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NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

MARCH, 1950



Scene along the Needles Highway, Black Hills, S. D.
Courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce, Rapid City

THE GREEN-WINGED TEAL

By

O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

Everyone knows the little blue-winged teal which is one of our commonest summer ducks. The green-winged is still smaller and even faster in flight. Apparently they are less agreeable to human company.

Dr. Roberts wrote in 1932 that there were no nesting records in recent years in Minnesota; that the birds were seen chiefly during migration and not as abundantly as formerly.

The male is rated as one of the most handsome of ducks. The green in the wing is hardly the most conspicuous feature. Most of the head is cinnamon-red, a green band extending from the eyes back to a low crest. It does not have the white crescent in front of the eye as in the blue-winged teal and the under-parts are much less spotted.

The green-winged is a more northern form than the blue-winged. It appears shortly after the pintail and mallard and is here late in the fall after most of the blue-winged have left for warmer quarters. It ranges in summer across the continent but chiefly west of Hudson's Bay. It nests from northern Alaska to James Bay and southern Ungava, southward to central California, northern Utah and Michigan to central New York. Like the hardy pintail and mallard, some individuals may remain well northward during the winter where there is open water, but most of them are to be found in the marshes of southern United States and Mexico.

The nests of the green-wing are built in grass, often under bushes, frequently some distance from water. They are usually well formed of grasses and feathers. The eggs are indistinguishable from those of the blue-winged teal. They are usually 10 to 12, sometimes as many as 18. They are dull white, creamy or olive-buff, nearly two inches long.

The food of this bird is mostly veg-

etable matter. Examination of many stomachs showed less than 10 per cent animal matter. The plant material consisted largely of seeds of sedges, pondweeds and grasses.

The green-wing has been a popular game bird even if it is the smallest of the ducks. Its flesh is of excellent quality and the swift, erratic flight makes it an attractive target.

The European teal is closely related to the green-wing and has nearly the same markings. It nests on the Aleutian Islands and individuals from the European area frequently appear along our Atlantic coast.

SPRING

By

B. B. Bobb, Haynes, N. Dak.

With fitful wail the sharp-tongued north wind mocks

A doddered Winter's fretful lingering,

Till in that natal day of smiling Spring

When sweeps the earth through vernal equinox.

Straightaway the sun with master-key unlocks

The prison door of every waking thing

And bids: Come forth into the burgeoning,

'Tis Spring, 'tis Spring that at your chamber knocks.

The flower, the shrub, the tree with sap-surge thrills;

The hills and meadows blush an emerald sheen;

Sweet pungence of bursting buds the woodland fills;

And yearn the fallow fields again to green.

Behold the floral host spring from its berth

With royal vesture clothe the naked earth.

For centuries the position of Arab women in North Africa was lowly. When traveling the man always rode the family donkey while the women carrying the household goods walked behind. But with the coming of war and the British and American troops, many old customs changed. The man still rode the donkey but the women was emancipated. She walked in front. There might be land mines.

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South Dakota ♦ HORTICULTURE

NEWSLANTS

By

Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

It is only natural some comment should be made here in regard to the passing of W. E. H. Porter. No attempt will be made to write an obituary since that is to appear in an early issue of Horticulture. This obituary was written by Mr. Porter himself before his death. Folks who knew him through the medium of his writings must have sensed that here was a man most unusual. He has told me of incidents in his life at various times as we sat and chatted in the kitchen of his farm home. I had heard a rumor several years ago that he was a member of the nobility and in the course of our last conversation, I asked him about it. He was quick to correct me but said he had cousins who were of the nobility. His father was a wealthy man. I recall once of Mr. Porter's reflecting how his father had sold one parcel of property for \$350,000. Mr. Porter also attended school with Winston Churchill at Harrow. It is to be hoped that W. E. H. Porter has written the interesting story of his life.

His writings were rather technical for some folks. Contrary to what you might think, his interest in things botanical and horticultural were not a direct result of his formal schooling but rather traced to summer lectures on these subjects during chatauquas at Devils Lake.

His garden notes will be definitely missed each month.

We were greatly pleased (and so were many office visitors) when we received a giant sized package of pinyon pine nuts from E. C. Moran of Stanford, Montana. Moran is a former vice president of the North Dakota Society and for several years lived at Medora.

From a peek into Bailey's Cyclopedia of Horticulture, it appears that there are two chief species of pine that produce these edible seeds. One of them is the state tree of Arizona

—the other the state tree of New Mexico.

Since we have mentioned L. H. Bailey's name, we might add that we are currently lost in a literary jungle by the same name. This book, by A. D. Rodgers, covers a great deal of material. It also digresses to give a brief biography of several other folks who happened to be friends or co-workers of the great L. H. Bailey. The book has to be read slowly if one is to hang on to the thread of the actual Bailey story. I hope to complete it ere spring!

While doing some searching thru the files of our magazine, my eye was caught by an article of R. L. Wodarz in the November, 1933, issue. Naturally, I stopped to read it and found Mr. Wodarz telling of his early work in topworking apple trees. He makes note of the fact that it was our present editor W. A. Simmons who suggested he use electrician's tape instead of friction tape in this technique.

This was all written over 16 years ago and for the amateur at least the use of electrician's tape has greatly simplified successful topworking of fruit trees.

Dr. O. A. Stevens has handed me a column clipping from a recent issue of the Kansas City Star. The writer take note of the fact that Dr. Yeager was born in Chase county, Kansas. She devotes most of her article to a "home-town-boy-makes-good" listing of Yeager's achievements in the field of horticulture. A popular type of thing, it would be of interest to many of our readers if space permitted.

Clarence Bakken of Binford writes an interesting letter of his fruit planting—most of which was set in 1946. He got some fruit in 1947 off his bush berries and sandcherry hybrids. In 1949, however, all bloom was frozen, as well as tender wood, by the freeze of May 24. Fruit buds indicate a crop in 1950—barring accidents.

Bulletin No. 140 from the University of Florida is a mouth-watering publication. title, "Dooryard Citrus Plantings in Florida," has a pleasant tang in itself. Even mowing the lawn would take on an attractive aspect if one could pause and enjoy a Parson Brown orange which the

bulletin says is excellent in quality. Hoeing in the garden might even be considered in a more favorable manner if a tree of delicious kumquats were waiting for the "man with the hose" at the end of the row.

Henry Biel, Jr., of Lefor, writes that he plans to get some more Trail crabs this spring. He reports considerable snow damage to his extensive planting last winter but he still got a good crop of plums. In addition to having a good shelterbelt and fruit planting, Henry also is helping over 100 pheasants and 40 grouse survive the winter.

Ernest Biel—a brother—writes of his fruit crop also. He had a fine crop on Golden Rod, Splendid, Underwood, Waneta and Kaga. He also had fruit on his Dakota Amber Cherry for the first time. This is a yellow-fruited selection of the native sandcherry that stands up better than the Brooks variety. The popularity of this Golden Amber variety was attested to by its popularity with the Biel children. These annual reports from the members are very much appreciated.

A few things I would like to have in my garden this year: Midget watermelon, Midget muskmelon, Burpee's hybrid cuke, Earligold, Washington and Pershing hybrid sweet corn. Tendergreen and maybe a row of Topcrop beans plus a few other things—of course. Got to get off my seed orders soon.

A committee was appointed by the Redbook to study the question of how to hold a wife, and a selected list of husbands were written to. The only reply received was from a certain western penitentiary. It stated briefly: "I found the best way was around the neck, but it should not be overdone. Please note change of address."

One of our neighbors, instead of catching up on his sleep on holidays, always arose at his usual time. Many of us thought he wasted his opportunity, but I reversed my opinion after hearing him greet one sleepy-eyed late riser. "A man who won't get up to loaf is too lazy to enjoy it."

HEMEROCALLIS

By

Marie Anderson, Gowrie, Ia.

Many inquiries about Hemerocallis—perhaps better known as “Hems”—have reached my desk during the past several months. Thinking perhaps you too would like them answered I shall list some of them here, together with their answers.

Question No. 1. Are Hemerocallis hardy in all parts of the country?

