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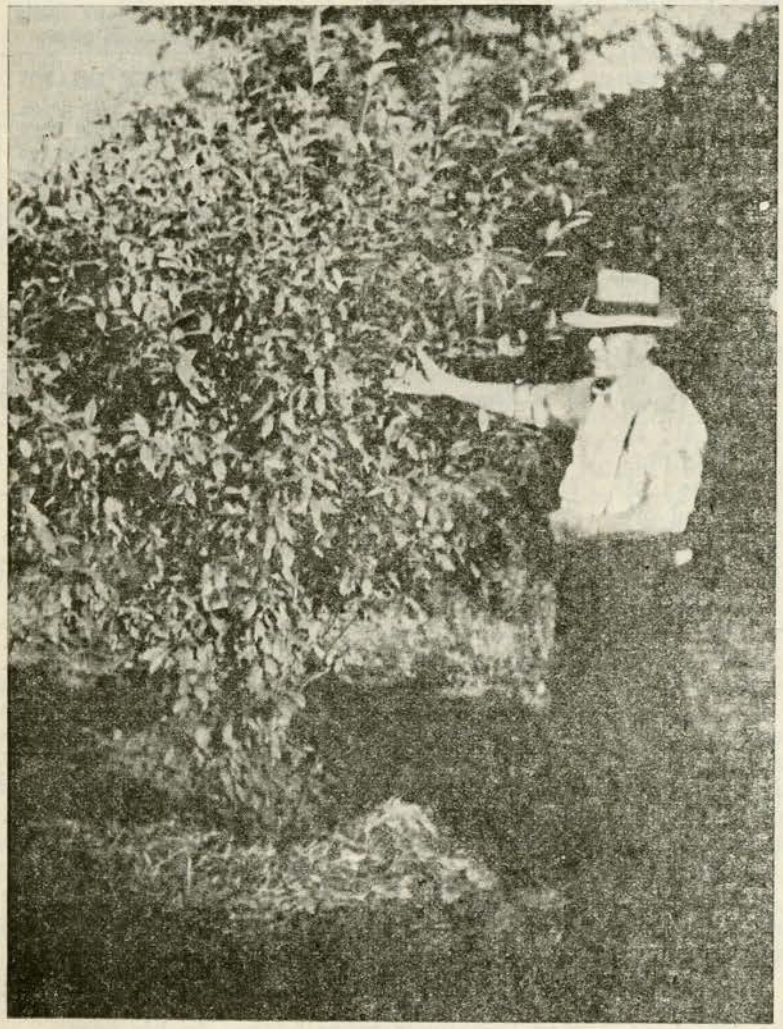

Mr. W. J. Boughen, Valley River, Manitoba, Canada, standing before a 4-year-old Convoy cherry tree, of which he is the originator.

THE WOOD DUCK

By

O. A. Stevens

O. A. Stevens

This is usually considered the most handsome American duck, though some authors give the shoveller first place. A closely related species in eastern Asia, the mandarin, is also brilliantly colored. The wood ducks inhabit most of eastern North America, north to southern Nova Scotia and Lake Winnipeg, but in general, they are not strongly migratory. The birds nest also on the west coast, from British Columbia to California and northwestern Montana.

They occurred in practically every state but since they were strictly birds of the woods, were rare or local in the prairie region. They apparently never occurred in any numbers in the Dakotas. Allen found them "more or less frequent" along the Missouri below Bismarck in 1873. Judd had only one record in Towner County since 1895. Coues did not list them in his travels from Pembina westward in 1873. Farther south along the streams, they were considered common in the early days.

In 1907 the wood duck was made the subject of a special leaflet by the National Association of Audubon Societies. At that time only three states had a completely closed season on it; in about half of the states, spring shooting was permitted and in six there was no closed season at all. By hard work of interested persons and organizations a completely closed season was eventually established throughout the country and it is gratifying to be able to say that a considerable increase in the depleted population was achieved.

The number of wood ducks was quite easily depleted for several reasons. They lived in regions which were early occupied by man. Cutting down forests destroyed their home. They were tame and easily hunted. Spring and summer shooting was common in the early days.

Audubon knew the wood duck well. At Henderson, Kentucky, he found a pair nesting in an old cavity made by an ivory-billed woodpecker. This now becomes an interesting coincidence. the duck having been in danger of becoming extinct, the woodpecker now very close to extinction.

The natural nesting place is in a cavity in a tree, often a place where a large limb has been broken off. The eggs are usually 10 to 15, dull or creamy white, about two inches long. There has been much discussion about how the young reached the ground from a nest which might be 40 or 50 feet above the ground. Some observers described the young as being carried by the old bird; others saw them hop out and flutter down. The first description of the bird by Linnaeus was based upon that of Catesby, who stated that the old birds carried the young on their backs. This may have been mere hearsy on his part.

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Vol. XVIII May, 1945 No. 5

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NEWSLANTS

By
Harry A. Graves

H. A. Graves

Porter's forecast of February 2 that we would have six more weeks of winter is coming true here in mid-April. Many early birds are looking askance at potatoes planted in mid-March.

Brother Porter also wonders how many Weigelas there are growing in North Dakota. I will venture the guess that they could all be counted on the fingers of at least two hands—maybe one. Leslie speaks highly of Skinner's Weigelas that they have at Morden. They are far superior to Eva Rathke, according to Leslie. I don't find them listed in Skinner's 1945 catalog—perhaps for the reason they are not in quantity enough for listing yet. No doubt we should look into the possibilities of Weigelas in these here parts.

Fruit planting stock has been in short supply this year. Nurseries have listed what is perhaps the smallest number of varieties in years and haven't been very deep in many of the varieties they did list. Two chief reasons are given for this shortage. First: the strong tendency for people to buy anything these days that has a potential of producing food, and second: the shortage of help during the season of 1943 when 1945 plants were budded or grafted. We are promised a more abundant supply by Autumn 1945.

No doubt you all read with interest Charlie Walkof's progress report on the hybrid tomato as related in the Manitoba Newsletter in the April issue. This hybrid work with tomatoes is only a forerunner of "things to come" in the vegetable world. The Minnesota station has pointed out that from a hybrid between Earliana and Pritchard, a yield of 9 tons per acre was realized, while Earliana alone yielded 7 tons of comparable fruit per acre. Earliana has been the highest yielding self-pollinated variety at Minnesota and has been used as a check to compare with yields from hybrid varieties.

April presented an opportunity to visit again with Chris Geir, one of our best North Dakota fruit growers. Chris has been mentioned several times previously in this column. I found him making some additional plantings—"mostly Haralson," he said. He was also setting a few Fireside. Chris uses a rabbit and mouse repellent which he paints on the tree trunks and has been getting good protection with it. In the fall, he ties a handful of sweet clover straw around the south and west of the young apple trunks to prevent sunscald. "Works fine," Chris reports, "but the trees must be painted with repellent first or you would have mice damage galore."

