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The
Prairie Garden

1957

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FOREWORD

J. P. De Wet - President

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society is proud to present our 1957 Horticultural Annual, which this year we have more appropriately re-named "The Prairie Garden".

We dedicate this book to Western Canadian Horticulture and offer to garden lovers from the Great Lakes to the Canadian Rockies, the only current publication supplying informative and interesting articles, by Western Canadian horticultural experts and successful amateur gardeners, on all phases of horticulture strictly under our western growing conditions.

The success of our publication has proven its need. In 1956, we distributed 3,000 books. In 1957, our demand has grown to 5,000 books. We are happy to do our part in assembling and passing on this information to our many readers.

To the Horticultural Society and Garden Clubs in Western Canada, we stress the value of The Prairie Garden both to the Society as a membership premium and to the increased horticultural knowledge of their members.

We wish to thank our contributors for the excellent information they have supplied us. We also wish to express our appreciation to our advertisers, our donors, and all the others who made this book possible. Our thanks also to Mr. A. R. Brown, CBC's Prairie Garden, for his valuable assistance in bringing "The Prairie Garden" to the attention of his listeners over his Sunday morning broadcasts.

To all fellow horticulturist we express our wish for a year of happy and successful gardening.

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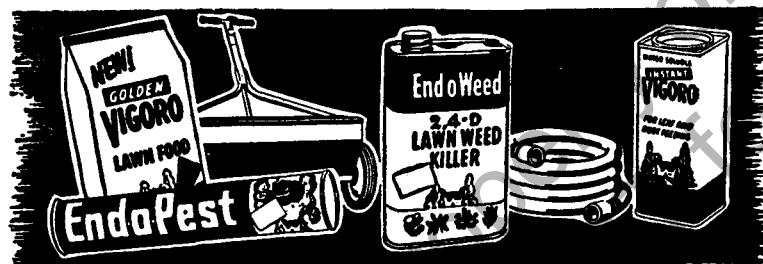
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Our Front Cover is the gladiolus garden grown by the President of the Canadian Gladiolus Society, Mr. E. L. Lawrence, at Lillyfield, Manitoba.

Photo by R. C. BROWN

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Green Grows My Garden

by A. R. BROWN

CBC's Prairie Gardener

If Canada is to become a great nation and an important leader in the world of tomorrow, we'll have to do more than sing "O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!" Developing great material wealth won't do it either. We must have spiritual strength for the task. It is attitudes, principles and ideals that make a nation strong and that give it quality, direction and a soul.

That is why I claim that gardening can be a vital force in nation building. It's more than a job, more than a hobby . . . it's an important factor in making interesting and beautiful home surroundings. And it's in homes and home surroundings that attitudes, ideals, outlooks and character can be built into the lives of children during their most formative years.

The family is the basic unit in any society. How the family lives, what they're interested in doing, how they work together as a group, the ideas and ideals they formulate, what they think and feel, determines the quality of the family and in turn, the quality of the community and of the nation.

Gardening is essentially a search for order, truth, beauty and goodness in living, and as such may be a potent agency in the development of reliable and worthy citizens.

One of the most interesting changes in the last ten years has been the building of suburban communities, new subdivisions around the outside of our cities and towns, places where each family may have beautiful home grounds, space in which to garden and room for outdoor living.

This demand for country living seems to be more or less universal. Given the opportunity, most families have a desire to have enough land for grass, trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, fresh air and sunshine. They want scope for creative gardening adventures.

This is significant. Families are searching for a sounder way of life closer to the good earth, and for a chance to work and play in the great outdoors.

If children are to become effective members of the family group, they must be trained in activities that use their time and services in the home environment. They cannot learn to be

good homemakers if they only use the home as a place to sleep and eat.

When children help dad plant a tree or mother plant a group of perennials, they are sharing in an important phase of home activity. They are establishing stronger bonds between themselves and the place they call home . . . Gardening helps to knit the family together and to make it a stronger unit in the community. You have to build families before you can build first-rate communities.

Every good gardener is an artist of sorts, painting landscapes for his family and neighbors to admire and enjoy. Gardening for beauty is one of the oldest arts and probably antedates most of our other artistic efforts.

You may suggest that it is the artist who makes the garden, and not the garden that makes the artist. Perhaps you are right, but my guess is that they develop side by side. Gardening gives us the inspiration as well as the opportunity to pursue our search for the beautiful.



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Prune Your Apple Tree

by C. R. URE, Experimental Farm, Morden, Manitoba.

Proper pruning of your apple tree is not difficult but it is an essential part of successfully growing good apples and crabapples. The objectives sought through pruning are several. These include shaping the tree to adapt it to local climatic conditions and to produce a structurally strong tree that can carry a heavy load of fruit without breakage; to remove dead, broken or diseased wood and crossing branches; to influence production and quality of fruits; and to balance the top with the root at planting time. Other considerations will become apparent during the discussion.

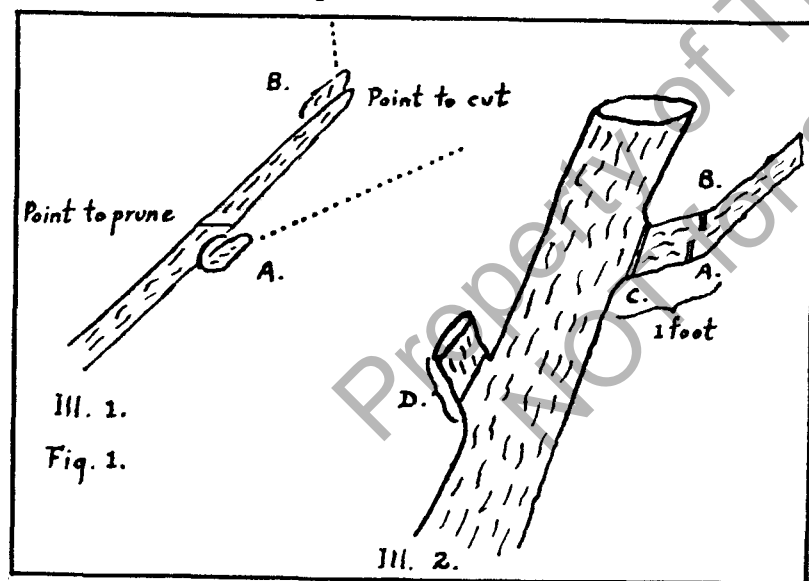
Remember, each tree is an individual with its own characteristic branch placement and growth habit. Each tree will have to be studied and then pruned in a manner approaching as nearly as possible the ideal.

Principles to Observe in Pruning — First, and most important, low-headed trees are deemed essential under our northern climatic conditions. In a low-headed tree the branches are encouraged to grow from low down on the trunk. This leaves little of the main stem fully exposed to the winter's sun and subsequent sunscald. Many smaller branches help to diffuse the sun's rays. Trees with the branch system trained high possess a long exposed trunk which invariably suffers greater winter injury than short-stemmed trees. The ideally trained tree for Manitoba conditions would have the lowest main, lateral or scaffold branch emerging from the southwest side of the trunk at distances up to 14 or 16 inches above the ground. The remaining scaffold branches, 4 to 7 in number, should be well spaced around the trunk with vertical distances of at least 6 to 10 inches between branches. Avoid, if possible, having one branch directly above another. Select as the main scaffold branches those with as wide an angle (preferable nearing a right angle) as possible between the branch and the main stem. The wider the angle between branch and trunk, the stronger it is structurally and thus able to carry a heavier load of fruit without splitting or pulling apart at the crotch. Avoid too many branches (one is best) arising at the same level, or in the form of a whorl, around the trunk as this arrangement tends to girdle and restrict growth of the parts remaining above, and leads to weaker crotch structure and often, more crotch injury from low temperatures.

Secondly, pruning is occasionally necessary to open up heavily branched or foliated trees to permit sunlight and air circulation into the tree center, and enable efficient spraying.

If sunlight does not reach the inner branches, the fruit spurs and smaller branches tend to die out and fruits grown inside are of poorer color. Also, fruits produced on old trees tend to become smaller than normal for the variety, lack color and usually are inferior in quality. Here improvement in size, color and general quality can be obtained by stimulating growth of new, vigorous wood. This is accomplished by moderate to heavy pruning. The necessity for removing broken, diseased or dead wood, crossing or rubbing branches, and water sprouts (succulent new shoots in the inner part of the tree) is obvious.

A third principle deals with establishing the young tree. Newly planted trees have had the larger proportion of their root system removed when dug from the nursery. This loss of feeder root system must be compensated for by cutting back top growth to reduce potential leaf area and subsequent transpiration, otherwise the chances of the young tree becoming established are greatly reduced. Another principle of growth in apple to note in relation to pruning is the tendency in many varieties for only a few upper buds on a long year-old whip or shoot to grow into side branches and those below remain inactive or develop into fruiting spurs. To force branches to break and grow where desired it often becomes necessary to shorten these long shoots to points where additional laterals or side branches are required.



Times to Prune—March, April and May are regarded as the best months to prune fruit trees on the prairies. This is

before the leaves emerge, and it is easier to see what branches should be removed to shape the tree properly, what cuts to make, what wood may have been winter killed and must be removed, and in early spring less injury and breakage occurs to new short growth or to fruits. Late fall or early winter pruning, i.e. November or December, is risky as it may result in localized stimulation and later winter injury to the tree. Summer pruning may be done but should be limited in extent as heavy summer pruning encourages late growth which matures late and thus is subject to low temperature injury.

Pruning Cuts — All cuts made should be close to actively growing wood in order to ensure rapid and thorough healing of the wound. Avoid rough, ragged cuts, since a clean, smooth surface heals over more quickly. When removing a branch or twig never leave a stub. Unless that stub is live tissue and capable of sending out a new shoot near the cut end, the stub is sure to die and then serves as an entry point for wood rotting fungi (see D. Illust. II, fig. 1). The direction in which a branch is permitted to grow is important in the proper shaping of a tree. Fortunately, the direction of growth can be greatly influenced by pruning. If it is desired to open the tree up and make growth more spreading, then the branches to be pruned out are shortened to a bud or smaller branch that is facing outwards or into an area of the tree lacking in branches; never into the center. Conversely, if it is desired to make the tree more compact and upright, probably as in ornamental or specimen trees, then prune to buds or smaller branches facing inwards and upwards (see B, Illust. I, fig. 1). When it becomes necessary to remove large branches, three cuts are desirable in order to prevent splitting and tearing of the bark and wood on the remaining branch or trunk. These should be made in the order A, B and C as shown in Illustration II, fig. 1.

Protection of Wounds — Pruning wounds larger than one-half inch in diameter should be painted over with a good tree paint or other satisfactory protectant. Smaller cuts if properly made generally heal over readily without a dressing. A wound dressing is used primarily to check cracking, weathering and prevent growth of bacteria or fungi. Several quite satisfactory products are manufactured. Your nursery man, seedhouse or landscape gardener may handle or could obtain one of these products for you. The Morden Station has used with satisfaction such materials as Horn Tree Paint, such water-soluble asphalt as Braco and Tree Seal, asphalt paints and asphalt materials used to waterproof cement basements or cisterns. Other alternatives include white lead mixed with raw linseed oil to paint consistency and darkened with lamp black, grafting wax, Bordeaux paste (Bordeaux powder mixed

with linseed oil) and shellac. Never use paints containing turpentine, benzene or gasoline due to possible injury to the wood.

Specific Pruning Details — Lastly, a few specific instructions on pruning at various tree ages may prove helpful. Keep in mind always the desired tree shape and purpose for pruning, i.e. tree headed low, 5 to 8 principal scaffold or lateral branches scattered symmetrically around the trunk, 6 to 10 inches between each, and with the topmost branch becoming a modified leader. Prune only as much as necessary to accomplish the desired purpose, since all pruning has a dwarfing effect on the tree.

First Year — The amount and type of pruning the year of planting depends largely on the age and size of tree purchased and set. Very often one-year-old, unbranched whips, 4 to 6 feet tall, are received for planting, and incidentally are preferred by many growers over the older branched tree. When the tree is set, it is customary to cut the top back to a bud facing west at a height of 18 to 20 inches from the ground. This cut-back induces lower branching and balances top growth with the root system and thus encourages early establishment of the trees. Two-year-old trees and sometimes one-year-old trees of certain varieties will have a well developed branch system when received for planting. In planting such trees, place them so that the lowest and strongest branch points to the southwest. Pruning here is directed towards retaining those branches which are properly placed and spaced in line with previous discussion, all others are removed. Branches being retained are shortened back one-half, or maybe two-thirds, if the branch is long or willowy, to a strong bud facing outward. The top or central leader is cut back to 12 or 14 inches above the uppermost branch being saved. Buds on this upper section will break to form branches from which further scaffolds are selected the second year.

Second and Third Years — Pruning during these years is primarily to further develop tree shape. From here on the severity of pruning is reduced. In the second year, selection of lateral branches is started on what were unbranched whips of the previous season. After selecting branches to form the future framework of the tree, prune out the balance and if the central leader has made long terminal growth, cut it back somewhat depending on need for future scaffolds, or if growth is slight leave pruning to the third year. On trees which had started branching when set, further selection of upper scaffolds is continued if growth was strong, or otherwise selection will have to wait for the third year. Pruning the third year is directed towards developing a completed framework of 5 to 8 scaffolds and strong side branches from these. This is accomplished by selecting the necessary laterals, removing surplus branches and shortening long terminal growths to induce

properly placed branches. Branches forming very sharp angled crotches or criss-crossing are removed.

Subsequent Years — If a good framework can be developed during the first two and three years, then pruning in later years up to the time of fruiting will consist mainly of removing undesirable sucker growth from the center of the tree; probably light thinning out of a few top shoots in heavily branched varieties; attention to weak crotched branches and removal of crossing, rubbing or other undesirable growth. It is easier to correct faulty structure by pruning lightly each year when the branches are small than later on. In this manner, a uniform, well-shaped, symmetrical, strong tree can be developed.

The young bearing tree will require very limited pruning for several years, often nil in some varieties. The weight of fruit borne by young trees will cause the branch system to spread outward to permit good penetration of air, light and spray materials. As the tree becomes older (probably 15 to 20 years or older) more and more weak wood develops which is unproductive and bears fruit of poor quality. In such cases the removal of the smaller diametered weak branches throughout the tree stimulates and encourages the production of new vigorous growth and improved fruiting. In very old, unproductive trees, this removal process may have to be severe and experience suggests that thinning out and cutting back of many smaller branches is better than a general cutting back or de-horning of all exterior branches. Occasionally, upright and tall growing varieties grow too high and it becomes necessary to lower the leaders. To do this it is customary to cut the top off just above a strong side branch which arises at the desired height.

Finally, a few comments on a very common problem of home gardeners, namely, what to do about pruning trees that have received no previous attention. Attempts to prune and shape old trees not properly pruned when younger is often a difficult task and can seldom be done entirely satisfactorily. In such cases, it is frequently necessary to remove one or more entire branches from the main trunk to relieve crowding. Often this has to be followed by general thinning out of smaller branches in crowded sections of the tree. This usually amounts to very heavy pruning so should be done over a two-year period. Severe pruning of larger established trees at one time stimulates a flush of new growth, which will require thinning out later in order to prevent overcrowding.

Study your trees, recall the purpose and your objective in pruning, decide what you can do with your plants to approach the ideal, then prune cautiously and judiciously for it is better to under-prune than over-prune. Once a branch is removed it cannot be replaced. Safe pruning!

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Growing Glads Grows on You

by **EVERET L. LAWRENCE**

President, Canadian Gladiolus Society, Lilyfield Man.

At our house, glads — in the form of flowers, bulbs, catalogues, books, letters or conversation are a part of each day of the year. It reaches a climax during blooming and show season, but is a year round hobby.

It all started a few years ago when a friend presented Mrs. Lawrence with a bouquet of gladioli. We became interested and acquired a few bulbs, possibly about 100 in mixed colors. It got us till we now have over 400 named varieties and more than 100 selected or on trial seedlings. Add to this, seeds, and seedlings, and you get blisters, backache, perspiration, and a new world of pleasure and delight, a house full of bloom, and a garden full of friends. It's a fascinating game — crossing and hybridizing the varieties, then waiting two or three years to see what your crossing has developed — a flower entirely your own, seen in no other garden. Most of your results are "junk", some tagged for retrieval, but always in the grower's heart is the hope that his hybridizing will develop the "Champion of Champions".

After growing in a small way, we began visiting glad shows, and finally dared to exhibit a few of our own. Each year we have increased in knowledge and pleasure, in work and in friends. There are some mighty nice folk among the gardeners.

The bloom is the result of the year's work — each variety is handled, cleaned, planted, tagged, listed and dug separately, as the seasons roll around.

Each mail day in January will bring in new reading material — reference books, from Canadian, American and International Glad. Societies, and a wealth of catalogues. These are a never ending source of delight, pleasure and controversy to the glad grower. We have made innumerable friends all over Canada and the United States this way. Some we have come to know personally and some we have known so far, only through letters.

If our limited success gives us any right to speak upon glad growing, our first bit of advice would be, you require good bulbs of good varieties. When you start, start with named varieties in your favorite colors and bulbs of about 1½" in diameter. Hunt the catalogues this winter, when the thought of flowers brings thoughts of summer days. Even better is to attend a meeting of a Gladiolus Society who can advise you, or name one of their members who will give you his selection for the size and color you desire.

In your purchase of bulbs, may I caution you to avoid LATE or MIDSEASON late varieties. They may not reach blooming stage in our shorter season, unless you are willing to give them special care.

Plant your bulbs in early May in prepared soil. I do not believe you can dig too deep for growing glads — in fact, the deeper the soil is dug, the better. It is good to use well-rotted manure in the autumn preparation of your garden. Plant large bulbs about 4" deep, smaller bulbs accordingly, leaving 8" between bulbs and 18" between rows. Plant gladioli bulbs in the open, perhaps in your vegetable garden, but away from shade of trees. Do not water until the plant is in its third leaf stage, and when the seventh leaf is reached, water freely. A good soaking is much better than a shower for gladiolus plants.

A side dressing of any of the complete fertilizers should be applied a few times during growing season. I like to dissolve the fertilizer in water and apply along the rows next to the plant with the watering can. Spray your glads for thrips about every ten days from the time they are in the third or fourth leaf stage. Use DDT or "Flower Spray" in the recommended dosage.

When you cut your spike in the garden, leave five inches for bulb development. For exhibition purposes, many prize lists call for a 20 inch stem — so check this in your prize lists, if cutting bloom for shows. The twenty inches measured from the bottom floret to the base of the cut stem. Cut your spike when two or three florets are open, and preferably in the early morning.

Dig your bulbs in mid-October before hard frosts, cut the top off, close to the bulb, store in a good dry place, putting a little DDT powder on the bulbs.

Gladiolus are divided into sizes and colors. This chart will help you in reading and ordering:

Miniature Glads	— 100 size —	floret under 2½"
Small Glads	— 200 size —	2½ up to 3½"
Medium Glads	— 300 size —	3½ up to 4½"
Large Glads	— 400 size —	4½ up to 5½"
Giant Glads	— 500 size —	5½" and larger.

Glads vary in days required to bloom from very early to very late. They offer a wide chain in florets, from plain petals to waved and on up to intensely ruffled petals. The number of florets open at one time varies in the varieties from about four to as many as fourteen. The number of buds on a spike varies in the different glads from ten to twenty-four and even more. You also get a wide variation in saturation of color, stiffness of stem, attachment of florets to stem and resistance to heat. I know of no other flower with such a wide choice of colors, from pure white to black, delicate pinks, brilliant reds, pale

yellows to deepest orange, light mauves to royal purples, and those with startling blotches. The glad is adaptable to single spike display, vase, basket and table arrangement, and is an excellent house flower because of its keeping qualities.

The members of the Winnipeg Gladiolus Society annually vote on the performance of gladiolus in their gardens. These are tabulated and the 1956 results are as follows: (Those marked X had a commanding lead in their sections).

1956 — Symposium — Winnipeg Glad Society — 300 - 400 - 500 Class

White	— Sierra Snow	Black red	— Negus and Ace of Spades
Cream	— Leif Ericson X	Rose	— Burma
Yellow	— Sundance	Lavender	— Princess X
Buff orange	— Patrol X	Purple	— King David X
Salmon	— Polynesie	Violet	— Violet Charm X
Light pink	— Evangeline	Smokey	— Stormy Weather X
Dark pink	— Spic & Span X		
Scarlet	— Sans Souci		
Lt. & med. red	— Red Charm		

For those of you who wish to grow miniatures — i.e. 100, 200 size, I believe you will enjoy these which received the most votes at Winnipeg.

Yellow	— Statuette	Smokey	— Old South
Scarlet	— Atom	Pink	— Little Sweet-heart
Salmon	— Bo Peep		
Buff	— Little Gold		

To the above list of larger glads, I would recommend you consider adding Snowdrift, Ethereal, Royal Stewart (1956, All American) and Roseta. Further to the miniatures, I would add, Daintiness, Peter Pan, Fifth Avenue and Ruby. Try some of these recommendations and take your spikes to a show. You will enjoy the experience and perhaps even a ribbon.

By joining your local Gladiolus Society, you will have the advantages, locally, of good advice, and good fellowship. By becoming a member of the Canadian Gladiolus Society, you can have association with growers right across the Dominion and have the benefits of their "growing" experiences, their recommendations, their articles on gladiolus culture and what is recognized as the finest symposium available — all published in the Canadian Gladiolus Annual. Membership in the Canadian Society includes this publication and may be obtained by writing the Canadian Gladiolus Society, 140, Braemar Ave., Norwood, Manitoba.

Information regarding the affiliation of any local Horticultural group may be obtained at the same address.

Should you be bitten by this "Glad Bug", you will find your pleasures increase. You will enjoy a garden of beauty, a year round hobby with a host of friends who share your interests, and a home filled with bloom to remind you, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever".

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Greenhouses for the Home Garden

by S. J. WESTAWAY,

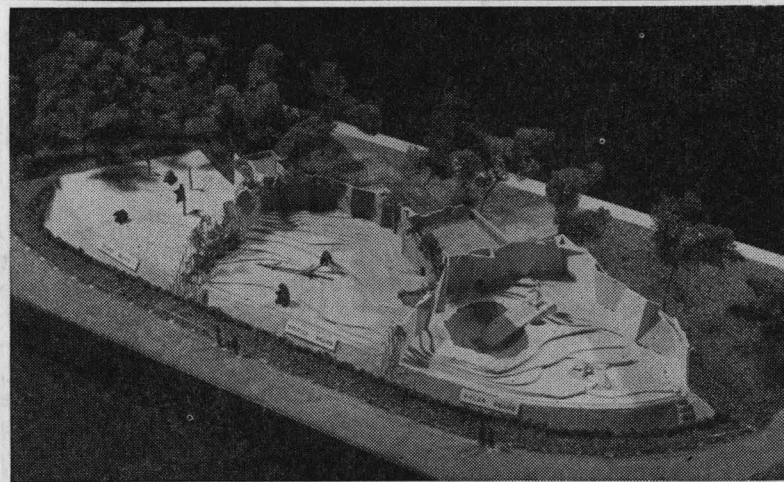
Division of Plant Science, University of Manitoba,
and T.V. Gardener, Country Calendar, CBWT.

The provision of a small greenhouse which can be conveniently heated is almost a requisite if one wishes to benefit fully from the development of the home garden. With the short intense growing season which we experience on the prairies, the ability to produce seedlings and transplants properly developed at the opportune time for transplanting, lengthens the growing season and assures maturity of the many desirable varieties that would otherwise fail to mature in time to avoid late summer or fall frosts. By this means, too, annual flowers are brought to bloom early in the summer and enable us to enjoy their longer season of color.

Whatever the plan of structure of the greenhouse, it is necessary to consider how it will be heated, for in most cases early planting will be done in March when outdoor conditions will still be quite severe. A hot water heating connection with the home system would be ideal, but in lieu of that some provision will have to be made to supply heat from a stove and in a small greenhouse this does present certain problems. Electrical heating where possible is efficient and convenient. Usually enough heat is radiated through the glass from sunlight during the days of early spring, but artificial heat is required at night and for dull, and perhaps, later rainy days, to create desirable growing conditions.

The size of the greenhouse needs first consideration and eight feet is a convenient minimum width. The length can be suited to the purposes of the greenhouse and the grower, but a convenient size for the home garden is 10 ft. x 14 ft. or 10 ft. x 16 ft. The greenhouse should be located conveniently, not tucked away in a corner, to benefit from the accessible light, without shading by trees, fences or buildings. As well as good lighting free circulation of air is desirable, without exposure to prevailing winds.

There are a number of types suited to the home grounds. The most familiar is the pitch or spar roofed type with which most of us are acquainted. The base walls should be well constructed, preferably insulated, and placed on firm footings. A range of materials is suited to this, either of wooden or concrete construction. The bars which carry the glass, conveniently grooved, can be purchased from commercial supply sources,



First Major Development—Winnipeg Zoo Expansion

The picture above depicts a section of the proposed enlargement and improvement of Winnipeg's Zoological Gardens; the new home of the Polar, Grizzly and Black Bears.

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or they may be sawn by the handyman equipped with a power saw from ordinary dimension material. Treated with preservative and painted, they will stand many years without replacement. Glass comes in varying widths but it is advisable to use glass either 16" or 20" wide. The wider glass admits more light with less shading. This type of house may be made of movable sash, but has the disadvantage of being too shaded due to the excessive amount of woodwork. It is best to provide both top and side ventilators by means of hinged sash, for the warm bright days of spring will raise the temperature within the house, and ventilation will be necessary. A water supply should be conveniently at hand.

A lean-to type of greenhouse may be built adjoining a house or garage and can be placed facing south, east or west. The southern exposure is best. It is usually convenient to heat and operate, and is particularly useful for the propagation and growing of house plants. The disadvantages are the tendency of plants to grow towards the light, and the difficulty of isolating fumes when fumigating for insect pests.

Dutch light houses are built of light movable frames, each sash having a single large pane of glass. Light is efficiently transmitted. This type of house lends itself to a change of location and can be mounted in such a way that it can be moved on tracks or rollers to a succession of crops.

We may look in the near future to substituting plastic materials for glass in the construction of greenhouses and frames. Such material will be light, free from breakage and when made up in sash form, collapsible and conveniently stored in the off season. Materials are even now available which give good light transmission and are of a reasonable cost.

For the home gardener who plants extensively, the small greenhouse is a worthwhile investment and creates much pleasure and satisfaction. Its initial cost is soon offset in the value of the plants grown, and enables the grower to exercise a wide choice and preference in his planting schemes. When most of the annuals are transplanted to the garden, a dozen early tomato plants conveniently potted, and well advanced in growth, may be planted in the greenhouse. There, under the stimulation of the early summer light and warmth, enough tomatoes may be ripened well in advance of the season to supply the needs of the family. For the enthusiast who would like to try his hand at growing the indoor type of chrysanthemums or a fall crop of Chinese asters, a small, well built greenhouse will satisfy his needs. The few remaining months of winter may be spent in anticipating and planning for the months that lie ahead.

