

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

April, 1942



Our early bird wild flower, the prairie crocus. Our latin students have given this flower various hard names, none of which I think are deserved. Many of us prefer to call it by its first name, that is, the first name we learned.



THE GADWALL

By
By O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

It is with hesitancy that I venture to write of a bird which I probably could not identify in the field in case I should see it. The fine points of ducks are puzzling, even to the semi-professionals, and we amateurs who never lived on a duck pond nor pointed a gun at a duck, are easily dismayed at the similarities of plumage of different species and the variations with age, season and sex.

The gadwall is an ancient citizen. It is one of the species recorded by Linnaeus in 1758 and occurs without essential variation over most of the northern hemisphere. Even its name is the same in other countries! "Gray duck" seems to be about the only variant. Linnaeus referred to its mention by Gesner, 200 years earlier, who used the same scientific name, and to Willughby, the first outstanding British ornithologist, who called it "the godwall or gray".

To the uninitiated it probably passes in a mixture composed of female mallards, pintails, shovelers and baldpates. The general pattern of the back and belly of the male is gray with fine black crossbars, but the female seems to revert to the indistinctive patterns of other species. A white patch in the rear part of the wing is rated as one of the best recognition marks. There is a black band just in front of this and the male has a reddish patch ahead of the black—on the bend of the wing. The bird is smaller and more slender than the mallard. The baldpate is quite similar but has the white wing spot on the front part of the wing.

Dr. Roberts states that in the early days the gadwall was one of the most common ducks in Minnesota, that it suffered most severely by the breaking up of the prairies but has increased somewhat in recent years.

Mr. A. C. Bent was vividly impressed with the numbers which he found at Crane Lake, Saskatchewan, in 1905, "I have never seen so many ducks before nor since. This was the center of their abundance in one of the greatest duck breeding resorts I have ever seen". In 1901 he had studied them in Nelson County, North Dakota, at Stump Lake. This place was the third of the national refuges to be established (1902), but our dry seasons since then have sadly depleted it.

Mr. Bent found that the gadwall preferred islands for nesting, but also used meadows and prairies, sometimes far from water. The usual

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number of eggs is 10 to 12. They are nearly oval, dull creamy white, a little over two inches long.

The gadwall is usually regarded as a good table duck. It feed largely upon plant material, especially upon the leaves and stems of water plants, not so much on seeds as does the mallard. The amount of animal food taken has been found lower than for any other duck.

A quotation from Huntington, "Our Feathered Game", 1903, is both interesting and amusing. "One day when shooting on a little pond quite near the Devils Lake (North Dakota), I shot a large number

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NEWSLANTS

By
H. A. Graves



H. A. Graves

North Dakota has several black walnut trees that are hardy and bear annual crops of nuts. A common question in connection with these trees is how long a time elapses between planting the nut and bearing age of the resulting tree. Carroll Anderson of Warick reports this past winter that two trees raised from seed planted in 1921 bore nuts in 1940. This seems a long time but it must be remembered these trees grew in trying times and suffered many hardships.

The Victory Garden Program goes forward apace. Some have raised the question as to whether all this increase in Home Gardening won't hurt the Commercial Gardening business. **THE MARKET GROWERS JOURNAL** for March 1, 1942, comments on this as follows: "Experiences of World War I led many gardeners to believe that War Gardens did two things. (1) They taught people how good vegetables are, what a wide variety is available, and they focused attention on nutritional values. (2) They taught people that vegetables do not come from the garden without effort and care and risk of not getting them and also that they are very cheap at markets."

Many city people who have raised worthwhile gardens in the past have somewhere got the idea that our government does not want city folks to garden at all. This is not true. What the government *does not* want is any gardens attempted in unsuitable areas such as *old lawns*, cindered back yards and tennis courts. Use of such places would only waste precious seed and energy.

R. S. McIntosh, long-time secretary of the Minnesota Horticulture Society, has had a setback and is not in the best of health. Hope for a speedy recovery is extended by the North Dakota Society.

THE CONSUMERS' GUIDE for March 1 is devoted to Victory Gardens. Highlighting the issue are a dozen illustrated "don'ts" for gardens. The issue is very worthwhile if you can grab into one somewhere. I might also mention that a set of six very good charts on gardening is available from the Superintendent of Documents at Washington, D. C. Ask for the 1941 edition, #1, **THE HOME GARDEN**, (6 charts), price 20 cents.

Doctor C. B. Waldron received the sad news recently of the accidental death of his grandson, Don-

ald. Don was a son of Max Waldron of Babson Park, Florida, and was 15 years old.

THE NDAC BOTANY NEWSLETTER for March, edited by O. A. Stevens, gives considerable space to L. H. Bailey. Liberty Hyde Bailey was born in Michigan 84 years ago. His **CYCLOPEDIA OF HORTICULTURE** and **HORTUS** are horticultural bibles. Our own C. B. Waldron was one of his first students. I am in hopes Editor Simmons prints all or at least extracts of this **NEWSLETTER**, otherwise I would be moved to include more of it here.

A recent post brings a letter from Maurice Dahmus of Regent. Mr. Dahmus is recently from Illinois and is just a thesis short of a Ph.D. in horticulture. He has joined the Horticultural Society and plans a fruit planting for their farm. He is anxious to be of help in promoting horticulture on the Missouri Slope.