Our Jackson and Perkins roses appear to have come through in good shape. One unnamed floribunda seedling, that somehow missed being covered at all, is sending out strong growth for several inches above the ground. The big climber, variety unknown, that has bloomed both profusely and beautifully, suffered a calamity late last fall while I was out of town for several days and will have to come from the ground this year. Brownell's "Orange Everglow" reputed to be a very desirable perpetual bloomer in the east, hasn't done for us. It had one bloom in 1943, another in 1944, but I was away both times and saw neither. I am sorry I missed seeing it. It doesn't seem happy here—grows poorly—although I had little difficulty bringing it through the winter. A climbing rose carrying two to three dozen blooms is something for sore eyes. We need more of them—I mean climbing roses, not sore eyes!

A few months back, reference was made to new and better Juneberries. This is a fruit I would think many people would be interested in—especially the larger fruited forms. "Success," described a month or so ago, has very much larger fruits than our native wild here. It has been reported that Success seedlings come very true from seed—I don't know why they should unless this particular species is self-pollinated—but if they do come true, perhaps this is one way to increase a good fruit rapidly. I believe it is the general opinion that the common native Juneberry is cross-pollinated, and it no doubt would be advisable for anyone planting even success to plant one or more natives nearby. One of the Canadian stations is really digging into this matter of an improved Juneberry. The Russians are also working on Juneberries at one of their Siberian stations. I wrote them several weeks ago but have not yet heard. No doubt the mails in those parts come somewhat irregularly.

We are going forward with plans for a small annual meeting of the North Dakota Society, probably the week of June 24, and in all probability in Medora. We anticipate a rather local affair well within the O. D. T. attendance ceiling of 50. This will give many faithful members from the Missouri Slope a chance to attend an annual meeting. We especially look forward to becoming better acquainted with the nationally famous Beach Garden Club which promises to attend 100%.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By
W. R. Leslie

Garden Plant Diseases

W. R. Leslie

Diseases of garden plants may be caused by bacteria, fungi, viruses or variable weather conditions. Most of them appear to be encouraged by frequent rains and a high humidity. Their occurrence, particularly during the past two seasons, has been rather widespread in Manitoba.

Blight of beans is the most serious disease caused by bacteria. It occurs as irregular brown, or water-soaked spots on the plant stems, leaves and pods. Most control measures are uncertain. The use of disease-free seed is recommended. Do not work or cultivate bean plants when they are wet.

Diseases caused by fungi are most commonly found in the garden. Under these are listed diseases, such as damping-off, pea root rot, early blight, septoria leaf spot, corn smut and mildew of peas. The damping-off disease occurs in seedlings grown indoors or in the hotbed. The plants rot off at soil level. Root rot of peas acts much the same way except that the damage is usually done just below the soil surface. Both diseases may be avoided by treating the seed with semesan or ceresan. Early blight and septoria are foliage diseases of tomatoes and eggplants. The blight shows up as circular, greyish-appearing spots while septoria spots are irregular and brownish in color. Both can destroy all the foliage. Spraying with bordeaux mixture as soon as the spots appear usually gives satisfactory control. Corn smut is difficult to check with chemical sprays. The most useful method is to grow resistant hybrids, as Spancross and Marcross. Mildew of peas is readily controlled by bordeaux spray.

Diseases due to abnormal weather conditions are onion blast and fruit browning of tomatoes. This occurs during bright sunlight following a long cloudy period. The onion foliage turns grey at first, then brown and dies. The tomatoes develop a tough leathery skin and a dark brown color which makes them unfit for use. Shading the plants is the only remedy. Blossom-end rot of tomatoes is often found during a dry spell following a rainy period. The fruit developes a sunken and dry rot at the blossom end. Watering or mulching the plants with grass clippings or rotted manure checks this condition.

Aster yellows, a virus disease, affects carrots, radish, lettuce and other vegetables. The foliage turns pale yellow, the plants are stunted and, as a rule, short bunchy new growth develops. The only method of control is to use disease-free seed and then keep the plants sprayed with lime-sulphur. This helps to repel the leaf-hopper, which feed on the plants and are said to transfer the aster yellows virus.

Greater detail regarding disease symptoms on garden plants and control measures are available without charge at your nearest Experimental Station.

Garden Insect Control

Garden insects are two kinds, namely, those that chew and those that suck. Both are equally serious pests. The chewing kind can destroy plants or make them unfit for use. Sucking insects may not seriously harm plants by only withdrawing the cell sap but in many cases they spread vicious virus diseases. These often immobilize the growing plants.

Among the more serious garden insects of 1944 were the flea beetle, cutworm, cabbage worm, aphid, potato beetle, leaf hopper and onion maggot. Larger numbers of the striped cucumber beetle were observed last year than in previous seasons. The slug, a snail-like animal, was present in the moister as well as the irrigated prairie gardens.

The flea-beetle is the first serious insect to do damage in the spring. It chews pin point holes in the newly sprouted beet, chard, radish and rhubarb seedlings. Watch for these tiny, shiny-black and actively hopping beetles. Spray with arsenate of lead. The familiar cutworm, next in line to make its appearance in spring, cuts the plants at ground level. Poison bait prepared at home is effective in cutworm control. Aphids, small in size and often the color of the plants they attack, suck the plant juices. As a result the plants become unthrifty. To control aphids apply a contact spray, such as Blackleaf 40, with a pressure sprayer. Potato beetles and cabbage worms were abundant in 1944. Both kinds of insects were effectively controlled with arsenate of lead. The cabbage worm was also checked with derris, a substance not poisonous to humans. after cabbage and cauliflower began to head. Control of the striped cucumber beetle is satisfactory with derris.

Leaf hoppers, which have been found to spread aster yellows diseases to carrots, radish and lettuce, were present in large number in 1944. These insects are of the sucking kind. However, contact sprays, useful for aphid con-

