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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 15 to 22

Minnesota No. 4 and King are good raspberries for garden culture.

Plant a few gladiolus bulbs now and more in a week or ten days.

Plant a few Progressive or Minnesota No. 1017 everbearing strawberry plants this spring. They will fruit this fall if the blossoms are kept off till about July 1.

Do not grow seedlings in a close, moist atmosphere and expect them to do well when set outside. They need air. Cool, airy conditions will cause the plants to grow stocky and they will be in better condition to set out.

Among the hardy perennials that should be in every garden to furnish cut flowers are iris, larkspur, peony, columbine, boltonia, and autumn daisies. All are of easy culture and may be set out now.

Dahlias require moist, cool weather for their best growth; consequently they must either be started early or set out late, so as to bloom before hot weather or after the hottest part of summer.

Onion thrips cause an annual loss in the United States estimated at $2,500,000. Farmers' Bulletin 1007 tells how to control the insect. Write to the division of publications, United States department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Treating all seed potatoes for scab before planting is a cheap insurance. They, of course, must be planted on new land or land free from scab.

Spraying is essential for success in raising good fruit.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

April 22 to 29

Early cabbage should be set to their first leaves in soil.

Give the hotbeds plenty of air on warm days.

Early cabbage requires a warm rich soil. Late cabbage will do well on much cooler soil if it is rich.

Sweet peas should be sown as early in the spring as possible in rich, well-prepared soil.

Harden-off plants before setting them out by giving them more air and less water than they have been used to.

Right now is a good time to set out a windbreak about the farmstead. Keep it far enough from the house and barn that snow will not drift near the house.

Cultivate around all shrubs and herbaceous plants now. Get the grass away from the roots so that moisture can get in about the plants.

Beta grapes can be easily grown in a warm, sunny location. The fruit is good for jelly and when ripe is fairly good to eat. The grapes can be planted now.

If you want bird neighbors, put up bird houses and bird baths and plant a few shrubs which carry fruits that birds like, such as the Juneberry, red elder, and wild cherry.

Now is a good time to paint the buildings and plant trees, shrubs, and flowering perennials. A few plants make a wonderful change in the appearance of a place. Real estate men often buy old properties, repair and paint the buildings, plant the grounds, and easily sell the place at a good advance in price.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

RIGHT WAY TO BUY STALLIONS

This is the season when stallion salesmen are opening their selling campaigns. Prospective stallion buyers should remember that the poorest horse requires the hardest selling. A good horse sells himself to any one who knows. When it becomes necessary to practice the selling methods that include a slick salesman who spends his money freely in an effort to induce twelve men to invest two hundred dollars each in a stallion that would not make a high class market gelding, it is time for prospective buyers "to lay off." The present prosperity of the farmer calls forth more than usual activity on the part of promotors; and a company stallion is a good selling proposition.

When a stallion is needed in a community, adopt the company-buying plan. Let the men interested organize themselves and delegate competent members to go to the stallion dealers and make their own selection. They would not only have the barn full of stallions from which to pick, but they would also save at least the amount of the salesman's time and the various items of his expense account, which may total several hundred dollars.

Only such stallions as have proved their worth as sires or, by their breeding and individuality, give promise of becoming good sires, should be bought at any price.—Carl W. Gay, head of animal industry department, University Farm, St. Paul.

EDITOR'S CORNER

BIG STEP TOWARD MORE ADVERTISING

Would you, Editors of Minnesota, take such a step if you had the chance?

Of course, you would.

Well, the chance is here! At the editors' short course, at University Farm, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 1 to 3, what that chance is will be clearly told. It is a big chance. Here is the idea:

The wholesale merchants of the state, according to a plan worked out by the St. Paul association, a plan which the Civic and Commerce association of Minneapolis, and similar organizations in the state are interested in, propose a campaign to stimulate merchandising permanently in every town and village. This campaign includes the emphatic encouragement by wholesale merchants of local advertising on the part of country merchants, and explicit instructions to guide country merchants in such advertising. IN OTHER WORDS, A BIG FORCE PURPOSES TO GET BEHIND YOUR OWN LOCAL MERCHANTS AND TO PUSH THEM TOWARD YOUR PAPER AS THE PROPER AGENCY FOR INCREASING THEIR TRADE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

You will wish to hear about this from the wholesalers "at first hand" at the Editors' Short Course, and to tell the wholesalers what you can to aid them in carrying out their great plan.

C. E. Lawrence, of Finch, Van Slyck and McConville, St. Paul, and O. L. Schutz, of Butler Brothers, Minneapolis, will be the wholesalers' spokesmen.

