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ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES.

June 1.

Prepare boxes for the strawberry crop.

Many of the German Iris are in bloom at this time.

Plant a few gladiolus bulbs. Set them about four inches deep.

Make a planting of Golden Bantam sweet corn, late peas, and beans.

Many garden herbs, such as mint, dill, and sage, are easily raised at home.

Stake dahlias so that they will not be easily blown over by the wind.

An iron rake or a six-tined garden fork is a very useful implement in the garden.

Set out tomatoes, peppers, egg plants and all tender bedding plants, such as coleus and begonias.

Lima beans may be planted early in June. The dwarf kinds should be used, since they are more likely to ripen early.

If the soil has become hard over melon, cucumber, or other seed, it is well to loosen it with a rake or garden hook.

Has a good selection of annual flower seeds been sown? There is still time to plant many good varieties for fall flowers.

The summer meeting of the State Horticultural Society is held about the middle of June at University Farm. Plan to attend and see the exhibit of flowers that is made.

Have you sown any parsley? A few plants, taken up in the fall and grown in the kitchen window, are very convenient for garnishing when other material is hard to get.

Cut worms will soon begin to be troublesome. A bran mash to which Paris green and a very little syrup have been added, scattered near the plants, will usually get rid of them.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES.

June 8.

Keep the cultivator going.

Keep the hedges clipped this month.

Stop cutting asparagus the middle of the month.

The Japanese lilac should be at its best about the middle of June.

If the season is dry, strawberries will be benefited by a thorough watering.

Look out for currant worms and the leaf miners that work on shrub foliage.

Keep seed pods cut off the rhubarb. It might also be well to add manure to the land.

Another sowing of Golden Bantam sweet corn and late peas may be made now.

Lilium elegans will soon be in bloom. This is one of the prettiest of the hardy lilies.

Mow the lawn frequently. This will thicken the grass, making a better lawn.

Keep the dahlias trimmed to one or two main stems. Better flowers result.

Thin all vegetables that are crowding. Beet and Swiss chard thinnings make good "greens."

Perennials for next year's bloom may be sown the latter part of this month. More of these should be grown in every garden.

Aquilegia, or columbine, should be in full bloom about the middle of June. Your garden lacks a good flower if this has been omitted.

Nitrate of soda is a clean, quick fertilizer to put on the lawn. Apply at the rate of 300 pounds per acre.

Ants may be destroyed by punching holes in the hills with a fork handle and saturating cotton batting with carbon bisulphide. Put this in the hole and cover it with earth.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

UNIVERSITY FARM TO BANISH FLIES.

At University Farm, St. Paul, C. W. Howard, an entomologist of the Experiment Station staff, has been placed in charge of fly-eradication. He will undertake to make the campus and community as nearly flyless as possible by clean-up and other methods. He will demonstrate the well-known methods, and test new methods about which less is known. Traps will not be used unless it is found impossible to clean up the barnyards and other resorts of the flies thoroughly enough to accomplish the desired results.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

Catalog of Northwest School of Agriculture At Crookston Will Soon Be Ready.

The 1914 catalog of the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston, Minn., will soon be ready, giving outlines of courses of study and other announcements for the coming year. School will open October 5, with prospects of an even more prosperous year than the last which was the most successful in the history of the institution. A new boys' dormitory, fitted with every modern convenience, will be ready for occupancy, and, together with the present two, will afford pleasant and comfortable accommodations for 225 students.

The school is especially well equipped to give thorough and practical training in every one of its special departments to even more than that number. Courses in Agronomy, Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Carpentry, Blacksmithing, and Engineering are offered for boys and courses in Sewing, Cooking, and Music for girls. The instruction in the various departments is given by specialists along the various lines and a large, well-equipped farm in connection with the school affords abundant illustrative material and actual practice in applying that instruction.

The regular course is open to graduates of the eighth grade or to others who have attained the age of sixteen, and extends through three years of six months each. Advanced courses are also offered, preparing students for entrance to the College of Agriculture and for teaching in consolidated schools.

Full particulars may be secured by writing for a catalog to the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston, Minn.

POTATO MEN TO CONSULT.