Answer. There are varieties of Hemerocallis that are hardy in every part of the country, but Hemerocallis fall into three classes—the deciduous, the evergreen and the semi-evergreen, the latter having been evolved through cross breeding between the two first named varieties. For the deep South the evergreen types are preferable, though some varieties of the deciduous Hems do well for them, others refuse to bloom after the first year and their strength gradually diminishes until they finally cease to exist. These self same deciduous Hems are our best performers here in the midwest. Our chief worries—Hemerocallistically speaking—are the Evergreen types. We have many of these gorgeous beauties growing in our gardens, here at Pinehurst, but they need mulching in the fall to carry them over winter. Here care must be exercised, as the mulch must be adequate yet not enough to exclude circulation of air. We like to use corn stalks and criss cross them, as this appears to be to their liking (yet when an open winter comes along as the winter of 1947-48, and our losses are staggering.) That winter saw 88 varieties leave our gardens, though we doubt there would have been as great losses had we had sufficient summer rainfall. The summer of 1947 saw less than one inch of rainfall from the time the June floods quit until late October. The Hemerocallis, along with other Perennials, went into winter without having had a chance of “ripening off.” Most of our losses were of the Evergreen types, compared to last winter, which was average, (our losses were ten times that of the usual ones among the evergreen types). However, if once we get the evergreen or semi-evergreen types established they give

us very little trouble through winter killing.

Question No. 2. Please tell us about varieties to select for an all season bloom.

Answer: We have Hemerocallis in bloom from the time Elizabeth (by Norton), opens, usually about May 10 to 15—until frost gets our last blooms on Autumn Prince (by Dr. Stout). Here is a list of Hems that we like among our Early blooming varieties. All are moderately priced: Elizabeth, Norton; Betty, Norton; Minor species, Dr. Regal; (Mueller), Gold Dust (Yeld); middendorffii (Species) and dumortieri (Species).

These are followed by and in most instances overlapped by Tangerine (Yeld), Earlianna (Betscher) and in turn they overlap one of the loveliest of the early Hems—Glorianna, by Betscher. Then along comes Apricot (Yeld) and Queen of May (Perry). As these are tapering off the summer show is coming into full swing. Their numbers are legion. For our part of the country (the great midwest) we cannot go wrong in buying varieties that have been brought into being by our midwest hybridists—to date we have yet to lose any of the lovely creations of the noted Sass's—both Mr. H. P. Sass and his nephew Henry. We are growing all their introductions up to those of 1948 introductions, a few of those remain to be added. We find the name Sass behind a Hemerocallis is to the Hems what the name Sterling is to silverware. Other very good sources of Hems are the other hybridists who live in our approximate latitude. The Eastern and Western originations, where the winters are cold—are winter hardy here. The ones we have had to coddle are the ones from the deep South, if of evergreen types. Their deciduous types are O. K. in our country. The semi-evergreen types are slightly harder than the evergreen types, but need special winter care.

Question No. 3. How can I tell the evergreen types from the deciduous ones?

Answer. After the deciduous varieties have finished blooming they have the habit of starting their dormancy period. The foliage gradually becomes dormant, or as one lady put it, “They seem to go to pieces.”

Some varieties will start this process as early as the latter part of August, while others do not show their deciduous traits until about the middle of September. The Evergreen types, including the semi-evergreen ones, hold their green foliage until after killing frosts. The deciduous types do not go through their changing from healthy green to their semi-dormant stage over night, but there is a gradual change from the growing season to the semi-dormancy that they undergo before the frost sends them into their full dormancy for the winter.

Question No. 4. Are there any reliable fall blooming varieties?

Answer. Yes, Boutonniere (Stout), Autumn Prince, also by Stout, are two of the very latest varieties of Hems to bloom. Dorothy McDade (H. P. Sass) is a large type flower that blooms between the time the midsummer Hems bloom and the very late varieties finish the season. I would suggest that all gardeners get all three of these Hems.

Question No. 5. Are there any repeat bloomers?

Answer. Yes, Dominion (Stout), is a reliable repeat, or remontant bloomer. Chromatella (Anderson) is another as is Buckeye (Stout). These are only examples. There are numerous Hems that are remontant bloomers.

Question No. 6. How deeply should Hemerocallis be planted?

Answer. We find that shallow planting is more conducive to the plant's propagation and general health than deep planting. We are lifting and dividing the older clumps and resetting them about three-fourths inch below the surface of the soil. That means that the top of the soil will be about three-fourths of an inch above the place where the roots and the foliage meet.

Question No. 7. When may we transplant Hemerocallis?

Answer. Hemerocallis may be transplanted any season of the year that one can dig the soil, but we prefer to do this either in the early spring or right after they have finished blooming, as they are dormant for a short period of time during this season. If transplanted during this time they will have a chance to

(Continued on Page 42)

PORTLAND'S ALL-AMERICAN ROSE TEST GARDEN

By
Mrs. G. R. McArthur
Publicity Chairman



Mrs. McArthur

Now that the snow is deep about our doors and over our gardens, the Seed Catalog Contagion is creeping upon most of us. This bit of exciting literature always seems to get delivered on the coldest day just when we are about to end it all, but as the postman tramps thru the drifts, the world starts all over again as we are cheered by the colored pictures, the promise that "Get-em" bug spray is the end of all summer bugs; that Sweet William and Canterbury Belle will become giant bloom and that the grower will be knee-deep in snapdragons by mid-summer. Thus the postman brought to the writer's door on a swirling wintery day, the Garden Magazine of the Portland Journal, sent by our good friend F. X. Wallner, treasurer of the State Horticultural Society. "Portland's Rose Test Garden" was the title of a fine article on the front page. Since the writer had spent most of one day last September in these famous Washington Park Gardens, it was of unusual interest.

Portland's lady mayor, Dorothy Lee, has received a letter full of praise for Portland's International Rose Test Gardens from W. Ray Hastings, executive secretary of the All-American Rose Selections Committee. Garden curator, Fred Edmunds stated that the rose introduced by Jackson & Perkins Co., "Fashion" had won the gold medal. Portland is generally recognized as the "Rose City of America" and truly lives up to its name. Rose growers all over the country appreciate and look forward to the new and superior roses grown and named each year.

The roses are grown in oblong beds surrounded by clipped green turf, each is marked with a steel marker. They are pruned back to about a foot from the ground and only two or

three blooms are allowed to mature on each bush. These are tested for three years, then they are judged and named. The bush prunnings are greatly in demand. Our guide told us that flocks of people came each season to get a small stalk until visitors had to be banned during this season. Now the prunnings are made into packets and given to the Women's organizations to sell at a rose bazaar. There is every kind and color of rose known. It is a breath-taking sight to stand at the foot of the terraced slope and look up at the bank of beautiful blooms.

Better late than never is a fine Christmas decorating clinic idea which also appears in the Portland Garden Magazine. For a gala Christmas program comes the idea of the "Decorating Clinic," which supplies ideas presented by experienced demonstrators. Several garden clubs join on a certain afternoon and evening, each takes sack lunch, coffee is furnished and all are instructed in "Unusual swags and decorations for the front door," "Introduction of flower arrangements with fans," "Winter corsages," "Children party ideas," "Christmas wrappings," "Hall and stairway arrangements," "Wreath making" and "Bird Christmas parties."

The Christmas wreath workshop is conducted in the evening of the Clinic. Those who attend are asked to bring boxes of fir, evergreen, holly berry clusters, cones and any decorative gadgets, heavy work gloves, wire nippers and wire coat hangers; wire and ribbon are furnished. Each member makes his own swag or wreath under the instruction of a trained florist. These workshop clinics have been so successful that next year plans will have to be made for more space and more instructors.

Landscaping by State and City. In order to complete the city beautification project of dozens of new additions, the city of Portland has joined private enterprise, the state of Oregon and the city of Portland park system in landscape plantings of miles of new gradings, parkways and slopes. The huge project is indicated by the fact that some 600 bales of

peat moss have been used as soil conditioner, for 12,000 shrubs, 310 trees, 18,000 vines and cuttings supplied by the local nurserymen and over 19,000 furnished by the state. Sawdust was used as an erosion-stopping mulch altho it takes nitrogen from the soil. High banks are being planted to a solid cover of Kinnikinnick, Cotoneaster and summer-blooming Heather. In three years the approaches to the city will herald the beauty the visitors are about to enjoy and pay tribute to the city fathers who rightly term Portland, Oregon "Rose City of America." With cooperation this is a project possible for any city or community in South Dakota.