Made-in-Minnesota Dinner

Another great feature of the course, which you will not wish to miss, is the "bread, butter, and beef banquet" or made-in-Minnesota dinner, which will take place Thursday evening, May 1, at University Farm. This is by the courtesy of the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce association, the St. Paul association, and representative business men of the two cities. Before you at this dinner will be spread concrete evidence of the best things that Minnesota's farms and gardens can produce, prepared by the best of cooks at University Farm, and served by students of the Division of Home Economics—the best of students anywhere! And it won't cost you a cent!

Following the dinner will be heard two of the best speeches of the course. These will be by Marion LeRoy Burton, president of the University of Minnesota, and James Schermerhorn, editor of the Detroit (Mich.) Times, who won the hearts of those who attended the short course two years ago.

Remember the date: Thursday evening, May 1, 7:00 o'clock.

Other Things Not To Miss

The address by A. P. Johnson, editor and publisher of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) News, an address that will be full of the practical and the inspirational combined.

The three lectures by J. L. Frazier of the Inland Printer on effective advertising composition. These are new lectures, fully illustrated with lantern slides. You have not heard them before. The first one will be given Thursday morning, May 1.

George F. Hobart of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, Chicago, and Mac Martin, Minneapolis, on national advertising.

M. J. McGowan, of the Appleton (Minn.) Press, and W. H. Bridgman of the Stanley (Wis.) Republican on cost systems in the country print shop. Mr. McGowan has tried the use of such a system and will speak from experience. Mr. Bridgman is a field man of the Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin and will tell what they are doing in Wisconsin and how it works.

L. D. Coffman, dean of the College of Education of the University of Minnesota, on the press as an educational force in America, and R. W. Thatcher, dean of the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, on the state's greatest industry.

Other speakers will be present. All cannot be mentioned here.

Another Front Page Contest

At the request of several editors, the front page makeup contest will be repeated this year. Send in the one best front page you have produced since February 1. Send them, before April 26, to W. P. Kirkwood, University Farm, St. Paul.

And don't forget to send in samples of the best "ads" you have produced (set up in your own work shop) for the advertising contest. Get these in before April 15.

Rooms and Meals on Campus

Rooms will be available in the new school dormitories at not more than 50 cents a night. Meals in the New Cafeteria at what you care to pay. Storage for a limited number of automobiles.

ECKLES TAKES UP WORK AT U. FARM

C. H. Eckles, noted as a specialist in the breeding and in the care and feeding of dairy herds in the college of agriculture of the University of Missouri, has taken up the duties of his new position as head of the dairy husbandry division in the department of agriculture, University of Minnesota.

Mr. Eckles was born in Iowa in 1875 and was graduated from Iowa State college in 1895. He received his master's degree in 1897 and his doctor's degree in 1916. In 1897-98 he studied at the University of Wisconsin; in 1904-5 at Goettingen, Germany, and in 1905 at Berne, Switzerland. He is the author of books on "Dairy Cattle and Milk Production" and "Dairy Farming." During his stay with the University of Missouri from 1901-1918, he achieved fame for his successes in breeding dairy cattle.

About his work in Minnesota Mr. Eckles says:

"On taking up the work here it is with the feeling that this state offers opportunities for service to the dairy industry that are unexcelled elsewhere. Great as are the dairy interests of Minnesota already, one cannot but feel when the possibilities are considered that the development along this line is only well begun. Minnesota is known far and wide as the great coöperative creamery state, and I am deeply interested in these creameries, as I am in all coöperative enterprises, and I am looking forward with great interest to becoming familiar with their work and successes. It is the business of the dairy division not only to help train expert buttermakers for our creameries, but to help solve some of the technical problems which constantly arise in their work.

"The cheesemakers, the ice-cream manufacturers, and the market milk men also have their problems. It is the duty of the dairy products section of the dairy division, under the direction of Prof. R. M. Washburn, to give all the assistance possible along these lines.

"My own special interests are with the dairy cattle, and I trust with the help of Prof. J. C. Cort and other members of the staff it will be possible to maintain and extend the great work begun many years ago by Prof. T. L. Haecker. Minnesota is widely known for her herds of purebred dairy cattle, and hundreds of other herds now in the process of development undoubtedly require only more time to become equally well known. I envy our livestock specialists, W. A. McKerrow and A. J. McGuire their opportunity to come in daily contact with these breeders. While my opportunity to meet the cattle men will not be so great as theirs, I hope to eventually make the acquaintance of all. Meanwhile we are at the service of all. The university herd will receive careful attention, and we hope to maintain a herd that will not only serve its proper purpose for the instruction of the students, but which will at the same time be a matter of pride to the breeders of the state.

