

# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

JUNE, 1948



Scene on the Capitol grounds, Pierre, on Arbor day, 1948, when Gov. Geo. T. Mickelson planted a fine specimen of our State tree, furnished by Mr. H. N. Dybvig, president of our society. Left to right: Wm. A. Kluender, N. W. Ry. forester, St. Paul; H. R. Woodward, Jr., State forester; Gov. Mickelson, H. N. Dybvig and E. K. Ferrell, Extension forester.  
—Courtesy of the Argus-Leader.

The annual meeting of the Horticultural Society and of the S. D. Federation of Garden Clubs will be held at Sioux Falls, Aug. 10, 11 and 12. Plan to attend.



**THE CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER**

By  
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

This is one of the common warblers in the eastern states but it is rather rare with us. I see one only once in four or five years. The full plumaged male is quite striking in appearance. As the name suggests, there is a prominent streak of reddish brown on each side, from the throat nearly to the tail. The rest of the under parts, cheeks and front of head are white. There is some light yellow on top of the head and in two broad bars across the wing. The back is prominently striped with black and light lines of yellowish white which shade into grays toward the tail. A black patch around the eye connects with the brown streak and also a black line to the back of the head.

The female has similar but less prominent markings. She has traces of the brown streak and less black on the head. The young birds in the fall are mostly light grayish green on the back and gray below. Last year I caught such a one and with bird and book in hand it took some time for me to conclude that I had a young chestnut-sided. Such is the similarity of fall warblers and such was my lack of acquaintance with this bird. It is listed as a common migrant in Minnesota and as nesting in the coniferous forest.

The chestnut-sided warbler is a distinctly eastern species and not a very northerly one. It is reported to nest from southern Quebec to central Manitoba, southward as far as Nebraska, northern Ohio and in the mountains to Tennessee and South Carolina. Like many other warblers, it travels to Central America for the winter.

The name "chestnut-sided" dates from Alexander Wilson. He considered it rare in Pennsylvania. He commented that he could not account for the name "bloody-sided" until he saw the first illustration in which the streak was shown in that color.

Dr. T. Gilbert Peason wrote the Audubon Societies leaflet on this species in 1916. To find the bird he said "one should go to woodlands that have been cut over and grown up to bushes. \* \* \* Usually the nest is from two and a half to three and a half feet from the ground." Dr. Roberts tells a similar story for Minnesota. When the brush gave way to fields the warblers became

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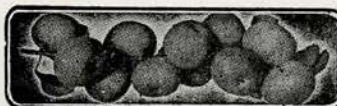
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scarce. The nests and songs of the bird are very similar to those of the yellow warbler. Dr. Roberts states that in the brushy areas along the Mississippi from Red Wing south soon after 1900, a casual observer might have considered the yellow warbler to be the common species, but a careful search showed the songs came mostly from the chestnut-sided warbler.





## NEWSLANTS

By

Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

I am somewhat disturbed and perhaps just a little disgusted with the off-gain-on-again-Flanagan attitude of some of our home gardeners. During the month of March and early April we were bombarded with telephone calls, both here at the Agricultural College, and at the local County Agent's office by folks who were desperately in need of a garden spot.

As a consequence, the Garden Information Center was set up in the Cass County Agent's office and 80 garden plots located just outside the city limits. These plots had been in potatoes the last year and were in good shape for gardening this spring. The farmer did not, however, want to rent this area out for small gardens unless at least 40 people would sign up. After adequate publicity a total of 10 people showed interest in the plots and as a result, the farmer has canceled out the whole deal and has planted the field to wheat. I somehow feel that a lot of the folks who had an opportunity to rent these gardens, and did not, will be sorry before the summer is over.

Another word or two must be said, I guess, about the winter injury that we have had this past winter. We have had a long letter from Franklin Page of Hamilton who also reports on winter injury and he tells how the rabbits avoided the Dolgo crabs and Tait-Dropmore pear. This, apparently, was no accident since trees all around them were quite severely injured. If, by any chance, the Dolgo crab is unpalatable to rabbits, then it certainly would be valuable as an understock here in North Dakota.

"One Hundred Best Books for the Gardener's Library" is the title of a new catalog available from the Holliston Mills, Dept. GC, 70 W. 40th St., New York 18, N. Y. These hundred best books were selected by Paul F. Frese, Editor of the Flower Grower and approved by E. L. D. Seymour, Horticultural Editor of The American Home and Elizabeth C. Hall, Librarian of the New York Botanical Garden. The cost of this catalog is 15 cents. A descriptive paragraph about each book, the price and the name of the publisher, is listed for each of the 100 books in the catalog. To anyone anticipating the purchase of a good horticultural book, this catalog would, no doubt, be a valuable guide.

E. B. Lichty of Cando, North Dakota, whose

place I visited several years ago, sent in his Horticultural Society dues and acknowledged receipt of a sample of the Minn. Hybrid No. 202 Sweet Corn which was sent out for trial to North Dakota members this year. He also extends a kind invitation to drop in and visit his yard and garden, as well as the small log cabin that he now has under construction using trees from his own planting. He also dangles as bait a cup of coffee which goes a long ways to make friends. Mr. Lichty says that he reads the North and South Dakota Horticulture from cover to cover each month.

Mrs. May Kline of Mott, North Dakota, sends in a sample of Strawberry Popcorn which she grew in her garden last year. She reports that some folks have had trouble getting it to mature but that hers has matured up in good shape. She points out, however, that it is only a novelty but is very nice for winter bouquets and colorful centerpieces.

Dr. Joe Schultz has received a few plants of the Durham Everbearing Raspberry from Dr. Yeager. If their behavior on the plots here is encouraging, there is a possibility that they may turn up as a premium to members of the North Dakota Horticultural Society in the next year or so. The Durham Raspberry is an everbearing variety. It differs from other everbearers in that practically every plant produces fruit on its terminals even though it may be only a foot or so in height. In New Hampshire, fruit is set early in August and it begins ripening the latter part of that month. For this reason, a large proportion of its crop will ripen even with frost expected the latter part of September. Fruit of the Durham variety is fair in size, firm, and has been found to freeze and process well. In the development of this variety Dr. Yeager had in mind the avoidance of Spur-blight which causes the winter killing of many of the raspberry canes on the older plantings in New Hampshire. If this variety proves itself adapted to North Dakota, then we could depend on it to give us a fall crop here, too, even though the canes might freeze back to the ground. In New Hampshire they are suggesting that all the plants be cut off at ground level in the fall or early spring and letting the new canes develop a crop for the following fall. In New Hampshire the autumn crop is superior to the spring crop.

The magazine "Horticulture" published by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society also contains an excellent picture of Dr. Yeager in a planting of the Durham raspberries. This picture occurs in the May issue. It is a very good likeness. Dr. Yeager still has an unmanageable lock of hair.

