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ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

April 1-8

Sow smooth peas, onions, and radishes as soon as the ground can be worked easily.

Canna and Caladium bulbs must be started at once, if they were not attended to earlier.

Set out a good bed of asparagus. If well planted, it will be good for many years without renewal.

Plant sweet peas as soon as the ground can be worked. A long row is best. Chicken wire makes a good support.

Morning glory, wild cucumber, canary bird vine, and gourd make good covers for fences or other unsightly places, and are quick to grow.

Always unpack nursery stock as soon as it is received and learn whether it is in good condition or not. It may then be heeled in till ready to plant.

In transplanting lettuce or other soft foliage plants, do not set too deep. If you do, the water is likely to collect in the lower leaves and cause them to decay.

Rosa Rugosa bushes should be cut back to within 18 inches or two feet of the ground each year. This keeps the plant smaller and prevents it from becoming rough and unsightly.

Onion sets may be planted as soon as the land can be worked. They are plentiful and of good quality this year. Use either white or yellow kinds; they look better on the table and are milder than the red.

Give boys and girls plots of land for garden of their own. They will take more interest in things that are their own and perhaps this interest will spread.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

April 8-15

Set out a few elms for shade about the home.

Look after worn spots on the lawn. Manure them well and spade deeply. Rake and sow grass seed.

Some of the Schizanthus hybrids are striking flowers. They may be used as cut-flowers, and always attract attention.

Golden Bantam is one of the best early sweet corns. It is not quite so early as Peep O'Day, but is of better quality.

Set out a strawberry bed as soon as the soil can be worked and the plants secured. Senator Dunlap is a good variety.

Arbor Day is a good time to get the school children interested in cleaning up the school yard and planting it with shrubs and trees.

If nursery stock is received in a dry condition, thoroughly wet the plants and either heel them in or put them in a cool, moist cellar for a few days.

A good lawn is secured by sowing a thoroughly well prepared, rich soil with 42 pounds of pure Kentucky blue grass, 5 pounds solid redtop, and 3 pounds of white clover per acre. Sow as soon as the land can be well prepared, rake the seed in well, and roll lightly.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

APRIL THE MONTH FOR GOPHER WARFARE

April and May are the months in which farmers should get after the pestiferous gopher. Seed corn can be protected from their attacks by various methods. Corn soaked in the following solution is a good poison bait for the gopher:

One ounce of sulfate of strychnine dissolved in a pint of boiling water, with an equal quantity of sugar syrup added and mixed thoroughly.

After the corn has been soaked in this solution, let it dry and then distribute it over the infested areas.

If gophers have not disappeared at corn-planting time, seed corn itself may be soaked in the same solution 24 hours without injury.

Methods of fighting the four-footed pests of the farm will be found in Extension Bulletin 54, by F. L. Washburn, Division of Entomology, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

SANITATION IN RURAL SCHOOLS A PROBLEM

"Parents in rural districts often feel with reason that in school their children have not the sanitary protection that city children have," says Dr. H. W. Hill of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "Not all city schools are up to standard, but on the average, the rural schools rank very low indeed."

"A special bulletin prepared in collaboration by the National Educational Association, the Council on Health and Public Health and Public Instruction of the American Medical Association, and the United States Bureau of Education, describes the simplest and best of the minimum sanitary requirements which every rural school should possess. This pamphlet (Bulletin No. 12) may be obtained directly from the United States Bureau of Education; from Dr. Thomas D. Wood of Columbia University, New York City; from Dr. F. R. Green, 525 North Dearborn Street, Chicago; or from the Minnesota Public Health Association, Old Capitol, St. Paul, Minn. "The latter association is cooperating with the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs in an extensive survey, involving 8,000 public and parochial schools, through a questionnaire to be filled out by the mothers of the children attending these schools."

BE A CROP-BOOSTER!

Editors:

Seed time is at hand.

Good seed and well-tilled soil go far toward assuring a bountiful harvest.

A bountiful harvest means prosperity not only for the farmer but for all,

and

that

includes

YOU.