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DON'T MISS IT*Slope Binders and Ground Covers*

by DR. W. R. LESLIE, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dr. Leslie has just recently retired as superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Morden, Manitoba, after many valuable years of service to Western horticulture. He is at present residing in Winnipeg, acting as a local Landscape Consultant and writing a weekly column for the Winnipeg Free Press under the heading of "Over the Garden Wall".

Floods of recent years have brought problems to many who dwell along streams. Winnipeg properties flanking the Red and Assiniboine rivers have seen considerable land slippage and erosion by washing away of lower banks. Where conditions permit, protection effected by planting trees, shrubs, vines, and perennial plants is preferred to log piling, masonry walls, and other expensive artificial mechanical treatments. Moreover, the landscape is maintained in natural and pleasing form.

Plants suitable for clothing slopes should be tough, leathery, densely-rooted, and preferably capable of increase by suckering or underground stems. Water-tolerant subjects are needed in low-lying areas. Two native willows qualify particularly well. They are the Sandbar and the Coyote. These narrow-leaved small willows sucker profusely. The Coyote (*Salix exigua*) has attractive bright silvery foliage. Its home is western Alberta.

Other local bushes which withstand wetness of soil include Alder, Redosier Dogwood, Pembina or Highbush Cranberry, Arrowwood, Nannyberry and Hazel. As clumps among the willows, a few of them may be added to impart variety.

The upper portions of the slopes will be drier. They call for shrubs which do not demand plenteous moisture. Subjects are sought which can tie up the soil with a roving network of underground stems. In the category are Sumac, Chinese Matrimony Vine (*Lycium chinense*), Largeflower Caragana (*Caragana frutex*), Russian Almond, Canada and American plums, Sand Cherry, Choke Cherry, Pin Cherry, Saskatoon, Hawthorn, suckering roses as Altai, Scotch and Bristly, Manchurian Aralia, and Common Lilac. Auxiliary species include *Juniperus horizontalis* in variety, *Juniperus tamariscifolia*, and *Arbovitae*. *Arbovitae*, or native White Cedar, (*Thuja occidentalis*), along with most of the native fruit-bearing shrubs can stand rather moist soils.

Vines offer another class of woody plants valuable in covering a slope. Those capable of rooting where the stems

come in contact with soil perform greater service. Examples are Native Grape and its cousin, Riverbank Creeper. The latter is the hardy local form of Virginian Creeper.

Other vines to be accorded thought as bank covering are the various hardy climbing Honeysuckles including Dr. F. L. Skinner's very beautiful, long-blooming hybrid Dropmore Scarlet Trumpet Honeysuckle, Moonseed and its suckering relative from northern Asia, Dahurian Moonseed, Kolomikta Actinidia, Clematis in wide variety, and Bittersweet.

The hybrid Clematises, as in the group represented by the variety Blue Boy, have a heavy dense root system. They cover the ground in short time. Their usefulness extends to terraces as well as to drape fences, walls, pillars and pergolas.

Weeding will be required during the first two or three years. Thereafter, the planting should have taken over dominion.

GROUND COVERS. Some circumstances make it desirable to cover the ground with plants other than grass. Spaces between shrubs in foundation plantings may be spread with Creeping Junipers, Rose Daphne, Thyme, and Canby Pachistima. The last named is rated a very valuable dwarf, broadleaf evergreen acquisition. Although coming from the Smoky Mountains in the south-eastern United States, it appears comfortably at home here. Growing only to a height of 8 to 10 inches, it forms a neat thick mat. It remains a lively green mass throughout the year. Preferring partial or considerable shade, it is doing nicely in open exposure at the International Peace Garden in the Turtle Mountains. A solitary plant spreads out steadily in all directions after its first year. Although tending to progress in circumference, it is easy to restrain to small dimension by snipping back the ends.

These low-growing woody plants hide the soil and bring shrubs about the house into green harmony with the lawn.

When it comes to choosing woody ground covers the growers owning acid soil have wide advantage. They can successfully grow Blueberries, Cranberries, Bearberries, Shinplant, Trailing Arbutus, Twinplant, Partridgeberries or Bunchberries, Wintergreen, and other hardy acid-lovers which merely sulk and gradually fail on the highlime soils common to the prairies.

Further suggested possibilities as ground covers for the average garden follow:

Woody Vines and Spreaders: Native Grape, Riverbank Creeper, Bittersweet; Moonseed; Clematis, Dwarf Thymes, Stanwell Perpetual Rose, Bristly Rose, Whiteflowering Salmonberry, Flowering Raspberry, Creeping Cotoneaster (C.

adpressa), Creeping Holygrape (*Mahonia repens*), Egg Broom (*Genista ovata*), Arrowhead Broom (*G. sagittalis*), Pale Broom (*Cytisus sessilifolius*), Purple Broom (*C. purpureus*), Alberta Regel Honeysuckle, Fragrant Sumac, Dwarf Euonymus, and Snowberry.

Sub-shrubs: These have more or less herbaceous tops. Japanese Spurge (*Pachysandra terminalis*), Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), hybrid Clematises, St. Johnswort (*Hypericum*), and Evergreen Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*).

Herbaceous Perennials: Stonecrops (*Sedum*), Ground Ivy (*Nepeta hederacea*), Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Carpet Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Lily-of-the-Valley, Rosy Creeping Gypsophila, Moss Pink (*Phlox subulata*), Rock Soapwort (*Saponaria ocymoides*), Drug Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), Violets including Altai and Johnny Jumpup, Buttercups, Silver Potentilla, Siberian Squills, Grape Hyacinth, Bloodroot, and ferns.

Perennials to Form Mats or Fill Cracks: Pussetoes (*Antennaria neodioca*), Stonecrops, Houseleeks (*Sempervivum*), Moss Pinks, Arabis, Cinquefoil, Creeping Speedwell, Mossy Saxifrage, and Creeping Phlox.

Where imposing scenic effects are planned, masses of other herbaceous perennials may be set here and there in the general ground covering. Among the subjects available are Daylilies, Crested Iris, Primula, Meadowrue, Wormwoods, Cranesbill, Anchusa, Gaillardia, Saxifrage, and Verbena.

General Considerations: Prepare the soil to a depth of six inches or more. On slopes, cultivate on the contour rather than up and down. To stabilize very steep portions until plants establish themselves, bury one or more rows of logs. Transplant with a generous hand, using plants in lavish quantity. Set the stock in broken formation, avoiding straight lines which encourage the formation of gulleying water runways.

Some ground cover species tend to become rampant. They may become troublesome in locations favorable to them. Examples are Moneywort and Ground Ivy. However, even these rapid-spreading herbs can be restrained by occasional use of the hoe.

It is admitted that no flowering plant can fully challenge the supremacy of grass as a utility ground carpet. But, where varied beauty is desired and where adverse conditions such as deep shade or dry soil prevail, other plants are employed. The lists mentioned do not exhaust the selection available but present many of the species carrying a record of good performance.

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How to Grow Sweet Peas

by John F. CANNING, F.R.H.S., Fort Macleod, Alberta

Mr. Canning is the Champion Sweet Pea grower of Western Canada. He has exhibited all over the West and has inevitably come away with first prize. He is secretary of the Fort Macleod Horticultural Society as well as an active writer of horticultural articles for various dailies, weeklies and several magazines.

Those who wish to have success with Sweet Peas at exhibitions must realize that any prizes won will be dependent on the attention the grower gives his plants during the growing season. A good plan is to prepare the most suitable ground for double rows a foot apart, and three feet between the double rows, and the plants six to eight inches apart. The location of the plot in the garden is important as regards exposure to strong wind, which in the early stages can be very injurious, and in the later ones may cause breakage of the vines. If natural protection is not sufficient, a satisfactory substitute can be made with a lath fence, the laths being spaced three quarters of an inch apart. Preferably in the fall, though earliest spring will do, throw back the top six inches of soil, then spread eight barrow loads of well rotted cow manure over the approximate 100 square feet required for 100 plants. Trench the plot, adding and mixing with the manure eight pounds of coarse bone meal. Mix all together while digging and then replace the top soil. Sow the Sweet Peas in a frame around the middle of March, in a mixture of one half soil, preferably rotted sods, one part each of peat moss and sand, or vermiculite, in pots or boxes. Three quarters of an inch deep, in a temperature of 60 F. When the second leaf is formed, pinch out the head of the seedlings, as under the restricted system of growing Sweet Peas for exhibition the so called seed growth stem is apt to go "blind". Plant out in season for your district, having kept the young plants hardy and in cool temperature as soon as through the grounds, so as to develop short stocky plants; having previously built a framework to support one inch wooden stakes to hold the plants.

At this stage, the cold winds of Spring can play havoc, and a low protective fence is very beneficial. Begin tying to the stakes as soon as the plants begin to fall over, and gradually remove all lateral base shoots but one, and when about 18 inches high remove all tendrils and side shoots. Tying can be done with light string, brass, or wire rings. The latter can be made by using a fairly stiff but thin wire, and after circling

a broom handle that will give rings of sufficient diameter to go around the stakes and the pea haulm, cut from end to end up the handle. Remove some of the earliest buds, but when most spikes have three and four blooms each allow them to develop, but keep the blooms cut regularly throughout the season, and there will be flowers till heavy frost.

Many who have no desire to exhibit are eager to grow good Sweet Peas for cut flowers, and for this purpose the seed can be sown out of doors, as soon as the ground warms up, as spring frosts do not harm the young plants. These should stand about five inches apart in the row, but the seed must be sown thicker to allow for losses and uneven germination. Any irregularity, however, can be corrected by transplanting from a part of the row that is too thick, as when young this is quite simple to do. And of course the better the ground is prepared the finer the blooms will be, and in the case of both styles of growing the more often the opening flowers are cut the longer the plants will remain in full production.

For exhibition the Spencer variety have no equal, and for the beginner the following list are a reasonably reliable selection to start off with. Swan Lake, White; Mrs. R. Bolton, Rose-Pink; Tell Tale, Picotee; Elizabeth Taylor, Mauve; Blue Bonnet, Blue; Gertrude Tingay, or Mrs. C. Kay, Lavender, Carlotta, Carmine; Gaiety, apple blossom pink; Air Warden, Scarlet. For successful exhibition results, it is best to have only enough varieties, but some spare plants of each, as are needed for the classes that are wished to be filled.

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Hedges for Town Properties

by H. F. HARP, Experimental Farm, Morden, Man.

Modern landscape design does not permit extensive use of hedges and gone are the days when a caragana hedge marked the boundaries of the home grounds. However, a well kept hedge can be a pleasing feature as well as providing shelter; a screen for unsightly objects or a background for the perennial flower garden.

There is a wide choice of material suited for dwarf, medium tall as well as high hedges obtainable from local nurserymen whose plants are better adapted to prairie conditions than stock imported from milder climes.

Preparation of the Soil

The soil for hedges should be deeply dug in the fall in readiness for spring planting. Heavy clay soils are improved greatly by mixing in a quantity of peat moss or well decomposed barnyard manure leaving the surface in a rough state to obtain the full benefit of the ameliorating effect of frost.

Planting is done as soon as the ground is dry enough to permit comfortable working. A single row of plants is preferred; a double row will ultimately make an excessively wide hedge, the base of which will soon become unthrifty leaving gaps where density is most needed. The conical or pyramidal shaped hedge is practical and pleasing. There is no wide top to be clipped and the lower branches are fully exposed to sunlight which keeps them clothed with healthy foliage.

Proper Spacing for Hedge Plants

As a general rule, dwarf hedge plants are set one foot apart; those for medium ones a foot and a half, while those for tall hedges as well as all evergreen hedges are spaced two feet apart in a single row. At planting time, a perfectly straight trench is taken out deep enough to hold the roots without having to double them up. Space the plants evenly along the row; fill in with good top soil shaking each plant to allow the loose soil to come in contact with all the roots. Pack the soil thoroughly by tramping and lay the garden hose in the half-filled trench to give the plants a good soaking. When the water has seeped away, fill in the remainder of the soil. The next operation and a very important one is to cut back the newly planted hedge to about six inches high for a dwarf hedge, about a foot or so for the taller ones. No further pruning is necessary until the following year when, in June, the foundation for the

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ultimate shape of the hedge is laid. Established deciduous hedges should be trimmed each year in mid-June and again a month later. Some fast growing varieties such as Dropmore Elm will require a third pruning in early September to keep it neat and tidy.

Evergreen Hedges

Evergreen hedges can be a choice landscape feature. They stay green all winter and contrast sharply with the snow as well as providing excellent shelter from wind.

Spring planting is satisfactory but must be done before the new growth is evident. In this district, by the third week of May the ground has warmed up and evergreens are arousing from their winter dormancy. This is considered a good time to move them.

Evergreens for use as hedge plants are usually three or four-year-old seedlings. They will be bare of soil about the roots. Great care must be taken not to expose them to drying winds even for the briefest moment or untold damage will result. A good plan is to carry the plants in a pail of muddy water, taking them out one at a time for planting and not laying them out along the trench where they will quickly dry out. Special attention must be paid to setting the plants at the correct depth. On no account should the lower tier of branches be covered with soil, nor should the plant be set any shallower than it formerly grew. A newly planted evergreen hedge will benefit substantially from overhead evening waterings during hot weather as well as adequate watering at the root.

Pruning Evergreen Hedges

Pines, spruces and arborvitae must not be cut back at planting time nor should they be hard-pruned at any time, for they will not put forth new growth from the old wood. The only pruning necessary is done in early July when the current year's growth is cut back to about half its length. Old evergreen hedges cannot be rejuvenated in the manner prescribed for deciduous ones which are cut down to a height of about two feet in late April.

Flowering Hedges

Hedges grown for a show of bloom such as Spireas, Japanese Rose, Mockorange, etc., require different pruning to preserve the current year's wood upon which the next year's flowers will be borne. Immediately after flowering, the old wood is cut back to below the laterals that have borne flowers.

The following list of hedges are recommended after a test extending over a period of twenty-five years at the Experimental Farm, Morden.

Dwarf Hedges:

- Evonymus nana (Dwarf Evonymus)
 Evonymus nana, variety turkestanica (Turkestan Evonymus)
 Ribes alpinum (Alpine Currant)
 Caragana pygmaea (Pygmy Peashrub)
 Caragana brevifolia (Shortleaf Peashrub)

Medium Hedges:

- Cotoneaster lucida (Hedge Cotoneaster)
 Cotoneaster acutifolia (Peking Cotoneaster)
 Evonymus alatus (winged evonymus)
 Lonicera coerulea edulis (Sweetberry Honeysuckle)
 Berberis poirleti (Poiret's Barberry)
 Spirea tilobata (Threelobe Spirea)
 Spirea Vanhoute (Vanhoute's Spirea)
 Shepherdia argentea (Buffaloberry)
 Malus x Strathmore (Redleaf crab)
 Tilia cordata (Littleleaf Linden)
 Syringa vulgaris (Common lilac)

Tall Hedges:

- Acer ginnala (Amur Maple)
 Syringa amurensis (Amur lilac)
 Crataegus species (Hawthorn)
 Pyrus ussuriensis (Ussurian Pear)
 Ulmus pumila (Dropmore Elm)

Evergreen Hedges:

- Pinus cembra (Swiss Stone Pine)
 Pinus resinosa (Red Pine)
 Pinus mugo mughus (Mountain Pine)
 Picea glauca (White Spruce)
 Picea pungens (Colorado Spruce)
 Thuja occidentalis, variety Ware (Ware's Arborvitae)
 Thuja occidentalis pyramidalis (Pyramidal Arborvitae)

Well kept hedges that are proportionate to their surroundings can be a feature garden attraction.

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Ornamental Gardening and Wild Life Conservation

by **D. R. ROBINSON** and **W. L. KERR**

D. R. Robinson is Extension Horticulturist, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask.

W. L. Kerr is Superintendent, Forest Nursery Station, Sutherland, Sask.

Throughout the prairie provinces, and in other parts of Canada, interest in ornamental gardening is at a high level. This interest in home beautification and landscaping has developed simultaneously with the increase in population of our urban centres, large and small, and the home building program arising therefrom. To a lesser degree this same interest in ornamental gardening may be observed in the rural communities as well. Trees, shrubs, and vines play an important part in almost every landscape design. This is particularly true with respect to large areas such as parks, playgrounds, public grounds and farmsteads. Once established, these woody plants can be maintained with a minimum of care, and they add much to the winter landscape, — at a time when color and variety are needed and appreciated. Anyone who undertakes a planting program has a considerable range of trees and shrubs to choose from and he can select material which will suit almost any situation or purpose. It is intended in this article to mention only a few of the available plants and in particular those that merit consideration because they provide food or shelter for birds and thus relate directly to wildlife conservation. Mention has been made of the fact that trees and shrubs add color and variety to the landscape. Similarly our surroundings can be made more interesting for children and grown-ups alike if our feathered friends are encouraged to visit the home grounds. Furthermore, we need scarcely be reminded that birds play an important part in the control of insect pests.

Winter shelter is of paramount importance and this can be provided by the various species of evergreens, especially the spruce, pines, cedars and junipers. Not all forms of these are dependable and the hardier species and varieties should be our first choice. We have in mind particularly the **White Spruce, Colorado or Blue Spruce, Scotch Pine and Mugo Pine.**

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Both food and shelter are provided by the cedars and junipers. These relatively low growing evergreens are suitable for urban properties where space is limited. They do best with a north exposure or where they are shaded on the south. In this group the **Ware's Cedar** or **Arborvitae** (*Thuja occidentalis robusta*) and the **Rocky Mountain Juniper** (*Juniperus scopulorum*) are two of the most dependable forms. A specimen of the **Red Cedar** is doing very well at Sutherland. Lest we become confused it should be stated that the **Red Cedar** is a juniper, (*J. virginiana*)! **Canaert's Red Cedar**, a variety of this species, is very colorful and should be widely tested. (It may be worth noting that the tree form of the **Black Hills Spruce**, *Picea glauca albertiana*, is doing well at North Battleford and Henribourg).

Some of the tall growing deciduous shrubs and trees, which carry their fruits well above the snow line, are particularly valuable as a source of food for birds during the winter months. The **American Mountain Ash** (*S. americana*) is very attractive with its large clusters of red berries which hang on the branches until early spring. The waxwings and other birds are very fond of these fruits. The **Showy Mountain Ash** (*S. decora*) is reported to have fruits up to one-half inch in diameter. This native shrub should be grown more widely than it is at the present time. An Asiatic species, (*S. tianshanica*), is reported growing to a height of 16 feet and is apparently hardy. It should be tested to determine its range of adaptability. Additional large shrubs which merit top rating both as ornamentals and for wildlife conservation are the **Crabapples** (species and varieties, particularly the small-fruited ones), **Chokecherry**, **Highbush Cranberry**, **Hawthorns** and **Buffaloberry**. Likewise a few of the medium shrubs (four to eight feet) deserve special mention. In this class the **Hansen Hedge rose** is particularly desirable. The **Altai** and **Turkestan** roses, although less valuable than the Hansen Hedge rose, merit consideration. Also included here are several species of **Cotoneaster** and the **Red Elder**. It would require considerable space to mention the various trees, shrubs and vines which serve a dual purpose as indicated above. The Experimental Station at Morden, in its Progress Report, 1938-1946, lists no less than 50 species or varieties which are attractive to birds. In addition to those plants mentioned above the following list includes a number of ornamentals which are of particular value as a source of food for birds.

Low Growing Shrubs, Usually 3 to 6 feet:

- American Hazelnut — *Corylus americana*
- Beaked Hazelnut — *Corylus cornuta*

Mountain Juniper — *Juniperus communis* var. *saxatilis*
 Cherry Prinsepia — *Prinsepia sinensis*
 Wild Rose — *Rosa* species
 Snowberry — *Symphoricarpos albus*

Medium Shrubs, Usually 7 to 15 feet:

Saskatoon (Serviceberry) — *Amelanchier alnifolia*
 Sea Buckthorn — *Hippophae rhamnoides*
 Amur Honeysuckle — *Lonicera mackii*
 Glossy Buckthorn — *Rhamnus frangula*
 Nannyberry — *Viburnum lentago*
 European Highbush Cranberry — *Viburnum opulus*

Large Shrubs or Trees:

Amur Maple — *Acer ginnala*
 Paper Birch — *Betula papyrifera*
 Russian Olive — *Elaeagnus angustifolia*
 Bur Oak — *Quercus macrocarpa*
 Small-leaved Basswood — *Tilia cordata*
 American Basswood — *Tilia glabra*.

The list of hardy or semi-hardy vines is a short one. However, a few vines or creepers should be mentioned. The **Climbing Honeysuckles** (*Lonicera* species), and **Riverbank Grape** (*Vitis riparia*) both provide winter food for birds. The **American Bittersweet** (*Celastrus scandens*) and the **Virginia Creepers** (*Parthenocissus* species) also are of value in wildlife conservation.

A variety of birds seek out the trees and other woody plants listed above. Naturally, the winter residents are the ones which make the greatest use of these plants. In almost any plan of wildlife conservation the game birds play an important part. Sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, and pheasant feed on the majority of these ornamentals. In addition to the game birds, Bohemian waxwings, pine grosbeaks, evening grosbeaks, the jays, chickadees and others, including late autumn residents, eat the fruits or seeds of one or another of the afore-mentioned plants. Certain annual and biennial crops (not woody plants) are of real value in supplying heat-producing winter food for birds. These include sunflowers, corn, sweet clover and millet. The Hungarian partridge feeds on some of these annuals and biennials.

In looking at horticulture in relation to wildlife conservation there appear to be almost unlimited opportunities for development and expansion. Thousands of individual home owners can each plant out a few of these ornamentals and provide more food for more birds. Long term planting projects

could be developed by various organizations such as service clubs, fish and game locals, natural history societies, horticultural societies, and garden clubs. In our opinion these organizations have much in common and in many instances they could co-operate in a planting program which would combine beautification and wildlife conservation.

It may be of interest to mention that several million trees and shrubs are planted out each year by various agencies in certain of the western and northern United States. These plantings are designed to provide a suitable wildlife habitat and at the same time add to the attractiveness of the rural landscape. Adjacent to most of our cities and towns are parcels of waste land that could be used for tree and shrub plantings, — river banks, ravines, stony land, and areas of infertile, sandy soil. A careful choice of adapted species would of course be necessary. Crown lands are often the most suitable for planting projects. These lands can be developed and cared for on a larger scale because there is less danger of their being sold or used for other purposes. We should not overlook the fact that trees and shrubs assist greatly in soil erosion control and flood control — particularly along ravines, river banks and other water courses. Both individuals and groups could play a part in planting programs of this kind. The values and satisfactions arising from such projects might not be immediately apparent but we believe they would be definitely worth-while.

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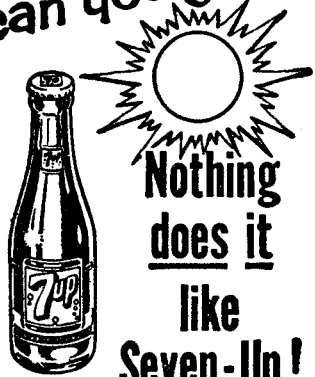
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Woody, Deciduous, Ornamentals

by W. A. CUMMING, Experimental Farm, Morden, Man.

Modern architectural trends in homes demand a "new look" in landscape architecture. Hand in hand with the changes in the architecture of buildings, the professional horticulturist is turning his attention to the selection and development of suitable plants for modern landscapes. Dwarf plants, informal growing plants, layered or striated plants are required. Living in a harsh climate as we do there are still many gaps for which suitable material is yet to be found.

The following notes are intended only as a guide to some of the materials now available for landscaping the modern home in so far as deciduous trees and shrubs are concerned. It is not intended to be an all inclusive listing.

Some of the dwarf evergreens are eminently suitable for modern landscaping use but a landscape planted with an excess of these gives a heavy and dull effect. Deciduous shrubs, trees, perennial and annual flowers help to brighten the home surroundings.

If there is room for one or two trees for shade and framing use smaller growing varieties such as Swedish basswood, Mountain ash, ornamental crabapples and Ussurian pear.

Swedish basswood is a geographic race of the small leaved European (*Tilia cordata*). It is a shapely small tree with bright green, clean foliage and tawny bark and twigs. The distinctive bark coloring adds to the winter landscape. The blossoms are not particularly showy but are exceedingly aromatic and sweet. Apiarists rate honey gathered from basswood flowers at the top in quality. The seeds are interesting, being round and attached by long pedicels to winged parachutes.

Mountain ash or rowan tree, as it is often called, should be trained in clump form, that is more than one stem should be allowed to grow from the base. Apart from its clean stem and attractive foliage, it bears large clusters of orange to red berries which add brightness and interest to the early fall landscape. The trunk of mountain ash is subject to winter injury known as sunscald and therefore should be planted in a location protected from the south and west.

Ornamental crabapples continue to gain in popularity and deservedly so. The gardener has a choice of the white flowered Siberian crabapple hybrids or the pink to red flowered rosybloom varieties. Of the former, the variety Dolgo is both ornamental and useful. Strathmore and Sundog are two of the choice smaller growing rosybloom varieties.

Ussurian pear is prized for its very early and profuse white blossoms coupled with brilliant red fall coloring in selected specimens.

Several of the larger growing shrubs have a place in modern plantings. Among these are Amur maple, Amur lilac and late or villosa lilac hybrids.

Amur maple is being selected for brilliance of fall coloring of both leaves and seed pods.

Villosa lilacs bloom after the common lilacs and before the Amur type. Choice hybrid varieties of this group include Donald Wyman, Royalty, Helen, Coral and Fountain.

Amur lilac and its taller growing variety, the Japanese tree lilac, finish off the blossom season in early summer with their profuse, large and feathery clusters of creamy white flowers.

Shrubs of medium height for border and foundation plantings include such subjects as Spireas, Cotoneasters, dogwoods, ancanthopanax, sweetberry honeysuckle, tamarisk, cherry prinsepia, sumac and flowering plums.

Korean, threelobe and oriental spireas are recommended for their hardiness and profusion of white bloom in early summer. Hybrids of these hardy spireas are beginning to enter the picture.

The red fruited, greyish foliaged European cotoneaster is more informal in growth habit than the upright growing, glossy leafed, black fruited Peking cotoneaster.

Dogwoods are prized for their red bark color but require frequent cutting back to maintain the brighter colored younger growth. Their bright red bark makes an excellent contrast when grown in conjunction with dwarf evergreens. Pagoda dogwood with its striated type of growth is a most welcome addition to the list of shrubs for modern landscaping.

Acanthopanax is a roundish shrub which grows to eight feet in height with leaves not unlike those of the horse chestnut. The round greyish purple flower heads and seed pods are

strikingly different and interesting. It is useful as an accent or interest plant.

Sweetberry honeysuckle, globular in shape, five feet in height, is well clothed with bluish green foliage.

Tamarisk is softening and informal in its effect. Feathery fine foliage with spikes of pink to red flowers make this a most desirable plant.

Cherry prinsepia is one of the first shrubs to break into leaf in the spring. It is very spiny, weeping in habit and has bright red cherry-like fruits in the fall.

The native smooth sumac is particularly prized for its brilliant red foliage in the autumn. It should be planted where it can be contained, as it suckers rather freely.