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**GARDEN NOTES**

By  
W. E. H. Porter



W. E. H. Porter

At this season in North Dakota the amenities of life can once more be enjoyed. The parlor furnace given its summer vacation, doors and windows are thrown open, freed from indoor imprisonment, house plants to set out in the garden and many weeks of gardening pleasure in prospect. Continuing from last month, on March 17th we were treaded to a cold blizzard that by night resulted in blocked roads. Here's a picture of the same date in England as recorded in Manchester Guardian: "The beautifully cared for estate of Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley, with its natural woodland, shrubberies, gracious formal lawn and herbaceous borders is a perfect bird sanctuary and the great variety of flowers make it a paradise for certain butterflies, too. I have already seen brilliant yellow brimstones moving with direct and powerful flight thru the sunny woods. Several commas basking with outstretched wings on a sunny bank, a couple of peacocks and a small tortoise shell were dancing over a bank of flowering heaths and small coppers were about in strength, some of them flying high above the treetops. Another world of great activity lay beneath the surface of an ornamental pond where hundreds of frogs were disporting themselves in the sunlit water. Equally fascinating was the fantastic water ballet danced by innumerable whirligig beetles moving like particles of quicksilver on the pond's glassy surface." A dalesman in Cumberland says, "Aye, winter is over and there is nothing but hard work facing us." With linen and blankets set out to air on the hedges everywhere in the dales, the women folks were seized with a spring cleaning madness. March 26th. Raging north wind with driving snow moderates and sunshine again makes life bearable. In England it's the warmest March since 1870, with a high of 74 on 9th; flowering window boxes in London and Prunus in blossom. A Gov't survey of boundary between Ontario and Manitoba over 600 miles, nears completion in region of Hudson Bay where trees get very stunted; one spruce 250 years old was six inches high. April 5th. Our interminable winter drags on; on April 3rd a three day blizzard recorded in Alberta and Saskatchewan tells of 15 ft. drifts, the worst April storm in 60 years. April 6th. Heard a robin in grove! I feel sorry

for it. April 7th. A rapidly falling barometer and wind veering to north settled down by 9 a. m. to a good old time blizzard, continuing for 24 hours, with a 13 inch snowfall and of course all transportation stopped, but central Alberta was worse off with 21½ ft. on the level; only communication by plane, and range cattle have to be fed by the same method. Digging out took me most of a day. April 10th. Southeast wind with temp. of 40, highest yet; heard and saw an unhappy skein of geese flying low, evidently looking for water and finding only mountainous snow banks. April 15th. Cloudy still, temp. 45, this changes by night to light snow and temp. drops to 10. Blackbirds arrive, their summery musical and rather deafening chatter sounds strangely out of keeping with prevailing conditions. Last fall, at approach of winter, a member and resident of Hansboro gave me a petunia that had graced his garden during summer. It was shamefully neglected all winter and most anything else would have succumbed; it has responded with a first spring flower, large double ruffled pink blossom and oh how welcome. Tho usually regarded as an annual the petunia thus treated can be set out again in early summer. An impulsive and irresistible urge for more spring flowers induced me to add to my collection of geraniums. There are now over 4,000 varieties of this most popular house plant and with Mrs. Van Pelt Wilson's beautifully illustrated manual, reviewed by Mrs. Harter recently, you know just how to satisfy your preference. There seems to be five main types, viz. the Martha Washington with its spectacular large flowers blooming in spring and early summer known as domesticum. Then the zonal or bedding type which includes the colored leaved and known as hortorum, also the scented leaved with generally small flowers, the ivres known as feltatum, which with their climbing habits are unsuited for limited space available in our prairie homes, and finally the dwarfs, with four varieties only a few inches in height with large blooms out of proportion to their height, becoming great favorites altho at present the demand far exceeds the supply. In North Dakota with its months of dreary outlook, my first choice is the brilliantly colored leaved; there seems to have been quite a revival of late for these Victorian beauties which in the 19th century numbered 140, most of which have been lost tho about 20 are still obtainable. Mrs. Wilson says, "Our main pleasure in these colored leaved pelargoniums comes from their use as pot plants. On the broad window sills of my Victorian study where a central pedestal mahogany table, a great butlers secretary and prism-hung candelsticks indicate my

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## MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By  
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

"Why don't my fruit trees bear?" is a question voiced very frequently. The correct reply may be simple or complex, according to conditions prevailing.

Tender varieties often fail because the flower buds were injured by severe winter frosts. This is classed as winter injury. Its presence is revealed in late winter by cutting across the center of the flower bud. If in good fitness, the plump central portion will be bright amber or greenish. Injury will be measured by the intensity of browning that is noted. The darker the color, the more severe. Generally leaf buds will withstand more freezing than will the later flower buds.

Spring frosts sometimes cause loss of the crop by injuring the pistil. When warm weather comes in April, resulting in an early spring, but later May is punctuated by a cold night recording frost, part or all of the flower buds, and also recently fertilized flowers, may be destroyed. If the frost be gentle, fruits may form and develop but retain a scar ringing the skin around the calyx end. Such scars are common on apples.

Cross-pollination is definitely necessary with many fruits and probably beneficial to all. Thus it is apparent that orchards are best made up of mixed varieties. A single variety of plum, such as Pembina, will not bear unless there be a neighbor tree such as Bounty to serve as a pollinator. As pollination is performed by insects, it is noted that warm, dry, sunny, calm weather is required for the effective working of bees and other kindred pollinators. Bees stay inside the hive if weather be windy, cold or wet. Prolonged unfavorable weather may see the breaking down of the pistil tissue before the pollen has been able to effect fertilization.

Drought in early summer increases the amount of June-drop of young fruits. Severely dry weather may even cause the drying of flower buds and complete loss of crop. A generous irrigation in early October of a dry summer is a vital benefaction to the fruit tree. The prairie fruit plantation should not have to compete with grass or weeds for soil moisture.

Incompatibility of companion varieties is an important cause of unfruitfulness. Some hybrid varieties such as La Crescent, Tecumseh, Underwood and Grenville plums and Manor cherry-plum

commonly produce impotent pollen. If one of these were the solitary companion of another hardy, self-unfruitful plum, such as Bounty, no fruit would be expected from Bounty. It is apparent that varieties planted for pollinating purposes should be of similar season of bloom to the tree to be pollinated. Other causes less frequently encountered include unbalanced nutrition of tree, damage from disease or insects.

All fruit trees, under favorable conditions of food and weather, sooner or later should produce flowers. A normal seedling fruit tree is capable of fruit bearing without any grafting operation.

Manitoba potatoes were widely affected by "hollow heart" in 1947. Rapid plant growth, caused by heavy rains in early August, following the hot and dry weather in July, is thought to be responsible.

The popularity of the Irish Cobbler is also believed to be a contributing factor to the prevalence of hollow heart. This variety is widely used because of its dependability as a high yielding potato of desirable quality. However, it has been found to be very susceptible to conditions that promote hollow heart.

Prolonged dry weather while the potato tubers are forming may stop their growth. In fact, they may actually begin to ripen. The return of heavy rains and ample soil moisture force new growth again. Varieties react differently to such conditions. Early Ohio, Early Rose and Netted Gem develop knobby growths, usually near the eyes. However, Irish Cobbler and Bliss Triumph resume tuber enlargement. Frequently the tubers get overly large. During this period the inner tissues of the potato tuber enlarge more rapidly or they are subjected to more pressure than the other tissues. Thus the cell tissues rupture or crack.

