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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

January 1-8, 1919

Straw or wild hay may still be spread over the strawberry bed to advantage, especially if it is not covered with snow.

Save all wood ashes for use on the garden and fruit plantation next year. Wash the ferns and leaves of house plants once in a while to rid them of scale and other insect growths.

Delphiniums are among the best perennials for the garden. Get good strains and give them good care, and an abundance of flowers will be had in season.

The Minnesota State Horticultural society will not meet at University Farm during short course week, December 30 to January 4.

Shrub and perennial plantings will be in order about our homes this year. Better order these early if you want the best.

It is a poor farm indeed that can not afford a good strawberry bed and a raspberry patch. Now is a good time to select and order varieties for next year's planting.

Bright, warm days this month and next cause sunscald to appear on apple and other smooth bark trees. Better put a board, cornfodder, or wire screen on the southwest side of the tree to shade the trunk.

The red twig dogwood and golden willow begin to show their color on bright warm days now. In contrast with the snow they add a warmth and cheeriness that makes them worth while.

There is no advantage in trying to grow water plants on dry land or prairie plants in the timber. Consult the habits of the plant before you set it.

Pe-tsai is being used in some sections to supplement the lettuce crop. It makes a good garnish and a good salad dish. It keeps better than lettuce. It requires cool, moist conditions for best growth.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

January 8-15, 1919

Remember to plan a liberal planting of flowers in the "peace garden." They will be needed and used more than ever this year.

French endive was grown in considerable quantities in this country last year. This adds another crop formerly imported from Europe to our American grown sorts.

Poultry droppings collected and kept dry until next year will furnish a good supply of nitrogen for garden crops. If allowed to get wet, they lose much of their value.

Cotoneaster, highbush cranberry and some other tree and shrub seeds do not germinate well until the second year after planting. It is well to stratify seed of that sort in moist sand during the first year and plant it in the autumn or following spring.

Few better memorials can be set for the soldiers of the great war than trees. Here in the west the white elm and hackberry are long-lived, hardy and make splendid specimens. Let us use more trees and fewer stone monuments as memorials.

The Caragana is recommended as a hedge plant in the Dakotas and western Minnesota because it seems to stand drouth and hard usage well. It should not be used where buckthorn, Cotoneaster Acutifolia or Alpine currant can be used.

Some of the boys in the bean clubs of California have developed strains of beans that bear 185 pods to the plant instead of 40 as is the average.

Peace gardens must take the place of war gardens this year in even greater numbers for there are many people in Europe which this country must help to feed. We must plan now and order seeds for these peace gardens.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

A SHORT COURSE FOR MERCHANTS

The sixth annual short course for merchants will be held at the University of Minnesota February 10 to 14, 1919. This will not be a merchants' convention but an intensive school of high voltage, where the teachers will be experts in specialized lines and the students will be practical retailers. The course is intended to give the merchant an opportunity to bring his methods into line with the most approved practices. It will offer a chance to keep up with the procession.

NEW BASIS FOR PRICE OF MILK

A plan to use the price of New York Extra butter as a basis for determining the price of milk in order to simplify the business of fixing milk prices, has been proposed by F. W. Peck of the Minnesota experiment station. No satisfactory basis for determining what the price of milk should be has been made use of heretofore.

The price of New York Extra butter can be made the basis, says Mr. Peck, by fixing upon a differential between the price of the butter and the price of sweet milk as marketed daily; also a differential for the feeding value of skimmilk contained in the whole milk.

The first differential is determined by adding 25 per cent to the price of New York Extra butter and then multiplying the total by the test of the milk. This allows for the spread between the butterfat content of the milk and the butter made from such fat; also for extra quality and extra service.

The second differential is arrived at by assuming that 100 pounds of whole milk is equal to the farm value of one-half bushel of corn. As there is about 85 pounds of skimmilk in 100 pounds of whole milk, the feeding value of skimmilk is 85 per cent of the farm value of one-half bushel of corn.

