

# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

SEPTEMBER, 1946

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Dr. N. E. Hansen (photo by Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen) at the dedication of the Dr. N. E. Hansen Foundation Orchard, Aug. 16, 1946. At right is shown the gold medal of the John Robertson Memorial Award, presented to Dr. Hansen at the banquet.

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**THE ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**

By  
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

Anyone who has thought of this bird as conspicuous because of a bright colored spot on its head will be disappointed for it is one of the most nondescript of little birds with dull olive-green above, yellowish below, and no evident markings. Perhaps a keen observer with a favorable opportunity will be able to see the orange crown. The bander in our area catches many of them. With his finger he turns up the crown feathers. On the middle of the feathers perhaps there is a distinct orange color. Perhaps there is scarcely any on fall birds. Is it orange or is it "chestnut?" If the latter, the bird is a Nashville warbler.

Audubon is said to have made his painting of the bird in Louisiana in 1825, but his illustration has very little resemblance to the bird. Brooks' illustration in *Birds of Canada* looks about as much like a palm warbler and his figure in *Birds of Minnesota* shows too much contrast in colors. Accurate reproduction is difficult and artists tend to exaggerate differences to show them more clearly.

The birds are rarely seen in the eastern states and were unknown to the early writers. They were first discovered near the present Omaha, Nebraska, by Major Long's expedition to the Rocky Mountains and described by Thomas Say in 1823. Like so many other warblers, they nest in the forests from northern Manitoba to Alaska. They seem to be among the hardier species for they winter in the Gulf States, sometimes as far north as Ohio and usually not beyond southern Mexico. Howell says they are regular winter visitors in all parts of Florida.

At Fargo, I catch these warblers quite regularly during migrations. In the last 10 years I have banded 320 of them, in some years as few as 10 or 12, in others as many as 50. The largest numbers were taken in 1938, 1939 and 1943. They are rather early in their spring migrations and late in the fall. The first ones in spring are usually caught about May 5-10 and a few may appear all through May. An outstanding spring record was the capture of 14 of them on May 9, 1942. In the fall they usually appear from the first to the middle of September and continue un-

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til the first week of October. In 1939, they ran from September 12 to October 6.

Little seems to be known about the summer life of this warbler. Dr. F. M. Chapman stated that he had never heard its song. Ernest Thompson Seton considered its song similar to that of the chipping sparrow. Various writers refer to a characteristic "chip" note. I have observed that when banded birds are released they give several sharp "chip" notes, very similar to those of chipping sparrow. From very few observations, the nests are said to be placed on the ground. The eggs are about two-thirds of an inch long, covered with fine brown specks.



## NEWSLANTS

By  
H. A. Graves



H. A. Graves

A lady has written in recently asking how she may carry on her Easter Lily so that it will bloom again. I have talked to greenhouse men about this matter of carrying on Easter plants many times. They have made a general recommendation that it is better to discard these plants when they have finished blooming than to try to carry them on for another season.

This is especially true of Easter lilies but quite generally true of all so-called Easter flowering plants.

Early questionnaires returning from a survey on the increase or decrease in garden seed sales in 1946 as compared with 1945 indicate that garden seed sales are going to show an increase of perhaps 10% over last year. Most of this increase, however, is not due to more or larger gardens but to the reseeded that was necessary as a result of the May freeze. We are convinced that there are fewer city gardens this year than there were last year because of so many of the city garden plots being sold for building purposes. Farm gardens continue in about the same amount and about the same size. Little need be said about the necessity for continuing home gardening another year. A trip to the local store and a glance at the prices of vegetables and fruits will be sufficient to convince people that a good garden should be grown if at all possible.

Extension Horticulturists are called upon to do some rather unusual things but this year is the first time we have been asked to help lay out a County fair grounds. One of our counties has purchased a tract of land to be used as a county fair grounds and we have been asked to help arrange the buildings and other features of the grounds. Trees will be planted and a typical county fair grounds set-up is to be the final result.

It now looks as though the annual meeting of the North Dakota Horticultural Society will be held some time during the first two weeks in September. Mr. Hilborn has written us suggesting a date in the last week in July but other events conflicted and we have decided now that probably the best time that we can hold such a meeting will be in Valley City some time between September 1st and September 15th. We will try and decide something definite about this date as

soon as possible and notify all of the members so that they can attend if convenient.

This year we purchased a thirty-foot length of porous hose—sometimes sold under the trade name of "Soil Soaker." We recommend this piece of garden equipment to anyone who has water pressure. It attaches to the garden hose and laid between rows it does a good job of soaking during dry spells with little loss by evaporation.

### Sugars Add to Autumn Glory

Left-over sugar is mainly responsible for many of the brilliant shades of autumn foliage, according to a popular leaflet on the subject issued by the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Many suppose that frost is responsible for the color changes, but colors change before cold weather as the trees prepare for winter.

"All during the spring and summer," says the leaflet, "the leaves have served as factories, where the foods necessary for the tree's growth have been manufactured. This food-making takes place in numberless tiny cells of the leaf and is carried on by small green bodies which give the leaf its color. These chlorophyll bodies make the food for the tree by combining carbon taken from the air with hydrogen, oxygen, and various minerals supplied in the water which the roots gather.

"In the fall when the cool weather causes a slowing down of the vital processes, the work of the leaves comes to an end. The machinery of the leaf factory is dismantled; the chlorophyll is broken up into the various substances of which it is composed, and whatever food there is on hand is sent to the body of the tree to be stored for use in the spring.

"All that remains in the cell cavities of the leaf is a watery substance in which a few oil globules and crystals, and a small number of yellow, strongly refractive bodies can be seen. These give the leaves the yellow coloring so familiar in the autumnal foliage.

"It often happens that there is more sugar in the leaf than can readily be transferred back to the tree. When this is the case the chemical combination with other substances produces many color shades, varying from the brilliant red of the dogwood to the more austere red-brown of the oaks."

