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HORTICULTURE

SEPTEMBER, 1956



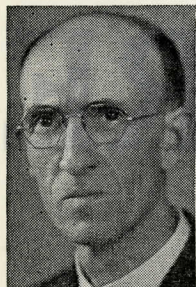
Above is shown some of the nice-looking Brass of the North Dakota Society. Left to right : H. A. Graves, secretary; Mrs. George Gress, Dickinson, vice president; Mrs. Clifford Westby, Maddock, president; and Robert Askew, vice president. The treasurer, Mrs. Earl Shaw, Fargo, was not present.

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THE AMERICAN KNOT

by

O. A. STEVENS



O. A. Stevens

American knot implies there is a European knot, which there is. The name is an old one derived from the birds call. In spring plumage the bird has rusty underparts and so is often confused with the dowitcher. Both have been called robin snipe. The bill of the knot is much shorter than that of the dowitcher, yet longer than that of the black-bellied plover which it resembles in fall plumage.

The knot migrates along both coasts but is uncommon in the interior and therefore rarely seen in our region though William Rowan reported flocks of 100-200 in Alberta. Nesting takes place far to the north from northern Alaska to Greenland. The winter migration takes them as far as Patagonia and only rarely do they remain as far north as Florida and South Carolina. The Old World form is said to nest on Spitzbergen and to migrate to Africa. It occurs on the coast of England during migrations and some individuals remain for the winter.

The knot was formerly abundant on the Atlantic Coast during migration and was a popular game bird until it became rare and hunting was prohibited. One writer tells of seeing barrels full of birds taken by hand with a light at night and often spoiling before marketing. The price was ten cents per dozen. The species name "canutus" is from King Canute's fondness for them according to early English writers.

The nesting place of the knot was long unknown in both the Old and New World. The birds were frequent around the shores and explorers looked in the grass tufts nearby without success. Admiral Peary obtained photos of the nests in Grinnell Land, latitude 82 degrees in 1909. The location was

farther back from the shore on the higher, rocky ground.

In 1916 the Crockerland expedition found two nests in northwestern Greenland after much search. Dr. W. E. Ekblaw of this group, who visited North Dakota a few years ago, reported that the sitting birds were nearly invisible among the stones and would not fly until fairly pushed off the nest. His description of the common call as a cluck-like "whit, whit, whit" seems scarcely to justify the name. The birds arrived there the last days of May and were seen together with turnstones, black-bellied plover and red-backed sandpipers.

Mr. Bent wrote that in 1925 he had seen the first arrivals in Florida on April 2 and saw many in South Carolina as late as May 23.

CAPRICIOUS BEAUTY

by

MARY LOUISE KINYON

Minnesota is like a laughing girl

With sparkling eyes of blue.

A future that looks rosy

Her cheeks are rosy too.

In spring her suit is pastel green

That deepens by the hour.

In summer it's a deep dark green

With many a lovely flower.

In fall her cloths are all quite gay

For then—Jack Frost his call does pay

When winter settles for a visit

She wears an ermine robe exquisite.

This beauty is loved by all

Through summer, winter, spring and fall.

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SEPTEMBER, 1956

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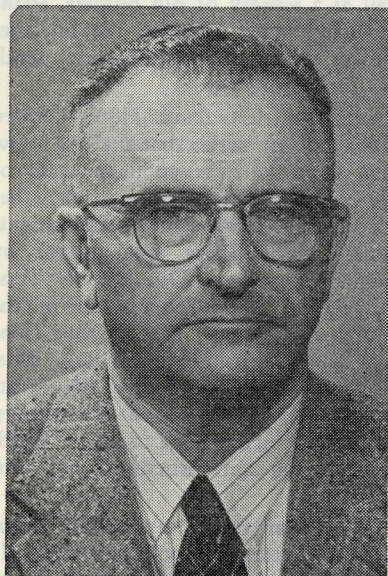
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DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

NEWSLANTS

by

HARRY GRAVES



Fireblight was worse on apple trees this season than it has been for many years. R. L. Wodarz of Wyndmere reports it severe on many varieties in his orchard. One variety that appeared to escape this year was Virginia, which is unusual. Bill Baird, horticulturist at the Great Plains Field Station at Mandan, reported in an Associated Press release that fireblight was general in their Experimental orchard. I saw it near Devils Lake, where the owner said he had never seen it before. We received armloads of samples here for identification.

Fireblight gets its name from the way the leaves turn brown, but continue to cling to the tree. The appearance is much as though a light fire had run over the tree. The disease is caused by a bacteria with a ten dollar name I won't bore you with. It usually starts in new soft growth, or through the flowers. Bees, on routine pollen collecting trips, are accused many times of spreading the disease from flower to flower. Cedar waxwings are given a bad name in this respect, also. However, it gets around—it surely spreads on a bad fireblight year. The bacteria moves downward under the bark once it gets established. On highly resistant varieties like Dolgo, it usually doesn't go beyond the current seasons growth.

On varieties lacking resistance, it moves down the branch quite rapidly. When it reaches the main trunk, it may girdle the tree at this point. If it does, the tree from the girdled point upward will die. It may continue down one side of the tree. This usually just delays the fatal process.

Because the bacteria works under the bark, the disease is practically impossible to control by spraying once established. Some promising work has been done with antibiotic sprays, but results are not very conclusive. The average home fruit grower takes a dim view of preventive sprays anyhow. Most of us prefer to wait until a horse, or two, have been stolen before we lock the barn door!

Advance of the fireblight organism down the branch can be observed by the wrinkled condition of the bark. Because there is some resemblance to a man's hand just fresh out of dishwater, the wrinkled areas caused by fireblight are frequently referred to as "Water-soaked." Since sprays are either not effective, or not convenient, surgery is still perhaps the most effective control. W. E. Brentzel, Plant Pathologist with the N.D.A.C. Experiment Station, recommends fall pruning of all the diseased branches. Make your cut 10 or 12 inches beyond any signs of water soaking of the bark. Burn all twigs and branches pruned off. Disinfect your pruning shears, or saw, between cuts with a solution of one tablespoon of Lysol to one quart of water. The fireblight organism usually sets up a sunken lesion in early fall at the point of greatest advancement. This will help you in determining how far the disease has advanced. Remember to prune 10 to 12 inches beyond any sign of "watersoaked" signs on the bark.

The late Dr. J. H. Schultz was of the opinion that a tree that had borne a heavy crop the year previous, was in a weakened condition and as a consequence more likely to be injured by a severe winter—and subsequently to be a good target for fireblight the following spring. While I cannot say that all apple trees hard hit by fireblight this season, bore heavily last year, I do know that last winter was a difficult one for a variety of plant material. Elm trees have died in many of our cities with few positive symp-

toms of what caused their demise. Lombardy poplars were almost all injured to some degree; many were killed outright. Roses were injured to the extent that many didn't get going until mid-June.

On a more cheerful note, Mr. Wodarz writes that he has an excellent crop of fruit this year. Toka, which has a reputation for light bearing, is bent low with fruit. Fiebing, LaCrescent and Redcoat plums are also heavily loaded. We are very pleased for the opportunity to have a few gallons of the LaCrescent plum for sauce this year. LaCrescent—a so-called yellow variety—is rated by some as the finest flavored cultivated plum. All we can say is that it makes excellent sauce and is simply super out of hand.

Mr. Wodarz reports that the Apple Seed Chalcid apparently passed him by this year, and so far no sign of the apple maggot. Maybe last year's crop failure was some sort of a blessing in disguise?

The Great Plains Region, American Society for Horticultural Science is a group with membership from the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in Canada; and North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Iowa and Minnesota in the United States. Annual Meetings are held in August. This year the group met at Lethbridge, Alberta, where a sizeable Experimental Station is located. Dr. E. P. Lana, new head of the Department of Horticulture at N.D.A.C., led the North Dakota delegation. Next year, the group has scheduled their meeting at the University of Nebraska. Dr. I. B. Nonnecke of Lethbridge is the new president. Dr. Ervin Denisen, of Iowa State College, is vice president. New secretary is Dr. Victor Miller of the University of Nebraska. Dr. E. P. Lana, of N.D.A.C. is treasurer and librarian. The 1957 meeting is scheduled for Lincoln, Nebraska.

A principal fact about the 56 patriots who signed the Declaration of Independence is that they did not go home and just sit, after the signing had been completed. They considered their work just begun.

—W. EARL HALL in
MASON CITY GLOBE GAZETTE

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by

MRS. VERN TOMPKINS



Mrs. Tompkins

The annual convention of the S. D. Horticulture Society and the S. D. Federation of Garden Clubs, held in Brookings, June 27, 28, 29, was well attended. We have a larger attendance each year, and more interest is shown, which is as it should be.

