

FOR FARMERS' STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

Canadian Garden Service 1937

BY GORDON LINDSAY SMITH

One of the very first jobs claiming the attention of the Canadian gardener whether he lives in N. Va. or in the Peace River District of Alberta will be the ordering and planting of nursery stock. The latter is a broad term covering all sorts of permanent things such as rose bushes, fruit and ornamental trees, shrubby climbers and similar plants that go on year after year. General rules call for early ordering to avoid disappointment where specific varieties are wanted and getting these into the ground as soon as possible. In high priced shrubs and roses naturally stocks carried are not large and the early order will get the preference. Source is of vital importance. Prices vary widely some times but the buyer should remember that quality varies just as widely. Good nursery stock must be stored in moist rather dark quarters. It come with the roots carefully packed in moss or other moisture retaining material. Stems are planted and should carry a fair number of live sprouting buds. Wood if there is any, is green and pliant. It is possible to pick up roses and other common shrubs for about two thirds the average price but stock so varied is usually small or dried out and not likely to make the all important stock start. In some cases, such stock may even be left over cut material of the lowest quality and incorrectly named. Nursery stock must be planted as soon as possible after receipt. If the ground is frozen hard outside, horticulturists advise opening the parcel and storing the plants in some cool dim place and make sure that the roots are kept well moistened and not exposed to the air. If the ground is soft outside but it is not convenient to plant in permanent positions, nursery material may be temporarily planted close together in a shallow trench with soil pressed down firmly about the roots. Provided the plants selected are hardy in the district where they are to be planted, and they must be hardy enough to stand the winter, they should be planted just as soon as the ground is fit to work.

Annual Gardens

Tenants who are in the habit of moving every year or so may think that gardening is a recreation that is denied to people in their position. But such is not the case, experts point out that there are hundreds of annual flowers which may be as satisfactorily planted by the tenant as by the owner. The latter is expected to change quarters next year as by the family head who expects to be occupying permanent quarters for the next century. These annuals will make their full growth in a few weeks and bloom profusely from next June until frost. Vegetable gardens too, can be developed in a few weeks and will give ample returns in the same year. Even a fair layout of grounds can be carried out by the tenant. Quick growing grass will make a very fine lawn in less than six weeks and one infinitely better than a patch of mixed grass and weeds. Instead of permanent shrubbery and climber: a perusal of any good seed catalogue will disclose many bushy annuals among the flowers and some of them which will grow up to 20 feet in a few months. There are at least a score of bushy annuals which reach a height of from four to seven feet and can be used for screening just as effectively as tall slower growing shrubs.

Early Vegetables

The first of the garden peas leaf lettuce, radish and spinach will be among the earliest vegetables sown. These may be planted as soon as the ground is fit to work. All of the first named seeds should be sown at least three times at intervals of ten days so that there will be succession of vegetables. The second sown will be carrots, beets, onions, potatoes etc. which can stand a little frost and then beans, corn and tomato, cabbage and cauliflower plants etc. which kill with frost. Final seeding or planting will be those hot weather vegetables like lima beans, squash, well started, egg and pepper plants, cucumbers, melons and similar things. All garden rules, it should be remembered, however, are only approximate, and should be varied a little to suit the local climate and individual preference.

Canadian Seed Trade Association

Vines—Morning glories, moonflowers, Japanese hop, climbing nasturtium, cardinal climbers, cobaea, cypress vine, balloon vine, scarlet runner and hyacinth beans. Color harmonies—For yellow and deep blues; white cosmos, annual sunflower, centaureas, blue larkspurs, Swan river daisies, lobelia tenuis and the dwarf forms, burnt orange shades in the zinnias and the California and pepper plants. Lavender, violet and orange—Ageratum, African marigolds, asters, lilac, larkspurs, heliotrope and dwarf marigolds. Pink and blue—Lustrous carmine larkspur and blue shades, the lighter blue lobellias, Swan river daisy, phlox Drummondii and zinnias. For a fragrant, all-season border, with material for cutting, you should include most of the following: Ten weeks stocks, petunias, French and African marigolds, calendulas, annual larkspurs, cosmos zinnias, sweet peas, portulaca, summercypress or koehia, flowering tobacco, calliopsis, phlox Drummondii, ageratum, sweet alyssum, poppies, asters balsams, bachelor's buttons, sweet sultan, coxcomb and annual pinks.

Winter Pruning For Fire Blight Control

(Experimental Farms Note) Fire blight was more prevalent last season in the Okanagan valley than it has been for several years. In consequence there will be a large source of infection for this year's growth, and should conditions next spring be favourable, a far more serious outbreak may result unless every precaution is taken to make a thorough clean-up of the infected and nearby plants. The only reliable method for controlling blight is that of cutting out or pruning the cankers. This can be done most successfully during the winter. Where fire blight has been exceptionally severe, the cutting out of cankers should constitute a task quite separate from the usual pruning operations, and should precede them. All cankers should be removed systematically. In removing cankers the cut must be made at least six inches below the canker. All fire blight cankers must be removed and burned. In must be removed with cankers on large limbs and trunk, the brown outer bark should be carefully scraped off to a distance of three to four inches on either side of the

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Hog Situation In Canada

The highest number of hogs on farms in Canada for the past six years was recorded in the December survey of 1936, the estimated number being 4,222,400. All the provinces of the Dominion contributed to the increase which represents an advance of 7 per cent. over the number of hogs on Canadian farms at June 1, 1936, and 12 per cent. greater than the estimated number on December 1, 1935. The 1936 increase is partly attributable to the abundant and relatively low-priced supplies of feed grains which were available during the latter part of 1935 and the early part of 1936.

