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## ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

December 15-22

Prepare flats and boxes for transplanting next spring.

Perennial onions should be mulched with straw manure or leaves.

It is almost impossible to get too much manure on the asparagus or rhubarb plantations.

Squash should be stored in a warm, dry place. They will decay quickly if allowed to become moist.

The Japanese snowball, *Viburnum tomentosum plicatum*, is a desirable shrub for the lawn in many locations.

Wood ashes make a good fertilizer for the strawberry bed or orchard. Apply about 20 bushels to the acre.

The largest onions shown at the horticultural meeting received no prize because another lot, though smaller, were of better color and size, and more usable.

Why not give some good plant as a Christmas present? Plants are attractive, not only during the Christmas season, but, if the right varieties are chosen, for some time afterward.

The Progressive Everbearing strawberry seems to give the best results of any of the varieties so far. Several growers were quite successful with this variety last season.

One of the oldest trees in America, at Ravenna Park, Seattle, Wash., is dead. It is a fir tree 180 feet tall with a diameter of 20 feet and a circumference of 58 feet. It is supposed to be 1,800 or 2,000 years old.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

December 22-29

Bulletin 175 of the Illinois Experiment Station, Urbana, Illinois, has some interesting information for the onion-grower. Send for it.

Many forms of the Pelargonium can be grown to advantage in the house. The scented leaves of the rose geranium are especially pleasing.

As soon as snow falls, hang out suet and other food for the birds. They will appreciate it and in watching them you will be well repaid for your trouble.

An excellent exhibit of onions, carrots, cabbage and other vegetables was made at the winter meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural Society. If you did not see it, you missed an opportunity for adding to your knowledge of vegetables.

Berried Solanums make excellent house plants at this time of the year. Among the best are the Jerusalem cherry and Chinese lantern plant. Their bright fruits add Christmas cheer. They may be planted like peppers in the spring and lifted from the ground late in autumn. Some of the common peppers are also good.

When purchasing a flowering house-plant, choose one that is stocky, not tender and weak, and that is just beginning to blossom. Plants in bud are more easily shipped and will remain attractive longer than those in full flower.

Begonias, primroses, poinsettias, and cyclamen, among flowering plants, ferns, Norfolk pines, palms, and rubbers, among foliage plants, make good Christmas presents. A good, well-grown hyacinth or daffodil is also often much appreciated.

One interesting fact, brought out at the Horticultural Society meeting, was that the great bulk of our produce comes on to the market poorly packed and graded. The producer must pack and grade better if better prices are to be had for either vegetables or fruits.

A flowering plant needs plenty of water as a rule, much more when flowering than at any other stage of growth. If it is removed from a greenhouse to a home living-room, special attention should be given to watering it, since the air of the room is much drier than that of the greenhouse.

Now is a good time to make bird houses for next season's use. Try scattering a few of these about the premises and enjoy the neighbors that will move into them. One of the most pleasing songsters, that may easily be attracted to a home near the house, is the wren. A very small opening should be made in its house to prevent other birds from using it.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul.

## PREACHER INVENTS A HEALTH SLOGAN

"Tuberculosis Sunday, Nov. 29, 1914, saw the birth of a new and striking public health phrase," says Dr. H. W. Hill of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "It was coined not by a public health expert but by a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Dr. Paden of Mankato, in his Tuberculosis Sunday prayer. This phrase 'Intelligent Cleanliness' will become a public health slogan for the future: Because it sets forth sharply and emphatically the distinction between mere aesthetic cleanliness and that which avoids disease. Scrubbing floors and cleaning windows makes life more comfortable, pleasanter, and more efficient, but it is as useless a weapon against water-borne typhoid as scrubbing a ship's deck would be in stopping a leak. When disease breaks out in a community, the first thing to do is to take intelligent measures for combating that particular outbreak, not some other outbreak, nor an outbreak in some other place. Intelligently to attack and destroy germs of disease where they exist is intelligent cleanliness. The boiling of water is effective only if water be the route by which the germs are traveling from one person to another. If milk should happen to be the material which carries the disease, boiling the water is very unintelligent attempt at useful cleanliness."

## ONE CAN'T "FEAR" DISEASE ON SELF

"The belief that disease may be brought on by merely fearing that one may contract it is a curious relic of barbarism," says Dr. H. W. Hill of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "You cannot fear a disease on yourself any more than you can wish a disease on anyone else."

