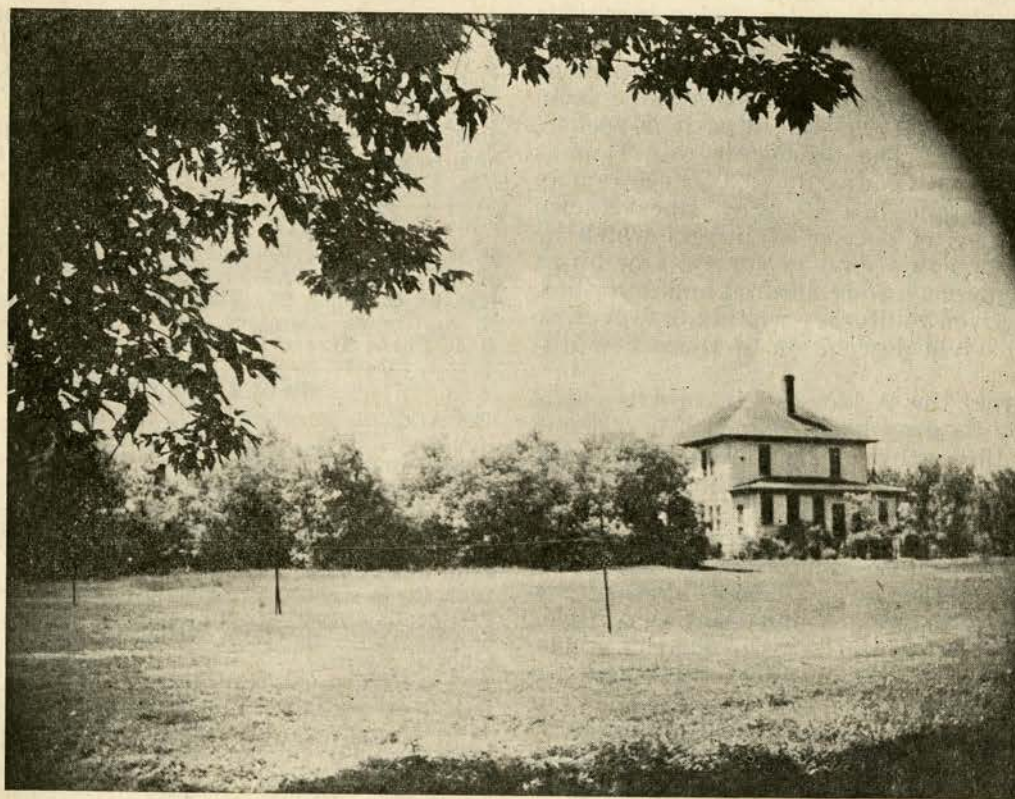


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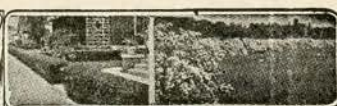
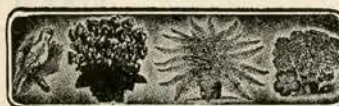
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Attractive farm home of Mrs. Otto E. Anderson, Rt. 2, Sisseton. Evidently there have been some good tree planters at work there.

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THE ARKANSAS KINGBIRD

By
O. A. Stevens, Fargo, N. D.



O. A. Stevens

I mentioned this bird briefly in the account of the common or eastern kingbird in the July, 1933 issue, but it is such a common and characteristic species that it deserves a story by itself. At Fargo, I find just about an equal number of the two kinds but in more strictly prairie country, the eastern kingbird predominates, even if it is "western" North Dakota. When a person approaches a farm grove or a tree bordered stream, he is certain to hear the noisy rattle of the Arkansas kingbird. Dead upper branches, fences and phone wires are popular perches from which the birds rise into the air, execute a few noisy gyrations and return.

This bird was first seen near the present Rocky Ford, Colorado, and takes its name from the Arkansas River (pronounced as it is spelled, not "Arkansaw"). The discoverer was Thomas Say, naturalist with Major Long's Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1819. Say is best known for the hundreds of species of insects which he described, but on this journey several new birds, snakes and mammals were secured and described. Say was not given to literary writing, however, so he left us no vivid description of these new discoveries.

In our area, the Arkansas kingbird is easily recognized by its gray back, yellowish breast and black tail. In southwestern United States, the problem becomes complicated by several similar species, Couch's, Cassin's and gray kingbird. So our bird is one of a considerable group of Mexican species, and the eastern kingbird is the one which has wandered farther away. The Arkansas kingbird withdraws to Mexico and Central America for the winter, returning to us about the middle of April, some ten days ahead of the other species. In the fall they leave together. About August 20-23, one will see numbers of kingbirds along the road, but very few a week later. The nesting range of the Arkansas kingbird extends north into southern Canada and east into western Minnesota and central Kansas. Observers all the way down this eastern border report material extension of the range in recent years. Edward Harris, the friend of Audubon, is said to have secured a specimen in New Jersey, and in the 100 years since, it has been recorded in that state no

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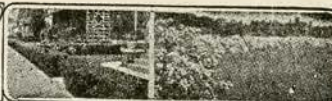
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less than 60 times. Other eastern states have numerous records.

Nests and eggs of the two kingbirds are scarcely distinguishable. They build quite substantial nests of bark, grasses, leaves, cloth, hair, etc., in forks of medium to large tree branches. The eggs are almost an inch long, rather pointed at one end, white or pinkish with numerous irreg-

(Continued on Page 73)



NEWSLANTS

By

Harry A. Graves, Fargo, N. D.



H. A. Graves

New life members in the North Dakota Society are Andrew L. Fritch, of Valley City, and Mr. A. Haeger, President of the Good Samaritan Home, at Arthur. On behalf of the Society we thank and welcome you.

Rose growers who have become discouraged because of the pestiferous rose beetles should reread Past President Truax's article in the April issue of this publication. Mr. Traux tells us in a recent letter that he hasn't

been so well this winter. I am sure he would appreciate hearing from you—especially if he is partially shut in this spring.

Chris Geir, one of North Dakota's leading fruit growers, broke into print in the last issue of the Minnesota Fruit Grower. Chris still places the Haralson apple at the top of his apple list. He finds Wealthy hardy and likes Erickson and Charamoff. He believes McLean is a better apple than Wealthy and keeps well. Chris has some 30-year-old Whitneys bearing good crops. The Geir farm is located between Edinburg and Mountain, North Dakota, on state highway No. 32.

Prof. Stevens believes that the bird article in this issue, devoted to the Arkansas Kingbird, is the 150th in the series. Seems to me these bird articles by Mr. Stevens would make a wonderful collection bound. Some confirmed bird lover should do something about it.

Mrs. Jerry Urbanek, of Lusk, Wyoming, suggests that the correspondents to **North and South Dakota Horticulture** list their addresses. She points out recommendations originating at Yankton might not apply so well in Williston, Minot or Morden some six or seven hundred miles away.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, bush fruits carry a very high content of vitamin C. A common serving of fresh raspberries—from half cup to a cup—will supply one-third to one-half of the daily requirement of vitamin C for an adult. Red currants and gooseberries are also excellent sources of this vitamin.