J. R. Prante, once of Milnor, but now of 539 Leland Avenue, San Jose, California, came through with an interesting letter in March. J. R. has been a member of our Society for some time, a lover of horticultural things, and a contributor to our magazine. He had been making garden and had peas up 4 inches high on March 11. He mentioned that Jap nursery stock was for sale at sacrifice prices. In his travels he has seen beautiful scenery and comments on the special beauty of the Acacia and flowering peaches. His love for trees had also taken him out to see the Giant Redwoods in Big Basin Park.

THE GADWALL

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of ducks and nearly all of them were gadwalls". Other ducks were all about and he had no decoys. "In fact the ducks were always so abundant that I could kill as many as I could carry, without decoys, and an abundance from the garrison came out to carry in the game."

Wives ain't like cars. You can't ever cut the upkeep by trading the old one in on a new model.
Foxtail Johnson in **THE PRAIRIE FARMER**

NORTHERN GROWN GLADIOLUS

You will find much of interest in our 1942 List and no War Prices.

Most of the better varieties—both old and new—which are satisfactory growers.

May we send it to you?

GEO. E. MILLEN
Sheyenne, N. D.



MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By

W. R. Leslie



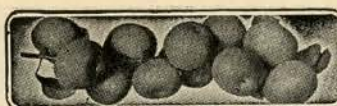
W. R. Leslie

The Manitoba Horticultural Association has issued a list of vegetables, as approved for 1942 planting. Each variety has won its place by merit proved in local performances.

- Artichoke
Jerusalem White skinned types
Asparagus Mary Washington, Martha Washington
- Beans
Green Podded Bountiful (early), Plentiful (early and moderately disease resistant), Giant Stringless Green Pod, Altoba (for trial)
Wax Podded Webber Wax (early), Round Pod Kidney Wax, Davis Stringless, White Wax, Pencil Pod Black Wax.
- Baking or
Dry Shell Princess of Artois (early), Norwegian Brown, Burbank Navy, Grainer (Gohns Rainy River), Great Northern (large), Bush Cranberry (triple purposes)
- Pole Oregon Giant (early), Scarlet Runner, Blue Lake
- Edible Soybean.... Agate (early)
- Beets Early Wonder (early), Detroit Dark Red, Good for All, Ohio Canner, Perfected Detroit, (long & half long Blood for storage)
- Borecole or Kale... Dwarf Green Curled Scotch
- Broccoli Italian Green Sprouting or Calabrese
- Brussel Sprouts.... Improved Dwarf
- Cabbage
Green Golden Acre (early), Vienna (early non-splitting), Dark Green Copenhagen or Green Acre, Danish Ballhead, Penn. State Ballhead (short stemmed)
Red Round Red Dutch (early) Red Rock (late)
Savoy Chieftain Savoy, Suttons Best of All.
- Cauliflower Early Snowball, Snowdrift, Dwarf Erfurt #18 (Express Erfurt #18)

- Carrot Nantes (early, very brittle, not suitable for commercial washing) Red Cored Chantenay, Morses Bunching, Supreme Half Long
- Celery Golden Plume, Easy Blanching, Salt Lake or Utah (green), Sutton Al (red)
- Celeriac Large Turnip Rooted
- Chard Lucullus
- Chicory Whitloof (for basement forcing)
- Chinese Cabbage... Chihli
- Citron Red Seeded
- Corn Golden Gen (very early), Gills Early Golden Sweet (early), Dorinny (early, Burbank Bantam (med. early), 8 row Golden Bantam (late)
- Hybrids (for
trial) Spancross P39, Spancross C14-13, Vee 857-205 XC13, Earligold
- Pop Corn Tom Thumb (yellow, Pinkie (pink), Black Beauty (black)
- Cucumbers Earliest Green (extra early), Kirby Stays Green (early), Straight 8 (early), Ace, President, Delcrown (slicing)
- Pickling &
Dill National Pickling, Mincu
- Egg Plant Black Bountiful (early), New Hampshire Hybrid (early), Black Beauty
- Ground Cherry.... Novelties Golden and Purple Husk Tomato, Solanberry, Golden Huckelberry or Wonderberry
- Herbs Anise, Balm, Borage, Caraway, Catnip, Chervil, Chives, Dill, Fennel, Garden Cress, Horehound, Lavender, Mint, Marjoram, Pot Marigold, Mustard, Rosemary, Saffron, Sage, Summer Savory, Sweet Basil, Thyme, Wormwood.
- Horse Radish..... Miliner Kren
- Kohl Rabi White Triumph of Prague, Purple Vienna
- Leeks Giant Musselburg, Giant Carentan
- Lettuce
Leaf Grand Rapids, Black Seed Simpson
Head Crisp as Ice, New York #12, Sweetheart (for trial)
- Cos Little Gem or Sucrine, Paris White

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BEEBE'S PHILOSOPHY

By
H. E. Beebe

APRIL ATTENTION ACCOMPLISHES AUGUST ARBORS



H. E. Beebe

S. Dak. readers have probably seen the picture of "Frame Gardens," 12x24 fenced by 18" high solid boards on south side 3' high on the north side and a curtain of muslin to roll down to keep out air, (cold or hot) and to keep in or out the sun's heat.

