

## UNIVERSITY FARM PRESS NEWS

Published Semi-Monthly by the University of Minnesota, Department of Agriculture, Extension Division.

VOL. V

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL, MINN., NOVEMBER 1, 1914

NO. 21

Entered as Second class matter January 15, 1910, at the postoffice at St. Paul, Minn., under the Act of July 16, 1891.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

November 15-22

Oak leaves and chrysanthemums make a very effective decoration in a large room.

Good bulbs have been cheap this year and should be used more for winter flowers and plants.

Hyacinths are among the best potted bulbs. Put one in a four-inch pot, or two or three in a six-inch pot.

Flowering shrubs are more useful about the home yard than annuals or perennials, as they do not require so much care.

Now is a good time to give the garden its final cleaning. A clean garden now means fewer insects next spring.

Some of the berried shrubs, such as barberry and wahoo, make good bouquet material now, if they have plenty of berries.

Ferns should be looked after closely now. They should not become too dry or too wet. The air of most living rooms is too dry for the best development of the fern.

One can have lots of fun growing bulbs in the house. They should be started early in September, although a planting as late as this will often give good results.

Do not follow the easterner's advice to plant in the fall. Paeonies and iris may well be planted in the fall. Other things do better if planted in the spring.

Some of the small pompon chrysanthemums make excellent house plants early in the fall. Cuttings may be taken in February or March and rooted and grown in a cool place until the middle of May, when they may be planted in the garden. Take up and put in pots or boxes about the last of August. Set the pots in a cool shady place a few days and they will recover quickly.

The annual winter meeting of the State Horticultural society will be held at University Farm, December 1, 2, 3, and 4. The meetings will be held in the auditorium and the exhibit will be staged in one of the main building class rooms. Dean R. L. Watts, of Pennsylvania State College, and Prof. Wilhelm Miller, of Illinois, are two of the outside speakers on the program.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

## ORCHARD AND GARDEN NOTES

November 22-29

Mulching of the shrubbery may be done at any time now.

Snapdragons make good potted plants for a while, if lifted in the fall.

Go over the house plants and ferns and remove all scale insects. Soap suds is good to use.

Now is a good time to clear out fence corners and burn the trash and brush found there.

Corn fodder or boards tied on the south side of apple or basswood trees will protect from sunscald. Do it now.

Strawberries should be covered with from four to six inches of clean straw to protect them through the winter.

Pansies covered with straw or leaves will often live through the winter in good order, ready to bloom in the spring.

As soon as the ground is frozen, it is well to put four or five inches of manure over the tulip bed.

Do not feed chrysanthemums after the buds begin to show color. Keep a sharp lookout for insects.

A few winter hours may be put in making simple bird houses for next summer's use. Wrens are good musicians. Make them welcome.

Roses, Canterbury bells, foxgloves, etc., may be covered with straw and a board frame to shed water. Water should not be allowed to settle about them or in their foliage.

Large shade trees may be moved at this time of year if care is used in packing the soil well about the roots and in using enough water to keep them from drying out.

See that all weeds, grass, and leaves are removed from around the apple trees. This sort of trash makes a good home for mice and they like the green bark of apple trees.—LeRoy Cady, Associate Horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

## MOTHERS TO STUDY SCHOOL SANITATION

"The sanitary condition of Minnesota schools is to be studied this winter by the mothers of the children who attend them, if the plan of the Women's Federation is carried out," says Dr. H. W. Hill, of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "There are 8,000 schools in Minnesota and every one of the 200,000 mothers in Minnesota is interested in their condition. The subcommittee on child hygiene is organizing the investigation, in cooperation with the Minnesota Public Health Association and will enlist the cooperation of the women of the farmer's clubs. Two thirds of the child population of Minnesota is rural and their schools deserve every bit as much attention as those in the larger communities. This

## FEAR BLOCKS ACTION

"But little is accomplished, because but little is vigorously attempted; and but little is attempted, because difficulties are magnified. A timorously cautious spirit, so far from acting with resolution, will never think itself in possession of the preliminaries for acting at all. Perhaps perseverance has been the radical principle of every truly great character."—J. Foster.

investigation of the schools is preliminary to a still more extensive investigation in which every mother in Minnesota will be asked to take part. This will take the form of a health census of the 500,000 children who are attending school and will be conducted next spring."