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GARDEN NOTES

By
W. E. H. Porter

W. E. H. Porter

"And the spirit and the bride say Come. And let him that heareth say Come. And let him that is athirst Come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelations Ch. 22, verse 17. For power of expression these words from the good book, stand out as one of world's masterpieces, for in spite of age with its creeping infirmities, Life's pulsation is renewed as all around us is seen the ever recurrent miracle of Nature's resurrection, and those of us who figuratively cast "their bread upon the waters" by the planting of bulbs, perennials and flowering shrubs, can now look for a reward. Returning to some later winter jottings: March 1st comes in lamb-like with stiff south wind and 24 above By night this had changed to a roaring nor' wester with zero. March 10th. Zero weather of last week passes and day temp. ranges up to 35. Genial warmth of a March sun blazing down, awakens from their winter trance shrubs standing in deep snow. Horse chestnut buds get fat and knobby bark of red thorn, a ruddy brown, that of Scout apricot and Hansen's cherry, a cherry red, branches of carragana arboresens an olive green. Bright pink buds show on Prunus pissardi, stems of pink hawthorn assume a green blush and long downy buds show on rowan tree. the two latter trees still retain some of last season's foliage, and at last, some of my house plants begin to show color. On "It" begonia salmon pink buds expand to light pink flowers, a slight fragrance also. Cadi pink begonia develops a pale pink cluster of small bloom; after all the only mid-winter bloom was on a lenten rose that was not supposed to flower at that season at all. It now puts out another 7 pronged basal leaf; leaves on the plant are uniform, viz 5 leaflets like the woodbine, two of which are double pronged. One cold night I purposely left this plant on the kitchen window sill; in the morning it had collapsed to level of pot, tho after an hour's warmth it was rigid and green as ever, none of the foliage showing any burn. An interesting article on Hellebores, by W. N. Craig, appears in Mass. Horticulture and ends with this most amusing sentence: "Many amateurs still think that the Christmas rose is a real rose. One recent inquiry was "How many colors do the Christmas rose come in, how tall do they grow, and should they be pruned in spring or fall?" I read in Manchester Guardian that on Jan. 28th the river Tyne was frozen over and a foot of snow lay on the frozen ground in county of Yorkshire and many native birds perished. On application I have received "Glories of the Garden," from Kidder nurseries, Middleburg, Ind., not a very pretentious catalog but excelling in artistry. Here is a picture of Lombardy poplar in its tapering beauty which calls to mind those grand trees as seen in Cambridgeshire fens. Unfortunately it does not take kindly to our prairie conditions. Something new is the pyramid birch, a variety of Betula pendula, yes I am getting one. The latter tho slow to start soon makes up for its delay; last year my specimen grew several feet and straight as an arrow and for height is now a competitor of a near-by elm. Even in winter the white paper bark and younger growth of shining mahogany are attractive. One recalls Wordsworth's allusion to birch trees "risen in silver colonnade." Other experiments from same sources are a silver maple and gold leaved spirea. When planting a tree on North Dakota prairie I feel a sense of dignity, remembering Wordsworth's immortal lines, "The foliaged head in cloud-like majesty. the shadow casting race of trees survive." Am in receipt of a fine letter from our fellow member Mr. Claude A. Barr. As most of us know Mr. Barr, with his wide knowledge of field botany specializes in gems that grow in arid regions of Black Hills and his list of seeds and plants is most interesting, including Ipomea, bush morning glory, a double many clustered wild rose, a cold climate tree cactus, an early buttercup glaberrimus, a hybrid moss phlox hoodi xandicola (what a find), blue and white anemone, etc. All of these, given drainage, should do well here. While on range patrol after cattle he found a new astragalus (vetch) some seeds of which he kindly sent. The winter seems to have been exceptional for he mentions planting bulbs in mid-January. Mr. Barr leads a full life, besides horticultural interests, is is active on Farm Bureau, broke in a colt for riding purposes, in spare time has reviewed English poetry from Shakespeare to 1907 and read the complete Masefield, evidently he did not find the winter drag. Mar. 13th. Continued mild; saw first crow on wing. Note Redflesh crab which did so well last year and shows no winter kill, is completely girdled by mice at ground level. I read with regret in Mass. Horticulture of the arrival of that undesirable emigrant the earwig, being quite abundant around Newport, R. I. and has reached Rochester, N. Y. Apart from its re-

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GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By
Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen

Mrs. Jorgensen

As mentioned by Dr. L. C. Snyder in the December number of Horticulture the question of the Federation Garden Club Seal contest was reopened. This was done to give everyone a chance to make an entry. The present seal is being used only as a temporary seal but will be an entry in the new contest. The following rules were submitted by the Vermillion Garden Club and are so good I give them here with a few exceptions:

Rules:

1. The design should convey an idea suitable to gardening and horticulture in South Dakota.
2. It must contain the words South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs.
3. It should be six (6) inches in diameter and drawn in ink.
4. Prizes—to be decided (or announced at convention.)
5. Deadline to be decided (morning of convention.)
6. Any Garden Club member may submit a seal.
7. Judges shall be elected at the State convention.
8. All entries should be sent to Elton Shank, 215 South Medary Ave., Brookings, or brought to the convention in person.

This is not too early for every Garden Club in the eastern part of the state to start planning on having the State Convention of the South Dakota State Horticultural Society and the State Federation of Garden Clubs in their town. It is very important this year for the Federation to hold their meeting to elect a new president as the office at the present time is vacant. Due to the tire and gas situation it should be held the nearest to where most of the members live. As we never have over 50 out of town attendants there is nothing to prohibit such a meeting. Let's have a request from every Garden Club.

Elton Shank, Vice Pres.

Every time we get a request for information or material for programs, Carl Hottes' voluminous library of "twenty-two large files" comes to mind. He had, not one file with twenty-two drawers, but twenty-two whole filing cabinets filled with thousands of notes on plants and related subjects. He had five large volumes of poems alone. Our library is growing though, with sixty scrapbooks to date, besides complete files of gardening magazines and the index to others dating back ten years or more. All this material is at the service of any club in the Federation, as well as to groups which are anxious to form clubs in the state. Through our membership in the National Council of State Garden Clubs every member club in South Dakota also has access to the vast store of horticultural helps at their headquarters in New York, so it is safe to say that no question raised by any club need go unanswered. While our service from the South Dakota Horticultural Society is slightly different, it has a great dollar and cents value. Besides the monthly magazine which you are reading you may read any book in their library for a dime. The secretary, Mr. Simmons, will also take your subscription for any magazine you like at a greatly reduced rate. We recently ordered Home Garden and Nature Magazine (the latter a direct result of the exciting program suggestions in the Beach, N. D. year book) for five years each. Both magazines are priced at $3.00 per year, but we effected a saving of $6.00 on the former, and $7.50 on the latter, which gives a better rate, by ordering through the Society; and that's not small change even in these times.

While we are on the subject of service to clubs let me call your attention to another source of almost unlimited help to gardeners everywhere. This is the grand new program service offered by the Country Gentleman magazine under the direction of Victor H. Ries, Extension Floriculturist at Ohio State University. Have your secretary send a penny postcard to Country Gentleman, Philadelphia 5, Penn., and you will receive a monthly garden club letter containing suggestions for roll call, informal exhibits, new plants, and practical garden helps. Mr. Ries inspired our first interest in horticulture in a botany class under him at Iowa State Teachers College years ago, and has gardened and taught others about growing things all his life. He has the true crusader's spirit in his intense desire to lead everyone else into the realm of Nature which he enjoys; and is the foremost proponent of bringing beauty into every farm and village yard in America. You will enjoy, and benefit greatly, by writing to Country Gentleman for this new program service by Victor Ries.

This month there is still one more suggestion to offer in the way of a program for garden clubs or any other service club. The highway commission at Pierre has completed a 3,000-foot promotional film, in color, to help advertise South Dakota's agriculture, industry, resources, and re

creations. This film will be loaned to clubs which ask for it, and as it is on 16mm. film, most clubs will be able to borrow a projector locally with which to run it. Write to A. H. Pankow, publicity director for the highway commission, at Pierre, for further information.