It was greatly refreshing to see this in the Feb. S. Dak. 4H Club bulletin and in most newspapers of the state. This shows that the State College educators have decided to recognize our climate.

A few days ago I stopped in at a seed meeting in Leola—the hall was packed with earnest farmers. Norgaard was talking about a good variety of seed corn from Minnesota and said, "we must realize, however, that our weather is different and this corn must be acclimated."

So, in our April efforts (and I believe in planting trees and shrubs as soon as the holes are dug) let us carefully consider where they shall be placed.

J. B. Minahan, northwest of Lake Andes writes: "Thanks for the Horticulture magazine. When my help gets back from the Service I want to take up some of that work. I have found that there are small patches of ground scattered around where trees thrive even in poor seasons. We can't have big groves or orchards but can have lots of stuff if we go at it right."

General McArthur had the same idea, he decided right away to cut the coat to fit the cloth, let Manila go and the Stars and Stripes are still floating on Batan Peninsula. Long may they wave.

The N. Dak. Horticultural Society has come out for more gardens and may I especially urge erection of the frame garden mentioned above using second hand material and home labor in S. Dak.

MY MOTHER'S MILE STONES

On April 5th, my mother will celebrate her 86th birthday. She was born in Iowa, lived in Illinois and New York, before coming to Aberdeen, S. D. in 1883. In 1885 the Milwaukee Railroad pushed west to Ipswich and a great influx of people "from all points east" ran Ipswich up to 1500 in a few months.

In addition to the heat and cold winds and blizzards, (see "Free Land" by Rose Wilder Lane), I arrived in Feb., 1886 making a family of six in the few back rooms of the old one story wooden bank building. Although my mother came from countries of less wind and more rain, I have never heard

her complain and any elements of steadfastness and cheerfulness I may have are due to her training!

In those days, the single yellow rose bushes and the few lilacs were our only perennials. In the garden, moss roses, California poppy, pansies and Candy Tuft. Through all these years, every summer the morning sun has seen my mother in her garden on the Yellowstone Trail of which my father was the first president. In the early spring, in the old wooden house, she had narcissus and hyacinth bulbs blossoming in loose stones in bowls. These early memories bring to mind Wadsworth's Daffodils which is now dedicated to my mother's birthday as a birthday card and a greeting to all lover's of spring outdoors.

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vale and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Many of us know gems of thought that bring flower pictures to the minds eye, regardless of the season but often we do not know where they come from. I'll add as scripture measure "Raining Violets" by—you probably don't know—like myself until I consulted Cheerio,, written by Robert Loveman.

It is not raining rain to me,
It's raining daffodils!
In every dimpled drop I see
Wild flowers, on the hills
The clouds of gray engulf the day
And overwhelm the town—
It is not raining rain to me,
Its raining roses down.
A health unto the happy
A fig to him who frets—
It is not raining rain to me,
Its raining Violets.

HORTICULTURAL HOPS

From New Jersey, Mrs. De Cou kindly offers the horticultural books from her late husbands library and by now brother Simmons or Librarian Briley probably have them. By the way, Miss Mercedes MacKay, manager of the state Free Library Commission has some very good books on gardening that she is anxious South Dakotans should read. Write her at Pierre as she may have just the book you want in the library of I believe over 20,000 volumes.

Young Harry Germain of Ipswich saw a meadow lark on March 1st and E. Y. Berry editor of the McLaughlin Messenger on March 4th said Dewey Slater of the State Line Neighborhood saw one that week. It is interesting that the birds come to S. Dak. in waves.

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FRUIT & VEGETABLE NOTES

By
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

An interesting place visited a few days before the return trip, was an oyster house where six Chinamen were opening the shells and taking out the oysters. One was working on the big ones while another was opening the real small ones and others, the medium size. Another place of interest was the Agate shop, where Agates from all parts of the world are polished and on exhibit. The bag full I brot from the beach did not look so good after viewing all these.

The state to the south of Oregon used 265,000 tons of fertilizer in 1941, amounting to 15 million dollars. The Milwaukee ticket agent at Portland was willing to change my ticket so I could go back by the southern route, over the U. P., by way of Boise, Cheyenne, Grand Island and Omaha, but he was a good salesman and showed me that by taking the U. P. Northeast to Spokane, then to take the Milwaukee the rest of the way home, I would see the Olympian Trail and glorious mountain scenery that I missed on the way out because of darkness, so I took more notes on the return trip. A large delegation of Portland people and the Multinoma athletic club were at the station to see the champion young girl swimmer off on the way to Washington to be the guest of Mrs. Roosevelt at the President's birthday party. She had been a victim of the dread disease infantile paralysis just a few years ago and now was the champion swimmer at 16 years of age. There was more snow and ice, out of Portland and all the way up the gorge and on up to Spokane; the rivers and lakes were frozen over. St. Joe and St. Maries are lumber towns where many mills are located on the banks of rivers and lakes. We have gone through 8 tunnels in Washington, one 11,890 feet long, and in the narrow strip of route in Idaho there are 18 tunnels thru solid rock, one 1516 feet long, but the first one in Montana is 8,771 feet long and there are 19 more. The 656 miles of electric line in the western half of Montana, thru the Bitter Root Mountains and the fruit district by the same name, is known to be the most remarkable railroad engineering in the United States. At East Portal you enter a tunnel in Idaho and when you come out you are in Montana. St. Paul Pass tunnel is 4170 feet above sea level and is 8,771 feet long, is the first one in Montana and marks the summit of the Bitter Root Mountains. The electrically operated train on the 440 miles between Avery and Harlowtown, is thru