Mrs. A. M. Eberle and Mrs. U. J. Norgaard, General Convention Chairmen, were on the job every minute, keeping things running smoothly.

All meetings were held in the Pugsley Union Building auditorium, which represented luxury plus, as compared to some convention halls. The banquet, the presidents' breakfast, and the 'Fun Night' dinner were held in the ball room of the Union building, being served by men students. Mothers of college boys, listen! those boys know how. (Nice to know when you serve at home.)

Wednesday afternoon a tribute was paid to Dr. Wm. Over, by R. Rulon; to Harry Woodward Sr., by J. M. Atkinson; to George Will by H. N. Dybvig, the three Horticulture Society members having passed away during the past year.

Speakers on Wednesday included Dr. S. A. McCrory, who spoke on the work of the Horticulture and Forestry department of S. D. State College; Harry Woodward, on Our Forests, Past, Present and Future; and R. J. Elliott, whose talk was on "Roadside Parks." Gretchen Harshbarger, Garden Editor of Household Magazine, was the banquet speaker. Her talk and pictures were most inspiring. Miss Olive Volstorff furnished two pleasing vocal numbers during the evening. Harry Woodward presented the John Robertson award to Dr. A. F. Yeager, Horticulturist head of the University of New Hampshire. Mrs. L. B. Severance, Huron, was general chairman of other awards presented at this time.

A much larger crowd than usual attended the Presidents' Breakfast, on Thursday morning, and reports were varied, and very interesting.

Music on Wednesday was furnished by Mrs. Lela Smith, accompanied by Mrs. Huggens. Thursday morning we were entertained by Miles D. Markusch. Mr. Markusch is Assistant Director of the S. D. S. C. Band. Dr. Yeager gave an informative talk and showed slides on horticultural achievements, some of which are not yet perfected. In the afternoon Robert B. Whitcomb, Assistant Professor of Music, presented three organ numbers which were much enjoyed. Mrs. J. B. Collins, Director of the Rocky Mountain Region, was the main speaker of the afternoon. She was followed by Mrs. A. R. Backus, of Sioux Falls, who showed a number of floral arrangements, and told something about each.

The 'Fun Night' dinner, with a lesson in Prestidigitation (whatever that is) by Prof. Ward L. Miller, Head of the Botany Department of S. D. S. C. was much enjoyed, even though he didn't tell us just how he does it. The 'Stump the Expert' session brought out much interesting discussion.

The tour of the College Flower Gardens and Orchards started at 8:30 on Friday morning, the first lap on foot, and finishing the circle of 100 acres on a hayride. Dinner was served by the hostess clubs at Hillside Park. Thus ended a very satisfactory convention. We will convene in Pierre next year.

Mrs. Burrell Collins, reporting for the Community Garden Club, of Miller, states that they have had a 'Thank You' from Manilla for Seeds for Democracy, sent in the spring. They received a \$25.00 prize for their float in the Diamond Jubilee celebration. The third lesson in Flower Arranging was presented by Mrs. Don Rosh. Mrs. Prostrullo gave a report on House Plants.

The Watertown Garden Club held a Spring Flower Show the latter part of May, the show room and treats being provided by one of the members. Mrs. Irma Raymond was chairman of the show, which was a colorful display of tulips, lilacs, iris, bleeding heart and flowering shrubs. Betty Han-

thorn was chairman of the Plant Sale, which was also held at this time. The Ways and Means committee have been busy, having had a successful Bake Sale; have sold 240 peony racks, as well as a variety of pin holders. Plans are being made now for the Summer Flower Show. June Evenson sends this interesting report.

Mrs. A. M. Odland, Home Garden Club, Britton, states that the Iris Show held June 13 was good in spite of adverse weather conditions, there being 42 specimens and arrangements entered. The Show was judged by Juanita Jorgensen, Dell Rapids. First and second places were won in the specimen section by Mrs. Arthur Bonham and Mrs. Don Wilgers. Mrs. Bonham and Mrs. Frank Mock attended the convention at Brookings. At the last meeting the topic on Wildflowers was ably discussed by Mrs. Ray Jarrett.

Mrs. Olaf Olson says "The Rural Garden Circle of Crooks met on July 5th at Hazelville, the country home of Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Elmen of Sioux Falls. Miss Olga Jensen and Mrs. Edwin Johnson served a delicious dessert luncheon, assisted by Miss Emma Jensen and Mrs. Elmen. After a short business meeting the group toured the park-like grounds of Hazelville. A family picnic was planned, to be held in the Hartford park July 22nd.

The Rapid City Garden Club sponsored their third annual Flower Show in cooperation with the Better Homes and Garden Club and the Green Thumb Garden Club on June 9 and 10. There were many flowers and of good quality, being 304 entries for competition and fully that many more not competing. Dr. S. A. McCrory judged the Show. The African Violet display was an outstanding feature, probably the best in the state. Mrs. Leon Tiaht received the purple ribbon for a huge Double Neptune, completely covered with bloom. Other purple ribbon winners were: Mrs. Geo. Capps, for the best peony; Mrs. Stein Bangs, the best iris, and Mrs. J. M. Atkinson, the best rose. Mrs. Lorah Kimber won sweepstakes with 17 entries and 14 ribbons. A table of the newer varieties of iris, donated by a local flower grower, received a lot of attention. There was also a table of hybrid tea roses with Mayor Baker's

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DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

by

W. R. LESLIE



Leslie

TIME to VISIT the Experimental Station? The satisfactory reply should relate to the chief interest of the visitor. Some seasonal features are—

From January to the end of March, pleasure in walking over the Experimental Farm comes from the various color shades of green foliage on evergreen trees and shrubs; colorful bark on small trees, willows, dogwoods, roses, spireas; persistent, showy fruits which impart liveliness and brightness to the winter scene. Probably the Morden Experimental Farm landscape is relatively more distinctive during the winter than in the growing season. Stress is placed on subjects possessing cheerful winter coloring. Winter birds are usually numerous here as a plentiful and varied diet is found on tree, shrub, vine and herb.

In late April and early May, Nature awakens. Squills, tulips, February Daphne, Anemones and other early plants usher in the season. Apricots, Almonds, plums, pears and cherries bloom in early May. The third week of the month sees one of the greatest flower pageants of the year when its apple blossom time in Southern Manitoba. Many of the new crabapple hybrids have pink, red, crimson or maroon flowers. The orchards occupy 150 acres.

In late May and early June lilac time begins. It extends for a six weeks period. Numerous other shrubs bloom in May and June. There are scores of shrubs, trees and vines gaily flowering then when the big flush of new shoot growth is surging. Accompanying the diversity of woody ornamentals is a wealth of flowering herbaceous perennials. Iris are a feature in early June. Peonies are at their height the latter part of June. Roses are impressive late in June and July.

July shows rainbow effects in the herbaceous borders and on the vine-

clad pergola. The berry crop is being harvested. Apricots are ripening late in the month.

Orchard fruits are of top interest from early August until October. In September much fruit is mellowing on many apple and pear trees, but there will be gaps in the rows as early varieties will have been harvested. October sees the end of apple picking and grape cutting. Nuts will be falling.

Autumn coloring takes on its arousing triumphant glory in late September and this astonishing beauty continues for three to four weeks. Due to the wide array of woody plants furnishing the grounds and arboretum, variety in autumn foliage beauty is impressively diverse.

November and December mark the plant world going into slumberland. The scurrying loose dry leaves and the arrival of snowfall bring their own charm. There is much of interest for the welcome visitors whenever they come. The company of song birds is encountered at all times.

Visiting hours are posted as 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. the year around.

Function of the Morden Experimental Farm: This institution has experienced 40 years of action. The first experimental work commenced in the spring of 1916. The area comprised 285 acres. The superintendent was the lone scientifically trained officer. In 1956 the farm has extended to cover 627 acres. Scientists on the staff number three in fruit crops, two in vegetable crops, three in fruit and vegetable processing, two in ornamental horticulture, two in forage crops, one in cereals, and one in poultry. An Entomologist of the Science Service, specializing in fruit insects, is attached to the staff. Classified assistant technicians include eight in horticulture, two in field crops, one in livestock, and four general. The expansion in buildings, machines, laboratories and specialized equipment has been comparable to the growth in personnel.

With such generous Departmental support, the public may fairly expect the staff to produce much valuable service. Progress in most of the numerous projects has been pleasingly impressive. Henceforth, achievement promises to be increasingly helpful to homemakers, gardeners, farmers, processing factories, dairymen, extension workers, students and teachers.