Several years ago the Dell Rapids Garden Club enjoyed a movie, Chrystallized Sunshine from the Sunshine State. This was the interesting story of sugar in all its progress from the beets in the field to the sugar bowls of our table —when we had sugar bowls. This film was put out by the Beet Growers Association at Belle Fourche, and is well worth seeing.

Anent Publicity

We are continually urging clubs to publicize every meeting or event, every project attempted, and every outstanding garden or rare flower in their town, for you never know how far away your local paper may cast its influence, and a seed of inspiration be planted in a reader's mind and heart. Publicity from the Dell Rapids Garden Club has been responsible for forming two clubs in past two years; and their successful flower shows formed the example upon which several others were based. This week the president, Mrs. Ernest Greening, received an inquiry from Selby, South Dakota, where Mrs. E. B. Moser says in part: "I see by the Dell Rapids Tribune that you are president of the Garden Club so I thought I would write you. A group of ladies here want to start a garden club but we haven't the least idea how to go about doing so. Would you advise us how to organize, methods used at your meetings, etc.? We would greatly appreciate it if you would." Several copies of our Dakota Horticulture, material on organizing, and a recommendation to visit the nearby Mobridge Garden Club has gone forward to Mrs. Moser. We hope for interesting results.

At Hartford, too, some ladies, inspired by the interest of Mrs. George Kalb and the gardening example of Mrs. J. L. Wood, would like a club. Mrs. Wood has a beautifully landscaped yard, outdoor living space, pool, and a bird bath setting, surrounded by three white birch trees that I shall duplicate if I ever have the rebuilding of another yard. Mrs. Wood's pool, which is shaped to represent Lake Michigan, is also one of the most attractive devices for bringing tree-reflecting water to a yard that I have ever seen.

Arbor Day Projects

National Garden Week and Arbor Day will be past by the time you read this, but that doesn't provide an alibi for failure to do any planting this year. There is still time to carry out any planting plan you have in mind from victory gardens to trees and orchard plantings. South Sioux Garden Club is conducting a tree and shrub planting campaign to beautify the grounds of the new school building, and will plant the nursery stock during the time of a regular meeting. Mr. Frank I. Rockwell, Extension Forester, will landscape the grounds for them. Dell Rapids has bought three dozen brilliant phlox to plant in the local park for landscape effect; and has urged more planting in the community through the columns of the local paper. At Flandreau the Green Fingers Club had a program on Conservation at which Mrs. Grace Gurney reviewed a pamphlet by J. N. Darling, famed conservationist. Mrs. Cherney says, "It certainly was thought-provoking and brought us face to face with the fact that our natural resources have been wantonly wasted, and in spite of loud talking practically nothing has been done now for conservation. The only hope he has for saving our country from the fate that has overtaken great areas like Canaan and Egypt, is for scientists to train our educators in the simple laws of nature, and they in turn teach them to the children in school. It certainly is a big subject, and I wish I were big enough to comprehend more of it." The club got down to bed-rock on the conservation question during their roll call, "What conservation means to the individual," and gave suggestions for applying it in their own yards. Most every one thought of conserving seed by treating it; and some mentioned soil erosion and making compost.

Quick Looks at Clubs

In spite of the sixty scrap books mentioned above, every new year book which comes in has new topics, new poems, and new ideas for clubs and their work; and you can't imagine what fun it is to see and examine these colorful booklets. Four more new year books have come in this month, each one showing originality of design and contents; each having some special feature to make it noteworthy; and each showing that much time and thought went into the making of it. None were expensive, as only one was mimeographed, the others being typed by hand, and the Rapid City booklet cost less than a dollar for the whole club, according to the president, Mrs. Barber. Other booklets received are DeSmet, Flandreau and Centerville. It is going to be a difficult task to say that one book is so much better than the other that it deserves the award of "10,000 Garden Questions."

Sioux Falls Garden Club, not to be caught napping, began planning their spring flower show on February 22, appointed an overall director, Mr. Fox, and arranged for a show room in the

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BRIEF NOTES ON FUNGI

By
H. R. Woodward

H. R. Woodward

Fungi are important to us because some of them are used for food, some cause diseases which are detrimental to us and destroy our crops, some serve as agents such as yeast and some are poisonous. We are all fawiliar with them to some extent yet there is a great deal about the various forms that baffle us. In spite of all that is known about fungi there is always much for the average person to learn.

I have always seen in the woods and on the open prairies, on golf courses and meadows the growth of mush rooms, particularly the Lepiota, arranged in circles and have often been asked what the cause of such a condition might be. Many people believe that these "fairy rings" have been caused by vigilant buffaloes in years gone by, standing guard over their calves and keeping wolves at bay. I have even been told that these circles are caused by the nature of the growth of the plant in itself. I believe all of you have seen small fires start from a single point and gradually burn outward from that point equally in all directions. It burns outwardly because everything else over which the fire has traveled has been burned and it cannot retract for want of fuel. This is exactly the way in which the mushrooms in the "fairy ring" travel. They have no chlorophyll and cannot manufacture their own food, therefore they have to utilize the food that is available. They move outward as the food over which they have traveled becomes exhausted. The so-called "ringworm" is not a worm at all but one of the fungi and it travels in the same manner, moving away from the center ever-increasing the size of the circle over which it moves.

We are all familiar with black stem rust of wheat and are quite familiar with its life history through the work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and through various bulletins published by our State College. It has an interesting history through the various stages in which it developes and everyone should become familiar with it. This fungi, puccinia graminis, is the most destructive parasite on the wheat plant and causes much loss in the production of wheat. Other destructive agents about which we should become familiar is the apple rust, gymnosporangium macropus, which may be found growing on apple trees where high humidity prevails and where there are cedar trees in close proximity. Corn smut, ultilago zeae, is found growing on corn wherever corn is grown and is much more destructive in some years and in some areas than in others. There are many types of destructive and parasitic fungi and they attack almost all kinds of growing foods.

The poisonous substance in fungi is an agent which will aid the plant in the dissolution of food. Some of these agents are not poisonous to animal tissue as in the case of penicillium or downy mildew. It is a blue-green mold and is often seen in canned fruits and jellies and is the substance which is sometimes seen on the decayed spots on oranges, grapefruit and apples. It is the common mildew on leather goods and clothing stored in damp places and is the green fungus found in Roquefort and Camembert cheeses.

It produces a substance called penicillin which kills certain types of bacteria. This is the substance now used as a powerful germicide in this war and special places have been established for the purpose of producing more of it now than ever before. It is even experimented with to extent of inoculating wound dressings to prevent infection. The development of the use of penicillin may be far-reaching as an aid in counteracting the action of various types of disease producing bacteria that find lodging in the human body. The poisonous principle in some of the mushrooms is called "phallin" and is very destructive in its action by causing the red corpuscles in the blood to dissolve, thereby rendering them ineffective as oxygen carriers. In the Fly Amanita, one of the poisonous species, there is an agent from which "muscarine" is derived. It is extracted by steeping in milk to make fly poison.