### Light on the Farm Front

"The germicidal lamps hold promise of saving large quantities of food now spoiled by molds," says A. W. Turner of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. "Infra-red radiation for heating is another field for study. Light has been

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## GARDEN NOTES

By

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



W. E. H. Porter

Like an ebbing tide, stealthily, slowly, but certainly, summer slips by and only a few weeks remain until garden color and riot are but a memory. Continuing last month's notes: June 28th. A heavy overnight rain brings relief to our hot and parched land; temp. 56, cool and cloudy, with rising north wind. June 29th. Another deluge puts standing water in dry sloughs and a smiling response in freshened green; first potato in blossom. Wherever growing, sedum acre is now a mat of gold. I remember as a youth visiting an uncle who resided on an island of Lough Eire in North Ireland. One of the under gardeners spent most of his time hoeing this stonecrop out of gravel paths and drives; his remarks about it were anything but complimentary. In the same category we can place sedum album, also known as murale, with its lovely cascades of white stars, now in full bloom. The great Reginal Farrer's comment on this is humorously caustic, "a typical weed of the race, really valuable and yet perfectly pestiferous and as hard to get rid of as love or lime." Quite otherwise is Cape Blanco, a dwarf form of spath ulifolium, one of my new arrivals. Of this the same authority says, "a neat little clumped mass with broad, fat leafage and powdered with a lovely blush bloom that well enhances the radiating sprays of golden stars that come up on pinkish stems all over the crowded tufts." July 2nd. My *Salvia argentea*, this particular plant is a perennial of many years standing, has become sticky and foliage a sage green, without that swansdown stems having shot up with whorls of white, two-lipped flowers. The upper lip arched and hood-like from which protrudes a long curved pistil with forked stigma bearing a sinister resemblance to a hooded cobra, poised ready to strike. July 4th. Canned 12 quarts for winter use, from a good stand of rhubarb. Morden pink *Lythrum* that spent last winter buried in cellar clay is in bloom, a neat compact trim plant with uprising spires of deep pink, whose appearance sets out my plant arrangement. Congratulations to Mr. Leslie for this adornment for gardens any and everywhere. A correction is in order on the theory that confession is half

way to amendment, that pentsemon that I mentioned as probably procerus is now a mature plant with both seed pods and flowers in dense whorls on flower stems and basal, foliage is long stemmed, leaves rounded like that of English violet. It all adds up rather to description Bailey gives as sub glaber, anyway it is fully hardy and a lovely blue, plant about one foot tall. I am the happy recipient of a bit of fool's luck, one item of last spring's order from Saxton & Wilson was a rare sedum, *Pardyi* and now I see minute plants of *Mentha requienii* coming up thru it which Farrer considers the only mint worth mention and describes as 'that microscopic jewel from Corsica.' Seeds had evidently lodged in a clump of sedum, all of which is offset by the complete browning of those two alpine *Potentilla nitida* and *eriocarpa*, so I have transferred them from the oven-like heat of open garden to earthenware pots, in cool shade of indoors. The red horsechestnut has now leafed out from top to bottom, spronged leaflets on reddish stems; never have I seen a more ardent response to North Dakota soil and summer heat, but what of our night, from November to May? July 7th. A warm, calm night, heavy dew and sweet briar rose bush heavily fragrant; fireflies like electric sparks darting everywhere. July 8th. Rain now seems to be the order in continuous drenching hour-long showers. The first of those newly planted fall lilies is in flower; it is *amabile luteum*, a bright lemon yellow, spotted with drifts of sepia, with the six anthers a brick red, flower recurved 3½ inch diameter with four flowers and plants 16 inches high, a very rare break from the type which is red, one of McNeill's special from Vermont. July 10th. The rain filled clouds empty their contents in an all night roar which, continuing until noon changes prospective hay sloughs to overflowig ponds, and the land is once again waterlogged. Fairy rings fungi show up in grass in many places; these delicacies, even tastier than the well known mushroom, not only vary a monotonous diet but are also very digestible and easily prepared. July 11th. One of my best midsummer flowers is *Lychnis salmonea*, tidy, well proportioned plants about 30 inches high that can stand up against the worst summer storm, as of yesterday. The clustered flower heads are like pink and white tennis balls, the salmon pink is an unusual garden color. Farrer refers to the type *chalcodonia* as a spiteful scarlet, which shows that in 1918, when his masterpiece was published, *salmonea* must have been unknown to science, for I'm sure that he would have had nothing but praise for its attractive-

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## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By  
W. R. Leslie

### Strawberries



W. R. Leslie

Strawberry improvement work on the prairies is bringing forth many newly named varieties and numbered seedlings. Many of these have been under test at the Morden Station for the past few seasons. This and the next two issues of Station notes will carry some observations garnered from their behavior under Morden conditions.

First, a few general comments.

The search in strawberries is for varieties with fewer faults than those now on the recommended list. From experience to date it appears that the greatest chance of success will be from breeding and selection work done right here on the prairies, under conditions similar to what the plants will have to grow. Numerous growers are becoming keenly interested in this work. While all those taking a hand in strawberry improvement are to be strongly commended, only two will be mentioned for their efforts. One of these is that lover of better berries, Wm. Oakes, Miami, Manitoba. Thirty of his selections are under local test. Three are already winning favor with commercial growers around Winnipeg. They are Glen, Glenheart and Glenmore. Besides these June bearers, he has named Glencoe, Glenelm, Glenburn, Glenmar, Glenmont and Glenred. Among everbearers he has Glenciss, Glencross, Glenersk, Glenevis, Glenora and Glenspar.

The other noted breeder is A. J. Porter, Parkside, Saskatchewan. Five of Mr. Porter's introductions are being tested, of which Sparta is the best known. In addition there is August Beauty, Pinkie, Pixie and Sweetheart.

Among institutions the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and the Minnesota Fruit Breeding Station, Excelsior, Minnesota, have made valuable contributions towards better strawberries for the prairies. The Morden Station has made 125 selections from populations of controlled crosses. All are under test at present.

Since not infrequently plantations are left to fruit for a second season, some comparisons of varieties were noted as to stands of plants produced. These observations were made from a two year planting in a snowtrap area. The first winter after setting the plants, protection was

provided by a 3-inch mulch of straw. The first crop was taken off in 1945. They received no further treatment other than to keep down weeds. This year there were some marked differences in the ability of varieties to maintain a strong stand of plants and bear fruit the second year. Heavy leaf spot injury on some varieties in the summer of 1945 no doubt influenced the present stand of plants. In rating the different varieties they were grouped as giving a strong or heavy stand of plants, fair or medium stand, a weak stand, and a very poor stand. In the first group were Dunlap, King, Glen, Glenmore, Glenheart and Valentine. Those giving a fair stand included Gem, Burgundy, Minn. No. 1118, Dresden, Vanguard, Bowell, Restigouche and Elgin. Pathfinder, Ralph, Clermont, Green Mountain, LaHave and Premier produced weak stands. Mastodon, Evermore, Wayzata, Sparta, Meighen, Cartier and Herman were poor. This indicates the need of better treatment to produce a strong stand of fruiting plants in the latter varieties. In this second year planting the varieties Burgundy, Elgin, Dresden, Glen, Glenheart, Glenmore, King and Minn. No. 1118 all bore medium crops. Burgundy and Elgin were most productive. These are late varieties.

Notes on individual varieties, as they reacted to Morden conditions this year.

**Abbott:** An introduction from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa; plants are only moderately vigorous, producing a fair stand. Medium amount of leaf spot; fruit is attractive, only fair in quality; tends to be soft and runs to small size in later pickings. Carried a medium to light crop in 1946.

**Bowell:** An Ottawa origination; set a medium to strong stand of plants, rather heavy leaf spot injury, plants dwarfish. Produced a very light crop.

**Cartier:** An Ottawa introduction; produced a weak stand, plants showing light leaf spotting; gave a very light crop this year, has tended to be low in yield at Morden.