The research program emphasizes plant breeding to develop superior varieties particularly adapted to Canadian prairie conditions; improvement in methods of husbandry to protect crops against diseases, insects, rodents, weeds spray damage, drought and heavy weather; investigation on profitable uses of land and the processing of crops and by-products.

Demonstration plantings are displayed for the benefit of the visiting public. The aim is to provide encouragement and inspiration.

Wide co-operation is enthusiastically practised with kindred experimental institutions in Canada, United States, and several other countries. This proves mutually advantageous and greatly accelerates attainment.

Extension work is considered as a role. Staff members do render occasional assistance when such is requested by provincial agriculturists, but consider their duty to be investigation and production.

Organized field days are arranged each summer to enlighten interested visitors on new varieties and on project results.

Distribution of new garden varieties is by way of sample lots of seeds, cuttings, budwood and scions.

Information is disseminated in large reports, bulletins, and circulars but in part through correspondence, published most satisfying detail to those people who can arrange a visit to the Farm.

A new era begins. The pioneer stage of prairie horticulture is nearly passed. Now, chief emphasis will be on applying more precisely the findings from scientific research gleaned in the fields and the laboratories.

Spring Plant Notes: Some perplexing behaviours showed among woody ornamentals. *Pines* and some other evergreen conifers, including White Fir and Canada Hemlock, tended to heavy foliage browning. Contributory factors appear to include a relatively dry autumn with small soil moisture; a long steady winter although the minimum temperature was but -27 degrees F; a great deal of white snow which reflected sun rays strongly thus drying out the sap in the needles. Most trees which browned lost some young foliage but the dormant buds were healthy and produced a goodly clothing of new foliage.

(Continued on page 108)

YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

by

LEONARD YAGER

Horticulturist, Montana
Extension Service

PEONIES ARE PLANTED IN FALL



Yager

The peony is one of the popular perennial plants for Montana. It thrives well in all parts of the state and even with a minimum of care produces an abundance of bloom in the early part of the summer.

Fall is the time to plant new peony roots or to dig up, divide and transplant old clumps. The early part of September is considered the ideal period. A good peony root or division will contain from three to five strong eyes or buds on a strong root system. Old clumps can be separated, using a knife, into sections containing this number of eyes.

Peonies prefer an open, sunny spot that is away from the feeding roots of trees and shrubs. A good, fertile soil well supplied with humus and plant nutrients provides an ideal soil for peonies. Good drainage is important. Space clumps about four feet apart. In transplanting, make sure the eyes or buds are planted about two inches below the soil level. Many cases of failure to bloom have been attributed to planting too deeply.

There are many varieties on the market and a number of distinct forms are available. These run from interesting single-flowered types to fully double kinds. Two species, *Paeonia officinalis* and *P. tenuifolia*, are desirable because they and their hybrids are earlier to flower than standard varieties. The latter species is distinctive because of its interesting fern-like foliage. Some of the most popular older varieties are Festiva Maxima (white), Baroness Schroeder (white), Mons. Jules Elie (pink), Felix Crousse (rose-red), Souvenir de Louis Bigot (rose), M. Jules Dessert (light pink), Mikado (red, anemone type) and Therese (violet-rose).

One of the insects that is found on peonies are ants. They are attracted to the buds of the plants because of the secretion of a sugary substance which is a food for these insects. Ants in themselves do no harm but may possibly be carriers of Botrytis disease. They are controlled by dusting their nests with chlordane.

Botrytis disease causes blackening of stems, leaves and possibly flower buds. If this disease is noticed, cut away the foliage and stems of infected plants and destroy them. Clean up all old debris gathered around the plants. As the new shoots appear in early spring, drench the shoots and soil around them with a Bordeaux solution. Some of the newer fungicides such as Captan and Ferbam may work equally as well as a soil drench.

One of the most common complaints in growing peonies is failure to bloom. Quite often the plants may bloom the next year after transplanting. It is, however, best to nip off the buds the first growing season and allow the plants to develop a stronger root system. Often times blooming will not commence until the second year. If blooming is delayed beyond that time something may be wrong. Here are some of the things that may stop peonies from blooming: unsuitable site, too much shade, too much competition from tree and shrub roots, too deeply planted, overstimulation with nitrogen fertilizer, late frosts killing only flower buds, overcrowding or competition from tree and shrub roots, too deeply planted, overstimulation with nitrogen fertilizer, late frosts killing only flower buds, overcrowding or competition with weeds and grass, disease of roots or competition with weeds and grass, disease of roots or top, and too small a division.

FLOWERS FOR EXHIBIT

Flower displays add a great deal to the beauty of a show. With attractive displays and well labeled exhibits, one can learn of the many kinds of flowers that can be grown in the community.

It is quite gratifying to know that at many shows there is a distinct division being made between the cultural or horticultural classes and the arrangement classes. In the cultural classes, the flowers are displayed in order to show how well different kinds of flowers can be grown. In the arrangement classes, there is shown how

capable the exhibitor is in using flowers in attractive design. These classifications are quite distinct and should be so recognized by the exhibitor. The former group will be discussed in this article.

Flowers shown in cultural classes must show evidence of being well grown. The exhibitor must read the schedule carefully and exhibit the number of stems, sprays or spikes of flowers called for. Showing more or less than this number disqualifies the exhibit. Good size, good length of stem, good flower color, fragrance if such a kind possesses it are some important qualifications. Strong stems, healthy foliage and evidence of good grooming are a few other considerations.

A frequent comment is that the flowers were perfectly fresh looking when they were brought in, but a few hours later when the judge examined them they had drooped and wilted. Such exhibitors are prone to blame their failure on excessive heat or some other cause. However, an analysis of the situation would indicate the flowers were not properly hardened before they were brought in for exhibit. Often times they were cut immediately prior to bringing them in.

Proper hardening involves cutting the flowers at least a few hours before transporting them to the exhibit building. In some cases, like gladiolus, they may have been cut 2 or 3 days before the show.

Steps in the procedure involve cutting the flowers and immediately plunging them in vases or buckets of water. They are then placed in a cool spot to soak up water for a few hours. Flowers from plants with woody stems such as roses should have about an inch of the lower portion of the stem pounded to improve water uptake. With stems that bleed, such as poppies, searing the ends of the stems in a flame for a few seconds improves the keeping qualities of such flowers. Momentary dipping of such stems in boiling water has a similar effect. Strip off the lower leaves from the flower stems. Any foliage that is placed below the water level will die and may cause quicker fading of the flower. Cut a small portion off the lower ends of the stems each day, if the flowers are to be kept several days. Avoid placing the

(Continued on page 104)

HYACINTHS FOR WINTER BLOOM

by

MRS. CARL METZGER



Mrs. Metzger

Am sure that you will want to force some tulips, daffodils or hyacinths for winter joy for yourself, dear ones who are sick, or for special occasions. The recipient is so delighted that it makes you feel good all over.

Now is the time to order your bulbs. They should be started in September as they require such a long time to hibernate, as it were, before they can be brought into the light of day. It takes a heap of patience on your part as they just won't be pushed. I guess you have to kid them along, make them consider that they have gone through the winter and spring and it's time to do their stuff. Of course you must be sure that the bulbs are recommended for forcing. To me the hyacinth is best of all. I raise them two ways (1) in water and (2) in earthen pots. Just put water containing soluble plant food in hyacinth glasses or in pint fruit jars (the rims of which will hold the bulbs), leaving over one-eighth of an inch between the bulb

and the water. If it touches the water it will rot. I know from bitter experience. Then place the containers in a deep covered box on the floor in the vegetable room or in any place that is cold but not freezing. Add fertilized water when needed, then just be patient for 8 to 10 weeks until the glass is filled with roots and a sturdy bud has arrived on the scene. Then gradually uncover from day to day until there is a healthy 2 to 3 inch growth. Gradually move it into the light and warmth. What next? Just gloat and sit back and enjoy its beauty and fragrance. You may even feel a bit conceited but you've earned it. It did take patience, didn't it? Forgot to tell you that the water method requires exhibition bulbs.

Now for the pot method. Place a concave piece of pottery over the hole in the bottom of 3 or 4 inch pot fill with a rich garden mixture (soil, compost, peat moss). Insert the bulb so that it is not quite covered. Water well with plant food solution. Mulch with peat moss to hold moisture. Do not let the pots become dry at any time. Place the covered box containing bulbs in cold storage cellar (leaves between and over the pots will conserve moisture). Last fall after the bed had been dug out we put the boxes of pots in the bottom of the hot bed covering well with matted leaves (or 3 or 4 inches of soil) and a straw covering. Then came the big snow and completed the insulation. Two months

later when a mild day came along I said: "I think we should bring in the hyacinths." So, the man of the house (well acquainted with my WE) brought them in. Glory be! They weren't frozen! the roots were coming out of the bottom hole! (which they should be doing), they were up! That was a thrill. Of course due to the dock yard strike, they were late in coming and were not ready to bring upstairs until mid-winter. That's the time we needed a touch of spring. We had hyacinths for others and plenty for ourselves.