the most wonderful panorama seen in Montana's Canyons. Rock walls towering heavenward, seem to rise as barriers to further progress but the train goes on around and we come out in another river valley. At Trident, seven miles northeast of Three Forks is the birthplace of the Missouri river, at an elevation of 4,062 ft. above sea level. Here, three crystal clear little rivers, the Madison, Jefferson and the Gallatin, named by Lewis and Clark, when camped there in 1805, come together to form the Missouri river, which is also crystal clear for the first 200 miles of its course. A branch line from Three Forks runs south east down to Gallatin Gateway, a terminus from which the company operates busses into Yellowstone Park, a very scenic route up the Gallatin valley. To the east are the Bridger Mountains, to the west the Madison and the Tobacco Root Ranges and we have just left the Rockies but are in the midst of the Shining Mountains. Since we have left Pipestone Pass tunnel where the sign marks the "Continental Divide" at 6347 feet, the mighty motors seem to sort of hold the train back in the swinging wide circles, always lower; at Vendome we see the tracks far below and in a short time we look up to see the tracks over which we have just travelled. At Grace and on east the roadbed is cut into a rocky mountain side, with vertical walls on the left and a beautiful rock-strewn wooded valley to the right. On the bare slopes of the Rockies granite boulders in all shapes lie about as if strewn by hands of giants. Tiny trees, dwarfed by a cruel struggle against storm, drought and time, holding to mother earth with scant security, dot the landscape. The Rocky Mountains truly merit the name. Butte, almost as large as Sioux Falls, is built on the richest hill in the world, where one third of the nations copper comes from, also much gold and silver, found associated in the one with the copper. At Harlowtown we leave the 88 foot electric giant locomotive weighing 567,000 lbs., yet so docile, the touch of the finger in the cab moved the train so silently and smoothly that just a fleeting glimpse of a town or ranch house is seen.

But the familiar chug, chug of the big steam locomotive, coupled on at Harlowtown, does not change the silent roller bearings in the cars. There's still a few ranges of mountains that I never heard of before, such as Crazy mountains and Bull mountains. Between Harlowtown and Melstone we have crossed the Musselshell river many times, as we come down thru this long valley. At Miles City we cross the Tongue river reminiscent of the ill-fated Custer expedition, where Signal Butte is one of several, reaching all the way to the Black Hills that the Indians used in their telegraphic operations. At Plevna, south of the tracks are black and brown

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GARDEN NOTES

By
W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

For residents of the Dakotas the joy of April is that spring, wreathed in green and garlanded with flowers and, its entourage of summer, bird life, has at last dispelled winters bondage of cold, darkness, fog, and snow tho it must be admitted that during midwinter of 1941-1942 Nature dealt tenderly with us. I note, that low shrub *Abelia grandiflora* from Skinner and a member of the honeysuckle family, still retains all last summers foliage. Feb 6th, 5 below zero, lowest since early January, and preceded by a few inches of snow. How the arrival of nursery catalogs stimulates spring fever—to me, so far the most appealing is a new *Daphne somerset*, from England, a low bush-type much like mezerum in appearance, flowers perhaps a brighter pink, an evergreen in so far as last years foliage remains until spring leaf burst, said to be outstanding shrub for last 15 years and will stand clipping. This can be purchased from Wayside Gardens, Mentor, Ohio, and certainly this location in North Dakota is eminently suited for *Daphne*. Feb. 11th. Since beginning of month, January mildness has yielded to a more seasonable cold, with some driftless snow, temperature around zero but mostly sunny and windless; from what one reads, weather much like summer on Greenland's ice cap. My indoor garden shows healthy green but not one bloom, causing one to realize that we owe to the Great Designer for the pleasures of life, for outdoors, all these plants would be giving of their best in flowers and fruit. Having received Rex Pearce's 1942 catalog 37A, with its 3000 flower seeds, plants and bulbs, time takes wings over its perusal, day dreaming perhaps, but with a determination that some, at least of those dreams must and shall come true. However for this year, attempting to exercise a little restraint, I limited my experiments to 27 species which included a hardy *Rheum* from Burma, a region much in the public eye just now. It is KW 7101 and is said to attain a height of 7 feet. So much for hardy rhubarb. While on the subject of spectacular effects, all the plants of great blue teasel *Dipsacus sylvestris* were quite green in seed row at the end of January, a packet of seed costs 10 cents and I believe every seed came up. It is a biennial, so any one can afford this showy plant. Formerly the teasel was used commercially for raising nap of cloth. At the other end of the scale is a new speedwell *Veronica caucasica* 6 inches high, downy with white,