**Burgundy:** A Minnesota variety; set only a fair stand of plants; foliage dark green, one of the freest from leaf spotting; bore the heaviest crop of any variety this year; berries had a high percentage of dead ends, very dark in color, fair quality; a dependable cropper; good for freezing.

**Clermont:** A New York Experiment Station introduction; a weak stand of plants, lacks thriftiness, does not appear comfortable; small amount of leaf spot; this season's crop very light.

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**GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS**

By  
Juanita Jorgensen

**Convention Condensation**

Mrs. Jorgensen

Two lavishly filled days of valuable flower talks, exciting pictures, conducted field trips, delicious food, and friendly gardeners to talk with—that was the 1946 convention; and I am sorry for every single garden club member who missed it. We are proud to have been one of this group of gardening people. By the very nature of their interests, gardeners are the most forward-looking people, and in

them much of the future development of the state and the nation lies. We are proud to have been one of the folks who paid homage to Dr. N. E. Hansen for his fifty years of service to the nation's horticulture; and to have been present at the dedication of the Foundation Orchard at which he was again honored.

The Brookings Garden Club and Dr. S. A. McCrory may well point to entertaining the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs and the State Horticultural Society as their major project of their club year. Not content with assuming the responsibilities coincident with a state convention, the group also staged a flower and vegetable show, and prepared a fine picnic dinner for the crowd.

Convention headquarters were at the beautiful Union Building on State College campus. This was the third annual meeting for our youthful Federation. Representatives from ten of our fourteen garden clubs answered roll call—Brookings, Dell Rapids, Flandreau, Highmore, Iroquois, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, South Sioux, Vermillion and Yankton; but the most pleasant surprise was to be able to introduce those friendly ladies from the DeSmet Friendly Garden Club, five of whom were guests at the sessions. Fine reports were read by the clubs, which Mr. Simmons is making plans to include in the annual report of the Horticultural Society. Presiding at the Federation meetings was Dr. Carl Christol, president, whose annual address expressed his desire for more missionary work in home beautification, and his plans for a greatly enlarged Federation which would necessitate districting the state for closer cooperation between clubs. He read the garden club song written by Mrs. Severance, and added sev-

eral verses which we hope to publish in the future.

Dr. W. R. Leslie, Superintendent of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Morden, Manitoba, Canada, first speaker of the afternoon, spoke gaily of the perennials which run a marathon race in blooming all summer. In Persistent Flowers, he stressed the new Morden's Pink Lythrum, Scabiosa Caucasia, gypsophila Rosy Veil, and the Iceland poppies as being long and persistent bloomers from June to late summer. Kodachrome slides shown by Dr. Leslie illustrated all these and many others in natural colors. Among the shrubs, Chinese Wilson's cherry Princepia, the Mackii honeysuckle, and the red twigged willows were highly commended for summer and winter color.

Something different in flower talks was Attractive Flowers and Shrubs Native to the Black Hills and Northern Rockies, by H. R. Woodward. Mr. Woodward is superintendent of schools at Hot Springs, and has been with the United States Forest Service as a ranger-naturalist in Yellowstone National Park during the summers since 1932. He believes in conservation, not only of our natural beauty areas, but also by propagation of plants which are found therein for enjoyment by people all over the world, and for future preservation of the plant species themselves. While the geological and botanical characteristics of the northern Rockies and the Black Hills are very comparable, plants from the Hills are more easily transplanted because of the lower altitude. He named a great many trees, shrubs and flowers which could, with care, be transplanted but recommended that plants and seeds be purchased from people who understand their needs and specialize in growing them under nursery conditions. Claude Barr, Smithwick, and Margaret Arnold, North Gate, Cook Station, Montana, were the growers especially recommended by the speaker. We hope his talk will be published in the annual report and that every conservation-minded reader will study and take heed.

Mrs. Vern Tompkins, president of that up-and-coming Sunshine Garden Club of Highmore, proved herself a true gardener and a loyal South Dakotan when she said, "Just give us rain, and we'll grow anything which can be grown anywhere in the Northern Great Plains area." She further proved her point by giving a long range view of the many annuals, bulbs, and perennials which bloom in her garden from early spring until winter lays its heavy hand upon the land. Her list included plants and shrubs often considered



difficult or tender such as daffodils, dogwood, and tea roses.

One of the most popular topics on the program was that given by A. R. Anderson of the Anderson Flower Shop in Sioux Falls, when he talked on house plants. His extemporaneous talk included many interesting and amusing sidelights on the florist trade; but his own practical experience, and his eager demonstration of details in potting, propagating and watering certain plants was of great value to his listeners. Overwatering and the consequent lack of air circulation was listed as one of the greatest casualty makers among house plants. The use of sand in the potting mixtures was also heavily stressed in order to make the minerals and other foods more readily available to the plants.

Lack of time cut short Leonard A. Yager's talk on gladioli but the beauty of his Kodachrome slides left nothing to be desired. Mr. Yager, Extension Horticulturist with State College, was formerly with the Canadian Experiment Station, and most of the pictures were prize-winning glads shown at the Winnipeg Gladiolus Show. Highly recommended for the average person to grow were Aladdin, a fairly late pink and consistent prize winner; Avalon, pale pink; and Leading Lady, a white. Other beauties were Canny Splash, Fuschia Belle, Marion Pearl, and Red Charm, the best red at the present time.

Scene of the banquet on Thursday evening was the Union Building's beautiful blue and silver ball room, where approximately eighty guests gathered to help honor Dr. Hansen and witness the presentation of the John Robertson Memorial Award by Mr. Woodward. This award for distinguished service in horticulture, a gold medal decorated with a branch of an apple tree, was designed by Mr. Woodward who made the main address of the evening. The esteem in which Dr. Hansen's work is held by horticulturists in other parts of the world was evident in talks by Dr. Leslie and Mr. E. C. Hillborn, president of the Northwest Nursery at Valley City, N. D.

We had heard that Prof. Ward Miller knew his way to the gullible hearts of an audience with his magic performances, but were completely captivated by his confidential ruses and gay banter which accompanied his show and added a light-hearted gaiety to the evening. We enjoyed it.

Events which highlighted the second convention day were the dedication of the N. E. Hansen Foundation Orchard, the free picnic dinner, and the tour to experimental plots on the college grounds where many practical lessons in horticultural practices were learned.

The dedication event took place on the newly prepared ground of the area set aside as a future park in the Foundation Orchard. In his official dedication A. M. Eberle, Dean of Agriculture at State College, said that this orchard of fruits originated by Dr. Hansen will be used to propagate new fruits. Future scientists will come here to procure cuttings to use in their experiments. He visualized the orchard as the future center of a vastly enlarged campus.