After reading the poem in the January issue about the soybeans, Frances R. Williams, of Winchester, Massachusetts, writes that she recently heard of 18 dogs in New York City that ate up their license tags because the tags were made from soybeans.

The need for Victory Gardens has not been

bally-hoed quite so much this year, but the fact remains that gardens are more important than ever. The recent reduction in point value of commercially canned vegetables is merely a dividend on the fine record production made by Victory Gardeners last year. A poor showing in home gardens this year would make rationing of canned vegetables more necessary than in the past. The reason? The government and military needs for 1943 were 86 million cases of canned fruit and vegetables. This year, the estimated need will be 149 million cases, or about 70% more. These 149 million cases represent about 40% of the total commercial pack of fruits and vegetables.

To illustrate how often vegetables are used in army rations, let me quote from a letter written by a Lieutenant in Iceland to the editor of an Indiana newspaper:

"To appreciate the great importance of tomatoes in our ration, one must consider the following comparisons: over a period of ten days peas appear five times on the menu; tomatoes four; corn, spinach, beets and carrots twice each; lima beans and sauerkraut once each. It would appear from these comparisons that tomatoes are just a fair second, but over this same ten-day period tomatoes forge far ahead of all other vegetables by virtue of the fact that tomato juice and tomato cocktail (a de-hydrated and concentrated tomato stock) each appear twice in addition to canned whole tomatoes and twice each month tomato catsup is issued as a condiment. The magnitude of the demand for tomatoes may readily be seen when one considers that 100 men over a ten-day period here in Iceland will consume 12 No. 10 cans of whole tomatoes, 14 No. 10 cans of tomato juice, two No. 10 cans of tomato cocktail and three and one-third No. 10 cans of tomato catsup."

Mr. Bergeson, of the Bergeson Nursery, Fertile, Minnesota, came to our rescue and supplied five Betty Bland roses for our premium list this year. The requests far exceeded the limit placed on this premium, and Mr. Bergeson was kind enough to help us.

He: "Since I met you, I can't eat, I can't sleep, I can't drink."

She (cooly): "Why not?"

He: "I'm broke."—The Earthworm.

Agent: "Sir, I have something here which will make you popular, your life much happier, and bring you a host of friends."

Prospect: "Gimme a quart."—The Earthworm.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By

Juanita E. Jorgensen, Dell Rapids



Mrs. Jorgensen

We are very sorry to have no personal message from our president, Mrs. Michels, this month, as the worry and care of a grave and long-continued illness of her young son, Jimmy, finally culminated in her own illness. Instead of the care required in such cases she continued her many activities as well as she could. Now a message comes from her husband that she has at last had to bow to the effective persuasion of the "flu" bug.

We hope to see her name in its accustomed place in this column again next month as the Federation is very dear to her heart.

Mrs. Michels was the first person to take action toward forming a Federation of Garden Clubs in this state and was happy when such an organization finally became a fact. She said, "It is a wonderful thing to really put across the State Federation. We shall be proud in years to come, and thankful for all the work we have done." With the worry of illness on her mind Mrs. Michels has still had time to contact dozens of people and keep in touch with developments. She especially urges that all members take part in discussions and contribute to the new Blizzard Belt Gardener, as "there is nothing like self-participation to make you realize that the Federation is your own." She does not forget for a moment that the average garden club member is a homebody, interested in gardening as pertaining to his own surroundings and those he sees in passing about the state; and it is for these that the Gardener is being printed. After reading the little news sheet there should be divergent opinions and experiences from some of you, and additional information about the topics which have appeared. The articles should suggest related subjects, and with approximately 250 readers already, we should be hearing from at least fifty of you very soon, which is an average of only five from each club.

Elton Shank, Test Garden chairman, writes that he is almost snowed under with correspondence concerning the new testing program, but I guess he likes that kind of snow. Most of the testing material thus far has been seeds, and he is doing a grand job of distributing them to testers; but I'm all excited over the sub-zero hybrid tea roses sent to him by Mr. and Mrs. Walter D.

Brownell of the famous Rose Research Gardens at Little Compton, Rhode Island. Due only to this extreme wartime emergency the plants were limited to six and were sent for his personal testing at Brookings, but Mr. Brownell promises to send plants to all members of the association "just as soon as a reasonable supply of plants can be produced." (I'm not going to wait until then. I'm going out and buy some at once). The story of the development of these sub-zero roses is one of a lifetime devotion to breeding hardiness into the handsome tea roses we buy from the florists; and their eagerness to prove this hardiness is attested to by their willingness to have us test the roses under our Dakota conditions. George Gurney has a nice story about the Brownells in his March planting sheet, and the Blizzard Belt Gardener will carry more information about the roses in future issues.

Mr. Shank has had many of the newest seeds from leading seed firms represented by Perry-Morse, Ferry's, Burpee, Clarke's and others with Dell Rapids, Sioux Falls, Brookings and other garden clubs and many individuals taking part.

We Take a Bow

The Horticultural Society and the Federation take a bow this month from several sources both within and without the state. From Luverne, Minn., Mrs. R. J. Duncomb messages that she is proud to belong to the Society and gets a great deal of good from the magazine as our horticultural conditions are similar. "The garden club page is very good and we can already see how the magazine is growing and improving. It did need new blood. Thanks for the transfusion." You remember there was a splendid article on Herbs by Mrs. Duncomb in the March Gardener, and another one on Tomatoes in this issue.

In Beach, N. Dak., where the club as a whole subscribed to North and South Dakota Horticulture, they chose as their premium one dozen tulips so that each member could have one bulb! That's real cooperation! The magazines for each year, composing one volume, are bound together and these are passed from member to member until every one has had an opportunity to read each magazine. Mrs. Houck also says: "I took the sample copies of the Blizzard Belt Gardener to club with me last week. We thought they were fine, with so much useful information on that one little sheet."

After seeing his first copy of the Gardener Mr. I. H. Chase hurried to send in his membership in the Society, even though it is only club members who receive the publication, and some more notes on the English iris he raises. How I'd like to be out there when they bloom, as he says they make

grand cut flowers and keep much better than the bearded kinds. Watch for another article about them in the Gardener next August in time for you to order and plant some in the fall.

Requests for help are becoming more and more frequent as our service becomes better known, and we have sent program suggestions to almost all the clubs in the Federation this spring.

Garden club year books still come driftin' in, the latest one being from Flandreau; and right here I want to give a toast to the unselfish chairmen of these committees who spend uncounted hours, days and weeks working for the good of the club—and so often do not get credit for one-half the effort they put forth! In Dell Rapids Mrs. Ernest Greening is already working on the hand made covers to be used in 1945! This year book from the Green Fingert ladies at Flandreau is mimeographed throughout, with the covers being put through that process in colors, something I didn't know could be done. A garden house, a vase of flowers, and an array of vegetables are illustrated in rose and green to show the wide scope of garden studies with which the club is concerned. A feature of the booklet is the inclusion of the complete constitution and by-laws of the club, something no other Dakota yearbook has attempted. It is a fine workable set of rules that seem to take care of everything, and will be filed for anyone else who wishes to study and use it. I'd like to include the bit of prose, "Do you 'just love' flowers?" and some of the poems in this write-up, but a few of the most interesting topics will have to suffice. They are: Shady Lawns, Shall I Plant a Hedge? Plants That Need Vacations, Decorative Weeds, Follies of 1943, and Don'ts.