"We hope to maintain our official testing service for the breeders of purebred herds under the supervision of Prof. E. O. Hanson at the same high standard as at present and to extend greatly this most valuable service to many more breeders in the future. We ask the assistance and coöperation of all interested in the dairy industry in making it possible for the division of dairy husbandry to fulfill its function in being of the greatest possible service to the industry which means so much to Minnesota."

SOYBEANS AND CORN MAKE GOOD ENSILAGE

Soybeans can be grown either alone or mixed with corn for silage to good advantage, says A. C. Arny, of the Minnesota Experiment station. In this connection Mr. Arny calls attention to a statement made by Donald Wilson, of Rush City, in the Minnesota Farmers' Institute annual for 1918. Mr. Wilson's statement refers to an experiment tried by five farmers in the vicinity of Rush City, who, with success, tried drilling soybeans in with corn. Not only did they get a heavy growth of forage, but they obtained a good supply of seed from a few rows of the soybeans planted alone for the purpose. One of the farmers says that the soybeans increased the amount of silage at least one quarter and gave him at the same time a more closely balanced ration. When corn and soybeans are grown together for silage, the corn should be planted at the usual rate and 8 to 10 pounds of soy beans in addition. Implement dealers have on sale attachments to cornplanters by the use of which an even distribution of the seed of both crops can be secured in one operation.

If the ground is warm and not wet, planting of beets, carrots, peas, radishes and spinach may be made now with good results.

HOW TO FEED THE SPRING PIG CROP

Reports from the country, so far at least, are to the effect that farmers generally have been very successful this spring in farrowing a big crop of spring pigs. Soon these pigs will require a great deal of feed. In these times of high-priced grains and high-priced mill feeds the problem of economizing on the feed bill for growing pigs is an important one. The pig requires a larger percentage of his ration in the form of grains and concentrated feeds than does any other type of farm animal. For that very reason it is important to secure the greatest possible gains from all concentrated feed used.

Average results from several experiment stations go to show that the amount of grain required to produce a pound of pork on growing pigs can be reduced by one third when pigs have access to a good pasture, as compared to the amount required where they are fed in a dry lot. While on pasture the growing pigs may be fed a limited ration of about three and a half pounds of grain for each 100 pounds of live weight per day or they may be fed grain from a self-feeder. Where one is raising pure-blood pigs to be used as future breeding stock the former method is more satisfactory.

Where pigs have access to good pasture most any grain or mill feed can be used through the summer months. A ration of about 60 per cent corn or barley, 30 per cent shorts, and 10 per cent tankage will be found satisfactory.

While plenty of good pasture should be provided, it will, on the other hand, not pay to expect the pigs to get along on pasture alone, or even pasture with less than three pounds of grain for every 100 pounds of live weight per day in addition, because the amount of green feed a pig can handle successfully is limited to about one third of his ration.

Alfalfa, sweet clover, red clover, blue grass, brome grass, barley, oats or rape all make satisfactory hog pastures. The important thing is to provide plenty of some kind of pasture. Ordinarily, about one acre of pasture is required to every 20 spring pigs. Then especially where market pigs are being produced a field of corn should be grown for hogging-off in the fall. An acre of corn is required for every six or seven pigs for this purpose.

On the light loam or sandy soils, Canadian field peas can be grown to advantage to be hogged off during the month of August. One acre will feed twelve pigs about five weeks.

One of the most economical cropping plans possible to use, say for one hundred pigs, would be as follows: Five to six acres in pasture, eight acres in Canadian field peas, and sixteen to twenty acres in corn. Such a cropping plan will provide seventy-five per cent of the feed required to produce the 1919 crop of pigs thus reducing to a minimum the amount of high priced feed kept over from last year that will be required.—W. H. Peters, Division of Animal Husbandry, University Farm.

CARE NOW SAVES BEES FOR SUMMER

Proper care of bees in the spring will prevent deaths by natural causes, spring drifting, robbing, and rain and high winds, and will give strong colonies in June for the summer's harvest of honey, says Francis Jager, head of the bee division at University Farm.

As a guide for the spring care of bees Mr. Jager has prepared a bulletin on the management of bees and the production of honey for distribution by the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota. This is special bulletin No. 38, which may be had by addressing Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

FORAGE CROPS FOR BURNED-OVER AREAS

To meet the immediate feed needs of settlers in the 15,000 square miles of burned-over lands in northern Minnesota, M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeast experiment station at Duluth, makes some valuable suggestions. He says:

Cull poor cows from the herd so as not to waste feed on unprofitable stock.