It may be impossible to control hollow heart completely. However, certain cultural practices help to keep down the percentage of potatoes affected. Where irrigation is possible uniform plant growth is insured and hollow heart can be held to a minimum. Close spacing of hills, 10 to 12 inches apart, crowds the developing tubers and help to restrict their size. Medium sized potatoes are not likely to be severely affected by hollow heart.

The most effective method of escaping hollow heart is to use varieties which are tolerant of the responsible growing conditions. The search for such varieties is being conducted at this Station. Many unnamed new crossbred seedlings are checked every season for desirable qualities. Results of this work indicate that at least two varieties of promise will be available in the near future.



**GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS**

By  
Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen



Mrs. Jorgensen

June is blossom time in South Dakota. It is the month of flower shows, for garden gadding, and the time to eliminate those last bad weeds in yard and border so you can make plans to attend the State convention in Sioux Falls, August 10, 11 and 12. Some clubs have already selected delegates; and the Fair City Garden Club says, "You may be sure our club will attend the convention in goodly numbers." Exciting hints were blown in this week of a big picnic dinner along the Big Sioux river at Baltic, where our honored president, Mr. H. N. Dybvig and his attractive wife holding the guiding reins of the Dybvig Nurseries. Another event "new under the sun" of Dakota horticultural meetings is the judging school which is being planned. We happen to know Mr. Leonard Yager has been in contact with the National Council and with flower show judges in other states to study methods of conducting such a school. Then there is the year book contest; besides all the program numbers, the banquet, and the thrill of seeing and becoming acquainted with all the people you have been reading about in the pages of your Dakota Horticulture. Come!

And speaking of year book contests, did you know that the Lyons Garden Club calendar will be entered in the National contest, by request? A personal letter from the editor of Massachusetts Horticulture asked them to enter their booklet. Mrs. Grace Hamre and Mrs. Henry B. Olson assisted the president, Mrs. Brakke, in making it.

June is the most popular month for flower shows in South Dakota because of the abundance of peonies and iris at this time. Remember that peonies, tulips and iris, as well as other flowers which we, maytimes belittle, are peculiarly adapted to the sharp diversity of our seasons, and that gardeners of the deep south envy us as we, mayhap, look to their orange blossoms and azaleas with longing eyes. We should, therefore, emblazon our land with the thrill of their beauty by talking and writing about them, featuring them in our flower shows, and in other ways encouraging more folks to plant and grow them. The flower shows are one of the most influential means of attracting the attention of the non-gardening public, and making them garden con-

scious. A show which is divided into several sections such as horticultural, arrangement, juniors, and educational will cater to the tastes of the greatest number of people; and a schedule which provides wide scope for the flower arrangement fans will be just twice as interesting and twice as successful as one which lists entries in horticultural perfection only. Dell Rapids has long been flower show conscious and has become noted for the great variety of arrangement classes listed on their schedule. The greatest fault of most schedule makers is their failure to be specific, which makes it difficult for both the exhibitor and the judge to determine the points upon which an award is to be made. A class which calls for a "display of roses" may have tea roses, rugosas, baby ramblers and climbers to judge against each other; or it may have one perfect specimen in competition with a dozen blossoms in various stages and conditions, both examples being almost impossible to judge. Make one specific point in every class, such as: An arrangement in a pitcher; an all white arrangement in a white container, green foliage permitted; iris arranged to suggest a group of them growing in the garden; a miniature arrangement, not over four inches wide or high. You will have to have committees to make the schedule, promote publicity, prepare entry tags and award ribbons, place the entries, help with the judging, solicit and deliver prizes if there are any, and clean up your exhibition hall after the show. Dell Rapids, Canton, Mobridge, Britton, Huron and Sioux Falls are all planning June shows.

Did your club make a tour last summer? A tour, either to local gardens or to distant beauty spots, has become one of the most popular types of get togethers among the clubs which have tried them. Properly conducted, such a meeting combines the pleasures of a social gathering and a study program, with the subjects of study being observable as they really grow and live. And you may be astonished at the beauty hidden in some nearby oasis of green which you have not troubled to visit. Mr. Frank Rockwell, Brookings, lists 33 state parks, either established or under consideration, in South Dakota, so no garden club is too far distant to make a trip to one of them as a major meeting of the summer. Britton's Home Garden Club sets an example by going 60 miles to the beautiful Waubay Game Reserve Park for a picnic meeting every summer. Spacious picnic grounds with tables, benches, many fireplaces, and water are available; and the many land and water birds which live there in trees and lakes make it seem like a section of sylvan paradise instead of the plains of South Dakota, according to Mrs. A. C. Bonham.



The Sunshine Garden Club is becoming a power to be reckoned with in the city of Highmore. Several years ago they began agitation for more water to use during the periodical dry spells, and this year a paid advertisement in the local paper, besides much "foot work" by the members helped put through a bond issue which was needed to increase and improve the city water supply. The ad was boldly addressed to the voters of Highmore, and was signed by the Sunshine Garden Club. The vote for the bonds carried more than 2 to 1, and the club feels that their direct appeal to the public had much to do with their success. Now they feel they can beat the drought which is the seasonal bane of the gardeners there. Congratulations. For their annual plant sale Mrs. Tagg and Mrs. Tompkins bought flats of flowers and vegetable plants at wholesale and let the club benefit from the difference in prices. These are in addition to the sale of plants donated by the club members.

At least seven of our clubs observed Arbor Day with special plantings, the latest reports being from Fair City, Centerville and Dell Rapids. At the little City of the Dells two new trees and two roses were added to the city park. The trees are the new hybrids grown by the Dybvig Nurseries and known as the Red Elm; while the roses are Talisman and Paul's Scarlet Climber. Centerville's Living Memorial Hedge planted at the beach consists of 75 beautiful lilac bushes, paid for by the City Council and planted by the Garden Club. The club also purchased and planted seeds of a number of annual flowers at the beach. Taking their name from the site of the State Fair makes the Fair City Garden Club Fair conscious, so they planted one of the beautiful flowering crab trees on the fair grounds.

Mrs. Briley's description of the flowers a-bloom on the prairies on the other side of the "Mo. bridge" gives one a vision of pastel carpeting on the land. She says, "The hills are literally covered with mertensia in all stages, some half grown, others covered with lovely pink buds, and others are huge plants in full bloom. The blues are a lovely shade, and Mrs. Davidson says she has never seen them as blue nor as large as they are this year. The yellow indigo plants are plentiful, too, while phlox Hoodi creeps along the ground in sandy soil, and on the edge of banks that have been cut away along the highway." We are looking for an article on the mertensia by Mrs. Davidson in the near future.

New officers of the Green Fingers Garden Club at Flandreau are: Mrs. J. Bennett, president; Mrs. Byron Rahn, vice president; Mrs. S. Cifford, secretary; Mrs. F. Cherney, corresponding secretary; Mrs. F. J. McFarland, historian,

and Mrs. J. A. Zeigler, librarian.