This is the way the problem would work out:

Average price New York Extra butter, December, 68 cents. This plus 25 per cent makes 85 cents. This multiplied by 3.5 per cent, the butterfat content of the milk, gives\$ 2.98
Price of corn per bushel, \$1.30. Of this one-half is 65 cents, and 85 per cent of 65 cents is 55 cents, the skimmilk differential55

Total (price per cwt. at local station).....\$ 3.53

The use of this method of determining the price of milk at any time allows the use of a ready reckoner table that shows at a glance what the price of milk should be as based on the price of extra butter in New York.

\$50,000,000 FOR STATE'S CREAMERIES

Reports from 254 cooperative creameries in different sections of Minnesota for October, 1918, show that 36 paid between 70 and 73 cents a pound for butterfat; 117 paid between 65 and 69 cents; 85 paid between 60 and 64 cents; 16 paid between 55 and 59 cents.

The average price received by these creameries for butter was 57.59 cents a pound.

It is evident that butter is to remain high-priced for some time to come. Every cooperative creamery in the state is being called on to put forth extra effort to supply the world demand for butter.

The farmers of Minnesota received \$50,000,000 for butterfat for 1918. The coming year offers as great an opportunity.—A. J. McGuire, agricultural extension division, University Farm, St. Paul.

Editor's Corner

A Helpful Hunch

Here is a helpful hunch for the editor who wishes to pass another helpful hunch on to the boys of his community who have more ambition than opportunity:

The agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota last winter printed, in pamphlet form for distribution among the boys of Minnesota, an editorial originally printed in Levang's Weekly—an editorial intended to appeal to the boy who wishes to get on on the farm and in the world but feels that the doors of opportunity are closed to him.

The University Farm Press News has at its disposal a considerable number of these booklets which it will furnish to editors without expense, if they will find a way to get them into the hands of boys whom they might move to action.

Is this hunch a good one? It will cost nothing to put it to the acid test—nothing more than a notice in your paper after you have seen the booklet. Will you write for one?

Trying to Grab Farmers' Bonds

Reports have been received at University Farm to the effect that agents are circulating about the state trying to induce farmers to trade their Liberty bonds for securities which offer larger returns in interest or dividends. Farmers should be warned against the blandishments of such agents.

EXPERIMENT STATION SEED LIST IS READY

The usual list of improved and pedigreed field seeds, offered by the Minnesota experiment station for 1919 spring sales, is ready. It includes:

- Minn. No. 163 wheat
- Minn. No. 169 wheat
- Minn. No. 281 oats
- Minn. No. 295 oats
- Minn. No. 105 barley
- Minn. No. 2 rye
- Minn. No. 25 flax
- Minn. No. 95 peas
- Minn. No. 13 corn
- Minn. No. 455 corn

The following newly pedigreed and improved stocks, which have been tested at the five substations, are ready for their first introduction to farmers:

- Minn. No. 470 "Mindum," Durum wheat, pedigreed; Marquis wheat, pure stock.
- Minn. No. 230 Chevalier, two-row barley, pedigreed.
- Minn. No. 184 Manchuria, six-row barley, pedigreed.
- Minn. No. 512 "Minota" oats, a medium early white oats, pedigreed.
- Minn. No. 110 Soybeans, Chestnut, pedigreed.

Only a limited amount of these seeds is available, and only limited amounts will be allowed individuals.

The wheats are adapted chiefly to western and northern Minnesota. The No. 184 barley is adapted to all parts of the state, while No. 230 is chiefly for the northwestern section. The No. 512 oats is more particularly intended for southern and central Minnesota, while the No. 514 may be used anywhere. Before any seed is sent out from the experiment station it is thoroughly cleaned and graded, weighs as much as or more than the standard for its kind and germinates between 95 and 100 per cent.

For further particulars address C. P. Bull, University Farm, St. Paul.

FARMERS' MUTUALS SHARE BIG FIRE LOSS

The State Association of Farmers' Mutual Insurance Companies at its annual convention in Minneapolis, December 17 and 18, voted unanimously to come to the relief of the companies that suffered disaster in the recent forest fires in northeastern Minnesota.

