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ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

July 15-22

Keep the sod about the flower-beds and shrubs nicely edged. It adds much to the appearance.

Late-sown carrots, beets, etc., store much better than those which are sown early and are too old when harvested.

Keep the ferns in a cool, moist, shady place. It may be well to report them, or at least to change part of the soil.

Swiss chard is one of the best greens for this time of year. The leaves may be cut when six or eight inches high.

If strawberry runners are not rooting well, throw a little dirt over ends of the runners or places at which plantlets have started.

Now is a good time to take a day off for a trip to the lake, river, or some large park. We all work better for an occasional change.

What have you to exhibit at the county or state fair this autumn? It is time to begin to plan for this and to prepare the material.

Watch the sweet peas and roses for the aphids. It must be treated with a tobacco preparation or with soap and water as soon as seen.

Asparagus experiments at Pennsylvania State College show that large roots are much more productive than small ones, and that it pays to discard the small roots and use only the large, strong ones.

One of the best hardy perennials for garden use is the delphinium or hardy larkspur. This comes in six or eight shades and is a splendid plant where a blue flower is desired.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

July 22-29

Usually at this time of year sweet peas require plenty of water.

A new strawberry bed may be set late this month or early next, if the weather is not too dry.

One of the best all-year plants for the hardy border is the hardy carnation. It requires little attention.

As fast as the flowers of shrubs and perennials fade remove them and let the strength that would go into the seed go into the foliage.

There are few flowers that will stand poor soil and lack of attention better than nasturtiums. They come in a variety of colors in flower and foliage now.

When watering the lawn, shrubs, or plants, do a thorough job. Be sure that the soil is moist clear to the root tips. Then don't water again till the plants need water.

Celery may be blanched (whitened) by leaving dirt up around the stalks or by placing boards along the rows. Sometimes drain tiles are set over each plant to advantage. There are also several kinds of patent paper or wood bleachers.

Most perennials may be sown now in pots or boxes or in the open ground seed bed. Transplant, as soon as large enough, to flats or beds. They should be protected by a cold frame over winter and set in the permanent beds in the spring.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

FARM CLUB FOLK TO MEET AT FAIR

Farmers' club members will hold conferences every day except Saturday at the Minnesota State Fair next September.

This plan was agreed to by a committee appointed at the Farmers' and Home-Makers Short Course last January. The committee referred to, was appointed to look into the desirability of forming a state federation of farmers' clubs and to report at the short course of next January. The idea of the conferences at the fair is to bring out sentiment as to the federation plan.

The conferences will take place every day at 4 p. m., and definite programs will be followed, but all will have to do with farmers' clubs and the discussions will be by club members of experience.

SUMMER RESORTS OFTEN UNSANITARY

"Summer resorts are often very unsanitary," says Dr. I. J. Murphy of the Minnesota Public Health Association, by way of a warning to the summer traveler. "In fact health officers commonly term them incubators for vacation typhoid."

"Each guest should appoint himself a sanitary inspector of such resorts," adds Dr. Murphy. "Upon arrival you can easily observe the condition of the yard, the screening on windows and doors. The lavatory, usually indicates the amount of attention the proprietor pays to sanitary matters. Is it kept clean and odorless? Is it fly-proof? Are there individual or paper towels? The garbage can is your next important guide. Is a fly-proof, water-tight, securely covered receptacle used? Is all the garbage kept in the can or is part of it strewn on the ground outside? Nuisances such as manure piles, and other fly- or mosquito-breeding places, should be readily detected."

"But of most importance are the things to be served on the table. If you have seen nothing but the best of sanitary technic, you are still not at all sure that you are not being fed tuberculosis, typhoid, or other germs. Does the management insist upon approved public health procedures in procuring, preparing, and serving food stuffs? Is the water supply safeguarded? If the proprietor does not advertise these facts for the convenience of his customers, you should ask him about conditions. In either case you should look for corroborating evidence. Opportunities for subsequent contamination by flies may easily be detected."