Garden clubs really must be more interesting than other clubs for the universal complaint is that "it seems our meetings are always too short to get everything in," as Mrs. Arnold Damgaard of Britton says. Mrs. E. M. Drissen is the new president of the club with Mrs. Gilbert Gronseth vice president and Mrs. Damgaard as secretary. A city flower, the drought resistant and colorful petunia, has been chosen by the club and members are urging its planting all over the town.

Any project which continues from week to week over the whole year, or years, is much more liable to become prosaic and tedious than one which a club can accomplish in a day or two with a spurt of energy and ambition. Thus we know the value of the task assumed by the Huron Garden Club in caring for all cut flowers and plants in the big six story St. John's Memorial Hospital. The project was the suggestion of Mrs. E. C. Grothe, and is carried out by six members working in shifts of two people, three days every week. Mrs. Sherman Johnson says it is not too difficult in the winter time, but "blossom time" brings all the way from five to fifteen vases to the room of every patient, and makes a great deal of work walking back and forth over slippery corridors. "It is a real job, but of course, we like it," says she.

A Tulip Tea, a big plant sale netting over \$50 to the treasury, an Arbor Day planting, and a regular meeting of Huron's Fair City Club within two weeks was enough to keep the members out of mischief. The overwhelming success of their first Tulip Tea should not have surprised them when we learn of the many fine ideas incorporated into the event to make it interesting. Being held on May 11, the display was dedicated to all mothers, and a special table decorated with red tulips held a photo of Mrs. Gertrude Lenz, South Dakota mother of 1948. The tulip theme was carried out in the musical program, the refreshments and the table decorations. A review of the Broadway stage success, "Harvey," was given by Mrs. George Pearce. Mrs. F. R. Hoffman was general manager of the tea, and Mrs. Vern Tompkins, Highmore, vice president of the Federation, was a special guest.

You can tell the people who really love plants by the lengths to which they will go to encourage others to grow them. Such a true love was evidenced by Mrs. Walter Cozine when she made pots of three varieties of choice petunia plants and presented them to each member of the Wednesday Garden Club of Sioux Falls. As though these time-consuming and generous gifts were not enough she doubled her bet and has offered

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## ORCHARD COVER CROPS

By  
H. R. Woodward



**H. R. Woodward**

Experimentation seems to be going steadily forward to determine whether some sort of a cover crop is advantageous in an orchard or whether it would be detrimental. I presume there are many factors which would govern the success of such a venture, these would be erosion, lack of moisture, fire hazards and natural conditions of the soil. In reading through all the available material published by the late John Robertson, I am sure that he would not have been favorable to a cover crop for his own orchard even though the slope was great enough to cause erosion to be a problem of considerable magnitude. His chief argument would have been that any unnecessary growing in an orchard would use up too much moisture and would be a detriment to his fruit trees.

Many experiments are being conducted in apple producing areas by experiment stations where white and red clover alfalfa and sweet clover are being used as cover crops to the exclusion of clean cultivated orchards. These might be more successful in irrigated areas and in areas where there is an abundance of natural precipitation. There are several arguments in favor of cover crops, one of which is that constant cultivation will disturb the root systems of trees that are surface feeders. It is true that the most nutrient soils are those at the surface or at least the top-soil which might not extend to too great a depth. Experiments may show that apple trees may get the bulk of their food by roots feeding near the surface rather than from roots that penetrate to a considerable depth into the clays. Clean cultivation may disturb these roots even though the implement used will disturb the top-soil no deeper than an ordinary disc or harrow.

Another great argument in favor of cover crops is the erosion control idea because it is well known that there is far greater erosion in a clean cultivated, dry dusty orchards than there would be in an orchards where there is a cover crop to hold the soil in place. Probably another argument in favor of cover crops would be the cost of labor and the time consumed each growing season in giving the orchard the proper amount of cultivation necessary to keep it clean. It is true that costs of production must be considered in the computation of the net value of an orchard

crop. It might be said that the clean cultivation method of orchard maintenance is more expensive than would be a temporary or permanent cover crop.

Another argument proposed would be that fertilizer placed in an orchard is much harder to keep in the place where it is intended when cultivation is practiced than where it is not. Rains would carry the fertilizer into the gullies and some would argue that clovers would be self-sustaining as far as keeping nitrogen in the soil from the fact that the soil would have an abundance of nitrogen from the roots of the clover, especially if inoculated with nitrogen-fixing bacteria. Then too, it is a well known fact that barn yard manure is far more scarce than it was at one time, especially in orchard areas and commercial fertilizer is now being used.

Among the arguments in favor of clean cultivation is the fact that an orchard with high sweet clover would give it an unkept appearance. It is true that it could be mowed but mowing a cover crop such as this might defeat its purpose. And, right along this line it might be mentioned that when such a cover crop matures it becomes dry and is a fire hazard of first magnitude. This would especially be true in a semi-arid district and would be one of the horrors which John Robertson would not have been able to pass over without a considerable amount of worry. Another argument of course would be that insect infestation would be far greater in case of a cover crop than in a clean orchard. Tall grass or grass of any kind will harbor insects of many sorts and not only that but they would be harder to control. Not only insects but rodents of all sorts which are detrimental to orchard trees would find a cover crop much to their liking. This would include both mice and rabbits.

As mentioned before, a cover crop will take a large amount of water out of the soil which should be made available to the trees. I remember hearing Robertson say that plants take far more water from the soil than does evaporation. In dry farming practice it is true that keeping the top-soil loose is one of the best ways to keep the moisture in the sub-soil. Plants also would help to deplete the soil nutrients much more rapidly and a greater amount of fertilizer would necessarily need to be used. Organic matter would become depleted in a much shorter time. If sufficient manure of good quality is available and applied regularly clean cultivation would produce far better results.

It appears to the writer than a greater amount of work is necessary to handle both orchard crops and cover crops at the same time and that the

(Continued on Page 91)



### BOOK REVIEW

By  
Mrs. H. N. Dybvig

Flower Arrangements of the Americas, by Cora Maud Oneal. Published by Banks Upshaw & Co., 707 Browder St., Dallas 1, Tex. Price \$5. A beautiful new book on flower arrangement, is written for the experienced flower arranger. The author, Cora Maud Oneal, spent several years in Mexico and Latin America. She feels that in order to make distinctive arrangements, one must know something of the history and culture of the country and the book contains historical information concerning the culture of the Aztec and Inca Indians and the different periods in Mexican culture and art. Of the 34 photographs, more than half are of period furniture and the author tells us that to be able to make arrangements to go with period furniture, it is important to know the furnishings, textiles and architecture of that period. It is also necessary to have the proper container which may bear the decorations of the period. The chapter on Period Arrangement in the United States tells of the English influence on early American art. The photographs of flow-

er arrangements are interesting, and all of the arrangements have flowers or leaves not commonly found in the Dakotas. Mrs. Oneal is the organizer of the International School of Flower Arrangement and the three schools held are described in chapters 2, 4 and 7. The first two were held in Mexico City in 1944 and 1945, and the third school was held in Guatemala in 1946. In closing the chapter telling of period arrangement in Peru, and to introduce the chapter, "The Modern in Flower Arrangement," we find a new approach to the art of arranging flowers: "Now, whether we in our flower arrangements will reach the stage where the completed composition will have no resemblance to the subject, but use it only to give suggestions and ideas, is yet to be seen." This book would be especially interesting to persons who may have toured Mexico and the Latin-American countries, or intend doing so, and it should prove very helpful to college art students and to anyone having period furniture in the home.

