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ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 15 to 22

Cions must be cut now before any bud growth starts. Don't let plants become spindling. Thin them and give plenty of air. Don't be in a hurry to get the covering off the strawberries, perennials, etc. It will not pay to put good seed in cold wet ground. Better wait till the ground is warm and dry. Paper pots, either made at home or purchased, are very useful in hastening the garden and flower season. Plant a good strawberry bed this spring. Autumn-bearing sorts will give you fruit this fall. Spring-bearing will fruit next spring. Cold, wet land is sometimes ridged to advantage for early crops. This gets rid of some of the moisture and the south side of the ridge warms up and dries out quicker than the north side or level ground. The beginning gardener should confine himself to a few good varieties. The veteran gardener should try one or two new things each year. The garden seed situation is such that we must not only make every seed count this year, but it would be well to try to grow some seeds at home for next year's planting. Plant well selected roots of carrot, beets, etc., and also make careful selections of seed plants during the growing season of both annual and biennial plants.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ORCHARD AND GARDEN

March 22 to 29

Get manure. Use a liberal amount this year. Prune the orchard now. Late this month, or early next, top-grafting may be done. It will soon be spraying time. Is the machinery and material all ready? It should be. Rhubarb growth may be hurried along by putting a box with a glass roof over it. It is more important that the ground be well prepared and in good condition than that the crop be planted early. Hotbeds should be in good working order now, manufacturing food for use late in winter or early spring. Onion, radish, lettuce, peppergrass, and spinach seeds should be sown as soon as the land can be easily worked. Onion sets should be planted early. Raise enough vegetables for home use during the entire year of 1918-19. This will reduce the need of shipping from one locality to another and release cars for other work. Radish seed put in the row with parsnips, onions and other slow growing sorts mark the row for early cultivation because they come up quickly. Pruning may be done now to good advantage. Cut out dead wood. Thin the crossing branches and cut out entirely crowding or unproductive trees or shrubs. Burn all the clippings immediately. Grow plenty of flowers in the garden to supply the home during the summer and fall. Select a list that will give a succession of bloom.—LeRoy Cady, associate horticulturist, University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota.

SYSTEM PAYS IN MAKING GARDENS

In a bulletin issued by the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota, a plan for a unit garden a square rod in size is suggested. The plan for the unit is seen in the following:

Table with 2 columns: Row No., Inches between rows. Rows include Radish and carrots followed by tomatoes, Early peas, Lettuce followed by tomatoes, etc.

This means that a square garden will provide for 12 rows of vegetables, the rows separated by the number of inches indicated in the column to the right. If a larger garden is desired two rows of the different vegetables, or rows of other vegetables not indicated, may be included.

A more complete table dealing with practically all of the vegetables that the average gardener will care to plant is found in the bulletin. Copies of this bulletin, Special No. 11, may be had by addressing Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

UNCLE SAM ASKS FOR LARGER WHEAT AREA

The United States government has issued an urgent appeal to the farmers of the northwest to increase their spring wheat acreages this spring in order to meet one of the most vital needs of the nation in connection with the war for liberty and human freedom now being waged in Europe. The appeal is to their patriotism.

With the call for a larger acreage goes the call also for thorough preparation of the seed bed, the selection of the best seed possible, and the treatment of seed to prevent losses through plant diseases.

The department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota stands ready to cooperate in every way possible by the distribution of bulletins, through the services of the state seed laboratory at University Farm, St. Paul, or through its many other departments.

WHY WHEAT APPEARS YEAR'S SAFEST CROP

Wheat looks like the most surely profitable grain crop this year.

The high price of oats and barley at the present time, however, may bring an increased acreage of those crops at the expense of the wheat crop.

Farmers, therefore, will do well to consider the possibilities of profit from these crops before changing the acreage materially.

The average yield of wheat in Minnesota for the last ten-year period was 13 1/2 bushels an acre. At \$2 a bushel, which is about the price that the average Minnesota farmer can expect for next year's crop, this would bring a return of \$27 an acre.

The average yield of oats for the same period was 30.8 bushels. To bring \$27 an acre oats would need to sell at \$1.14 a bushel. While oats are bringing something over 80 cents now, and barley is much higher than \$1.14, it is not probable that these prices will be maintained if a normal crop of the small grains is secured, especially if corn should prove to be a good crop. That is why wheat looks like the most surely profitable grain crop.