The air is full of millions of spores sent out by all the different kinds of fungi. These spores enter favorable places and under favorable conditions begin to grow. Excessive heat and moisture are among these favorable conditions. Soldiers stationed for a considerable period of time in the tropics relate of a fungus growth called "jungle rot" which seems exceptionally hard to control. They say that upon leaving the tropics and coming home to a temperate climate the disease leaves them, of course in many instances not without leaving its effects.

Fungus spores are everywhere and some of them have been noted as floating in the stratosphere. These plants are both parasitic and saprophitic, in that they live upon both living and

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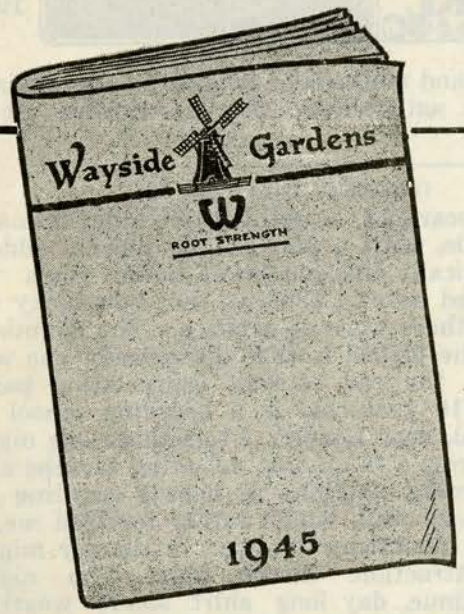

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TO RID GARDENS OF ANTS

One of the annoyances that plague all gardeners stems from the commonest insect—the ant. Ordinarily this pest is not associated with major damage to plant life, yet these industrious insects cause a surprising amount of injury to plants and lawns. Hoeing or spading an area where their mounds and tunnels appear may disperse a colony for a time, but the persistent workers will rebuild.

Ant structures can take a great deal of pun ishment which is why so many methods of extermination fail. The Queen, center of the colony life, always remains in the deeper regions of the nest surrounded by guarding workers. The most effective way of killing her is by a fumigant, and calcium cyanide is the material that many gardeners have found permanently solves their problem.

Where ants build, plants are usually infested with aphids and mealy bugs that further increase their depredations. Like milch cows, ants keep herds of these insects for the sweet substance they exude which forms a part of the ants' food supply.

Ridding the garden or lawn of this menace can be accomplished with a single application of calcium cyanide to each nest. Now available in a four ounce can with a metal pouring spout, the granules can be inserted right into the nest. It is recommended that the entrance holes be enlarged to a depth of 10 inches with a sharp stick at three or four places in the nest and enough powder to cover a dime be applied in each opening as this is sufficient to insure penetration of the gas through all the lateral passages. After the powder has been inserted into the enlarged holes, they should be stopped up with a little soil. as soon as the calcium cyanide granules come in contact with the natural soil misture, the lethal fumes are generated. Entomologists have thoroughly tested this inexpensive method and report that it is highly effective in eradicating the entire colony.

To avoid injuring the grass, care should be taken not to have the powder come in contact with wet vegetation. When ants are found in the home, the best method of eliminating them is to trace their path of progress back to the nest in the soil and applying the powder there. It should not be used indoors.

Calcium cyanide is also effective in protecting trees against the ravages of the Carpenter ant. It works equally well in eradicating stinging or little brown ants, and the Harvester varieties. However, for these species, different quantities of powder and methods of application are advised for most satisfactory results.—Garden News Syndicate.

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pulsive appearance, something like a devils coach horse beetle, with a pair of tail pincers added, they practically live on flower buds; when we homesteaded here in 1898 we thot how lucky we were that there were no earwigs. Tho doubtless mythical the legend is that occasionally one will burrow in the ear causing excruciating pain, tho when 10 years old in a boarding school at Maidenhead, near London, I remember one night suffering from a thumping, pulsating earache and in the morning watching an earwig crawling up the dormitory wall, which rather terrified me, a coincidence doubtless, tho wax in the ear might form an attraction. March 21st. Tho night frosts continue, day long shirt sleeve weather prevails with today, the warmest recorded weather for March in N. D. since 1910. Here it stands at 65 in shade and doors and windows are thrown wide open and heaviest clothing discarded, ice has all thawed in slough, winter snow vanished and in its wake, in a sheltered spot the lush green of Christmas fern and cheering purple and gold of pansies with green of rockets showing everywhere. Flies feast on pearl drops of sap that oozes from boxelders and tho last November catkins on the red-stemmed willow perished during the winter, countless white tufs burst their enveloping bracts, being the very first shrub to break into flower.

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In November 1941, I visited the Chautauqua Wildlife Refuge, near Havana, Illinois. Many nest boxes have been erected here for wood ducks and careful studies of their behavior have been made. They found, for example, that a somewhat flattened opening was a deterrant to raccoons as compared to a circular opening. We were shown moving pictures of the ducklings jumping out of the box, bouncing on the ground and running away.

The food of the wood duck is about nine-tenths vegetable matter. The chief items are duckweed, seeds of grasses, pondweed, sedges and acorns. Tubers and leaves of various kinds also are eaten. Most of the food is obtained from the surface of the water or on land.

Some fruits produce a satisfactory crop when self-pollinated but certain varieties will set little or no fruit unless pollinated by another variety, according to New York experiments.

NORTH DAKOTA
HORTICULTURE
SOUTH DAKOTA

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By
F. X. Wallner

F. X. Wallner

April 8th. A busy day as it was the first planting at the new South Sioux school grounds. Mr. Harold Mose, chairman of the school board, and I, staked the ten places for the American elm, on 41st St., also several other plantings that will be completed on the 27th. These plantings will be sponsored by the South Sioux Garden Club, in cooperation with the School Board, the K. Y. N. club, the P. T. A., the Town Board and the educational committee of the S. P. C. C. We also planted 3 native cedars that we dug at Mr. E. M. Harvey's place, about 8 miles east on highway 16. April 17th. This was to be the evening of our planting at the school grounds, but the snow and cold has been rather severe so we put it off till Arbor day. More replys are coming in on that telephone splice, and they are all so different and contradictory that we may put it up to Einstein or Haskins. Ted Olander of Sioux Falls claims it would take a splice of 2,327.24 miles. The Garden club member from Yankton has sent in a correction of 6 miles, instead of the big figures he had first, others maintain it's only a splice of a few feet. The largest grower of garlic in North America and perhaps of the world is in Mexico and he has the biggest crop ever grown, and most of it goes to the government for lend-lease and perhaps medicine, as disclosed in the last issue. Fruit of all kinds will suffer to some extent from the cold of middle April, but it is still too early to say how bad the damage will be as most fruit to date is not in bloom, but the buds are ready to open and most of them may drop later. Southern states fear considerable loss from the cold of two weeks ago. Spinach, radishes, peas and lettuce, just up a few days, seem not hurt much yet, still much of the spinach has turned yellow. The Mexican Burning bush, up since early March, is not hurt in the least and it is the worst weed in the state today. Its early start kills out any early broadcast seeding of early vegetables seeds. Am sure glad one person openly disagrees with Mr. Beebe on his plant, the Kochia; bravo, Mrs. Reynolds of Oldham. Burpee, in his description of this bad pest says: "Burning Bush, Kochia, Giant Christmas cypress, symmetrical oval plants 3 feet tall, resembling an ornamental evergreen. Fine for hedges. Light green foliage, turns carmine in late fall. Easy grown." I'll say it is easy grown. But it has got out of bounds and saps the soil and it takes an axe to cut a mature plant. Some grow 6 feet tall in our soil and now the ground is green with them, all around the yard and waste places, we aim to use our flame thrower on them if we can spare the time. The radio says it got down to 24 last night. This will be bad for fruit and also vegetable seedlings that are up. Even some potatoes may have been frozen in the ground, as the soil seemed frozen to a depth that would reach much of the seed. Under the heading, "Keep the Garden Working," and incidentally the gardener, also, the Dept. of Agriculture gives this good advice:

"The smaller the Victory Garden the more carefully it should be planned and spaced to get the utmost return in food and health values, says the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. The work of cultivating is not a limiting factor and in early planted crops such as onions, lettuce, radishes, and spinach, rows may be spaced somewhat closer than in larger gardens where wheeled tools are used to save labor. A little extra care in hoeing will make it practical to plant rows a foot or a foot and a half apart instead of the 2 and 3 feet spacings needed with the later and larger garden crops. Snap beans and limas grown on poles are space savers in the small garden and will yield more than the corresponding bush type beans occupying the same space.

"In particular, inexperienced gardeners will do well to plan—and have their plans checked by experienced neighbors—for succession crops to keep the limited area working from frost to frost. The department in its publication, Victory Gardens—free on request—gives examples. For the rows of early lettuce and radishes and of onion sets grown for green onions, the seed or sets may well be divided into two or three equal parts for planting at intervals of 10 days or 2 weeks. This will prolong the eating period and there will still be time to replant the rows with Refugee beans in rows a foot and a half apart for harvest in late summer and fall. Early beets and turnips grown both for roots and for greens and early carrots may be followed by collards or late cabbage. Early peas and beans cleared when they stop yielding will make space for turnips or late planted beets and carrots. A well-managed small garden can produce two crops of food on almost every row, and in the south even more."

"What's a fan dancer?"
"A nudist with a cooling system."
—Our Army.

BLIZZARD BELT GARDEN NOTES

By
Mrs. G. M. Jorgenson

Spring Planting Tips

A little old lady flower lover here offers this suggestion for setting out your geranium plants this summer. Break off a good slip from the parent plant and set them side by side in the border. Keep well watered and by fall the slip will be ready for winter blossoming indoors, and will not sustain the great shock suffered by a larger plant in moving it back into winter quarters.—Mrs. Carl Sherburne, Jasper, Minn.

Experimenters have found that slips of their favorite house plants root more easily when covered with a dark colored glass than with a transparent one. The wide-mouthed Johnson's floor wax jars seem particularly suited for this purpose.

The last word on tuberoses is that they should be planted quite shallow so they are just beneath the surface of the soil. The noses should have stayed green during winter storage.

According to Arthur E. Rapp in his Wild Flowers for the Mid West, it is better to plant seeds of the more difficult plants before they have become thoroughly ripened. He has had success with green seeds of several trees and shrubs that would ordinarily take two years to germinate. Lily growers are finding whole green seed pods may be picked, matured a short while by burying in a box of sand, and then when planted will germinate right away that fall and gain a whole year over seeds that were not picked until they ripened on the plant. Lily seeds are so very thin they dry quickly and lose their viability in a short time.

These buds and green leaves which thrill us in May will all be gone next October. That is the time we will notice bits of color in fruit and leaf and stem, and envy our neighbor who had the foresight to plant a few shrubs for winter effect. On the campus of State College at Brookings, a low open shrub with jeweled berries caught my eye on October 9. Dr. Snyder says, "The shrub back of the library which you admired is probably the Matrimony Vine. This is a low spreading shrub that becomes quite weedy if it is allowed to go without heavy pruning." The Garden Encyclopedia says it is Lycium Chinense, but none of my sources attribute it with great hardiness. If interested write to the Horticulture Department at State College.

Since cutting means quantity among the annual plants why not sow with an eye to your cutting requirements this summer? Plant lots of flowers in the colors which match your best vases or which make your living room most attractive. For instance, if one room has a color scheme of palest blue with touches of tangerine, plant orange-red calendulas to heighten the accent all summer. For a room rich in rust and bronze and deep blue, the gay zinnias are a perfect foil. A room in fairy pink and whiteness could have no daintier arrangement than that of airy pink cosmos; or a vase of Picardy glads with annual baby's breath and blue love-in-a-mist. When Mrs. Bushfield occupied the governor's mansion at Pierre, she had bouqets specially selected to harmonize with every room in the house. Every bouquet can use lots of white, so plan to have plenty of it from May to October. Plant whites in separate colors like white sweetpeas, white centaureas, asters, and miniature dahlias.

One catalog is offering "matched mates" for flower arrangements in which different species of plants are matched in color. Thus the James Kirby dahlia and the American Commander glad makes a bouquet of red with greatly contrasting flower shapes. A pink bouquet suggests the use of Elizabeth Page dahlia with Picardy glad; and a startling bit of brilliance is offered in the miniature yellow Hysperia dahlia, red miniature Belle of Springfield, and the maroon and yellow glad called Tweedledum.

Match up some of your own blossoms and see the effect in your rooms. Try classes calling for "matched mates" at your flower show, and plant with your bouquet in mind!

The Sweet Pea

The sweet pea is a native of the island of Sicily, and was first described by Father Franciscus Cupani, a devout Italian monk, and an enthusiastic botanist. In 1699 he sent seeds to Dr. Uvedale in Enfield, England, and to Amsterdam, Holland.

It was in Holland that this flower first became known to flower lovers. A description was written up in one of Dr. Uvedale's magazines called the Horti-Medici. From the description it was learned that the flower had purple standards and sky-blue wings, were fragrant, and were of a climbing nature as they grew to a height of six to seven feet. Later a white-flowered variety made itself known in 1718, and in 1737 Burmann called attention to the pink and white varieties.

Sweet pea seeds were offered for sale as early

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POTATOES

By W. R. Leslie

The past decade has seen the appearance of many new varieties of potatoes. The majority of these were produced for areas which have a longer growing season than the Canadian prairies but a few of the new early sorts show promise here. The next 10 years will see the advent of many more varieties, and it is hoped that these will have definite resistance to destructive diseases, such as late blight, leaf roll, purple top and common scab. There are also possibilities of producing potatoes which are resistant to considerable frost, and are distasteful to the potato bug.