Spade work in America is necessary other than in the garden plot. A thought-provoking book well worth reading is "The Road Ahead" by John T. Flynn. A splendid condensation of the book appears in the February issue of The Reader's Digest. Don't miss it.

Junior club interest—The growing of "gourds" is a fine project for junior boys' clubs who do not care for flowers or vegetables. At the close of the summer a contest-exhibit can be held, with junior making mother's Thanksgiving decorations of lacquered gourds.

City Slicker Idea—A note from a member of the "Weed 'Em and Reap" Garden club of New York tells how a city slicker moved from a NYC apartment to new real estate development in the New York woods. There they carved out a building site and turned their ash-heap into a rose bank. Stone retaining walls were built up the slope and the city slicker had visions of masses of roses covering these walls. Not liking wet feet the roses flourished in the ash-heap but did not overhang. So today, three years later, the city slicker and father of three country-bred sons, relates how they developed a bit of imagination by bending the stems of each rose stalk down, tying a stone to it and throwing it over the wall. Weighted down the stems stayed put and in a short time the hillside wall was a mass of foliage and bloom, the pride and joy of both father and sons.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By

Juanita Jorgensen



Mrs. Jorgensen

It is March, and the coming of Spring quickens the blood with the nearing reality of our anticipations! It is a wonderful time to welcome a new garden club to our midst, and to encourage others to join. The Siouy Valley Garden club of Castlewood, joins us with twelve members from that vicinity and from Clear Lake. Evidently they do not believe in having an officer feel that she is a mere figurehead in the club, for they have eliminated the vice presidency and substituted a corresponding secretary as the third members of their official family. We rather like that, especially in the smaller clubs. The officers are Mrs. Al Tillma, president; Mrs. Roland Hyde, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. B. F. Kornmann, corresponding secretary.

In this day of over-organization it was refreshing to have Mrs. Inman Hesla, Wakonda, say that she felt the need of a get-together group for her neighborhood. We were quick to assure her that a garden club would be the answer to her desires.

The Sioux Vallys Garden Club becomes our 33rd Federated club member and gives us ten more member clubs than listed by National Council in their Twenty Year History in 1949. One state had fewer clubs than we, and Utah had one more than South Dakota, but all other states were Federated a number of years before we joined their ranks. On individual membership we rank at the bottom of the list as befits the youngest addition, but that does not mean a thing when it comes to interest and accomplishments.

Five new yearbooks in one month sent our enthusiasm for this club work soaring again. Four were from our own clubs, the Green Thumb, the Community, Lyons and Huron, and were filed away for the contest; while the fifth was our annual rave from

the Beach, North Dakota Garden Study Club. Making a yearbook is like building a house—you can never incorporate all the good features you would like in one edition, therefore you are thrilled to see other books which contain some of the features you had wanted to use. It is always amazing to see the many civic projects undertaken and accomplished by the little groups. Two and three flower shows a season, fair displays, open meetings, teas, sponsoring of junior groups, flowers for hospitals and planting public plots are among them. Typewritten booklets with hand made covers which show much originality of design, predominate.

Ideas You May Want to Use

As usual, the booklet of the Beach club emphasises the state of North Dakota and its resources for beauty and possibilities for more beauty, by a comprehensive study of its needs and prospective plantings. Four pages are devoted to a map of the state, "Border Without Bayonet"; the evergreens of the state and the state hymn. There is a decisive tone to the list of projects completed in 1949 which is lacking in books which merely list committees for future activities, and the page of projects "In Prospect" is unencumbered by committee names and dates. The following are good topic titles to file away for future reference: True and False, Beautifying Beach (your own town), Geological History of North (South) Dakota. Fruit for Our Locality. A Study of Our Garden Lot, Highlights of the Last Century in Horticulture, Beauty in Common Things, Origin of Garden Plants, John Burroughs, The World Was My Garden, and the motion picture, This Land of Ours.

As long as we are on this subject of program material we would like to again mention the magazine, American Forests and The Living Wilderness, with articles in each which could be used as the basis for conservation programs, as recently suggested by Mr. Atkinson. You may borrow several copies by dropping a card to this office. Mrs. L. G. Elsinger, president of the Dell Rapids club, has just been appointed your new Conservation Chairman for the state. Write to her for material.

The reports on tomato performance sent out by Dr. McCrory, State Col-

lege, could well be used for a seasonable program this month.

The National Tulip Society, 37 W. 3rd St., New York 18, has sound color films and film strips, as well as a series of lectures and material for the development of a Tulip Study Club. Write to them.

The Hermerocallis Society has slides of these flowers so valuable to prairie gardens. Write to Miss Frances Cedarberg, Leonardville, Kans.

O. M. Scott and Sons, 29 Fourth St., Marysville, Ohio, will send you lots of free literature on lawn care for a program or for your files.

We also have both the National Council books, The First Twenty Years and A Traveler's Guide to Roadside Wild Flowers, with contributions from South Dakota which you may borrow. Then there is a book just off the press, Trodden Glory, by Cameron Rogers, which is the story of the California poppy interwoven with the lives of three famous botanists of the past century, David Douglas, Adolph Menzies and Baron Eschscholtz after whom the poppy was named. We mention again the little booklet on Vermont Garden spots because it was of value to Mrs. Raymond Clark Pierce of Fargo, who borrowed it before her prospective trip east. In case you are going to Old Mexico any time we have a list of titles (not the books) of books which deal with flora of that flower-ridden land, as well as the address of a recommended guide.

Are you using the Country Gardener's Program Service written by Victor Ries? It is the only one of its kind, and gets better each month. From Winchester, Mass., Mrs. Frances K. Williams asks about the tour to the Wessington Springs Shakespeare Garden by the Fair City Garden Club last summer. To her we are indebted for additional literature on the subject of Shakespeare Gardens which you may want to borrow.

A free bulletin from the New York State Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., is number 184, entitled Making Marachino Cherries at Home. May we come to your meeting when you demonstrate this and sample the product? U-m-m. We have a sample copy of the new magazine Popular Gardening for loan; and we have the yearbook of the Garden Club of

North Carolina on hand. The latter is truly a handbook of information on the duties of all chairmen, aims and accomplishments. The section on flower shows and judging is particularly comprehensive, giving detailed analysis of a show which would be eligible for the National Council Purple Ribbon award. A map shows the Blue Star highway; and there is a rating sheet for districts and clubs and suggestions for their directors.

The Benson Garden Club of Omaha, Nebr., keeps their members on their toes with contests during the year and grand cash prizes for the most points collected at its conclusion. Some of the contests and the points awarded are: attendance at meetings, 5; exhibits in flower shows, 25; plant sale donations, 10; attendance at other garden club or at council meetings, 25; library books read, 5 points each; new members signed, 10, and year book cover winners, 15, 10 and 5 points.

Judging School Rehash

This is the final report on "graduates" of Schools I and II as received from Mr. L. S. Bush, chairman in charge. The following 16 folks have completed both courses: Mrs. D. S. Baughman, Madison; Mr. Bush and Mrs. Margaret Bjornsen, Yankton; Mrs. H. B. Crandall, Mrs. Robert C. Ferris, Mrs. Clarence Freed, Mrs. Anton Hyden, Donald E. Johnson, Mrs. M. E. Schirmer and Mrs. Paul Weber, Sioux Falls; Mrs. Menholdt Christensen, Mrs. Lee Thompson and Mrs. Frances Nelson, Hurley; Miss Laura Sexauer, Brookings; Mrs. Lewis Severance, Huron, and Juanita Jorgensen, Dell Rapids. Six others have completed only Course I. And from Mrs. Anna Hausen, the instructor in Floral Arrangement at Brookings, we have this bit of encouragement (?). She says, "The reading course is the hardest. When I took the examination I was third, and only five out of twenty or more passed. Highest grade was 86 per cent." That should be an added spur to our members who are in earnest in taking these schools.

From the Mailbag

Yankton Garden Club—"Our attendance so far in spite of the cold has been wonderful and the programs so interesting. Our next meeting we are having one tell how seed catalogs

are made up, and another tell all about the new things introduced this year. Also our Question Box will be a riot." Mrs. Margaret Bjornsen.

Sunshine Garden Club (Highmore) met on February 14 with a beautifully decorated Valentine box as the attraction of the evening. Planting of seeds in flats was presented by Mrs. Goeken and Mrs. Bottcher.