At Hillcrest Park the tour ended, and an ample and delicious picnic dinner was prepared and served under the capable direction of Mrs. J. A. Bonell and her corps of garden club assistants. Credit was given to Carl Hansen of the Hansen Nursery Company who "footed the bill" for the dinner; the college gardeners for the vegetables used at the dinner; and the ladies of the club for their labor and culinary skill in connection with the affair. We noticed that A. D. Evenson, president of the club, and Elton Shank, the secretary, were mighty busy folks these two days; and Mrs. K. E. Nordmark was one of the ladies with heavy responsibilities connected with the flower show. So we thank them one and all. And we'll tell you more about the show next month.

### The Contests

"Distance lends enchantment" for the Better Homes and Gardens Club of Rapid City who sent three delegates 375 miles to the convention to win the attendance contest. Traveling 375 miles each piled up a total of 1,125 man-miles for the club to win the \$5.00 cash award. Congratulations. Highmore's five delegates were next in line with over seven hundred miles to their credit. It was good to meet the three delegates from Iroquois at this, their first Garden Club convention. We hope next year to have representatives from every club.

There was no problem involved in the above decision, but the year book contest required study and consideration of many points. Judges were Mr. Hilborn, Mr. Woodward, and Agnes Chase of Sioux City, Iowa, none of whom were connected with any garden club in the state. The good work of this committee, involving much time and thoughtful analysis, is to be commended. Since there were no rules for the contest a chart of the points to be considered was drawn up by the judges, and we are happy to present this to you for a future guide in program making. Considered:

Useability of programs for the club.  
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## THE ROBERTSON MEMORIAL AWARD

By  
H. R. Woodward



H. R. Woodward

It has been my privilege to have known John Robertson personally and to have recognized some of the outstanding features in his philosophy of life. He was a great horticulturist. I am not so sure that he would not have been equally successful in some other field because by nature he had the drive which characterizes successful people. I am also not so sure but that he became a horticulturist somewhat by accident. He planted some trees and watched them grow and saw their possibilities. He studied them. I have heard him say that if he were to plant his orchard over again he would have perhaps chosen his location more wisely, yet he wasn't sure. After 40 years he was not yet sure because he had as yet not completely solved his problem.

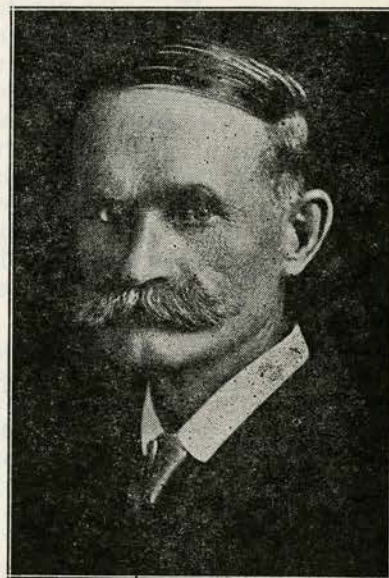
One thing John Robertson loved was to do things for other people. That was a part of his life's philosophy. As he grew older this spirit manifested itself in nearly everything he did and he always linked this up with the doing of things for people interested in horticulture.

It is in this spirit that the first Robertson Memorial Award for distinguished service in horticulture is given. I don't know why John Robertson chose me as executor of his estate, but he did and this estate has now been settled and his will provided for a small sum to be set aside in a trust fund for the purpose of promoting scientific research and education in the field of horticulture in this state and particularly in the society where he had a keen interest.

So, in the year 1946 the first award is made. It is a medal—a rather insignificant thing in itself, yet it means a lot. It is a medal for distinguished service in the field John loved and knew so well. We hope that we will be able to make this award each year at our annual convention to some one in South Dakota or elsewhere, whom the committee chosen by the Society feels has made a distinct contribution to horticulture.

It is hoped that the medal may be given to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to horticulture or some other phase of plant science. It may be through teaching, through commercial developmet in South Dakota, or

through and chiefly so, research and investigation. It may be through park development and park planning and may it sometime be given to one who has been instrumental in the conserva-



**John Stevenson Robertson, 1866-1937**  
Vice President, 1915-1933  
President, 1933-1935

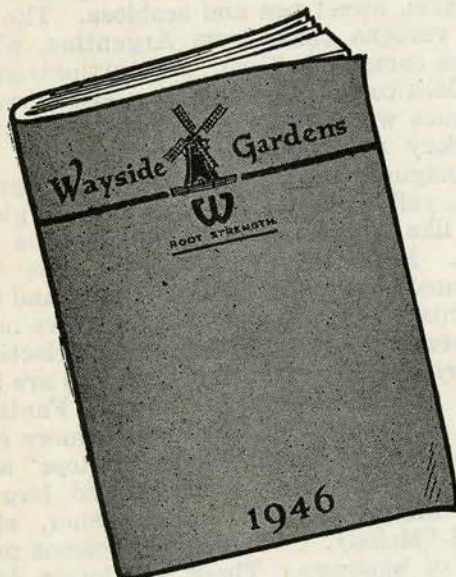
tion of our forests and native flora in this state or nearby state. It is not intended to be something competitively sought after but may it be a stimulus. It is something to be given in recognition of outstanding service. The indirect benefit should come to the State of South Dakota and some of our adjacent northwest states and to the Society in the years that lie ahead.

Research and work should be the keynotes to all gréat endeavors in horticulture. The facts of the matter are we have long since passed the "guessing stage." We are already in the field of scientific experimentation. Our government is spending a great deal of money through extension work, experiment stations, and all sorts of research which will benefit the farmer, stock-raiser, fruit grower, and the like and more use should be made of it. The participants in agricultural research find out facts that should be known by and made use of by 100 per cent of our farmers. All should look to our State College at Brookings for guidance and direction in all these fields.

At South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts there has been a man who has



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**Wayside Gardens**

100 Mentor Ave., MENTOR, OHIO

devoted his life to plant research. He was born in Denmark. He came to the United States when he was seven years old and became a citizen. He attended and was graduated from one of the largest and best agricultural colleges in the world—Iowa State College at Ames. It was here that he became interested in horticulture and research in that field. Like most research, it was plodding methodical work, following several different approaches. One of these approaches was exploration in foreign countries at the call of the United States government, searching for plants adaptable to the Northern Great Plains region of our country.

As Mrs. H. J. Taylor of Berkeley, Calif., has said in the March issue of 1941 in the little publication, BIOS, "He has been breaking trails all his life. He was equipped with a self-starter that has never been out of repair. He is a man of action following an inner gleam that has burned throughout the years. Ask him why he works so steadily when he is 'emeritus,' his eyes twinkle as he explains, 'I need the exercise to develop my pioneer spirit and there are so many things to be done. The shape of the apple needs altering

so that the poison spray can't get in the stem end and so that the insects cannot so easily get into the blossom end. In Bogota there are blackberries that are two and one-half inches long that should have been tamed long ago by the scientists who could make them still bigger. Self-complacency is not progress.'