blue-veined flowers, native of that hardly contested region between the Black and Caspian seas. Recently the weekly "London Calling" had a most informative, well illustrated article called "A journey thru the Caucasus" by Sir John Russell F.R.S. (the greatest authority in the world on soils), he tells us there are 14 mountain peaks higher than Mt. Blanc, the highest mountain in Europe, the Caucasus range is 700 miles long and the region is very inaccessible; this plant is probably a high alpine. Feb. 17th. 21 below zero at 9 A. M. with driving, powdery snow; like history, weather repeats itself and similarly this time worse, for tho a lignite fire was aglow in the kitchen range, a pot of water on same range was iced, an object lesson in the heating property of North Dakota lignite coal. Farm chores are doubtless a healthy, needful occupation but can also be extremely unpleasant but "Wot cheer" as the cockney says. Coming to a warm indoors, awaits a nice chatty letter from Claude Barr and also Wm. Borsch & Co's. 1942 list of "Hardy native and imported plants from Oregon. Experience has shown a most surprising number of these plants hard or impossible to obtain elsewhere, are perfectly at home in this region, so I must just squeeze in a few this spring. A new *Arabis* (rock cress) *Ferdinand Coburg*, (sounds as if German) that blooms again in the fall as well as spring; also a pink Var. rose of the speedwell *Veronica teucrinum*, the golden leaved Var. *trehane*, purchased some years ago has been divided and multiplied indefinitely and I have decided once more to try a clump of the Bear or Squaw grass *Xerophyllum tenax*, nursery grown. Some years ago my wife and myself spent a short vacation in Glacier National Park, Montana; this was one of the purple spots in our lives. How strange it is that a perfectly trivial event down lifes path can be indelibly stamped on the memory when thousands of other things are forgotten. It was on one morning during the next winter that she said to me: "Oh, I had such a wonderful dream; we were driving by St. Mary's lake and it was so lovely and I was so happy." From this road there is a never to be forgotten view of the snow capped peak of Matterhorn—like Sun mountain, rising west of St. Mary's lake. Unfortunately our plans to revisit the park never materialized; it must have been about mid-July that the majestic, creamy plumes of Bear grass were expanding in the pine glades and tho we carefully dug up a plant, it survived a little less than a year. Tho unrelated, the Bear grass has much of the charm and grace of the *Agapanthus* (Blue Lily of the Nile.) Feb. 21st. Alas for Lenten resolutions of self denial, for today a pretty folder came from Hereford Gardens, Oakford, Illinois, listing a real yellow delphinium, tall, hardy, wind resistant yearling plants at 50 cents each, postpaid.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By
S. A. McCrory

(It is the practice to select questions directed to this department from people out in the state, using those most nearly timed to fit the season of the year.)



S. A. McCrory

the order named, starting on March 15 or as soon as the bed is ready for use and continuing until early April. Perhaps a week or ten day interval should separate the date of planting these vegetables.

Is it practical to start garden vegetable plants in window boxes?

If the grower does not have access to a greenhouse or hotbed, then the window box offers the next best place to produce plants. Where but a few plants are needed, this may be practical. Any kind of a container that will fit into the window space may be used. However, they should be three or four inches deep so as to offer enough soil to hold the needed moisture. Tin containers such as an old discarded bread pan retain moisture better than other type material. Holes should be punched in the bottom of metal containers.

How often should plants growing in a window box receive water?

If the evaporation loss is great and the plants are large enough to transpire much moisture, they may require watering every day. Water loss may be prevented before the seed germinates by covering the box with a pane of glass. As soon as the plants come up, the glass should be removed. At no time should the plants be kept wet as this encourages disease.

Will tomatoes mature earlier from transplants than from seed?

Experimental evidence from a number of sources indicates that a week or ten days may be gained by using plants. A plant should never be stunted in its growth. All the advantages gained by starting the plant early may be lost if that happens. A late thrifty plant is better than an early stunted plant. Plants grown in forcing structures should

not become crowded nor should they be allowed to grow tall and spindly.

Is it advisable to order plants from southern states?

Cabbage, onion, and tomato plants are frequently shipped from the South to more northern states. Since such plants are grown in the field without the aid of a forcing structure, they can be produced at a low cost. Local growers are frequently unable to meet the price of field grown southern tomatoes. The transportation charges frequently represent one-half the cost. Cabbage and onions can be packaged into small space and are therefore more practical for shipping great distances than tomato plants. In general, it is well to discourage the use of such plants. It is not uncommon to find "shipped-in" plants without variety names. Diseases, especially with cabbage, are likely to be introduced. Thrips are frequently brought in with onions, while tomato plants are so bulky that transportation costs are prohibitive. In general, I believe the practical thing to do is to buy onion and possibly cabbage from a southern stock provided you can get the variety desired, but I believe it advisable to obtain tomato plants from a local source.

Is it true that blue flowers are more rare than those of other colors?

Blue is the most rare of flower colors. There are only about 150 species that have blue flowers as compared to 780 species of yellow.

How much space is required for a home vegetable garden?

The rule usually followed is to provide 1000 square feet of garden space for each member of the family. This, if economically and intensively utilized, should afford enough vegetables also for home canning.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

Continued from Page 42

seams in the hillsides, beds of lignite from the tropical ferns and swamps of long ago. After leaving Baker, Mont. we cross over to North Dakota at Marmarth and at noon reach Lemmon, S. D. Here we stop to see the beautiful specimens of petrified wood in Petrified Park, near the railway station. The "Cannon balls" at the station at Mobridge are the same as the three at the Pettigrew museum in Sioux Falls, all coming from the banks of the Cannonball river in North Dakota. We leave the Olympian at Bristol and get home quicker than if we got off at Aberdeen to go down by way of Canton and then up here.