Two Men to Devote Entire Summer to Seed-Potato Selection.

The Experiment Station at University Farm, St. Paul, desires to cooperate in every way possible with potato-growers. A competent and experienced potato inspector will be in the field during the entire growing season of 1914, and will visit and advise with as many as possible. The Division of Horticulture will have one man to devote his entire time during the summer to potato investigations and the Division of Plant Pathology and Botany will have one man to devote his entire time to potato-disease investigations. The two Divisions are willing to examine samples of seed tubers sent to them which are to be used in planting seed plots to determine their true nature to type and freedom from disease. If the information given in the circular and various bulletins available is not specific enough, the Experiment Station is willing to correspond fully with any potato-grower concerning the problems which he may have. Every grower should secure a copy of Bulletin 38 on Potato-Growing in Minnesota, by A. R. Kohler, published by the Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul.

FREE POTATO LIBRARY.

New and Old Bulletins Distributed From University Farm, St. Paul.

The recent publication of Extension Bulletin 50 entitled The Seed-Potato Plot makes a total of nearly 2½ million pages published on potatoes by the University of Minnesota, Department of Agriculture, in the last year. The other bulletins on potatoes were No. 35, Potato Diseases, and No. 38, Potato-Growing in Minnesota. Each was mailed at once after publication to about 45,000 people in Minnesota and other states. Every potato-grower can secure them on request.

The newest of these bulletins deals with the varieties and methods of seed-selection and disease-prevention that should be adopted if Minnesota is to remain an important and reliable seed-potato state. The demand for healthy, disease-free, northern-grown seed has become still more important since a quarantine has been established against seed from foreign sources.

ALFALFA IN ROTATIONS.

The idea has prevailed that alfalfa is not adapted to use in rotations. On very few farms in Minnesota is it wise at the present time to attempt to work alfalfa into the regular rotation. Personal experience is needed in growing and handling alfalfa before it is planted on a large scale. It is now known that alfalfa can be worked into rotations without difficulty, when the conditions are favorable.—A. C. Arny, Assistant Agriculturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

COUNTRY LIFE CONFERENCE.

Preachers and Other Country Life Leaders to Meet at University Farm, July 28-31.

The College of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota is always finding something new to do. It offered its first four-weeks home-makers' short course at University Farm last winter, and will hold its first country life conference during the last week in July. This conference is designed to meet the needs of preachers and their wives and of other country life leaders, but will not be denominational in any way.

The program has been prepared for the special purpose of interesting pastors of country and village churches, Sunday school workers, promoters of country young people's societies, rural social workers, leaders of farmers' clubs and educational contest clubs, and all others interested in rural social welfare. The speakers will be the Dean and members of the faculty of the College of Agriculture, clergymen, and other leaders in rural life and recreation. The list includes Henry Wallace, a well-known agricultural editor, and member of the National Country Life Commission.

There will be no registration fee and those who cannot remain for the entire conference will be welcome to attend any part of it. Board and room on the campus can be secured at \$5.00 for the week or half price for children under ten years of age. Assignments to dormitory rooms will be made in the order in which requests are received.

For a full program and further information address A. F. Woods, Dean, Department of Agriculture, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

WHAT DO YOU EARN AS A FARMER?

The money that a farmer takes in each year above his cash expenses is an income from two distinct sources: (1) Interest on money invested in the farm business. (2) Wages for the labor and managing ability of the farmer and his family.

Many people who think that they are financially successful as farmers are actually living on the interest from the money invested in the farm business, and on the labor of their sons and daughters. For his own work, the farmer frequently receives only a fraction of a hired man's wages. The reason is that when one has his farm clear of debt, he often forgets that interest on the investment is a receipt, similar to the interest that one receives on a deposit in a savings bank, for the farm could be sold and the money invested so as to secure 4 to 6 per cent interest with no work on the part of the farmer. A farmer whose farm is mortgaged for a good portion of its value is not at all likely to forget that interest on the investment is a part of the year's expense. If he does the owner of the mortgage will remind him of it upon each interest day.