In this number of the Press News are items on good seed and good tillage.

In the campaign for prosperity these should be printed

NOW!

Boost for prosperity in a practical way!

\$3,000,000 WORTH OF MEN, PLAGUE VICTIMS

An adult male is worth \$3,000, dead, according to the Workman's Compensation act. The state loses about \$3,000,000 worth of citizens on this basis annually through tuberculosis alone. It spends now about twenty-six cents a head to prevent this loss, where a dollar a head would enable it to do much more.

HEALTH NOTES

Bad odors do damage only through the imagination, as a rule. They do not cause disease, nor are they necessarily warnings of danger.

Soldiers on the firing line are practically in isolation. They suffer from infectious diseases far less than when at home, in camp, or in barracks, simply because of this isolation.

Records recently presented to the legislature show that the State gave direct public-health service to approximately 500,000 people in Minnesota in 1914, through its laboratories dealing with diphtheria, typhoid, and tuberculosis; through its analyses and advice in matters relating to water-supply, and especially in the stamping out of epidemics. Of course, the other 1,500,000 of the population receives indirect protection. The total cost was three and one-third cents per head.

"What's good to eat? That is one of the great questions of life," says Dr. H. W. Hill, of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "Each one must answer it himself. What affects me is what I eat, not what you eat. Because a thing hurts or helps you is no rule for me, except in the case of poisons, and not always then. Only fools follow fads in foods."

NEW FARMERS' CLUB BULLETIN

Minnesota has about 900 farmers' clubs. Each of these holds a monthly meeting. At least 30, therefore, must meet every week day. This means that about 2,250 people are brought together in 30 different groups every day, and that 70,000 are brought together in the 900 groups every month. The movement is a big one and is going to increase in momentum.

People throughout the State who are interested in farmers' clubs, should secure Agricultural Extension Bulletin No. 56, by addressing the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul. The bulletin is a new one, dealing with the organization and work of farmers' clubs.

STOP - LOOK - LISTEN!

Editors:

You have received within the last week or ten days a brief questionnaire, by which the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, seeks to discover how it may improve its service to the newspapers of the State. Possibly this questionnaire is lying on your desk unanswered. If so, wont you please take it up and answer it at once? It is of real importance, both to the newspapers and to the Agricultural Department of the University of Minnesota.

PROFIT IN RAISING QUALITY OF ALFALFA

Tests tried at the Minnesota Experiment Station under the direction of A. C. Arny, of the Division of Agronomy and Farm Management, and just tabulated, show that from \$7.00 to \$14.50 can easily be added to the value of an acre crop of alfalfa by improving the quality at well as the quantity.

Much talk has been heard about increasing the quantity of the yield of alfalfa, but the fact that the protein content, which is the highly valuable element in alfalfa, can be increased, has been in a measure overlooked. The inoculation of, and application of lime to, moderately productive and highly productive soils will add to the quality as well as the quantity.

On highly productive soils with no inoculation, 4.48 tons per acre were cut. These contained 1108.8 pounds of protein, valued at \$49.90. With inoculation but without lime on the same soils 4.89 tons of Alfalfa hay were cut, with a protein content of 1279.8 pounds, worth \$57.79, a gain of \$7.69. Again, when the soil was inoculated and lime applied, the crop of cured hay was 5.07 tons to the acre, and the protein content of the crops 1405.8 pounds, worth \$63.26, or \$13.36 more than the protein from uninoculated soils.

Plainly it pays to inoculate with soil from an alfalfa field and to use lime when the conditions of the soil indicate its need.

On land of moderate productiveness with no inoculation, 0.63 of a ton cured alfalfa hay were grown. On such land with inoculation and lime, 1.51 tons were grown. With no inoculation the protein content of an acre of alfalfa grown on such land was 157.3 pounds, worth \$7.08. On the same kind of land, with inoculation and lime, the protein content was 478.7 pounds, worth \$21.54 a gain of \$14.46.

The determinations for nitrogen in these tests were all made under the supervision of R. W. Thatcher of the Division of Agricultural Chemistry.