Three companies in the fire district: The Carlton, the Finnish Local, and the Windemere, suffered losses of approximately \$300,000, and would be unable to pay their losses without assistance from the 160 local companies in Minnesota and their 185,000 policy holders.

Each local company is asked to contribute 75 cents for each \$1,000 of insurance. Such an assessment will raise ample funds to meet the losses of the farmers' mutual insurance companies.

Every officer and policy holder should take it upon himself to make certain that his company promptly ratifies the action of the State Association.—A. D. Stewart, secretary, state association, Redwood Falls.

TEMPTING RECIPES FOR BEET SIRUP USE

These recipes are worked out on the basis that 1 quart weighs 44 ounces, 1 cup weighs 11 ounces.

Steamed Pudding

- 1 cup sour milk
- 1 cup beet sirup
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fat
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup raisins
- 3 cups white flour
- Steam 3 hours in oiled molds.

Steamed Brown Bread

- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon soda
- 1 cup sour milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup beet sirup
- Mix the cornmeal, crumbs, salt and soda. Add to sour milk and sirup. Steam three to four hours. Bread may be dried off in the oven for about fifteen minutes.

Rolled Oats Drop Cookies

- 1 cup beet sirup
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup melted fat
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cut raisins
- 2 cups raw rolled oats
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups white flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cloves
- Mix the ingredients in the order in which they are given, sifting the dry ingredients together. Drop the cookies by small spoonfuls on oiled pans and bake them in a moderate oven.—Division of home economics, University of Minnesota.

1,000,000 FARMERS IN FARM BUREAUS

According to estimates received at University Farm, St. Paul, from the United States department of agriculture, there are in the United States 1,000,000 farmers who are taking an active part in farm bureau work. Minnesota is well represented in this large number of up-to-date farmers, but there is room for a large number in these organizations in Minnesota, and an effort is being made to fill the room. Minnesota has a farm bureau in every county, so there is no reason why any one should not join the great movement for farming that pays.

RABBITS ARE FOES OF APPLE TREES

As soon as there is a sufficient snowfall to make winter feed somewhat scarce, rabbits and mice will attack young apple trees and damage or entirely kill them by feeding on the bark at the ground or on the snow line.

Such injury can be prevented by wrapping the trees to a height above the snow line with tar paper or burlap, or by placing a lath screen protector around them. If the drifts around the trees are very high it may be advisable to break the snow drift around the trees so that the rabbits can not reach the branches. Washing the trunk with whitewash containing copperas or sulphur is also effective. Hunting and trapping rabbits in the snow break or orchard during the early winter months is helpful, too.

Young fruit trees are greatly benefited during the winter by a heavy mulch of strawy manure. This should be spaded in in the spring as it will stimulate growth and development. During the winter it will help to prevent root-killing.—J. A. Anderson, horticulturist, West Central School and Station, Morris, Minn.

NUTS CAN BE ADDED TO MINNESOTA CROPS

"More nut trees should be grown in Minnesota," says W. G. Brierley, division of horticulture, University Farm. "The black walnut and shagbark hickory are useful as shade trees and will furnish an appetizing food as well. There is no reason why every farm should not have a few of these trees, if a moist loam of good fertility is obtainable."

"Scattered plantings throughout the state indicate that the black walnut can be grown quite generally in Minnesota where moist, fertile, well-drained soil is available. Several successful plantings are reported also from localities in North Dakota and South Dakota, showing that the black walnut is hardy enough to withstand severe winters.

"The shagbark or shell-bark hickory has not been planted extensively, but the vigor and productiveness of the native trees show that this tree will be valuable throughout the southeastern part of the state, if planted on rich, moist soil.

"Butternuts can be grown almost anywhere in the state, but do not make as good a tree as the black walnut or hickory. If planted carefully and cultivated for the first five or six seasons nut trees generally will be found a permanent investment, as very few pests attack them.

"Of the black walnuts, the Thomas and the Ohio are the best, and Weiker and Swaim are the best hickories. No selected varieties of butternuts are available.