The double flowering plum is a striking plant in the early spring with its profusion of double pink flowers. Prairie almond, a hybrid raised at Morden, has double pink flowers, blooms about one week later than the above. The flowers are followed by heavy crops of reddish brown fruits in early fall. The double flowering plum rarely produces fruit.

Low growing shrubs for planting beneath picture windows and other situations demanding this type include: cinquefoils, dwarf spireas, dwarf roses, daphnes, dwarf burning bushes, pachistima, barberries and dwarf purpleosier willow.

Cinquefoils or potentillas are somewhat informal in habit of growth and are one of the few shrubs which have the continuous blooming habit. The native *P. fruticosa* blooms in varying shades of yellow. Farrer's variety is one of the choicest of the yellow flowering selections. The Dahurian and Manchurian forms have white blossoms.

Two hardy dwarf roses of merit are Dr. Merkeley and the shining rose (*R. nitida*). The former grows to about two feet, the foliage is clean and attractive and the fully double deep pink flowers are borne in profusion in July. It is later in blooming than most shrub roses. The shining rose has very glossy green foliage on bristly red stems. The flowers are single and pink in color. It is most striking in the fall when leaves turn brilliantly red.

In dwarf spireas the reddish flowered Froebel's variety is preferred to the commonly grown Anthony Waterer. These usually kill back but since they bloom on the current season's growth, this is not a serious drawback.

The daphnes are represented by two hardy species. February daphne is one of the earliest blooming shrubs. The flowers are showy, lilac in color and are borne all along the

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twelve to eighteen-inch stems. Rose daphne is a gem among shrubs. Its clear pink clusters of flowers on a twelve-inch mound of green are alluringly fragrant. White flowered forms of both of these daphnes are available but are not often seen in gardens.

The dwarf form of the winged euonymus, or burning bush, is oddly attractive with its corky wings protruding at right angles all along the stems. It is well laden with bright red bitersweet like fruits in the autumn which show to advantage after its bright red leaves have dropped. The Turkestan dwarf euonymus might be classed as a broadleaf evergreen, grows to a height of two feet, has narrow leathery, willow-like leaves and bright red fruits in the autumn.

Canby pachistima is a very low growing, broad leafed evergreen, esteemed for the dark green mounds that it forms.

Although the common barberry and some of its close relatives act as alternate hosts for rusts of wheat and are barred from culture, the Japanese or Thunberg's barberry is not attacked by rust fungi and is an important addition to our list of dwarf shrubs. The purple leafed variety is particularly attractive in some locations. Closely related to the barberries, Oregon grape (*Mahonia repens*) has holly-like leaves which remain green throughout the year where good snow cover is available.

Dwarf purpleosier willow, when cut back to the ground, periodically adds lightness and grace to the landscape with its two-foot arching stems.

New plants of specific interest are being added annually to the list. For example, a plant of the Manchurian shagspine caragana (*Caragana jubata*) will simulate the giant cacti of warmer desert climates and add a note of authenticity to the ranch style home.

Weigelas are usually synonymous with warmer climates, but the Manchurian form of *Weigelia florida* comes through most winters in good shape and bears its large rose pink flowers abundantly.

Try growing Dropmore scarlet trumpet honeysuckle as a mound with no trillix or support. Its scarlet tipped golden flowers come with a flush in June and continue until severe frost in late autumn. Let it grow a little unruly, it will add a note of informality.

Through the testing of plant introductions from other countries and the work of the plant breeders, the scope of hardy material available to the prairie gardener and suitable for specific purposes is ever widening.

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A Glimpse of the Flora of S. E. Manitoba

by H. V. WALDON, M.D.
Vita, Manitoba

Dr. Waldon is an ardent amateur naturalist and photographer with many excellent color slides of native wild flowers. He is in charge of the United Church Memorial Hospital at Vita, Manitoba.

This relatively unknown section of the southern half of the province is a veritable treasure isle for naturalists. It was apparently at one time the shore of a lake which gradually receded over the centuries, leaving a number of shore lines. This has given us an interesting terrain with distinct and sudden changes in its character, a terrain that undergoes all the changes from the flat treeless Red River Valley through a wide belt populated by deciduous trees to an area of peat swamps separated by sandy, pine clad ridges and finally the forests of jack and red pine, white and black spruce and some tamarack and cedar.

We are on the border between the Ontario-Minnesota forested areas and the prairies. Our eastern border is the Lake of the Woods. Two rivers, the Roseau and the Rat pursue exceedingly tortuous courses through the area on their way to the Red River. There are two lakes. Whitemouth, the origin of the river of the same name and the very beautiful Moose Lake — 23 miles north of Sprague, Man.

As you can readily see a district such as this would have great variety in both plant and bird life. It gives us plants which are not found further west. The West's best red pine forest is here and we have some white pine. We have a few large saw-toothed poplars and a number of flowering plants, such as the Prairie White Fringed Orchis, the Arethusa and the Slender Gerardia. We have the provincial floral emblems of nine of the ten provinces.

The Pitcher Plant of Newfoundland grows in peat swamps. It is one of our most interesting plants. Its leaves are pitcher-shaped cups 4-8 inches long, green in spring but turning maroon in the fall. It produces a leafless flower stalk 12-20 inches high with a large single flower having five thick sepals and five red in-turned petals.

The showy Ladies'-Slipper of Prince Edward Island also grows in the swamps or rather along the edges of the swamps. Look for it where a poplar bluff juts into a swamp. You may find it in willow or alder patches. It is one of our most beautiful flowers. It has pure white petals and a large inflated sac which is rose colored shading at times to almost maroon. Please don't pick. Only an occasional flower is fertilized and entire patches may produce no seed. It takes at least seven

years for it to grow from seed to flower. Once common, it is now becoming exceedingly rare.

The Trailing Arbutus of Nova Scotia grows in the pines in a small area east of Piney, Man. It is scarce. The plant is an evergreen lying flat on or in the needle carpet of the forest. It requires shade. The tiny pink and white flowers peek out from under the edges of the leaves, often through pine needles. It is one of our most fragrant flowers and on a calm night the air will be filled with its delicate perfume. It will not stand picking.

The Purple Violet of New Brunswick — Our low lying areas with a very high water level in the soil give us a great variety of violets. Take a few home. Thread them through the foliage of a bit of ground pine in a shallow dish, add a few wintergreen plants with their shiny red berries and you have a table centre that is hard to beat. Please don't jam a handful into a tumbler.

The Wild Iris of Quebec is common here. This flower has not been officially designated as the emblem of the province but it is generally recognized as such. It was chosen because of its resemblance to the Fleur-De-Lis of France. It grows near or in water. It must have wet feet. There is great variation in its color. Some are very pale blue, others almost purple. It has all the regality and perfection of form of our finest garden varieties.

The White Trillium of Ontario is exceedingly rare here. We have seen two in 30 years. A few years ago there was a large patch of them along a creek south of Miami, Man. The formation of the plant is somewhat like that of our wood anemone. A whorl of leaves — three in number at the end of a smooth stalk and an inch above that the flower — snow white and three petalled.

The Anemone (Crocus) (Pasque Flower) of our own province is one of which we can be justly proud. Incidentally, Manitoba was one of the first provinces to officially establish a floral emblem. This was done in 1906. It is the first flower to appear in the spring. We have a few on the sandy ridges and on treeless spots on the Roseau River bank. The school at Gardenton, Man., is called Purple Bank, so named because of the anemone covered banks at that spot each spring.

The Tiger Lily of Saskatchewan — We have a few on the sandy ridges but not too many. The lily prefers the prairies. Two, three, four or even five blooms may grow on one stalk and one may find patches where many of the blooms have three or four to a stalk while another patch a few rods away will be all singles. We have found a few yellow ones.

The Wild Rose of Alberta grows in hedges along our roadsides. The red berries on the red twigs brighten our

winter drives and in the fall the leaves join with pincherry, hazelnut, bush honeysuckle and blueberry to provide the red in our gorgeous fall display. Take some home if you wish, but they will not carry far nor last long.

The Western Flowering Dogwood of British Columbia does not like our district. We have three members of the dogwood family. The Panicked, the Bunchberry and the Red Osier, but not the Western Flowering. It is a tree growing to 20 feet or more and is covered with snow white, four petalled flowers.

The selection of a national floral emblem has often been suggested. It is true we have the maple leaf but we should also have a national flower. Not many flowers grow in all ten provinces, but high up on the short list of those that do, are two of our common ones, the fireweed and the columbine.

The never failing crop of dandelions on our lawns might lead us to believe that there is the same persistence in all our wild flowers and that year after year there is a steady procession of flowers starting with the anemone and ending with the purple stemmed aster. However, such does not appear to be the case. Blazing star, for example, may be very plentiful one year and may occur in large patches, then for two or three years there may be comparatively few and those areas that produced large patches may have none. On the other hand, you may discover a new flower or to be more correct, one that you had never seen before. There may be several near it the next year, and two or three years later, you may find it in several places. Another interesting phenomenon is the growth of flowers in disturbed soil such as fireguards and the ditches along new roads through the forests. A forest area may produce only a very occasional aster, wintergreen and false solomon seal, but put a road through it and the piles of roots and top soil pushed back by the bulldozers will be covered the second year with Fireweed, Canada Golden Rod, Pink Corydalis, Dandelions and others.

We have a great variety of flowers. In size they vary from the Trailing Arbutus which nestles in the fallen needles to the Blue Lettuce which may reach a height of eight feet. In texture we find everything from the dainty bells of the twin flower to the massive spikes of the Great Mullein. The reason behind the names given some flowers is a puzzle, but not in the case of the Great Mullein. Its common name "Flannel Plant" aptly describes its thick fluff coated basal leaves.

A stroll, or more properly speaking a scramble, along the edge of a cedar and balsam swamp in mid May is richly rewarding. At its very edge you may find yellow or even showy ladies'-slippers. The yellow will be most likely the large yel-

low, although you might find the small one too. With these you will often find the purple, pear-shaped seed pods of the Blue-Fly-Honeysuckle. They frequently stay on that long. If you work a little further into the shrubbery, you will find some of our daintiest flowers. The exceedingly delicate Star Flower, the Twin Flower, the Indian Ginger, the Fringed Milkwort with its dainty rose coloring and long lower fringed petal. There probably will be a strawberry or two. The Two-leafed Solomon Seal, the Yellow Clintonia with its 2-4 heavy strap-like leaves and tall thin flower stalk. There will be Red Baneberry with the three-bladed leaf and the globular white flower head. If you go a little deeper into the swamp, you may find the tiny Round-leafed Orchis. No one who has examined this or studied the delicate Star Flower can deny the truth of a line from Ben Johnson "and in short measure life may perfect be." Fortunate is the person who finds a good sized patch of Twin Flowers. Go to it on a calm evening and drink deeply of the haunting aroma.

The Indian Ginger is an interesting plant. It has 2-3 thick wooly leaves with stems 2-6 inches long. The unusual flower is on an exceedingly short stem and often is half or completely covered by dead leaves or needles. The flower is a deep maroon cup with a white interior. It is apparently made up of three joined petals and each terminates in a long slender finger-like projection.

The areas stateliest flower is the Culver's Root which grows in low shrubbery in lighter soil. It is a tall plant 2-4 feet high with whorls of leaves around the stem becoming gradually smaller near the top. Each stem terminates in a long white tapering flower cluster with a very fine tip which usually curves gracefully to one side. The sight of these tall white graceful spikes in the shrubbery is arresting.

Probably the most interesting flower growing in open swamps is the Prairie White Fringed Orchis. It is a thick stemmed plant with clasping leaves. Each stem bears a cluster of white or cream and white flowers. These are about 1½ inches in diameter and four-petalled. A large heavy petal at the back, one on each side and a long snow white front or lower petal divided into three parts and each part is very finely fringed. The flower is one of our most fragrant but unfortunately short-lived.

This rambling sketch will not give much of a glimpse of our flora but it may give a hint of the great variety of flowers found in the area. Even a short stroll here will convince the observer that the most delicate of coloring and perfection of form exist not only in our Botanical Gardens and parks but both are here along our roadsides. The doors to the display are always open and all are welcome.

You Can Beat Frost

by J. P. de WET, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Mr. de Wet is President of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. He has been a hard working director of this society for quite a number of years.

You can beat the early frosts — but you must be outdoors at sunrise to do so. Your season for tender annuals need not end with the first frosts in September, if you value your flowers enough to give them just a little extra care.

If you keep watch on temperatures and for frost indicators when the cool nights come in early September, you will find that the critical time often is an hour around sunrise. That's your opportunity! Go outdoors with your hose and sprinkle your pretty flowers. The water from your house supply is well above freezing point, and several degrees of frost may be combatted with a light spraying. If necessary, spray your blossoms two or three times. And when the critical period is past you'll find the results are well worth the trouble.

I proved that for myself last September. When I left my bed one morning at 6:30 a.m. and looked outdoors, I saw little white spots developing on my lawn and on the garage roof. Outside I went, quickly. There was no ice on the bird bath yet — but not long after I found a thin covering, and the little white spots had grown much larger. In fact, all the grass had turned white. But my flowers were doing fine.

My recommendation will not hold good when the freeze begins in early and lasts all night; on those occasions, your thermometer by morning may read 24 or 25 degrees, which is too cold for any but the hardiest plants. But you certainly can defeat the frosts that come at sunrise — with much less trouble than extensive all-night coverings. Arise at sunrise, that's my tip.

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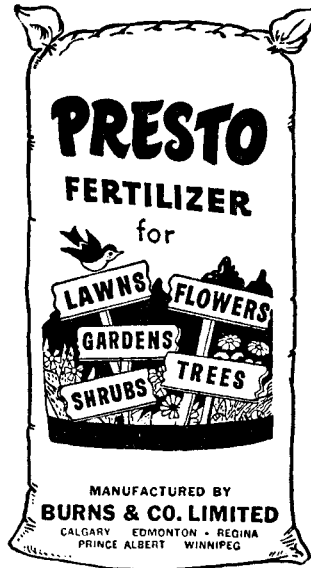
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The dangers of "burning" and "killing" plants through excessive application or over-feeding of straight chemical fertilizers are of little concern to users of PRESTO, for with PRESTO it is almost impossible to ruin plants even if larger amounts than advised are used. For best results, however, we recommend that you follow directions on "How to Apply" which will be found in all containers. Copies of "How to Apply" will be mailed on request.

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Pruning and Shearing of Evergreens

by R. H. PATMORE

Patmore Nurseries, Brandon, Manitoba

Mr. R. H. Patmore is an authority on Evergreens. He operates a sizeable nursery at Brandon, Manitoba, much of which is devoted to Conifers.

Many growers fail to get the most out of their evergreens because they are not familiar with the proper methods of pruning and shaping. Growing conditions may affect the form of a tree, injury may distort growth. Such induced defects can be permanently corrected by proper pruning.

The difference between trees grown from seed and those vegetatively reproduced (grafted or rooted from cuttings or slips) should be noted, as this is a factor in the results one may expect from pruning. A vegetatively reproduced tree will tend to be an exact replica of its parent, and if accidental conditions cause any variation from this form, pruning will correct it. However, trees from seed each have their own individual characteristics, and as with human beings, no two are ever exactly alike. One or two in a hundred will be exceptionally well formed, and such trees are often chosen for grafting, to preserve this form in new plants. Possibly half of them will be satisfactory as ornamentals. All of these will respond permanently to pruning. But the other half will be poor in form, and of these most will be worthless. Pruning of such trees can improve their appearance, and they may be kept passably attractive as long as pruning is continued, especially if the pruning is begun when they are small so that the tree responds at an early age. However, as soon as pruning is discontinued, and it must be when the top gets out of reach, these trees will resume their unattractive naturally poor shape.

HOW AND WHEN TO PRUNE

Spruce, balsam, Douglas fir, larch, etc. are pruned by cutting the new shoots only and this can be done at any time after the newly formed buds on the new growth can be seen, usually from early July until before growth starts the following spring, except in late fall and winter. In pruning in this

new growth, it is essential that the cut be made just above a bud. Such buds ready to start growth the following spring, will be noticeable at intervals along the new growth, and there is sometimes a cluster of them at the base of the new shoot. If a cut is made so as to leave no bud to grow out the following year, the branch will eventually die out, as these evergreens have little capacity to form fortuitous buds.

Pine do not form new buds along the new growth. However, such buds can be forced to develop in pine (but not in spruce, etc.) in the new growth if cut at the right time. Pine then, can be pruned **only in the soft new growth and only at the middle of June on the prairies, earlier elsewhere.** If cut later than this the growth will have aged to the point where it loses the capacity to form new buds, and the stem will often die back if cut. Therefore this precaution of proper timing must be observed. Apart from this, pruning is done the same way and for the same reasons as with spruce.

Cedar and juniper can be pruned at any time from spring to midsummer and the cut can be made anywhere in the foliated portions. Older stems with little or no foliage will have difficulty making new growth if cut, and may die back, especially if pruned on the lower part of the tree.

REASONS FOR PRUNING

Uneven development of lateral branches. One or more of the lateral (side) branches may have developed ahead of the others, projecting out beyond them. This will mar the symmetry of the tree. It is corrected by cutting off the end portion of the new shoot on this projecting branch. It may be necessary merely to cut out the end bud on this shoot. This will cause loss of one year's outward growth on this branch and enable the other branches to catch up with it. It may be necessary to cut back the tips of several of the lateral branches, or all of them in one area of the tree to bring it back to a symmetrical form. Don't be too drastic. Feel your way by shortening a projecting branch here and there, repeating in subsequent years if necessary. If you try to do it all at once you may upset the balance in another direction. The leader or terminal shoot at the top may have failed to grow for a season due to bud injury, while the lateral branches grow normally. This will often give the tree a squat appearance, and to correct this it may be necessary to prune the ends of all the outer lateral branches. The development of a new leader will be discussed below.

Leader or terminal shoot makes too much growth in one year. This will result in a wide gap between the tiers of

branches, since these tiers only form each year at the end of a terminal shoot. Such wide gaps give a thin appearance to the tree and are typical or poorly shaped trees from seed, although a series of good growing seasons may, if soil is good, temporarily force such growth in an otherwise well formed tree. This can be corrected by cutting the terminal shoot back about half way, and cutting just above a well developed bud, which will form the next season's leader. As this new bud grows the following year it should be staked up for a month or more to make it grow vertically. It may be found next season that a bud below the one selected will send out a more vigorous shoot. In this case cut the old terminal growth back again to just above this more vigorous shoot and stake it up. The tree would eventually develop a new leader, even if not staked, but it would take longer and the shoot would probably be off center.

Two or more leaders may develop. In this case select the most vigorous and stake it into a vertical position. Then prune the end off the other competing leaders and force them to develop laterally. If one of the leaders is already vertical it will not require staking.

Top bud on the leader may be injured and fail to develop into a new leader. This is the condition mentioned above. In this case select the most vigorous of the new shoots growing near the top and stake it up vertically. Since the growth of the lateral branches has not been checked, it may be necessary to prune them as suggested above to prevent the tree developing a squat appearance, unless the newly chosen leader makes very vigorous growth.

Leader may curve or grow off vertical. This is easily corrected by tying the leader to a straight stake. A broad tying material such as raffia, twistens, or a flat shoe lace is best for this purpose. The stake does not need to be in position very long. The shoot will have grown into place within four or five weeks.

DWARF EVERGREENS

Dwarf evergreens of any variety can be developed by drastic cutting back of the new growth every year on all the lateral and also the terminal shoot. Thin open trees from seed can be improved by the same treatment. The precautions outlined above of proper timing in the case of pine and always leaving a bud below the cut in the case of spruce, balsam, etc., must be observed.

Dwarf Mountain Pine can be made more compact and attractive by shearing the ends off the new growth all over

the tree at the middle of June every year if they have reached the maximum desired size, or every second or third year if greater height is desired.

One word of caution in connection with pruning evergreens. Always preserve a conical or inverted bowl form. Never prune so that an upper branch projects outward beyond a lower one. Such lower branches deprived of light by the overhanging upper branches will become unhealthy and ultimately bare and ragged. This applies, of course, to all trees, deciduous as well as evergreen.

NUTRITION AND PLACING

Food and water are probably the most important factors in producing well shaped evergreens. Trees grown in poor soil — and most homes are surrounded by fill from basements covered by a thin layer of top soil — cannot look their best unless fertilized and watered so as to make up for soil deficiency. Evergreens planted under larger trees or near established trees and shrubs will look unthrifty unless fed and watered so as to enable them to compete with these older trees, until they are well established — a matter of five years and more.

In the nursery the tree does not have to compete with other vegetation as it is kept hoed and cultivated. This forms a mulch over the soil which prevents moisture loss. However, when transplanted into a lawn it must at once face fierce competition from the established lawn roots. It has lost considerable portions of its roots and remaining roots are shallow and near the surface. If not given frequent water until established, even if it survives, it will take years to develop roots deeply enough to compete and will present an unthrifty, unattractive appearance.

Rainfall is deceptive. In the hot days of midsummer a well soaked soil can become parched within a week. Do not depend on rainfall in the hot days of midsummer. After the first year a good tablespoonful or handful of well balanced fertilizer once or twice a year to each tree will do wonders for it. The new slow acting fertilizers are safer to use.

Cedar and juniper usually require more care than other evergreens. Dog injury will cause bare spots if they are not protected from strays. Cedar are shallow rooted and are more susceptible to drouth. A good soaking late in the fall is desirable, as well as often during the summer. They are better without extra water during late summer and fall.

Trees, like lawns and other plants require deep watering. Shallow watering is often harmful as it encourages shallow

rooting. For this reason a good soaking at intervals is better than frequent light waterings. A depression around each tree that will hold one or more pails of water is desirable.

Sunscald or sunburn can affect the form of trees. All foliage transpires or gives off moisture and such transpiration is stimulated by warm bright sun and rapid movement of air around them. In late winter, as the sun's rays strengthen, transpiration increases, but the roots in frozen soil cannot replace this loss quickly enough if it becomes excessive. Burning of foliage therefore may result. The more heavily foliated a tree is, the greater the moisture loss. The heavily foliated pyramidal cedar should therefore be planted where less exposed to the prevailing west and northwest winter winds, and if possible shaded from early afternoon sun during February and March. Sunscald is usually not permanent; spruce and pine, etc., are not often affected, and even cedar will usually recover by midsummer if fed and watered well. Juniper seem more affected by wind, and should not be planted in exposed locations. When their roots get deeply established they seem to resist quite well. The low growing juniper *sabina* is rarely affected by these conditions, but can be severely injured by dogs.

SELECTING TREES FOR FORM

Since as stated above, form is inherent in a tree, if trees are being taken from the bush considerable care should be observed in selecting them. Most of the spruce in our Manitoba forested areas are the black spruce (not the Black Hill spruce, which is an ornamental strain of the white spruce, developed in the Black Hills of South Dakota). Black spruce have short stiff green needles and only the few best shaped trees of this species will make good ornamentals. Incidentally, some good specimens of this species are now being grafted. Most trees from the bush will be thin with sparse foliage. Such trees transplant easily, even with neglect, because moisture loss through their thin foliage is negligible. They usually grow faster than better shaped trees, most of the growth being upwards with wide empty gaps between tiers of branches. However it is possible to select good trees from the bush, if compactness and symmetrical form are sought. Such trees should be carefully dug. They will be more difficult to transplant because of heavier moisture loss through their more abundant foliage. But they are worth it. The other trees, the thin ones might be improved to some extent by pruning, but the improvement will not be permanent and they will in the long run detract from rather than add to the appearance of a property.

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Horticulture in the Peace River District

by G. W. Shewchuk

District Agriculturist, Spirit River, Alberta

To appreciate the vastness of this area one would of necessity require a detailed map of Northern Alberta. In effect one can consider it as a province within a province. It is unfortunate that only a few know it and of its potentialities. I had the good fortune of meeting here a few visitors from other provinces. I must say that they were very pleasantly surprised with most everything they had seen — farms, farmsteads, crops, livestock and horticultural crops. The discovery of oil and gas in practically every part of the area in the last few years has perhaps overshadowed and created more interest from the outside than has anything else. This will no doubt do much to make it known to the outside world of the vast potentialities in the Peace River district.

Very little publicity has been given to horticultural crops here. Perhaps this may be attributed to long distances to markets and to the fact that up to a couple or three years ago all horticultural crops grown here were consumed locally. Much more publicized are the cereal, grass and legume crops. If anyone wishes to go back a little in history, he'll recall the world's wheat champion, Herman Trelle. He became a perennial world's wheat champion. To encourage more exhibitors at the Toronto and Chicago fairs, his exhibits were banned. This did not discourage Herman. He trained his neighbour, who also took a number of world championships. There are others like Tom Corlett who became the alsike king. He also obtained championships in the oat exhibits. In the 4-H grain classes there are Gunder Sveinunggaard and Hella Delfs. In the grass and legume seeds there are a number of championships from the Peace River district. One may say that these have no bearing on horticulture. I can foresee a similar thing in the horticultural field some time in the future when it has developed to a higher degree.

It is difficult for many to understand how all this can be achieved in what at first sight on a map may appear barren wilderness which is more northerly than Flin Flon. Part of this may perhaps be attributed to good fertile soil, low evaporation rate and the long hours of daylight during the growing season. The longer days in summer speed up plant growth to make up for the shorter growing season. It's wonderful what nature will do.

In the number of years I have lived here, I had attended and judged at horticultural shows in places like Kinuso, High

Prairie, Falher, Eaglesham, Manning, Grande Prairie and Dawson Creek in B.C. Although the number of entries in some of these shows are small, the quality in most cases is outstanding.

Gardening is my hobby and growing glads is a special hobby of mine. In the eleven years that I have been here, I have had eleven good gardens. A couple of years had been quite dry, but in spite of these, the gardens came through very well. Sweet corn and cucumbers did exceptionally well in these dry years. As a rule sweet corn and cucumbers are difficult to grow satisfactorily because of the fact that most of the soils in the Peace River district are heavy mineral soils. They remain quite cool throughout the growing season.

In the last few years I had visited several gladioli enthusiasts (in the 10,000 class or more with at least 150 varieties) who have made a very nice hobby of it. The Earlys of Peace River and the McKinneys of Teepee Creek have gone into it more commercially in selling flowers and bulbs. Others are growing them mainly for the pleasure they get from glads. The early, medium early and the medium maturing varieties are found to be most successful under our conditions. Later maturing varieties may be grown if pre-sprouted before planting time. It has been said by those who have seen glads elsewhere that our glads can favourably compare with any others grown in the prairie provinces.

In writing about our horticulture, one cannot go on without giving credit to the Dominion Experimental Farm at Beaverlodge for many of the achievements we have attained. They have spear-headed practically all the horticultural introductions into this district. Each year I take great pleasure in touring their gardens. This is a major attraction for hundreds of visitors they have during the summer. Some call it the horticultural 'Mecca' of the Peace River country. It is, indeed, a beautiful sight in July and August. One cannot do justice to it with only a limited space available here.

Interest and requests for plants seen at the Experimental Farm became so great that Mr. J. A. Wallace, a few years ago, had established a nursery only half a mile from this station. Mr. Wallace handles just about everything the average prairie nursery would handle. His nursery also supplies his many customers with plants of cabbage, cauliflower, tomato as well as annual flowers for bedding purposes.