Professor Hansen's life has been a great adventure. Not only America, but the whole world has been benefitted and enriched through the life of America's first agricultural explorer and plant breeder for the prairies and plains."

A milestone in the interesting field of research in which he was engaged came when he developed hybrid fruits and grasses that are hardy and extensively grown in our area. How fortunate has been South Dakota that he has worked in our state for 50 years. May the next half century produce another of his caliber.

Surely the scientist works in a wonderful field; few others have this opportunity to serve. It is this distinguished service to our people that we recognize today in presenting the Robertson Memorial Award in Horticulture to Dr. Niels Ebbe-son Hansen.



## ANNUALS

By

Mrs. T. W. Lowry, Mobridge, S. D.

The botanist explains an annual as a plant which grows from a seed, produces flowers, matures its seeds and dies, all in a year. Annuals vary from midgets to climber, from gaiety to sedateness. Annuals are broken down into three classes—hardy, half hardy and tender. The hardy annual can withstand a certain amount of frost and can be sown safely in the fall or very early spring. If sown in the fall, prepare the soil with the same care as for spring planting and do not disturb the ground in the spring. Larkspur, poppies, cornflower and portulaca can all be sown in the fall. Mignone, sweet alyssum and calliopsis may be sown as soon as the ground is workable in early spring. Half hardy annuals include the aster, petunia, castor oil plant, marigold and zinnia. These may be started in flats and set out early, or the seeds may be sown when the ground has become warm. Tender annuals, in regions having a short growing season, should be started in hot beds. In this group are begonia, ageratum and lobelia. Growing annuals is perhaps the easiest form of gardening; remember we always start children with annuals. Because of their diversity and adaptability to soils and locations, they are reliable and satisfying. Some blossom in eight weeks, others require six months or more. Preparation of the soil is important, but needs no discussion here. Because the seeds are often very small, it is sometimes best to mix seeds with soil before sowing. Do not cover too deeply. If the sparrows have chosen your garden for their dust baths, chicken wire netting will protect seeds, and it is advisable to plant annuals in rows for easy cultivation and watering. Usually plants must be thinned; thinning and disbudding are important in production of large plants and fine blossoms for show or cutting. For watering, the new soakers are excellent. Annuals are a necessity for first year gardens around new homes, if one is to have any color. Even the perennials and shrubs find their places in every garden, no garden should ever be without annuals. People living in rented homes or on rented farms will consider annuals a necessity because of their inexpensiveness. Gretchen Harshbarger, whose garden articles often appear in "Household" magazine, suggests in the March issue, mass plantings of a particular flower. Marigolds are an excellent example, from the shrubby border type to the tall chrysanthemum variety. Native origin of annuals make an inter-

esting geographical study. The East Indies gave us "love-lies-bleeding" and balsam. From China came the aster and odorless marigold. Strawflowers and Swan River daisy came from Australia. Africa is the home of Cape marigold and lobelia. From Europe came the snapdragon, stock, sweet alyssum, sweet pea and scabiosa. The petunia and verbenas came from Argentina, while four o'clocks came from Peru. Nasturtiums grew wild from Mexico to Chile, and from elsewhere in the subtropics were the early cosmos, nicotiana, morning glory and moonflower. Most of the marigolds originated in Mexico, as did the ageratum, zinnia, yellow daisy Leptosyne and the glowing poppy, like hunnemannia. Chile gave us the salpiglossis. From our own country came the Phlox Drummondii, growing wild in Texas, and the gay California poppy. Modern annuals have been greatly improved by cross breeding and selection. Try new varieties of old favorites; zinnias are becoming the glamor girls of the garden, Fantasy is beautiful. Petunias are lovelier and more colorful if you plant "Colossal Shades of Rose" and "Peach." New marigolds, odorless and larger, "Mammoth Mum," a 1944 prize winner, also "Flash" and "Melody." "Sensation" cosmos produces loads of blossoms. There is a lovely double form of California poppy, also several improved rock garden plants as Nierembergia Purple Robe and zinnia linearis. So let's grow annuals. They are inexpensive, easy to handle, colorful, excellent for cutting, truly the most satisfying of all garden subjects. Dorothy H. Jenkins' book "Annual Flowers" is a must for anyone who raises annuals.

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used to speed up plant growth and increase vegetable yields. With tomatoes, artificial light has increased yields as much as 70 per cent. New plant types have been developed by treating seed with X-rays, and black light has eliminated seed ring-rot in potatoes. Germicidal light may eventually reduce mortality from air-borne diseases, and sun lamps be useful to increase the production and food value of eggs.

Soda Bill sez: . . . that too many folks never let thinking interfere with their talking. . . . that it seems like many hands want light work.—Prairie Farmer.

Peace is wonderful. A feller that turns up his nose at work ain't a slacker no longer—he's just back to normalcy.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.



## BLIZZARD BELT GARDEN NOTES

### The African Violet—Part I

By  
Edna Shreve, Dell Rapids, S. D.



The Saint Paulia, commonly known as the African violet, was discovered by Baron Walter von Saint Paul in the Primeval Forest, East Africa, at elevations ranging from 50 to 5,000 feet; and growing not only in rich vegetative soil, but on granite rock outcroppings in shady places.

The discovery was made in 1893, but since then and until recently they have languished in conservatories without attracting particular attention. However during the past twenty years quite a few new Saint Paulias have been developed. Most of the early ones were of different shades of blue, violet, and orchid.

Success in growing house plants is not just a matter of luck. This is true with the African violet, which is really not a violet at all, but rather a hairy, often stemless perennial herb, which belongs to the Gesneria family and is related to the Gloxinia and Achimene. The African violet, like most house plants, will grow well if you mix your knowledge with an abundance of loving care. The demands of the plant are simple. Here are a few point which increase your chances of success with them:

1. African violets need adequate water at all times.
2. They should never be watered with cold water.
3. Sunshine in winter will stimulate bloom.
4. Few other house plants thrive at such warm temperatures.
5. Regular feeding produces more and larger flowers.

The new varieties of African violets introduced each year are increasing the interest in this fine house plant. Colors now range through pink, orchid, blue, white, etc.

Soil—Drainage should be good, of course. Use a pot fairly large for the size of the plant. African violets have a small root spread, but unlike many plants, do better in a larger pot. For drainage use pieces of broken clay pots—not just one piece. The soil is made up of equal parts of good

garden loam, sand, and leaf mold with just a little old manure.

African violets are considered "fussy" plants. There are a few "don'ts" to consider, but in reality, they are comparatively easy to raise.

Care—Abuse is often inflicted in watering. They do require more water than the geranium, but the soil must not be kept constantly wet and soggy or it will become sour. They make surprisingly small root growth for the size of the crown and are apt to be over-watered. An excellent method of watering is to set the pot in a saucer of water. Wait for about twenty minutes, or till the top of the soil is moist to the touch before removing. This should be sufficient moisture for three or four days. Or you may set the pot deep in a tray of sand. By watering the sand only, sufficient water will reach the plant roots. Always use water of room temperature.