Rural Garden Circle (Crooks) met at the home of Misses Inga and Alice Tilemann. "The topic, Birds and Their Habits was given by Mrs. Olaf Ulvilden in a very humorous manner and brought much laughter from the group."—Mrs. Edwin Johnson. This group sent five visitors to the Dell Rapids meeting in January when it was so cold that most of the local members thought it was too cold to move away from their warm firesides.

Community Garden Club (Miller)—"Had a fine meeting on Huntington Cactus Gardens with an exhibit of many varieties at the home of Mrs. Chas. Breeding. Everyone enjoys the meetings."—Mrs. A. B. Crossman.

Brookings Garden Club has a complete new set of officers headed by Mrs. Gilbert Gilbertson. Supporting members of the official board are Mrs. H. C. Severin, Mrs. U. J. Norgaard and Mrs. Van Fishback. A program on weed control by L. Schrader, Extension Service Weed Specialist, was followed by action when Mrs. Gilbertson appointed a committee to investigate weed eradication projected in the city. A yearbook is in the making and they are off to a good start. It is nice to receive good reports from them again. Mrs. D. L. Beals, from this club, has been appointed Awards Chairman by Mr. Atkinson, and is anxious to have a nice list of awards to make at the convention.

Good Earth Garden Club (Brookings)—Invitations are out for this ambitious club's Birthday Tea to be held in the City Hall February 22d. The invitations themselves are noteworthy for their originality and the labor involved as they are made to represent the eight petals of a flower, each petal listing one number of the program. More time and enthusiastic work went into the making of over 100 "calico flowers," with a handsome collection of Driftwood

pieces and flower soldiers. Program titles at the last meeting were Setting the Table for the Birds, and Bringing the Cactus Into the Parlor. A bulb sale is also being planned for later in the spring.

Lyons Garden Club had a Valentine Party with a program and luncheon based on Flower and Holiday Sandwiches. Mrs. Pete Pearson gave a reading on Sandwiches, and each new member received typed sandwich filling recipes. A home made Valentine exchange and a few quiz stunts added to the fun.

The Green Thumb Garden Club (Hurley) with Mrs. Frances Nelson as publicity chairman, has become Garden Center conscious in addition to their many other activities. This is a project stressed heavily by National Council, and we hope other clubs will give attention to the idea of establishing garden centers in their town. We have a brochure on the what, when and how of the idea which you may borrow. Mrs. Chas. Sanborn writes us on stationery that is decorated with an original combination of sketching and pheasant feathers. Such stationery would make a wonderful appeal as a sales item to raise money for the club.

Fair City Garden Club (Huron) is looking to convention time, in the questionnaire which was sent to each member before their January meeting. Ten major committees for the year's work are listed, with first and second choices on each, from which each member may make his or her choice of work. Their statement, "In view of the fact that our club will be co-hostess for the State Convention in 1950 it is necessary that ALL members be active members and willing to cooperate and work on some committee for the year" could well be posted in the yearbook of every garden club. A program on Pottery by Miss Alice Hitchey, and a report on the Huron Bird Club activities was given by Mrs. O. E. Wright at a recent meeting.

Mrs. H. B. Merritt from the Fair City Club and Mrs. S. L. Johnson from the Huron Garden Club have been appointed as co-chairmen for convention arrangements.

South Sioux Garden Club (Sioux Falls). "I saw a Red Cardinal the

(Continued on Page 48)

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By
H. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

FRUIT Improvement has been a prominent concern of mankind since seeds were first placed in moist soil which had been tilled with a stick having a horned end. With the advantage of findings from many centuries of orcharding, the experimenter of

today faces the fruit-breeding tasks with some important advantages.

First he notes the varieties which carry hardiness against cold winters and dry summers. Next he lists varieties which are resistant to destructive diseases such as fire-blight in pears and apples and brown-rot in plums, cherries and other stone fruits. He recalls the need of early maturity of fruits and values those varieties which are late in coming into blossom, as often they may escape spring frost damage.

APPLE breeding here is performed for local conditions and also for short season districts northwest in prairie Canada. The start for northern regions is with crab apples and the class called apple crabs—being intermediate in size and quality between crab apples and apples.

Parents to be chosen must possess some desired character in pleasing degree. Thus Bedford, Columbia and Florence are considerations because of their pleasing resistance to fire-blight. Of the Saunders' first-generation crab apples, Osman, Columbia, Robin and Silvia are candidates due to their great hardiness. Silvia is early and of fair quality as dessert. Robin is tasty canned. Dolgo is fairly resistant to fire-blight and is esteemed for making highly-colored jelly. Morden 347 is a daughter of Dolgo x Martha. It carries high color and hardiness while being much larger than its mother. It is chosen ahead of Dolgo on these measurements. Another Morden numbered variety, M. 352, is being used freely. Of Dolgo x Haralson origin, the fruits are richly red, crisp, juicy, and remain prime

deeply into winter. Trail, a second-generation Saunders' hybrid, is used as a parent due to the healthy productive tree and the general purpose, popular fruits which remain in good condition until January.

For Northern gardens, apple breeding work involves Rescue—an apple crab from the Experimental Station, Scott, Saskatchewan, and Heyer No. 12, a commercial apple produced by A. Heyer, Neville, Saskatchewan. Both are wonderfully hardy and useful as dessert and for cooking. Unfortunately their season is short, fruits soon going out of condition. Their cross-bred progeny may provide superior selections while retaining their essential virtues.

APPLE breeding for the southern Canadian prairies is warranted in aspiring far beyond the crabapple class. The encouraging fact is that good quality standard apples in fair bulk have been harvested as far north as Beaverlodge in Northern Alberta. Some excellent dessert, as well as cooking, apples have been picked in Edmonton and Calgary. In the region of Lethbridge a productive home apple orchard is no longer a novelty.

The task is to do carefully planned cross-breeding to the end that new acceptable varieties shall arise with still more robust constitution. The apple tree for the prairies needs resistance to fire-blight, tolerance to deep winter cold and to dry hot summers. The limbs must be strongly crotched to withstand strong winds. As larger numbers of seedling apples are being planted, some pleasingly stout selections are showing up. Some of these probably will serve as dependable trunk stocks even though their fruits exhibit little merit.

For favored southern areas the apple breeding at the Morden Experimental Station includes crossing the finest varieties of early apples with varieties of robust growth and late season. Some very impressive selections are showing up in populations coming from crosses involving Mantet, Melba, Wealthy, Haralson, with sturdier tree types.

Redvein or Rosybloom crabapples are being crossed with several purposes in view. Red-fleshed varieties hold promise of popularity as sauce apples. Some selections retain their fruits until the following May when

the trees again become decked with a new supply of blossoms. Such trees are not only scenic but offer proven-der to winter birds. Other seedlings are chosen for the beauty of their colorful blossoms or for their red, bronze or purplish leaves. It is noted that partial effort in this class of apples is mindful of the landscape gardener. However, some of the hybrids are dual-purpose—imparting distinctive beauty during springtime bloom and a harvest of good culinary fruit in late summer. Fortunate combinations may result in even a third merit—that of colored summer foliage. That achievement means a triple-purpose apple.

A large bulk of the apple-breeding program here is now bent toward growing seedlings of controlled breeding for the cooperative stations at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Edmonton, Alberta. Horticulturists are resolved that prairie residents shall have improved acceptable apple varieties growing in their own home gardens.

Ornamental Crabapples continue to impress gardeners with their great worth. The hybrids which carry Redvein crabapple (*Malus niedzwetzkyana*) blood are known as Rosyblooms. Their presence on the landscape, or in the orchard, brings a striking display of colorful bloom to the scene. The Rosyblooms mostly carry much red in their flowers. In many selections the red hues fade out considerably. Other types take on murky shades as the petals age, while the choicest class retain fiery coloring until the showy parts of the flower have dropped. Examples of this desirable characteristic are Almey and Red Silver. This May a number of varieties still carried 1948 fruits until the 1949 fruits had begun to swell. The habit of wearing fruit through the winter is reckoned an important merit in prairie Canada where the dormant season is long and where grouse and other birds may encounter a shortage of winter food.