Perhaps the best known and the most widely advertised are the market gardens along the river flats of the mighty Peace River. There are from fifteen to twenty of these market gardens scattered along these flats from Ft. St. John in B.C. to the Peace River town. These flats are particularly favoured

with advantages over other areas in the Peace River district for growing special crops. The soil here is a deep rich sandy loam which warms up more readily than most other Peace River area soils. These flats are exposed to the south receiving the full benefit of the sun permitting a much more rapid growth than would otherwise be expected. The hills to the north and north-west give a much needed protection from the winds. Most of these gardens have natural spring water flowing through them from the hills in the background. Should there be a dry season, the gardens may be irrigated. Perhaps the greatest asset to these gardeners is the Peace River itself. It is this large body of water that gives them a slight edge on prolonging the growing season. I had seen it on several occasions where gardens in this area were saved from the fall frosts. Whenever the atmospheric temperature drops suddenly, a heavy mist arises from the river, protecting the tender plant growth that may have suffered from a few degrees of frost.

By this time you may have wondered what these gardeners are growing that has made them so widely known throughout the North. Vegetables such as cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, beets, potatoes, peas, beans, radish, onions, lettuce, parsnips are grown by every farmer. It is in vegetables such as sweet corn, cucumbers and tomatoes, which the average family finds a little more difficult to grow, that these valley gardeners specialize in. Practically every market gardener has his pet hobby. One grows glads; another delphiniums; a few fruit trees; annual and perennial flowers. All this adds to the glamour and attraction of these places. It is a common thing to see at any of these gardens hundreds of people from the towns and country getting their supply of vegetables or perhaps some flowers for their loved ones. The sad thing about it is that these gardeners cannot supply the demand.

In the small fruits and perennial flowers, there are very few listed in the prairie nursery catalogs that cannot be grown in the Peace River district. I should perhaps make one qualification here. For successful gardening here one must have a good tree shelterbelt. This is true of most prairie gardens, but in this area its importance is even greater. As to the varieties that may be grown, it may be summed up as follows: A number of years ago I visited Dr. Skinner's nursery at Dropmore, Manitoba. Had his catalogs every year and personally ordered and grown some of the fruits, shrubs and perennial flowers recommended by him as hardy. They have done very well. I can truthfully say that any plant recommended as hardy at Dropmore, can be grown with success in the Peace River district.

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New Daylilies

by H. F. HARP, Experimental Farm, Morden, Man.

A most accommodating plant is the Daylily. In sun or partial shade it seems to thrive with a minimum of attention and a maximum of neglect, and as a consequence it is often relegated to an obscure spot. Lack of sunshine will reduce its flowering propensities but in no way diminish the attractiveness of the handsome strap-shaped foliage.

Several new varieties have been on test at the Experimental Farm at Morden for the past few seasons and considerable interest has been manifest in their unique and sometimes odd colorings.

It would seem that the new varieties are somewhat less robust than the old timers and to succeed with them a little extra cultural attention will be rewarded in satisfactory plants.

Choose an open sunny position for the Daylilies and while they are not at all fastidious in soil preference they do enjoy a deep medium-heavy loam amply supplied with humus. Established plants are tolerant of periods of dry weather without much ill effect, but newly planted ones should not be permitted to suffer from lack of water or the fleshy roots will shrivel, weakening the young plant and endangering the chance of its winter survival.

The old varieties of Daylilies are of ironclad hardiness; not so the new hybrids but they will come through the winter satisfactorily if they have been well cared for during the growing season. As an added safety measure, a light covering of flax straw or some such material may be placed about the plants in October.

The following brief descriptions of some new varieties of Daylilies which have proven satisfactory are given as a guide to those who wish to include something new in the perennial border:

Baronet — Early flowering brick red with yellow throat. The petals are wide and slightly recurved.

Bouttoniere — Has small, wide-petalled blooms borne in profusion from August on. The color is rosy peach suffused yellow.

Minnie — Rich mahogany red with a striking orange throat. The flowers are small but very attractive.

Linda — This is a fascinating variety with creamy-yellow and rose petals gracefully waved.

Chisca — Mahogany-rose with yellow throat. Long season of bloom.

Besides these newcomers there are a few of the older varieties that might well be included in any collection of Daylilies. They are:

J. A. Crawford — An early, large flowered yellow suffused apricot.

Gaiety — Pure yellow.

Margaret Perry — Coppery-red, yellow veined. Never fails to bloom profusely in August.

Mrs. W. H. Wyman — Pale yellow; large flowers on tall stems.

The old Tawny Daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*) with its coppery orange flowers should not be overlooked, and some there are who have a fondness for the double flowered form of *fulva* called "Kwanso". Those who are discriminate in their acceptance of double flowers may well reject it.

Most varieties of Daylilies grow to a height of 3 feet and require a square yard for their proper development.

The plants of the new Daylilies grown at Morden were obtained from the Brookdale-Kingsway Nurseries, Bowmanville, Ontario.

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Why Transplant Perennials

by H. H. MARSHALL, Head Gardener,
Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon, Manitoba

The first reason for transplanting perennials is, of course, to establish them around our homes where we can enjoy their foliage and bloom. The belief that perennials, once planted, should remain permanently in that location is false. The bed or border will lose its attractiveness and further transplanting will be necessary. Some species will spread far from their allotted place while others will disappear and all will lose health and vigor.

Although perennials are not permanent, they are valuable because different species will live from two to many years without replanting. They extend the season of bloom into early summer and late fall when few annuals bloom, and add a variety of distinctive forms and colors to the border.

Perennials vary widely in stature, form and in their preferred habitat. In nature competition for plant food, sunlight or water, whichever is in short supply, is always severe. Misplaced plants soon die. Many have become adapted to growth in deep shade or water but in doing so have usually lost resistance to wind or drought. Without such resistance, they are of limited value in our gardens. The native ostrich fern is a shade-loving plant that is often destroyed by wind when planted around a home. Lythrum and day lilies are marsh plants which thrive under cultivation but most plants of value in Prairie gardens are upland plants which prefer to grow in sun or partial shade.

In forested areas, sun-loving perennials are short-lived because any space in which they can grow is soon filled with young trees. Even in the open parklands or prairies rather few herbaceous plants remain in one place for many years. We, therefore, find few of our cultivated perennials capable of thriving in one location for a prolonged period. Dictamnus or gas-plant and peonies will live for a great many years but the latter probably produce their best bloom on plants that are three to five years old.

A number of perennials were designed by nature to fill spaces where the vegetation has been destroyed by flood, fire or animals. Such plants spread rapidly by seeds or roots and soon fill any large or small space. If left undisturbed, they soon become crowded, lose vigor and may be replaced by other plants. The Iceland poppy and perennial flax are two that

reproduce by seed. Chrysanthemums, asters, most other perennial composites, and other species spread by both seeds and roots. Frequently cultivated varieties spread by roots only. As plants of this group tend to produce excessive numbers of new plants, it is usually necessary to remove some plants each year to allow sufficient space for good development of the remainder.

A number of our better perennials will live for a few years in one place, spread to some extent and finally become crowded. Among these are lilies, iris, phlox, day lilies and lychnis, all of which should be divided in from three to five years. Delphinium and aquilegia probably belong here but as they frequently do not divide well good quality seedlings may be used as replacements. If you have a particularly good plant it must be propagated by division.

Plants, as they grow, tend to fill all of the space that is available to them. In doing so, they become crowded and lose vigor with a consequent decrease in the quality and quantity of foliage and bloom. Fortunately many of them may be kept in a state of perpetual youth merely by preventing them from becoming crowded. This may be done, in part, by hoeing out surplus plants but transplanting will also be necessary.

For Success With Fine Seeds

Prepare small pots or shallow plants for sowing these seeds by placing bits of charcoal or small pebbles on the bottom on which a handful or more of coarse sand should be placed. Larger units may be prepared in the same manner. Next, prepare a mixture of soil composed of equal parts of good garden loam and coarse sand by sifting this soil through a one-fourth inch wire mesh. Fill the container two-thirds full of this sifted mixture, press firm with a smooth block, then put a one-inch layer of finely sifted soil on top. Set the container in a pan or saucer of water so that the moisture may soak up through the drainage holes to moisten the soil in the pot. When the surface appears damp, remove the container of water and allow the soil to dry some before sowing the seeds. Mark shallow little rows and sow the seeds very evenly and thinly in these rows. The finer seeds must not be covered with any soil, but pressed into the soil. A piece of white cloth can be laid across the top of soil and kept moist at all times. Keep the seeds at an even temperature. Place in a warm location until germination begins, then the cover must be removed and the sprouting seeds gradually exposed to air and indirect light. Watering should always be done by setting the container in water until it is soaked through. In this way, we run no risk of losing the seed.

Advantages of Gardening with Peat

Peat from Sphagnum moss is formed of tough fibres which retain their character in the soil for years, and its porous nature retains moisture, cutting down water bills. One bale of peat will hold from 130 to 180 gallons of water.

Most soils are benefited by the addition of humus of some kind, and, where the soil is not naturally too acid, peat will be found to be a very efficient and convenient type of humus. In light soils this humus binds the soil and carries the moisture throughout like a system of weeping tile, releasing the moisture as the drying soil comes in contact with the tiny fibres. Where fibre or humus is lacking in soil, whether it is sandy or clay, moisture is evaporated or leaches downward through the soil, drying it out rapidly.

In clay soil, moisture is often lost through evaporation, by means of large cracks formed by contraction of soil particles as moisture is drawn from them. Sphagnum peat helps to break apart these particles and when properly mixed into the soil, makes it friable and much more easily able to retain the moisture.

Soils are either acid or alkaline in reaction in varying degrees, and as most plants have decided preferences, it is apparent that this condition has a great deal to do with the success or failure of the plants. A universally used scale has been devised indicating the degree of acidity or alkalinity of soil, and the use of this, plus a soil-testing kit and a knowledge of what type a plant likes, makes it much easier to produce good plants. Where a tester indicates too great an acid reaction, benefit will be obtained by the use of lime; where a more acid soil is desired, this condition may be arrived at by the use of sphagnum peat. Also, peat helps relieve excessive alkalinity. It has been found that most soils in the Winnipeg area are high in alkali; only in the northern part of the province do we find soils that are high in acid. It is generally safe to use peat in our Greater Winnipeg area as a soil conditioner, withgoing the cost of the soil test.

Chemical fertilizers may be spread when mixed with peat so that every advantage is taken of their component parts, without danger of too great a concentration at any one point, and plant food in the soil is made readily available because of the peat's organic action.

Newly seeded lawns should be protected by a light dressing of peat and a winter mulch provides insulation against temperature changes, besides preventing growth too early in the spring, when young shoots often get caught by late frosts.



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The Northern Fruit Garden

by R. J. HILTON, Professor of Horticulture,
Ontario Agriculture College, Guelph, Ontario,
and

W. D. EVANS, Assistant in Fruits Breeding,
Division of Horticulture, University of Alberta, Edmonton

Dr. R. J. Hilton, until recently, was Professor of Horticulture at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, for over ten years.

Native Fruits — The value and importance of the native fruits are often underestimated or overlooked. Many kinds of fruits are native to our Western Prairies and they make a worthwhile addition to the variety of fruit which can be obtained or grown locally. Generally, they are not placed under cultivation, but are allowed to grow wild. However, selections of better types have been made in some of the native kinds, and these selections are worth growing in the home garden.

Raspberries are widespread throughout the area, and although they lack size, the native species bears fruit of excellent quality. Blueberries and cranberries are limited to their native locality by soil and moisture conditions, but we do have substitutes for them. The edible honeysuckle is native in many parts of the area, and it can be domesticated. It is a very acceptable substitute for the blueberry, as it possesses a blue fruit which has a flavor combining the characteristics of the blueberry and the black currant. A substitute for cranberries is found in the American or highbush cranberry. This plant is not a true cranberry, but it makes an excellent jelly which is very similar to that of the true cranberry. The highbush cranberry is very useful as an ornamental as well. The variety Manito Pembina, introduced by the Morden Experimental Farm, is highly recommended.

Currants and gooseberries which are native are widely distributed in the area, but cultivated varieties are not difficult to grow and are superior to the wild types in yield and ease of harvesting. The same situation exists with strawberries. Some selection work has been done with native strawberries. The selections are hardier and better flavored than introduced varieties, and are easier to grow, but they lack size.

Other fruits that are native to the northern districts are tree fruits, including the pincherry, chokecherry and saskatoon. The two cherries are well known for the excellent jelly that can be made from them. They grow well under cultivation and make excellent trees for the home grounds.

However, since the pioneer days when early prairie set-

blers found the Stoney, the Blackfoot and the Cree eagerly gathering wild berries for pounding into pemmican and for drying to the "prairie raisin" stage, those same settlers have sought to produce the standard cultivated sorts, rather than to adapt the native wild types to cultivation. And so the search for hardy garden fruits, of acceptable kinds and with good quality, has engaged the earnest attention of amateur and professional researchers for the past century or more.

From its earliest beginning, the Manitoba Horticultural Association strove to keep up with member interest in fruit growing by publication of reports on experiences in this field under the rigorous Western climate. It was soon found that fruit kinds and varieties that were reasonably satisfactory in the "banana belt" of Southern Manitoba could not be depended upon in most other regions of the prairies. This was the beginning of the information that led some 75 years later to the development of the horticultural zonation map of the prairies by the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture. For intelligent understanding of the problems confronting the home fruit gardener in the colder areas of Western Canada, this regional zonation on the basis of climate, topography and varietal adaptation is a necessity. He is therefore urged to consult his provincial authorities at the Universities or Departments of Agriculture, and obtain this zonation map.

In a general way then we can undertake to discuss what fruits the home gardener can grow. The varieties noted herein are chosen principally for their relatively wide adaptability and good quality. In the Morden area of Southern Manitoba, and in especially favored sites in other areas, a wider range of varieties can be tried.

Tree Fruits — The one apple variety that can be grown successfully over the whole settled prairie region is Heyer 12. This small, green-white, rather ordinary-looking apple, borne in profusion on a dwarf tree, is a monument to the fruit-growing interest of the late Adolph Heyer, that will endure for many generations. The tree is very hardy and healthy and the fruits are unparalleled for sauce and pie if not allowed to go past maturity in August. Battleford is a later apple, good until late fall, and also very hardy. Haralson (late winter) Manan and Manitoba Spy (both late fall and winter) are three other good apples, but they are not quite so hardy nor so resistant to fire blight disease as the first two mentioned.

The so-called apple-crabs have smaller fruits than apples, as befits a hybrid between a standard apple and the crabapple. Of these, Rescue is unquestionably the most widely adapted and hardiest. The delicious Trail is worth trying anywhere South of a Dauphin to Edmonton line, and Renown, Piotosh, Printosh and Rosilda are excellent apple-crabs that can be tried where adequate shelter is provided.

In crabapples, Dolgo is the standard of quality for jelly making and a fine ornamental with its mass of snow-white blossoms that are preliminary to the crop of blood-red, longish fruits. Garnet, Sylvia and Columbia are even hardier, and are of good quality. Anaros and Osman are two other good varieties. The list of suitable crabapples is a long one, but those mentioned will provide jelly enough for most people.

The most promising plum news these days is the way in which the new Korean strains of Japanese plums have shown adaptation to cold conditions. They can stand some fruit improvement, but that will come fairly quickly. In the meantime, Ptitsin 9, 10 and 12 make excellent garden trees and the small green plums are an excellent substitute for the well known but too tender Green Gage. Native Canadian plums have given us the very hardy Dandy, Norther and Bounty varieties and Mina and Pembina are useful and high quality hybrids of native plums with exotic species. The sandcherry plum hybrids have resulted in the delicious small and very low-growing varieties of Dura, Manor and Opata and two or three bushes of these should be in each home garden. No one variety of plum should be depended upon to pollinate itself satisfactorily, so at least two and preferably three or four varieties should be planted close by one another.

The Ussurian pear is a species that is very hardy, but the fruits are sour and of inferior quality. Tait Dropmore, Pioneer, Olia and Golden Spice should be tried in sheltered gardens. Their fruits may be small, but the quality is good to very good.

Most dwellers in Canada's plains area feel that growing cherries in the home garden is too much to expect. It is true that the sweet cherries like Bing, Windsor, Napoleon and so on, and the sour pie-cherries like Montmorency and English Morello just haven't the necessary fortitude to stand the dry, cold winters, but there are high quality substitutes for any prairie gardener who will take the time and interest necessary to try them. Sandcherries grow well on the prairies, and an improved strain, Hansen Bush Cherry, is useful for its fruit and also as an ornamental. One hardy cherry is the Nanking, a delicious half-sweet bush cherry that is a chancy cropper in that the blossoms open early, while frost danger still is present. The bushes can be protected by covering during this period, or the plants set in a protected location. Another very hardy bush cherry is the relatively new *Prunus fruticosa*, called the Mongolian Cherry. It is a close enough relative to the Morello sours that the fruits are definitely sour, and like the Morellos they are of very high quality for pies and for jam and jelly. These cherries grow on low (3½ foot) bushes that are attractive shiny-leaved plants, even without having the added characteristic of bearing good fruit.

Apricots can be grown in the warmer parts of the prairies, and the Morden Farm varieties of Scout and Robust are well worth a trial.

Small Fruits — Probably the two bush cherries should be included in this section, but cherries so customarily are classed as Tree Fruits that I hesitate to change convention simply because these species grow as bushes in cold climates. We will mention briefly the cane fruits, strawberries and the bush fruits most likely to be of value in the home garden.

The most widely grown small fruit in Canada is the red raspberry. Their satisfactory growth on the prairies depends on whether or not one is prepared to take some pains to provide a sheltered garden area for their growth, on the adaptability and hardiness of the variety chosen, and on whether or not one lives in the Chinook Belt. Raspberry plants are hard to keep alive when the warm Pacific chinooks clean off the snow in late winter after the plants are through their rest period. Hence in these areas, gardeners bend the canes to the ground just before freeze-up and cover with soil. In other areas, hardy varieties like Chief, Honeyking, Madawaska, Trent and Flaming Giant may be left uncovered, while more tender, larger-fruited sorts like Newburg, Viking and Muskoka are bent to the ground and tip-covered with soil or poles to make a better snow trap through the winter months. Pruning is most commonly done in early spring, unlike the common practice in warmer parts of the country of pruning just after fruiting is over.

Strawberries may be grown on the hill system, or any adaptation of the matted row systems, and each training system has its advocates and certain advantages. Of June-bearing varieties (really July-bearing on the prairies), Senator Dunlap, Premier and British Sovereign are most widely grown, although Glencoe, Glendale and Glenn are widely adapted and equally desirable new Manitoba varieties. Everbearers are increasing in popularity, especially since the advent of the fine new varieties Streamliner, Superfection and Evermore. Northern, Gem and Jubilee are three older varieties that should receive priority in any planting.

Currants and Gooseberries will find more favour in prairie gardens since the fruit maggot (Currant Fruit Fly) is controllable by DDT sprays at blossom-time and again a week later. Also new varieties are larger-fruited, productive and make handling these fruits more rewarding. In black currants, the most satisfactory Magnus is the new Willoughby variety which has proved to be highly productive and of fine quality and berry size. Red Lake, Cascade and Stephens are the best red currants, while Prince Albert does well in some areas. Cap-

tivator, a new large-fruited gooseberry from Ottawa, is a real find and with a straw cover in the coldest areas, should do well anywhere on the prairies. Pixwell and Abundance are well-known hardy but small-fruited gooseberries.

The Beaverlodge Experimental Farm has released two Saskatoon berry strains that are improvements over the wild. These are named Smoky and Pembina and should be tried in most prairie gardens, for this well-known native plant has good ornamental value, as well as useful fruit. A lesser-known fruit is the edible-fruited honeysuckle, of which two varieties, Georges Bugnet and Julia Bugnet, are becoming available. These blue fruits make a jam that is outstanding for real piquancy. They should be much more widely grown.

Fruit Garden Culture — It should be emphasized that shelter is essential for most prairie areas, where fruit growing is attempted. Another point too often overlooked is that our fruit plants, in particular the small fruits, require good fertility for best results. This is very evident with strawberries and raspberries, where the tendency of these fruits to have vigour reduced by virus disease can be overcome to greater or lesser degree by heavy feeding of manure and a high-phosphate fertilizer. Irrigation should be provided when necessary, but of greater value is the provision of a soil that is high in organic matter and therefore most retentive of natural rainfall. In general, pruning woody fruit plants consists of removal of the oldest bearing wood and also of chafed and crossing branches and those that are diseased or too crowded.

Each home gardener who is interested in fruit growing will do well to obtain a list of prairie nurserymen from his provincial horticulturist, and to select those most likely to have a good range of fruit varieties. Obtain their catalogues and settle down to enjoy the whole procedure, from the excitement of making out your first order for plants, to the even greater excitement of seeing those same plants heavily laden with taste-and-eye-appealing fruits.

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Rosa Nitida as a Parent

by Percy H. WRIGHT

Mr. Wright operated a plant nursery at Moose Range, Sask., for many years.

A publication like "The Prairie Garden", with a selected band of readers, should provide a suitable medium for a more technical paper than one submits to the ordinary periodical. Because my experiments in the breeding of *Rosa Nitida* hybrids have been delayed by money difficulties, and because I believe this species to possess some desirable genes that should be brought into domesticated rose varieties, I wish to present a summary of the results achieved to date in a breeding program involving this geographically restricted North American species.

Perhaps it would be best to begin with a list of the desirable characteristics (each probably represented by a gene) which I believe the species to possess:

- 1) Shiny foliage.
- 2) Bright red autumn coloration.
- 3) Non-fading of flower color.
- 4) Suppression of violet tones to some degree.

In addition to these characteristics, there is one very undesirable one, that for weak flower-stem; and one that may be considered desirable or undesirable, according to the breeder's aims, that for dwarfness. Though not nearly so dwarf as certain strains of our native grasslands rose, *Rosa Suffulta*, *Rosa Nitida* attains over 18 inches of height.

The species does not lack hardiness, as its occurrence in Newfoundland attests. My information is that it ranges from certain districts of New England, to Cape Breton Island and Canada's newest province, a rather restricted range, characterized by acid soils.

My plants, brought to Moose Range, Sask., and grown there, were probably of New England origin. Though the soil on my nursery was of high pH, from neutral to 8.5, the plants thrived as long as I gave them cultivation. However, when I allowed grass to occupy their site, they died out. Another New England species, *Rosa Lucida* (apparently related, but much

more vigorous) has spread so on abandoned nursery space that it has come near to naturalizing itself.

My first use of *Nitida* pollen was to place it on pistils of the well-known *Rugosa* hybrid *Hansa*. The first population consisted of about a dozen plants, which were grown for me by a cooperative neighbor, Mr. Murray Bowie, of Aylsham, Sask. Of these, there were quite a few semi-doubles, two doubles, and some singles. Only the two doubles were saved and propagated. The more desirable one for flower quality was named Aylsham, and the other, which at first I did not intend to introduce, was labelled Aylsham Sib or Aylsham No. 2.

Aylsham is a rose of medium size, of very good form considering its descent from *Hansa*, and of a bright red color, with blue tones much less in evidence than in its parent *Hansa*. One could hardly describe it as completely free of any blue, but the adjective "red", without any qualification, comes very near to being accurate. Aylsham has a slender, weak flower stem which allows the flower to become pendent if rains fall, and hispid flower-stems and hews. It grows to about 30 inches high, and suckers somewhat.

Aylsham no. 2 is considerably more vigorous, growing to 42 inches at least, and suckering more rapidly. It was this superior vigor which decided me to let other rosarians have it, including Dr F. L. Skinner, whom I wished to have an early opportunity to use it in breeding. Later, I sent Dr. Skinner a plant of the first choice for the name Aylsham. I do not know whether the plants he now sells as Aylsham are really Aylsham or Aylsham No. 2. In any case, it makes little difference. Aylsham No. 2 is only slightly inferior in doubleness and tidiness of flower, and is, as already stated, decidedly superior in vigor. Both, and all subsequent hybrids of *Hansa* and *Nitida* (as far as I know) have the desirable glossy foliage, the striking and beautiful autumn colorations, and complete fertility.

After obtaining these good results, I raised another population of the same cross, about 20 this time. Of these, nearly all had double or semi-double flowers, and there was some variation in intensity of flower color, varying from pink to the same red as Aylsham. There was also more variation in height, from a true dwarf, the height of *Nitida*, to the height and vigor of *Hansa* itself. These, including one attractively colored single, were scattered about the nursery, and most of them are probably still in existence. One, the very vigorous one, chosen for naming in 1955, was given the designation Bonnie Bowie.

In addition to these, what is apparently a natural hybrid between *Nitida* and *Betty Bland* sprang up of itself in the

spot where I had planted the original *Nitida*. Being much more vigorous, and a rapid suckerer, it spread quickly, almost like a raspberry. It grows to about 24 inches, shares the red fall foliage, and has a semidouble pink flower, a relatively clear pink, of good tone. The flower is too small, too pale, and insufficiently double to allow the variety to be named. However, it is certainly more valuable than the parent *Nitida*, which is grown somewhat for grouping in parks and arboretums. In addition, it may have value for breeding.

Later, I had one seedling by itself, of which I have lost the parentage records, but which was so unusual that at once it attracted my attention. It may be a backcross of Aylsham and *Hansa*, or a sib cross of Aylsham and Aylsham No. 2. No one will ever grow it except for breeding. The plant is weak growing, single, not floriferous, not quite completely hardy, and small flowered. However, it has a most remarkable color, deep velvet-crimson, which does not fade in the sun, exactly the color of petals of *Hansa* when one opens the bud prematurely by force. I have used its pollen several times, and got numerous seeds, but the resultant plants bloomed on the nursery only since I have been absent. The Morden Experimental Station received material of this rose, named *Quadron*, soon after it flowered first, and plants of it are, I believe, now growing on the Station grounds. It should undoubtedly be used further as a parent.