Light—The African violet does well in different exposures. A north window is said to be good in summer. In winter an east or west window is good. Too intense light causes the leaves to be light colored and brittle.

Room temperature—The African violet is a semi-tropical plant and does not like the cold. It will stand rather a high temperature, especially if the air is moist. It likes fresh air, but should not be exposed to a draft. The plant does well in a terrarium or glass garden.

Fertilizer—In my work with this plant I note that it may be given a little fertilizer twice a month. One teaspoon of fertilizer may be added to one quart of water and plants watered with this, although the plant does not need excessive feeding, and may be easily overfed. Too much enriching produces leaves, but few blossoms. Faded blossoms should be removed.

Resting Period—All plants have resting periods, and the African violet is no exception. When the plant ceases to produce bloom, it must not be forced. Give less water at this time and less sunlight, and let the plant rest for a couple of months. It will repay you with renewed activity later.

Propagation—Fine plants can be grown from mature leaves cut from the parent plant. You should take for your cutting a leaf that stands out stiffly from the base of a mature plant, allowing about one inch of stem to remain attached. Be careful to make a sharp cut so that the stem will not suffer from crushing. Here are two simple methods for leaf propagation: Cover a water-filled glass tumbler with wax paper held in place

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## IRIS GLEANINGS

By

Rev. E. L. Jackson, Akron, Ia.



E. L. Jackson  
sprayer that is  
a large area.

Hot dry weather in late July but all is well in our garden, altho corn and potatoes would stand a good all day rain. We haven't had any rain for several weeks. My lawn tho, looks good. I have kept my lawnmower set the highest it will go and that helps a lot. This month the little white clover has been very lovely in the lawn. Have used the sprinkler some, leaving it in one place till it is thoroly soaked. I am using a copper ring very satisfactory as it covers a

Mums and dahlias are coming good. During the hot weather I have left the nozzle off the sprayer and let the water soak in at the base of the mums without getting the foliage wet. All but one of the mums are nice and bushy and a healthy green color. I soak them about every ten days and then rake dry earth over them in the meantime.

We have been enjoying Zucchini and grew the dark green of Burpee's which is the best variety we have found. The "hems" or day lilies have been especially nice altho there has not been an abundance of bloom. The specimen bloom has been very nice, however. Best probably are Paul Cook's seedlings No. 1 and 2. Mrs. Jackson likes Kwanso, the double one, very much.

This year we have a long row of annual Larkspur from J. D. Long's seed. It has been so nice, just what we have dreamed of having other years but has never materialized before. I trenched it this year and watered once a week and reaped the reward of good bloom. I bought  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. of seed, so we have lots of it. Zennias have been nice, especially the White, Polar Ice, and the variety, David Burpee.

New Iris plantings are setting still altho I have watered them during the dry weather once a week. They are getting set now and will jump when the cool weather and rain comes a little later on. We have had more birds than usual this year and our bird bath is a very popular place. I have a bird feeding shelf already placed at a sheltered window ready for fall and winter weather. Just a flat board the width of the window with a narrow edge around the same.

My Iris patch is clean as a whistle which is a

good thing as that is the only way to raise Iris. Am ordering a load of sand and when it comes (for cement blocks under our new front porch enclosed) will use some of it for a wild flower corner and some to lighten up soil in a new place for Areneria and Bloudwii. Bloudwii does not seem so insistent on sand as does Areneria. It is also huskier here than is Areneria. If we get some August rains I am hoping for a little fall bloom altho I do not have as many fall bloomers as I did farther north. I will have to remedy that another year. I have missed Hill's catalog the past two years as they have done some of the finest work with dwarfs and fall bloomers of anyone I know. I hope Robert is home and taking hold of the business for they have made some very fine contributions. Their Kansas series are the hardiest and about the best of the newer things in our patch and their work with Areneria in dwarfs is outstanding. I like Cream Tart so much. It was very prolific of bloom with us this year altho it is an Areneria seedling.

Our Black Hills specimens of Missouriensis did not bloom this year but look as tho they were getting set for another year. Will try a little compost for them for another year. By the way, made a good compost heap out of an abandoned cellar way that is not used any more and hope for a good lot for use another year. Our soil is heavy clay with just a little gumbo and has a tendency to bake in dry weather. Also built a cold frame and have just planned for another small frame. This week I seeded Canterbury bells and they are coming thru. Have the cold frame covered with a lath shade on the outside of the frame. Think I will use glass cloth for the frame itself. Have always used glass before. It is nice to have a frame to winter over some things like Canterbury bells in and I plan on sowing seed of pansies and delphineum this month if possible.

Both Mrs. Jackson and I enjoy North and South DDakota Horticulture very much, especially the Secretary's Corner. How many of you raise the lily named after Sec. W. A. Simmons? It does very well with us. We lost Scottia in moving this year and must replace. Maxwill came thru fine and bloomed well and has increased this year. Hope to add one or two new lilies each year to our collection. I notice that Golden Gleam the yellow Tenuifolium or yellow coral lasts longer with us than the coral lily does. Both come very readily from seed and I want to get a box started this fall as we like them both so much. With kindest regards to old friends of the Dakotas and thanks for your letters and inquiries about Iris and allied flowers.



## SECRETARY'S CORNER

By  
W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

The July issue of "Farm Research," published at Geneva, N. Y., tells of greatly increased yields from beets, obtained by side-dressing them, preferably when they are about six weeks old, with salt. Increases up to six tons per acre were obtained in New York State by this method, and in addition, this is said to make beet tops more palatable. Any kind of cheap salt is said to do the work. This is something interesting for the home gardener to try. Our annual meeting has come and gone, leaving very pleasant memories with those that were fortunate enough to be able to attend. It left, I think, increased appreciation of our great State College, and the fine men that direct its affairs and those of the extension department. The Director of the latter, Dr. Geo. Gilbertson, in addressing the assembly Thursday morning, said they had often wondered, when passing a fine farmstead, as to whether the man or the woman that dwelt there was the boss. But from long experience they had learned to read the indications and come to the conclusion that if the smoke from the chimney went with the wind the woman was the boss, but if it went against the wind, the man was boss. It is nice to have all these little points solved for us by real scientists. The Garden clubs were well represented by attractive gals from their membership, all the clubs sending delegates with the exception of Britton, Centerville, Chancellor and Mobridge. Also there were five ladies from the DeSmet club, and we hope this club will soon become affiliated, as they were several years ago. The nominating committees for both the Horticultural Society and the Federation seemed satisfied with the existing officers, and there were no changes made. The affiliated clubs had interesting reports of the year's activities, and these were gotten out of the way during the morning session, the first day. In the afternoon, a fine talk was made by our good friend Mr. W. R. Leslie, of Morden, Manitoba, Canada, on Persistent Flowers, which we wish we could publish in our report, but as it was made from notes, like so many good things, could be enjoyed only by those present. Mr. Leslie added a lot to our meeting, and we wish he could be with