Quick Look at Clubs

From Harry Graves, president of the Fargo, N. D. Garden Society, comes a copy of the March program for that club featuring a talk on peonies by Mrs. M. B. Kannowski who is a prominent horticulturist in that state. Members of the Moorhead, Minnesota, club were guests at the meeting. The club must be an active factor in promoting beauty in Fargo for they sponsor iris, peony and fall garden shows, besides conducting tours of the city during the blooming season of the lilacs and other showy flowers. During the summer they have a yard and garden contest; while a Christmas Lighting Contest is held to brighten the winter season. Let's hear more of you.

Eugene Whitehead, the new secretary of the Brookings club, reports a \$5.00 donation to the Red Cross from there. Dr. Ward L. Miller offered the entertainment for their last meeting with a lecture on wild flowers. "This talk was amply

illustrated with Kodachrome slides from Dr. Miller's collection." Other new officers of the club are Mrs. U. G. Norgaard, Mrs. Frank Rockwell, and Mrs. E. M. Barnett.

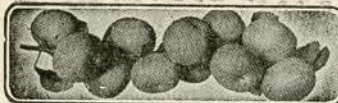
Considering the characteristic generosity of most gardening folks it is a wonder to me that the nurseries find enough people left to buy plants so they can keep in business. I doubt if they could if every club had a member like F. X. Wallner of the South Sioux club, who never fails to shower the rest of the members with gift plants. At the last meeting he gave away plants brought back from his recent West Coast vacation trip. Gloxinias, potatoes, rotation plantings, and fertilizing methods gave the members a heavy diet of gardening subjects to digest for the evening.

Dell Rapids Garden club proudly takes its place at the head of all city organizations donating to the Red Cross, its offering of \$42.55 being more than double that of any other club. The March program was a paean of praise to welcome the returning birds to their summer homes. The bird house contest yielded a number of new homes for them; and Miss Iva Bailey of Sioux Falls held her listeners enthralled with her discussion of bird life and migration.

Mrs. H. P. Eberhart's tale of transforming a forsaken building into a garden home, Dunmavin', by the magic of hard work, fresh paint and planned planting entertained the Green Fingers club of Flandreau in March. Given a number of huge trees about which to adapt their landscaping, their biggest problem became a lawn in the shadow of these giants. With their latest experiment of using Bent grass, the tale is not yet told because this pulled out, roots and all, when raking the leaves from the trees. We'll all be wanting to hear the final story.

From W. A. Simmons' giggle-hatching reports of the Sioux Falls club: "Jerusalem artichokes are said to spread in a nuisance manner, but one can always get back at them by eating them." "The limiting factor in the height attained by trees is the height they can elevate moisture from the ground, some evidently having superior plumbing systems, and so growing taller than others." "Relatives and pals of the hibiscus are the hollyhock, eggplant and okra, the latter a favorite south of the Mason and Dixon Line, and one that is worthy of a place in our gardens." Plans are being laid for at least one flower show by the club, being egged on by the energies of its president, H. J. Donaldson.

We enjoy thoroly, only the pleasures we give.
—Anon.

**GARDEN NOTES**

By

W. E. H. Porter, Hansboro, N. D.

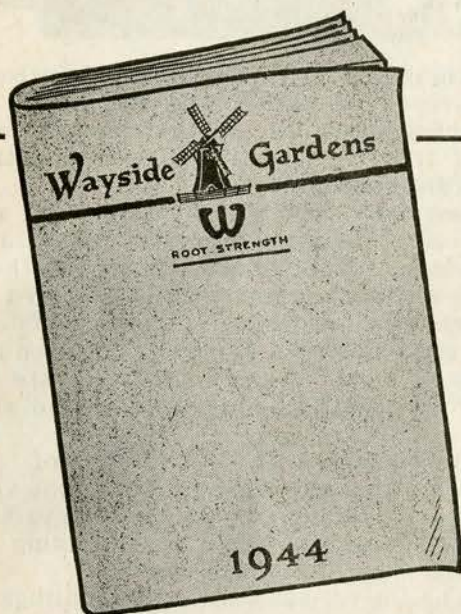


W. E. H. Porter

With Sol's rays dispensing not only light but ever increasing warmth, the secrets locked in earth's bosom for past six months, are again released, permitting us to carry out long cherished plans formulated during winter's tedium and by comparison, how puny appears window gardening in an effort to sustain garden morale. Feb. 23rd. I have rather an interesting and certainly attractive wilding filling a niche on window sill, a member of Saxifrage family: it is *Mitella diphylla*, bishops cap, from basal rosette of dense evergreen foliage, spring spires of many small white flowers, the petals pinnate like frost crystals. Since last fall it has been totally neglected, in a cold room; it was included as an extra in a box of natives from Wake Robin Farm, Home, Pa. Candor compels me to admit that the *It Begonia*, that made such a flourishing start, has gone dormant, apparently growing and climatic conditions are unfavorable. On the other hand, Woodriff's Baby Rainbow Rex that arrived at the same time, last Nov., with one large leaf silver splashed, pink veined, purple edged, very lovely, is thriving altho after arrival it withered to root but later sent up healthy growth. Woodriff considers it the most beautiful dwarf Rex he has ever seen. I wonder if tomatoes are over-rated. I read where a scientist put some healthy rats on a tomato diet and they all subsequently developed malignant ulcers. Many years ago my wife was taking treatment for duodenal ulcer and the attending physician forbade tomatoes while under his care. March 7th. Our prolonged cold wave culminated in a 3-day blizzard. We are snowed in with every step a plunge but today barometer commences a steady rise, on window sill *Erodium corsicum* puts out 4 flowers simultaneously, the petals are a warm pink with darker striae. Tho this attractive cranebill is regarded as a rock plant it also does well indoors, the foliage is dense mat-like, something like that of *Veronica pectinata*. The plant requires no special care and flowers practically the year round, but unlike most cranebills succumbs completely to freezing. Have just read Somerset Maugham's "Of Human Bondage," regarded, I believe, as his masterpiece. The moral is obvious, that a weak character, giving way to self indulgence, forges its own chains for