## PREVENTORIUM TO STAY TUBERCULOSIS

"Two thirds of Minnesotans who live with consumptives become infected," declares Dr. H. W. Hill, of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "This sounds bad, but it is true everywhere, not in Minnesota only. Dr. H. G. Lamson, of the State's board of health, after investigations in many homes where consumption existed, found 66 per cent and upward of the other members of the family infected after one year's association with the consumptive member. The only remedy is to remove the consumptive to a sanatorium as early as possible after the disease develops. This eliminates danger to the rest of the family and at the same time gives the patient the very best chance for recovery.

"What should be done for the other members not consumptive but already carrying the seeds of the disease? The 'preventorium' is one answer, and a good one. A preventorium is an auxiliary to the county sanatorium, to which may go such members of consumptive families, especially children, as are threatened with the disease, but have not yet developed serious symptoms. It is a splendid scheme for saving individual lives and preventing further development of the disease in those who are already infected."

## MINNESOTA WELLS GENERALLY SAFE

"That there is little disease from well water in Minnesota is now well established," says Dr. H. W. Hill, of the Minnesota Public Health Association. "Well water has always been looked on with suspicion, but unnecessarily so in this State. The reason is that most of the wells of Minnesota are sunk in clay or in sand, and infectious material deposited on the surface does not pass through clay or sand in such condition as to poison the water. Clay is largely impervious to the germs of disease, and sand will filter most of them out. Thus wells sunk in these soils are practically safe. In limestone soils, the crevices between the limestone layers sometimes form direct open channels along which infectious material from out-door closets or cesspools may travel directly, just as it might through a pipe. Such soils are not common in Minnesota and infection from a well polluted through the soil is rare. This does not make infection impossible, however, and occasionally wells become tainted by direct over-flow along the surface or through forgotten underground pipes."

A few geranium plants in a living room brighten it up a great deal. Are there any in your home?

Many ornamental grasses make good bouquets, especially if a branch from some bright berried shrub is used with them.

## COTTONSEED MEAL CHEAP THIS YEAR

The cheapness of cottonseed meal, on account of the European war, which has caused a decline in exports, is a matter of interest to cattle-feeders, says H. R. Smith, of the Animal Husbandry division, Minnesota College of Agriculture.

Several experiments in feeding cattle for beef, in which cottonseed meal has been compared with other protein concentrates, have been conducted by Mr. Smith. Of these he says:

"The cottonseed meal proved to be equivalent to linseed meal (oil meal) in feeding value and practically double that of wheat bran. The meal is very high in protein and is especially valuable as a supplementary feed when corn or barley predominate in the ration, with roughage other than clover or alfalfa. It has been fed with excellent success in connection with corn and corn silage, and seems to offset in some degree the laxative effects of the latter. From one to four pounds of cottonseed meal a day, fed to each steer, will make a well-balanced ration with corn, barley, and any roughage except clover and alfalfa. With either clover or alfalfa, which are relatively high in protein, the cottonseed meal should be reduced about half.

"With cottonseed meal abnormally low in price this year, it will pay to use the larger quantity suggested. Linseed meal, however, is equally valuable, and should be purchased if it can be had at a lower price than cottonseed meal.

## THE PRESS NEWS WILL RECIPROCATE

The newspapers of Minnesota have clipped generously from the columns of the University Farm Press News. The Press News is going to reciprocate. Of course, with the limited space at its command, it cannot clip very largely, but when it finds something good, especially something with an agricultural turn, it will pass it on. When you have something of the kind mentioned, therefore, send the Press News a marked copy, or else put the Press News on your exchange list.

## IDEAS FOR FARMERS' CLUB MEETINGS

The University Farm Press News hereafter will endeavor to give in each issue suggestions for discussion at farmers' club meetings. The hope is that editors will use these suggestions freely as hints for farmers' clubs in their neighborhoods. It is neither the intention nor the wish to have such suggestions take the place of programs offered in Minnesota's valuable agricultural journals, but rather to supplement these, on the theory that interest in such matters will increase if club officers can have as large a field as possible from which to select.