Just have to share a truly wonderful experience with all you would-be growers of winter flowering bulbs. Was guest one February at a hyacinth and tulip tea at the Melham residence in Watertown. Everywhere in the charming home were pots of tulips, daffodils and fragrant hyacinths. The glassed in corner room upstairs was full of them, a riot of color. I shall never forget that rewarding experience for I came back to Huron inspired with a desire to grow more and better plants than ever before (although on a much smaller scale) and armed with useful hints and valuable advice from the hyacinth lady herself.

The same treatment applies to tulips and daffodils except that a number of bulbs are placed in a large pot and should all be the same variety so as to bloom at the same time. So get some bulbs from your florist or reputable bulb specialist. It's fun!



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HARDY, ADAPTED SEED VARIETIES AND NURSERY STOCK

for the

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

"SINCE 1881"

BOX 600-H

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

WRITE FOR OUR 1956 FALL LIST

MY EXPERIENCE HORTICULTURE

by

R. L. WODARZ



Wodarz

About a year ago I related my experience fighting fireblight with antibiotics and was pleased to report a 100% success. Wish I could say the same this year when success was not quite as striking, as conditions were somewhat different. To repeat, last year fruit trees blossomed early in May, and a killing frost cleaned up on our prospective fruit crop. By the 1st of June trees were fully leafed out and it was this time when I sprayed the trees last year. Also no honey bees were present during blooming time. Now let's see about this year. We had a very backward spring and it was cool and things were coming very slowly in the orchard. There was a great deal of moisture to start with as there was a lot of snow, with the ground underneath not frozen. For apples, the blooming stage came along about the first of June. I went to work spraying those selected trees the same time as last year, June 1st. Trees were in full bloom, but some of them had a very small leaf surface. Only at the third spraying were the trees normally leafed out. Also this time the honey bees were busy working the trees over. In the course of a short time I noticed some blossom blight on the very susceptible trees. Then everything went on fairly well until a little later when some of the tender shoots began to blight. By the 1st of August, or thereabouts, the blight, what there was of it, had run its course. Considering the whole orchard of last year, there was only a slight attack of blight. But now, in 1956, blight was more severe: trees that hardly ever showed blight before were badly diseased. Varieties like Beacon, Fireside, Milton, Minjon, Dolgo, Wakpala, Melba, Mercer, and most of the others, did not escape. Must say that with such sorts as Mer-

cer, Dolgo and Wedge, blight will not persist into older wood. In short, I cannot report 100% protection although with some it was very close to this rating. It looks as though with some it was very close to this rating and it looks as though we have much more to learn along this line. Anyhow, we have a weapon for this scourge, and I am sure we will, as time goes on, learn more of how to use it. In the meantime, besides, spraying, we may have to slow down the growth and if some blight should appear, the diseased shoot must be pruned out and that well below the infected part.

With a small home orchard blight should not be of much concern, as things can be watched and remedied. It's the large orchard with many varieties and especially those that are testing out new varieties, have the bigger problem. Another pest we have been beset with in our orchards are the tree borers. Some of our very fine hybrid plums are subject to this pest. I would mention, for instance, Hansen's Toka, in some respects it is the best plum I have, then we have the Superior, a most lovely in looks and taste, the Minnesota Pipestone, another good one, also the Ember, outside of its fine quality, which is of the best, will keep for a number of days after ripening, all these are prey to the plum borer. Those worms live on the inner bark and to dig these pests out with a jack knife is a tedious job. Its control has been pretty well solved with DDT. In the last edition of THE FRUIT GROWER some one stated how he put an end to the peach borer, by spraying with DDT. An amateur would not get enough information out of this for the simple reason that the all-important timing is not given. I have controlled this plum borer by spraying the trunk, as well as the larger branches with the above substance in July, and again once or twice in August; it's the flies we are after. We are having a fine fruit crop this year. Today, the 24th of August, we had a field day in our orchard. As you know it is an experimental undertaking, with many kinds of plums and apples. The public was invited and each tree was labelled with a large card, attached to the tree with a clothes pin, so if we could not contact the individual personally, the label gave them the necessary information. Folks showed more

interest in sampling the hybrid plums than in the many varieties of apples. We were pleased very much with the behavior of the crowd. I am sure all had a good time, and thanks to our good County Agent, Verne Kasson, who fostered the field day and I hope his wish will be fulfilled, to have our Richland people plant many more fruit trees.

YOUR YARD AND GARDEN . . .

(Continued from page 102)

flowers in drafts. Flowers that have been properly hardened in the manner described should stand up much better on the show bench.

In cultural classes aim to show samples as uniform as possible. Unless otherwise specified, a good sample should contain all one variety or color. Flower size and type should be as similar as possible throughout the sample. In cultural classes, do not show the flowers as in an arrangement. Use no flower holders. Flowers should all possess similar stem length, not varying lengths as might be used in a flower arrangement. In many of the larger flower shows, the management provides containers. This is done for the sake of achieving uniformity. It also points out that the container plays no part in judging in cultural classes. The flower is the important thing.

There's a compact shade tree for eastern U. S. It's graceful Japanese tree—made to order for low, modern, ranche-type houses—may be just what many eastern homeowners are looking for. This small, compact tree, the Yeddo hornbeam, was introduced from Japan more than 50 years ago. But street and lawn tree, it has not become despite the considerable merit as a popular in this country. The Yeddo hornbeam is adapted generally for planting along the Eastern seaboard. Among its good qualities are its tolerance of many soils, relative smallness (rarely over 30 feet high) and a compact head that does not spread far into the street or intrude into utility wires. The tree's upreaching branches however, lend it an illusion of tallness and the USDA says it has no important faults. —MARYLAND FRUIT GROWERS' NEWS LETTER.

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

STATE CONVENTION AND PERMANENT HOME FUND

July 14, 1956

by

MRS. D. S. BAUGHMAN

Convention is over and we had a big surprise with our permanent Home Fund contributions. The "white elephant auction" with barely a week's notice to clubs brought bulbs, plants, planters, rose bushes, vases, containers, dishes, heirlooms, antiques, alabaster, Mexican ware, weathered wood, dried flowers and weeds, and what nots. The sale even topped the receipts of our corsage banquet last year. We took in \$66.45 and there are a few articles yet to be sold.

Mr. Atkinson really brought the Black Hills with him—orchid and bitter root plants, moss, cones, stones, and other things. His contributions sold for \$18.85, the top for any club, and brought Rapid City's 48 member club up to 100%.

Some very nice articles were there to be auctioned off and the bidding was spirited at times. Credit to clubs contributing resulted in making four clubs 100% and a few more nearer the top. Many contributions came from 100% garden clubs. Some of these donors named the club which they wanted to have this credit.

In my last letter to garden clubs (June 20, 1956), I gave The National Council of State Garden Club's new ruling for rating contributions in states. A state will be considered 100% when all gifts from its clubs and individuals reach a total equivalent to \$1.00 per member. On a new list from National (July 1, 1956) South Dakota's status is 63% of this goal. Surprisingly, we rank 9th from the top of the list of 43 states and the District of Columbia—very good indeed. Our convention credits were not in when this list was made. Watch for the next bimonthly report! Here is the way our clubs line up.

Clubs Which Have Citations

Town	Club	Membership
Andover,	Friendly G. C.	14
Britton,	Home G. C.	21
Britton,	Start-a-Plant G. C.	19
Brookings,	Petal Pals G. C.	13
Centerville,	Country G. C.	13

Claremont,	Triangle G. C.	14
Crooks,	Rural Garden Circle G. C.	15
Dell Rapids	G. C.	71
Highmore,	Better-Row G. C.	9
Highmore,	Sunshine G. C.	31
Huron,	Fair City G. C.	35
Irene Garden	Club	22
Huron Garden	Club	24
Madison Garden	Club	25
Miller,	Blossom & Bulb G. C.	21
Miller,	Community G. C.	20
Wakonda,	Pasque G. C.	22
Watertown	G. C.	29
Miller Gate	G. C.	14

The Garden Gate G. C. of Miller disbanded but turned in cash on hand to Permanent Home Fund for a Citation—nice good-bye gift.

Clubs 100% Since Convention. Credits Sent to National for Citations

Town	Club	Membership
Hurley,	Green Thumb G. C.	14
Volga,	Hoe & Hope G. C.	12
Webster,	Lawn & Garden G. C.	15
**Winner	Garden Club	34

**Winner Garden Club gave check for their entire membership of 34 at Convention. Hats off to them!

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS . . .

(Continued from page 100)

proclamation designating the rose as the official flower of Rapid City, attached. The Garden Club wishes to thank Tri State Milling Co., McMahon Co., Sunshine Gardens, and Mountain Valley Greenhouse, for door prizes furnished. Seven delegates attended the State Convention at Brookings.

The Sunshine Garden Club, Highmore, held their annual Brunch June 12, in the east wing of the auditorium. A spring flower display and tea were held in the afternoon. The July meeting was held at the Gertrude Salmon home. Roll call was answered with pointers on lawn care. Mrs. Stanley Mueller demonstrated dried bouquets, and the use of materials at hand. Ina Tompkins gave a brief report on the convention at Brookings.

The Agassig Garden club, of Park River, N. D., held their second annual flower show in Park River, June 22. More than 200 people attended the show and program. Prizes were awarded in 18 groups which included a variety of garden flowers, plants and special arrangements. Peonies was the

largest group with 44 entries and iris was second with 36 entries. Sweepstakes winners were: Mrs. Jake Veum, Hoople, 1st; Mrs. M. C. Flaten, Edinburg, second; and Mrs. Palmer Russum, Grafton, 3rd. Wm. Moe, Grafton florist, and Franklin Page, Hamilton, peony grower, and Mrs. Roy Wells, of Langdon, judged the show. The program included a demonstration on the use of driftwood, by Mrs. Jake Veum and a talk on the care of evergreens by Robert W. Amstrup, County Agent of Walsh County. A silver tea was held in connection with the show and \$70 was given to St. Ansgar's hospital in Park River to be used for beautification of the grounds. The Agassig Garden club was organized in the fall of 1954. Membership now totals 25 gardeners, who come from Park River, Grafton, Edinburg, Hoople and Lankin. Meetings are held once a month. March through November. The officers for this year are: Mrs. H. D. Long, Park River, president; Mrs. J. L. Veum, Hoople, 1st vice president; Mrs. I. E. Hanson, Park River, 2nd vice president; Mrs. M. C. Flaten Edinburg, secretary; and Mrs. A. L. Meager, Park River, treasurer. The topics which club members have discussed at the meetings include tuberous begonias, outdoor living rooms, African violet culture, and the care of roses. Plans for the remainder of the summer include tours of the country gardens and a trip to Morden, Man., Canada. Enthusiasm and interest in the club continues to grow as members share their gardening experiences and widen their knowledge in the field of gardening. Thank you, Mrs. John Myrdal. Clubs are, or soon will be, starting their new year. Please let me know how many membership cards you require. It is not necessary to send names of members.

An Irishman was trying to enlist in the army. He said he was 41, whereas the age limit was 38. But, the recruiting sergeant thought the Irishman would make a good soldier, and told him to go out and think about the age matter and return. In an hour the Irishman was back.

"Well, how old are you now?" asked the sergeant.

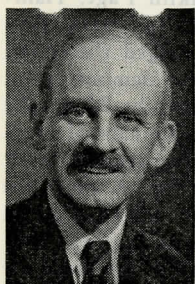
"Sure, it's 38 I am; it's me old mither who is 41."

—THE FARMER

GROWING PLUMS FROM SEED

by

P. H. WRIGHT



Wright

Plum trees, of the varieties Popular in the Prairie Provinces are commonly grafted on worthless wild plums of the Americana species, and when the understock, or wild root portion of the tree, makes sprouts on its own account, and grows up into the tree proper, the value of the named variety is soon lost. Many prairie orchards that I have observed have plum trees to which this has happened, and it is undoubtedly the most common cause of disappointment in attempting to grow plums. Own-root plums, of course, will not do this, but own-root plum trees are not easily got except by sowing seed, and seedlings, as most of us now appreciate, are often of low value, especially in apples and crabapples. If we sow plum seed, it must be seed from an orchard of nothing but high-quality named varieties, with no less pollen. I tried the sowing of plum wild plum types in it to scatter worthseed twice.

In 1938 I got a quantity of seed of our native plums, of good variety, McRobert, from the University of Sask. and sowed these in two adjacent rows. The resultant trees appeared about a foot apart, and fruited at this distance. By digging out the poor quality selections and spacing the trees, then, about

4 to 6 feet apart, I got myself an excellent orchard of own root trees. Among the trees saved are some that are as worth-while as our named varieties, and one at least is outstanding. The second experiment began in 1943, when I procured a small quantity of seed of the Manchurian plum from the Morden Experimental Farm. The Manchurian plums are first cousins of the Japanese plums that Luther Burbank worked with for so long in California, but, coming from the severe climate of Manchuria, they have great hardiness. In fact, the trees from the seed I sowed have been 100% hardy, which is more than I can say of the rows of native plums. The species name is Salicina, and Salicina plums are free of the characteristic defects of our native plums, thick skin, and excessive bitterness and astringency just under the skin. About a dozen trees of this species have fruited on my place. Of these, three seem to be of great value, being large, sweet, and of good flavor. One was a red plum, and the other two big yellow plums. The ones that I don't care about seem to be of good flavor too, but ripen too late for our area. The only handicap of the Salicina plums is their extremely good crops are rare on account of the early blossoming, which means that depredations of spring frosts.

Late blight resistance in potatoes and Tomatoes. The season of 1954, in north-eastern Saskatchewan, was exceedingly moist and hence favorable to the spread of late blight in potatoes and tomatoes. Late blight had first appeared in the area in 1953, a rather similar season, but in that year it was hardly severe enough to give much data on the behavior of varieties. In 1955, a field of Gold Nugget potatoes showed resistance to late blight. A few

to be mixed in the plants of this sort, plants of other varieties that happened all took blight normally, and a field of another variety on the same farm had a few plants of Gold Nugget in by chance, and these were free from blight. Gold Nugget is a bud-sport of Irish Cobbler, and the selection was made by Seager Wheeler many years ago. It has a golden-russet skin, and shares the propensity of Irish Cobblers to make hollow hearts. In the town of Nipawin, Dr. Fitton has been importing seed of various novelty varieties of tomatoes from a seed firm in England, and has tested them out under the conditions of his back lot. The soil in this town is sandy and warm. In 1955 all the varieties of tomatoes that he had blighted, except one, a tomato Blood Red. This variety was free of blight even though the plants adjacent to it were affected. One would expect all English varieties to be very late, but apparently Blood Red is fairly early.

At least 3 trunk sprays are needed to control borers. Use 4 to 8 pounds of 50% wettable D.D.T. to 100 gals. of water. Spray the first week of July, the first week of August, and the first week of Sept. About 1 quart of the D.D.T. solution should be applied to each tree trunk and all sides must be sprayed.

—Kansas Hort. Soc. News Letter.

We fret about airline tragedies about which we can do nothing and yawn in the face of a mounting highway slaughter which is on our own hands.

—W. EARL HALL in
MASON CITY GLOBE GAZETTE.

HOME OF *Seeds and Trees That Grow
and Satisfy*

Gurney Seed and Nursery Co.

YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
MRS. E. M. KINDRED



Mrs. Kindred

I hasten to correct what may be a false impression some of you may have received when reading the report of South Dakota in the last National Gardner. When it is necessary for editors to cut material sent in, the original meaning is sometimes changed and this was the case with my report. I want to stress that the Tree Planting Ceremony last spring at the site of the Eisenhower Christmas Tree cutting was entirely planned and executed by the Keep South Dakota Green Association Department of Game, Fish and Parks in cooperation with the South Dakota and the United States Forestry Service and not by our state federation. I was happy to just represent our organization by being in attendance.

The Regional Meeting in Missoula on July 22 was a worth while one and was presided over by our capable Regional Director, many of you met at our state meeting in Brookings. Our National President, Mrs. Bradley Morrah and Mrs. Daniel Mooney, National President elect were there and were available at all times for help and inspiration.

Through a plan of rotation of states it will be South Dakota's turn to be hosts to the Rocky Mountain Region in 1960.

I would like to share with you the letter received from Mrs. Collins after her return home from our state convention.

July 5, 1956

Dear Mrs. Kindred:

To you and the members of the South Dakota Federation, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for all of the hospitalities shown me at your recent State Convention, and for the gifts and the check I do thank you so very much.

Getting to meet and know many of you was a real pleasure. You have a

fine organization and I am pleased with the enthusiasm of your members. Keep up the good work and you will be one of the leaders of our Region.

Remember the State Award given for the greatest increase in members which will be awarded in Miami. Organize new clubs and you could be the winner.

Thanking you again, I remain,

Most sincerely,

GENEVA H. COLLINS
MRS. J. B. COLLINS
Great Falls, Mont.
Rocky Mountain
Regional Director.