Anyway, Trueman learnt me something. When I got my quarterly dun from the income tax office, I just vetoed it and sent it back.—Fox-tail in Prairie Farmer.

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**Wayside Gardens**

Mentor, Ohio



**BOOK REVIEWS**

By

Mrs. Morris Harter

**Mrs. M. Harter**

Bulbs for Beauty, by Chas. H. Mueller. Published by M. Barrows  $\frac{3}{4}$  Co., Inc., 114 East 32nd St., New York 16, N. Y. Price, \$3.50.

Visitors to Mr. Mueller's display gardens have asked thousands of questions about the culture of bulbs, thus prompting him to write this book to help us receive the fullest enjoyment from our bulb plantings. Perhaps you would like to know what bulbs are best for naturalizing; or how deep to plant tulips for the biggest blooms, or maybe you want to know what bulbs to plant so you will have flowers the year around. Whatever your question may be it is probably answered in this book. He names, describes, gives cultural directions and recommends varieties of bulbs that bloom in spring, summer and fall outdoors, and winter, indoors. About four chapters are devoted to tulips, while others discuss daffodils, lilies, iris and hyacinths. All thru the book are some wonderful ideas for companion plantings for your chionodoxas, snowdrops, daffodils, tulips and so forth. We think you will find the book fascinating and the instructions uncomplicated.

Roses of the World in Color, by Dr. J. H. McFarland. Published by Houghton Mifflin Co., 2 Park St., Boston, Mass. Price \$5.

For pure beauty in a book one could not find any more beautiful than this one. There is a full color photo of roses, or rose gardens on almost every page. The book is worth having on this merit alone. Dr. McFarland gives a brief history of roses in the first part of the book, followed by chapters on selection, planting and caring for roses. The bulk of the book is devoted to listing each variety alphabetically, with descriptions and comments. A lot of rose varieties classified appears at the end of the volume. Dr. McFarland says he hopes that many who read his words may be encouraged to indulge in the delightful adventure of rose growing. He thinks there has been too much "hokum" written about roses, on the "don't" and "must not's."

Chrysanthemums for Pleasure, by Ernest L. and Aleita H. Scott. Published by the Scotts, Bogota, N. J. Price \$2.

This is a small paper covered volume obviously written by people who grow chrysanthemums

and know them. They discuss every phase to the extent it should answer any question you may have. Part 1 of their book handles all aspects of general culture, so you will know what soils and fertilizers to use, how to plant your mums and then care for them thru the year. There is a good chapter on propagation also, telling of the methods the Scotts have found best. The second part should interest anyone wishing to specialize in mass display, large blooms, pot plants, mums in the greenhouse, arrangements and exhibits. There are some fine ideas in the chapter about shading your outdoor plants to force them into earlier bloom. This is a worthwhile book for anyone interested in chrysanthemums.

**NEWSLANTS**

(Continued from Page 83)

which gave him considerable trouble in North Dakota. The main thing is he still has it, while some of the rest of us are beginning to get rather thin on top.

A recent note in the New Hampshire Horticultural Society News-letter indicates that they are concerned over the fact that the bees in New Hampshire did not winter well. The article goes on to compare package bees with an overwintered hive and it is the opinion of Mr. Heper who wrote the article that an overwintered hive is worth a dozen two or three pound packages of bees for orchard pollination. As we plant more and more home fruit plantings in the Dakotas, we no doubt should give more attention to bees in the pollination of the fruit trees. They are also important in the garden and many times we do not have enough other insects to take care of this pollination for us. Not only will a hive of bees help out with the fruit set in your garden and orchard but bees are a very interesting hobby. They also contribute enough honey to far more than pay their way.

The bloom on many of our ornamentals and some of the fruit trees in this area is not as abundant as it was the past two years. Perhaps the fact that some of the trees outdid themselves last year in bearing a crop of fruit has something to do with this. Lilacs are especially shy of bloom this year in some plantings. These same lilacs bore tremendous blooms last season and, no doubt, lilacs can become bi-annual in their habit, as well as some varieties of fruit trees.

Washington predicts a U. S. treasury surplus of three billions by next July. Throw the rascals out! Let us honest men in to take care of the people's interests.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.



## NORTH DAKOTA SUNSETS

By  
Dr. G. F. Will



Dr. G. F. Will

North Dakota has been known as a land of beautiful sunsets since the red man first came into it. It is, I believe, also a land of extremely varied sunsets. Sometimes I think that we have a special new type for each evening that rolls around.

But there is one type which recurs in our October year after year and which always brings to my mind the lines of Gray's "Elegy in a Country Church Yard," which begin "The Cur-

few Tolls the Knell of Parting Day." Such a sunset we had in late October. The trees were already bare. The evening was deathly still and a purple cloud curtain obscured a large part of the heavens save for a few rents where the green blue of the evening sky shone through. Night came down slowly like the lowering of a black veil over the land. The ranges of hills to the west across the river were a cameo cut, black, jagged line against the sunset glow. The fields and prairies shone pale gray in the fading light and trees rising here and there against the western sky were black outlines drawn on a dull maroon background.

The sun itself, setting well to the south of west, was only indistinct in its shape under shreds and patches of flame red clouds and its color was a coppery gold with a pastel pool of purple, gold and blue black around it, and the appearance just as it dropped below the horizon of a far distant, unhurried conflagration.

The sounds of a quiet Fall evening filled the air and the ear seemed unusually receptive in the calm stillness of the shadowed twilight. Dogs barked here and there in varied accents down the hill among the dark house shapes of the town where only occasionally a faint glow showed that a light had been made.

Across the valley came the lowing of a herd of milk cattle returning in the dusk from pasture to barn. Children's cries here and there as they played in the warm and mysterious evening dusk rose clear in the air. Far out on a back-road hidden in the dark, a lumber wagon rolled in thunder, muffled by the distance. Down toward the southwest the river, shadowed by the black hills and bluffs to the west, swept along between sombre, darkened banks, its silvery surface in the still air reflecting as in one of those mirrors of jet which some of our aboriginal peo-

ples used, the darkened and obscure outlines of the bare trees and shrubs along its shores and the quiet ruddy tinted purples of the cloud veil above.

Turning to the east, as one watched in the dusky gloom after the sun had set, pin points of light suddenly appeared here and there haphazardly suspended against a black sky as lights went on in one window or another in the towering but darkness obscured bulk of the Capitol building, that mass which only a few moments before in the last rays of the setting sun had appeared like some huge autumn ghost, the Great Spirit perhaps of the Dakota red men, brooding over the fading shape of the valley of the holy river of the Mandans.

From far out along Apple Creek came the altogether usual sound of a freight train laboring into Bismarck again in the dark of an early Fall evening, and the somewhat melancholy but pleasantly reminiscent sound of its whistle, which seemed to voice a sort of twilight benediction upon the prairie world.