REDUCE TENSION AFTER VACATION

"Vacations taken in the summer are the most profitable," says Dr. I. J. Murphy of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "The summer is the best time for recreation. It allows more access to the open air and to outdoor activities. However, a particular season or an exact place are not the important items in one's vacation. The essential element is a change."

"The more complete the change, environmental and occupational, the better. Rest and moderation should be the rule. Many people do not know how to take a vacation, but return more nearly nerve-wrecked than when they set out. They overtravel, overwork, overdo. Rest and relaxation, a 'breathing spell' for an overtaxed mind and body to catch up with themselves, should be the aim."

"Upon your return, in order to retain some of the benefits derived from the vacation, endeavor to avoid that almost universal American condition—high tension. It is possible and feasible to carry some of the calm and poise of the vacation season into your everyday work. The continuous high pressure and speed that the average American works under is unnatural and unnecessary. Go easy and you will last longer and come out ahead in the end. Just calm yourself."

CHOLERA NOT THE ONLY HOG DISEASE

"The importance of a correct diagnosis, where hog cholera is suspected, can not be over-estimated," says Dr. H. Preston Hoskins, of the Minnesota Experiment Station. "Hog cholera serum, administered to a herd thought to be infected with cholera, but in reality suffering from some other disease, usually means time and effort wasted, and, if the treated hogs keep on dying, distrust of the serum treatment. Except in very unusual cases, either a positive or negative diagnosis of cholera can be made, if there is opportunity for a post-mortem examination. In doubtful cases a post-mortem is always proper."

"Just as soon as it is noticed that a hog is sick, it should be separated from the herd and kept isolated until the exact nature of the trouble can be determined."

"Diseases which are most frequently mistaken for hog cholera are intestinal worms, various digestive disturbances, lung worms, inflammation of the bowels and necrobacillosis. The last named disease is caused by the same germ that is responsible for sore-mouth and bull-nose of pigs, and has been unusually prevalent in the state this year. Most of the confusion of the two diseases arises from the fact that in some cases pigs affected with necrobacillosis will show the speckled appearance of the kidneys which has been looked upon as so characteristic of hog cholera."

"Hog cholera serum is of no value in combatting any disease except hog cholera."

Do not clip the lawn too close in hot dry weather. The grass protects the roots from burning out.

EDITORS:

Below you will find the last item to be sent out in reference to the Rural Life Conference to be held at University Farm, St. Paul, July 27 to 30. The aim of this conference is a broad and deep prosperity for the State. Won't you give the cause a boost by calling attention once more to the conference?

Editor of Publications,
University Farm.

FARM COLLEGE AS ALLY OF CHURCH

The Rural Life Conference, to be held at University Farm, St. Paul, July 27-30, means the bringing together of great forces for the making of rural life fundamentally more profitable. It means that the church and the college of agriculture have become allies in a campaign which will work for the prosperity, comfort, and true happiness of all of Minnesota's people, and especially of those in rural communities.

In planning for this conference, the Minnesota College of Agriculture has recognized the opportunity for leadership possessed by the pastor of the rural church, and has endeavored to place at his disposal the material and agencies brought together in the Minnesota Experiment Station and College of Agriculture.

While this is true, it is true also that the conference is designed to appeal to all classes of country leaders—farmers of influence, farmers' club presidents, the merchant, the banker, the educator and all others who have an interest in promoting the state's prosperity and good through the increased efficiency of its people.

The attendance promises to be large. Every community should be represented. For fuller particulars address Dean A. F. Woods, University Farm, St. Paul.

TO EDITORS:

If there are apple-growers in your community, they will be interested in the following item. Won't you use it for their benefit?

Editor of Publications,
University Farm.

AID OFFERED TO APPLE-GROWERS

Growers of apples, who have a surplus of fruit this year and are without an available market, are asked to correspond with the Agricultural Extension Division of the University of Minnesota, University Farm, St. Paul. This division will maintain an information bureau, or clearing house, to aid growers in disposing of their surpluses, in other words, to help the producer to find the consumer.

The division will not, however, buy, sell, or handle any apples, and it will not be responsible in any way for the reliability either of seller or buyer.