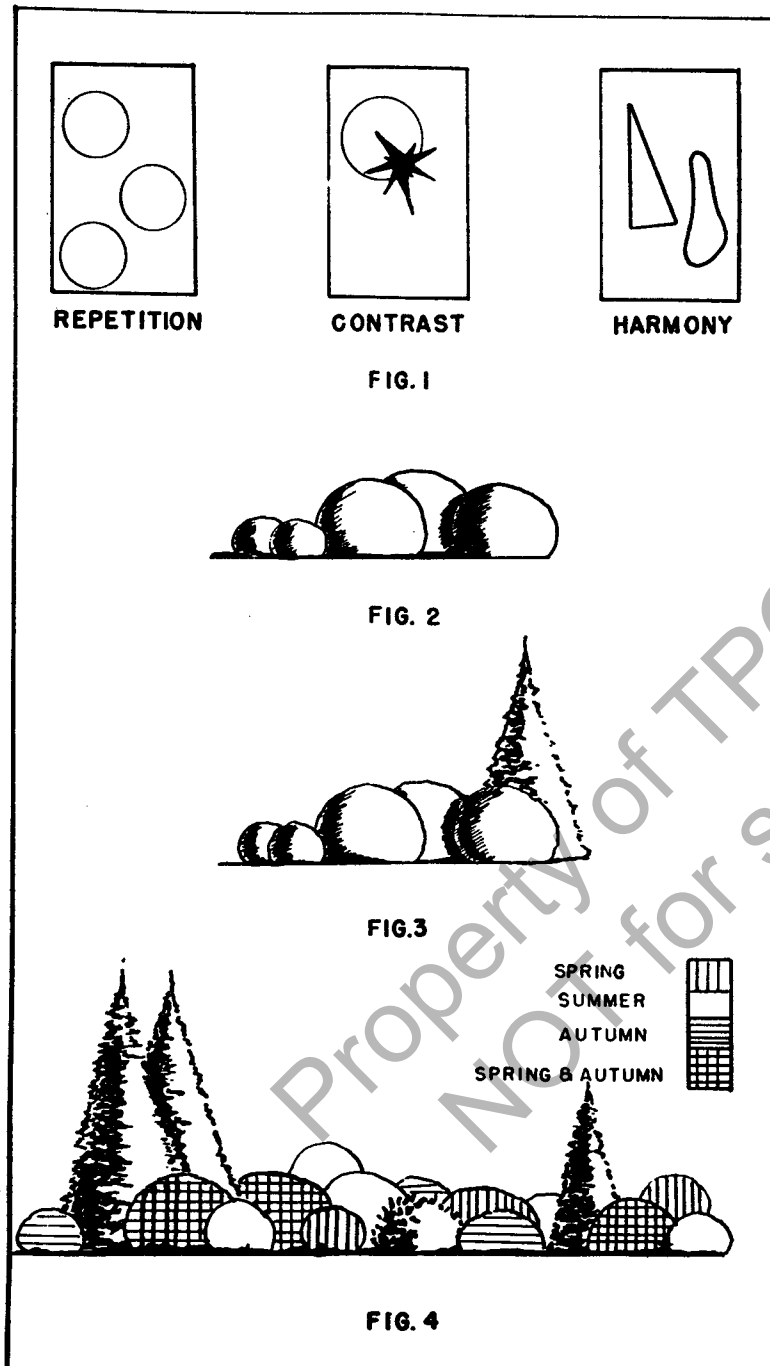
Following my experiments, Dr. Skinner also used *Rosa Nitida* as a parent. I saw a couple of hybrids between Aylsham and *Donald Prior* on his nursery some years ago, but did not see them during my 1956 visit to *Dropmore*. However, I did see a number of selections so like Aylsham that I concluded that they were products of the same two parents. I am writing this because I should like to see still other hybrids of *Nitida* raised, breeding from *Nitida* itself, Aylsham or its sibs, *Quadron*, and the unnamed *Bland* cross. It is altogether likely that very good hybrids between *Betty Bland* and *Nitida* or *Nitida* hybrids could be raised. A special effort should be made to raise the second generation, or F², of *Hansa-Nitida* hybrids, and direct crosses between *Nitida* and *Hybrid Teas*.

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The Art of Shrub Arrangement

by R. H. KNOWLES, Associate Professor of Horticulture
Department of Plant Science, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

Everyone is conscious of the fact that there is an art to arranging things for the improvement of garden or landscape. It is surprising, however, to note how few people realize that the principles involved are basically identical with all other forms of artistic expression. Recently, I was amazed to hear a well-known art collector remark, "Why, the principles of landscape design are no different from those of painting or sculpture!" I hastened to add that the same thing could be said of writing, music, poetry, or the dance. It is a rather strange situation, but still one which is typical of the average person's point of view. The really sad thing, however, is that we find people, who are competent in one field of artistic expression, filled with fear and trembling at the thought of undertaking what turns out to be the same sort of job in another medium.

This situation provides the excuse for presenting a brief and rather sketchy introduction to the principles of artistic expression, as well as something regarding their application to the arrangement of shrubs and trees in the landscape.

Before becoming involved in the subject of art principles, it will be necessary to become familiar with the three basic forms of relationship — Repetition, Contrast and Harmony — shown in Fig. 1. While these, by definition, differ in matter of degree, each is capable of having a strikingly different effect on our senses. For example, Repetition when carried to extremes creates monotony; Contrast, on the other hand, will create interest, while Harmony follows the middle path between the other two.

It would follow from this that lively, interesting design or arrangement must possess a certain content of contrast or variety. This statement is true up to a point. Certainly, we have come to recognize variety as the spice of life; however, unless an arrangement of contrasts possesses an underlying

thread of unity, it can be just as chaotic as those sounds of activity which emanate from the barnyard at feeding time.

But what is Unity? We might look at it this way: if a design should possess two contrasting items and each should have equal strength, then the design lacks unity. If, however, one item should dominate the other, then unity is created. It's that simple; unity can be incorporated in a design by expressing a dominant idea or using a dominant element or by emphasizing a particular element by repetition or harmony. In other words, the artist might conceivably begin his work by using variety and then finish by incorporating a certain amount of either repetition or harmony to give dominance to his main element.

With this background to build on, we are ready to put theories into practice with respect to the layout of trees and shrubs for artistic effect. For the sake of example, we might try to combine the common native dogwood and the smaller purple-leaved plum into an interesting arrangement or composition.

In Fig. 2, I have illustrated a group consisting of three dogwood and two plum. Consider its value as an arrangement. Has it got interest? Does it possess unity?

Some interest apparently exists since there is variety created by (a) a difference in plant size, (b) a difference in foliage color, and (c) a difference in the numbers of larger plants to smaller plants. In consideration of these contrasts, the grouping might be satisfactory from the standpoint of interest or variety; however, if it does not possess unity, the arrangement will not be considered a composition. Fortunately, the grouping does possess unity because in all of the contrasting elements one dominates the other. For example, there are **two** red-foliaged plants to **three** green; **two** small plants to **three** large. In addition, there is repetition of the general form, the oval or globe, which in itself would be sufficient to provide unity.

In this way, with very little appreciation of art principles, an arrangement has been created which might very well be considered a composition. On the other hand, had this arrangement not been based on these guiding principles, we might very easily have created nothing of value.

While the arrangement shown in Fig. 2 possesses the necessary contrasts and unity to be classified as an interesting composition, it may still be improved. This can easily be done

by increasing the number of contrasts and/or varying the magnitude of the various contrasts. If the tall, narrow evergreen pyramid of the spruce were introduced as in Fig. 3, it would mean not only an additional contrast, pyramid vs. oval, but also a contrast of greater magnitude than anything used in the grouping heretofore. This increase in magnitude is achieved not only because of the contrast in form, but because the evergreen foliage contrasts, in addition, with that of the purple-leaved plum. In this way, the composition now possesses what might be described as both major and minor contrasts, a difference which in itself is capable of providing interest. It will also be noted that the addition of this one plant has not decreased unity in any way; the number of oval plants still dominates the scheme.

Now, if plants were static or never-changing, you could see that it would be a very simple problem to arrange them in satisfactory groupings. Plants, however, are not static, and the dynamic or ever-changing character which they exhibit with the changing of the seasons does complicate the matter of arrangement, even though it makes it potentially more interesting. Because of this, it is necessary to take another look at things to consider how an arrangement will look at all seasons of the year. Will the same interest be present the year round? Will the magnitude of the contrasts be increased or decreased as fall changes to winter? How will the change in season affect unity? These are questions which must be answered in order to have an arrangement achieve year-round satisfaction.

Figure 4 serves to illustrate this kind of planning.

At first glance, you will notice that we have a combination of evergreen and deciduous plants. During the summer months, the deciduous planting as a whole will dominate the evergreens, but it will be noted by the time winter arrives that the dominance has swung over to the evergreen side of the composition. I do not wish to imply that the evergreen material has been introduced here solely for the purpose of providing interest during the winter. On the contrary, these plants will be of extreme value the year round, and thereby can be considered an important and integrated part of the arrangement. If the pyramidal form were removed, our interest would immediately sag, for we would be left with a group of repetitious, or, at best, harmonious, forms which could not provide the degree of interest one seeks to achieve.

A good deal of care must, of course, be exercised in the choice and arrangement of deciduous materials, for these are the most dynamic of all. Four choices have been listed. There are those which provide a major attraction in the spring and

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then become commonplace for the rest of the year. There are those which by virtue of their unusual foliage color provide interest the whole summer long. There is the group which achieves its greatest potential in the autumn, and then there are those which not only provide us with a grand display in the springtime, but which also provide us with a striking color display during the autumn.

Plants belonging to this last group, I feel, are the most useful and should be given a major position in any arrangement. In Fig. 4, I would consider the position of major importance to be in the region where the vertical line of the spruce meets the deciduous material. At this point, we have a major contrast in direction (vertical vs. horizontal), and it seems logical to give it prominence by having major color contrasts here also. The use of spring blooming, fall coloring plants, assures us of this effect. It will be noted that smaller quantities of the same material are used elsewhere in the arrangement. These have been incorporated to achieve unity through repetition.

During the summer months, this arrangement is going to achieve its greatest effect through the contrast of green foliage with colors other than green. There are a number of these to choose from, and provided our choice is not too varied, so that unity will disintegrate in a cacophony of color, these plants can be arranged to give an interesting number of contrasts for summer enjoyment.

This leaves us with the task of deciding what to do with those plants in the two remaining groups; viz., those which flower in the spring, and those which color up in the fall. These are perhaps the least useful of all our plants; nevertheless, it would be wrong to say that we have no use for them. Many of our most attractive ornamentals belong to one group or the other, and it would be impossible to ignore them. In Fig. 4, they are used to supplement those plants which combine the attributes of both, but in other groups they might well be associated with less transitory color forms.

The art of tree and shrub arrangement is a fascinating business, and within the limits of this brief article, I hope that I have been able to stimulate some interest. Unfortunately, one cannot expect to do justice to all the elements, principles and techniques involved. I can only suggest that you treat each problem on its own merits and then subject its solution to the type of analysis which I have tried to indicate to you. This, I hope, will reveal the true value of your arrangement.

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The Appeal of Horticulture

by H. S. FRY

Last night, during the hours when nature held her veil of darkness over us, and all of our little world was silent and asleep, Jack Frost strayed about over the city and covered all of our trees and shrubs with layer upon layer of delicate feathery crystals of hoarfrost. When he had finished his work, they were clothed in purest white. As the sun made his way slowly upward from the eastern horizon, and his rays touched these millions of tiny crystals, the miracle appeared in all of its arresting beauty. I thought then, as I have thought many times when watching a sunset, a delicate flower, or the flight of a gaily colored bird, of these lines from the poet William H. Davies:

"What is this life, if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?"

But even as I watched the brilliance of this spectacle, it began to dissolve before my eyes. The warmth of the sun even as it accentuated and made more brilliant the shining whiteness of the hoarfrost on the nearby shrubbery, weakened the tenuous hold of the delicate crystals on each other, and they began to fall, at times filling the air, as with a gentle fall of snow. Wherever they alighted on a sun-bathed area of snow-covered ground beneath, they covered it with diamonds glistening in the quiet sunlight.

It seemed to me then, as it does now, that it is not only the beauty of nature that horticulturists appreciate, but the constant change, the panoramic effect of the multitudinous activities, which Nature is constantly directing, that keeps us living, as it were, in an aura of expectation and awe.

It is very rarely that we welcome change for the sake of change: but Nature changes, though full of surprises, are orderly, like the seasons which come and go in orderly array. So also, do the pleasure and rewards of the horticulturist vary from week to week and month to month in similar, orderly fashion.

"Nothing is chaos: All things live by rule —
The sun, the trees, the raincloud, each its part
Must play with finite mind — and each the tool
Of master mind or spirit . . .

Each a like part plays from day to day:
For green grass yieldeth not perfume of rose;
Resplendent sun must burn with piercing ray;
And nectar-laden bee e'er homeward goes."

We can look forward in winter to the knowledge that, with coming of warm spring air, the sap will begin to move in

shrubs and trees. Life will stir in the bulbs that were planted in September and October. Almost before we know it beauty will be casting aside her dull, brown winter coat; the gentle greening of the grasses will begin; and some morning it will be noticed that an invisible force has lifted a clod of earth, and underneath will be found a vigorous, red shoot in search of air and sunlight. Buds will break forth from the trees and shrubs; the very soil will become alive with growing things; and the gardener will soon find himself with all his other free time fully occupied in the pleasantest occupation any one could hope for.

From then on, the spring and summer period of beauty will be in full swing. Almost every week, and sometimes every day, some new thing of beauty will appear or open up, and it will be that way until the last Michaelmas Daisy will have faded on its work-worn stem.

And so it goes, year after year. The cycle of birth, growth, death and decay continues. It has repeated itself regularly for as many years as mankind has existed. It is the orderly change of Nature. It is worth emphasizing again that it is the combination of order and change which is responsible for a great deal of the appeal that horticulture has for so many people.

There is, of course, one other aspect of horticulture as an outgrowth seasonal change, which appeals to most of us. This is the aspect of relief from the busyness of everyday living. A garden is a quiet place. Growth is soundless. It is also leisurely, by our modern standards of living . . . In these days it is restful to work with, and watch the development of, something that is not in a hurry.

Horticulture is, in effect, that portion of the poetry of Nature which we can have near us, and which we can ourselves influence. William Cullen Bryant put it as well as anyone, I think, when he wrote, in *Thanatopsis*,

"To him, who, in the love of nature, holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
A various language: for his gayer hours
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile
And eloquence of beauty; and she glides
Into our darker musings with a mild
And healing sympathy, that steals
Away their sharpness, e'er he is aware."



Twenty Years With Strawberries

by A. J. PORTER

Honeywood Nursery, Parkside, Saskatchewan

Strawberries are perhaps the most widely grown fruit on the prairies with the exception of the raspberry. At one time or another every gardener tries his hand at them. In favorable seasons results are good, even with tender varieties from the coast. In other years only the hardiest will survive.

Here at Parkside we have been growing strawberries for over twenty years. In that period well over a hundred named sorts have been tested and several thousand seedlings raised in an effort to find better adapted varieties for this region. Dakota was the first sort that was reasonably successful here. It was hardy and productive but the fruit was small and acid in flavor. Its greatest fault, however, was the soft fruit combined with deep seed pockets, which made it impossible to clean berries if they became sandy. It was much too soft for a market berry. Dunlap was tried and discarded as it never produced a satisfactory crop. Usually our late spring frosts caught the blossoms, as it is an early blooming variety. Even when this did not happen, after the first picking the fruit lost size rapidly. The next berry to come along was the everbearer, Gem. Mastodon and Progressive had been grown earlier, but the size and attractive appearance of the Gem berries, plus its vigor and plant making ability, unusual in an everbearer previously, gave it wide popularity. The fruit itself was, though, rather mediocre in flavor and the plants lacked the hardiness needed here except in the most favorable winters. Many other less well known sorts were tried and none proved satisfactory, although in seasons of early and heavy winter snow we found we could winter even the tender ones like Dorsett and Fairfax without trouble. Every few years, though — sometimes two winters in succession — we would get conditions that were drastically hard on the strawberries. It might be a lack of snow through November and December, during which period we would get temperatures away below zero; or we might get a thaw in February or March that would take off the snow cover and leave the ground bare or covered with ice. One year that happened in January. Mulches were only a partial solution. Under some conditions they would become ice filled and thus lose their insulating value. At least five springs in the last twenty we have had our plants killed out from fifty to ninety per cent or more.

The need was obvious for better adapted varieties. To meet this need in some measure I began to raise strawberries from seed. At first open pollinated seedlings were raised. We were lucky enough to get a natural cross between Fairfax and Gem, which resulted in the variety now known as Sparta. A seedling of a sister of Sparta gave us Pixie, a very high quality and productive sort, but particular as to soil conditions. Sparta has done well in Manitoba and in eastern Saskatchewan where snow cover is dependable, but neither of these sorts had any greater hardiness, than Gem, as was to be expected. To obtain greater hardiness I began hand pollinating and protecting the crosses. At first, Dakota was used extensively on account of its great winter hardiness. Greater size of berry was obtained but out of hundreds of seedlings not one had the firmness of fruit to make it a desirable sort. Evidently the soft berry was strongly dominant in this line. The next step was to go directly to our local wild strawberry. Much the same results were obtained with the exception of a single seedling of Sparta X wild. This seedling had been used as one parent or grandparent in all the breeding work done here since. It is an everbearer, very hardy and productive. The fruit is quite firm, and of acceptable quality, but being intermediate in size between Sparta and the wild, not as large as could be desired. However, we sent plants out for trial and received a number of enthusiastic reports from growers in severe and difficult locations. This seedling was then named 'Northerner' and was introduced in 1954. It is not a commercial berry but can be grown in areas where other sorts fail. Its productiveness under good soil and moisture conditions is amazing. We have picked as many as seventy ripe berries from a single plant at one picking. As is to be expected of a variety producing many fruit stems, it makes few runners, so is slow to propagate. Two and three years old plants make large crowns, though, and can be divided. Any division with young white roots on is just as satisfactory for planting out as are runner plants. Old pieces with dark roots are discarded.

In the hope of getting late blooming sorts and good summer-bearers pollen of Northerner was used on the late fruiting Ottawa variety, Louise. One very good seedling was selected but as it was pistrillate like its mother is was not introduced. Being pistillate, and thus having no pollen of its own, all its seedlings would be crosses with strawberries growing nearby. Thus seeds were saved and planted out and a population of over a thousand plants was raised from this parent. There were many good strawberries in the lot: Some very large fruited, others regular commercial size, and a few

that were small. They varied in every way, flavor, runner making, resistance to diseases such as mildew and leaf spot. It was quite a job to sort them out, but I now have them reduced to some dozen or so selections. Two have been named, — Parkland and Jubilee, both everbearers. Parkland is the best in quality and has the largest berries, deep red right through. Jubilee is hardier in plant and a heavier cropper, at least with us. Its fruit is scarlet in color, with the color going right through the berry. Either of them will survive conditions where Gem or Sparta will kill out completely. We have grown them without mulch the past five years and in only one was there any extensive loss of plants. That was when they were left completely bare on a part of the patch in a February thaw followed by thirty below zero weather. Only plants completely exposed were killed. Even an inch of snow was sufficient to preserve life in Jubilee and a little more in Parkland. From the other selections we expect to name a good new summerbearer that will bloom late enough to escape spring frost on the blossoms. It should be of value to commercial growers. Here on the prairies the B.C. crop spoils the early market most seasons so that the late fruiting sorts should have an advantage. They will not have to compete with the tail end of the B.C. crop. Maybe someday we will be shipping berries to B.C. to fill their markets after their own berry season is over. Who knows?

Naturally, I am not the only grower who has seen the need for new strawberry varieties. Mr. Oakes, at Miami, Man., has raised many seedlings and named a number of them. Glen Heart is probably the best known. Mr. Simonet, the famous grower of double petunia seed in Edmonton, is also working with strawberries and has made crosses with the Alberta wild strawberry, and has also used Pixie and Northerner as parents. I understand that he has some very good selections, but have not seen them as yet. Three of our government institutions are also working with strawberries, the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon, The Morden Exp. Station in Manitoba, and the Beaverlodge Station in the Peace River country. As far as I know at present no varieties have as yet been introduced.

I hope this article will encourage others to try their hand at breeding new sorts. The need will be great for a long time to come. In fact, we never will have the perfect berry. I think we can be certain that we will not get suitable varieties for our conditions from B.C. or Ontario, or from the U.S. to the south. Such sorts will be needed for breeding work and may fill a temporary place, but we can raise better by growing our own seedlings and selecting the ones that do the best. I would say the qualities to look for are as follows:

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A. J. PORTER

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1. Winter hardiness. This is not so important in eastern or northern areas where snow cover is dependable but is an asset in any variety and a must for those to be grown on the open plains, especially toward the western parts.

2. Vigor and disease resistance. Weaklings, no matter how delicious their fruit, should be discarded. Any plants showing susceptibility to mildew or leaf spot should go, too.

3. Drought resistance. This may be indicated to some extent by the length of roots. Some sorts will have short roots, with the fibrous roots near the surface. Others will grow two or three inches of root before branching. These will stand more drought as they go deeper into the soil.

4. A proper balance between runner making and fruit bud bearing under our day length conditions. Runnering and fruit bud formation is controlled by the length of day and a variety that fruits well two or three hundred miles south of us may grow mainly to runners here and produce little fruit.

5. Fruit size and quality. This will depend on the purpose for which the fruit is grown. We need good freezing sorts, good canning sorts, and good table sorts. Any of them should have sufficient firmness of berry to handle well. Canning and freezing berries should not be too large, they should have good color right through the berry, and should hull easily. They should also have somewhat more acid than table berries. Table berries should be of good size, uniform shape, good in flavor, and low in acid.

Finally, strawberries are quite particular as to soil. Some like a sandy soil, others a heavier soil. Not many like our high lime prairie soils. Not many will tolerate a PH much over 7 but will thrive where its PH is even over 8.5. So go to it and raise some strawberries from seed. It is a fascinating hobby and you may come up with something well worth while.

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Insecticides

by A. G. ROBINSON,

Department of Entomology, University of Manitoba.

It is often very confusing for the home gardener to know which are the most suitable insecticides to purchase, and how best to use them to control insects. So many different insecticides are recommended for the various problems and so many different trade names are found on the brightly colored packages or bottles in the retail store!

If we follow a logical series of steps perhaps the problem will be less confusing. Firstly, we should know the identity of the insect causing the damage, at least whether it is an aphid, a spider mite, a chewing caterpillar or a root maggot in the roots. This information can be obtained through normal extension services of entomologists, horticulturists, or from bulletins. From the same services a recommended control is given, so that we now know the recommended insecticide and rate.

Secondly, decide whether we want to use a spray or a dust. Most insecticides can be bought in either form. Sprays usually do a better job, but dusts may be more convenient. A suitable home sprayer is a compressed air, 2-gallon cylindrical one, of the familiar "Dobbin" or "Hudson" type.

Dusts are powders which are ready to use as purchased. Sprays come in three different formulations. Solutions are those formulations normally for household use, such as "fly sprays", and they are not usually suitable for use on plants. Emulsifiable concentrates are liquids, with the insecticides dissolved in a solvent with an emulsifier, in a concentrated form, which are added to water for further dilution, and applied as sprays. Wettable powders are powders which contain a higher percentage of insecticide than dusts, and which are designed to be added to water and applied as sprays. Wettable powders are not normally applied as dusts because of the higher percentage of insecticide present. Wettable powders are less liable to cause spray damage to plants than are emulsifiable concentrates, but they have the disadvantage that continual agitation of the spray tank is required to keep the powder from settling in the water.

Having decided on whether to use a spray or a dust, and on the insecticide to be used, we are now faced with the trade names on the packages for sale. Every insecticide offered for sale in Canada is registered with the Federal Government under the Pest Control Products Act, with a P.C.P. number, which is stated on the label. All the information on the label

has to be approved before registration, which is a protection to the buyer. Regardless of trade name, somewhere on the label should be stated the name of the insecticide or insecticides, and the percentage. When you read 1.0% Rotenone, you know that 1 percent is Rotenone and 99 percent some non-poisonous material used as a carrier or diluent. In nearly all cases, reliable claims are given on the label as to what insects may be killed by the product, and usually directions for use. It is wise to follow directions on the label of the package or bottle. If the product makes claims for effective kills of insects in the home, do not assume that it will also be suitable for use on plants!

There are two main ways in which insects cause damage to plants. Those with chewing mouth parts eat parts of the plant; they are best controlled by a stomach poison, placed on their food and eaten by them. Those with sucking mouth parts suck plant sap; they are best controlled by applying an insecticide directly to their bodies, a contact poison. Some insecticides kill both ways. In the past, it was possible to have six, eight or ten different insecticides in the home, all designed for different pest. A recent trend is to combine different insecticides into one product, both for efficiency and economy. Occasionally, a fungicide is also added, to take care of certain common disease problems! One common product now available in Winnipeg contains methoxychlor, malathion, and Captan. The methoxychlor kills most insects with chewing mouth parts, the malathion most insects with sucking mouth parts, and Captan controls some common diseases. These combination, or "all-purpose" sprays or dusts will take care of most of the problems of the home gardener. Also the materials chosen are those which leave very little toxic residues on plants. This is a problem which has to be considered when spraying or dusting fruits or vegetables.

Another modern trend, even in the home garden, is the use of soil insecticides. These normally are an example of "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"! Usually dusts are used, rather than sprays. Another formulation is the one known as "granular". Granular insecticides are prepared in particles much larger than those found in dusts. An application of aldrin or heptachlor, as a dust or in the granular form, to the soil in the spring, will do a great deal to decrease future problems such as root maggots, cutworms, wireworms and white grubs. These work as contact insecticides on the larvae which crawl through the treated soil.

Where large acreages of grains, vegetables or fruits are to be treated, combination sprays or dusts, insecticide-fungicide mixtures, or even insecticide-fertilizer mixtures offer a considerable saving in both time and money.

25,000 Rose Bushes in Bloom

by (Mrs.) HELDA M. McAFEE, F.R.H.S.
Edmonton, Alberta

In Edmonton Mrs. Helda McAfee is known both as "The Flower Lady" and the "Rose Queen of Alberta". She is one of Alberta's foremost flower specialists. The proof of it is in her garden, small in size, but faultless in its beauty.

Mrs. McAfee's garden attracts many visitors during the summer months who come to enjoy her garden and toss coins into the Wishing Well which she has as one of her garden attractions. This Wishing Well has yielded a total of \$1,142 during the five years of its existence, all of which has been turned over to the Edmonton Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

There is no need to be an Einstein to figure out what a gorgeous and fascinating sight this might be, not only to an expert rosarian who perhaps "limits" himself to one hundred rose bushes, but also to a novice, who for the first time has discovered a specimen of rare form and beauty on his one and only rose bush. There is a feeling of satisfaction and delight, for rose growing is an absorbing occupation, whether for pleasure or exhibition purposes. No flower has yet rivalled the rose in man's affection and esteem.

In Edmonton, Canada's Oil Capital, Edmontonians share an average of twenty-five thousand rose bushes annually, for it is truly a city of roses, as the amount sold will prove, and although many roses may be grown with a minimum amount of trouble and preparation, good flowers on good plants do require a certain amount of care and attention. As to how much care and attention is a matter of opinion among the "experts".

Of the many varieties now in existence a fair analysis of the ones selected in our city and neighboring towns, I would say that the Hybrid Teas are by far the favorite. The Floribunda Bedding Roses, which include those varieties that bear their flowers in large trusses or clusters, and normally grow to a suitable height for bedding, are slowly but surely taking second place, and justifiably so. The new Hybrids, producing hundreds of blooms, almost ever-blooming, are unrivalled for mass color display.

Under the heading of Hybrid Perpetual, although not many roses in this particular class, come one of my favorites, Frau Karl Druschki, often the "best in the show". Hybrid Rugosa roses, often referred to as the "hardy sorts" always hold their own. For people with large grounds or large city lots, they are ideal, especially if one has not too much time for gardening, but adores roses.

The standard or tree roses, though commanding attention wherever they are planted, are more or less, at the present time considered rather a luxury for the average working man or novice. So just let us say "Eenie, Meenie, Miny, Mo" and grow the roses we like best and can afford, whether we prefer the ones with fragrance, a beautiful red or yellow rose, we shall enjoy the ecstasy of fulfilment, with perhaps very little effort.