(Continued from Page 88)

additional expense would offset any benefits. There are many experiments being tried in experimental orchards in the Wenatchee and Yakima areas in Washington where apples are the chief crop. They are being tried in the pear growing orchards in California, especially at Placerville. In these areas cover crops may prove to be highly successful. The peach, apricot and cherry growers are inclined to be a mite more skeptical but no doubt they will try the new venture.

In South Dakota the true value of cover crops can only be determined after careful experimentation in all sections of the State, and only then when two plots containing trees of the same type, the same age, on ground correspondingly equal in slope and fertility are used in close proximity. True results can then only be obtained by careful computation over a long period of time. The cover crop idea is no doubt an outgrowth of the soil conservation idea and in a sense is in keeping with that program. It is good if it works and the future may develop it or a modified substitute.

An American has been described as a person who puts off writing a letter for six months and then sends it air mail.—Boone News-Republican.

The feller that can smile when everything goes dead wrong is likely just a snerd too dumb to know what's happenin' to 'im.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.



**FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES**

By

F. X. Wallner



**F. X. Wallner** April 23rd. Today we set out several thousand nice cabbage plants and sold a few flats, but to sell nice tomato plants to stores at this time, seems to be waste of good plants, as it is about 30 or 40 days too early for tender plants like tomatoes, peppers or eggplant to go out in the open. We also expect several thousand from Texas, more as an experiment, but we have just received a card stating that our tomato seedlings were badly blown by a sand storm, so would get only a few. The cabbage and sweet potato plants were not so badly damaged. We will have several new tomatoes to test, from Brookings, but our main plants are Firesteel, Sioux, Pink, Best Red, Rutgers, Grothens, Chatham and Marglobe. One of the new ones, I see, has a leaf similar to the old potato leaf tomato. Mexican tomatoes may come in as late as May 10th, while the Ohio greenhouse tomato will be at their best the first week of May, with prospects of four million 8-lb. baskets, at \$4 a basket, and less later. This is about 2,500 carloads, but most of them go out by truck. Cleveland greenhouses have about 260 acres under glass, and Toledo greenhouses have about 85 acres under glass, but only about 60 acres are in tomatoes. These growers can easily go broke if the cheap Mexican tomatoes are allowed a longer season of importing. Hannah, in the Argus-Leader, telling of the blackbirds (purple grackle) engaged in courting, making speeches in voices like a rusty hinge, and the male rebuilding an old nest, trying to make his lady love believe he had a new house about finished. I listened, in the greenhouse, to a brown thrush somewhere nearby, to that sweetest song of all birds; no two notes are alike in the song of about two minutes. On South Western Ave., in South Sioux Falls, hogs were turned into a block of ground where there was a row of nice trees that they destroyed in a few days by stripping all the bark from the trunk of the trees. The flowering crab that the field mice girdled this winter looks now as tho it would be in full bloom, as soon as the other tree nearby, and every branch to the tips are in leaf and bud. One must see this tree surgery and the perfect job Charley Vitak did to save this tree, to fully appreciate it. During the first week of May there were 3,010 carloads of old po-

tatoes shipped to market and 2,020 carloads of new potatoes were put on the market. Every year we see an increase of new potatoes to compete with the old ones in storage. Alabama, California, Florida and Texas furnished the new crop, while the old crop came from Maine, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota and North Dakota. Tennessee sent 298 cars of strawberries to market, more than Kentucky, Arkansas and Louisiana. Florida furnished all the watermelons, 188 cars, and most of the 701 cars of tomatoes. Texas furnished 1,131 carloads of new crop onions, only two carloads of old onions were shipped. Washington state shipped 411 cars, all other states 32 cars. No sweet potatoes, pears or cantaloupe were shipped in car lots this week. Cabbage was shipped from California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina, a total of 1,000 cars, and 23 carloads more from states farther north, and the market is dropping very low on this vegetable; 656 carloads of carrots came from Arizona, California and Texas, 181 cars of cauliflower from California, 739 cars of celery from California and Florida. Exactly the same number of cars of grapefruit from Florida and Texas. Most all the 1,656 cars of lettuce came from Arizona and California and most of the 2,075 cars of oranges came from Florida and California. The irrigated districts of the west furnish the nation most of the year-round produce. The two acres of early Scarlet Globe radish, planted April 5th, was being harvested May 12th to 18th, and it is one of the best uniform crops we have ever seen. Cool weather, moisture, fertilizer and just the proper stand, makes it a beautiful package, and all pulled at one time. May 18th. The shipment of vegetable plants from the south were a disappointment. The first two baskets of cabbage from Texas was so badly heated that they were about all rotted. Another lot a week later, to replace them, came thru a little better, as the express agent phoned Saturday night, so we picked them up and saved 48 hours, but still they were only seedlings, not like our transplants, and could not stand the heat and drought. A trial lot of tomatoes and peppers, also from Texas, also were heated so badly that those we set out have died in the field. Two baskets of 5,000 sweet potatoes from Tennessee came thru a little better by mail, and were set today, but they will need rain, if they are to survive. Our transplants are lots of work, and cost more, but the boys are convinced we must grow them.

"How much more delightful to the mind is the task of improving the earth than all the vain-glory which can be acquired from ravaging it."  
—George Washington.



## BEEKEEPER NOTES

By  
A. G. Pastian

More has been written about bees than any other insect; their relation to gardening, fruit growing and other agricultural crops. Agronomists have shown many times that the most economical method of restoring nitrogen and humus to the soil is thru the use of legumes. Numerous tests have shown that where honey bees were present in large numbers, seed production in legumes was greatly increased, and of late some public interest is shown in conservation of wild life. But with our present day advertisements on use of commercial fertilizers and commercial sprays to control weeds and insects, our interest in things on wheels and food in the can, we lose interest in the study of insect life, plant life, and animal life and their relation to the soil that supports us. In the past 50 years many of us have seen virgin prairie and timber land yield to the white man's axe, mowing machines, plow and other tools, chemicals, etc., which lowered the water holding capacity of our soil by removing humus, nitrogen and other elements from our soil and protective top cover, which protect our soil from wind and water erosion. The following figures from the records may be of interest: "1927, Mississippi river flood. Two hundred lives lost, 700,000 driven from their homes, 30,000 square miles under water, \$250,000,000 property loss. \$325,000,000 spent for flood control in Mississippi basin 1927 to 1935. Two thousand miles of levee, 150 ft. wide at bottom, 30 to 35 ft. high and average width at top 8 ft., compared with 3 ft. levees 50 miles long, 150 years ago. Soil carried by the Mississippi river, enough to cover 172,800 acres one foot deep per year. Total loss of U. S. top soil in 150 years of modern agriculture 3 in. or one-third of our average 9-in. rich agricultural top soil." Converting the above into plain English, we deeded 3 in. of rich top soil to the bottom of the ocean, streams and lakes in 150 years of modern agriculture. The proper use of dams to generate power and to check some of the flash run-off may have its value, but let's not forget the soil which produces the food that feeds the world. By improper use of soil we also destroy fish and other aquatic life. The writer agrees with what the late Prof. Hutton of S. D. State College soils department used to say, "The place to stop a flood is on top of the hill." We underestimate the value of bees and other insect life, earth worms, birds, etc. We travel so fast we fail to see what eats what. We underestimate the importance of trees. In this section of S. D. which lies along the divide, and above 1,700 ft.