You can tell considerable about a feller by whether he needs a retread on his shoes or his pants.—Foxtail Johnson in THE PRAIRIE FARMER.



BOOK REVIEWS

By
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

Garden Easily. Selected plants for early gardening and ideas for their arrangement, by H. K. Morse. Published by Chas. Scribners Sons, 597 Fifth Ave. New York. Price \$2.50.

After reviewing that delightful book by Mrs. Morse, Gardening in the Shade, this new one just released March 16th, is most welcome. To keep up our morale, this year more so than others, we need things of beauty growing around our home and, especially those things that do not require too much of our time needed for Red Cross and offense work; (we have laid away the word defense, for the duration.) To have a pretty yard then, we must be cautious in making judgements, for plants that are indifferent with one may be excellent elsewhere. How often is it true that some plants seem to do better in our neighbor's garden than in our own. Sometimes we know the reason, but often not. Each chapter in this book confirms the idea brot out in the title, Garden Easily. Plotting and planning for ease; Trees and shrubs, the gardener's best friends; Perennials, well behaved and handsome; Annuals, irresistible and easy; Vines, casual and carefree; Roses with a happy disposition; Bulbs which rodents seldom relish; Kitchen bouquets. Little need to weed a water garden; Pot gardening; Short cuts, to lessen labor. There are fifteen beautiful half tone illustrations showing photographs of gardens of easy care. I have always liked lily pools and rock gardens in your yard, but there are two things pictured in this book that I would like in mine—a decorative and useful dipping well and a well fountain.

European Grape Growing, (in cooler districts where winter protection is necessary). By Virgil J. Rittich, Budapest, and Dr. Eugene A. Rittich, with 33 figures in the text by V. J. Rittich. Edited by Norley F. Tunbridge, Published by Burgess Publishing Co., 426 S. 6th St. Minneapolis, Minn. Price \$2.25..

The editor of this book, Tunbridge, is convinced that a work of this character fills a long felt need, for those sections of the country to which it applies. He counts the day in which he met the Rittich brothers a truly fortunate one in his viticultural experience. Born in Ujarad, Rumania, they had experience from early childhood in the extensive vineyard which has been a prized possession of the family for 13 years. They were left in charge of this vineyard

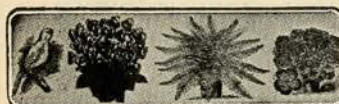
at the early age of 14 and 15, and from that time onward until deprived of their possessions thru the misfortunes consequent upon the aftermath of the war, they continued in charge of it. Virgil is now the wine maker for the Grower's Wine Co. Ltd of Victoria, the largest winery in western Canada. Europe's loss has become a great gain for this country. There are over 5000 varieties of viniera in the world, and there are only a few of them that will mature their grapes in our comparatively short growing season and which are of really high quality. The Rittich brothers have been engaged for ten years now, importing likely varieties from Europe and testing them out, here. They definitely recommend some ten high quality varieties which have passed every requirement of these tests, many of them, varieties never before grown on this side of the Atlantic. This little booklet will aid farmers who are interested in grape growing. It will give them sufficient theortical and practical knowledge to enable them to raise European grapes successfully in this country. It will help them to avoid mistakes, errors and unnecessary costs. No phase of grape growing is omitted. There is even a paragraph on Control of Pickers—Pickers should not be allowed to eat any grapes during the working hours for various reasons. One is, many people can eat 10 lbs. or more of grapes during a single day.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

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- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Muskmelon | Champlain (early), Northern Honeysweet (early) Benders Surprise, Seed Breeders, Honey Rock Honey Gold (for trial), Milwaukee Market (frames) |
| Okra | Dwarf Green |
| Onions | |
| From seed..... | Grano (early, not suitable for storage), Yellow Globe Danver, Early Yellow Globe |
| Transplanting | Sweet Spanish, Prize Taker |
| Perennial | White Welsh, Egyptian |
| Pickling | Silver Skin, Barletta |
| Parsley | Paramount, Triple Moss Curled |
| Parsnip | Short Thick (early), Hollow Crown, Guernsey Half Long |
| Peas | |
| Early | Wis. Early Sweet (for trial), Worlds Record, Kelvedon Wonder, Little Marvel, Laxtons Progress |
| Mid-season | Lincoln (Homesteader), Onward |
| Late | Alderman (Dark Podded Telephone), Stratagen |
| Edible Podded..... | Mammoth Luscious Sugar, Paramount |

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BOOK REVIEWS

By
F. X. Wallner

Two brand new books for 1942 on vegetables come to me from the Orange Judd Publishing Co., Inc., 15 E. 26th St., New York, N. Y. Price of each \$1.25.