## The Farm Home

The problem of building and equipping a farm home is not at all a simple one. Too often the farm home is built without much thought of the conveniences. Why not discuss the essentials of a good farm home? Some valuable suggestions may be found in Extension Bulletin No. 52, University Farm, which may be had by dropping a postal card to the Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

## Good Health

If war must be made, why not make it on disease? The country is usually regarded as the most healthful of places to live in, but it has its typhoid, pneumonia, tuberculosis, etc. How combat these scourges? Call in the neighborhood physician to tell of prevention methods, or write to the Minnesota Public Health Association for material on which to base a general discussion.

## "HEALTH WEEK" TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 29

The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis is asking that the week beginning November 29 be devoted to tuberculosis. The State Federation of Women's Clubs, meeting in Rochester recently, approved the setting aside of a week for special attention to general health problems. The State Board of Health, recognizing the importance of such a week, and acting in cooperation with the State Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Minnesota Public Health Association, has requested Gov. A. O. Eberhart to set aside the same week. The clergy throughout the State, mayors of municipalities, civic and commerce associations, boards of health, departments of education, and other local organizations are urged to cooperate.

## NEW DRAMA TRIED AT FARM COLLEGE

"The Booster", a drama, by Marjorie Mortland, setting forth a clash between an awakening community spirit and deeply rooted selfish interests, was presented for purposes of criticism and revision recently at the Minnesota College of Agriculture. It was well received, no doubt in part because it was presented by students of the College to an audience made up largely of college students, but, no doubt also, because it set forth in pleasing manner the triumph of the right over the wrong attitude of citizenship.

Such a theme as that involved does not lend itself so readily as some others to dramatic action; at least, in a presentation within the reach of amateur performances. As a result, there was

## MULTIPLIED POWER

## Editors:

The items in the University Farm Press News are intended to contain something of knowledge, of a knowledge that is of use in promoting the State's prosperity. Such knowledge is power. By reprinting items from the Press News, therefore, you multiply the power by just the number of your readers. Multiply power—and prosperity! It's a great game!

a lack of deeds, and, possibly, some surplus of words. Consequently there was an absence of tension as the situations developed. Nevertheless the point desired was made, and well made and with the revisions, to be made, the play should become a good force for the spread of the community spirit when it is booked for presentation elsewhere in the State.

The story of the play is very simple. In Park Center there are several progressive citizens who wish to see the town wake up; get a modern school building and equipment, for example. Opposition develops among a group of tight-fisted pessimists, who regard an increase in taxes as the final catastrophe. The boosters work away and get a bond issue for a new school before the people. The vote goes their way. A new order is ushered in. Then comes the conversion of the opponents. The community spirit dispels pessimism, and Park Center awake proves an infinitely better place to make one's home than Park Center asleep had been.

There are few towns in Minnesota that would prefer to be listed with the Park Centers asleep.

## NEW OPPORTUNITY IN SEED POTATOES

For good, disease-free seed potatoes there is an almost unlimited market. The College of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, last summer carried on a series of experiments in the production of such potatoes, and succeeded in reducing the prevalence of disease from five to one per cent. By following similar methods, Minnesota potato-growers can put upon the market seed potatoes of extra quality, and find a ready sale for them at good prices.

Potato wilt, or fusarium, is one of the worst potato diseases found in Minnesota. It causes the premature death of the vines and often is responsible for a greatly reduced yield. To discover methods of combatting this disease, a dozen farms in the Red River valley, famous for its potatoes, were selected for special tests. Only good potatoes, free from disease, were chosen, and these were disinfected in a solution of corrosive sublimate—four ounces to thirty gallons of water—before they were put into the ground. The work was all done under the direct supervision of representatives of the College of Agriculture. The results were as stated in the foregoing. Quality of the yield was high and disease was almost eliminated.