Growers who are interested in making use of this offer should give the varieties and number of barrels or bushels of each, and address with the names of the local telephone exchange, telegraph office, express companies, and railroads.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

"We have a cow three years old. She is so hard to milk that a man can hardly milk her. She is fresh now. Last year when she was nearly dry she was not so hard to milk. Do you know of some remedy?"—Farmer, Oconto, Wis.

"Some cows are naturally hard to milk; others are made hard by weak-handed milking. A woman or child with hands not strong enough for milking causes a cow to become hard for anyone to milk. To cure such a cow, oil the teat freely before starting to milk, so that the oil will work into and soften the skin. Then milk the cow with as much force as possible, squeezing hard. This treatment will usually cure an ordinarily hard milker. Once in a great while it is necessary to cut the muscle surrounding the inside of the teat with a lance-like knife. This, however, is very likely to ruin the cow if not done with great care to avoid cutting too much and causing permanent leakage. It also makes a sore which is painful to the cow at the time of milking, and if done when the cow is not giving milk, the wound grows together and the muscle becomes tighter than before.—R. M. Washburn, University Farm, St. Paul.

Cultivate the asparagus as long as possible. The growth made now is producing the shoots for next year.

WAYS TO FIGHT QUACK-GRASS

Numerous inquiries received at the Northwest Experiment Farm, Crookston, regarding quackgrass indicate that it is becoming a serious problem in some sections of Northwestern Minnesota.

F. L. Kennard, station agronomist, says that quackgrass can be exterminated, and this has been demonstrated very frequently both by farmers and experiment stations. Mr. Kennard goes on to say that the principal requisite is a firm resolve to rid the farm of the pest.

The weed reproduces both from seed and from underground root stocks. It may be brought to a farm in the form of seed, but the spread is usually by scattering root stocks about with the harrow or other farm implement.

Mr. Kennard recommends two methods of attack: Growing a cultural crop, and summer-fallowing.

Where the land is badly infested the former will require a great deal of hard labor. If the pest is to be exterminated no green portion must be allowed to show itself and that means eternal vigilance on the part of the farmer. It is not enough to keep the soil clean between the rows. None of the grass must be permitted to grow in the hills. Two years of this treatment is recommended.

When land is partly occupied, the summer fallow method is probably most economical. One crop is lost but the additional yield the succeeding year will usually offset this when the low cost of cultivating fallow land as compared with corn land is considered. The field should be plowed in the fall and again in the spring to a depth of six or eight inches. A good mulch three inches deep should be prepared with disk and harrow and this mulch kept cultivated with sufficient frequency to prevent any growth above the surface of the ground. By preventing this part from developing the roots are simply starved to death.

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUNG PIGS NOW

"Now is the time to keep a close watch on the spring pigs," says Dr. H. Preston Hoskins of the Minnesota Experiment Station. "Cholera frequently makes its appearance among pigs shortly after weaning time, especially where cholera existed on the premises the year previous. Sows that have been vaccinated and have survived an outbreak share their immunity with the young pigs as long as these are nursing, but when the pigs are taken away from the sows, and this protection is no longer afforded, the pigs take cholera very easily if exposed to any infection lingering on the premises from a previous outbreak."

"If signs of cholera make their appearance, make preparations to have the single treatment administered without delay. From fifteen to forty cubic centimeters of serum for each pig will be required. The amount depends upon the size and condition of the pigs."

SEVEN THOUSAND IN COMPETITIONS

Seven thousand boys and girls in Minnesota are taking part in some form of farm or home-making project this year. They are engaged in corn-growing, pig-raising, bread-making, gardening and canning, poultry, calf, and other contests. In the corn contest alone 3000 boys are enrolled. Among these are Roy Halverson, the 1914 champion, and Toga Anderson, the 1914 contestant who got the lowest yield, but who believes he can do better and is making the effort this year. Of girls engaged in bread-making there are 2000. More than 55 counties have already held bread-making "field days." Five hundred Minnesota boys and girls have entered the pork production contest.

All of this shows a tremendous interest on the part of Minnesota's coming farmers in learning the science of farming thoroughly.