Let us all get behind this movement to spread the gospel of Garden Club work, increase your club membership, be alert for new groups to organize and federate and let us try for that award.

A plea has again come to help make the migration of the whooping crane a safe one. In South Dakota the main danger areas are listed as Gettysburg, Huron, Mitchell, Mobridge, Onida and Pierre. The whooping crane stands 5 feet tall, has a wing spread of 7 feet, flies with head and legs out straight, and is white with black wing tips. Report any that you might see to your conservation officer and ask your hunters not to shoot any large bird.

The rate of increase is very slow and the losses that occur threaten extinction of these magnificent birds. It was reported at National Convention that two had been hatched in captivity in New Orleans but that one of these had been killed, it was assumed by a hawk.

One of the greatest pleasures and privileges that has come to me during my administration is the announcement that our state federation is offering a \$150 scholarship this year to a worthy young man or woman who is majoring in the fields of endeavor that we represent. You will find more information elsewhere in this issue. Let each club scan its own territory for a possible candidate to receive this fine award.

\$150 SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED

Deadline for Application is November 1.

Application must include: (1) Recommendation from high school principal or head of department of

college. (2) A recommendation from Civic Leader of Community in which applicant resides. (3) A recommendation from the State President of Garden Clubs. (4) Proof that the applicant needs financial assistance. (5) A three by five black and white glossy print of applicant.

Questions and answers to clarify scholarship awards rulings. (1) Is the \$150 given in a single check? Answer: "yes." (2) Does the award carry any obligations on the part of the recipient? Answer: No, except that a quarterly report of grades and interesting progress should be mailed to the State Chairman, Mrs. H. M. Pierce 1302 Campbell Drive, Huron, S. D. (3) What does subject wishing to major in mean? Answer: Floriculture, Horticulture, Landscape Architecture or Conservation. (4) What college may the applicant attend? Answer: Any college in South Dakota of applicant's choice which has a recognized department in the chosen special field. (5) Is the scholarship for one year only? Yes.

Since the South Dakota Federation of Garden Clubs wishes to offer this scholarship in one of the fields listed above, it prefers to grant it to a student who has chosen his major and is in or ready for his Junior or Senior year. Blanks may be obtained from Mrs. H. M. Pierce, 1302 Cambell Drive, Huron S. D.

Wolf at Door

A. M. A. Journal

An English teacher was discussing the fact that Louisa M. Alcott, in writing about herself, stated that she tried to sell stories to keep the wolf from the door.

"What do you think Miss Alcott meant by saying she was trying to keep the wolf from the door?" the teacher asked one of the 10-year-olds in the class.

"I suppose," was the prompt reply, "she didn't want the guy bothering her."

Willie: "Father, one of the boys in my class said I looked like you."

Fond Father: "What did you say?"

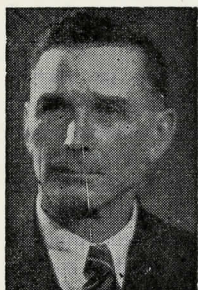
Willie: Nothing. He was bigger than me."

—THE FARMER

FRUIT & VEGETABLE NOTES

by

F. X. WALLNER



Wallner

June 21st. Today, the longest of the year, I saw the crops in eastern Minnehaha County, all through the southern counties of Minnesota and Wisconsin and northern Illinois, and crops looked fine all the way.

But when you make that trip to Chicago in 12 hours and pass all cars, you are going too fast to get a good look at any special garden crops. Near Albert Lea, the pea canning was in progress. The planting of soy beans has increased all along the line, but little oats is being planted. The return trip was made in the same fast time on the 25th, passing through a rain and hail storm east of Valley Springs, so we had to stop for a short time. The 26th through the 29th, were busy days at Brokings; that you will hear about from other writers.

The plane trip on the 2nd of July was a little rough at times, and above the clouds all the way to Spokane, so could see little of the country. A few days at the cabins at Twin Lakes, Idaho, with the newly weds, and son John and family, and on up a cold trout stream into Washington where I saw many new and beautiful wild flowers. The Lewis Mock Orange, the state flower of Idaho is also in full bloom at this time but only lasts a week; Sea foam, a common name for another wild flower shrub lasts much longer; Idaho is really noted for its wild flowers. The trip by car, down to Richland, Washington, through the dry wheat section, where they had enough moisture for a good crop. At the lower end, near Pasco, we went through a new irrigated section where I saw the best crop on land that has had its first crop. Potatoes were ready to dig, alfalfa being cut, corn fine. Train trip down to Portland we hit a gravel truck and came near wrecking our train. At Kay Lou Acres the roses and Fuchsias showed the damage done

the day before. Daughter had the lumber ready for the lath house that Fuchsia growers must have. Two days was too short for much repairing on the pools. Back up at the cabins at Twin Lake, where we fell 3 big trees in John's yard. We missed the cabin woodshed and other little house, but also missed the stake the old woodsman set 30 ft. away that we were supposed to drive into the ground with the falling tree.

A few more days and my vacation is over and I board the plane on the 19th of July at 10:40 at Spokane, arrive in Minneapolis 4 hours later. It is a clear warm day, and planes seem to travel 2,000 ft. lower than when going west, so at 17,000 feet I can see the mountains and valleys and all the landscape. We are soon over Couer de Alene lake, much larger than I had thought, then over snow carpeted Bitter Root Range, then Missoula, the continental divide and the Rocky Mountains, a snow capped range, a few small clouds below look like wifs of steam, or smoke. Then over Helena, Bilings, a short time ater, Then the Custer Battlefield, Badlands, Missouri river, and Mobridge. Now we begin to see the square checkerboard pattern farm land of green, yellow and black between the section line roads. A few curved and contour fields and bordered lakes and streams, a beautiful Landscape. July 20th, back home and just time enough to pet the 50 evergreens, then back as salesman at the stand, where the last of the first field of sweet corn is being taken away fast as could be bagged but the tomatoes are of poor grade because of pheasant pecks and of hail marks. Carrots, beets and cucumbers of No. 1 grade, even summer squash, peppers, egg plant and dill are here at this early time. Fire Ball and Firesteel are the only tomatoes at this time. Looks like a proven fact the Big Boy hybrid is too late for us but the Big Early hybrid may prove to be a little better. Even much of the garden that has been without irrigation is doing right well up to now. July 22nd. This evening I made an inspection of some of the gardens and I was surprised at the growth two of the tomato fields had made the past three weeks, and the color and vigor of the tomato plants. They must have had two dustings and it surely has helped as I can recall no such nice looking

plants. The Red Chief, I see is another early that will be yielding some fruit this week. I will report in more detail, next month on the main crop and the four hybrids.

MANITOBA NEWS LETTER . . .

(Continued from page 101)

Caraganas: 3 species suffered some springtime kill. They were: Shortleaf, *C. revifolia*; Chinese, *C. sinica* (cham-lagu); and Maximowicz, *C. marimowicziana*.

Lilacs: bloom has been abundant and luxuriant. Of the vulgaris hybrids, all favorites performed bountifully. Leon Gambetta again appealed as being outstanding in fine quality. Others with aristocratic bearing included: Violetta, Mme. Antoine Buchner, Victor Lemoine, Paul Thirion, Edith Cavell, Ellen Willmott, President Loubet, President Poincaire, President Viger, President Fallieres, Henri Martin, Mrs. Edward Harding, Thunberg, Maurice Barres, Georges Bellair, Ludwig Spaeth, Vestale, Prodige, Monge, Mme. F. Morel, Congo, Gilbert, and Jacques Callot. Everyone of these display nobility. Two species, in 4-year form, suffered kill-back to near the ground. They are Pekin, *Syringa pekinensis*; and Daphne, *S. microphylla* *superba*. Old bushes of the Pekin were but lightly injured as were 2-year old bushes of the small-growing Daphne.

Maples wintered well. In the Norway class, the species showed no injury. Schwedler was tip-killed only where some of last year's vigorous long shoots failed to harden up in autumn. The darker-leaved Crimson King surprised pleasingly by growing from the tips. Sugar, Silver Amur, Tatarian and Mountain Maples all did well. Silver Maple ripened a heavy crop of large, fat seeds the first week of June. Most other maples ripen their large harvests of plump seed. There is seed in autumn.

Elms are in good heart and yielded awide demand for seed of the Siberian Elm, Manchurian strain. The stock is sought for shelterbelts, field shelters, screens and clipped hedges. That northern form is a fast grower but somewhat less so than is the Chinese which lacks in hardiness for the Canadian prairies. Moreover, it is more prone to produce crooked trunks.