The farmer who is going to grow alfalfa would do well to keep these figures in mind. They seem to give a sufficient answer to the question often asked as to whether it is worth while to inoculate, and they indicate the value of the use of lime where the soil seems to be lacking in that element.

GOOD SEED BED FOR A GOOD CROP

A somewhat late spring offers a strong temptation to put in crops with very little attention to the preparation of the seed bed. Nothing is gained by putting the seed in before the seed bed is dry enough to be worked up well, says A. C. Arny, Assistant Agriculturist, University Farm, St. Paul. Most soils, if worked when they are wet, puddle and afterwards bake. Seeds in a hard-baked soil grow with difficulty. While it is important to have the wheat and oats in the ground early, it pays to prepare for them, with the disk or spring-tooth and smoothing harrow, a good seed bed. This is especially true when clover and timothy are sown with the grain. A good stand of clover and timothy is usually secured on corn land that has not been plowed, but has been carefully disked in preparation for the grain crop.

It pays to disk or at least harrow early in April the ground that is to be planted to corn. This allows the ground to warm up more quickly than it would if left undisturbed. The result is a clean, well-prepared seed bed for the corn. At no time can corn be cultivated better or more cheaply than in April and early May before it is planted. For a fuller discussion of tillage, see Extension Bulletin No. 20.

SPECIAL PRIZES FOR BOY PORK-PRODUCERS

Special prizes have brought the total for the pork-production contest, to be begun this spring, up to \$700.

This means that pork-raising is going to be almost as popular with the boys of Minnesota this summer as corn-growing has been for several years past.

For full information, address T. A. Erickson, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

DEMAND FOR SELECTED SEED IS INCREASING

Campaigns for the selection of seed corn have done more than to spread the acreage and to increase the acre-yield of corn in Minnesota. They have created a confidence in the selection of seed grains of all kinds.

Now is the time to let this confidence have its way.

Seed grains put in this spring should be carefully selected. "A bin of grain may be compared with a herd of cattle, and superior individuals may be selected from each. Individual kernels of grain vary as much in ability to produce good or poor offspring as do individual animals."

The small grains are selected by the use of fanning mills. The average fanning mill will handle about 40 bushels an hour, so that two men working eight hours can clean 320 bushels. By setting the mill properly, any percentage of heavy large seeds can be taken out for seed purposes. If a mill is taking out 10 per cent of the best seed, a day's work by two men will yield 32 bushels of seed grain which contain the kernels with the best individuality.

An increase of yield of from two to ten bushels an acre may be expected from properly selected seed grain. Whereas an increase of one bushel an

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Seed time is at hand.

Good seed and well tilled soil go far toward assuring a bountiful harvest.

A bountiful harvest means prosperity.

Select seed.

Test them.

Till well.

Prosper.

DO IT NOW!

Boost for prosperity in a practical way!

acre in yield will pay for the labor of selection and leave a handsome profit. Anything more than one bushel an acre gain in yield, therefore, is all "velvet."

For information as to the selection of seed grains, address the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, asking for Extension Bulletin No. 26.

ARBOR DAY IS NEAR; PREPARE TO CELEBRATE

"The approach of Arbor Day gives warning that the season for tree-planting is close at hand," says E. G. Cheney of the College of Forestry, University of Minnesota. "If the nation has thought it worth while to set aside a day for this purpose, surely that day deserves some consideration. The planting of trees by school children will do much to turn their attention to tree planting in after life. Every citizen should be interested and the burden of providing trees should not be thrown wholly upon the teacher. These trees are just as much a part of the school's equipment as the ink or the stove wood and should be as regularly provided."

"There is many a school in Minnesota today without a tree in the yard. How could such a school be more interestingly and appropriately ornamented than by the children themselves on Arbor Day? And it should be remembered that Arbor Day is for the planting of trees, not gooseberries, currants, or rose bushes."

"Nor should the celebration of the day be confined to the public schools. There is many a man who could well afford to celebrate it on his own home grounds and many a town which would be greatly improved if its citizens celebrated the day in its streets."