Barley and oats must compete with corn as a feed crop. Farmers will prefer to feed corn if it is available. The consequences will be that barley and oats will shrink in price more quickly than wheat, since the price of wheat is fixed at \$2.20 in Chicago. Corn probably would be a keener competitor for wheat than the small grains were it not for the seed shortage. If this is overcome corn may yet crowd wheat for the increased acreage. The average state yield of corn for the ten-year period is 32.3 bushels per acre. To bring as much as an acre of wheat, corn must sell at \$3.6 cents a bushel. With livestock at present prices it is likely that it will sell for as much as that, even though a normal crop is secured.—Andrew Boss, Vice Director, Minnesota Experiment Station.

FREE BULLETINS FOR THE WAR GARDENER

The federal government is calling on the people of the nation to plant war gardens this spring and to make plans for them now. As a means of aiding the people of Minnesota to meet this call on the part of the government, the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota has ready a special bulletin to serve as a guide to systematic gardening.

Copy of this bulletin may be had free by addressing Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

BURN WOOD FOR FUEL IN SPRING

Wood burned part of the time is cheaper than coal burned all of the time. In the spring and fall wood will make a quick fire and take the chill and dampness out of the house and do it cheaper than coal. Wood burns with no waste such as cinders and cinders. In the kitchen it will make a hot, quick fire at the time needed and not heat up the house like a fire made of coal.

Hoover says that a shovel full of coal is equivalent in value to half a loaf of bread. Burn wood and save coal. Our country needs the coal to carry on the war. "Keep the home fires burning" with wood.—Information Committee, Minnesota Fuel Administration.

KILL BARBERRY SAVE THE WHEAT

The stem rust of wheat and other cereals passes one stage of its existence on the common barberry, though not on the Japanese barberry. In the early spring the rust passes to the common barberry and then does not spread from barberry to barberry, but spreads from barberry to wild grasses and then to cereals or directly from barbaries to the cereals, if they happen to be growing near.

Stem rust has been so much reduced in Denmark by the eradication of the barberry that it does not seem to be a factor in grain-growing at all.

All farmers, therefore, should take out and burn barberry bushes before the buds unfold in the spring. Even the barberries in cities may have an effect on wheat rust. These should ultimately be removed and destroyed also.

Remember it is only the common barberry, including the purple-leaved variety, which is dangerous. The Japanese or small-leaved variety is harmless.—E. C. Stakman, Minnesota Experiment Station.

HORSES NEED MORE CARE THIS SPRING

Many farm horses have been wintered rather poorly this winter because of the feed shortage and high prices. They must now be prepared for an unusually hard spring's work.

Horses which have been wintered on roughage should be started now on a small daily grain ration and gradually brought back to a full working ration. If possible they should be started on light work or worked half a day at a time until they get hardened.

The shoulders should be washed daily with salt water when the collar is removed, to avoid shoulder galls and to toughen the skin. It is well also to wash the collar with a damp cloth when it is removed from the shoulder.

Begin now to get the horses and horse equipment ready for the spring work.—J. S. Montgomery, University Farm, St. Paul.

JUNIOR SHORT COURSE AT CROOKSTON SCHOOL

C. G. Selvig, superintendent of the Northwest Agricultural School at Crookston, announces the junior short course which will be held the week of April 1. This corresponds to boys' and girls' week at the University Farm, St. Paul. A similar course will be held at the West Central School at Morris the same week.

Buy flower seeds now. Some of them should be planted at once.

SMUTS HELP HUNS \$4,000,000 WORTH

Smuts of grains cause an annual loss in Minnesota of at least \$4,000,000, and that means that in these war times they help the enemies of liberty to just that extent.

As a means of aiding the farmers in combating the inroads of grain smuts the agricultural extension division of the University of Minnesota has published Special Bulletin 16, "Prevention of Smuts." This bulletin tells what the smuts are and how to combat them.

Copies may be had without cost by addressing Office of Publications, University Farm, St. Paul.

SEED GRAIN TESTS ARE EASILY MADE

Large seeds, such as corn, beans, and peas, germinate most successfully between moist folds of Canton flannel, while medium-sized seeds, such as wheat, oats, clover, and alfalfa, germinate best between moist folds of blotting paper. The very small seeds, such as timothy, red top, alsike, and white clover can be most successfully germinated on top of moist blotters.