"The infectious diseases are due to forces, germs, wholly distinct from ourselves. The fear of smallpox could never bring a smallpox germ to the body any more than mental defiance of it could prevent its growing once it was in. The germ is as real a particle of matter as a mountain, and not a bit more susceptible to hypnotism by the human mind."

## RULES FOR DIET ARE INDIVIDUAL

The best rules of diet for human beings yet devised, says Dr. H. W. Hill, of the Minnesota Public Health Association, are necessarily very elementary. In general a safe rule is to eat plenty of what is good, as long as you have no trouble in digesting it, and to avoid those things that experience shows disagree with you. One should never select or neglect any particular article of human diet, because it agrees or does not agree with someone else. Eating is certainly one thing in which one individual is wholly entitled to be a law unto himself."

## CROOKSTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT LARGE

The Northwest School of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, at Crookston, is enjoying the best year of its history. Superintendent C. G. Selvig, reports that the enrollment is greater than for any previous fall term, with a considerable increase registered to begin after the holidays, January 5. There are several hundred young men and women on northwestern Minnesota farms who should plan to attend the school a year, if not more, after taking their rural school work. The demand today is for trained farmers and home-keepers. Minnesota offers means of training and advancement which the boys and girls of the farms cannot afford to neglect. The new dormitory at the Crookston School makes room for growth, but the prospects are that all three of the dormitories will soon be filled.

The superintendent of the School will gladly answer requests for information.

## THE BEE INDUSTRY

## Great Possibilities for it in Minnesota's Wild Flowers.

A year ago the University of Minnesota recognized the importance of the bee-keeping industry and established a Division of Bee Culture in its Agricultural Department. In this young men and women may become thoroughly familiar with the subject in both a practical and scientific way.

There are millions of pounds of honey going to waste in this State every year for want of bees to gather the nectar from the flowers.

## PRIZES AWARDED IN BIG BREAD CONTEST

More than 1600 girls entered the bread-making contest conducted by the Extension Division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture this year. More than half of this number completed the work of the contest. One hundred bread-making clubs, representing 67 counties, also participated.

Winners of individual prizes in Class A were as follows:

Name	Town	Standing	Prize
Helena Fiergolla	Sauk Rapids	91.2	\$25
Gertrude Lamb	Lake City	90.8	20
Edna Magdanz	Hutchinson	90.0	15
Mildred Mill	Benson	89.9	10
Leoda Lillebridge	Breckenridge	88.8	6

The winners of Class A club prizes were

Name	Town	Standing	Prize
Sauk Rapids	Sauk Rapids	88.0	\$25
Hutchinson	Hutchinson	86.4	20
Cokato	Cokato	85.6	15
Buffalo	Buffalo	85.0	10
Lake City	Lake City	84.8	5

Winners of individual prizes in Class B were as follows:

Name	Town	Standing	Prize
Mildred Lofgren	Ulen	89.4	\$25
Lillie Linqvist	Viking	89.3	20
Dorene Knight	Bigfork	88.2	15
Ida Berglund	Comstock	87.2	10
Ruth Tey	Lake Park	87.0	6

The winners of Class B club prizes were

Name	Town	Standing	Prize
Viking	Viking	84.3	\$25
Beltrami	Bemidji	83.6	20
Jarretta	Jarretta	83.4	15
Deerwood	Deerwood	80.9	10
Dayton	Dayton	80.1	5

In class A, for special merit in their work, prizes of \$3 each were given to Libby Pihlal, Hutchinson; Ethel J. Bell, Hutchinson; Rhoda Anderson, Cokato; Sadie Varner, Buffalo; Lena Bangert, Alberta; Marian Coffin, Benson; Vera McCrea, Sauk Rapids; and Anna Raasch, Alberta.

In Class B, for special merit in their work, prizes of \$3 each were given to Sophie Fretham, Waseca; Hazel A. Harison, Hovland; Grace Mullen, Osakis; Elfine Larson, Hewitt; Helena Bender, Chaska; Madge Parks, Campbell; Lois Matheny, Blackduck; and Sophia Loraas, Canyon.