us oftener. Our Vice President, Mr. H. R. Woodward, attending a meeting for the first time, spoke on the attractive flowers and shrubs, native of the Black Hills and northern Rockies, in which he told us much about Yellowstone Park, also where, for many years, he was Senior Naturalist at Old Faithful Station. Mrs. Verne Tompkins, president of the large Highmore Garden club, gave an interesting paper entitled "The Flowers I Like Best." Mr. A. R. Anderson, of Sioux Falls, appeared with many attractive plants from his large greenhouse, and gave us many pointers on raising house plants. A talk on the new Glads was made by Mr. L. A. Yager of Spearfish, illustrated by some fine slides. Mr. Leslie also showed slides with his talk, both of the newer lilies and other flowers, and of the fruits he raises at Morden, many of which were originated at his Station, and other places in Canada. At the banquet Mr. Woodward presented to Dr. Hansen the first yearly award of the John Robertson Foundation yearly gold medal. His presentation talk will be found on another page of this issue. Dr. Hansen replied in an interesting address, as all of his are. This was followed by talks by Mr. Leslie, Mr. E. C. Hilborn of Valley City, N. D., Mr. Russell Rulon of Yankton, and Mr. Wallner. Mr. Dybvig presided as toastmaster in his usual pleasant and efficient manner. Mr. Ward Miller of Brookings gave a mystifying exhibition of slight of hand, which was much enjoyed. The Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. L. V. Ausman, was present, and he held a meeting with the Executive Board, after the banquet, to consider the needs of the Society, also Mr. Randall of the Agri. Dept., the presence of these two men being much appreciated, and it is hoped the financial needs of the Society can be met. On Thursday morning we met in a hall on the campus, and enjoyed talks by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Eberle and Dr. Gilbertson, after which we were loaded into cars and taken to the Hansen Foundation Orchard, which was dedicated by Dr. Eberle, talks also being made by Mr. Rulon, Dr. Hansen, Mr. Leslie, and others. Several specimens of each of Dr. Hansen's originations are set in this orchard, all permanently labelled, so that none of them will become lost or forgotten. This will be an interesting place to visit in a few years, when the trees attain bearing age. We then went on to inspect hybrid corn plots, potato plots, at the latter of which Dr. Nagel gave some valuable information about sprays and dusts required to attain best health and yield. We were then taken to Hillcrest Park where Carl A. Hansen and the

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## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By  
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

The potato crop will be 5 per cent more than last year and 13 million bushels more than expected a month ago, and is the second largest crop on record. Effective use of DDT has raised the nation's average from 150.6 to 163.3 bushels per acre. There is also a big gain in apples over the July forecasts, tho it would not seem so locally, where we have to rely on the marriage applesauce to balance our diet. The increase is due to large crops in the important producing states, a million bushels in Washington, New York and Pennsylvania. The total yield will be over 111 million bushels. On top of this we will get more than 3¼ million bushels of the Canadian crop, main producing apple sections of which were not affected by the freeze. It is to be hoped that the revived OPA will set the price where ordinary people can afford to use them; already there is quite a buyer's strike, people refusing to pay the fantastic price of over 13 cents per pound, charged in the stores. The onion crop will be more than 2 million bushels over the 1944 crop. One-fourth of the crop will come from New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, while last year they produced less than one-fifth of the nation's crop. The western sections will produce over half of the nation's crop, our little patches in the Dakotas are not counted, tho we do our bit toward scenting the breath of our citizens. One-third of the California crop will be dehydrated. A plane load of bananas arrived in South Bend, Ind., from Texas. On the return trip the plane was loaded with fancy Michigan peaches, for the Texas market. The same plane, the week before, was loaded with raspberries for Texas. The hail storm of the 19th about destroyed our only remaining fruit, the tomato. Where the vines protected the fruit, it was not so bad but the fruit exposed received direct hits and was all ruined, green and ripe, and it took most of our early plantings of melons, cucumbers, peppers, and eggplant was the hardest hit. The storm brot us .37 of an inch rain, but nature exacted an excessive price for it. A new catalog of technical books has just been issued by the Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., 26 Court St., Brooklyn 2, N. Y. This will be gladly sent to anyone interested, and

is well worth having. The past two years in the southern hemisphere has been the driest in 86 years, turning nations that ordinarily produce exportable surpluses into food importing nations. This year the drought has extended to all of central Europe, ruining the potato crop on which many of the countries depend for their food. We complain at the sugar shortage and seek extra canning sugar, without realizing that Cuba, our main supply source, was dried out, cutting the ordinary crop down to one-third. Our nation is in a relatively favorable position as regards food. The wheat crop is in the bag, or rather on the ground, due to box car shortage, but much of the corn producing area has also been dry, and an early frost can make monkeys of the men who have predicted such a bumper crop. Food will be scarce for several years and none of it should be wasted. From the Idaho News Letter, we garner this interesting bit of natural history:

"The cow is a female quadruped with an alto voice and a countenance in which there is no guile. The cow collaborates with the pump in the production of a liquid called milk, provides the filler for hash, and at last is skinned by those she has benefited, as mortals commonly are.

The young cow is called a calf, and is used in the manufacture of chicken salad.

The cow's tail is mounted aft and has a universal joint. It is used to disturb marauding flies, and the tassel on the end has unique educational value. Persons who milk cows and come often in contact with the tassel have vocabularies of peculiar and impressive force.

The cow has four stomachs. The one on the ground floor is used as a warehouse and has no other function. When this one is filled, the cow retires to a quiet place, where her ill manners will occasion no comment, and devotes herself to belching. The raw material thus conveyed for the second time to the interior of her face is pulverized and delivered to the auxiliary stomach, where it is converted into cow.

The cow has no upper plate. All of her teeth are parked in the lower part of her face. This arrangement was perfected by an efficiency expert, to keep her from gumming things up. As a result, she bites up and gums down.

The male cow is called a bull, and is lassoed along the Colorado, fought south of the Rio Grande, and shot in the vicinity of the Potomac.

A slice of cow is worth 8 cents to the cow, 14 cents in the hands of packers, and \$2.40 in a restaurant that specializes in atmosphere.

(Author unknown, but definitely appreciated)"



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**Dunlap:** Continues to be very dependable, strong plant-maker, is free of leaf spot; no crop this year, as most fruiting plants were dug.

**Dresden:** A New York Station introduction that is moderately vigorous, a fair plant-maker; showing some leaf spot; gave a medium crop of medium to large berries of pretty fair quality and attractive.

**Elgin (0-271):** A comparatively recent introduction from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. It is a strong plant-maker, establishing a good row in 1945. Plants are low growing, hardy, vigorous with medium green, bright glossy foliage that is distinctive. The flowers are very large and late, blooming abundantly June 17. The fruits are large, light red in color but bright. They ripen late when most varieties are finished, being at their peak this year from July 12 to 15. Quality is fair, somewhat tart, and with a tendency to soft flesh. The skin is thin and bruises rather easily, so requires care in handling. Yield was very good—a promising late berry.