a life of unhappiness. Thru the kindness of Prof. Stevens' winter's gloom has been relieved with "Plant Hunter's Paradise" by F. Kingdon Ward, a Cambridge graduate. We all remember his sensational discovery of the Blue Poppy many years ago; the book is positively exciting, in fact, never have I read a more enthralling narrative. It tells of a tour thru hinterland of Burma and into Tibet in search of new fauna and flora but not technical, for anyone with a mere bowing acquaintance with natural history can thoroly enjoy its adventures and yet an appendix lists discoveries of interest to the specialist, their trials and mishaps and pleasures are told so that you seem to be one of the party, with touches to always remember as the remorse felt by the writer when he shot a hen laughing thrush. They lived on the country as far as possible and its mate outside the hut, would utter its four mournful notes ending with a wheezy wail and then vanish like a banshee, returning the next day to again cry its despair; the sudden bursting into bloom at end of March on leafless boughs, of the carmine cherry *Prunus poddum*, a sight that one viewed with reverence, seed from which was collected in November, only 10% being viable and from which a 19-ft. tree 7 years old now stands in an English garden; the strange poisoning from use of rhododendron honey, the myriads of rhododendrons and their blazing hues extending in dwarf form even to the snow line, the highest snow clad peak in Burma is 19,315 ft. and much else of absorbing interest. Four new mammals were discovered including a goral *Cemus Cranbrookii* named after Lord Cranbrook, a member of the party; among plants collected was *Euphorbia pilosa*, a golden leafed spurge that is quite hardy and has been in my garden since 1940. Even then in spite of pompous edicts the British government was quite unable to protect law abiding natives from bandit raids. Prof. Stevens tells me that the small birds I noticed in January with a flock of English sparrows were probably Redpolls. Kinglets, he says, winter further south and moreover, are strictly insectivorous; thanks, Prof. Stevens. March 19th. The vernal equinox is ushered in by a raging cold south wind and in spite of a lignite fire in kitchen range everything left there over night was frozen. March 22nd. Overcast, a cold persistent thaw allowing cattle and horses on the range to slack their thirst at filling sloughs and with their message of returning spring, crows and hawks are seen on the wing. Indoors the Christmas fern uncurls a frond, tho like the Boston in other respects, even in a living room, this fern remains dormant dur-

(Continued on Page 78)



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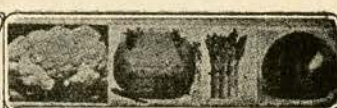
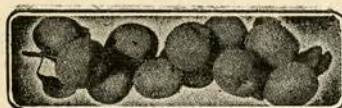
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MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By
W. R. Leslie, Morden, Man., Canada



W. R. Leslie

Gathering SCION wood and storing it is a present problem. Often it is well to select, cut and store scions in autumn. However, at the Morden Station propagation wood of stone fruits cut in March has been more satisfactory than that cut in November. The exception is when hard winters bring injury to orchard trees, and the spring cut wood is dry or browned in the cambium region.

The wood selected for scions is terminal shoots of the last season's growth. The most satisfactory are those which have attained a growth of from 1 to 2 feet, and possess plump buds and firm mature wood. The choicest portion is the middle of the twig. The buds at the base and at the tip, usually less developed and less strong, are uncertain. Water sprouts, or spindly side shoots, may be used but results are doubtful. Such wood is likely to be weak and immature.

Care of the scion wood is most important. On the Canadian prairies the most favorable time for top-working generally is the second and third weeks of May. Then the buds will be bursting and the young leaves emerging. Sap will be flowing freely in the stock. However, the scions should be dormant and the buds still closed tightly. In that conditions, there is opportunity for the cambium to bond with that of the stock and be ready to carry food into the scion by the time leaf growth starts from its buds. Hence, scions are stored in slightly damp, but not wet, sand, peat, sphagnum moss or sawdust placed in a cool cellar or ice-house or refrigerator in March or early April. Temperatures from 30 to 40 degrees are suitable. A humid atmosphere in the storage chamber is desirable. Parcels of scions arriving by mail are promptly opened, placed in storage material and moved to cool chamber. It is an advantage to dip quickly the scions in a vat of paraffin wax at a temperature of 170 to 180 degrees. The coating of wax is left on during and after the grafting. It helps conserve sap moisture in the scion, as it did while the scion was in dormant storage.

When grafting operations commence, the scions are transported to the spot by wrapping in a wet bag. Take to the orchard only those required for a half day period.

The world at war in 1944 finds prairie citizens finding increased recreation and adventure on their own home grounds. Idle automobiles and restraint of travel have favored concentration upon the house and its grounds.

The house is the center of interest. It deserves periodic freshening up with new paint. Cheerful colors of light shades are vogue these times. The landscape of a district is improved by the staining or painting of shingle roofs on houses and out-buildings. Painting is delayed until late May or June, when temperatures are favorable for the bonding of paint to wood surfaces.

Gardening begins with a clean-up of the lawn, the harrowing and raking down of the vegetable garden, the sowing of onion, lettuce, radish, parsnip, carrot, and pea seeds, and pruning of trees, fruits and some flowering shrubs.

As soon as the top soil dries, new plantings of trees, fruits, shrubs, and vines are made. There is deep satisfaction in having new beauty added to the home. Planting is to be done so that the landscape imparts an appearance of balance and proportion as well as of cosiness. This involves previous planning and making a sketch of the estate on paper, so that each shrub and other features of the property is marked in. This assures having additions placed suitably and where they belong.

Many homes are planted in too complex a fashion. A few kinds of shrubs, using 3, 5, or 7 of each kind, usually give a more dignified and pleasing picture than one composed of an extensive collection of plant subjects of many diverse types and colors. Overcrowding is a common fault. Shrubs stuffed into position too close to one another soon lose character and result in a patchy effect. Shrubs that ultimately will reach a height of 8 feet require a spacing of 6 feet from its neighbor. Only winter-hardy plants deserve planting in the prairie provinces. Plants requiring acid soil are not adapted to local soils which have a limestone base. Dominating trees, such as Koster Blue Spruce and Cutleaf Weeping Birch, command such attention that they are to be used sparingly and only at a considerable distance from the house. Foundation planting is arranged so that parts of the foundation remain in view. The use of acid peat moss or leaf mould is beneficial to trees and shrubs when incorporated into the top soil used to cover the roots of the shrub and tree at its planting.

Flowers are set in borders in the bays of shrubbery and not in beds of their own cut out of the lawn. The front of the lawn is left open to give a sunny and welcoming note to the home.



VEGETABLE GARDEN SUGGESTIONS

By
Dr. Leon C. Snyder, Brookings

What to Plant



Dr. L. C. Snyder

By this time your vegetable garden should be well under way. Most of your frost hardy vegetables should be planted. These should have included kohlrabi, lettuce, onions, peas, early potatoes, radish, spinach and turnips. Early in May it will be perfectly safe to plant beets, chard, carrots, parsnips and potatoes. As soon as danger of spring frosts is past or about May 15, plant your snap beans, early sweet corn and cucumbers, and transplant your cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and celery. When the soil is thoroughly warm which will be toward the end of May, plant your lima beans, melons, squash and pumpkins, and transplant your tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

Succession plantings of certain cool weather crops that were started in April such as lettuce, peas, and radish should be made at two week intervals during the month, say on the first and fifteenth.

Fight the Weeds

Growing conditions in May are very favorable for weed growth. Work the soil often to kill young weeds since it is so much easier to kill them when they are young than it is after they have a good start. Any fine tooth cultivator or rake is excellent for killing small weeds. Any perennial weed that shows up should be dug out with a sharp hoe. Do not cultivate deeply near the rows or you will destroy many vegetables roots.

Thin Your Vegetables

Most vegetables are seeded too thickly in the row. With small seeds it is nearly impossible to space the plants by proper seeding. If all of the young plants are left, they will compete with each other like weeds. Most vegetables such as lettuce, radish, beets, carrots, turnips, and parsnips should be spaced at least 2 inches apart to allow for proper development. Failure to thin will result in small poorly shaped roots. Weeds in the row should be pulled during the thinning operation.