## SEND SEEDS FOR TEST IN EARLY

The Seed Laboratory at University Farm, under the direction of W. L. Oswald, Agricultural Botanist, is now ready to test all seeds sent in, free of charge. It will make tests both for purity and germination. Owing to the rush just before planting, farmers are urged to send samples early.

The correct size of a sample for testing varies somewhat with the seed to be tested. If the seed is small, such as redtop, timothy, and white clover, the sample should contain from one to two ounces. If the seed is large, like wheat, oats, peas, and corn, there should be from two to four ounces.

It is of great importance that an average sample should be sent; that is, one which will, as nearly as possible, represent the lot of seed which is to be tested. It should be taken from different parts of the bin, and from the top, bottom, and middle.

The following rules should be observed by all those sending samples to the Seed Laboratory:

Place the name and address of sender on each package of seeds.

When more than one sample is sent, number each package.

If the seed is home-grown, so state.

If purchased, give the name of the firm from which purchased.

State whether a purity or a germination test, or both, is desired.

It is always well to accompany seeds with a letter.

The Seed Laboratory is willing to give any information desired regarding the Minnesota pure seed law. Address all samples or inquiries to Seed Laboratory, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

## FRUIT GROWERS TO HOLD CONFERENCE

As a special feature of Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week at University Farm, January 4 to 9, 1915, a fruit-growers' conference will be held on the afternoon of Friday, January 8. This conference will be entirely in the hands of the growers and will be led by K. A. Kirkpatrick, County Agent for Hennepin County. Several papers will be read by prominent growers and an opportunity will be given for a short discussion after each paper. Through the Short Course week will be given opportunity to study orchard and garden topics, plant pests, uses of ornamentals, pruning, and spraying. The conference afternoon gives an opportunity for the discussion of topics of special interest, or for more detailed discussion of topics handled during the week.

## WEALTH OF TOPICS FOR SHORT COURSE

Unusual opportunities in short course studies of farm and home-making subjects will be given at Farmers' and Home-Makers' week at University Farm, St. Paul, January 4-9, 1915.

In the course of this week the various divisions of the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, are preparing to give work in the following lines:

## FARMERS' SHORT COURSE

## Agricultural Engineering

Gasoline engines  
Heating and plumbing  
Work-shop details  
Cement work  
Drainage  
Road-building

## Dairy and Animal Husbandry, and Veterinary Science

Dairy stock judging  
Milk-production  
Milk-testing  
Live stock judging, including beef cattle, sheep, swine, and horses  
Feeding and management of live stock

## Dressing and curing of meats

## Causes and prevention of animal diseases

## Farm Crops, Farm Management, and Soils

## Types and varieties of cereal and forage crops

## Growing, harvesting, and marketing crops

## Corn- and grain-judging

## Selection, equipment, and operation of farms

## Arrangement of farmstead

## Apportionment of fields

## Crop rotation

## Labor and live stock problems

## Machinery equipment

## Soil management

## Farm records

## Soil constituents necessary to plant growth, and means of maintaining them

## Horticulture, Botany, and Entomology

## Orchard management, including sites, soils, cultivation, cover crops, pruning, and varieties

## Small fruits

## Vegetable gardening

## Flowers and ornamental plants

## Control of plant pests

## Insect diseases

## Fence posts

## Farm-planning and wind breaks

## Weeds

## Seed-testing

## Minnesota seed law

## Poultry and Bees

## Marketing of poultry products

## Feeding of chicks

## Convenient poultry houses

## Judging of commercial varieties of poultry

## Bee-keeping, including handling, spring management, swarms, bee diseases, wax production, and similar problems

## Seed-Testing

## Proper methods

## Seed legislation

## HOME-MAKERS' SHORT COURSE

## Nutrition and the family budget

## Health and sanitary science.

## MANY CONFERENCES IN FARMERS' WEEK

A striking feature of Farmers' and Home-Makers' week at University Farm, St. Paul, January 4-9, 1915, will be a series of conferences by people especially interested in various branches of farming and rural life. Among the conferences listed are the following:

## Creamery Managers

## Minnesota Live Stock Breeders

## Minnesota Horse Breeders

## Minnesota Swine Breeders

## Minnesota Sheep Breeders

## Short Horn Breeders

## Hereford Breeders

## Holstein Breeders

## Guernsey Breeders

## Jersey Breeders

## Minnesota Crop Improvement Association

## Potato Growers

## Fruit Growers

## Development Association leaders and managers of other organizations interested in better country life.

## County Agents

## NEW SEED CASE READY

## Number IV Contains 24 Specimens Not Before Cased

W. L. Oswald, head of the Section of Agricultural Botany and of the Seed Laboratory at the College of Agriculture, announces that Weed Seed Case No. IV is ready. It contains 24 specimens of weed seeds, none of which appears in previously issued cases. The price of each case is 50 cents. Those wishing to order, should remit to the cashier, University Farm, St. Paul.