The common scab and stem-rot, rhizoctonia, may be eliminated in much the same manner as the wilt. Blackleg can be prevented by using good seed and treating them with formaldehyde—one pint to thirty gallons of water. Early blight may be controlled by spraying with a fungicide, such as the Bordeaux mixture.

Careful rotation of crops, of course, is necessary always.

By keeping these things in mind, Minnesota potato-growers can do much to build up the reputation of Minnesota's seed potatoes and enable them to command premium prices in the markets of the country.

Annuals and perennials should be freely used in the garden to supply the summer's cut flowers.

## SELECTED SEED MEAN DOLLARS IN THE POCKET

Selected seed grains give materially larger yields than do the unselected. Plump, heavy kernels, that is, will bring larger returns than light, shriveled kernels. This has been proved again and again, at the Minnesota Experiment Station and at similar stations elsewhere. If anyone doubts the truth of the assertion, to be convinced he has but to read Extension Bulletin No. 26, issued by the Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota.

Bulletin No. 26, prepared by Andrew Boss and C. P. Bull, of the Agronomy Division, is as a good as short course in seed-grain selection. From it one gathers that a little spare time spent in the course of the winter in the selection of seed grain will assure a larger crop of better quality the following summer than can be secured if the "leavings" in the grain bins in the spring are depended upon for seed.

To emphasize the point, here are a few facts. At the Nebraska Experiment Station in 1900 plots were sown with heavy and light seed wheat. The heavy wheat gave a yield of 29.5 bushels to the acre. The light gave only 23 bushels to the acre. The next year a similar experiment was tried with the score 29.3 bushels to 26.7, in favor of the heavy seed. Similar experiments with heavy and light oats, in Minnesota, were in favor of the heavy oats by a margin of 9½ bushels to the acre. Again, heavy wheat gave a yield 36 per cent larger than light wheat.

The selection of seed grains is different from that of corn. Corn is selected from the standing stalks in the field. The small grains are selected with the aid of the fanning-mill. The aim is to get both size and weight. "The average farm fanning-mill will handle about forty bushels an hour," says Bulletin No. 26. "At this rate in eight hours two men can clean 320 bushels. This will make the cost something less than one cent a bushel.\*\*\* Suppose a mill is set to take out 10 per cent of the best seed. Ten per cent of 320 bushels is 32 bushels. These 32 bushels will be free from weed seed and will contain the best breeding individuals in the grain. It will cost in labor from five to ten cents a bushel. One bushel an acre increase in yield will pay for this labor and leave a very handsome profit." Any additional gain in yield and improvement in quality will be simply a bonus for a little care.

For a rainy day this fall a little exercise at the fanning-mill would pay handsomely. When the rain patters on the roof in the early morning again, it will be saying: "Select your seed grain. Do it now!"

## 140 ASSOCIATIONS SHIP LIVE STOCK

Minnesota has 140 cooperative live stock shipping associations, four times as many as any other state in the Union. They are united by a central organization and return to the members from 5 to 10 per cent more money than they received under the old system of selling to local merchants or field buyers for the big houses. The figures given were obtained from W. A. McKerron, a member of the Extension Division staff of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, and Secretary of the Minnesota Live Stock Shippers' Association.

"The first association, formed at Litchfield in 1908, has shown a steady annual increase of business," says Mr. McKerron. "For the first six months of this year the receipts were more than \$165,000, only \$16,544 less than the total for 1912. While a few years ago farmers from only five or six miles away hauled their live stock to Litchfield, now men from twenty miles away avail themselves of the services of the Litchfield association rather than sell to local buyers. The Extension Division of the College of Agriculture stands ready to assist other communities in founding similar organizations, and will furnish on request a model constitution and by-laws."

Such organizations require no investment and are easily formed. The stock of each shipper is marked, and within a few days after shipment a check comes back for the full price of the animals less hauling and selling charges. By this plan the small shipper gets just as good rates as the man with large shipments.

Late varieties of chrysanthemums should be at their best now.

The hardy gaillardia has been one of the most attractive fall flowers of the garden.

If the ground is not frozen too deep, tulips may be planted or paeonies set out.