Fight the Insects

Your first real trouble with insects will start during May. Every gardener should be equipped with a dust gun and a supply of dusting materials. Rotenone and pyrethroid compounds are best

for most insects but may be hard to get. Stomach poisons such as calcium or lead arsenate and paris green are good for biting insects but should be avoided on parts of vegetables that are to be eaten. Nicotine dusts are good for sucking insects like the aphids.

For a large garden, a small pressure sprayer may be more efficient than a dust gun. Most of the materials used as dusts can also be used as a spray.

Cut-worm damage may be avoided by placing paper collars around transplants and pushing the collar at least 1 inch into the soil. For further information on insect control obtain leaflets and circulars on this subject from your County Extension Agent.

Plant Some Flowers

Boost your morale by growing flowers in your vegetable garden. Many flowers grow better in rows than they do in the flower border. Flowers that are to be used for cutting are best grown in this manner since they can be cultivated and weeded with a minimum of effort. If space is limited the flowers might be planted along the edge of the garden and in rows occupied by early vegetables. Some annual flowers that are well adapted to row culture are: China asters, Calendulas, cosmos, dahlias, gladioli, larkspur, marigolds, petunias, scabiosas, snapdragons and zinnias. For early bloom start the above flowers indoors or in hotbeds. For later bloom seed may be sown directly in the row.

(Continued from Page 66)

ular brown spots. The young of the Arkansas kingbird are astonishingly bright yellow on the breast.

I always found it difficult to believe that kingbirds managed to get a 10 per cent vegetable diet until I actually saw them swallowing choke cherries and dogwood berries one after another. Grasshoppers, beetles, ants and other insects are the main part of the food. The matter of honeybees is a never ended controversy. Any bee keeper will aver the birds are deadly enemies of honeybees. Everyone else maintains they rarely eat honeybees and then mostly drone bees. Stomachs of birds collected in our college grove where the bee hives were located, were filled with carpenter worms which infested the ash trees.

A friend of mine raised a young Arkansas kingbird by hand a few years ago. I did not get an exact account of the number of grasshoppers eaten, but needless to say their capture was a real task. The youngster lived at large, came for feed, was duly banded and departed, but like so many others, was not heard of again.

I OBSERVED 1,000 MILES OF GRINDELIA

By

H. R. Woodward, Hot Springs



H. R. Woodward

The *grindelia squarrosa* or gumweed or gumplant is a yellow aster-like plant found all over the western landscape about the first part of September. From its foliage and stems oozes a sticky substance that gives the plant its name. In the mountainous and plateau regions the plant is usually not crowded and has many, many branches with each branch bearing a golden-yellow flower and not at all

unlike a small sun-flower. Some people call it a rosin weed, yet this name is not at all proper. If we walk over the hills at the time of the year this flower is in bloom, we will note its peculiar resinous odor and if we are not careful we will note that our shoe laces will gather an accumulation of its gum.

Coming across the Yellowstone plateau at an elevation of about 8,000 feet early in September, I observed this gumweed growing in abundance everywhere. I knew from contact with the ranger-naturalists who were botanists that this was the species known as *grindelia subalpina*, a biennial herb growing to a height of about 8 to 12 inches. The heads contained both ray and disc flowers and the heads when fully expanded, were from 1 to 2 inches across, and the involucre was extremely gummy. In the open spaces where the plant grew and had plenty of sunlight the main stem was profusely branched and almost approached a Russian thistle in shape, in that it was almost round.

All along the road down a branch of the Big Horn river and up the divide along Wind River and over into the Powder river country this flower was continuous with the exception that it merged into another species, the *grindelia squarrosa*. It grew in a similar manner and only upon close examination was it possible to note that it was another species. The heads were more hemispheric but in most other respects it was the same plant. We followed this plant across the plains of Wyoming and into South Dakota. After two days at home it was necessary for me to attend a meeting at Sioux Falls and add more than 400 miles to my observation of this plant along the roadsides. It was the same species until we had crossed the Missouri river and even then did not appear to change in any way. The greatest

change was noted after we left Mitchell on our way to Sioux Falls, here it was a continuous sight along the highway and the only difference noted was that it had now become a taller and a larger plant. The heads were larger and the stems were less branches. This was perhaps caused by competition with other plants and it had been forced to establish different habits of growth. Perhaps it had become another species but more probably it had not.

The presence of intermediate forms or transitorial forms usually makes it hard to tell where one species leaves off and another type begins. In this case the gumweed there seemed to be no transitorial forms. All the differences seemed to be based upon altitude, rainfall, types of soil and plant societies in which the plant was found growing. Longer growing seasons and competition with taller plants seemed to have a great influence upon habits of growth. Where there was no competition except the short buffalo grass was found the shorter bushy type of plant, but where there were tall weeds and grasses of all sorts along the roadside, this competition made for smaller stems, less branching and, consequently, a lesser number of flowers. (Perhaps additional rainfall had a greater influence upon habits of individual growth.)

In noting the growth of this plant and comparing its habits with those of the pine and juniper trees we noted similar habits of growth. Trees standing by themselves were bushy, less tall and more symmetrical. Those in thick stands were slender, tall and had very few branches for several feet above the ground. It all seems to involve itself upon the matter of struggle for sunlight.

After getting acquainted with the *grindelia squarrosa* in this way I have become more interested in it here at home, and have observed it in many ways. It has been found that it is a very rugged type of plant and is able to stand the most adverse types of weather conditions. It likes the dry soils and sandy hillsides, and while it is usually classed as a biennial it may live more than two years. Its stem is extremely woody and even though it is cut with a lawn mower it will continue to grow and creep in a prostrate manner along the ground.

Its resinous property has intrigued me into wondering if at some time it may be a plant of considerable commercial value, especially after reading about *parthenium*, *argentatum*, or *guayule*, a similar plant from which rubber is made. Perhaps its medicinal properties have already been investigated.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By
F. X. Wallner, Sioux Falls



F. X. Wallner

What I saw and did in San Francisco.

It takes most of a night and day, by train, to go from Portland to San Francisco, the night ride thru Oregon and the day trip thru the mountains of California. There are more tunnels and snow sheds on this route than I have seen elsewhere. We passed Mt. Chasta about 3 p. m., but could see it for about 3 hours, or just about till we came down to the Sacramento Valley, where we pass thru orchards all the way to Oakland. Crossing over to San Francisco on the ferry, just after all the lights on bridges and boats were on, was a thrilling adventure to many, as most of us did not know we were on the ferry, when we started to move out across Francisco Bay. Most of the first day I spent on China Beach, only a short distance from daughter Margaret's apartment. This is near the Golden Gate bridge where the tide and the roaring waves are very interesting. Presidio, a U. S. Reservation of 1,540 acres and home of the 9th Corps area, used in 1776 by soldiers of Charles third of Spain. Still standing is the officers' club, made of adobe and first building of San Francisco. At the entrance are bronze cannon about 300 years old. When the shore guns began blazing away at a boat out at the entrance to the bay, I thot they were firing at an enemy, but it was only target practice. Lincoln Park, of 270 acres, is on Lands End, a point of the entrance to the bay and the Pacific. I spent most of a day in the museum Legion of Honor, in the Park. Cliff house and Seal Rocks are also at this point called Sutro Heights and contain the Sutro Gardens. Many of the large Cypress at this high point were uprooted by a storm a few weeks earlier: the damage was very bad in many parts of the city. Most of three days I spent in Golden Gate Park, a man-made park of over 1,000 acres; contains over 5,000 different shrubs and plants, one of the largest and most beautiful parks in the world, here is also another art building, the North American Hall: the African Hall, Aquarium, Conservatory. A rare Rubens painting, "Tribute Money," is considered the most valuable, has just been received. A full day was spent at Fleishhacker Play Ground and Zoological Gardens; here also is the largest