above sea level, snow that falls in November and thereafter usually stays till the following spring. Ten to 15 ft. snow banks are common, by arranging the plantings to meet the weather conditions and banking snow near the groves, by the use of shrubs, wild plum, wild cherries, along with willow, boxelder, Russian olive, buffalo berry, caragana, etc., by using the above for outside row, followed by a second or inside row of wild plum, wild cherry, or any of the hedges to break the wind sweep and bank the snow, the snow will be kept away from buildings, and its moisture saved for the lands. Evergreens and fruit trees should not be planted within 60 ft. of outside shelter or bank row, as high snow banks may do much damage by breakage. With the tractor pull type tree planter, which travels at the rate of 1½ to 3 miles per hour, the planting of trees to bank off the highways should become more popular, than our popular pet the snow plow. Beekeeping, tree planting and soil conservation are subjects that are referred to on editorial pages of daily and weekly newspapers. Some readers may pass these articles up as unimportant, but as we stop at a farm home surrounded by a grove of trees and the trimmings that go with it, we may see a little girl with an armful of lilac blossoms, and a pet lamb by her side. Or there may be a boy and a dog. The boy will take pride in showing a tree which has grown from a seed which he planted a few years before and he may delight in telling about the mink he trapped last winter. A few miles west may be found another type of farmer who is sometimes referred to as a suit case farmer. There will be a trailer house or a paper covered shack, gas tank, oil drum and truck, and a few tractors out in the field, kicking up the dust. This farmer has no time to plant a tree. Beekeepers, horticulturists, farmers and sportsmen should learn of each other's importance to each other. As one occupation involves the other, it behooves us to study each other's interests. As we have no more frontiers, state and national legislation which affects the farmer also affects the horticulturist and beekeeper. While few of us take time out to study the soil conservation service setup, and how our national conservation service legislation affects the nation's welfare and how different farm practices affect water run-off and soil erosion. And flood legislation which permits the wise use of each acre of land will be a sound investment to prevent disaster, down stream.

If prices don't go down pretty soon we won't be able to pay higher taxes to support the government that's supposed to protect us from high prices.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.



**IRIS GLEANINGS**

By

Rev. E. L. Jackson



E. L. Jackson

Once more the joys of the Iris season are with us and we are glad that in spite of a hard winter so many fine things have come thru the winter's cold and are on the way to another season of beauty. Just at present the dwarfs are holding forth in all their beauty, giving us a foretaste of the joy that is ahead and also speaking their own word of beauty with their clear colors. My dwarfs are not as early as many because they are in the shadow of a big soft maple tree and yet they do very well there and utilize space that would be waste otherwise.

The first of my yellows to bloom was YLO, which was very lovely this year, closely followed by Areneria and Bloudwii, both of which always bring so much of joy. I think they have done better since I added sand to make them feel a little more at home here in our rich soil. Among the early bloomers, too, was White Autumn King which is very fine this spring and seems right at home here. Cream Tart has not bloomed yet but Sound Money is living up to its reputation.

These are being followed by the intermediates and of these Crysoro and Ambra bloomed the same day. Susa and Red Orchid are just waiting for the sun to shine before they come forth in all their beauty, while Abelard is heavy with buds. I would have been picking them for a week now save for the fact that it has rained almost every day. I think I like Crysoro best of the intermediate yellows so far. I notice that Mr. Hill rates Susa as one of the best of the intermediates from the Sass creations.

In the tall bearded patch the buds are showing up in good shape and some varieties came thru without any loss. Among these are a row of new ones that I planted year before last and that bloomed for me the first time last year. There is not a loss in the row. Of my last year's plantings I lost about half of them I think but it was not due to tenderness but to the winter and also to the fact that they were under water for several days. But there will still be enough of beauty to cause many a heartache when one sees their beauty. I noticed that one of my older varieties that I have had since Bismarck days disappeared entirely this year. It had always been a good performer.

I shall have to do a thoro job of relabeling this year and perhaps some of my garden visitors will help in this task. Among the whites to come thru with flying colors was that ruffled white that was such a universal favorite the past three years—Patricia. I think people like it. It is in a poor place almost under the shadow of the church and doesn't get too much moisture but it still continues to bloom all thru the long season. It was one of the first tall bearded to bloom last year and will be this year if one can judge by the buds and clear along late almost July 1 I picked a couple of blooms. I hope to add a few plants for the Mobridge library garden along with some of the intermediates. I am anxious to hear how they come thru the winter at Mobridge and will probably have a letter from Mrs. Briley soon.

Dr. George Will will be interested to know that Areneria is about half the size that it was when it was planted on light sandy soil as at Mitchell and Mobridge. My honeysuckle hedge that I planned to plant last year did not materialize till this spring but it is doing nicely; of 25 plants, 23 at least are alive and showing green and probably the rest will come after this week of rain.

Speaking of hardiness, I lost all my mums this year with exactly the same treatment as last

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# The PIONEER SEED HOUSE

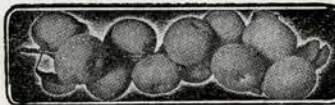
NURSERY-GREENHOUSES OF THE  
NORTHWEST

Founded at Bismarck, in Dakota Territory,  
in 1882

•  
GENERAL CATALOG SENT  
FREE ON REQUEST  
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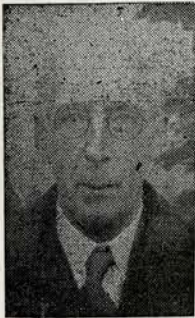
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## SECRETARY'S CORNER

By  
W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

May 17th. We have certainly had a most favorable spring, no frost here since April 12th, and I have about given up the pleasant practice of saying "I told you so," to the early birds that have been setting out tomato plants since April 15th. Today I bot the residue of a flat of fine eggplant that had stood before a grocery store for over a month, with only about half of the plants being sold in all that time. The customers were buying tomato and cabbage plants like hot cakes in all that time, but did not seem to know what those plants were! one of the top luxuries of the garden, to my way of thinking. The rabbits have changed over from the cabbage plants with DDT on them, to the peas, and have made an attractive low hedge of those rows. Have often been told by successful growers of sweet peas that they should be cut back several times, so perhaps the rabbits will cause a larger crop, but the process must end sometime, or they will produce nothing at all. I can't put DDT on the peas as the peas wouldn't like it. My wife says to use red pepper, and perhaps that would discourage them. We had a new addition to the working force in our garden yesterday, when our friend the catbird family, finally arrived. We hope he will take out a building permit and remain with us for the summer. This morning he was perched on his favorite high light wire, giving us a sample of the melodies he had picked up in Dixie, from his winter sojourn there. According to Professor Robert D. Sweet, vegetable crop department of Cornell University, by 1950 most of the weeds in commercial gardens will be controlled by chemical killers. He adds, "Some of our plots have been given one chemical treatment the day after planting and the crop has remained completely free of weeds clear thru until harvest, with no cultivation or hoeing." Also Walter C. Jacobs of Cornell U., reporting tryouts of pre-emergence chemical weeding on Long Island, said that "three materials all gave satisfactory weed control and did not reduce the yields of the potato crop below those obtained with normal cultivation. Long Island potatoes are planted in late March or early April and the plants do not emerge until May. During this month most of the weed seeds in the germinating layer produce seedling plants and are susceptible to herbicides. Thus the normal

cultural practices of potato growers furnish ideal conditions for pre-emergence chemical weeding." It looks as tho the man with the hoe will soon be able to hang it up for good. Mr. Graves' article for May contained the following letter which the printer was unable to house in that issue. As it is very interesting, we feel it should not be lost, so we are including it here:

"Fred McKinnis has written again and we lift out three paragraphs of his last letter as being too good to keep to ourselves. I hope the folks who insist upon wanting to grow blueberries in North Dakota will read the second paragraph with care.

