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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

September 1-8.

Now is a good time to set iris, peonies and rhubarb.

Apples, to keep well, must be picked and handled in such a way as not to bruise them.

To get white cauliflower heads, draw the leaves up over the head and tie them.

Grapes are sometimes kept in paper bags, a bag over each bunch, in a storage room.

High bush cranberry fruit makes excellent jelly. For that matter, so do some of the wild cherries.

The Whitney crab is a good canning sort. It is a straight, upright-growing tree. Good for a back yard in town or city.

Trim out old raspberry canes and thin the new shoots so that they do not crowd. Burn all these trimmings at once.

Squash should not be frosted before going into storage. They should be carefully handled and placed on shelves in a dry room.

Do not fail to grade all produce sold. Even potatoes bring a much better price when well graded than when small and large and all colors are placed in the same package. Neatness and cleanliness pay in marketing as well as other places.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

September 8-15.

Parsnips and salsify may be left in the ground over winter.

Store some cabbage for the poultry this winter. Chickens also like beets and mangels.

Late spading or plowing of the garden is excellent for next year's crop.

Cabbage may be wrapped in paper and placed on shelves or hung from the top of a root cellar.

Save all peas and beans that are not used green. They will be of use during the winter.

Store a few bundles of grain to put out during the winter for the birds.

Save all the garden produce this year. You cannot afford to allow any to go to waste. Somebody can use what you can't.

Celery is best blanched by placing clear dry dirt about the plants when they are dry. If the work is done when the soil or plants are wet they are very certain to decay.

Clean up the garden and burn all weeds and trash. You will destroy and make homeless many insects that had figured on eating your next year's crop.

Onions should not be allowed to become wet during harvest. It roughens their skin, making them unsightly. Store on shallow shelves and bins in a dry, well aired room.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

LATE BLIGHT IS A DANGER TO TUBERS

Danger from late blight of potatoes exists more especially in the northern half of the state, probably excepting the Red River valley. Some years, (notably those with cool, damp summers, as in 1915), the disease occurs over the southern half of Minnesota also. If the weather in late August and in September is moist, and cool at least part of the time, late blight may spread very rapidly.

Late blight appears as rapidly spreading spots on the leaves, water-soaked in damp weather and brownish or grayish brown in dry weather. The decaying leaves often give a characteristic odor to the field. The tubers, which are already set, begin to show a brownish rot which spreads in the field or storage.

Bordeaux mixture effectively controls the disease, especially if spraying is begun before the disease gets a foothold. Put four pounds of bluestone in a sack and hang it near the top of 25 gallons of water in a wooden barrel. Slack four pounds of lime slowly, then add enough water to make 25 gallons. Pour these two solutions together, stirring each, and have the two mix as much as possible in pouring. Use the mixture the day it is made. Stock solutions may also be employed.

Bordeaux results in an increase in yield even if late blight does not appear.

If the vines should be affected by late blight, digging should be delayed until the vines are all dead, so as to prevent as much as possible the infection of the tubers.—G. R. Bisby, Minnesota Experiment Station.

Seed Corn Time, the Patriot Farmer's Opportunity

MR. EDITOR:

From September 10 to 20 the farmers of Minnesota will have one of the greatest opportunities of the year to serve their country and to add to their own prosperity. September 10 to 20 is Seed Corn Time. By spending two days of the ten in picking and putting away, for next year's use, seed corn picked from the standing stalks in the field, every farmer who grows corn can add five bushels to his average acre-yield of corn. This will mean from 15,000,000 to 18,000,000 bushels more of corn as the state's contribution to the crop output. In this period of food shortage, this means more than most of us understand. Besides, it means from \$25 to \$50 a day for the farmer's time spent in picking the seed corn.

Will you help by seeing to it that the farmer does not forget that Seed Corn Time is approaching? We know you will. Items numbered 1, 2, and 3 published successively in the next three weeks would serve as reminders.

Yours for patriotism and prosperity,

EDITOR, University Farm Press News.

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR SEED POTATOES NOW

Now is the time to go through the potato field and remove diseased plants. If one has not a seed plot already, and intends to save seed from his field, it is advisable to select a good portion of the field and take particular care to remove wilted plants (those affected with blackleg, fusarium, etc.), as well as dwarfed plants and mixed varieties.

To secure vigorous, healthy potato plants, seed should be obtained from a strain that is uniformly healthy and robust. Clean storage should then be provided. Before planting the seed should be treated with corrosive sublimate, four ounces to 30 gallons of water. Only clean land, land that has had a three-year, or better, a four- or five-year rotation, should be planted to potatoes. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture may be advisable, particularly in the northern parts of the state. Seed plots should be established each year, which should receive special care and from which weak or diseased plants should be removed.—G. R. Bisby, Minnesota Experiment Station.

EXTENSION WORK IS SHOWN IN FIGURES

The annual report of the general extension division of the University of Minnesota for the year 1916 and 1917 has just been completed. It gives the following figures:

Evening extension classes, 3830 registrations by 2371 individuals.