warm salt water pool 1,000 ft. long, containing 7,500,000 gals. of fine Pacific water. The largest collection of animals in any zoo, 3 giraffes including a baby; an older one died a few days before. Another day was spent, by bus trip, to Mill Valley, then a long walk up to Mt. Tamalpais and Muer woods, walks and trails lead you miles into the woods and the nearest Redwoods to San Francisco. From this high point, viewing Alcatraz Island (Spanish for Pelican) with a glass, looks like a battleship near San Francisco, altho it is about 20 acres and close to 2 miles from the coast. Across the bay is Richmond, Oakland and many other cities, all along the bay to the south. An evening in Chinatown, largest outside of China, Fisherman's wharf, Fish Grottoes, crabs cooked along the sidewalk, sold at \$1 per pound. Trip over Golden Gate bridge, highest single span bridge in the world, 4,200 ft. long, total length 8,940 ft., swings several feet in a strong wind. Trip over San Francisco-Oakland bridge 8¼ miles long, a trip 20 miles, south to Moss Beach, where I saw plenty of star fish, sea anemone, large abalone shells, fishermen catching eel with short pole. On high ground along the route were gardens where cabbage was being harvested, also brussels sprouts and other cool weather hardy crops. I planted radishes in the yard that they were eating later in February at Margaret's apartment. The Texas onion growers must be getting a good price for their crop as they are about \$10 a 50-lb. bag and not of the best quality. Some thot we were too high in February at \$1.85 a 50-lb. bag of good grade onions. We really had better than \$2 in them, so were still 15 cents in the red. Twenty-eight carloads were shipped to northern markets from Texas on April 7th, one of the big days, they will be all harvested by May 15th mostly at \$2.50 a 50-lb. bag. These sold for \$5.50 to \$6.50 when they got to New York City. Sec. Fitch's News Letter of April 11th, of 9 pages, deals mostly of potatoes, onions, and news—he tells of writing up a terrific drinking party for the paper, what he saw on the train, a tall, handsome blond was holding a sailor's head on her bosom and smothering him with kisses over and over again. But that's just puppy love compared to the goings on one sees on the long day and night train to the coast and back. He tells that he gets a quarter of a pie now; that Mrs. Fitch has gained 3 pounds and is at 133; this I judge is about 33 lbs. more than he weighs. Reminds me of our Garden club president that has cut out pie and other good eats, because the master thinks she is getting a little too hefty. After this I will try to get back to my "Fruit and Vegetable Notes."

BOOK REVIEWS

By

Mrs. F. Briley, Mobridge



Mrs. F. Briley

The Flower Encyclopedia and Gardener's Guide, by Albert E. Wilkinson, published by the Garden City Publishing Co., 14 West 49th St., New York, N. Y. Price 69 cents.

This book contains the latest information about flowers and their cultivation. It is divided into two parts, and a glossary. In part 1, the "Flower Encyclopedia," all of the favorite flowers and all the less familiar ones which are most suitable for the home garden are presented in alphabetical order. Each flower is fully described and detailed directions are given as to planting and care during growth. Every name by which any flower is known is listed in its alphabetical place, with a cross reference to the name under which the description and directions are found. Part 2 of the book is the "Gardener's Guide," which gives the reader information on the borders, beds, rock gardens, pools and groups of indoor flowering plants, soils and fertilizers, propagation of plants, insects and diseases, construction of greenhouses. Several valuable tables are included. Personally, I feel that this book is the best thing we have had of its kind. Be sure that you get it before you make your final plans for your yard.

The Vegetable Encyclopedia and Gardener's Guide, by Victor A. Tiedjens, published by the Garden City Publishing Co., 14 West 49th St., New York, N. Y. Price 69 cents.

This book evidently is a companion book to the Flower Encyclopedia because it has the same binding, the information is arranged on the same general plan and both books are well illustrated with drawings by Tabea Hofmann. Every effort has been made to present in the most convenient form, all the information which will be useful to the home vegetable grower. In part 1, each vegetable is first fully described, followed by sections on soil requirements, cultural directions, diseases and pests. Part 2 is a very complete encyclopedia of herbs, alphabetically arranged. "The Gardener's Guide" is part 3, and this is a valuable division of the book that brings together all the important general information and suggestions which apply to vegetable gardens as a whole. From all indications, this book will prove as indispensable to vegetable growers as its companion will, to flower growers. The author, Dr. V. A.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By

H. J. Donaldson, Sioux Falls



H. J. Donaldson

Well, folks, the President brot in two new annual members this month, Sec. Simmons brot in one and Mrs. Jorgensen brot in one for two years. That is a pretty good showing for three people, but 300 of you didn't do so good. Don't forget that the high prize in this membership race is \$5, second prize \$3 and the third prize, \$2. Simmons is now leading with 44 points, Paul Carlisle is second with 16 and the President is third with 14. I hope that everyone that attends the annual convention at Vermillion Aug. 23rd and 24th, will bring something that they have raised. Whether it is a bouquet of early chrysanthemums, some ripe apples, or plums, or eggplant or cucumbers makes little difference. A suitable display table will be available and the convention is always more interesting if there are fruits, vegetables and flowers from different parts of the state to look at.

Tiedjens, is a well known New Jersey vegetable authority, author of many interesting magazine articles, lecturer, as well as books.

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SECRETARY'S CORNER

By

W. A. Simmons, Sioux Falls



W. A. Simmons

Mr. Seth N. Hulburt of Caputa, writes as follows: "I got the March number and your letter when I walked to Caputa for them. That is the only way we can get out, now. Guess there will be some moisture when this snow melts. My wild life project really came to town, this time. Several hundred rabbits found their food covered by this deep snow and came to live in my orchards. My sharpshooter is in the army and anyway, that is too many rabbits for a person to manage, even if they had strength, ammunition and eyesight. They peeled the limbs down, as the snow settled and then we got another blizzard, they began up higher again. Some of the older trees are not hurt so much but the younger plantings of Cortland, Melba, Golden Delicious, etc., are pretty well whipped." Mr. H. R. Woodward writes: "I was out by the Robertson Memorial Park last Sunday and it appears like half a dozen evergreens had died, over the winter. I will replace them. Seems queer too, since they were planted in 1941 and did well thru 3 years. We never had a drop of moisture here from about July 10th until December." Our ex-President Mr. H. E. Beebe reports: "After 6 months engineering on Lockheed P-38's I have a bigger job building Consolidated bomber "noses," where the pilot and copilot sit, glass and aluminum. Very interesting. Guards all over the plant. Am "frozen" here, and not because of the weather." Next we can expect that he has completed the specialty by being assigned to work on the eye, ear and throat of the planes. There is still time for the "back-sliders," if any there be, to repent and put in a Victory Garden. The following Dept. of Agriculture release shows what the government thinks of the necessity for these gardens, this year:

"If in doubt as to whether to take on the work of a Victory Garden this season, the decision should be to do it. Victory Gardens need to grow just as much food as possible, for use fresh and for storage. This is the word that comes from the War Food Administration.