Spring opened quickly. Crabapples were showing plenteous bloom by mid-May. On the morning of May 24, a frost of 8 degrees—an unusual and painful experience for late spring season, did harm to bloom and young fruits. However, a considerable crop

(Continued on Page 45)

PROGRAMS FOR JUNIORS

By

Mrs. Lee Thompson, Hurley

When I received Mrs. Crandall's card, requesting me to write an article for the Horticultural magazine, we had already made out our program for the year. Mrs. Crandall wrote: "The articles I have written have been only an attempt to get the thing started. Now I think we can get down to specific program subjects and projects for Junior clubs." So I have tried to determine which specific subject in our year's plan might be of greatest interest and profit to the Junior clubs. I think that conservation of our soil and our wild life is the central theme for nearly all of our lessons; in fact, there is no meeting in which we do not study birds, their habits, winter feeding and protection and, since we are also a 4-H club, and handicraft is one of our projects, we meet on many extra days, (Saturday afternoons) to work on bird houses, feeders, etc. However, we feel that the conservation of our soil is something of particular importance to our group, as each and every one of us

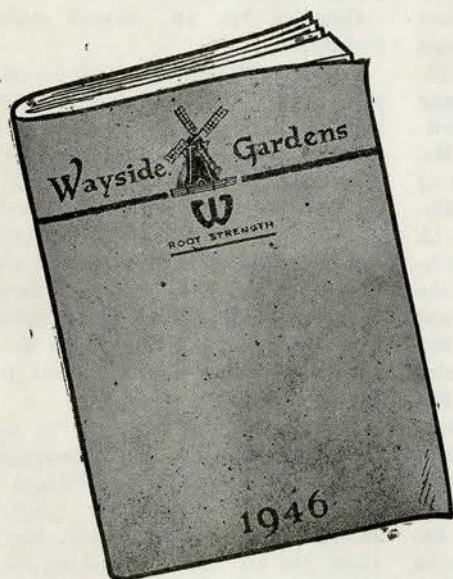
live on farms and tho I think city children and people should be educated to know the importance of soil conservation, it is more probable that these boys and girls in our group will grow up to live on and operate farms and gardens than most city boys and girls and so our lessons are planned to study what soil is, what soil fertility means, what organic matter and humus are, what foods and minerals are needed by plants, what acidity and alkalinity are, and why soils should be tested. Our first lesson on soil will be a showing of the film, "The Living Earth," which our soil conservation technician, Mr. Mateer, and our County Agent, Mr. Doescher, will show for us. Then we will discuss soils with samples if possible of the various soils in the community, or a hike with a man who knows the kinds of soils and where they are. After this we can go on to soil fertility, what depletes the soil, plant foods, etc. Another of our lessons is on the starting of seeds indoors, for the early start with flowers and vegetables and while we will discuss the flowers and vegetables necessary or desirable to start early indoors, our main point will be the actual and

proper preparation of soil in flats for starting seeds as well as the planting and care and later the transplanting, both to individual pots and the garden.

It seems to me a logical order and continued in even portions as the children grow in years and understanding, will give them a respect and love for this soil which means life itself to all of us, and gradually a love of garden flowers, and all of God's beautiful out of doors. We are going to participate in the planting of cherry trees on the highways. Most of our members belong to two country schools which are on highway 18, and we plan to ask the district boards to buy the trees and let us plant them on the school grounds, but on the side next to the road, where those passing by can see and enjoy them. In that way the caretakers of the highway will not molest them. We will set posts and wire to protect them, and can thus participate in the state-wide project.

We can't all be great, but we can all be useful, and no man who is useful is a failure.

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Wayside Gardens

Mentor, Ohio

MR. W. E. H. PORTER

By

W. A. Simmons



W. E. H. Porter

Death struck among our members on January 27th, and the earth-labors and benevolences of our friend, Mr. W. E. H. Porter, were brot to a close. Few men have done so much for horticulture, virtually making his place into a testing ground for the finest things in the floral world, and telling us about them in his monthly article in our magazine, which articles have appeared since 1938. On the passing of his wife in 1940 he gave the Horticultural Societies of the two Dakotas \$750 each. We will all miss his cheery articles in our magazine, all too many of which had to be written when his place was blockaded with snow and a howling blizzard roared outside. We owe the following to Mr. J. F. Mott, the gifted publisher of the "Turtle Mountain Star," of Rolla, N. D., and a warm friend of Mr. Porter: "Funeral services for W. E. H. Porter, 75, well known horticulturist of the Hansboro community, who died Friday, January 27th, were to be conducted at Hansboro today, Thursday, February 2d, 1950 at 2:00 p. m., Rev. L. A. Andersen of the Rolla Presbyterian church officiating. Burial will be in the Hansboro cemetery, beside the remains of his wife. Mr. Porter had been in ill health for some time. Had he lived another 10 days he would have reached his 76th birthday. Educated in the best schools of England, Mr. Porter was a combination of student, poet, philosopher and writer. Knowing his days were numbered, he wrote the following obituary notice, which the Star reproduces verbatim, as follows: 'W. E. H. Porter was born in London, England, February 5th, 1874. Educated at Harrow school near London, and later Trinity college, Cambridge, he emigrated to Canada in 1897, working on a ranch for six months in what was at that time

Northwest Territory, and is now part of Saskatchewan, in Qu Appelle valley, north of the town of Indian Head. In 1898 he declared intention of becoming an American citizen and filed claim on a homestead near the present town of Hansboro, N. D., taking out full citizen papers and making final proof in 1905 in the town of Rolla, N. D. This has been his residence up to time of death. On June 29th, 1898, he was united in marriage to Kathleen Louisa McGoldrick who had also emigrated to Canada in the year 1897. During later years of his life he took an active interest in North Dakota Horticultural Society, introducing chiefly by seeds obtained from different parts of the world, many new and beautiful flowering plants, and recording such research every month in State Horticultural Magazine, the result of which can be seen in many North Dakota and other gardens. His wife preceded him in death in year 1940, June 5th. "They do rest from their labors and their works do follow them." He leaves to mourn his death his son Harry and daughter-in-law Lillian, also two grandchildren, Herby and Joyce Porter; one nephew Vernon Crook in Africa, and a niece, Ruth Crook in England."

Mr. Mott also sent me a clipping from his paper of Jan. 15th, 1942, which is well worth reprinting: "A brief message to the Star's Open Forum reveals the interesting fact that W. E. H. Porter, well known Hansboro district horticulturist, attended school in England as a young man with Winston Churchill, Britain's dynamic war premier. Mr. Porter's note said, "In your issue of Jan. 8th, under the heading of 'Miscellany' appears this statement: 'A Syracuse University professor attributed Churchill's gift of oratory to the fact that as a boy he had not learned Latin and Creek.' In the year 1888 I happened to be enrolled as a student at Harrow school and with Mr. Churchill was resident of headmaster's (Rev. J. E. C. Welldon's) house. Probably Mr. Churchill never subsequently specialized in either of these dead languages, but the entrance examination, which had to be passed before enrollment, required a thorough elementary knowledge of both these subjects." Regardless of the secret of Mr. Churchill's orator-

ical prowess, the fact that Mr. Porter was a schoolmate of the famous British leader, at the equally famous school, will be, we know, of general interest to a great many of our readers. None who read Mr. Porter's contributions to horticultural magazines, or who have heard him rattle off the Latin name of any shrub, plant or flower that may be mentioned, will doubt that he must have gained more than an "elementary knowledge" of those dead languages."

HEMEROCALLIS

(Continued from Page 36)

get a good rooting system established for next year's growth.

Question No. 8. How far apart should Hemerocallis be planted?

Answer. Individual Hemerocallis, for best results, should be given approximately two feet space to grow in as they will slowly fill this space, and if planted closer together they will have to be lifted and divided and reset sooner.

Question No. 9. Should I plant whole clumps or divide them when I reset them?

Answer. By all means divide them into individual resets. Then prune the roots back about one-third and cut the tops down to a six-inch ht. before resetting. This encourages new growth, and your newly set ramets will do better for having been all but "butchered."

Question No. 10. Where shall I plant them?

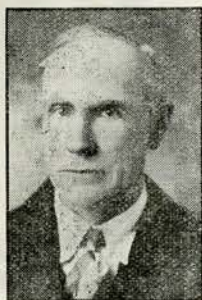
Answer. We find that our Hemerocallis will do well in both the rich loamy soil and in clay, and know of them being grown in very sandy soil. They like sunshine at least half of the day, but will grow in light, shifting shade, as is found at the edge of wooded areas. They also do extremely well in the open sunshine, though the pastels appear to better advantage when planted in shifting shade, as the sunshine bleaches their delicate coloring.