COST OF PRODUCING MINN. FIELD CROPS

Five years of study of the cost of producing field crops in Minnesota, has been reported on in Bulletin No. 145 of the Minnesota Experiment Station, by F. W. Peck, assistant agriculturist, Division of Agronomy and Farm Management. The bulletin's principal object is to furnish information which will aid farmers to increase their net returns. The various factors of cost are carefully worked out and reduced to an acre basis, so that the farmer may tell very nearly whether he is raising his field crops at a profit or a loss by comparing the returns from his acres with the average cost of products set down in the bulletin.

Copies of the bulletin may be had from the Office of Publication, University Farm, St. Paul.

SELECTION OF SEED POTATOES DOES PAY

The careful selection and disinfection of seed potato tubers does pay, says E. C. Stakman, University Farm, St. Paul. Doubt is frequently expressed by practical growers as to the commercial value of such selection. It has been contended by some that the net return would not be sufficient to compensate the grower for the time and labor spent in doing the work.

The Divisions of Plant Pathology, Horticulture, and Agricultural Extension, University of Minnesota, in 1914 cooperated with eleven farmers in Clay and Wilkin Counties in conducting field tests and demonstrations to prove that seed selection pays in growing potatoes. The seed tubers were very carefully selected for trueness to type and desirable qualities, and were then cut to determine whether or not fusarium wilt was present. All bruised, cracked, and partly rotted tubers were rejected. After this selection, the seed were soaked for one and one-half hours in a corrosive sublimate solution, 4 ounces to 30 gallons of water. They were then planted in land which had not grown potatoes for at least five years.

An increase of yield resulted in all but one case, and in that case the farmer stated that the superior quality of the product from the selected and treated potatoes was sufficient to make the work pay. In other cases a very marked increase in yield was obtained. This ranged from 30 bushels to 160 bushels to the acre. One of the farmers said that he had earned \$35 a day in selecting seed.

Every potato-grower can duplicate results of this kind. Specific directions are given in Extension Bulletins 35 and 38, and all of those interested should write the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul, for these bulletins.

BUSINESS FARMER TESTS HIS SEED

The business farmer of today tests his seed grain. In farming, as in every other business, elements of chance are being removed as fully as possible.

After a farmer has selected his seed grain by the use of the fanning mill, he should make tests for purity and germination. If he is not prepared to do this, he should communicate with the Minnesota Seed Laboratory, University Farm, St. Paul.

The only safe thing is to remove elements of chance by selecting good seed, and by testing for purity and germination power.

BIG DIVIDEND IN PRUDENT PRUNING

The man with an apple orchard will make money by the careful pruning of his trees.

An orchard survey in an Iowa county showed that it paid to prune trees every year; that the orchards pruned annually gave average net returns of more than \$125 an acre, whereas orchards pruned occasionally or not at all gave a return of slightly less than \$55 an acre.

There are many unpruned trees in Minnesota that need attention. The pruning, however, should be moderate. The trees have dead wood, the tops are filled with crossing and closely paralleled branches, and they are often tall and scraggly. Such trees should have the dead wood carefully cut out and a few of the worst defects remedied this year. In the next two years more of the dead wood should be cut out. In short, the pruning should be spread over two or more years.

FINDING VARIETIES TO FIT LOCALITIES

The Division of Agronomy and Farm Management of the Minnesota College of Agriculture is setting out to test varieties of grains in various parts of the State.

Work of this kind has already added enormously to the welfare of the farmers of Minnesota through the extension of the corn belt northward. It is now the purpose to find out the different varieties of other grains best suited to different localities. The working out of this series of problems should be of immense benefit.

The Minnesota Experiment Station is also cooperating with individuals and with the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association in the establishment of breeding plots of corn and other farm grains.

Out of all this work should develop for the farmers of Minnesota, reliable and certain sources for supplies of pure seed. Ultimately should come the growing of seed stocks, to be inspected and sold under certificates.