The most widely grown main crop potato in Manitoba is Irish Cobbler. This variety produces good yields of a high quality cooking potato under a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions. Although not classed as resistant to late blight, they suffered less from this disease than most other varieties at Morden in 1944. The tubers are blocky in shape and when poorly grown may be rather rough. Their main fault is deep eyes which cause waste in peeling. Growers are advised to use this variety for their main crop until they find one more suitable to their conditions. Certified seed should be purchased in order to get true-to-variety disease-free seed.

The most satisfactory early-maturing white potato on hand is Warba. This variety embodies many of the good qualities of Irish Cobbler, such as good cooking quality, vigorous growth and good keeping quality. Its main defect is an inclination to roughness and deep set eyes. It matures about 10 days earlier than Irish Cobbler and is well suited for the early potato trade. Red Warba is similar to Warba in all respects except skin color.

Where red skinned potatoes are desired Early Ohio and Early Triumph will give tubers of good cooking quality and satisfactory yields. The main weakness of Ohio is a tendency to develop growth cracks and knobs. Early Triumph is a round shallow eyed potato of good quality which is nearly as early as Warba.

These notes comment on some of the less commonly grown potato varieties. A few have been under test for several years but have not proven popular due to poor quality, late maturity, or susceptibility to disease. Others listed have only been grown a short time, and their true value for this district is not yet determined.

Green Mountain and Chippewa are high yielding, good quality white potatoes which mature somewhat later than Irish Cobbler. Chippewa, the earlier of the two, is quite subject to leaf roll. This condition has been partly responsible for reducing its popularity. Green Mountain is definitely too late for most areas on the prairies.

Netted Gem, or Burbank Russet, is worthy of mention as a high quality shallow-eyed baking potato. When grown in light loamy soil under ample moisture conditions it is a profitable crop per but does poorly where these conditions are lacking. It is a late maturing variety and requires a long season for best results.

Columbia Russet matures late and went down badly with late blight.

Earlaine is early ripening but of poor cooking quality.

Katahdin is late in maturity and susceptible to late blight.

Houma matures medium late and was severely attacked by scab and late blight.

Kasota is much like Early Triumph in appearance but matures later than Irish Cobbler.

Mohawk is a high quality, late season white potato which is resistant to mosaic and flea-beetle injury. The tubers carried abundant scab in 1944.

Mesaba is an early-maturing good quality white tubered variety. Although not extensively tested to date this variety has promise due to its earliness.

Pontiac is a red potato somewhat similar to Early Triumph but matures considerably later.

Pawness is a shallow-eyed white potato which matures soon after Irish Cobbler.

Sebago is a white late-maturing variety of doubtful value for this area.

Many other promising selections are being tested under number. The indications are for general change in our varieties of potatoes. It is possible that during the next ten years all present varieties will have been displaced by superior new strains.

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basement of the Y. M. C. A., all at the same time. They have been generous in donating $5 to the Red Cross and $5.00 for an inscription of Chas. Sells' name on the Goddess of Liberty statue in McKennan Park; and have given $2.00 for a fine elm tree for their sister club's school planting in South Sioux. At a recent meeting Mr. C. W. Heinson gave an interesting account of the wild flowers which are to be found in his Dakota Paradise Park at Garretson.

Correction: The paper on Famous Trees, credited to Mrs. Grace Cherney, was written by Mrs M. C. Hammil of the Flandreau Green Fingers. I'm sorry, Mrs. Hammil.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

By

W. A. Simmons

W. A. Simmons

Mrs. B. F. Bettelheim, Spearfish, writes: "Weather continues very bad, every day cold and windy with occasional spits of snow. It has been a long and depressing winter, out here. The deer that came down out of the forests by the hundreds in December and January, because of the 3 to 4 foot snow up there, did a great deal of damage to farmers and to town gardens as well. They finally got around to feeding them, up the canyon, but a lot of harm was already done. If you feel as I do about the memorials that towns will begin thinking of as soon as the war is over, I wish you would discuss it in the magazine. It seems to me that it should be some living thing, instead of one of those awful statues such as we have in our park, commemorating the last war. A municipal rose garden, a new city park, or some nice improvement. We have established one, an avenue of fine trees leading to the cemetery, the possibilities are endless. A lot of things have been suggested here, all expensive and useless, when with the cooperation of all our citizens, and a small expense, a memorial of lasting beauty could be made." Rev. H. N. Tragitt, Jr., President of the Yankton Garden club, writes as follows, under date of April 2nd:

"The past winter in Yankton was ideal for the wintering over of all types of vegetation, especially the tender sorts. The flower buds of apricot and peach trees came through perfectly, also the red bud, which is quite the exception. Forsythia seldom have more than a few scraggly flowers, but are now in heavy full bloom, as are the apricots. I am wondering what our 31 degree temperature of this morning will do to these.

"The mild winter is also shown by the uninjured buds of tree peonies, and the vines of large flowered clematis, Hall's honeysuckle, grapes and wisteria, which are alive to the tips. Madonna lilies came through with their fall foliage intact, and have already started to throw flower stems. Here's hoping the present cold spell won't do the work winter failed to do."

April 29th. Mr. Paul Pier, Mr. F. W. Witte and Mrs. Geo. Willging, all wonderful neighbors, have again entrusted a lot of their good earth to the firm of Nash and Simmons for their garden, and yesterday a good farmer brot over a tractor and did a fine job of plowing and smoothing it up. So the realization that the long winter gardening vacation is over and it is up to us to go to work again. Have several kinds of sweet corn seed, ready to plant, when the proper time arrives and shall try and imitate Dr. McCrory in enjoying it for a long season. Several packets of hybrid tomato seed have been entrusted to Mr. Wallner, for starting the plants in his greenhouse, and we hope to have lots of soy beans and other sorts of beans, also potatoes from our friend Mr. Chas. Blackman of Clark, plus the usual quantity of sauerkraut, okra, squash, etc. A summer without a garden would be a total loss. A small investment in commercial fertilizer pays big dividends. Here is what the Dept. of Agriculture says about it:

"Experience with Victory gardening in backyards and on vacant lots and tracts in cities and towns has led many of the old timers who are acting as volunteer leaders to revise their estimates on use of commercial fertilizers—often to double them—reports Victory Gardening headquarters at the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

"For a garden 30 by 50 feet, for example, many of the experiment stations suggest use of about 50 or 60 pounds of Victory Garden fertilizer applied immediately after spading, then deeply raked into the surface soil before planting; or equivalent amounts applied in trenches two or three inches to one side of a planting row just before seed goes into the ground. Or some of this supply may be reserved for sidedressing of the rows after the plants are well started.

"For fertile soil that is in good physical condition—as in many farm gardens—this may be all the fertilizer that it would pay to use. But many of the Victory Gardens have had to be in soil that is only second or third rate from a gardening standpoint. For such soils, many experienced garden leaders have found that crop prospects on a 30 by 50 garden are improved considerably by using 70 to 80 pounds of fertilizer at early spading time, and an additional 25 or 30 pounds in midsummer as a top dressing or when preparing the soil for a succeeding crop.