(Editors:—If it is impossible to use all of this try to make room for the introductory paragraph and the schedule at last.)

## SHORT COURSE SCHEDULE ISSUED

The schedule of Agricultural Extension Short Courses for the winter has been announced by the Extension Division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture. It includes 35 towns, and towns and dates for each are as follows:

Town	Course	Dates
Slayton	January 12-16	January 12-16
Adrian, Morristown, Truman	January 19-23	January 19-23
Heron Lake, Waseca, Madelia	January 26-30	January 26-30
Windom, Byron, Lake Crystal	February 2-6	February 2-6
Minneota, Le Sueur, Winnebago	February 9-13	February 9-13
Canby, Hutchinson, Albert Lea	February 16-20	February 16-20
Willmar, Hawley, Lyle	February 23-27	February 23-27
Renville, Halstad, Laneshboro	March 2-6	March 2-6
Wheaton, East Grand Forks, Hastings	March 9-13	March 9-13
Herman, Warren, Mora	March 16-20	March 16-20
Villard, Hallock, Sandstone	March 23-27	March 23-27
Brooten, Akeley, Moose Lake	March 30-April 3	March 30-April 3
Pine River		

The schedule as outlined will require three separate staffs of workers, and with each staff will go a car of live stock to be used for judging practice and demonstrations. It is also the intention to have an exhibit car, showing as fully as possible in narrow limits the activities of the College of Agriculture, and their results.

The courses will vary in their emphasis, according to the needs of localities and the work of previous courses in the same vicinity. Hence stress will be put on the Dairy Cow and the Dairy Farm in some places, on Corn and Alfalfa in others, on Live Stock in general in others, and on Home Economics in all. This does not mean that any of these subjects will be neglected anywhere, but that the emphasis will be differently placed.

Home Economics work in such courses has received greatly increased attention. The people of the country have come to see that the farm home is one of the biggest factors of the farm problem. Hence assistance in solving the farm-home problems has created a demand for special stress on such work at all Agricultural Extension Short Courses.

The work of the courses last year was highly successful. The three live stock cars traveled 5,400 miles, and at the various Agricultural Extension Short Courses the attendance was 36,800 men and 18,950 women. As an educational force for better rural life, therefore, the courses have a tremendously important place. The work this year gives promise of being more effective even than that of last year.

Owing to the large number of requests for Agricultural Extension Short Courses it was found necessary last year to limit the courses to one in each county and not to return to the same town more than two years in succession.

## CLEAN SEED WILL ELIMINATE BLIGHT

A recurrence of late blight and dry rot among potatoes can be prevented next year. Clean seed is the great essential. Seed treatment is not effective for this particular disease.

The late blight dry rot exists to a considerable extent among storage potatoes, says E. C. Stakman, Assistant Plant Pathologist of the Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul. If such lots are used for seed next year the disease may again be very destructive, especially if weather conditions favor its spread. It is, therefore, of vital importance that healthy seed be used.

The Minnesota Experiment Station pathologists have been misquoted with reference to methods of securing such healthy seed. The soaking of seed potatoes is necessary in controlling some diseases, but treatment with formaldehyde or corrosive sublimate will not prevent late blight.

Seed potatoes should be secured from fields which have not had any of the disease during the last year. If healthy tubers are planted and the vines thoroughly sprayed with Bordeaux mixture next year, the disease can be controlled. Detailed information will be given shortly before planting time.

Increased interest in horse breeding, largely due to the demand for cavalry and artillery horses to equip the armies of Europe, makes especially timely Farmers Bulletin No. 619 just issued by the Federal Department of Agriculture. Its title is "Breeds of Draft Horses".