**Gem:** Gave a very light crop, due principally to a poor stand of fruiting plants.

**Glen:** An introduction of Wm. Oakes, Miami, Manitoba; a very strong plant-maker, vigorous foliage; one of its chief drawbacks is strong susceptibility to leaf spot. It gave a fair to heavy crop of fruit of medium size, bright red color, fair quality and firmness; early season.

**Glencoe:** From Wm. Oakes, Miami, Manitoba; produced a medium strong stand, vigorous plants; trace of leaf spot. Bore a medium crop of bright conic berries.

**Glenheart:** From Wm. Oakes; produced a very strong stand of vigorous plants, but like Glen is very subject to leaf spot; gave a fair crop of short conic berries of good flavor.

**Glenmore:** From Wm. Oakes; a strong plant maker, very hardy, vigorous, somewhat susceptible to leaf spot. Produced a medium crop of rather smallish berries, tends to lose size towards end of season. Quality is fair, firm, somewhat tart.

**Herman:** An Ottawa production, has given a light stand of plants, and only a light crop. Lacks promise.

**King:** An Ottawa production; a satisfactory plant maker, maintaining a fair stand of plants; mildly affected with leaf spot; produced a fair to heavy crop of fruit this year, of good quality.

**LaHave:** An Ottawa production; has given a weak to medium stand of plants, lacking in vigor, dwarfed; light crop.

**Meighen:** An Ottawa production; strong stand of plants which lack somewhat in vigor, light infection of leaf spot; heavy crop of berries on rather short stems, fair size at beginning of season becoming small later, fair quality.

**Minn. No. 1118:** From Minnesota; produces a strong stand of plants, clean, healthy, medium green foliage; fair crop though less productive than Burgundy this season; quality good. The fruits are carried on strong, upright stems.

**Pathfinder:** From Prof. J. H. Clark of New Jersey; has established a weak row of plants, showing some scorch; lacks vigor this year.

**Premier:** Established a weak to medium row of plants which exhibit only fair vigor; very light crop this year.

**Ralph:** An Ottawa origination; produced a light stand of plants, which are lacking in vigor; crop also light. Foliage rather subject to leaf spot.

**Restigouche:** Produced a strong stand of plants, moderately vigorous; trace of leaf spot; light crop fruit.

**Sparta:** From Honeywood Nursery (A. J. Porter), Parkside, Sask., set a weak stand of plants, ample vigor; foliage clean and healthy; a very light crop.

**Valentine:** From Horticultural Experiment Station, Vineland, Ontario; has established a strong row of plants of fair vigor; moderately susceptible to leaf spot; fruits very early—no crop this year as all blossoms were killed by the May frost.

**Vanguard:** From Vineland, Ontario; set a strong row of plants, vigorous, some leaf spotting; light crop this year of good quality, medium sized berries.

**Wayzata:** Its chief drawback is poor runner habit under dry conditions; establishes a very weak row; very light crop, quality very good.

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with a rubber band. Pierce the paper with small holes. Insert the leaf stems in these holes deeply enough for the stems to reach into the water. Set the glass in a south window. In about two weeks roots will appear at the base of each stem. Change the water then, and in another week or two a small green leaf will appear at the base of each parent leaf. They may now be transferred to 3-inch pots of light soil.

It was Burbank who talked God out of putting stickers on cactus.—H. G. Oliver in Desert Rat Scrap Book.





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ness. For best effect the plants should be massed in clumps where nothing else can detract from their beauty; tho fully hardy and very easy to propagate by seed or division, it seems to be little known and therefore rare. Another handsome *Lychnis* also now at its best is *coronaria*, which tho subject to winter kill, some plants always come thru and worth bringing thru. Again from Farrer, "wide cups of claret crimson velvet," truly lovely against its grey flannel foliage. The thorn in this case is its untidy floppiness which yesterday's storm intensified. July 15th. The new thornless rose Festival is now in bloom, cut back almost to ground level on arrival in May, it is 14 inches high, with two flowers having  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, fragrant and a deep pink the petalage is dense and round like a cabbage, somewhat frilled and foliage much like a *Mahonia*, immune to rose weevil which has ruined other roses. The sole agent for this best of roses is Krider Nurseries, Inc., Middlebury, Ind. A not quite yearling Hereford heifer sold at 19 cents at West Fargo stock yards, netting me \$124.45. July 20th. Pleasantly cool steady breeze, my creeping convolvulus cantabrica in bloom, pale pink with 5 dark lines on sutures, honorably mentioned by Farrer as a rosy flowered species of Southern Europe. Beautiful indeed are the Maxwill and Davidii lilies. tall, stately and contemptuous of underlying trash, much of which are overgrown violas, now gone to seed. They are wind resistant, one of Maxwill's in its second year, stands 44 inches high with two flower stems respectively 13 and 14 blooms of a reddish orange. July 21st. A cold polar air moves in with day temp. in 50 and night in 30's, tho no actual damaging frost, tho a kitchen fire is welcome, reports of frost over radio from parts of Canada. A checkup on my red horsechestnut as follows: From ground level yard high, new shoots to 4 inches, a beautiful ornamental, symmetrical, with a dense canopy of arching foliage( in color and appearance much like that of a peach tree. Pearce's annual hyacinth-flowered larkspurs are quite the best of all, large double flowers in shades of pink, mauve, purple, etc., on spires 28 inches tall with side branching limited, and very compact, of imposing d'ignity. Unfortunately I got a very poor hit from my package of seeds.

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Value of programs for better gardens.  
Availability of material for the programs.  
Labor appended to produce useful programs.  
Highmore is again in the news as the winner

of the year book contest and the accompanying \$2.00 in cash, though last year's winners, the Green Fingers Garden Club of Flandreau, was a close runner-up. From there on the judges agree there was little choice, and insisted that honorable mention be given to the clubs in the following order: Centerville, Dell Rapids, Vermillion, South Sioux, and Rapid City. Only one regret do we have in connection with this contest, and that is that we found another year book in our mail when we arrived home from the convention. Too late then to do anything about it, but Britton did send a fine booklet which you will hear more about at a later date.

Remember: Dues are due, any time following the convention, and they must be paid by November.

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ladies of the Brookings Garden Club had prepared a fine picnic dinner. In the afternoon Dr. McCrory took us to the tomato plots, where we saw many varieties being tested for earliness and yields. We were particularly interested in the Sioux tomato, which has out-yielded all the other varieties, and they certainly promise to do so again this year. I think all that saw them determined to grow some of this variety next year, if able to obtain seed.

## The PIONEER SEED HOUSE

NURSERY-GREENHOUSES OF THE  
NORTHWEST

Founded at Bismarck, in Dakota Territory.  
in 1882

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