Correspondence courses, 247 active students during the year; 110 courses completed.

Merchants' short course, 125 registrations.

Lecture and Lyceum department, courses in 136 towns; engagements filled, 654.

Commencement addresses, 29 towns. Patriotic addresses, 38 towns.

Lantern slides, number of schools served, 108; number of sets used, 343.

Municipal reference bureau, inquiries from 102 towns.

Drama service, number of towns served, 193; number of inquiries received, 353; number of plays sent for inspection, 1143.

NEW BULLETIN ON STORING ROOT CROPS

A bulletin giving definite directions for the storing of root crops prepared by W. W. Cumberland of the markets division of the State Committee of Food Production and Conservation will be ready for distribution in a few days by the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

This bulletin was prepared to serve as a guide to the many farmers and gardeners of Minnesota who may have a surplus of root crops to dispose of this fall. If the crop is all thrown upon the market at one time prices will be depressed, shipments will fall off and the crop in a measure will be wasted. On the other hand, if the crop, in part at least, is stored and placed upon the market gradually as there is demand for it, there will be no waste and those who have answered the call of the nation for crop production and conservation will receive a fair return for their labors.

Copies of the bulletin may be had by addressing the office of publications, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

HOME ECONOMICS COURSES Bulletin of Home Economics Department of Agricultural College Issued.

The bulletin of the home economics courses of the Department of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota for the school year 1917-18 has just been issued. Copies may be had by addressing the office of the secretary, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

HEALTH WORK FOR COUNTRY CHILDREN

Health work for rural children is commanding much attention in Minnesota counties. Four counties have engaged rural nurses to do school, tuberculosis, and baby-welfare work the year through. These are Goodhue, Ramsey, Renville and St. Louis. Commenting upon this work, Dr. I. J. Murphy of The Minnesota Public Health association, says:

"More than half of the children are attending rural schools; surveys conducted by this association show that country children are less healthy and are handicapped by more physical defects than children of the cities. For the children in the cities nurses, medical dispensaries, and dental clinics are available. Every county in Minnesota should provide at least a part time nurse for the rural schools. The county commissioners in several counties allow from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for health work the year through. In other counties from \$300 to \$1,000 is allowed for the employment of a nurse for a few months for an annual inspection."

FARMERS URGED TO SAVE LIVESTOCK

The farmers of northern Minnesota, who on account of the drought are short of roughage, are being urged by the State Food Committee not to sell their cows and heifers unless it is absolutely necessary.

An appeal is being made to them, by the livestock, the markets and the crops divisions of the State Food Committee to keep the livestock because the country needs it, and because the animals will be worth more later than they are now.

While these divisions understand the shortage of the roughages, they believe that much livestock can be saved if the farmers will:

Cut all hay possible.

Save corn fodder, stover and straw. Sow winter rye for a grain crop early, then use for fall and early spring pastures.

Get hay and straw from other parts of the state if need be.

Feed with the utmost care to avoid waste and if necessary borrow money with which to buy feeds.

The railroads have been asked to make special rates on forage shipped to the dry regions, and will doubtless comply.

IF YOU BURN STRAW YOU BURN MONEY

When timothy hay is selling at \$20 a ton, as it will be this winter, oats straw will be worth \$10 a ton as a feed, and wheat straw, \$7.50.

For this reason, the State Committee on Food Production and Conservation is sending out an urgent appeal to the farmers of the state not to burn their straw under any conditions. Farmers in northern Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana are short of roughage and are selling their livestock on that account. If they can get some of the surplus straw in more favored regions, they can save much of this livestock. Therefore, the farmers in favored sections are urged to save their straw in order that it may be shipped to points where it is needed. The railroads are being asked to give low freight rates on such shipments, and will doubtless comply.

One of the state's leading farmers said to a member of the committee the other day that "to burn straw this year was a crime."

CROP COMMITTEE URGES SEED SAVING

D. A. Wallace, chairman, and C. P. Bull, secretary of the crops division of the State Committee of Food Production and Conservation have issued an appeal to farmers and others to save seeds of the staple farm crops and of garden products for next year's planting.

The committee urges the saving of more of such seeds than are necessary for one year's sowing in order that a reserve stock may be on hand in case of a loss in next year's crop.

This stock, the committee says, need not be regarded as being withheld from the world's needs for as soon as the crop of 1918 is assured the surplus of seeds may be released.

Great care in the selection and grading of seed and also in the use of varieties known to be well adapted to the localities in which they are to be used is also emphasized. Farmers are cautioned against adopting new and highly advertised varieties without a knowledge of their adaptability or without the advice of the Minnesota College of Agriculture.