Next month we will take up some more problems of the Hemerocallis growers. If you wish individual answers, please write your questions on one side of your paper, leaving room for our answer, and enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope and we will give it our prompt attention. Inquiries not sent thusly will be answered later through this column.

ROSES IN NORTH DAKOTA

By

A. L. Truax



A. L. Truax

Since beginning these articles I have asked if anything has been done along the line of breeding up or crossing our single-flowered native prairie rose, which is the state flower of North Dakota, and is known as the Sunshine Rose. No doubt the inquirers have in mind the dwarf rose that literally carpeted the prairies in the days of the early settlers and still defies the ravages of the plow in many places. Its long, leathery roots penetrate the ground for long distances and often send up shoots where least expected. Its stems are usually from ten to fifteen inches high, and they die back to the ground, or nearly so, each season. While there are quite a number of wild roses native to North Dakota, this particular one is by far the most abundant and noticeable. Its range is also great, as it extends from Illinois west to Wyoming, and from Texas and New Mexico north to into Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The botany of this and other native prairie roses has been very confusing I trust that Prof. Stevens will straighten out this confusion in his forthcoming Flora of North Dakota. In the meantime I will stick my neck out and tell what I know, or think I know, about this particular rose.

When I first came to North Dakota in 1892, this rose was known as ROSA ARKANSANA, that being the name applied to it by the botanist Sereno Watson. However, some botanical differences were later discovered by the botanist Joel Lunell, who renamed our rose ROSA DULCISIMA, while the name ROSA ARKANSANA was assigned to nearly similar rose whose range is confined to Colorado, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Notwithstanding this, our rose reappears in Gray's New Manual of Botany as ROSA PRATINCOLA, which name still persists to some extent. Then came the botanist Edward

Lee Greene, who renamed our rose, first ROSA HELIOPHILA, and later ROSA SUFFULTA. This last name seems to have stuck, for unless I am mistaken, it is our rose that appears under that name in Rydberg's Flora of the Prairies and Plains of Central North America, which is the latest, and so far the best botany for our region. I therefore hope that ROSA SUFFULTA will be finally adopted as the botanical name of our "Sunshine Rose".

So far as I know, nothing has been done in the way of breeding up or hybridizing our darling little State Flower. Perhaps it is just as well, for there are many other wild prairie roses that are better for hybridizing purposes than this incorrigible little wildling. It is a surprising fact, however, that a double form of it was found growing wild in a small area in Saskatchewan, and this can be obtained from the Old Rose Preservation Project thru the American Rose Society, under the name Rosa suffulta fl. pl. It was sent in to them, I believe, by Mr. Percy H. Wright of Moose Range, Saskatchewan.

I have also been asked about the Old Rose Preservation Project. This is located at Medina, Ohio, and its superintendent is Mr. Roy E. Shepherd. The project was undertaken by the American Rose Society for the preservation of old roses not found

in present-day catalogues. They will propagate old roses for a price of about \$2.50 each, but only for members of the American Rose Society, whose address is Harrisburg, Pa. A membership in this fine society costs \$4.50 per year, and besides other advantages includes a year's subscription to the American Rose Magazine and a copy of the American Rose Annual, a beautifully illustrated, bound volume containing articles on roses by specialists from all over the world. I heartily commend this Society to all rose lovers,

Those interested in old-fashioned roses should also get in touch with Bobbink & Atkins, East Rutherford, New Jersey. This firm lists the largest assortment of old-fashioned roses in the United States, Their 1950 catalog, which costs 35 cents, lists 9 Damask roses, 8 Cabbage or Centifolias, 22 Moss Roses, 21 Gallicas or French Roses, and 31 Hybrid Rugosas. Their booklet, "Old Fashioned Roses", which costs 25 cents, lists a still greater number, which they will propagate on special order for their customers. I have found both this catalogue and booklet to be of great interest and value.

This is the last one of my series of articles on roses, which I trust have been of some value to rose lovers throughout North Dakota and Southern South Dakota.

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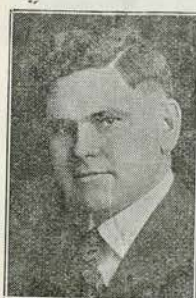
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FERTILIZER FADS

By

Dr. A. F. Yeager

(In New Hampshire News Letter)



Men in Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations are often rather freely criticized and sometimes roundly abused because they do not accept and advocate certain unorthodox agricultural practices. In the field of plant culture to-

day there is one group which secretly and sometimes openly classes us as "old fogies" or at least "ignorant" because we are not enthusiastic over soilless plant culture. There is an equally vocal group which is not backward about condemning us because we do not accept organic gardening in toto. Obviously, these groups cannot both be right, since one of them believes in growing plants without any soil using only mineral nutrients and the other believes in using soil and organic matter, but without any mineral nutrients. It is no wonder that the general public is sometimes confused.

Professor Hepler recently called attention to a letter which Professor Prince had written to an inquirer concerning organic gardening, which explains things so well that I asked Professor Prince if he would be willing that we publish it in the News-letter, and here it is.

"Dear Mr. Blank:

I would very much like to have you come to Durham some time to talk with me and other members of my department. The Agronomy Department, that is. We are the boys Mr. Faulkner knocked in the head and tossed into the river in the first chapter of "Plowman's Folly" you will remember.

When Mr. Faulkner was here in 1945, I reminded him of that fact and he even tried to wiggle out of it. At the same time he had the audacity to ask us what results we had experienced since we had discarded our plows and other deep tillage implements, saying he would like to incorporate the results of our trials in

a new book he was bringing out. Asking that from a group he had already destroyed (or at least, badly deflated) in his previous work!

Seriously, some of my neighbors and I have been "harrowing" instead of plowing for our garden operations for at least five years before Mr. Faulkner wrote his book. We harrow in our organic matter, what we can, we use manure from cows or hens, we also use fertilizer. My main garden which has had from 1000 to 2000 pounds per acre of fertilizer each year for the last 20 years, and which is one of the most productive spots in town . . . well, I must admit rather shamefacedly, that is where I go to dig my "bait." Worms, I know, aren't supposed to live there, but they do. I haven't been digging them there just since the organic gardening and earthworm literature came out or just because I wanted to prove that the proponents of these things were wrong. I go there for them because after digging in many places around here, I have always found the worms to be bigger and better there.

The proponents of organic farming appear to believe they have found something new. The use of organics in farming was the first form of soil improvement and dates back many centuries. Liming came second and lime was used on soils long before fertilizers came into prominence. Later, and less than a century ago, fertilizers began to be used. The highest success in farming comes from the balanced and judicious use of all three of these.

If we had all the organic matter we needed to apply to soils in the world, it would be fine. But we haven't. Other means of getting plant food must be provided. Hence fertilizers.

I do not need to remind you that organic matter in itself is of no value except for its physical virtues. It is only effective when attacked by bacteria and other organisms and broken down into its elements, nitrates, phosphoric acid, and potash, sulfates, and other substances which are then used by plants. Nor do I need remind you that these are the very same elements or compounds you get when you purchase fertilizer. The podzolic soils you speak of are the very ones that need these substances more than those of the other

great soil groups for satisfactory production, because they have been subjected to more losses by leaching as your soil profits will show you. We are in an entirely different situation than Sir Albert Howard, or even Mr. Faulkner, whose very limited tests were carried on in a small backyard garden in Ohio. I know Ohio soils for I farmed there several years myself. I grew 100 bushels of shelled corn to the acre on 10 acres of ground one year, in a pure organic system without any fertilizer. But you couldn't do it today.

Why? Because constant cropping depletes the soil. Depletes it of its phosphoric acid, potash, calcium, nitrogen, magnesium, and other elements. These have been sold off the farm. You can't replace them with organics without too great cost. The balance sheet has been against the soil for too long.

We are constantly experimenting with organics, but also with other substances. But we cannot be said to be advocating organic farming, or organic gardening or practicing it, for we believe in a balanced fertility scheme.

I note in your letter you start out by asserting that your mind is fairly open on the subject of the organic method. Later however, and in your last paragraph on the first page of your letter you rather spoil it all by saying, "I do feel obliged to say that sooner or later these methods will be thoroughly substantiated." Frankly, I would like to see you start some research on this subject, but not if your mind is all made up ahead of time.