"When there is manure or compost available for turning under in the spring spading, a good way of applying part of the fertilizer is to scatter it over the blanket of compost or manure and work all of this into the soil. The extra plant food mixed well with the compost hastens the final decay of the compost and provides a reserve of fertility which many of the town and city gardens need in order to yield good crops of vege-

tables for eating fresh and for preserving for use next winter."

And from the same source here are some useful hints on picking out your garden spot:

Some leaders report that in community gardens the sightly plots on high ground have been chosen even when good plots on lower ground have been left vacant. In reassignment of plots for 1945, the wise gardener, Victory Garden headquarters at the U. S. Department of Agriculture suggests, will go for gardens where the soil is deepest and least injured by loss of soil that has washed away, provided that drainage conditions there are good.

"On the heights"—at the top of the slope—the view may be better, but the soil is almost certain to be thinner and less fertile—and dryer during droughty periods. This is the universal result of erosion which tends to wash topsoil down hill. The highest land on a slope loses soil. Plots at the bottom may lose some, but they also gain soil washed down from above. The fertile topsoil is almost always deeper at or near the foot of a slope.

Water storage in the soil is likely to vary in the same way. The soil at the foot of the slope is likely to have more organic matter mixed with it, as well as being deeper. Also, it gets the benefit of having a chance to store water draining from higher ground. Gardeners should, however, be sure that underground drainage is adequate at the foot of the hill.

Vegetable crops at the top of a slope may begin to suffer from dry soil when plants half way down or at the bottom still have abundant moisture.

In sloping backyard gardens it may be practical to apply this same principle. The soil at the top of the slope may dry quickest and be the first in condition to spade for the spring crops that are not likely to suffer from drought. Then, by giving special attention to supplying compost, to fertilization, watering, and mulching, this thin soil at the top of the slope may be kept productive all through the season.

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as 1724. The three colors mentioned appeared to have been the only cultivated varieties until 1793 when a catalog described scarlet and black varieties. Growers are a bit skeptical of this as we have no black flowers today and opinions differ as to whether we can claim true scarlet blossoms. Even so, it does not alter the fact that evolution had commenced and in 1837 the first striped sweet peas were introduced. In 1860, what was called a yellow-flowered, and also a blue edged variety were offered. The latter was a white with a distinct blue edge. Later this form was known as Butterfly and was the forerunner of the Picotee section.

Burmann proceeded to make a new species, Lathyrus Ceylonicus, from seeds he received in a collection of plants from Ceylon. This form was named Painted Lady and was grown until 1900 when it gave way to the improved Blanche Perry.

It is very probable that not more than fifteen distinct varieties of sweet peas existed when when Henry Eckford, the great English specialist, began his remarkable work. More than one thousand varieties have been introduced up to this time, largely through his efforts.—Oscar S. Ellefson, Sioux Falls, S. D.

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dead plant material. It may seem hard to believe, but fungi are destroying millions of trees annually. With all this destruction, however, fungi are valuable in breaking down dead plant tissues and causes it to return to the forest floor as "duff." While they constitute a large group of plants varying in size from the tiniest mold to a large mushroom, it is the latter that seem to be most important to us because we can see them.

If everybody gets used to what he's eating now instead of butter, by and by there'll be a lot of unemployed cows.—Boston Globe.

NASTURTIUMS

By
Mrs. F. J. Ryan

At our last meeting in Feb., 1945, Mr. Oscar Ellefson gave a talk on Sweet Peas, one thing that he said was of special interest to me; he stated that our sweet peas date back as far as 1600, but in reading up on nasturtiums I find they date back to 1596. The nasturtium is a native of South America and is said to have been introduced into England by way of Spain and France about 1596. It was valued especially because of its pungent and aromatic juices, which were supposed to ward off the dread disease of scurvey, so common among sailors on long voyages. There are about twenty species of nasturtiums, among them is the Indian cress, water cress and horseradish. The flowers and leaves are often used in salads, and the leaves and green pods are sometimes pickled in vinegar and used as a substitute for capers. The nasturtium has a very interesting structure. There are five sepals, the three upper ones being so joined as to form a long spur which holds the nectar. There are likewise five petals, the three lower ones are somewhat away from the two upper ones and grow on long fringed claws. The leaves are almost round and as they grow close together, even overlapping one another a little, they form a dainty green retreat for the flowers.

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trol, are not effective with leaf hoppers. Lime sulphur spray which acts as an insect repellent was useful.

Onion maggots are difficult to control. Thus far, the corrosive sublimate treatment is most effective. A solution of 1-1,000 dilution is poured along the plant rows. Slugs can be checked satisfactorily by the use of metaldehyde bait which is prepared commercially. A slimy narrow trail in the garden and partly eaten or burrowed vegetables and fruits usually indicate the presence of these pests.

Pamphlets giving detailed instructions in the preparation of insect bait, the use of various poisons and sprays are available at your nearest Experimental Station or University. Write for one, if interested.

She: This dining room furniture goes back to Louis the fourteenth.

He: That's nothing. My whole living room set goes back to Sears, Roebuck the 16th.—Monty's Monthly.

AND GOD WAS THERE

Look, God, I have never spoken to You,
But now I want to say, "How do You do?"
You see, God, they told me You didn't exist,
And like a fool, I believed all this.

Last night from a shell hole I saw Your sky—
I figured right then they had told me a lie.
Had I taken time to see things You made,
I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade.

I wonder, God, if You'd shake my hand;
Somehow, I feel that You will understand.
Funny I had to come to this hellish place
Before I had time to see Your face.

Well, I guess there isn't much more to say,
But I'm sure glad, God, I met You today.
I guess the "zero hour" will soon be here,
But I'm not afraid since I know You're near.

The signal! Well, God, I'll have to go;
I like You lots, this I want You to know.
Look, now, this will be a horrible fight—
Who knows, I may come to Your house tonight.

Though I wasn't friendly to You before,
I wonder, God, if You'd wait at Your door.
Look, I'm crying! Me! Shedding tears—
I wish I had known You these many years.

Well, I have to go now, God, good-bye!
Strange, since I met You, I'm not afraid to die.

—From The Veterans News.

On the Sunny Side

The tax assessor's office had to decide on which side of the U. S.-Canada border an old lady's newly purchased farm lay. Surveyers finally announced it was just inside the U. S. border.

The old lady smiled in relief.

"I'm so glad to know that," she said. "I've heard that winters in Canada are terribly severe."

Foxtail says: When they was in military school the nazi generals had to study the writin's of Gen. Grant, but they didn't put in enough time on the sayin's of Gen. Sherman.—Prairie Farmer.

Foxtail says: Livin' is something we all mean to start doin' soon as we get to the place where we don't have to making a livin.'—Prairie Farmer.