The Office of Price Administration agrees. "Future ration values of canned vegetables," says Chester Bowles, "depend on this year's Victory Gardens."

Victory Gardening is a war job, an obligation

for everyone who has the time to do the work and can make arrangements for a suitable place. A drop in the point ration values of some processed foods in March is regarded by Victory Garden headquarters as the main reason for some temporary slackening of garden interest. But there is no possible chance that this country can grow more food than will be needed.

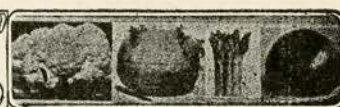
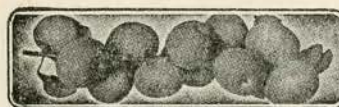
If it had not been for the Victory Gardens of 1943 there would have been a definite shortage of vegetables. Victory Gardeners accounted for nearly half the vegetables produced for fresh consumption in 1943. Already, canners have been asked to set aside for war uses 40 per cent of this year's pack of canned fruits and vegetables as compared with 25 per cent last year. Victory Gardens last year did actually make more of a contribution to the food supply than had been hoped. Food plans for the coming year have been made on the assumption that there will be more gardens and more productive gardens in 1944.

Every pound of food produced at home—for use fresh or stored for winter—means just so much relief to overburdened and under-equipped rail and truck lines. Every family, everywhere, should make an earnest effort to be as nearly self-sufficient as possible.

These are simple straightforward statements of fact. There should be no slackening in Victory Gardening this year, says the WFA. On the contrary, this is no time to "let George do it" on the food front. George is overworked now, and he may be drafted.

The onion belongs to the amaryllis family and because of this, the American Amaryllis Society has awarded the William Herbert Medal to Dr. H. A. Jones, one of the plant breeders of the U. S. Dept. of Agri., at Beltsville, Md., for his onion breeding work. We are told that the U. S. Dept. of Agri. and the California Expt. Station has announced the production of the first hybrid onion variety and its release to growers in certain parts of the west. Mr. Seth M. Hulburt, of Caputa writes: "I have had no trouble raising broad beans, except that my wife doesn't like them. They need to be planted early, as peas. Some form of broad beans was said to have been food for those who built the Pyramids. My son-in-law took home a pod to show how big the peas grow here." Mrs. Robt. Dailey, Sr., of Flandreau writes of transplanting tomato plants into the compartments of egg-case fillers, which can be cut to fit any receptacle that is handy, and have room to grow on, till time to set in the garden. She is also going to try planting sweet corn and melons in egg shells, which can be crushed, when

(Continued on Page 80)



LILIES AT MORDEN

By
Wm. Godfrey

The tawny orange colored sheaves of the Tiger Lily, which have stood in bright array in many gardens during most of August, are now fading under the hot sun of the closing days of the month. Their passing generally marks the end of the lily season, although the not so well known Henry's Lily will continue to bloom well into September. It also serves as a reminder that the planting season is at hand, and preparations for the work should be made as soon as possible.

There are many new lilies becoming available, and some older ones whose merits deserve greater attention than they receive.

At Morden the lily season opens about the second week in June, with the flowering of *L. monadelphum*, the Caucasian lily. Remarkably rapid growth, yellow color, and intense perfume characterize this fine species. *L. bulbiferum* is the only other June lily. It is not consistently satisfactory but can be quite brilliant.

There is now obtainable a yellow coral lily, *L. tenuifolium*, and this must not be confused with the variety Golden Gleam, which was anything but yellow. The new one is clear, almost a lemon yellow with brown anthers, and makes a graceful plant. Mr. F. L. Skinner, Dropmore, Manitoba, is responsible for it, and also for another brilliant yellow lily named The Duchess. This is a hybrid of *L. amabile*, and blooms in early July. It is outstandingly beautiful.

From Ottawa comes another yellow lily named Coronation. It is taller in plant form than the preceding, and resembles Miss Willmott's lily in this respect. This past season has shown that the orange colored lilies are anything but enhancing to it, and it deserves a realm where it may reign alone.

Orange color in lilies is not favored by everyone, but they are capable of furnishing brilliancy where it is needed. The following are a group of this colour which are noteworthy as having preceded or accompanied "Coronation" into existence. They are Grace Marshall, Lillium Cummings, Lyla McCann, Edna Kean and Brenda Watts. The first named is quite dark and markedly robust.

Spitfire and Hurricane are distinct and different. They resemble *L. concolor* somewhat, and appropriately enough, the flower looks skyward.

L. regale, always uncertain, succumbed entirely this last winter, but there seems to be a prospect for a white lily in *L. centifolium*. This species will throw stems to 5 feet in height sur-

mounted by huge white trumpet-shaped blooms with rosy shaded markings on the outside of the segments, similar to *L. regale*. It is quite robust after an experience of two winters.

Red Star is something of a curiosity among lilies. It closely resembles the Coral Lily in color of flower and plant form, but one corolla segment is twisted out of place, which creates a gap and gives the bloom a peculiar spider or crab-like appearance. Its history is obscure, and occupies a very inferior place in the Who's Who of lily literature. It may be that the discoverer introduced it and then ashamed of its non-conformity abandoned it.

THE EMPIRE BUILDER

By
Agnes Whiting-Chase

An old man going a lone highway
Came, at the evening dark and gray
To a desert hot and dry and wide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim
The barrens drear had no fear for him.
But he turned back and planned and worked for
aye

And planted trees to shade the way.

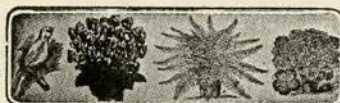
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near
"You are wasting your strength with planting
here;

Your journey on earth is nearly done
It may come to an end with the setting sun.
You've crossed the desert vast and wide
Why plant ye trees at the even-tide?"

The planter lifted his old gray head—
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There follows after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
These plains that have been as naught to me
To that fairhaired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am planting these trees for him."

(Continued from Page 70)

ing winter, which proves that warmth does not necessarily condition growth and my *It Begonia* condescends to present a basal shoot. Mar. 28th. Stung into action by a temporary thaw, winter retaliates with a 24-hour snowstorm, dense, clinging, relentless and knee deep on the level which still continues intermittently; judging by their raucous protests this condition is as unwelcome to the crows as to us lords of creation. However, the land is assured of a much needed soaking along with such minor distractions as floods and washouts.



THE SWEET CLOVER WEEVIL

By
H. S. Telford

Beekeepers and sweet clover growers are frankly worried about the prospects for sweet clover due to the damage caused by the sweet clover weevil, *Sitona cylindricollis*. This insect is a new and serious pest of sweet clover, being first reported in North Dakota in 1941. It has since spread state wide, causing severe damage to sweet clover particularly in the north-central and northeastern sections of the state. Just when its ravages will end is anyone's guess, for as yet no practical solution for its control has been worked out.