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

ANNUAL BIRD REPORT

by

RUTH HABEGER



Miss R. Habeger

Every year the Federated Garden Clubs of South Dakota seem to become more and more bird conscious and that is as it should be. I have had some fine reports from clubs which have not only been learning first hand recognition of the common birds of their locality, but have also been helping children to recognize birds on guided field trips.

In the state president's 1955 annual report under *Bird Sanctuaries*, there were a total of 230 reported from 41 clubs which is about an average of five and five-eighths bird sanctuaries per club. There were three reports which gave "many" and one reported "yes." These responses would raise the average number no doubt, but are of little help to a chairman who tallies reports. As you know, our National Bird Chairman, Mrs. Julian Buxton, has given as a slogan for which we should strive: *Every Garden a Bird Sanctuary*. She defines a sanctuary as a place where water, food, shelter and protection from enemies is provided throughout the entire year. Certainly some of the local presidents have been too modest in their estimates. I do hope with the above definition for a bird sanctuary each of your clubs will try for more bird sanctuaries and report them next year.

According to the available figures I found four and three-eighths Feeding Stations per club, which is again a low estimate, I am sure. My article in the February-March 1956 Dakota Horticulture should give you help for feeding birds in winter. Once birds depend on your feeders for food and water they should not be left stranded even for a week's vacation. In winter they know no other source of food and will perish in a short time.

Bird houses erected averaged three and three-eighths per club which is good if it means new bird houses since

1954. I think the questionnaire should designate what they wish for an answer here.

Most every club reporting did have at least one bird program a year while many others had bird reports for roll call. Some clubs have had speakers who are bird authorities. These speakers used their own slides or moving pictures to illustrate their talks.

The Moline Motor Company of Minneapolis puts out some beautiful free films on birds. The colors and photography is superb and the message conducive to sound practice in bird conservation. The following are the names of the films put out by this company: To Conserve Our Heritage, Waterfowl in the Spring, Bird Nesting Time, and Birds of the Prairie. The address of the company is Minneapolis-Moline Company, Minneapolis 1, Minnesota.

Our National Bird Chairman suggests that each club sponsor at least one Junior Bird Club of some kind in 1956. This suggestion is a wonderful one. The club may be a small group of Scouts, a Junior Garden Club, or just a group of neighborhood children with one adult as a leader who has bought a *Field Guide to the Birds* by Roger Tory Peterson. Always have the children keep a simple record of the birds seen on each trip. You will learn by doing. The spring of the year is the best time to start these groups because birds are more abundant and easier to be seen then. But please start a club anytime. You will find it great fun and very satisfying.

PRUNING FOR LARGE APPLES AND YOUNGER TREES

by

DR. R. H. ROBERTS
University of Wisconsin

(From "Wisconsin Horticulture,"
March, 1955)

A number of factors have made the production of larger and more attractive apples a necessity. Among these are prices of supplies and labor, consumer demand, and especially the age of many apple orchards, which have come to bear very few fruits of good size.

It is this last item of small fruits on old wood to which we want to direct attention. The problem is this:

The size of an apple is related to the length of terminal growth on the branch where it is borne; vigorous branches bear large apples, weak branches bear small apples. It follows that old trees which are less vigorous than young trees bear smaller apples than the young ones.

There is little trouble with middle-aged trees; what weak wood they have can be pruned out. With more age and much more weak wood the need for rejuvenation becomes urgent. A successful method for renewing the vigor of the old wood has been developed in recent seasons. The procedure is to keep the weak branches instead of cutting them out, but to cut them in half. This results in an increased growth at each cut and larger apples which go with renewed vigor. Be sure to cut all weak branches or multiple spurs in half. Uncut ones still bear small fruit, although most are cut. The snipping is done, of course, in the winter before there is a heavy blossom.

This type of pruning is more expensive than a usual one. It takes about an hour to an hour and a half to prune a 20-year-old tree. This cost is recovered at harvest time as there are practically no small apples to be picked, sorted, and sold at a loss.

The usual application of nitrogen should be increased a third to a half to feed the increased growth the cutting stimulates. This should result in the kind of large leaves that give blossom buds and repeat bearing.

The height of the tree can be reduced by taking out one or two large limbs. If large apples are to be borne throughout the tree, the high wood is not needed.

Another principal advantage of the snipping is that the tree is young again. That is, it has the type of growth characteristic of a young tree.—Talk given before the Iowa Horticultural Society.

"You're all wet—where's your umbrella?"

"I forgot it."

"When did you find that out?"

"When the rain was over and I went to close it."

—THE FARMER

In these days a miss is as good as a male.
—THE FARMER

SECRETARY'S CORNER

by

W. A. SIMMONS



Simmons

Aug. 13th. As could be expected on this 13 date, bad news came in the first mail, the passing of our old friend Seth Hultburt, of Eugene, Ore. Before going west, he had lived at Rapid City, while his children were going

through school, and before that, had a large orchard near Caputa, S. D. He had been an annual member of the horticultural Society for a great many years, and after going to Oregon, continued to send in his dues every year. We old timers will all miss him.

Here is a real bargain for the first person to send in \$10.00 to become a life member of our society. Mrs. Donald T. Gurney has just sent us a complete set of the cloth bound annual reports, put out by the late Dr. N. E. Hansen, ranging from 1904 to the last one dated 1925, when the late Gov. Gunderson showed his economical way of thinking by cutting off our cloth bound reports, thereby saving the state \$1,000 per year. This set we will give to the first one sending in \$10.00 for a life membership. To all others doing the same we will give as complete a file of these reports as our depleted supply will allow, but it will only consist of about 8 or 10 volumes. A life membership is a good thing to have for, as I have often said, our life members do not die very often. We are very sorry to report that our wonderful friend Mr. W. R. Leslie, late of Morden, Manitoba, because of, as he writes "I have accumulated enough birthdays to warrant me graduating from the Federal Experimental Farm service into private life." His address is now 72 Baltimore Rd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. We have always thought that requiring a man to retire just because he has reached a certain age, is extremely foolish because men are so different. It is a crime, in the case of Mr. Leslie; Canada could easily have gotten 20 more years of his splen-

did work out of him, much to their profit. We will greatly miss his beautiful word painting in his articles in our magazine, though the loss won't be immediate, as we still have, unpublished, quite a lot of his articles. Recently, we have been busy mailing out our 1956 reports. The State limits us to 600 copies, so we have been unable to supply them to all the Garden club members, but we have figured on giving the president and the secretary of each club a copy. But we have been unable to do this, for the good reason that we did not have the list of officers of many of the clubs. We wish the officers of such clubs would go into a huddle with themselves, and see if they gain anything from withholding from us the names of their officers. What weather they are giving us this year! A hot and dry month of June, cold and wet in July and most of August, and some more heat being turned in now. Yesterday, September 2, it was 99, then cooled off at night, down to 55, making us grab for a warm blanket. Naturally we are worried about our corn crop, which needs a lot more of hot weather. As we had almost no small grain, we need that corn. What has happened to Tomato juice? None has been on sale in our food stores for some time. Has the cold wet summer in the east ruined or greatly delayed their tomato crop? Guess I will have to stick to frozen orange juice.

COMPOST PILES

by

FRANCIS R. WILLIAMS

I have been catching up on reading and was reading the April, 1956 number of Dakota Horticulture that you send to the Herb Society of America at Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass.

On page 43, April, 1956, is your article on a compost pile. I too make my compost above ground. I use twenty-five feet of chicken wire six feet high, which I shape into a circle. I fasten the circle of wire together with large "hairpins" made from coat hangers (two from one coat hanger).

If I cannot get chicken wire I use poultry wire, but it is weaker and not so stiff. I follow the rule put out by our Massachusetts Experiment Station for proportions of rubbish, leaves, weeds with fertilizer and lime.

BUT THE REASON that I am sending you this letter is that I rot my leaves another way, or mash them up so they rot easily.

I fill a sunken path with half rotted leaves and then these leaves are trodden into compost as I use the path.

It happened in this way. I have a flat oval garden about 36 feet long and 20 feet wide. Within this oval is an oval path that surrounds the oval bed in the center.

Several years ago, I needed some filling for my path, that is sunk a bit below the level of the ground.

All I had at hand was some leaves that had stood over winter and were wet and partly rotted. I filled up my path with these leaves. I have slates on edge that edge each side of the path.

Hardly before I realized it, by the walking around the path, those leaves had turned into nicely rotted and finely ground up compost. Of course they had no fertilizer with them. But that can be added as needed.

These rotted leaves gave me easily good compost and also as I worked in the beds in this oval and needed any compost, I had only to scrape a little from the path.

I have done this method several times since, probably four or five times. I scrape out what is rotted and fill with more leaves. This oval path had its fill of leaves this spring, and they are now well sunk down and I shall add another lot of leaves to be trodden down, before I clean it all out to use elsewhere.