I will take up the one on Asparagus Production, by Homer C. Thompson, Professor of Vegetable crops, Cornell University, first. This is of special interest to me because we let a seed bed get so matted it could not produce and, other rows were too close. Now I have a chance to add more by roots to my plantation so I am taking the ten chapters in the order they appear. 1. Origin and development; 2. Asparagus as a crop plant; 3. Climate, soil and soil preparation; 4. Growing and handling asparagus crowns; 5. Planting asparagus crowns; 6. Manures and fertilizers; 7. Caring for asparagus plantations; 8. Diseases and insects; 9. Varieties and improvement; 10. Preparation for sale. There are 12 very fine illustrations in this book of 123 pages. Figure one shows a 5 year old root crown and top growth. Figure 2 shows a one year old seed bed. Even in this seed bed they recommend thin sowing rather than sowing so thick that all plants will be small after the first season. Figure 3 shows three sizes of plants from the one year old bed, the first choice is worth more than the other two. Figure 4 shows the planting of a large field by eight men. Figure 5 shows a large field growing with crowns eight feet apart, but most is planted four feet apart in the row; mine is three feet and is too close for proper cultivation, but the eight feet rows are for ridging where they still grow white shoots instead of "green grass." Figure 7 shows a fine field in the fall, a good heavy growth of tops in the fall means a good crop, the following spring. Figure 8 shows five bunches of 5 grades; the first shows 12 stalks and weighs 2 lbs., is known as colossal and is top grade, but the name is confusing as there is a variety by that name. Grade No 2 is "extra select", has 18 stalks to the bunch Grade 3 is "extra fancy" and has about 23 stalks to the bunch of two pounds. Grade 4 is "fancy" and has about 36 small stalks to the same 2 lbs., while "choice" has 40 or 50 stalks to the 2 lb. bunch and the label "choice" should sell it if the customer has not seen one of the other four grades.

Figures 9 and 10 show bunching machines; figures 11 and 12 show bunches of good top grade green asparagus. This is a very good book for a small price and contains many useful hints to all who grow this early vegetable.

The book on "The Tomato", by Paul Work, also for only \$1.25, published by the same publisher, Orange Judd Co., Inc., 15 E. 26th St., New York.

Every chapter is interesting because I have been trying for the past half century to improve the last crop over that of the season before. Chapter 1 the tomato, a great food crop plant; chapter 2, Choose the soil and feed the plant; chapter 3, The best in seed is none too good; Chapter 4, Strong plants for early maturity and heavy crop; Chapter 5, Good culture favors good returns; 6, To train them up or let them spread; 7 The eternal battle with insects and disease; 8, Skillful selling crowns the enterprise; 9, Operating in the red or in the black. Every chapter has a world of meaning to the tomato grower and any one of the chapters could show the cause of failure and the cause of operating in the red. The 27 illustrations are all very interesting as all pertain to important steps in tomato growing. This tomato book by Paul Work is the more interesting as I compare it with Peter Henderson's of 1866 and 1874, also published by the Orange Judd Co.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

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Dried for Soup....	Dashaway (yellow soup) Extra Early Blue (green soup)
Peppers	
Sweet	Harris Earliest (early) Waltham Beauty (mid-season), Fordhook Harris Wonder, California Wonder (late)
Hot	Cayenne (early), Hamilton Market (mid-season)
Potatoes	
Early.....	Warba, Bliss Triumph
Mid-Season	Early Ohio, Irish Cobbler, Chippewa.
Late	Katahdin, Green Mountain
Pumpkin	Small Sugar, New Bush Backyard, Connecticut Field (table & cattle)
Radish	Saxa (early), Scarlet Globe, White Icicle, Scarlet Turnip, White Tipped
Winter	Black Spanish, White Rose
Rhubarb	Ruby, Coulter, Canada Red, Valentine, Macdonald, Early Sunrise (for trial)
Salsify	Sandwich Island
Spinach	Giant Nobel, King of Denmark, Longstanding Bloomsdale, New Zealand (late), Perennial Spinach (Dock) for earliest spring
Squash	
Summer	Straightneck, Early Summer Crookneck, Bush Black Zucchini, Veg. Spaghetti.

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SECRETARY'S CORNER

By
W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

Have any of our smart readers succeeded in taming the exceedingly wild wildflower shown on our cover page? If so, and it is not a military secret, we would like to hear how you did it. As I have seen it on the prairies of several states, it is not found everywhere. There would be a large patch of them, then perhaps there would be no more seen for a distance of ten miles. I have noticed they are nearly always found in places where there are outcroppings of lime stone, which has led me to believe they are lime lovers and will not live happily nor long in acid soil. According to BETTER FRUIT, "Organs victory garden program, launched officially by a statewide conference held at Oregon State College is going to be more than a campaign to increase quantities of just any kind of garden produce." The emphasis is to be placed on a group of vegetables that are most needed from a nutritional standpoint, as follows: "1, Tomatoes; 2, Leafy vegetables—cabbage, kale, spinach, mustard greens, turnip greens, Swiss chard, Brussels sprouts, endive and lettuce. 3, Green vegetables—green beans, Italian broccoli, green peppers, asparagus and peas. 4, Yellow vegetables—carrots, sweet potatoes, yellow squash, rutabagas. 5, Potatoes. Individual families will want to choose among the specific kinds in each group but some from all groups are necessary to give the best balance as far as nutrition is concerned. Those who have had experience in gardening, whether in the country or city, will be urged to do more of it this year, but those that know nothing about handling a garden will not be encouraged to try it." This last portion of the above sentence, obviously does not apply to people in this section where if you scratch most anyone you will uncover a real dirt (tho not dirty, even in a very dry year) gardener, well qualified to raise cain in most any garden. Here is something interesting, in this time of war, about the guns in the civil war, from MUSEUM NEWS, edited by Dr. W. H. Over, Vermillion, S. D. "It was demonstrated after an investigation, that the old muzzle-loading gun was not practical in hot skirmishes, as was revealed from war Department notes. After the battle of Gettysburg, fought July 1 to 3, 1863, and as was customary for salvaging purposes, troops gathered up 37,574 muskets and shipped to Washington, and an inspection showed that 24,000 were loaded. These were unloaded and records kept which showed