In regard to soil, experience is always the best teacher. There are so many different types of soil, some heavy to sand, others to clay or even gravel. From my own experience, I have found that the old fashioned barn-yard manure method is strictly tops, digging it into the ground late in the fall, leaving the soil in large chunks, so that the snow and frost may penetrate deeply. A thorough cultivation at all times during the growing season is extremely important, for the soil must at all times have a certain amount of moisture retention for the successful growing of roses. To test porosity, it is a good plan to dig a hole to the depth needed and fill with water. If the water drains away within one hour or so, there is not much to worry about, other than the question of, where shall I make my rose bed?

I have often picked some of my prize-winning roses from a "peek a boo" find me if you can location, yes sometimes hidden in shade of another plant. My rose beds are situated in such a manner, that the garage shades one of the beds from the south, as do three large mountain ash trees have the same effect on another bed. The noon day sun, along with the afternoon sun until the cool of the evening I have found ideal, for roses are true natives of temperate regions.

Planting number one bushes is always a must, but it must be thoroughly understood, however, that the life of a given hybrid variety is sometimes of a limited nature. In the course of time it sometimes begins to deteriorate, more especially if it be of complicated and heterogeneous pedigree. This would of course account for a certain loss in rose bushes. However, these difficulties are being overcome daily by our expert hybridists, who certainly must have the patience of Job.

As soon as the wrappings have been removed, the rose bushes could come, very easily, under the heading of "hospital case" for at this particular time they are suffering from shock and exposure. This is truly a dangerous condition, readily overcome however by having a pail of muddy water and a large damp sack on hand. Easy does the trick as always, prepare one at a time, while keeping the others covered.

Actual planting is very simple, for having made the hole large enough to take in all roots up to the graft level, the soil

can be gradually thrown into the hole along with some fine well rotted manure. At the half-way point, press in very firmly but gently and water in well. After it has settled, fill in rest of soil, still pressing in very firmly to ground level. To protect from winds which do their best to shrivel the branches, make a mound of soil which will almost cover the roses. — perhaps just leaving one "eye" or bud in view.

The roots may be shortened, about two inches in the pruning process, as well as the broken ones trimmed. The tops should be pruned down to the second eye or bud.

Should it happen to be a dry Spring, a fine sprinkler comes in very handy, for keeping the top mound damp helps tremendously, especially a rose bush starting off on its new career. When the "eyes" pop open it is time to uncover. Standards or tree roses are planted in the same manner and given the same treatment. However, as it is impossible to place a mound of soil to the top, a cloth or fibrous peatmoss must be tied around the branches and also kept damp. Another important feature in regard to the standard variety, is that a strong stake be used in case of a severe wind storm, which would of course, immediately loosen the root system.

Some of the roses I have grown, which have captured top honors, such as "best in the show" as well as trophies galore, have been, McGredy's Yellow, Frau K. Druschki, Crimson Glory, Mirandy, Symphonie, Joanna Hill, Peace, Comtesse Vandall, New Yorker. Other dazzling favorites of mine are, Charles Mallerin, Ena Harkness, Dame Edith Helen, Tzigane and Burnaby, along with many others of course.

The Floribundas, unrivalled for mass displays of bloom, some even approaching the Hybrid Teas for excellence of form. Independence is truly my favorite, unmatched for brilliance, then Goldilocks, Floradora, Pink Pinocchio are simply divine.

While on the subject of the many different varieties, it is only common sense to mention that rose bushes should be planted, eighteen to twenty-four inches apart, according to the vigour of the variety.

Winter protection is always a matter of opinion, as our climate is very severe, sometimes having a frost as late as June sixth, and as early in the Fall as August twentieth, just making the flower show by the skin of our teeth.

I have tried the "pit" method as well as the root cellar, in the latter instance packing the bushes in slightly damp peat-moss and using orange crates, which are slightly heavier than apple boxes. The leaves have been removed with an ordinary pair of scissors, to prevent disease, caused by fungus, or the spread of tiny insects, almost invisible to the naked eye, which have a habit of attaching themselves to the under part of the foliage. A final dusting of powdered sulphur or charcoal

helps considerably, either before placing them root to root in a pit, outdoors, or the root cellar method.

As far as I know, there is no easy or perfect way to keep Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Hybrid Perpetuals, etc., over the long Winter period, for even this past week, our temperature has changed from a high of fifty, to a cold nineteen below zero, and it will, no doubt, get twice as cold. Each method requires a certain amount of "elbow grease". Having an average of one hundred rose bushes myself, I think that I might find it just as difficult to place something like a butter box over each individual rose bush, then carry a mulch of dried leaves sufficient to pack each box. Removing the entire works in the Spring would be somewhat of a task too. Rose lovers, however, with just a few bushes might find the butter-box method quite convenient and satisfactory. Even a piece of fine wire mesh fencing, placed around a rose bush also makes a perfect container for the mulch, which must at all times completely cover the bush.

The chief trouble maker for the Rosarians in Edmonton and surrounding districts, is that nasty little creature, commonly called the rose-borer. True to his name, he can do the sneaky job so thoroughly, you would almost think that he had a corkscrew attached to his tiny body, for he can really spoil a beautiful bud in no time at all.

However I find that Black-leaf forty used double strength through a spray gun, several times, as soon as the buds begin to form, does the trick extremely well in regard to eliminating this troublesome pest.

Judging at some flower shows, exhibiting at many, I have often heard conversations such as, "how could he or she possibly have the best rose in the show, when he or she has only one rose-bush. This is quite possible, as many experienced Rosarians know. It could be luck, fate, proper attention, or in perfect shape the day of the show. Weather conditions a few days before a show are also to be considered, for some specimens open completely within a few hours, under the heat of a blazing summer sun.

Cutting roses for show purposes is an art gained by experience. Some I have kept in the "fridge" for several days, never covering the tops. The stem of course as long as possible, leaving one or two eyes on the bush for new growth. The containers large enough to enable the water to reach to the top, without touching the bloom itself. Joanna Hill, Mirandy, Dame Edith Helen, Comtess Vandal and Peace are but a few with the long lasting qualities of exhibition type roses.

With each generation, the rose offers its own personal appeal, whether it be fragrance, color, or exquisite form, so everyone to his or her own taste, for a rose is a rose in any language.

Dahlias Are My Hobby

by Ernest H. RISLER, Lethbridge, Alberta

Mr. Risler is well qualified to write on dahlias. As well as a successful grower, he has given talks to horticultural groups and on the radio as well as written a series of articles for the local papers.

Dahlias are easy to grow and are becoming increasingly popular as gardeners realize the many advantages of growing this beautiful flower. First they offer a wide choice of types, varieties and unlimited colors, ranging all the way from the small bedding dahlias to the huge 12-inch exhibition types.

The dwarf bedding type is perhaps the most extensively grown, being well suited for edgings or in mixed borders, but is at its best when grown in massed beds of one variety and color. They average about 1½ feet in height, make sturdy plants, with a wide range of colors, are very free blooming and are highly prized as cut flowers, particularly for vases and baskets. They are grown either from seed or tubers. To be sure of getting a certain color or variety, your choice is pretty well limited to tubers.

The miniature dahlias are also becoming very popular in recent years. They average about 2 to 5 feet in height, producing blooms not over five inches in diameter, mostly of the cactus type, although there are several good decoratives available. They are exact miniatures of the large exhibition types, are free flowering and make wonderful cut flowers.

The pompon dahlia is the particular favorite of many gardeners who admire the perfectly shaped, compact, sponge-like blooms which most prefer not to exceed 1½ inches in diameter. This type seems to have lost some popularity in recent years due perhaps to several rather coarse varieties getting on the market, but a well-arranged vase or basket of good pompons is a sight not soon forgotten.

The show or ball dahlia seems to be gradually disappearing, only a limited choice being offered in most catalogues. They could be described as large pompons, about four inches. Again the many poor specimens of this type may account for loss of popularity.

The final type, usually referred to as exhibition type dahlias, offer the greatest challenge to the grower and are generally accepted as the ultimate in the dahlia world. They grow from six to twelve and sometimes fourteen inches in diameter, the color range is almost unlimited, and they come in either the cactus or decorative types, with many in-between varieties such as semi-cactus, incurve cactus, informal decor-

ative, etc. The writer heartily agrees that many of the huge dahlias are aptly described as just big cabbages, but there are also many huge high-class dahlias which have everything that could be desired in the way of sheer beauty, form and refinement, and such a bloom justly deserves the title of Queen of the garden. The writer's garden is rather large and contains a rather extensive range of perhaps better than average variety of various flowers. During the season we have numerous visitors who admire the various blooms, but it has been our universal experience that the centre of attraction for all eyes is the outstanding large dahlia blooms proudly displaying themselves.

To grow outstanding large dahlias requires a little extra effort, and the following advice is offered:

Dahlias do well in almost any type of soil. It is not so much a question of type of soil as it is of soil conditioning. Dahlias are heavy feeders and their main source of food is phosphoric acid, perhaps the best source of this being bone-meal. An average plot of 1,000 square feet of top prairie soil will be greatly improved by adding at least 50 pounds of bone-meal, also 25 pounds of superphosphate of ammonium phosphate and also five pounds of sulphate of potash. This should be dug in in the fall. If the soil is a heavy clay, a liberal application of peat moss will be a great help.

As the plants come into the bud stage, disbudding will be necessary. When disbudding, always start at the top and work down, never begin at the base of the plant. Select a vigorous bud which you wish to bloom. Then pinch out the side buds and also the shoots on the first two or three joints down from the selected bud. As the plant continues growing, other branches develop, therefore a judicious and consistent disbudding will result in a continuity of better blooms. A pailful of weak manure water once a week will also do wonders, particularly in bringing out rich color. However, care must be exercised in this, particularly in the light colors, to avoid burning.

Insects cause little trouble in Southern Alberta, and Malathion, used double strength, seems ample control.

Proper watering is of course important. Never allow the plants to dry out. If they do the plants stop growing and the stalks become hard, with poor circulation. Your dahlias will never recover from this condition.

Cultivation is also important. However during the blooming season if you cultivate too close to the plant and too deep, you will do much more harm than good. It might be better to discontinue cultivating altogether at this stage and instead use a suitable mulch, grass cuttings being quite satisfactory.

Storing of tubers in winter would require a complete article in itself as so many factors enter into it, such as what part of the country, accommodations, etc. Dahlias are closely related to the common potato and everyone knows that dry land potatoes winter better than those heavily irrigated; also a vast difference in keeping abilities of different varieties. In general the best method of storing potatoes is also best for dahlias.

A few tips which may prove of value:

Medium sized tubers about five inches are easier to handle, better suited for starting indoors in pots and seem to produce better results.

A steady, uninterrupted growth is important as they will never recover from a setback as a rule.

Some very attractive color varieties have a bad habit of turning their head downward — Jeannette being a good example of this. This can be easily rectified in this manner by using an ordinary wooden label about five inches long or a popsicle stick and a couple of ordinary clothespins. When the bud is about half developed and at the end of a hot day when the stem is soft, place the stick lengthwise on the under side of the stem, close as possible to the bud, and clamp it there with the clothespins. This will result in holding the bud upright. Leave in this position until bloom opens. Then stem will now be set upright and remain in that position. With the use of twine the bloom can now be drawn into an upright position. I have been asked many times how most of my dahlias face in the proper direction instead of to the wall or fence and away from the viewer. This is really quite simple by making use of the sticks and clothespins, using the clothespins as a lever for twisting the stem around until it usually becomes set in the position desired.

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ONTARIO

The Horticultural Show

by F. J. WEIR

Extension Horticulturist, Province of Manitoba

A successful horticultural show is the result of the combined efforts of a great many individuals. These individuals can be grouped into five divisions, all of which are vitally necessary in staging a successful show — The Prize List Committee, the Staging Committee, The Judges and Clerical Staff, The Exhibitors, and The Visitors or The Public. Each group is as necessary as a link in a chain, although their functions differ widely.

The Prize List Committee is primarily responsible for making up a prize list which is concise, clear, and as free as possible from any chance of misunderstanding. The prize list as published, is always recognized as the final authority.

The Staging Committee too, has a difficult job to do. Members have to attempt to set aside space for different classes and sections, before entries arrive, and usually before it is known how numerous the entries will be. However, except for initial shows, past records will give some indication at least, of the popularity of certain classes. The most satisfactory solution is to have the classes so arranged that visitors can visit the classes in the order in which they appear in the prize list.

The Judges and Clerks of the show have a very important part of the show. Judges should be selected entirely on the basis of their familiarity with the classes to be judged. It is much easier for the judges to do an effective job if the prize list is drawn up in a satisfactory way. Clerks to accompany the judges, should, where possible, be selected from members or from interested individuals who do not have any entries in the classes being judged. Too frequently directors, or members of the staging committee, who have entries in the show, are selected to accompany judges. There will be occasions under such circumstances, where it is impossible for a judge not to identify an exhibitor's number with that exhibitor. If the exhibitor is also the clerk, he is the one who usually suffers in the judge's decision.

Without exhibitors there is no show. A horticultural show can be likened to a lecture. If the lecture material is not well prepared, or not well given, there will be awkward pauses. If exhibitors do not do their part in bringing in their promised entries, the staging committee will be unable to complete their job of constructing an attractive and orderly show.

Exhibitors have several obligations. They should be interested first of all, in helping to make the show a success. They should be interested in showing for the sake of showing, and not be too interested in the prizes to be offered. Too many prospective exhibitors hesitate to bring in entries because they feel they "are not good enough". If every potential exhibitor would bring in the best he has, and encourage his neighbours to do the same, all shows would be much more effective.

Exhibitors should be guided by the Prize List. It should be read and followed to the letter. One of the most important items which the exhibitor should remember, is that the exact number of specimens, as required by the prize list, must be shown. The judge, the clerk or members of the staging committee, have absolutely no authority to remove specimens, if more are shown than are required. Judges should disqualify entries with incorrect numbers of specimens, even though they may be the entries having the best quality.

Exhibiting flowers, vegetables and fruit properly begins with the selection of seed or plants for the garden. Some varieties are much better for showing than others. Varieties should be selected which will be at their best at the time of the show. As most horticultural shows are held in late August, if the exhibitor wishes to show apples, he should grow one or two early maturing varieties.

During the growing season due care should be exercised so that at all times, the plants are allowed ample spacing for satisfactory development of uniform specimens. All recognized cultural practices should be carried out during the spring and summer so that there will be at least a minimum amount of insect, disease and mechanical injury to the plants. Only samples which are free from blemish should be selected.

Selection should be made in plenty of time before the show so that there will be time for final preparation of the specimens. A much larger number of specimens should be harvested than is actually required by the terms of the prize list. These should be prepared for the show, and then further selection done until the best specimens have been picked out. One or two extra specimens should be taken even to the show, in case of damage to some of them in transit. Before

leaving the show-bench however, a final check should be made by the exhibitor so that only the required number is left.

If exhibits are selected some time in advance of the show, care should be taken that they do not dry out, wilt or otherwise deteriorate. Vegetables such as corn and green peas deteriorate quickly once they are removed from the plants. Entries should be kept in a cool place, with relatively high humidity generally, and in a spot which is free from drafts.

The term "quality" in showmanship is an almost all-inclusive one, embracing the inherent "goodness" of the entry or specimens, freedom from injury, freshness, attractiveness, and uniformity.

In any entry where two or more specimens are required, uniformity is an important factor. To be uniform, specimens should be all of one size, regular in shape, and should have the same shape and color.

In attempting to select a uniform set of specimens for an entry, whether for flowers, fruit or vegetables, it is usually easier to obtain a set incorporating maximum quality and uniformity if a set is selected which is of average, or slightly over average size, and just coming up to its peak of maturity.

Entries which are free from insect, disease, or other damage while in the garden, are often damaged by improper or careless handling when they are taken from the garden, while they are being prepared, or while they are in transit to the show. Vegetables and fruits such as green peas and plums should be removed from the plants or trees so that the pod or fruit is not touched at any time to disturb the waxy bloom. Removing these by handling only the stem will help considerably. The pea pods and plums should then be laid on a soft cloth or tissue, preferably individually, for transit to the show. With plums of course, it is better to remove the stems as soon afterwards as possible to prevent any damage to other plums. Other vegetables, fruits and flowers should be given ample space so that there is no danger of any one specimen being injured by its neighbour.

Leafy vegetables such as lettuce, cauliflower, cabbage, brussels sprouts and most flowers can be maintained in a fresh crisp condition by a light misty sprinkling with ice water. Root vegetables can, in most cases, be cleaned by leaving them exposed to the air for an hour or so after they are dug, until the soil has become dry, and then brushing them very carefully with a soft cloth or very soft brush. Sometimes, if there is a great deal of heavy clay adhering to the roots, the excess soil can be removed as soon as the roots are dug. However, extreme care should be taken that the skins are not damaged. A final polishing of the roots with a soft

cloth will bring out the natural wax and provide an attractive lustre to the appearance of the vegetable. Fine root hairs should be removed with a knife or nipped off with the fingers. Tops should be cut off uniformly, leaving a half-inch or so of the leaf-stalks.

Maturity, attractive colors, good size, firmness and freshness, are some of the more important indications of quality looked for in fruit varieties. Apples and crabapples should be polished to bring out the natural lustre in the fruit. Stems should not be removed. A small colored paper doily on the plate adds to the appearance of the entry.

Exhibitors in flower classes calling for a definite number of blooms, should ensure that the required number of blooms only is present. Unopened buds should be removed before showing in case some of these might open up before the show is over. With such flowers as Carnations, disbudding some time in advance of the time of the show, will enable the food otherwise used by these buds, to be used in making the remaining bloom larger. Each specimen to be exhibited should be examined for presence of insects or spider mites particularly on the under sides of the leaves, or on the back of the flower.

Flowers should be displayed in a suitable container so that there is no crowding of the specimens. A small piece of tissue or foliage, inserted in the neck of the milk bottle can be used to keep the specimens in an open, attractive arrangement. Prize lists should indicate whether or not foliage may be used. In most cases, the flower's own foliage may be used, unless the prize list states otherwise. In order that containers be as standard as possible, it is recommended that all containers be provided except for flower arrangement classes, or classes where special containers should be used. The terms "suitable containers" should be used rather than "vases" or "bowls" for special classes. Milk bottles are a very satisfactory type of containers for the regular classes.

For shows where flower arrangement classes are very popular, it is wise to have several classes and have them well-defined. Having separate classes of arrangements based on the way the arrangements will be used is also helpful. The following breakdown is suggested where several classes may be used . . .

TABLE ARRANGEMENTS:

(a) **Dining-room table** — An arrangement for a dining-room table not to exceed 14 inches in height.

(b) **Side-board** — An arrangement to be viewed from one side.

- (c) **Living-room** — An arrangement of mixed flowers —
 (I) Height and diameter not to exceed 10 inches;
 (II) Height or diameter to exceed 10 inches.

GENERAL NOTE

1. Each arrangement should be displayed in suitable container. (Avoid use of such words as "bowl" and "vase".)

2. It should be stipulated by the committee that an arrangement is to be viewed from only one, or from all sides.

3. In view of dominance of Gladioli, it may be desirable to have separate classes for Gladioli, excluding them from the above.

BASKET ARRANGEMENTS:

It should be stipulated by the prize list committee whether basket arrangements are to be viewed from one or from all sides.

Separate classes may be set up for such flowers as Gladioli, Dahlias, Zinnias, and Mixed Flowers.

In conclusion, it cannot be over emphasized that if each one of the prize list committee, judges and clerks, and the exhibitors, works for an educational, orderly show with well selected and well-prepared exhibits, the fifth group, the public, will also be able to do their part.

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Electricity For Hotbeds

by H. R. HIKIDA

Agricultural Research Officer, The University of Manitoba

The electrically-heated hotbed may be your answer to pre-season gardening. A cold frame which is equipped with an electric heating cable can give vegetable and flower seedlings all of the protection needed against the winds and cold of early spring. Heat supplied in this manner keeps the hotbed's temperature well above the danger point for seedlings. The heat can be controlled by an inexpensive thermostat which will turn the electricity on and off as needed.

The cold frame is constructed in the usual way. The sides of the frame should be sunk several inches into the ground. The heating cable is coiled in even, equal loops within the base of the frame. Wire fencing mesh is laid over the heating cable and sandy loam soil is placed over the cable to a depth of two to three inches where the seeds and seedlings are being grown directly in the bed and to a depth of one-half to one inch where the seeds and seedlings are being grown in flats placed in the bed. Temperature may be controlled by means of a thermostat placed in the circuit.

The soil electric heating cable for home garden use is a 115-volt loop of heating wire covered with zinc or more recently of a special synthetic sheath. The loop can be plugged into a recommended outlet from a home circuit. The cable is approximately 80 feet long and is rated at about 400 watts. One such loop should provide ample heat for about 50 square feet of bed. When one loop is used in a smaller bed, greater protection is given or a higher temperature may be obtained. Incandescent lamps can also be used for supplementary heat.

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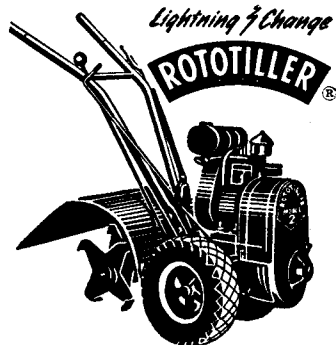
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Notes on Newest Flowers

by JERRY F. TWOMEY,
T. & T. Seeds, Winnipeg, Man.

These notes could well be entitled "Post War Plant Breeding Pays Off".

Flower improvement was greatly intensified after the war and the slow exacting process of selection, proving and increasing the choicest and best is just now bearing fruit. Hundreds of new flower types are being released annually the world over. The job of even testing the most obvious is formidable.

When steady demand meets improved supply, rapid advances are a certainty. More free time, a bit more spending money for a hobby, television to keep us home, have combined to create more garden interest, particularly in flowers. Balance this with break through after break through in the plant world from more intensive plant breeding — from the harnessing of hybrid vigor in first and second generation hybrids — from the use of colchicines in doubling up the chromosomes for larger, sturdier sorts, and you have a situation where your every garden effort is more and more rewarding.

To hit the high spots we have divided the topic into: First, Specialized Hobby Flowers — Glads, Roses, Begonias, Dahlias, etc. Here a "lost soul" can most rewardingly spend all his free time on one flower. But the best in any group are getting easier and easier to grow and can be most rewarding for the general gardener. Second, flowers from seed. For outdoor seeding, indoor starting and of course, the perennials.

Tuberous Begonias — There has been probably more improvement here and more increase in public acceptance than any other flower. Plant breeders have given us healthier, more vigorous, reliable types, easier to grow. Flower size is now enormous, six to eight inches. No flower excels in clarity, intensity, such gorgeous colors, in every shade but blue. They are the best flower for that shady, hard to fill spot. These few hints may help.

1. Use largest bulbs available, the 2" diameter range for surest and best bloom.

2. Use the new Norwegian jiffy pots for starting. These fibre pots may be plunged in the garden without disturbing the roots.

3. Don't start them indoors too soon. Six weeks before outdoor planting will give most sturdy 6" to 8" plants for best

branching, most bloom. Earlier tall, leggy plants break over, don't branch as well, are more subject to mildew.

The **DOUBLE CAMELIA TYPES** were the first break through in size and colour. The **PINKS** have shown most improvement recently.

The **ROSE BUD TYPES** just coming out now are improved camelias with longer centre petals. They open beautifully in rose bud form.

The **CARNATION** or **FIMBRIATA TYPES** are now available in separate colours, intensely lacinated and ruffled. Flowers are full double, and nearly as large as the newer Camelias.

A personal favourite is the newer **CRISPA** or **CRESTED** or **COXCOMB TYPES**, often 8 inches across. These single flowers have heavy lacy quilled edges as thick as coxcombs. The pastel shades in these flowers are as lovely as any in the garden.

There has been tremendous strides in the **PENDULA** or **HANGING BASKET TYPES**. Flower size has doubled in recent years. They provide early continuous masses of blooms and are tops for window boxes or rockeries.

The multiflora types have the toughest, easiest to keep bulbs and are now appearing in lovely new dresses. Clusters of very double three-quarter inch flowers on sturdy, reliable plants are going to push these ahead in popularity.

Roses — Several factors are now making roses a most popular prairie flower. We are learning to winter the outstanding but less hardy **FLORIBUNDA** and **HYBRID TEA TYPES**.

The new **POLLYANTHUS** or **FLORIBUNDA TYPES**, a product of intercrossing various species and types with the older **HYBRID TEAS** has revolutionized the rose picture. These **FLORIBUNDAS** are most vigorous 2' to 3' bushes, start to bloom in June and are continuously at it until freeze-up. Surprisingly, roses stand the first light frost better than almost any other flower. Clusters of bloom range all the way from full double hybrid tea like flowers to lovely singles; some of which change color as they open.

INDEPENDENCE is our top favourite, longest lasting, most double clusters of scarlet tea-like blooms.

FASHION — Loveliest salmon pink is top seller in the United States.

DUTCH LADY — Vigorous healthy cerise, is top rose in Norway and Sweden.

GOLDILOCKS — The best yellow.

ALAIN — The deepest non-fading blood red.

Most reliable and hardy is **PINK PETITE**, longest lasting when cut, with sweetheart like clusters.

ORANGE TRIUMPH — Hardest of all.

MASQUERADE — Is an attention getter, vigorous bushes with large clusters that change color from yellow through pink to scarlet — result, three different colors on one stem.

No garden should be without at least one plant of **PEACE**, the giant hybrid tea. It does particularly well under our heavy soil, alkali conditions. The continuous enormous 6" creamy, pink blooms are as big as anything ever bought at a florist.

Dahlias — The Giant Exhibition types are always striking in their massiveness. However, Prairie dahlia growers should confine their choice to early and mid-season varieties. Some of the newer early varieties are: **KIDS CLIMAX** — prolific bloom, pleasing blend of pink shades, 3' F.D.; **THE VOLUNTEER** — large well-formed purple blooms, 4' I.D.; **TIDAL WAVE** — a four foot deep yellow, with fine blooms and stems, I.D.; **CROYDON SNO-TOP** — a four foot plant covered with snow white, perfectly formed blooms, F.D.

The dainty perfect little **POMPON** are perfect for garden shows and most excellent for cutting. The newer sorts are dwarfer, more balanced plants, early. Our favourites are **MORNING MIST**, cream blush to lavender; **LITTLE EDITH**, yellow with red edges; **LITTLE BUDDY** — clear lemon yellow; **PINK GEM** — a bright pink.

The big news in dahlias are the new intermediate 4" to 8" cut flower types. This basic development comes from Holland where these new long lasting long stemmed beauties are favourite cut flowers. They have already gained a foothold in our Eastern cut flower markets. Most outstanding for bedding, these cut flower types range from 30" to 5' in height. They are early and start to bloom July 20th.

We have screened over 250 of the newest in the last three years. Essential are compact plants, early clean bloom, carried well above the foliage, good cut flower habits. A few of the best we now have on increase for future listing are:

TAFFAM — Clear 6" cactus orange.

GAY SALUTE — 4', early orange, 4'.

PURPERSTEDE — Deep wine, 6" cactus rolled petals, 4'.