If you feel that you would like to do some research on an unprejudiced matter, I would like to make a suggestion. We have here in New Hampshire a lot of sawdust piles going to waste. Near our large paper mills, at Berlin in particular, are huge piles of bark now being stowed away along the river bank with the hope, perhaps, that the next freshet will carry enough of the stuff away so there will be room for more. This organic material badly needs working with to see what use can be made of it on these soils of ours. Frankly, I think this would be a challenging piece of research. In fact, we hope to start something on it ourselves."

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By
F. X. Wallner



F. X. Wallner

Water pipes made of 20 foot tree trunks are being taken up from the streets of Philadelphia after 200 years of service. A six inch hole was bored thru the tree, then put together with a short piece of cast iron pipe between the logs. Dec. 30th.

With careful surgery and care, the 124 year old apple tree, a landmark in Vancouver, Wash., may live for many more years. This is said to be the oldest apple tree in the west, but I suppose older ones are to be found in eastern states. Today I started a dam with a fallen tree of long ago as the main support. Brush, trash branches and rocks were put in the channel so that a large pool, or "Lake Xavier" is formed. This is the largest of all the pools, the others are on higher ground, the upper one, where the water wheel is, must be 75 feet higher, to the west. To the south I have built more rapids dams and pools. During the rains and flash floods, it's a problem to keep them from washing away but I have repaired and rebuilt until I think they will hold, and may put in some fish soon. There are about 25 pools in this two acre canyon and it should be a beautiful private park this summer. The trails are most all finished and spring water in three different places along the trails, with drinking cups at each one. Deep snow has covered the wheat fields across the road several times but it disappears over night when a night's warm rain occurs. Jan. 19th. The trees and wires are loaded with tons of ice and all day trees and lines are crashing to the ground, power was off most of three days. We are comfortable, having a fireplace and plenty of wood, an oil heater and plenty of oil, also a combination wood and electric stove and candles for light, but most of the neighbors and the city folks that have no heat or light, no toaster or hot water, no

coffee bubbling, no washing machine, all the clothes around water pipes, have certainly suffered. Newspapers and oily rags, used to thaw out pipes, have set many homes afire. Everyone has a different tragedy to report, but I hear less of its being "unusual weather" because every day it's colder and more snow.

Evergreens that are bent low stand up best, but even small branches loaded with ten times their weight with ice crash down with a mighty roar all day and night. The highway north to Oregon City along the Clacmos river is covered with trees and branches and all lines are down. The big hatcheries and dairies, with their milking machines suffer most. I wanted to take an axe and help but when I saw the tangled mass of trees and wires on the highway, I thot my place was inside in a warm room. But power, light, phones and radio did come back to life after three days and all the men working night and day are to be praised for their efforts. This is the last day of January and -2, the coldest since 88. Now the report is that eastern Oregon and Mt. Hood orchards may be ruined, nut trees and orchards were damaged considerable during the silver thaw. There is a foot of snow at least on the level and the ground is not frozen but I hear of much loss of broadleaf evergreens and early blooming shrubbery. Two hundred and sixty-six inches of snow at Crater Lake during January, the most ever. I saw Mt. Hood last night for the first time since I have been here and it was a beautiful sight in the changing colors at sunset. Of all the salves and cures I used for poison oak, nothing gave the relief of plain vinegar and salt; this should also be good for poison ivy and parsnip poisoning during weeding time. The last day of January is also the usual time for seeding early peas and radishes, but there will be no planting of early gardens here this week or even the first week or two in February. Expert and amateur horticulturists are debating what this month's cold freezing weather will do to the broadleaf shrubbery. Last year's February cold spell did not hurt the shrubbery too much, but it would seem that the big buds of the early type camelia and rhododendron must

be damaged. Fruit and nut growers are hoping the weather will break slowly and the deep snow, where the ground has not frozen will keep normal and dormant. Temperature has not been below zero since 1919 and there was considerable damage to fruit, nuts, berries and hops at that time; all agree the next two weeks will show how bad things are damaged and are hoping things will recover. Seems strange how the holly, laurel, roses, in fact all the broad leaf evergreens are holding their leaves. They must be hardy here in spite of the below zero weather.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

(Continued from Page 40)

is progressing on ornamental crab-apples.

ALMEY (Morden Rosybloom 452) continues to exhibit much merit. The tree is vigorous, bears bountifully year after year, has large bright red flowers, and small scarlet fruits which are retained until spring. These make good food for winter birds.

SUNDOG, a shapely tree of columnar form, is healthy, clean, and bears large pinkish flowers with a trace of mauve tinting.

M. R. 455 is deserving of more extended trial. The small maroon fruits remained until this year's deeply colored flowers had fallen. The narrow upright tree has dark inter bark.

M. R. 454 is even more columnar than the last two. Flowers are small but bold. Bark is dark ox-blood maroon. Fruits are small and decorative.

STRATHMORE is another narrow upright tree. This May it bore its first flowers at Morden. These resembled the well-known Hopa but were about 3 days later, somewhat darker and less fading. The narrow foliage on the numerous fine ascending willowy branches remains reddish all summer and becomes strikingly red and scarlet in autumn.

The most luxurious landscape floral pageants here are Crabapple week and immediately after when the French lilacs are laden with the fragrant bright spikes.

Free advice is like free dirt. You dump it into a hole and forget it.

BOOK REVIEWS
By
Mrs. Lona Crandall



Dona Crandall

to her costume the distinction and sparkle that a corsage always lends. Miss Naumberg reminds her reader that the satisfactions resulting from sewing her own clothes carry over to other less familiar creative activities, including corsage making, and that a corsage can give an old costume the freshness of newness. She cautions that a corsage must be well made, suitably adapted to the costume, and that tho the wearer may never have studied the rules consciously for accomplishing this, she may have an instinctive understanding of them. Selecting and condi-

The Trick of Making Your Own Corsages. By Sophia Naumberg. Published by Floral Art, Box 85, West Englewood, N. J. Price \$1.

This concise and practical little book will enable anyone having a few spare minutes and a little patience, to add

tioning the flowers is considered by the writer to be the first step in corsage making. The material may be assembled from whatever is at hand in the garden, in the house, or at the florists, and the reader is reminded that growing one's own flowers can increase the enjoyment of corsage making. Perfect flowers are shown to their best advantage in a corsage. Even in the winter, house plants and forced bulbs will provide suitable flowers for corsages. Tying the bow is the trick that makes or breaks the corsage, writes Miss Naumberg. A collection of flowers with a bow, perhaps, but never a bow with flowers, warns the writer. Or a bow may not be necessary; and if it adds nothing, it should be omitted. Detailed instructions for preparing the flowers for assembly are included, and a variety of types of corsages complete this very readable little volume. Sophia Naumberg is a nationally accredited flower show judge.

The Trick of Growing House Plants, House Plants in Every Window, by Sophia Naumberg. Published by Floral Art, Box 85, West Englewood, N. J. Price \$2. Illustrated by Alfred S. Muscari. (Do names mean something after all?)

An attractively bound handbook of

house plant culture. The book is cleverly divided into three sections printed on yellow, green or gray pages, and the plants successfully grown in the various exposures collected together so that if you are filling a south window you turn readily to the yellow pages and find those plants which you will want. The writer limits her list of plants to the sturdiest and most dependable, so that even a beginner may be assured of the joys of success if the simply stated instructions are followed. Essentials listed by Miss Naumberg are sunlight, moisture, soil and temperature. She suggests that for a small number of plants, the correct potting mixture be purchased at a florist's shop. Fertilizers are discussed, and good and poor cultural practices listed and criticized. General potting instructions are included for all plants. Specific instructions for growing successfully a wide variety of plants requiring varying amounts of sunlight are given under separate sections for each plant. Sketches of each plant are an aid in identification, and both common and botanical names are listed. The book concludes with a section on methods of propagation of the various types of house plants, and a chart of troubles and remedies.