To make a germination test, two ordinary plates may be used. The cloths or blotters should be dipped in lukewarm water and spread upon one of the plates. One hundred seeds should be counted from the sample which is to be tested, and placed between cloths or blotters on the kind of seed to be tested. The plates should be kept in a room at ordinary temperature, from 68 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

The total count of the sprouts at the end of the sixth day will indicate the value of the grain for seed. If 90 or 95 seeds grow, the germination is good; but below 90 the value of the grain for seed is doubtful.

FIGHT IN FURROW IF NOT IN TRENCH

If soldiers are willing to serve in the trenches, to dig ditches, build railroads, and risk their lives, many civilians can well afford to spare a part of their time to serve in the furrows and in the harvest fields.—Secretary of Agriculture.

THE EDITOR'S OWN CORNER

SUMMER NEWSPAPER COURSE

The courses in newspaper work to be offered at the summer session of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota this summer will cover a period of six weeks—from June 24 to August 2—and not of ten weeks as indicated in the last issue of the Press News. There will be two courses, a course in writing for the press and a course in newspaper management. The course in writing for the press will consist of lectures, practice, and conferences on the work of the reporter or the correspondent. The practice work will consist of reporting assignments on a weekly newspaper published at University Farm. Every news story handed in will be discussed with the writer. The work in newspaper management will deal in some detail with the problems which arise in the direction of the rural newspaper. Attention will be given to the gathering and presentation

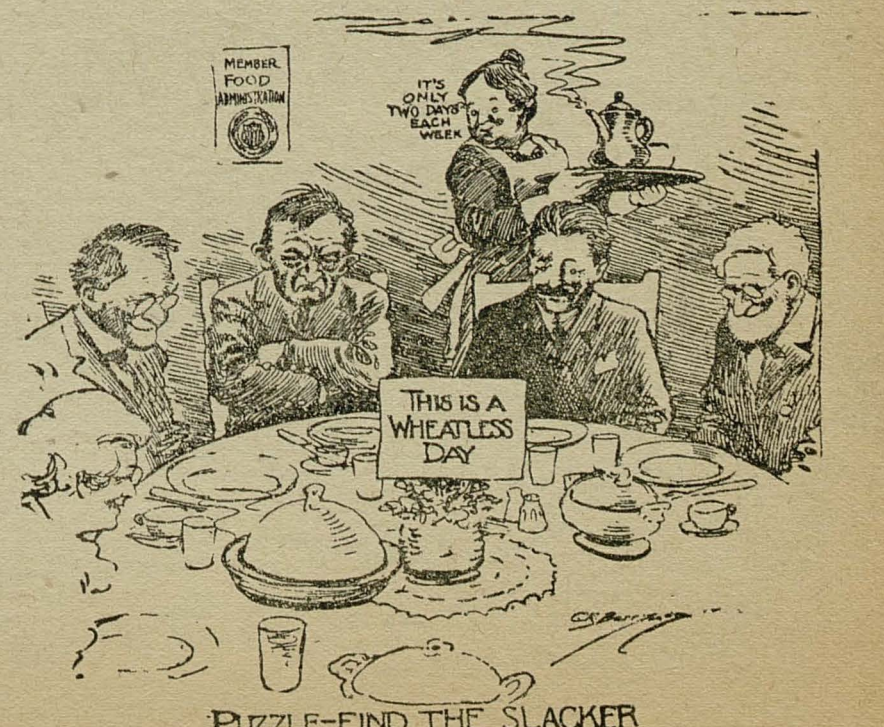
of news, advertising and circulation problems, county correspondence, make-up, and editorial policy. The course will be made practical through laboratory work on the paper published at University Farm.

"HOOVERIZED" ADVERTISING

L. K. Davis in Printers' Ink for February 28 makes a plea for Hooverized advertising. By Hooverized advertising he means "ads" which are free from non-essentials and typographically as easy as possible on ad-tired eyes and brains.

The best ad is the ad that gets its idea across with the least effort on the part of the reader. This means that the first thing told should be the article for sale; the next thing, its advantages, and the next, where it may be obtained. An ad which tells these things clearly and convincingly leaves little to be desired.

BROWN COUNTY JOURNAL front page with various news items and advertisements.



Attractive front-page make-up. Not the page which won the front-page make-up contest at the recent editors' short course, however.

Plates for food conservation cartoons like that above may be had without expense by addressing M. J. McGowan, Information Director, Food Administration, University Farm, St. Paul.