DIRECTORY FOR SWINE BREEDERS

A directory and sales list of the swine breeders of Minnesota is being prepared by R. C. Ashby, secretary-treasurer of the Minnesota Swine Breeders' association, University Farm, St. Paul. The work is being done in order to facilitate the bringing together of sellers and buyers of pure-bred hogs. The classification is by breeds and counties and will list the number of fall and spring pigs for sale in each herd. If space permits the breeding will also be given, and if public sales are planned the dates will be included. It is not expected that any charge will be made for this service.

In gathering the material for this directory, Mr. Ashby is also sending out requests for information with regard to the farrowing of spring litters in Minnesota. This information is for the use of the experiment station.

APPEALS TO SOUTHERN MINNESOTA FOR HELP

Because farmers in northern Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana are being forced to sacrifice their livestock on account of the drought and the shortage of forage, the State Committee on Food Production and Conservation is appealing to southern Minnesota farmers for assistance.

The committee is not asking the farmers of southern Minnesota to contribute to the aid of their less fortunate northern brothers, but is asking them to save every ounce of straw and hay for purchase and shipment by farmers in the drought-stricken regions. Members of the committee say that oats straw will be worth \$10, and wheat straw \$7.50 a ton for feed this winter, and that every particle of it should be saved to meet the need of those who have breeding stock they may wish to save.

The committee is appealing to the southern Minnesota farmers to assist also by saving corn stover, by planting fall rye for pastures and putting up unusual amounts of silage, in order that they may have extra feed with which to take care of cows and heifers bought from among those that have been placed on the market by farmers in the drought regions. The committeemen say that such feeding will give a profit, on account of the increasing home demand for breeding stock next year, and on account of the demand for breeding stock for delivery in Europe after the war.

The situation is very grave and merchants, bankers and all interests are urged to get behind the farmers and help.

YOUR COUNTRY ASKS THAT YOU PICK SEED CORN

No. 1.

From September 10 to 20, the farmers of Minnesota will have one of the greatest opportunities of the year to serve their country on their farms, says A. D. Wilson, chairman of the State Committee of Food Production and Conservation:

September 10 to 20 is Seed Corn Time. By spending two days of these ten in picking and putting away for next year's use seed corn, taken from the standing stalks in the field, every farmer who grows corn can add five bushels to his average acre yield next year. This will mean for Minnesota from 15,000,000 to 18,000,000 bushels more of corn as a contribution to the world's food supply. Moreover, it will mean to the farmer from \$25 to \$50 a day for the time he spends in picking seed corn.

HOW YOU CAN EARN \$25 OR \$50 A DAY

No. 2.

The farmer who grows corn in Minnesota can earn from \$25 to \$50 a day by picking seed corn from the standing stalks in his corn fields during Seed Corn Time, from September 10 to 20, says A. D. Wilson, University Farm, chairman of the State Committee of Food Production and Conservation. Seed corn picked at that time will increase his acre-yield 5 bushels an acre. On 20 acres this means 100 bushels of corn, which at a normal price will give him from \$25 to \$50 additional income from his corn crop.

There Is a Reason.

By selecting seed corn during Seed Corn Time one gets seed that will mature in normal years. Seed corn so selected has a chance to dry before freezing weather. It will not be injured by freezing during the winter. By selecting from standing stalks in the field one has a chance to consider the character of the stalks and the hills.

What and How to Select.

At least 50 ears should be selected for every acre to be planted next year. The seed should be of a variety successfully grown in the locality for some time.

The ears should be medium sized, nearly as large at the tip as at the butt with straight rows of uniform kernels, and not more than 16 or 18 rows to the ear.

The kernels should fill all the space on the cob and should be about half again as broad at the tip as at the cap. They should be neither light and chaffy, nor flinty.

CURING SEED CORN A PATRIOTIC DUTY

NO. 3.

The selection and curing of seed corn is a patriotic duty this year, says A. D. Wilson, University Farm, chairman of the State Committee on Food Production and Conservation.

Mr. Wilson gives the following rules for the storing of seed corn:

Dry every night the corn brought in during the day from the field.

It should be stored for the winter in the house attic or in an unused second-story room where there is a good circulation of air, though a cellar in which there is a heating plant may be used.

It should be hung up in such a manner that the air may circulate freely about each ear, in order that the drying process may be hastened and freezing prevented before the ears are thoroughly dry.

To secure the best results the corn may be placed on a corn tree, hung up by the single or double string method, placed on a hanger made of electric-welded wire cut so that from a vertical central wire short prongs protrude, or else placed on racks made of 2x4's with chicken wire netting or laths nailed to both sides, so that the ears of corn may be put through the meshes of the wire or laid across the edges of the laths.

PREPARING ROOT CROPS FOR MARKET

As the condition in which root crops are placed upon the market has much to do with the price received by the producer, W. W. Cumberland of the markets division of the State Committee of Food Production and Conservation has prepared a small bulletin on the preparation of perishable products for the market. This bulletin is based upon the actual experiences of successful producers and should prove very valuable to persons interested in the marketing of potatoes and similar crops.

Copies of this bulletin may be had by addressing the office of publications, University Farm, St. Paul.