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SECRETARY'S CORNER

By

W. A. Simmons



W. A. Simmons

In sending in her dues for the coming year Mrs. E. J. Irving, of Omaha, writes: "I am truly sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Porter. His writings were a splendid addition to North and South Dakota Horticulture that will be missed by many, I am sure. We had much in common, altho he never knew it, always trying to find plants that would be suitable additions to the gardens of his section." Also Mrs. Bertha Trask, of Terry, Mont. writes: "Am sure sorry to hear of Mr. W. E. H. Porter's passing. The Beautiful Dreamer, we will miss him very much." Mrs. Jorgensen puts it this way: "It has been again 'too Little and too Late' with me, for I've always been going to write to Mr. Porter about some of the many plants he raised. His was really a blessed leave taking tho, for he was self-sufficient unto the end, and bothered no one for care and hospital bills." A letter comes from Mr. Van R. Malcolm of the Waumbek farms, Jefferson, N. H., as follows: "Last fall there was an article by Mrs. A. W. Davidson, 'Lady bug, Lady Bug Fly away home'. She mentions using sulphur with not much success. In our big vegetable garden, we rely on common moth balls. One is dropped on the ground right next to every tomato plant, and one or two in every cabbage, etc. When you hoe the cabbage, it is a good time to move the moth ball (naphthaline) back to the center of the head. I cannot smell the stuff, but insects are said to be more sensitive to odors than we are. I figure the whole garden smells ever so faintly in an invisible, protective fog. I have not tried yet using small pieces of soft wood, that were soaked first in pine tar. The 'Horticulture' helps us so much as our climates are similar." We receive numerous requests for the 1949 annual report. Am sorry but we "don't have got none". The reason is that our state

officers did not think our report was worth a dollar per copy, which is what the printers have been charging us for them for the past two years, and I agreed with them. It was decided to confine our publications to the magazine and we have tried to improve that; at least we print a lot more in it than formerly. Some years ago Dr. Yeager originated a bush form of his best of all squash quality Buttercup squash, thereby apparently setting a pattern and giving ideas for other plant breeders to follow, for soon a bush form Pumpkin appeared from another station. Now it is announced that Dr. L. C. Curtis, while with the University of Connecticut Experiment Station originated a bush form of the Table Queen, or Acorn squash which has been named Uconn and has received Gold Medal award. It is said to have resulted from a cross of Table Queen and the Early Prolific Straightneck variety. It is said to combine the green color and quality of the Table Queen with the bush form earliness and heavy production of the Straightneck variety. The bush form, is a boon to those having small gardens, as they can be grown in a space of but 3 feet square. The advent of DDT has made squash growing much easier and more certain. For a time it was claimed that 5% DDT dust would kill vines of the regular squash varieties but I have found this to be untrue in the case of Buttercup and Banquet, and used early enough, to relieve one of all borer trouble. Fortunately the gourd type squashes such as Table Queen, Butternut and Crookneck, or Straightneck summer squashes don't appear to attract either the borers or the squash bugs. Incidentally I am still eating butternut squashes, which are marvels of keeping ability and never seem to dry out, as do the Hubbards; they are apparently as heavy now as they were last fall when they were harvested. In the January issue of FARM RESEARCH, the New York publication, Chas. B. Sayre and Max E. Patterson, of Geneva, explain a method of obtaining up to five tons additional yield per acre from tomatoes, in part, as follows. "There are two principal uses of green tomatoes. One is for the fresh market when the tomatoes are wrapped in paper-"green

wrap" and shipped in crates to market where they are ripened in a "ripening room" or in the retailers store. The other use is for pickling. For this market, the tomatoes are not wrapped but are packed carefully in bushel baskets. For either use the tomatoes should be "green mature" before picking, that is, the seeds should be well developed and jelly should have formed in the seed cavity. For canning, tomatoes should be fully ripened on the vine. Growers have requested information regarding the returns from tomatoes harvested for the "green wrap" market as compared with harvesting at redripe maturity. In response to this request experiments were conducted for three years (1947, 1948 and 1949) at Geneva. All of the five varieties in the test produced significantly larger early yields and total yields when harvested entirely for green-wraps than when harvested entirely at redripe maturity. The larger yields of green-wraps were due to a significantly larger number of fruits per plant when harvested at green-wrap stage tho the average weight per fruit was less. In the eight days or more that the tomatoes must remain on the vines to reach red-ripe maturity they gain in size and weight (water and minerals) but this results in a greater drain on the productive capacity of the vine so that it is not able to develop as many additional fruits. Earlier removal of the fruits results in less dropping of the remaining fruits and blossoms so that a much larger number of fruits to green-wrap maturity and a larger total yield is obtained. or maximum yields of U. S. No. 1 green-wraps must be harvested at least twice a week because of the brief interval between the time they become green-mature before they start to change color. Red-ripe tomatoes need not be harvested more frequently than once in seven to twelve days." As most of us home gardeners desire to do some canning we will probably continue to pick our tomatoes at red-ripe maturity, or after they have colored somewhat for table use, we can see the desirability of having the green ones we pick at frost time being of green-ripe maturity, as most of those that are not that far along rot, rather than ripen in the house.

ORCHID EXPERIENCE

By

Mrs. Sam Hoiland

Beaver Creek, Minn. Tri-State Garden Club of Valley Springs

The orchid which I have had in bloom in my home this winter is *Laelia anceps*. It is started from a bulb which, after starting its growth, attaches itself to the soil, or in Mexico where they are native, they attach themselves to the moss on the trees. When the plant does this, another bulb eventually grows onto the first one. This bulb will bloom in about two years.

The blossom consists of long sprays, two to six florets on each spray. Sepals and petals are deep rose, lip is crimson-purple, and the flowers are three to four inches across and quite variable as to color. The bloom in the autumn and winter.

I raised my plant from a bulb. The soil is acid, consisting of leaf mold and peat. I have had it about two and a half years before it bloomed. When the bud is forming it needs fertilizer and plenty of water. Then after the bulb is formed the plant is done working and needs less water. However, an alkaline water cannot be used unless aluminum sulphate is used in it. I use aluminum sulphate in the water about once a month.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 39)

other day, but I guess it was too cold, for he didn't whistle! The club had a Christmas party and had a talk on Birds in January."—Mrs. Earl Borneman.

Trowel and Hoe Junior Club (Sioux Falls)—"The girls are very good. Have one conservation program a month and repeat the conservation pledge at every meeting."—Mrs. H. B. Cranall.

Home Garden Club (Britton)—"I think we have a very good program mapped out for the year—at least it is a very busy one. We are stressing the planting of petunias this spring as it is our city flower—also glads. We have written for additional information on the Hopa Crab planting project sponsored by the Federation as we would like to cooperate in it."—Mrs. A. C. Bonham.

Tri-State Garden Club (Valley Springs)—After investigating reports of Mrs. Sam Hoiland's success with orchids in her home we hear that she has a collection of about 200 house plants including many such rarities as the Lithops or Living Rocks, starfish plants, bromeliads and tropical ferns. Evidently this is no ordinary collection, for such an authority as Mrs. R. J. Duncomb, Luverne, Minn., says, "She has the best kept and biggest house plant collection I have ever seen. Do try to get over to see her. You won't regret the trip."

Sioux Falls Garden Club—A move is under way which may lead to a much needed garden page in the *Argus-Leader*—something for which we have hoped for a long time. About the only encouragement to garden from the state's leading publication has been the editor's brief rhapsodies over the tulips each spring. Mrs. Clarence Freed has been appointed as chairman to start the ball rolling. Other clubs are to be contacted and it is hoped to have timely gardening articles published at regular intervals.

The Falls Park project is also very much in the foreground of President D. E. Johnson's plans for the club. From Mrs. Crandall, chairman of the project, comes this note, "A committee of representatives from four Sioux Falls clubs has met to make plans for promoting the development of the park. We want the planning

commission's recommendations for a 4-lane street to the Falls adopted. We also want permanent roads built and parking areas provided. Then the individual clubs can do the beautification as they are inclined following the plan outlined by the Park Department. Many people have done planting down there hit and miss only to have the street department supplies unloaded on top of them. There's no sense to that sort of thing." With the *Argus-Leader* behind the movement we believe action will finally be taken on this problem which has been an embarrassment to every person who has ever been asked "Where are the Falls?" during the past thirty years.

The Dell Rapids Garden Club welcomes visitors from other clubs and towns at all times, and hereby extends an invitation to the April meeting when *Hemerocallis* will be the featured number on the program. The club had the pleasure of several Good Earth Garden Club visitors in February to see the realistic slides of wild flowers shown by Mr. J. Minard Stevens, city planning architect, of Sioux Falls. These slides are recommended as being about the most natural pictures of wild flowers in their native habitat that we have seen. Inconspicuous blossoms which do not make a showing are not overly magnified and glorified as they so often are when seen with the camera's eye.

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