A farmer who has a farm and equipment worth \$16,000 could secure an income of \$800 per year by selling his farm and putting the money at interest, assuming that he could invest the proceeds so as to secure 5 per cent interest.—W. L. Cavert, Assistant Agriculturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

STATES STUDY MARKETING.

Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin Study the Coöperative Handling of Grain.

A number of states have begun to study coöperative grain-marketing. Minnesota recently passed a law in accordance with which the College of Agriculture through its Division of Agricultural Economics is collecting and disseminating information on this subject. It is making a complete inventory of all coöperative organizations in the State and collecting its first set of their reports. North Dakota has passed a law prohibiting line-elevator or other companies from offering more for grain at one point than at another except as justified by actual difference in freight rates to primary markets and is planning a uniform, compulsory system of accounting for farmers' elevators. The University and the Board of Public Affairs of Wisconsin are undertaking to study all kinds of coöperative marketing.—L. D. H. Weld, Agricultural Economist, University Farm, St. Paul.

DIPPING HOGS.

Treatment for Mange and Lice.

Treatment of hogs for mange should begin with a vigorous scrubbing with brush, soap, and soft water so as to remove the crust. A variety of coal-tar dips are on the market. Most of these are quite satisfactory if of sufficient strength, and warm enough (about 110 degrees F. Do not boil). The hog should be given a good thorough soaking in the dip, not less than two minutes. The hog must go under, head and all, at least once. Treatment must usually be repeated one or more times at intervals of eight days. Treat the whole herd and do it thoroughly.

An effective dip can be made from crude petroleum as follows:

4 gallons crude oil
16 gallons water
1 pound soap

The soap should be dissolved in the water by heating. An emulsion is then made by adding the oil and thoroughly churning the mixture. Water in different sections differs very greatly in the way it will combine with soap. If this amount of soap does not give a good emulsion simply add more soap. Avoid oily dips in cold weather.

While the hogs are taking the dip, thoroughly clean and then disinfect the pens. In case of true mange the fence posts, trees, and everything against which the hogs can rub must also be disinfected. Use a strong disinfectant and plenty of it. After treatment do not put hogs back into lousy or mangy pens.—M. H. Reynolds, Veterinarian, University Farm, St. Paul.

EFFICIENCY ON THE FARM.

One of the most frequent sources of loss on the farm is an insufficient return from work horses.

Have you satisfied yourself on the following points?

Do your horses earn enough to pay for their feed and care, and enough to meet the interest, depreciation, and other expenses, as harness costs and shoeing?

It costs \$100 annually to keep the average horse, in Minnesota, but this horse works only a little more than three hours each working day. This makes the horse labor cost approximately 10 cents an hour.

Do you handle the horse labor on your farm so that the annual cost of keeping your horses is less than the average, or so that the number of hours worked is greater? Both methods will reduce the cost of horse labor, but the latter offers by far the greatest opportunity.

Can you revise your cropping system so that fewer work horses will be needed, or so that the work will be more equally distributed and thus make it possible to employ them more hours each year?

Can you raise colts and thus reduce the cost of keeping your horses?

Can you arrange to use your work horses for outside work when not busy on the farm?

Can you reduce the cost of keeping each horse by feeding less feed or cheaper feed and still give a proper ration?

Farm work done with fewer horses means a saving of \$100 a year for each horse not needed.—A. H. Benton, Assistant Agriculturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

DIVIDING THE FLOCK.

The best results are secured if the pullets and cockerels are separated when eight or ten weeks old. The pullets must be kept growing and developed for early laying to bring the most profit. Early hatched pullets should begin laying when five or six months old. Unless the cockerels are of exceptionally fine stock they may be forced and sold as broilers or roasters and will often bring more per head in early summer than they would if kept until autumn. The chicks should be kept growing and developing from birth to sale or maturity to give satisfactory returns.—N. E. Chapman, Poultry Specialist, University Farm, St. Paul.

BAITING FLY TRAPS.

The bait is an important factor. It has been found that bread and milk is most attractive under ordinary conditions. It should be renewed frequently and not allowed to dry up. One experimenter has recently claimed that buttermilk is even better than bread and milk as a bait. If there is anything in the immediate vicinity of the trap more attractive than the bait used, the more attractive material should be made use of. We have found tainted meat more attractive than bread and milk.—F. L. Washburn, Entomologist, University Farm, St. Paul.