PRUSSIC ACID IN SORGHUM

Many instances are on record of the poisoning of cattle from feeding on growing sorghum cane, and some of these cases have been definitely proved to be due to hydrocyanic acid which occurs in sorghum. As a result of this fact J. J. Willaman and R. M. West, assistant chemists at the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota, made a study of the hydrocyanic acid content of sorghum under Minnesota conditions. The results of this study were printed in the Journal of Agricultural Research in May. The article has now been printed in separate form and copies of this reprint may be had by addressing the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

ALFALFA MAY BE SOWN IN JULY

"With moisture and seed-bed conditions favorable, alfalfa may be sown to advantage in July without a nurse crop," says A. C. Army of the Minnesota Experiment Station. "Summer seeding may be done on summer-fallowed ground."

"For summer seeding the usual procedure is to disk the ground early in spring and then to use the disk and harrow often enough to keep the land mellow and free from weeds until July. If the weeds cannot be kept down with the harrow and disk, the land may be plowed and the disking and harrowing continued. Sowing the alfalfa seed without an accompanying grain crop in July, has given better results than sowing in the same way in June or earlier."

"This method has the disadvantage of requiring considerable work with no crop returns from the land for one season. However, a good stand of alfalfa is usually assured unless heavy rains, followed by hot sun and wind, come immediately after the seed is sown, and opportunity to clear the land from weeds is afforded."

"A modified summer-fallow method may be used to advantage in many instances, also. In this, after the cutting of peas and oats, oats or clover, for hay, in the latter part of June or early in July, the land is plowed at once. It is then disked once every week or ten days up to the last week in July, when the alfalfa seed is sown without a nurse crop. Again, early potatoes may be dug late in July and the land thoroughly disked in preparation for seeding to alfalfa. By either of these methods a crop is secured and a good stand of alfalfa obtained unless the season be an abnormally dry one. An early grain crop such as barley, rye, or early oats may also be removed and the land handled as outlined above. If alfalfa is sown following grain, it is important to plow very shallow, or to disk the land twice thoroughly, as soon as the grain crop is removed, so as to start the grain that has been left on the ground to growing. Time should be taken to germinate and destroy the volunteer grain before sowing the alfalfa, so that the grain may not crowd the young alfalfa plants. This method, however has not given such success as seeding after summer fallow or after an early hay crop has been removed. Seedings made after August first will result in fair or poor stands more often than seedings made in early spring or during July."

SUNLIGHT AS A GERM DESTROYER

Sunlight is nature's great germ-destroyer. It is the cheapest disinfectant at man's disposal and should be taken advantage of at every opportunity.

"In the construction of barns or shelters for any kind of animals," says H. Preston Hoskins of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, in Extension Bulletin No. 44, "ample provision should be made for the admission of the maximum amount of sunlight. A southern exposure is desirable; that is, an arrangement by which most of the windows face south. The warmth thus provided in cold weather is desirable and much of the heat of summer can be avoided by the use of curtains or screens."

"Most disease germs are entirely killed by direct sunlight. This has been repeatedly shown by experiments."

The farmer should bear this in mind in building his barn, stable, hog house, or poultry house.

SPRAYS KEEP FLIES FROM LIVE STOCK

Relief from attacks by flies may be brought to live stock on the farm by the use of sprays. The following spray is suggested in Extension Bulletin No. 43 on "Flies and Their Control," by F. L. Washburn, Entomologist of the Minnesota College of Agriculture.

Three parts of fish oil and one part kerosene.

The spraying is best done with a knapsack sprayer, and it takes only two or three minutes to spray a steer or horse. The spray appears to keep off all flies for two days.

RESEARCH PAPER REPRINTED

A paper by E. C. Stakman, head of the Section of Plant Pathology and Bacteriology of the Minnesota Experiment Station, on "The Relation Between Puccinia Graminis and Plants Highly Resistant to Its Attack," originally printed in the Journal of Agricultural Research, has been issued in separate form. Copies may be had by addressing the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

Bamboo poles make neat supports for dahlias, beans, etc. They can be purchased from seed houses or florists.