By now most June brides have discovered that a can opener is the one most important gadget in the modern kitchen.

—W. EARL HALL in
MASON CITY GLOBE GAZETTE.

It's been observed that the one best thing about silence is that you can't be misquoted on it.

—W. EARL HALL in
MASON CITY GLOBE GAZETTE.

An old prayer, and good was found in John Deere's "The Furrow" April-May, 1956. This is it: Oh Lord, please fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff, and nudge me when I've said enough.

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

CALIFORNIA JOURNEY MARCH 10-31, 1955

by

O. A. STEVENS

Many people have gone to California and not a few have written their impressions. Mine may not add much to history but I would feel it incomplete if not recorded. It really needs a letter each for several topics—geography, industry, people, trees, flowers and weeds. March 10 was the first real thaw at Fargo. On March 8 the temperature had been 15 below zero! We saw little change across North Dakota and eastern Montana but at Great Falls the next morning the ground was bare. It was hard to realize what toil the falls had cost Lewis and Clark but the crookedness of the river above and the numerous islands were more evident.

Beyond Cut Bank the snow reappeared. At Glacier Park the sky was nominally clear but a strong wind was whipping up the snow. The ride down the Kootenai was interesting but still wintry. The State of Washington was passed at night but Willamette Valley next morning had a wet spring freshness. A few people were plowing and trickles or streams of water came down from the mountains beyond.

We did enjoy the ride from Portland south but it was cloudy that day. On the return, March 31, the sky was clear and Mt. Shasta was in view more or less of the time for four hours. Davis, at 80 miles from San Francisco, has an altitude of only 50 feet and Red Bluff, 200 miles away, is only 309 feet. But from Redding at 557 5,063 feet at Grass Lake and then down again to 30 feet at Portland. Klamath Falls and much of the country near there is near desert and the large Indian Reservation a rather dry, open pine woods. The highest point is similar and at many places the mountain sides are covered with very barren, black, volcanic rocks. Black Butte, an almost bare cinder cone, seemed almost as high as Mt. Shasta but obviously was not—only 10,000 feet difference. Beyond the reservation and across the ridge we found real forest conditions, then deep in snow. The very winding road down the upper Sacramento River canyon was especially interesting.

I could not help being impressed with such quantities of low, dry mountains and the amount of erosion that must have taken place to produce present conditions. I was surprised at the amount of flat land back of the Bay and up the Central Valleys—as flat as the Red River Valley. Around the Bay one town bordered the next but back a few miles cattle grazed on flat irrigated pastures with hardly a farm house in sight. The hills are usually steep and at this season as green as could be. Only a fence might mark the separation of prairie and field.

At Sacramento the weather seemed warm but rarely did it reach 70 degrees and a March breeze made a top coat welcome except during midday. With such weather at home we would be very busy but here the people seemed in no hurry to get into gardens and fields. The lawn grass was getting green slowly. Alyssum, calendula and calla seemed never to have stopped blooming though somewhat discouraged. Orchards were often yellow with mustard (mostly *B. campestris*). Shepherd's purse and chickweed were abundant, *Senecio vulgaris*, "miner's lettuce" (*Montia*) and annual bluegrass even more so. Two or three species of *Erodium* were very common and before we left, *Amsinkia* was one of the most intrusive weeds.

Our time was divided between Sacramento and Pleasanton. The latter is in a small valley across the hills east of the Bay. Henry J. Kaiser has an enormous gravel plant there and across the road are others which make one think of the Iron Range. Large Jackson and Perkins warehouses were other features of the town. On climbing one hill through poison oak, two interesting plants were *Cynoglossum grande* with large blue flowers and wild cucumber with young shoots and flowers. It seemed all wrong for a cucumber to be blooming at that season. They call it "man root" from its huge perennial root. The *Cynoglossum* apparently does not have the tenacious fruits of our eastern, introduced houndstongue.

Sacramento was a good place to learn trees. An acacia and a flowering peach were in full bloom and very showy when we arrived. Elms had already bloomed. The English was much used and easily distinguished. Ash was common but no boxelder!

Some years back. London plane was planted extensively as a street tree but it is now out of favor because of the low, wide-spreading branches. A few large specimens of the native western plane ("sycamore") were noted.

Capitol Park is a veritable arboretum. Its 2 x 5 blocks are completely ringed with fan palms. Along one short side is a row of huge deodars and on the other still larger English elms. Southern magnolia also rated a row. A few large Italian stone pine are striking. They fork widely near the ground and several had been propped with steel posts. Specimen trees included both Sequoias, monkey puzzle, several cedars, cypress, yew, pine and oak; olive, fig, silk tree, pistacio, sweet gum, carob (St. John's bread) and others. A Japanese "evergreen dogwood" seemed unhappy and a Caucasian hackberry had smooth green bark.

One corner was occupied by named varieties of camelias in various stages of bloom. Some other shrubs were snailseed (no snails, no seeds), box, crepe myrtle, kumquat, Scandinavian viburnum, laurestinus (a *Viburnum*), flowering quince and *Calycanthus*. *Magnolia soulengana* was considerably planted—a gaudy deciduous shrub or small tree. It was called "tulip tree" but later I found two of our eastern tulip tree or "yellow poplar," then quite bare.

Excursions to other points entailed long drives and short stays. Muir Woods was dismissed with a half-hour visit but the winding road up over the ridges to find it was interesting. *Oxalis oregana* under the trees was rather astonishing. Likewise Half Moon Bay to see a real beach included artichoke fields, a mountainside heather garden and other interesting views. The Native Tree Nursery received similar treatment on a chilly afternoon. It grows and sells 284 species of trees and shrubs.

A two-day trip to Clear Lake included more winding roads and a variety of interesting locations. Digger pines were described in the book as trunk usually divided into two or more secondary and sure enough they were, about half way up, not low as in Italian stone pine. In contrast to the stout cones, the leaves were very long and slender, drooping and gave an impression of desiccation. The abun-

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dance of buckeye was surprising and for some reason California laurel always seemed striking. The brown smooth bark of madrone and manzanita also was odd.

Time and circumstances did not allow a complete study of oaks. The valley oak was perhaps the most common. It is also called California white oak and resembles a white oak but I was told it was dangerous because the large limbs are prone to fall. The trees often stand at intervals in the valleys and grow to very large size. Live oaks were abundant and conspicuous because of their leafiness.

Shrubs received less attention than trees. The abundance and number of species of the *Arctostaphylos* and *Ceanothus* kept them aloof. One blue-flowered *Ceanothus*, "lilac," was striking as an occasional ornamental. The western redbud seems less tree-like than the eastern. It was just beginning to bloom and usually had a clump of small stems. Tree roses, flowering quince and loquat were common dooryard specimens. A very few lilacs were seen and were in bloom when we left. Yellow jasmine was a more showy plant. Oleander is being

planted to separate highway lanes.

A considerable number of wild flowers had appeared. The California poppies were just beginning to bloom on sunny slopes. Two species of lupine were quite showy, a small annual and a shrubby one four or five feet high. One buttercup was common and a large yellow violet was found in a hill pasture. A little yellow flower (Johnny Tuck) grew in great patches on stony soils and a white-flowered borage in similar locations in another place. A little higher among sparse trees or bushes where a little soil had accumulated between jagged points of vertical rocks, a blue lily was common. I find it is called *Brodiaea* (from which it has been separated) or Blue Dicks or grass nuts, the latter from the edible bulbs.

One place which cannot be overlooked is the site of gold discovery. The American River at this point is a swift stream with interesting wooded or partly wooded hills. For many miles below this the stream valleys have been churned into huge wastes of gravel piles. A similar trip to Modesto took us from there across the valley with orchard after orchard, over

rolling grassy hills, higher partly wooded hills into the edge of the mountains and the Don Pedros dam.

The orchards were indeed impressive but it was hard to believe that the gnarled stubs would produce a grape crop. I was continually intrigued with the way the smooth bark of the walnut was sharply replaced by the rough bark of the native black walnut stock. Sometimes it was six inches above ground, sometimes six feet, but always an abrupt change. One of the most astonishing sights was a walnut orchard on a steep mountain side, nearly 3,000 feet above the valley. As to hillside farming my host assured me, "Erosion is no problem. This volcanic soil absorbs all the water."

This was my first sight of mistletoe on broad-leaved trees. Sometimes it was scarce, sometimes very abundant without evident reason. Oak and ash were most commonly attacked. Cottonwood and willow often had many bunches. A few times I saw it on black locust. One row of small street trees were *Zelkova* (related to elm), which is now preferred in Sacramento, but one tree was ash and had one sprig of mistletoe.