ALFALFA STARTERS.

Every buttermaker understands the necessity of introducing into the cream for each day's churning the right kind of bacteria to bring about the proper acidity in the cream and flavor and aroma in the butter. The starter is made by introducing the proper bacteria into sterilized sour milk. When introduced into the sour milk, these bacteria develop rapidly and at the proper time the starter is mixed with the cream. No buttermaker would think of relying on the various kinds of bacteria that are in the cream to bring about the proper changes. In order to make a uniformly good product, he must have the conditions under his control. He takes no chances. Every man who makes a seeding of alfalfa during the spring or summer of 1914 wants the highest success with his crop right from the start. What the essentials for success are has been determined. Is it not wise to make use of the experience of others, rather than going ahead without looking up the matter beforehand?

Alfalfa bacteria are absolutely essential to the best success of the alfalfa plant. One or more men in every community should take it upon themselves this spring to make alfalfa-starters, so that the proper bacteria may be had in every community during June and July of this year and throughout next year and the years following. With small patches of alfalfa bearing these bacteria, the soil for inoculating other fields will be near at hand and the use of soil for inoculating purposes will be more general. To make an alfalfa-starter this year use one pound of soil from an old alfalfa field and one or two ounces of alfalfa seed mixed thoroughly and sow on a square rod of garden soil that has been well prepared. This will provide soil containing an abundance of bacteria for more than one hundred acres in June or July of this year, or in seasons that follow. The soil from a patch like this can be used to a depth of eight or ten inches. Securing the proper soil for a square rod is easy. It can be sent by mail and the expense is almost nothing. A half-acre or an acre field is better than a small patch, but where one can start an acre field, a thousand can start a square rod of alfalfa properly inoculated. Fifteen or twenty thousand men in Minnesota should make alfalfa starters this spring. Get in touch with your county agent. He will be able to tell you where to get soil containing the alfalfa bacteria. Secure from him a pound of soil and an ounce of seed and make an alfalfa starter this spring.

This and other alfalfa problems will be found more fully discussed in a new bulletin called Alfalfa Growing in Minnesota.—A. C. Arny, Assistant in Field Crops, University Farm, St. Paul.

Hardy alfalfa needed. Varieties or strains of alfalfa that have shown their ability to thrive under climatic conditions similar to those of Minnesota should always be given the preference. The reason for this is that, although an excellent stand and a thrifty growth the first season may be secured by using good seed of any variety, other conditions being favorable, the varieties usually grown in the milder climates cannot be relied on to withstand the winters. They may stand through one or several winters, but on the other hand they may be winter-killed from one to nearly one hundred per cent the first or any succeeding winter. Therefore they are not to be depended upon, especially if the plan is to leave the field in alfalfa for several years.

If in doubt where to get seed, write to the Agricultural Experiment Station, University Farm, St. Paul, for the names of reliable growers. A new bulletin on Alfalfa-Growing in Minnesota can be secured from the same source.

HARDY ALFALFA NEEDED.

The Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station recently made a successful and economical modification of the old-fashioned fly catcher on the principle of the Hodge Fly Trap. It was twenty-four inches long, twelve inches high and eight inches wide. In tests it caught seventeen hundred flies in a day at the college dairy barn and twelve thousand on the back porch of a dwelling near a stable.

This trap can be made for about forty-five cents by any one fairly skillful with tools. The flies collect in the upper part and may be killed by immersing that part in hot water or by pouring boiling water over it. These dead flies may be removed, the bait renewed, and the trap reset. Illustrations of this fly trap and full directions for making it can be secured in circular form by addressing F. L. Washburn, Entomologist, University Farm, St. Paul.

THE MINNESOTA FLY TRAP.

The Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station recently made a successful and economical modification of the old-fashioned fly catcher on the principle of the Hodge Fly Trap. It was twenty-four inches long, twelve inches high and eight inches wide. In tests it caught seventeen hundred flies in a day at the college dairy barn and twelve thousand on the back porch of a dwelling near a stable.

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