VAL ST. LAMEBRS — 40", early 6" cactus rose, white centre.

LITTLE JERRY — 4', maroon, purple.

TINTURN — Fresh 4" pink, 4'. Best of the new ones now easily available.

GRACE — Will be with us for years.

HOLLIDAY — Most outstanding semi-cactus, mauve pink.

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GAY — A large ball, yellow, most reliable.

CHERIO — A 3' rosie white tipped bedder.

LOMBAERTS VIOLET — Cleanest cut flower, purple.

The older but best in this group are:

VON KLEFFENS — Orange.

GERRY HOEK — Water lily pink.

MARKET GLORY — Rose.

HELLEY BOUDEWIJN — White.

Glads — The most popular of all bulbs — are a never ending source of wonder at the new types and ranges of color. Here again reliability and earliness have received more attention of late. Now the best exhibition variety usually is a top garden or top commercial Glad as Plant Breeders develop all round performance. Personal favourites are white, SNOW DRIFT, LIEF ERICSON, WHITE GODDESS; yellow, PROSPECTOR and GOLD; reds and scarlets, ROYAL STEWARD, REDWING, SANS SOUCI, DIEPPE; blue or violet, VIOLET CHARM and SALMONS SENSATION, BLUE HERALD. Mauves and lavenders are improving fast. CAMPANILE, FRANCESCA, PRINCESS purple, RAJAH, KING DAVID, PURPLE BURMA; pinks, SUMMER QUEEN, A. B. Coutts LOOK, SOUTHERN BELLE, FRIENDSHIP, SWEET SIXTEEN, SPIC AND SPAN. Miniatures and Prims are again climbing fast in popularity for small bouquets and centre pieces. New purple WEDGEWOOD and ATOM are favourites here.

Lilies — Use of polyethelyn bags to hold lily bulbs firm in cold storage over the winter for best spring planting is making it much easier to get started in some of the newer lilies. There have been many improvements in scarlet and orange types, but the real attention getters are Centifolium Hybrids that are now available in pink and yellow shades. These giant Easter Lily like blooms are massed on 4' to 6' plants and proving quite hardy here in well drained spots.

Iris — If you haven't tried some of the new Iris in recent years, be sure to check on the amazing pinks, apricots and reds. You will never recognize the old flower. All new varieties are nearly double the size of the old standards we see around and much clearer, brighter self colors.

Cannas — Of more limited appeal, they are due for a break through as dwarfier, sturdier plants, larger blooms, earlier, and shades down through to pinks. These new European sorts will be catalogued quickly.

Delphiniums — Pacific Giants most popular. The Round Table series now come in distinct shades. ASTOLAT, pale pink to deep rose; GALAHAD, pure white, CAMELIARD, lavender; KING ARTHUR, dark blue and violet. All have large florets

up to 3" and huge spikes. New colours, scarlet and apricot will soon appear.

Bring the garden indoors for a minute. The new Belgium hybrid Amaryllis are the showiest of all pot plants. They bloom six weeks after planting with 3 to 5 6" to 855 lily like blooms on 12 to 18" stems in deep scarlet, self pinks, clear whites. These amazing sorts are green house grown and are not to be mistaken for the smaller red and white marked Florida sorts. New Fuschia varieties are legion. Varieties range from dwarf to very tall, double the flower size, and the older sorts, self blood reds, self purples, pastel pinks and mauve are one of the most striking groups of new flowers we are testing.

Hardy Mums — A new break through is on the way from the Dominion Experimental Farm, Morden, that promises to stretch out prairie bloom safely past the first few fall frosts. Mr. Bert Harp's 5th generation hybrids from Korean mum species, start to bloom in mid August and produce compact masses of bloom in a full colour range. These completely hardy new hybrids should be released soon.

Annuals for outdoor seed — Sweet Peas are by far and away the largest selling annual. They have been completely made over in recent years. Two new groups warrant attention:

ZVOLANEK — Extra early multi flora.

CUTHBERTSON — Heat resistant, multifloras.

ZVOLANEK early multifloras were developed from the extra early wintering forcing strains of Spencers. They carry two to three more blooms per stem — are earliest of all. Most vigorous, long stemmed and are certain to be our most popular pea for the year.

CUTHBERTSON multifloras were bred from the standard Cuthbertson which are improved heat resistant Spencers. Cuthbertsons were crossed with Zvolanek types, to carry extra blooms on the new heat resistant plants. They are tops for that hot sunny spot.

Zinnias — It seems they never attained the popularity they deserve. We feel they are most rewarding for the least effort of any flower we can grow on the prairies. Perhaps their slowness to dominate is due to two misunderstandings.

First, many people feel they should be started indoors, and won't go to the extra trouble. Actually, seeding outdoors as soil warms up and the frost danger passes, May 24th to June 1st, they produce even sturdier, better branching plants that bloom just about as early as those started indoors.

Second, many feel ZINNIAS are stiff, formal and harsh in colour. Here we feel the new cactus flower hybrids with lacinated petals and new warm pastel colours warrant a fresh look at this old flower.

KISMET — A warm red.

GOLD — Deepest yellow.

BLAZE — Bright scarlet, are tops here.

Hybrid vigor has been harnessed in the new **TREASURE ISLAND**, F2 hybrids that are larger, stronger and stand up to adversity better. They come in a blend of gold, scarlet and orange. The new **ORTHOPOKA**, striped and blotched is double the size of the old **PEPPERMINT STICKS**. The Dahlia flowered have some wonderful mauve, clear coloured varieties that are eye stoppers. **WILL ROGERS** is a blood red. **LUMINOSA** is a pink, our best.

These four important standbys have been made to come two weeks earlier, with even finer colour and size.

BACHELOR BUTTONS — New double early.

COSMOS — Early sensation.

MARIGOLD — Early carnation flowered.

SUN BRIGHT, EARLY SUNSET — Giants.

Phlox, Twinkles — 1957 All American winner, is held back until 1958 because of crop failure. It topped our tests for performance and appeal and will be a must for your 1958 garden.

Petunias, like marigolds, are coming thick and fast.

RED SATIN F1 hybrid appears to be the best red, and **RODGERS** F2 hybrids, **CARNIVAL MIXED**, promises a wider range of color, larger flowers, more vigor in bedding petunias.

Intermediate **SNAPDRAGON**, **Scarlet** and **GOLD**, has been best at City Park the last several years. For general gardens or adverse conditions, the Tetra snaps are not getting the attention they deserve.

Again, two older but most outstanding annuals should not be passed up. Unwins full double **DAHLIA** and **PINK CLEOME** or **SPIDER FLOWER**. They are both at the top of anybody's list.

POWDER PUFF ASTERS — Whole plant can be cut as a bouquet, are here to stay.

GAZANIA from South America, the new dwarf large flowered daisy is excellent for full sun.

VIOLA MOUNTAIN GUARD — Deep purple, almost as large as a pansy and bloom more consistently. The best of over 30 violas tried.

VERBENA SPARKLE — Red with white eyes, is striking and compact.

In perennials these two are tops, **COLUMBINE**, **McKENAS**, the first perennial to win an All American award, and **PYRETHRUM**, Robinsons hybrids, for largest most striking flowers on this hardiest easiest to grow perennial.

Lacombe and District Garden Club

LACOMBE, ALBERTA

We salute the Lacombe and District Garden Club as an example of a young and aggressive horticultural club which in the eight years of its existence has become a very definite force in increasing horticultural knowledge and appreciation in its area.

A hard working directorate and interested members have built up an active club of close to one hundred members.

This Garden Club has a well planned and executed annual horticultural program which includes a Home Grounds Competition with awards of cups and other prizes as well as special awards for outstanding home ground improvement.

They also sponsor a Children's Garden Competition (11 years to 15 years old). Seeds are given free to the children and cash prizes awarded. They usually have over 400 entries in this event.

Their Summer is climaxed with an excellent Garden Show in August with exhibitors coming from 20 miles or more away.

They further have the co-operation of the local merchants and businessmen of the district who, appreciating their fine efforts, back up their activities and donate prizes for their competition.

As a member of the Alberta Horticultural Society, they interchange judges at show time, and do all that is in their power to make happy, successful gardeners of their members and to increase the public interest in beautifying their homes and district.

Keep up the good work.

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Protection for the Very Early Perennials

by T. H. NEWMAN

Secretary, Lacombe and District Garden Club
Lacombe, Alberta

Most of the very early perennials come from less severe climates and will not survive our prairie winters without protection. Actual cold does not seem to be the trouble, but rather the drying winds of late winter and early spring that wither the flower shoots while the ground is still frozen and the roots cannot supply the usual moisture.

For cover I have used pea vines or moss with good success. I have however had the best results with building insulation such as fiberglas. For a hundred feet arastium border I made a set of troughs, sixteen inches wide, six inches deep and eight feet long. The insulation is rolled out, then the inverted troughs placed over it. The troughs keep indefinitely the insulation for many years. They also store easily and there is no cleanup in the Spring.

The covering goes on as soon as the ground is well frozen and is taken off about the middle of April to early May. I use these troughs or boxes on the same principle for Arabis and Auriculas and for that old favorite, Sweet William, which I seed out in late May or early June, have nice plants by fall, cover over and then transplant in the Spring.

It is all well worth the effort for I know that next Spring, the dainty little white Arabis will be viewing with the Scillas, while the Auriculas will not be far behind. Then the world of flowers will come to life and in due time my long Cerantium border will be a band of white.

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Obituary

On May 10, 1956, Mr. R. W. Brown passed away, in his eightieth year.

Mr. Brown was born in Ontario and came West in 1901 to make his home in Winnipeg. For nearly thirty-five years, until his retirement in 1941, he served the City of Winnipeg, as Tax Collector.

An enthusiastic gardener, he had a deep love of flowers and growing things. As member, president, and secretary-treasurer of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society, he worked constantly to further horticulture in the community. One of the earliest members to join the Society, he was largely instrumental in publishing the first edition of this book. He was President of the Society in 1937, from 1945 to 1955 served as Secretary-Treasurer, and was an Honorary Life Member. During these ten years, the Society grew and prospered under the watchful eye and guiding hand of Mr. Brown. He was a competent judge of Home grounds and Vegetable gardens.

An enthusiastic lawn bowler, he was President of the Manitoba Lawn Bowling Association in 1940.

A member of Chalmers United Church, he served for many years, as elder. The congregation and members of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society landscaped the grounds of the Church in honour of Mr. Brown.

His keen and active interest in the organizations to which he belonged, stamped him as a man of outstanding character and an asset to his fellow-men. Truly a Grand Old Man.

He is survived by Mrs. Brown, four sons and a daughter.

My father was a master gardener, and has long since passed to his reward, but still I like to think of him as just around a bend in the trail ahead searching out the loveliest flower to place by mother's breakfast plate, a token of love and a symbol of faith that God's in His heaven and all's right with the world.

The drums of memory throb gently as I recall the flowers I have picked in the springtimes of the past, the flowers I have grown, the flowers I have bought in florist shops, and the flowers I have arranged in bouquets to carry messages more eloquently than any words my lips might frame.

A. R. BROWN, CBC's Prairie Gardener

Division of African Violets

Mrs. W. J. TANNER

President, Winnipeg African Violet Society

The quickest method of obtaining new sizeable African Violet plants is by root division. The proper time to do this is just after their resting period during which no blooms are produced and just as the crowns are starting up new growth. The soil should be slightly on the dry side before starting the operation so that the leaves will not be too brittle and less likely to be broken.

Plants are ready for division when they have two or more crowns which have grown apart at the base and rooted separately. The plant to be divided is removed from the pot by turning it upside down and tapping the rim of the pot on the edge of a bench or table. During this operation the plant should be prevented from slipping to the floor by placing the fingers of one hand over the soil very carefully so as not to damage the leaves of the plant when it is released from the pot.

The next step is to shake off all loose soil from the root ball, then lay the plant on its side on the table. This will enable you to see clearly where the crowns are attached to each other. If necessary they are cut apart with a sharp knife, then carefully the divisions are pulled apart, making every effort to permit each division to retain as many roots as possible.

The pots to be used for planting the divisions should have been previously washed and sterilized so that there is no unnecessary delay which might result in drying and death of the outer roots. A handful of drainage material is placed in the bottom of the pot, followed by a handful of soil lightly pressed down with the fingers. The division is centered in the pot with the point of attachment of lowermost leaves half an inch below the rim. Soil is then filled in around the roots, lightly firmed, and brought up to within half an inch of the rim, taking care not to cover the crown of central leaves with soil.

Perhaps you will find that, no matter how carefully you try to break up the plant, there may be some crowns which will not have any roots. These can probably be rooted in the same manner as leaves are rooted, either in water or planted in any good rooting medium. If using water, place a piece of cardboard over the glass or dish, and insert the crown through a hole cut in the cardboard. The glass should then be filled with water until the water reaches the base of the crown, and kept at that level until roots are formed. When sufficient roots have developed, crowns should be planted in soil.



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Judging of African Violets

by MRS. W. A. McKIM
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The recently formed "Winnipeg African Violet Society" which is affiliated with the Winnipeg Horticultural Society has, during its two short years of growth and development, achieved a success that is truly remarkable. It has already staged three outstanding African Violet Shows, including a display with the International Show of the Gladioli Society held in Winnipeg during the summer of 1956.

The purpose of an attractive and carefully arranged Violet Show is to stimulate further interest in the proper grooming and growth of this, most popular of all house plants.

The Society has adopted the "Scale of Points for Judging" given below. This will enable both judges and exhibitors to work from the same standard. It was introduced and prepared for its own use by the National African Violet Society of America and has won the approval of the most noted hybridizers, judges and commercial growers on the continent.

Scale of Points for Judging

1. Leaf Pattern or Form (Symmetry)	30
2. Floriferousness (Quality of Bloom according to Variety)	25
3. Condition (Cultural Perfection; freedom from disease, insects, marred foliage)	20
4. Size of Bloom (According to Variety)	15
5. Color (According to Variety)	10
	<hr/>
	100

If you are thinking of entering one of your favorite violets in the next Horticultural Show you should begin at once to see how you can improve its appearance. It is not always possible to do this in a few weeks' time.

Leaf Pattern — As you will see if you refer again to the Scale of Points, symmetry is very important and counts for 30 points. Only single crown plants are eligible among Show Plants because multiple crowns lack symmetry and beauty of leaf pattern. There is usually, however, a separate class for multiple crowns.

If there are any suckers or extra crowns on this show plant you are grooming, pinch them off. See also that the

plant is centred in the pot. Take off any leaves that extend out too far. Use toothpicks or hairpins to help hold stems of leaves in place and so shape plant to regular rosette form. Give the plant a quarter turn toward the source of light every few days so that all leaves will equally be exposed.

Floriferousness — (Quality of bloom according to variety) Some varieties such as DuPonts, Supremes and Amazons have comparatively few blooms (about 15 to a single crown) while others like Pot of Gold, Dark Azure Beauty and Pink Profusion usually carry 25 or more blooms. A good judge will consider this when making the awards. Also, only open blooms, not buds, are counted at judging time.

Condition — It's the cultural perfection of the plant at the time of judging. It should have the glow of health with rich clean leaves typical of the variety. It should be free from insects and disease. It should have no broken or yellowed leaves. The leaves should not droop unduly. It should have been well watered before being entered in the Show.

Size of Bloom — (According to variety) Here again judges of African Violets must be familiar with many varieties and will expect to find variability in color due to differences in soil, exposure, fertilization. He should know the accepted shade of the variety he is judging.

Now that we know the qualifications a Show or Quality plant should have, it will be, as the National African Violet Handbook for Judges states, "of the utmost importance to know the steps necessary to produce or to groom a show plant that will fulfil these qualifications." These steps are: proper feeding, proper watering, proper exposure, proper humidity, proper temperature, proper space, proper cleansing and spraying.

You will find these topics listed above, being discussed at the Meetings of the Winnipeg African Violet Society to which you are cordially invited.

Winnipeg African Violet Society

You will find these topics listed above being discussed at the meetings of the Winnipeg African Violet Society. Meetings are usually held the first Wednesday of each month, in Theatre "A," Government Bldg., Osborne and Broadway, Winnipeg, Man. For confirmation of time and place, phone Mrs. A. C. Driver, SP 2-4240, or Mrs. W. Tanner, 50-2402.

FOR THE KITCHEN" EXECUTIVE"

We offer a new section of special interest to our women readers. Women have always contributed to our book, but this time a section has been set aside specially for our "Kitchen Executive."

We hope that by means of articles, especially for you, together we can share our interests, our problems, and our successful garden and kitchen experiences.

If you have any specific matter you would like to have discussed, or any suggestions with regards to this section, your comments will be welcomed.

(Mrs. J. L.) TAMARA M. WISEMAN
Prairie Garden Committee, Ladies' Section

Our New Canadians

by MRS. ANNA L. HICKS, Souris, Manitoba

My interest in people from other countries was first aroused in 1921 when I attended Teachers College, N.Y. Here Canadian students were permitted to join the Cosmopolitan Club, a Club with a membership of over seven hundred students representing some sixty-five nationalities. Students from Canada and the United States were asked to befriend a student from a foreign country. My new-found friend was an Armenian student studying for her Master's Degree. It was a privilege to develop a friendship with such a delightful person.

Years later when I married and came to live in the Souris District, on a farm, one of our neighbors was a Romanian who wanted to marry a Polish girl. Finally, after much correspondence, the bride-to-be arrived. It was decided to have a shower for the young couple and to hold the party at our home. Neighbors gathered together to welcome the bride who could not speak a word of English but her smile won her way into our hearts. Fifteen years have elapsed since then and our friendship has ripened with the years. A sympathetic understanding exists between the two families.

One of the Polish Veterans came to work for us at the close of the Second World War. He had served in the Polish Army for eight years. He had served in Syria, Iraq, Northern Africa and Italy, as well as spending a period to time in Northern Russia where the Polish Army had been taken as prisoners, but were later reinstated as a unit of the British Army in Italy. Josef was a good mechanic and after spending two years with us he purchased a farm and has been farming for the past five years.

After Josef left us, we secured the services of a young Dutchman, Theo, by name. He proved to be a good cattleman

and a very dependable man. As Christmas approached we learned that Theo celebrated his birthday on Christmas Day. The baker in our town was a Dutchman and his bakeshop proved to be the meeting spot on a Saturday evening, for some eight to ten Dutch families who were settled in the district. My husband mentioned to the baker that if the Dutch people would like to give Theo a surprise party on Christmas evening they were welcome to come to our home. They came, about eighteen strong and Theo really had a party, presents, games and refreshments. This was followed by a sing-song. The Dutch people love singing and this evening proved to be only the beginning of the Christmas parties. By the next Christmas Theo had a brother, his wife and a little boy, come to Canada and settle in the Deloraine District. We arranged to have Theo get his brother and family and bring them to our home for the Christmas and birthday party. At one of the parties we counted thirty-two adults, children and babies. In looking over the guest book we note that other countries than the Netherlands were represented at these parties, among them being the Scandinavian countries, Belgium, and Switzerland.

The I.O.D.E. in Souris took on the project of teaching English to the New Canadians. Classes were formed and they met in the High School once a week, from early fall through until spring. Many of the newcomers have availed themselves of the opportunity of improving their English as well as learning Canadian customs. Ex-teachers volunteered their services and many homes opened their doors for social occasions.

Opportunities have been given our New Canadians to take part in community programs such as the W.I. Community Concert and Home and School programs, also Sunday School concerts. Many of our new-found friends have linked up with the Church of their own denomination.

This pen picture, will, I hope, depict how a few New Canadians have been accepted into one small community. We feel that what unites a people into a singleness of nationhood is sharing together in great common experiences and working and striving together for a common cause — that of Canadian National unity.

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Preparing Vegetables for Freezing

by A. L. SHEWFELT, Fruit and Vegetable Products,
Experimental Farm, Morden, Manitoba

The use of frozen foods has become as much a part of modern living as the family radio or car. The "frozen" way allows foods to be partly or completely prepared in advance and ready for use simply by thawing or heating. For vegetables, the time of preparation is not only reduced to a minimum, but also many of the quality characteristics of the freshly harvested product are retained and enjoyed throughout the year.

Preparation of vegetables for freezing is a simple task compared with most other preservation methods. Care should be taken however to observe the rules which scientific investigators have found most suitable. As with most procedures, experience is an aid to best results.

The majority of vegetables can be preserved satisfactorily by freezing. There are some notable exceptions including lettuce, celery, tomatoes, cucumbers and radishes, which lose their desirable crisp texture when heated and frozen. Root vegetables such as carrots and beets keep well in cool storage and are not normally frozen unless one wishes to preserve the young tender roots. The types of vegetables, therefore, that can be frozen most satisfactorily include: asparagus, green and yellow snap beans, broccoli, cauliflower, kernel and ear corn, peas, peppers, pumpkin, squash and spinach.

One of the secrets of success in vegetable freezing is to harvest at the right maturity. Harvesting should be performed when the vegetables have developed their full flavor and succulence and before they become insipid, tough or woody. It is important that once the vegetables are removed from the garden, they be prepared and placed promptly in the freezer. Harvested vegetables lose their quality rapidly, especially in hot weather.

Certain varieties are listed as being recommended above others for freezing. Although choice of variety for freezing is a factor with several types of vegetables, it is not normally as important as stage of maturity and method of preparation.

Scalding or blanching is an essential step in the preparation of vegetables for freezing. It serves to inactivate

certain enzymes present in the fresh product. Such enzymes are chemical substances which, if not checked, can result in the development of undesirable flavor, texture, and color during freezer storage.

The scalding is performed after the vegetable has been washed, sorted and otherwise prepared as for cooking. It consists of plunging the product into boiling water or steam for a specified period of time followed by rapid cooling to room temperature. The boiling water method is usually more practical than steam for home use. In practice, the prepared vegetable is placed in a covered sieve, or collander or wrapped loosely in cheesecloth before immersing it in the water. Not more than one pound of vegetable per gallon of boiling water should be scalded at one time or else the water will not resume boiling soon enough after the product is immersed. Many persons find it convenient to use two kettles, plunging the vegetable first into one kettle for about 30 seconds to equalize the temperature and then into the other to accomplish the actual scalding. The scalding is measured from the time the water returns to the boil. The scalded vegetables are cooled as quickly as possible by plunging them into cold water. After thorough cooling, the product is allowed to drain well and is then packaged. No brine is required.

The recommended times of scalding for each vegetable have been worked out experimentally and are listed in most freezer bulletins or are available upon request. They vary from 1½ minute for peas to 10 minutes for corn on the cob. The scalding of peppers is optional and mostly they are not scalded.

A number of types of suitable freezer packages and packaging materials are available. The main considerations are that they be moisture and vapor proof; strong and durable; and sufficiently sturdy to maintain a liquid-tight seal. Square or rectangular packages require less storage space. Cylindrical types are frequently easier to handle and fill. Tapered or tub-shaped cartons have the advantage that they nest together for convenient storage when empty. About one-half inch of headspace should be left in each carton of prepared vegetable to allow for expansion of the product when frozen. It is recommended that corn on the cob be packaged in bundles of 6 or 8 ears in sheet plastic or aluminum foil with an overwrap of brown or manilla paper. All packages should be clearly labelled as to contents, variety and date of processing.

After packaging, the product is placed in freezer storage as soon as possible. Since the rate of freezing is governed by the amount of product placed in the freezer at one time as well as by the temperature of the freezer, care should be exercised to avoid overloading the freezer. Experiments have shown that with most vegetables, the quality is not affected

seriously as long as the product is completely frozen within twelve hours of the time it is placed in the freezer. Temperature of the product should be maintained at 0° F. or lower throughout the storage period.

The quality of frozen vegetables will diminish in frozen storage at a rate which varies from one vegetable to another. However, if properly prepared, all should retain their fresh character for 8 to 12 months. There is seldom any advantage in keeping frozen vegetables for more than a year since such a practice ties up valuable freezer space. A rapid turnover of produce in the freezer leads to best results and reduces the overhead cost.

Frozen vegetables in general, need not be completely thawed prior to cooking. The frozen product is simply placed in a saucepan with a small amount of boiling water, broken up, covered, salted to taste and cooked until tender. Corn on the cob cooks more readily and retains its heat better if defrosted before cooking. Spinach and chard should also be at least partially thawed before cooking. Since vegetables are partly cooked in the process of scalding, and since freezing further softens the vegetable, the cooking time is much less than for raw vegetables. Overcooking is particularly destructive to the flavor of frozen vegetables.

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Frozen Fruits

by MRS. L. HANCOCK, Winnipeg, Manitoba

I like frozen fruits — I like their appearance and I like their flavor. The bright natural colour and delightful flavour of frozen fruits give us a satisfaction in serving them, particularly strawberries and raspberries.

When we consider pies, desserts and fruit sauces, the homemaker finds the use of frozen apples, rhubarb and berries most satisfactory.

From a nutritional standpoint, frozen fruits are the equivalent of fresh fruits. In some instances they may rate higher in nutritive value than fruit purchased at the local market. However, this is true only if the fruits have been properly handled. According to A. W. Moys, Fruit and Vegetable Processing Laboratory, Experimental Farm, Summerland, B.C., this means harvesting at the right stage of maturity followed by proper processing techniques and proper storage of the finished product.

The fact that frozen fruits retain so much of their original nutritional value makes them very acceptable in the setting up of special diets.

To get the best results in using frozen fruits, there are several points to keep in mind.

Fruit to be served raw should be thawed until needed for serving. Fruit should be served immediately after thawing, since if allowed to stand for any length of time at room temperature, the flavor, appearance and texture of the fruit will deteriorate.

Fruit should be thawed slowly in the unopened container, either in the refrigerator or at room temperature, inverting the container occasionally to distribute the syrup evenly. A pint container usually requires about 3 hours to thaw at room temperature and from 6 to 8 hours in the refrigerator.

Fruit to be cooked and served as stewed fruit and fruit which is to be used for pies and baked puddings need not be completely thawed. For stewed fruit, simply cook fruit until tender in syrup in which it is packed. With pies and puddings, thaw fruit sufficiently to spread and proceed as with fresh fruit.

Food preservation by freezing has been termed one of the great discoveries of history. Properly frozen foods make available the highest possible dietary standard at an economical level in all seasons. Their appeal is universal because they taste and look so very much like freshly harvested foods — and so I say again, "I like to use frozen fruits."

Judging Canned Fruit

by MRS. W. S. FRAZER
Winnipeg, Manitoba

"Judging" is not an exact science. It is a skill or an art acquired through practice and with a thorough knowledge of a definite product.

Prize winners in the canned fruit section invariably are the entries in the clean shining jars with new metal tops. The jars are well-filled and the fruit is sound and clear and colorful. The syrup or juice is free from sediment, rich, and in the correct proportion to the amount of fruit. The jar is attractively packed and, of course, is properly sealed.

While the final decision in any class being judged is dependent on the taste and preference of the judge in charge, anyone approaching an exhibit is immediately attracted to an entry that has the characteristics mentioned above, attractive appearance and eye appeal. This is an indication of good workmanship and superior quality.

Exhibitors who repeatedly win prizes may not be able to explain their success, but the judge is quick to note a superior entry and reward the exhibitor accordingly.

Let us consider briefly the factors that the canned fruit judge takes into consideration.

