn Mixture Most Economical

One basic principle in lawn making that cannot be too strongly emphasized is to avoid low, first-cost lawn mixtures, especially in fall seeding. They are invariably composed of annual grasses which have not the resistance to withstand winter conditions. The high grade mixtures composed of deep-rooting varieties of perennial grasses on the other hand are the most economical and give assurance of a good all-over lawn carpet.

The home gardener or the professional greenkeeper who uses weed-free, perennial mixtures and keeps the lawn well fertilized and cut sufficiently high has little reason to fear that it will be damaged by the rigors of even the severest winter nor, for that matter, by summer droughts. Lawns are what you make them. They can appear very bedraggled and unkempt if the area was improperly prepared in the first instance and planted with cheap seed mixtures. They can, on the other hand, be good-looking, healthy and luxuriant if the ground was properly prepared and seeded with a good mixture, fertilized with a reliable lawn food, and properly mowed and maintained the year round.

## GARDEN NOTES

Continued from Page 103

1940 vintage. Have just read of the passing of Mr. Fulton Graves, father of our genial Secretary, Mr. Harry A. Graves. We extend our deep sympathy to Mr. Graves in his loss. July 18th. In a wilderness part of the garden, while pulling weeds, I found and marked for experiment a delphinium of medium height with stems of very dark blue, very pale and one flower stem of medium blue flowers, all growing on one plant. Each flower had a white bee. July 21st. Highest year temperature, 96. Between haying, picking raspberries in my garden wilderness (the berries, this year are large, juicy and very plentiful, enough for both me and all the birds) and garden observations, I find time fully occupied. Under a blistering heat and drought, delphiniums reach and pass their zenith of glory, but the fairy spikes of blue veronica incanna and its still more charming pink variety rosea hoary clad, a protection from intense heat, continue the theme of our all too short summer pageant of color.

There's talk now of permanent waves for men. Most of the old boys would be satisfied with permanent hair and let the wave part go.—Artesian Commonwealth.



**THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Continued from Page 101

Chauffered cars from out the cities,  
Modest cars from tenant farms,  
Rub elbows in the search for plunder;  
Deafening is the sound of arms.

Strings of pheasants slung on shoulders,  
Tied on car doors and on nags,  
Pheasants left for friends on doorsteps  
Other labelled with game tags!

Everywhere a fragrance rises,  
As of a mighty barbecue,  
Families settle down to feasting  
With their friends and strangers too.

Pheasant season in Dakota —  
Tangy autumn days with sun—  
Days of feasting, sport and frolic  
What excitement and what fun.

**BOOK REVIEW**

Continued from Page 105

has even included the numerous onions (Allieae), heretofore among members of the lily family. An important section of the report is that given over to the *Hermerocallis* family now enjoying such a vogue. In addition to descriptions of the numerous hybrids, recently introduced, are informative lists of varieties classified as to blooming seasons, colors, size and a list of the now considered "Ten Best Day-lilies."

Interesting accounts of collecting tours in South Africa, South America, Central America and Mexico add to the interest of the lay reader, who may be stunned by the wealth of botanical terms, but for use as a reliable reference volume it will be found valuable to the student interested in these outstanding and beautiful flowers.

A weed is an incredible thief. For each pound that certain types of weeds gain in weight, they steal about 100 gals. of water. Yet a garden sunflower requires only 54 gals. for all its growth, a tomato only 34. A ton of mixed weeds robs the soil of 18 pounds of nitrogen; sorrel plunders 28 lbs., the brigand mustard steals 75. To replace these total losses of soil fertility requires a very considerable quantity of balanced fertilizer. In other words, a pound of plant food may be consumed by each 3 lbs. of weeds in your garden.

A dozen weeds allowed to mature can deprive the roots of their flowering neighbors of more than a year's supply of food.

Logan and Putnam in *Science in the Garden*.

A man starts out as an escort to girl. Then she marries him and from there out she's his convoy.—  
Foxtail Johnson in *THE DAKOTA FARMER*.

Civilization is not transmitted in heredity, and has to be acquired anew by every individual.

Max Eastman in *THE READER'S DIGEST*.

A death certificate reached the coroner recently. In the blank space reserved for "cause of death," the doctor wrote his own name. The coroner sent the blank back to the "doc" with this note: "I don't doubt your word, but you better write in some scientific reason."

When the market editor has a holiday to cope with, he keeps in trim for his job typing such as this: Skirts high and consistently sold short. Razor transactions sharp during past week. Rye strong. Autos prominent on the curb, Edison light. Airplanes in sharp decline. Elevators rising. Lead heavy. Red Flannels off, and cigaret-lighters uncertain. Will power weak. Many runs in silk stockings, etc., etc.  
—Ferdinand D. Buell.

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