Pasture with care. Do not pasture too early and do not over-pasture, avoiding over-pasturing by using shift pastures.

Sow every possible acre of tillable land to oats and cut green for hay.

Supplement the oats with a good acreage of rutabagas.

Look over every acre of stump land in grass, and sow a mixture of timothy 2 pounds, and alsike 1 pound where needed, as more or less injury has been done by fire at least around the stumps. Sow about five pounds to the acre. Sow not over three pounds to the acre among trees where the fire was strong enough to destroy tops and let in the sun. Cut this oc next winter.

THRESHING SCHOOL PLANS NEARLY READY

The program for the threshermen's school to be held at University Farm, St. Paul, June 16 to 21, has been completed and will soon be in circulation. This school is the outgrowth of the efforts of the United States food administration last year to prevent waste in threshing. It was discovered that the average avoidable waste by every machine operating in Minnesota was something like five bushels of wheat a day, worth approximately $10, and nine bushels of oats worth nearly $5.50. Some machines were found to be wasting as much as 50 bushels a day.

The program will call for the study of the operation of tractors and of separators, and will include visits to factories in the two cities and vicinity.

The registration will be $2; board and room will be obtainable at University Farm at about $1.25 a day. Those in charge urge threshermen who cannot take the full course to take such part of it as they can. Detailed information may be had by writing to L. B. Bassett, University Farm, St. Paul.

ANNUAL SCHOOL FOR TRACTION ENGINEERS

The regular annual session of the school for traction engineers at University Farm, will open this year on May 19 and close on June 14. The school offers an opportunity for the intensive study of both gas and steam engines, and includes such subjects as blacksmithing, soldering, babbitting, belt-lacing, pipe-fitting, tube-fitting, mechanical calculations, electricity and heat, gas and steam engine specifications.

In the course of their stay the students in this course will visit the Stillwater twine and machinery plant and other points of special interest in relation to their work in the twin cities.

Those interested should address William Boss, head of the engineering division at University Farm, St. Paul, who will have general charge of the school.

NO REAL DANGER FROM LOCUSTS IN MINNESOTA

Absolutely no cause for alarm on account of the 17-year locusts exists in Minnesota. This emphatic statement is made by F. L. Washburn, University Farm, St. Paul, to counteract misquotations of remarks made by him published in certain northwestern papers recently.

Mr. Washburn says that no broods of the 17-year locusts are scheduled to occur in Minnesota to the best of his knowledge. The 17-year locust, he says, is met with only in very limited numbers and then only occasionally in this state. Mr. Washburn adds:

"One cause of unnecessary anxiety on the part of farmers in connection with this printed report going the rounds of the papers, is a misapprehension regarding this insect, the public confounding the so-called 17-year locust with the true locusts or so-called grasshoppers, which have at different times done so much damage in this and other western states. The 17-year locust is a Cicada or harvest fly belonging to an entirely different order of insect from that of the true locust or grasshopper. Even if the harvest fly were to appear in Minnesota in numbers the most serious damage that it would do would be the weakening of small branches and twigs of fruit trees by egg punctures."

GET GOOD SEED TO GET GOOD LAWN

A good lawn depends in a large measure on the quality of seed used, says R. C. Dahlberg, State Seed Laboratory, University Farm, St. Paul.

Large quantities of very low grade seed are on the market—seed which under the most favorable conditions would not produce a lawn of which any one could be proud. This low grade seed is put up in packages, usually weighing less than a pound, and sold at a price so low as to make it appear a bargain. One brand of such cheap seed was found to contain only 8 per cent of seed. The remainder was chaff. Two or three other brands were found to contain only about 50 per cent of seed. Such seed, though apparently cheap, is in reality expensive. Such cheap mixtures also frequently contain in quantity seeds which are not desirable, as timothy, meadow fescue, and Italian rye grass.

If a whole lawn is to be newly seeded, it is probably advisable to buy the pure seed and mix it at home. A very satisfactory mixture is made of Kentucky bluegrass, 80 per cent; Redtop, 10 per cent; white clover, 10 per cent. One-half pound of this mixture to the square rod will be enough. On slopes where the soil is likely to wash and where seed rather than sod is used, it is advisable to decrease the bluegrass 10 per cent and replace with perennial rye grass. The earlier the grass is planted the better.