"On April 3rd we witnessed the Daffodil Festival, staged by Tacoma, Puyallup and Sumner. The Grand parade of floats and bands was miles long and will say that the beauty of the thing was beyond all description. More than a million daffodils were used in the decoration of the floats. On Sunday (4th) we visited the flower show in Sumner, three miles east, and viewed the hundreds of varieties of daffodil and some of the tulips, large as dinner plates, grown here in the Valley. All were gorgeous and some of the newer seedlings, still unnamed, are destined to bring fame to their originators. Incidentally, the daffodil industry brings an estimated annual income of five million dollars to the Puyallup Valley.

"We also visited the Aves Blueberry Farm near Puyallup, and saw rows of hundreds of propagating frames filled with growing cuttings, also the seventeen acres of producing stock which the man in charge informed us produce seven tons per acre. That, of course, is ideal blueberry land. There are so many types of soil here within a small area. If one wishes to go into blueberries, he must buy blueberry land. If he has purchased raspberry land, he'd better stick to raspberries or other crops adapted to that particular soil.

"Still meeting so many Dakotans who have moved out here that one is inclined to wonder who inhabited this country before they came. The Washingtonians on the other hand are wondering what the Dakotas produce other than emigrants."

I've had my troubles with income taxes before, but never like this year when I overestimated both my income and my luck at black jack.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.

F. E. Boone, of Lexington, Ky., was a business visitor this week on Squawberry Flat. He ordered ten carloads of our extrly leafy spring alfalfa.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.



**GARDEN NOTES**

(Continued from Page 84)

delight in this era." For two years I have been trying to obtain the gaudiest of all, Mrs. Cox, a sort of much glorified Mrs. Pollock and have at last succeeded. With its broad zone of dark purple splashed with red and margined with yellow, each leaf is, so to speak, a flower in itself, with color the year round, in fact, a flower is superfluous and seems rather like gilding the lily. At last I have a good white of the domesticum class. It is Mr. Mard Bard with basal purple stripes and described as long blooming; the large flowers are just opening and another special is of the scented leaved. Very fragrant eucalyptus perfume, and in addition large flowers suggestive of domesticum, and known as Clorinda. These and many others from Pacific Gardens, Inglewood, Calif., catalog free. April 17th. Temp. 65, sloughs filling, coulee running water is over, speaking of winter I read that on Nov. 21st, 1947, Greenland had a temp. of 58, the warmest in 107 years. In garden I see the turnip-rooted parsley is already sending up clusters of young leaves and so this excellent vegetable can be classed as a hardy perennial, and pink shoots of rhubarb are visible. April 24th. A week of summer with temp. to 77 and no night frosts terminates in heavy rains with thunder revealing with disappearance of last snow bank in the garden Christmas rose buds just as they were at freeze up six mos. ago and all ready to expand, a case of Christmas roses for Whitsuntide in North Dakota. Manchester Guardian mentions cuckoo's arrival in Sussex on April 14th; it is the largest bird whose food consists entirely of insects and having to spend all its time in search of food, borrows the nest and services of other birds to keep from starving to death. April 26th. Our squaw winter is ushered in with an inch or two of snow and light freezing with a penetrating north wind and tendency for settled weather. However, Alberta has done better with another foot or more of snow, and a 60-mile an hour blizzard sweeps across the marathimes. In garden, one spear of scilla sibirica pushes thru the cold black earth and in the cellar, not to be outdone by prairie conditions, the water rises.

**GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS**

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a prize to the member who first brings one of her plants into blossoming.

It shouldn't be too exhausting to accomplish the spring planting project at the YMCA, as carried out by the Sioux Falls club when the ladies fill everyone up with nine huge pies, and

all the hot baking powder biscuits they could eat! Seeds, roots, bulbs and flowering plants were put in. When a garden club reaches a point where the daily newspaper will send a special reporter to cover the program they can feel they "really rate" as Mrs. Severance says; and that is what happened when Leonard Yager spoke at this club some time ago. The club made a \$10 donation to the "Y" fund.

Since we have news of numerous fine speakers, articles and movies from various clubs, we will list some of them for reference and future use by others. H. N. Dybvig, Colton, Trees Native to South Dakota; Experiences in Horticulture. Mrs. H. N. Dybvig, Flower Arrangement; Lilies. Mr. G. Schnaidt, Sioux Falls, Planting Trees; Landscaping. Arthur V. Burger, Huron, Sign Posts to Spring. Mr. Leonard Yager, Brookings, slides; many topics. Mr. Walter Cozine, Sioux Falls, Growing Roses; Landscaping; Cause of Winter Losses. Mrs. Walter Cozine, Outdoor Living Rooms; very beautiful pictures on Puerto Rico. Capt. Edw. C. Baumheir, Sioux Falls (fire marshal), fire control pictures. Mr. L. J. Wiley, Soil Conservation office, Sioux Falls, slides on conservation. Mr. Russ Rulon, Yankton, Know What You Grow; vegetables. Mr. L. S. Bush, Yankton, Landscaping. Mr. Carl Heinson, Box 614, Garretson, colored slides at Garretson (so beautiful the Sioux Falls club never tires of them). Judge John T. Medin, Sioux Falls, History of Remedies; Travel talks, etc. Mrs. Asa Wilson, South 9th Ave., Sioux Falls, demonstration on clay figures, shell jewelry. Movie Holland Blooms Again, Associated Bulb Growers, New York, (exceptionally good, says Mrs. Sherman Johnson). Kodachrome slides, 100 in color on mums, etc., Lehman Gardens, Faribault, Minn. National Geographic articles (wonderful) March, 1947 and July, 1947. Mr. Young, Young's Flower Shop, Main and 11th, Sioux Falls, flower arranging talk (easy to listen to).

**IRIS NOTES**

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year when I lost only two out of 25. I had ordered the mums of 1948, Dr. Krauses earlier, but when I found there was no life in the rest I ordered 25 more plants shipped to arrive the 20th of May. It's not safe to put them out before that. My others arrived early by mistake and I have them in the cold frame. They look grand there and will be set out in 10 days now. I think Lehman Gardens, Faribault, have the finest collection of mums that I know of anywhere. Even if I had to re-order every year I would do so for they are so fine in the fall.