that of the 24,000 only 6,000 had one load each. Of the remainder, 12,000 had two loads in each barrel, and 5,999 had from three to ten loads. One had 23 loads. Many of the loads and cartridges were in upside down. Figuring that many guns in such condition were carried away by the owner, it was estimated that 36% of all the forces engaged on both sides were ineffective. This led to the quick adoption of a breech loading rifle." Mr. Over is an authority on guns and has a very large collection of guns of all periods. By the way, those that are not receiving this interesting little magazine, are missing much good reading. Twenty-five cents sent to Dr. Over will bring it to you for a year. It is probably fortunate for the soldiers that were handling them that these heavily loaded guns were not discharged as the kick of an army mule would have been a mild manifestation of force, compared to the one the gun would have delivered. Many signs that spring is approaching are now apparent. At a recent meeting of the South Sioux Garden club a roll call was made and each one present was asked to state what signs of spring they had seen or heard. Some told of things coming to life in their garden, others of robins and meadow larks they had heard. The only sign I could think of was that I had heard bock beer advertised over the radio. Another grandchild arrived on March 2nd., this time a very independent and well behaved young lady with a large mop of black hair. Anent grandchildren, Dr. Brenckle contributes the following, about one of his: "Granddaughter aged 11, while in the city was asked which she enjoyed the most, the museum or the zoo. The startling answer was the museum. The animals in the museum have such a contented expression and seem so satisfied, while those poor things in the cages, walking back and forth are so dirty and mused up, its a shame." It is a good thing she never saw one of the contented appearing Egyptian mummies, or she might prefer them to the human animals she saw still at large.

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BEEBE'S PHILOSOPHY
Continued from Page 11

Out Door South Dakota, an A. P. Feature appears in the Argus Leader and Aberdeen News and probably many other South Dakota newspapers. This is wonderful reading for all Waltonians and those who find joy in nature. If you will look over your papers of about March 9th you will find under this column the dates on which the birds arrived at Rev. Harold Wagers at Pierre. He mentions Harris sparrows (a beautiful bird for the name sparrow), are there about April 27th to May 2nd. At Ipswich the birds came in 1940 on May 4th and on May 6th, Mrs. Beebe and I banded 16. In 1938 on May 18th we banded 40 and on May 20, 41 of these upstanding various birds stopped at the H. E. Beebe North Side Birds Boarding House to be labeled. One of these days I'll tell you about some of those found by other people later. It is a great thrill to handle birds so closely. My life is richer for this—what formerly were just gray sparrows on the trees in Ipswich are now Junco's Warblers, black headed Harris Sparrows, neat Lincolns, trim White Crowns, interesting White Throats, song Sparrows, etc. instead of a crowd—individual friends. When Dr. Brenckle of Mellette started me on this, passes on, there will be bird traps all around the heavenly gates.

April is on the way and from Fort Pierre comes a poem published in Pasque Petals in 1941 which I'll name with approval I hope of the author, Irene Curran Provine of Fort Pierre, "Old Davids Will."

"To Mary" he had written fine and clear,
"I leave my shady bank beside the creek;
Adell shall have the first white hyacinth
The gentians for Suzanne, to match her eyes,
The pansies and the mint along the walk,
Shall mark the pages of young Joseph's book;
To all the children and the older folk
Who chance to linger by the pasture lane
I leave the deep blue skies of April days."

What a fine picture of Dakota's spring. For those who spill these flowers of poetry at clubs, banquet, etc. I have an encore which Mabel Gillespie wrote in the Modern Woodman this year and entitled "In April."

If I had power like Joshua
To make the sun obey,
I'd have it stop in April
And stand still for a day.
When buds hold bursting secrets
On every bush and tree,
And birds are tuning heart-strings
For mating melody.
Could I command the sun to stop—
Did I say for a day?
I'd live a year in April
If I could have my way!

In May, I may break out into hand hewn poetry so the readers should do a lot of good gardening between now and then and build up their constitutions.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

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- Winter.....Early-Banquet, Greengold. Mid-season-Buttercup, Dakota, Table Queen Hubbard Group, Mammoth Chili (cattle)
- Tomatoes
- Non-stakingRedskin (early) Danmark (early, fruit small), Bison, Penn. State, Bounty, Victor, Firesteel (for trial)
- StakingHarkness (early), Valiant and Stockesdale mid-season), Yellow Mingold & Pink Beston (late) Earland (for trial)

Turnip

- SummerPurple Top Milan, Golden Ball SwedeCanadian Gem Perfection

There are many other excellent varieties of vegetables. Those listed are known to be suitable to local gardens.

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