(a) Every jar of canned fruit must be properly sealed. When the metal ring is removed, the glass top remains firmly in place, held there by the rubber ring and the vacuum in the jar. This indicates that the jar is air-tight, is properly sterilized and will keep indefinitely. Any jars that are not properly sealed or show signs of fermentation or leakage are set aside. This is also true of sealers that are musty, mouldy, sticky, cracked, chipped or otherwise imperfect. Absolute cleanliness is important for keeping qualities in fruit and that is why polished jars, new rings, well fitting rubbers are all considered by the judge.

(b) The fruit to be canned must be the finest available and in prime condition. Overripe or underripe fruit, mussy

berries, bruises and blemishes are quickly spotted and spoil the entry. Seeds, bits of cores, fruit poorly pared, are all noted and sometimes are the reason why a jar is set aside. (Care in the choice and preparation of the fruit to be canned cannot be over-emphasized.)

(c) The liquid that the fruit is cooked in may be either water or syrup made from sugar and water but it must be clear, and free from sediment. It should also be in the proper proportion — a few strawberries or saskatoons packed together at the top of a jar full of juice is not attractive. There should be a balance between the amount of fruit and the amount of syrup, so the servings are adequate. (1/3 liquid and 2/3 solid is the usual proportion). Fruit that looks dry at the top, that is not covered in the jar or is discolored is set aside. A small allowance is made for shrinkage in the processing period but all jars should be reasonably well filled.

(d) Care in packing the jar for show purposes is important. The packed fruit should be uniform in color, shape and size and the pieces should be convenient to serve. Unusual arrangements, whole fruits, e.g. pears, and large pits are not advocated. An attractively packed jar with no waste space has the most appeal.

(e) If labels are used, they should be small, neat and legible, with the name of the fruit and the date canned. This is not a requirement but is sometimes a factor in deciding on a winner.

No doubt you are wondering why the judge does not taste the canned fruit? This should be the final test, but due to the tremendous amount of work and time involved in opening and tasting canned goods, and also due to the amount of spoilage that results when jars are left unsealed in a hot hall or fair building, this is not deemed advisable. Most judges do not resort to tasting unless the contents of a jar are questionable or they are unable to reach a satisfactory decision otherwise. Some fair boards and their directors request that the prize-winning jars be opened and in this case the judge is most willing to comply.

It is impossible at most fairs to score all the exhibits, but a score card for canned fruits is included in a small bulletin, "Standards for Judging", published by the Extension Service, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, which serves as a guide to the exhibitors and forms the basis for judging.

Judging Vegetables, Jams, Jellies and Pickles

by ANN GUILD

521 Montrose Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba

The judging points set out in the preceeding article on "Judging Canned Fruits" hold good with certain minor exceptions also for other canned produce such as the above.

With vegetables, the pack should be as close as possible. With some vegetables, e.g., beans and carrots — care taken in packing the product evenly will add much to its attractiveness. Evenness of size and convenience of pieces for table size are also considered.

Jellies and jams are also favorite exhibits. These may be opened without danger of spoilage so they may be tasted. The jelly should be tender, easily cut and shining clear, and have the natural flavor of the fruit from which it is made. Jellies are the product of strained fruit juice and sugar boiled together until it will 'set' when cold. Commercial pectin may be used when the fruit is low in natural pectin.

Jams are usually made from small fruits cooked with sugar and should be soft and easy to spread, but not 'runny'. The color and flavor should be natural. With both jellies and jams the container should be of suitable size, and should be sealed with a thin layer of wax. Another cover should be used to protect the contents from dust.

The last general type of canned produce is that which is made into pickles — and in which a clear or mustard dressing is used. The preservatives used are vinegar, salt and sugar, with spices added. These should also be judged by taste — the product should be firm but not hard, and well-flavored throughout. Those made with clear liquid should retain their natural color and flavor. Pickles should be prepared some weeks, at least, in advance of the show, in order that the flavor will be well blended.

Finally, the directors of a show should see to it that the prize list is as clearly worded as possible, and that the exhibitors know the rules. Then, taking everything into consideration, a competent judge will endeavor to use common sense and fairness, in making decisions.

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Cooking with Spices and Herbs

by **SHEILA CRAIG**
The Winnipeg Tribune

In the art of cooking, spices and herbs are the magic pigments that the cook uses to construct a pleasing, artistic tapestry of food. The use of these seasonings is as new to Canadians as abstract art is to the world.

Although spices are generally considered to be the flavoring agents of desserts, and herbs of first course dishes, this is not true botanically speaking. Spice is the more inclusive term of the two. Into this group fall the seasonings made from the root, flower, berry or fruit of vegetation; they usually grow in the tropics. Herbs usually come from annual or biennial plants, grown in the temperate zone, and are made from the leafy or soft portion. Thus you will find mustard classed as a spice and caraway as an herb.

You will be familiar with certain spices and herbs in the following chart. Probably you have pots of some growing in your own home. Experiment with the ones you don't know well. Add in small amounts; taste before adding more. Ground spices are more pungent than whole ones. Dried herbs stronger than fresh ones. One third or one half teaspoon of a dried herb or one quarter of the powder can be substituted for one tablespoon of the fresh.

You'll find a happy medium for amounts and combinations only from experimenting. Never believe that any one dish must have a specific herb or spice; as with anything else the combination that appeals to you is the best.

SPICES

ALLSPICE — Dark brown berry with a flavor resembling a combination of cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg. Favorite for seasoning pot roast and ground is indispensable in mince meat, pumpkin pie, plum pudding, fruit cake.

CAYENNE PEPPER — Also known as chili pepper. Fiery to taste. A good chef keeps cayenne at his fingertips when making meat dishes, sauces, gravies. Must be used with restraint.

CINNAMON — Shipped in stick form and ground locally. Combines a subtle sense of warmth with a fruity sweetness.

Stick cinnamon is used in pickling, puddings, as "stirrers" for drinks. The ground product is favored in baked goods, desserts and hot cereals.

CLOVES — Whole ones recognized by nail shape. Rich brown, they have a strong, pungent yet sweet flavor. They are used whole for studding pork, in pickles and spiced fruit syrup. Ground they are important in baked goods, mince meat, plum pudding and fruit cake.

GINGER — Has a light buff color and a spicy-sweet, pungent flavor. Ground ginger is best known for its use in gingerbread, snaps and baked goods. It is a seasoner for pot roast, other meats, pickles, puddings and soups. Good for spiced wine.

MACE — The skin which covers the nutmeg. Whole mace is referred to as "blades of mace". When ground it turns a yellow-orange color. It has a smooth, gentle flavor. The blades are good with fish sauces, pickles, preserves. Ground mace improves fish sauces, stuffings, gravies. Usually found in pound cake. Cherry pie seasoned with mace is a gourmet's delight. Added to whipped cream it cuts oiliness, increases delicacy. Very good in chocolate items.

MUSTARD — Provides real taste tang. The seeds are used for pickles, with boiled beets, cabbage and kraut, in pickled meats and as a salad garnish. Dry mustard is added to prepared salad dressings, gravies and cream sauces. Prepared mustard is ground mustard seed with salt, vinegar, spices and other condiments. Used widely on cold meats, sandwiches, wieners and in hot sauces.

NUTMEG — Flavor is sweet with a warm, spicy undertone. Available whole to grate as needed or ground. Used ground in baked goods, sauces, puddings, beverages, with rice and apples, carrots, sweet potatoes and spinach.

PAPRIKA — Has a pleasant odor and an agreeable, slightly sweet, flavor. Color is a rich, bright red. Available in ground form as a garnish for salads, meat, fish, eggs and vegetables.

TURMERIC — Clean, fresh, oriental odor and slightly bitter taste. Bright yellow. An important ingredient in pickles and curry powder. Used in meat and egg dishes.

HERBS

ANISE SEED — Small, oval in shape; greenish brown in color it is used as a flavoring for licorice. Used in the home whole or ground, in breads, cookies and to add subtle flavor to tea or coffee.

BASIL — The small brown leaves have a sweet, warm, slightly minty flavor. Used in soups, stews, meat pies, sauces and in any tomato dish.

BAY LEAF — Has a pleasant odor; taste is aromatic and slightly bitter. A cook's favorite in meats, soups, potatoes, fish. Used in pickle making and vinegars.

CARAWAY SEED — Brown, hard, about ¼-inch long, curved and tapered at the ends. Has a pleasant, smooth taste. Used in rye bread, with cottage cheese, for seasoning sauerkraut, mutton stews, turnips, some rolls and cakes.

CARDAMOM SEED — Tiny, round seeds with a flavor similar to coffee. Used in pickles, pastry, coffee cake, buns and sausages.

CELERY SEED — Slightly bitter flavor similar to that of the vegetable celery. Used whole in salads, sauces, picklings; sprinkled on cheese, crackers or rolls. Ground, it is used to flavor soups or any dish to which celery might be added. Celery salt is a mixture of the seed and fine white salt.

DILL SEED — Seeds are light brown with an odor resembling caraway plus a warm, slightly sharp taste. Used to flavor soups, salads, sauces, meats and fish as well as dill pickles. A few seeds added to boiled cabbage, cauliflower and turnips improves the flavor.

GARLIC POWDER — This is the finely ground dehydrated clove of the garlic. Flavor and aroma is well known. The powder or salt imparts a mild, enhancing flavor to most foods. It may be substituted for fresh garlic allowing ½ teaspoon for each clove garlic.

MARJORAM — Leaves are grayish-green, delicate in flavor with a fragrant odor. Used to flavor soup, stews, lamb dishes. Adds interest to lima beans, peas, string beans or on fruit salad.

OREGANO — The light green leaf has a strong, aromatic flavor with a pleasant, bitter undertone. Used in chili con carne, spaghetti, soups, egg and meat dishes.

DRIED PARSLEY — Has a distinctive, mild agreeable flavor. Used as a seasoning and garnish for soups, meats, fish, vegetables, sauces and dressings.

POPPY SEEDS — Have no narcotic properties. Provide a pleasant, crunchy, nutty flavor. Used as a topping for rolls, cakes, cookies. Good with noodles and in salads.

ROSEMARY — Shaped like curved pine needles. Has a fresh, tea-like fragrance, slightly bitter but not unpleasant flavor. A tonic addition to meats, poultry, sauces, greens, stuffings, potatoes, turnips or cauliflower. Gives a worthwhile flavor to fish.

SAGE — Odor is strong, fragrant and aromatic. Taste is warm and somewhat bitter. Has an affinity for pork and other meats. Used also in baked fish, salad and dressings and chowder.

SAVORY — Fragrant with an aromatic, slightly resinous flavor. Used alone or in combination as a flavoring for meats, dressings, chicken, soups, salads, sauces; really good in scrambled eggs.

SESAME SEED — Have a faint nutmeat odor and taste. Delightful sprinkler on rolls, cookies, bread, scones, biscuits. Used in the Jewish candy Halvah.

TARRAGON — Flavor is reminiscent of anise. Used by the homemaker in sauces, salads, chicken, meats, egg and tomato dishes.

THYME — Brown-green leaves have a warm, aromatic flavor. A good seasoning for clam chowder, poultry and meat loaf.

SPICE SPECIALTIES

CHILI POWDER — A blend of spices. Hot if not used in moderation. Made its fame in chili con carne. Also used in cocktail sauces, barbecue sauces, eggs, stews and hamburger.

CURRY POWDER — A blend of spices. Seasons meat, fish and poultry mixtures. Add to eggs, French dressing, sauces, soups, stew, vegetables and croquettes.

MIXED PICKLING SPICE — Contains from 10 to 16 different spices. Used largely in pickling but is useful when wrapped in cheesecloth and dipped into cooking stews, soups or vegetables.

POULTRY SEASONING — A blend of various herbs designed to impart succulent flavor to your favorite fowl stuffing. Also excellent for meat loaf, croquettes, dumplings and hamburgers.

MINT FLAKES — Leaves of the herb spearmint, cleaned and dried. Strong, sweet, tangy flavor with a cool aftertaste. A "must" for lamb, mint jelly, mint julep, new potatoes, peas and in many summer beverages.

Vegetables for Health

by **NORAH CHERRY,**

Home Economics Editor, Winnipeg Free Press

One of our most essential foods is one of the most maligned and ill-treated. What food is this? Why, vegetables of course! Offering us the priceless gift of health protecting elements, far too often much of their nutritional value is lost between the market stall and the table

Vegetables are a veritable treasure trove of minerals and vitamins. They provide roughage and carbohydrates. They are a bonus food and in the majority of cases are very low in calories — what a boon to those who are watching their weight. We owe it to ourselves to select our vegetables properly, to keep them under refrigeration or in a cold place and above all to cook them properly. The cardinal sin of most cooks is the way they cook their vegetables.

You have all heard the term cooked to death. That is what happens to vegetables. Nutrition experts all agree and Canada's Food Rules state that we should have two servings of green and yellow vegetables daily with a serving of tomatoes or cabbage, raw of course for good measure. It is much better health value to eat your minerals and vitamins in natural foods than to buy them in tablet form. Even potatoes which have a fairly high starch content are a natural source of vitamins and minerals. So use caution and preserve food elements.

Much has been written about cooking vegetables but somehow it seems a subject that has little interest for the little woman. There are 3 acceptable methods for cooking vegetables, the oven, steaming and boiling.

Before we give you a brief run down on these methods of table preparation, let us say a word about getting the vegetables ready to cook. Wherever possible, cook the vegetables with their jackets on. Much of the essential elements lie just below the skin. Scrub thoroughly and bake. If vegetables must be pared, pare very thinly, using a vegetable parer. Prepare just before cooking, never soak the vegetables as presoaking can dissolve out the vitamins and minerals.

Potatoes are scrubbed, then they only need to be placed on a rack in the oven for baking. Other vegetables should be

cooked in a tightly covered casserole in a moderate oven (350° F.) with but a tablespoon or two of water. Squash does not need to have water added but should be baked covered or cut side down. Peas, beans, broccoli, cabbage and brussels sprouts lose their natural green color when baked so we do not recommend that method of cooking. Most vegetables will be tender crisp when oven baked for three-quarters to one hour.

Steaming requires 15 to 20 minutes longer than top stove cooking. The water should be boiling rapidly and the prepared vegetables placed in a perforated vessel which does not touch the water. The live steam cooks the vegetables and gives a good retention of nutrients.

Pressure cooking of vegetables is losing its popularity. Perhaps the reason is that too often the homemaker forgets resulting in a soggy overcooked vegetable with a great flavor loss. If you do use a pressure cooker, follow the manufacturer's directions and do stand by and watch the cooker and the clock, like a hawk, the second the cooking time is over remove the cooker from the heat and cool quickly. Accuracy of timing is the watchword for the pressure cooker.

The saucepan method of vegetable cookery is the one where carelessness can run rampant. Cook only enough for one meal, if there happens to be leftovers use in salads, never re-heat because it causes further vitamin losses. After paring, cook quickly in a small amount of boiling water. The water in the saucepan should be at a full rolling boil, add salt and then vegetables. The amount of water to use — why no more than one inch. Cover saucepan tightly, bring to a full boil again then reduce heat just enough to maintain water at boiling. Cook quickly, until just tender crisp. Drain at once, add butter, and additional seasonings if necessary and serve at once.

Keep the cooking water as it contains the water soluble vitamins and minerals and use for soups or gravies. Baking soda may retain the color of the vegetables but the texture and flavor are impaired and vitamins are destroyed.

A word about frozen and canned vegetables. Frozen vegetables cook in less time than fresh ones. Always drop the frozen block of vegetables into a small amount of rapidly boiling water. Never thaw before cooking or you will have a soft, tasteless vegetable. Frozen vegetables will cook in from four to eight minutes. Drain and serve at once. Canned vegetables are just brought to the boiling point to heat through, then drained and served. Home canned vegetables must be boiled

for 10 minutes before using, therefore nutritionists do not recommend that type of preserving for vegetables, for with the exception of tomatoes, it takes from two to three hours to can vegetables in the boiling water bath or one hour in the pressure canner. Even with the lengthy processing period, the 10 minute boiling rule must be followed.

The following are marketing pointers and for this purpose we are treating each vegetable separately.

Asparagus — Manitoba asparagus is in season in late May, through June and early July. Buy straight stalks, that are green, very brittle with a heavy compact tip. Cook upright in one inch of boiling salted water, tie with string or set in metal ring. Cook for 12 minutes. One pound will serve 2 generously or three average.

Beans — green or yellow snap beans. Manitoba beans are in season from late July through to September. Imported fresh beans are available the year round. Remove ends and strings if necessary. Cut in one inch slanted crosswise pieces or cut in thin lengthwise strips, the latter commonly known as frenching. Cook as directed, 15 minutes for crosswise pieces or 10 minutes for the frenched. One pound will serve 4.

Broad Beans — If young and tender, cut in inch pieces and cook in pods. This will take about 20 minutes or shell and cooks for 12 minutes. Unshelled, allow one pound for 4, shelled, pound will serve 2.

Beets — Local beets are available from July and will keep in storage where they mature up until March. Buy smooth, clean, small to medium sized beets. If beets have tops on, the tops should be fresh and green. Use as you would spinach. One pound will serve 3. Young beets will take 15 to 20 minutes to cook whole, mature beets will take from three quarters to one hour. It is better to pare and shred mature beets and cook quickly in a sauce or bake in the oven.

Broccoli — Local broccoli is ready for market in September and is available through to November. Imported broccoli is available to June. Select firm, tender stalks that are compact, heads should be dark green in color. Cook as you do for asparagus, allowing 15 to 20 minutes. Slash stalks to facilitate cooking. One pound will serve 3.

Brussels Sprouts — Local Brussels sprouts are ready in September and available through storage up until December. Imported, available through to February. Buy firm, compact sprouts that have few or no wilted leaves, they should be a

good green color. Cut slice off them to cook and cook as directed for 10 to 15 minutes. One pound will serve 3 generously.

Cabbage — Local cabbage starts in August and is available through storage until March. Imported is almost year round. Buy firm, compact heads, that are a good green color and have little coarse rib. Shred and cook quickly in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup boiling water for 5 minutes. One pound shredded will serve 4.

Cauliflower — Local cauliflower is available from late August through to the end of November; imported is almost year round. Buy compact, firm heads, small to medium in size with white curd. Avoid heads that have begun to spread and are tinged with brown. Best method of cooking is to separate into flowerlets and cook in small quantity of water for just 8 to 10 minutes. One medium head will serve 5.

Carrots — Local carrots are available in July and through storage until April or May. Imported are year round. Buy bright colored crisp carrots. Cut in fingers and cook for 10 to 12 minutes. Pound will serve 4.

Celery — Unbleached celery has most vitamins and is crisper. Buy crisp stalks with fresh, green leaves. Best served raw but if cooked, cut in one inch pieces and cook for 12 minutes. Allow 1 cup per serving.

Corn — Local corn ready from late August through to early October. Imported, available up to April. Do not husk until just before cooking. Buy freshly picked corn. Steam for 5 minutes or boil for 8 to 10 minutes. Allow 1 or 2 ears per serving.

Cucumbers — Local cucumbers available from August until first frost. Should be medium in size, firm and smooth. Imported, available year round. Serve raw.

Eggplant — Local eggplant ready in August, imported here from November to May. Should be firm, purple, smooth and shiny. Bake or steam. One pound will serve 3 generously.

Lettuce — Local leaf lettuce available from early June to end of July. Head lettuce, local from June to September; imported lettuce available year round. Buy firm, solid heads, good green color with no rust or coarse rib. Serve raw.

Onions — Available from September through to June. Should be firm, of good shape, with brittle skins. Bake, after peeling, for 1 hour, or cook in one inch boiling salted water for $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Allow pound for 3 serving.

Parsnips — Local parsnips available from September to April. Buy firm, smooth, well-shaped parsnips, small to me-

dium in size. Avoid shrivelled parsnips. Pare, cut in fingers and cook in one inch of water for 10 to 12 minutes or bake for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Pound will serve 4.

Peas — Local peas available early July to September. Imported, available periodically during year. Select fresh, tender pods that are well filled. Cook in boiling water as directed for 10 to 12 minutes. Shell just before cooking. Allow pound for 2.

Peppers — Local peppers available from August to late October. Imported, available almost year round. Serve raw. Select firm, crisp, thick skinned, bright green peppers. Serve raw or stuff and bake.

Potatoes — Available year round. Select uniform, regular shaped medium sized potatoes. New potatoes may be small and should be cooked in their jackets in a small amount of boiling water. Mature potatoes may be baked, or boiled in their jackets. Allow 1 hour for baking or $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for boiling. One pound will serve 3.

Spinach — Local spinach available from early June through to end of July. Imported available year round. Leaves should be crisp, good green color and free from blemish. Wash thoroughly, do not add water, just what clings to leaves and simmer in tightly covered pan until just wilted, about 5 minutes. Pound will serve 3.

Squash — Winter squash, hubbard and acorn, available from September to March. Acorn squash should be rigid, and ridged, green, oval or round. Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ per serving. Best baked, in halves or rings. Hubbard squash should have a hard, warted rind, green not yellow. Best baked or steamed. Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per serving.

Tomatoes — Local tomatoes available from mid August to September, or first frost. Imported or hot house varieties available year round. Best served raw. Select smooth, firm, bright red tomatoes that have no soft spots or wrinkles. Allow 1 per serving. For cooked tomatoes, they are better baked. Do not stew fresh tomatoes if you have to purchase them as they are cheaper to buy canned. Peel by dipping for 30 seconds in boiling water then a cold dip. Remove stem, then blossom end and skin.

Turnips — Local turnips available from October to early spring. Yellow turnips are more common than the white which do not have the keeping qualities of the yellow. Select firm turnips that are smooth and heavy for their size. Pare thinly and cube, cook in boiling salted water for 10 minutes, or bake. Allow pound for 3 servings.

International Flower Show

The 1956 Flower Show will go down in history as the greatest event of its kind ever held in Winnipeg to date. Under the name, "The International Flower Show," it was staged by the Canadian Gladiolus Association, the Winnipeg Gladiolus Society, and the Winnipeg Horticultural Society in the Civic Auditorium on August 22nd and 23rd, 1956.

Plans for the show were made by a Committee of eight, four from the Winnipeg Gladiolus Society and four from the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. Many meetings were held, starting last December and a tremendous amount of detail work was accomplished by this committee. I am very pleased to report that the show was also a financial success and when all accounts were paid, we still had a credit balance at the bank. This in spite of the fact that we received no assistance whatever from the City of Winnipeg. A glance at the financial statement will show that the City of Winnipeg benefited to the extent of over \$800.00 for rent and taxes.

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society's sections, Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables, had a total of 1,040 entries from 165 exhibitors of whom 108 won prizes. The Gladioli Sections had 821 exhibits from 103 exhibitors. Entries were received and prizes won by exhibitors from Edmonton, Alberta, Regina, Moosejaw and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Port Arthur, Newmarket, Bowmanville, Sioux Lookout, Ontario, Verdun, Quebec and Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A. An exhibitor from Fort Macleod, Alberta took first prize in the Sweet Pea sections.

A gratifying feature of the show was the interest shown by the general public. 9,118 paid admissions to view the display. Among the visitors were people from England, Holland, Denmark, India, Australia and other countries. Many of our neighbors from the United States came especially to the show, some chartered buses for the occasion. All expressed surprise and pleasure, especially those from more temperate climates, at the display of flowers and produce grown in the "frozen northland".

Once more we are indebted to the T. Eaton Company for donating all our prize ribbons and for the loan of tables. We are also indebted to the Harstone Memorial Church and the City Hydro for the loan of tables. We appreciate very much, and tender our sincere thanks to all those who donated many valuable gifts which were used as door prizes for the holders of advance sale admission tickets. There are many others who helped us in various ways, and to each and every one, please believe that our "thank you" is sincere.

The magnificent display of cut flowers by the T. & T. Seed Company on the stage of the auditorium was much admired. The Manitoba Vegetable Growers Association had a lovely exhibit of all kinds of vegetables which they very kindly donated to us and were included in the action sale at the close of the show. Other displays from the Manitoba Agricultural College and the Lord Roberts Garden Club attracted considerable attention. The African Violet section of the show was a centre of interest at all times.

During the early stages of planning for the show, the Red River Exhibition very kindly offered to underwrite any loss we might sustain up to \$1,000.00. This was wonderful encouragement to us at the time, and I am very glad to report that we did not have to call on them for any of this sum. Thank you very much, Red River Exhibition.

I would like to say "Thank you very much" to each and every one of you who brought in exhibits of any kind. Each entry added just a little more to make the show the greatest ever seen in Winnipeg. Congratulations to all who won prizes, and to the others less fortunate, "Better luck next time".

WILLIAM J. TANNER,
Chairman, Flower Show.

WINNIPEG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Financial Statement for Year Ending October 31st, 1956

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Cash on hand, Nov. 1, 1955	\$ 210.97	Printing	\$ 297.53
Membership Dues	678.00	Stationary	49.59
Grants & Donations:		Postage	295.44
Prov. of Man., 1955	\$345.50	Garden Competition	162.34
Prov. of Man., 1956	613.25	Year Book	1,687.65
Prov. of Man. Membership	43.10	Hall rent	12.00
	1,001.85	Annual Dinner, 1955	173.90
Winnipeg Free Press	50.00	Can. Homes & Gardens	3.30
Wpg. Free Press Competition	150.00	Telephones, Long Distance	1.81
Others	40.00	Flower Show Prizes	994.93
Advertising, Year Book	1,032.65	Flower Show Exp.	5.60
Year Books sold	625.50	Entry Fees, Flower Show,	
Annual Dinner, 1955	164.50	International Flower Show	94.45
Red River Exhibition:		Internat. Fl. Show, Half Prizes	453.25
Prizes, A. V. S., 1955	47.00	Typewriter Rental & Ribbon	11.25
Exhibition Show, 1956	94.05	Donations:	
Subscriptions, Canadian Homes & Gardens	3.40	Stevenson Memorial Fund	70.00
Entry Fees, Flower Show	94.45	Professor Andersen Fund	25.00
International F. S. Prizes	906.50	Bank Charges	15.27
Intern. Mailing Prize List	42.30	Flowers, etc.	22.25
Picnic Funds	27.50	Honorarium	250.00
Bank charges refund	1.05	Life Membership	10.36
		Balance on hand Oct. 31, 1956	533.80
	\$5,169.72		\$5,169.72

WILLIAM J. TANNER,
Secretary-Treasurer.

To the President and Members of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society:
I have compared the above statement with the books and vouchers relating thereto, and certify that it is a correct record of the receipts and disbursements of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society for the year ending October 31, 1956, according to the information and explanations given me.

W. F. BLACKWELL, Auditor.

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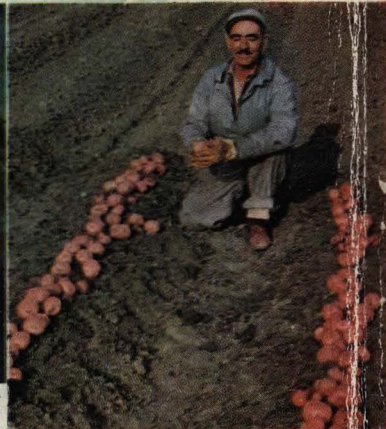
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