Like many of our serious pests, this insect is foreign. The actual date when it was accidentally introduced is obscure. However, it was first recovered on the North American continent at Quebec in 1924. It has since spread relatively fast and now ranges over most of the north central and New England states.

The insect is a small, gray snout beetle or weevil about 3-16 of an inch in length and is rather difficult to find since it immediately drops to the ground, feigning death, upon being disturbed. Its feeding injury, however, is very characteristic, and it is doubtful if it would be confused with any other type of damage. It makes concentric marginal feeding notches about 1-4 of an inch wide and relatively regular in shape on the leaves. In severe infestations the insect may almost defoliate the leaf blade leaving only the midrib. It is actually easier to determine the presence of the insect by these characteristic feeding notches than by finding the insect itself. It feeds only upon sweet clover. Briefly, its life history is as follows: The adult weevils spend the winter hiding under plant debris in the field. As soon as the plants first appear in the spring, the weevils begin feeding. This is a critical period for the plant, for often injury is so severe that it is unable to establish itself. The eggs laid in early spring, hatching in about two weeks into small white grubs. These begin feeding upon the roots of the sweet clover until they are ready to transform to pupae—the so-called resting or non-active feeding stage. It is doubtful if the grubs cause any damage to the plant while feeding on its roots. The pupae change into adults in midsummer, the beetles feed until fall and then hibernate for the winter. There is one generation per year in North Dakota.

Beekeeping has been particularly heavily hit. Some beekeepers moved southward to less heavily infested areas to seek better bee pasture. Experi-

ments at the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station have brought out some interesting helpful facts:

(1) Injury diminishes as the season progresses, so that delayed planting of sweet clover appears to lessen subsequent injury to a certain extent.

(2) Injury is much more severe in poorer stands than in heavy ones. Thus, extra heavy seeding is recommended.

(3) To determine if one variety of sweet clover might be less susceptible to attack than others, field observations have been made on several known sweet clover varieties. There appears to be little difference in this regard. What is probably more important than seeking an immune variety of sweet clover is to select a variety which is most suited to this area and will obtain a heavy early growth.

A few insecticides have been on trial, but results are inconclusive. Since the insect is relatively new, we have little knowledge concerning its natural enemies. However, the Great Plains toad, *Bufo cognatus*, took an extremely heavy toll of adult weevils in localized areas of North Dakota last summer. In making stomach analyses of numerous toads, it was found that these insects sometimes comprised a hundred per cent of their food. In one case, 130 weevils were recovered from the stomach of a young toad.

What of the Future?

It is extremely doubtful that we will be forced to discontinue growing sweet clover on account of the weevil. The insect will probably follow the pattern of many of our new introduced pests. After once getting established, a new insect usually multiplies rapidly for a time causing severe damage. Soon, it is checked or brought under control by one or more factors. Their own enemies, such as insect parasites and predators, soon get established and after a time exert a controlling influence. Control measures are worked out by research workers by finding some chemical or some cultural practice which will kill them, or unfavorable weather conditions may prevail reducing their numbers below a damaging figure. We have good reason to believe that the weevil will be eventually controlled by one or more of these agencies.

Foxtail says: Wherever there's a lotta people there's a lotta trouble.—Prairie Farmer.

A Russian savant develops a serum which will extend the life span 150 years. This is for the public spirited who want to help posterity redeem the bonds.—Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch.

DAKOTA IRIS JOTTINGS

By

Rev. E. L. Jackson, Mobridge



E. J. Jackson

Strange how each month of the year has some new interest to one who specializes on a single flower as a hobby. Often people say to me, "I don't grow iris because their season of bloom is so short." I always feel a little sorry for people who think this way, for this iris blooming season, even on the Dakota prairies, is far from short. My first iris blooms come in late April and from then on till September or October there is always something of interest in the garden. I shall always be glad that iris can be moved any time, for that means safety, and last year I had the experience of moving my iris in late August. It was a task, but a glad one, for it always gives one the opportunity to cull one's list and keep only the varieties that have proven themselves to be at home in the Dakotas. My main plantings are in 90 ft. rows running east and west, and I have been dreaming of how beautiful they will be when they bloom. Then I have many of them tucked away in the borders around the house and bordering the vegetable garden. I did not bring many dwarfs, confining these to the ones that are almost indispensable. And what a joy they are early in the spring. I like especially well the little dwarf *Areneria* which is so different, for one day there will be no blooms at all and then the next morning you will wake up to hear gentle rain on the roof and looking out, you will see long border rows of beautiful yellow dwarfs, scarcely six inches in height, with small clumps of green foliage. Here, where we cannot grow daffodils, *Areneria* and *Ylo*, taller and more like a daffodil, takes their place and give the needed yellow that is so beautiful. And the friends one makes from these early blooms! Last year I formed a friendship with a railroad man who called to say that he wanted to talk with me about the yellow iris. He had been looking over gardens in the community and some woman said to him: "If you like flowers you ought to go down and see the dwarf iris, back of the Baptist church." We talked for over an hour and afterwards we exchanged plants and I shall cherish the friendship of a man who was waiting for his train to Aberdeen. I wonder if you have noticed that many railroad men are very fond of flowers? Their work is hard and ac-

tive and they are away from home on long runs and when they get home they are content to settle down and grow things. For them flowers bring peace of heart and mind, and many of them have developed "green fingers." Last fall we had fine rains, altho coming rather late, and afterward, wet snow about 4 inches deep. This brings joy to the heart of a gardener for snow or rain in the falls, means only one thing to an iris enthusiast and that is plenty of spring bloom. One of the problems I have not yet solved is whether to cover or not. My soil is a sandy loam and I do not look for any heaving of soil, and that, after all, is about the only real danger, for iris can take lots of cold as long as there is not alternate freezing and thawing. I have never covered my iris plantings for I have wanted only iris that can take it, and one is surprised how many of them are hardy here. I noticed one thing that pleased me very much: the outstanding iris in the patch, from the point of greenness and making itself at home, is William Mohr. I have almost an entire row of this iris and also on the same row, some rhizomes of Mohrsom and also a half dozen of Ormohr, which did so well for me last year. It was a magnet that drew all eyes in last year's plantings and I think it will bloom again this year. William Mohr seems to like frequent division, and out of twelve small divisions I planted in a new spot last year, I had six of them bloom the first year. I do not plant with a view to color harmony for I have found out with Dr. Everette, that if one has good whites and fine yellows, that iris do not really clash at all. I love the rainbow blendings of large plantings and often one is surprised how some iris just seem to belong together.

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set in the field. Under date of April 11th, Mr. John A. Postlewait of the Winner country writes: "Have a very late spring here but lots of moisture. Have been snowed in off and on, the latter part of the winter. Till the last week or so, couldn't travel unless it was froze up. Needed a Jeep, instead of a car."

In Chicago a lad of 14 is held for wife desertion, while a 17-year-old in Kansas City is charged with accumulating three. It is felt there must be less heroic solutions of the manpower shortage.—H. V. Wade in the Detroit News.

Foxtail says: It's claimed that the cost of livin' is higher in Washington than anywhere else in the country. But maybe that's just because livin' in Washington is worth so much less than anywhere else.—Prairie Farmer.