"The black walnut commonly bears early, and crops of fair size may be secured in eight or ten years. The hickory will be later in bearing as the tree grows more slowly."

Information relative to nut-growing will be supplied on request by W. G. Brierley, division of horticulture, University Farm.

HENS WITH COLD FEET DO NOT LAY

With eggs bringing exceptional prices the object of the poultryman is to get his hens to lay the largest possible number of eggs at a minimum of expense, and one way to gain this end is to keep the feet of hens warm, says A. C. Smith, head of the poultry division at University Farm. "Hens with cold feet do not lay," adds Mr. Smith. "Frozen ground, snow and mud make cold feet. A dry floor in the hen house with from four to eight inches of straw in which the hens may constantly scratch will not only keep the hen's feet warm but will help to insure good health, which is absolutely essential to egg production."

BREEDERS' MEETINGS MAY BE HELD LATER

The meetings of the various breeders' associations of the state, and, in fact, the meetings of all of the various organizations which were to have been held during Farmers' and Home-Makers' Week, December 30 to January 4, at University Farm, but which were called off on account of the danger of spreading the influenza, may be held later when the dangers of the epidemic have passed. No attempt will be made, however, to give the regular program of short courses this year.

The meetings that have been postponed were those of practically all of the breeders' associations, and those of various horticultural interests, of the Minnesota Crop Improvement association, of the Minnesota Federation of Farmers' Clubs, of farm bureau workers, of high school agriculturists, of the bee-keepers, of the Garden Flower society.

The authorities at University Farm offer their facilities to such organizations as soon as health conditions will permit.

MINNESOTA MAPLES ARE HOARDING WEALTH

The maple trees of Minnesota are hoarding right now unknown millions of pounds of sugar of a most appetizing kind. In 1918 only 170,000 pounds were taken from this source, while back in 1890, 180,000 were taken. Why should there not have been a large increase instead of a decrease? asks J. J. Willaman, plant chemist at University Farm. In other parts of the country the making of maple sugar and sirup is a very profitable industry. The trees are here in Minnesota, the harvesting of their crop comes at an otherwise dull season, and there is a ready market for the product. Why not develop the resource? The suggestion is one of special interest to farmers.

FARMERS FIND NEW ACCOUNT BOOKS PAY

The income tax law requires that farm receipts and expenses date from January 1 to December 31. Farm accounts, therefore, should be started January 1.

To aid farmers in keeping accounts, W. L. Cavert and S. B. Cleland, of the agricultural extension division, University of Minnesota, some time ago prepared a simple farm account book, which has met with favor among those who have used it. One farmer writes:

"I got an account book at the short course two years ago and am surprised to learn what a farmer can do about his own business by keeping such a simple and easy system of records."

In order to find one's labor income or the amount that one has earned for his year's work above business expenses and interest on his investment, it is necessary to take an annual inventory and to keep a record of receipts and business expenses. Convenient forms for such records are provided in the extension division account book. Taking an inventory is an easy job. Most farmers report that it takes them less than two hours.

Many country banks have purchased supplies of the extension division account books and will be glad to give copies to their patrons. If any banker can't provide a book, the county agricultural agent can assist in securing one.

1919 CALLS FOR "PEACE GARDENS"

Because food production will have to be increased to feed the world during the reconstruction period, home gardens will be important factors through the year just begun, as a means of saving wheat and meat. They will also mean better health, for the place of vegetables in the diet is coming to be better recognized than ever.

Plans should be prepared for the best garden—the "Peace Garden," says R. S. Mackintosh, horticultural specialist of the agricultural extension division, University of Minnesota.

Ralph Baerman, of Rushford, the state champion in the boys' and girls' garden contest for 1918, writes: "We made out our plans according to conditions and adhered to them throughout the season to save time and confusion when there was real work to do. This desk-farming is one of the most interesting features of the work." From his one-tenth acre garden, Ralph grew \$150.48 worth of products at an expense of \$49.70. In addition he won a prize of \$45 for his exhibit at the state fair.

Early plans include selection of varieties and ordering of seed.