A NATURALIST'S CALENDAR.

In July, Nature is in her most exuberant mood: one can almost see the vegetation growing! It is a fact-easily verified—that shortly after the sun has attained its greatest altitude, the "rainy season" sets in, over all the Northern Hemisphere. One would also expect the greatest heat at the Summer Solstice, but by a kind of time-lag it is hotter in the following month; this is due to cumulative action. So in July we have the combination of heat and moisture that brings the farmer's toil to fruition and makes promise of a bounteous harvest. But if the gardener has neglected his hoe in June, the weeds will give him work now! Weeds like ill habits, are better scotch'd while small.

July is the month of thunderstorms, and many accounts of cattle and buildings struck by lightning, are in my records. The fifteenth of the month is St. Swithin's Day, when (says the old tradition) if it rains, it will rain for the next forty days. But this does not always happen for St. Swithin sometimes forgets about P. E. Island! Haymaking is general this month, but the date of cutting varies, it will be observed, with the character of the season.

July 1, 1937, temperature in shade 84 degrees at 2 p. m. This was maximum sun spot year and July was a very warm month. Earthquake in Maritime, slight here, July 2, 1922 at 5.30 p. m. Heaviest in Northern New Brunswick. At 4 p. m. on July 3, 1931, 82 degrees in shade.

Just as notable was July 4, 1925, with a minimum of 46 deg. in the night. Hoar-frost at night injured tender garden stuff, July 8, 1919. First hay cut, July 8, 1930. This was maximum sun spot year and July was a very warm month.

Temperature 60 deg. at 4 p. m. July 10, 1930. Cow-parnip (Heraclium) in flower July 11, 1919. Young swallows observed, July 12, 1928.

On July 20, 1916, the maximum was 80 deg. in the house, and 107 in the Sun; First hay in Sand Spurrey (S. rubra), Sea Lavender (Statice) and Sandwort (A. lateriflora) all in bloom on this date. "No wild raspberries, nor blueberries this year"—note on July 20, 1931. The effect of a late frost? Commenced cutting hay July 21, 1920. Pungent rhubarb after this date injures the plants, one-third of leaves always left unpuled.

Wild raspberries abundant this year; blueberries begin to ripen July 24, 1924. A very dry summer this year with a short hay crop. About the 25th of July is a good time to bend down onion tops; this makes the bulbs ripen for storage. On the 27th July, 1933, occurs the note "Perennial Flower-border at its best".

Gossamer spiders weave webs on grass, etc. July 28, 1921; this seems to occur before rain? On July 28, 1931, heavy rain, with low temperature 46 degrees at 11 a. m.; a depressing day. The farmer's plants have some ready for use. I got some in Montreal, and hope to get some in other places, but it is hard to get Canadian material suitable. It is needed out here just as badly as in the East. Game is getting perhaps not so scarce, but is being destroyed at a fast rate, and time will see it ruined already. I cannot see any remedy but reforestation, and in places trees won't grow for the drifting sand covers them up.

"I am sending you a little fern I pulled off a large tree in Stanley Park; it grows up to the top of some trees, in the moss, almost covering them. Hoping you are well, I remain, Your friend Ludlow Jenkins."

"To put last thing first, the fern Mr. Jenkins so kindly sent me is the Polypodium vulgare of Linnaeus, the Polypody of rustic Eng-

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NOTES FROM WESTERN CANADA

Our good friend Mr. Ludlow Jenkins had a delightful holiday en route to the West Coast, but did not forget his old friends; as the following letter shows: "Dear Agricola. Here I am, a long way from you now. I was out to Stanley Park yesterday, and thought of you when I saw so many strange plants, flowers and big trees. Some six to eight feet in diameter are true cedars. I stepped round one tree and took thirty steps to make the round.

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NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

But the pathetic part of it is the way they have wasted the forests here. I discovered (from whence I write) was built in the midst of woods of these great trees and the vacant lots—and there are hundreds of them—are all covered over with stumps. The people are busy planting young trees, but if they had only saved the ones they had they would be "worth their weight in gold" now. It is to me a very depressing sight to see the enormous stacks of lumber being towed in by bogs. It is only a question of time till this region will be treeless, for the lumbering interests have the politicians at their beck and call, it seems to me.

Vancouver is a city of lovely homes, every one seeming different, and it is spread over a large area of ground. The people think it cold here just now, the leaves are not coming out fast enough; but the crocuses and snowdrops are showing and the grass is beginning to get green. I see a lot of birds strange to me: white-winged blackbirds, magpies, mallard ducks, and a bird completely blue; I don't know what it is called, but I guess the "western bluebird" would be a suitable name. Of course the ubiquitous house-sparrows, and starlings, crows, and robins, are here in fair numbers.

"We were out to the Experimental Station or farm at Agassiz yesterday, about 100 miles from here, on a little less; also to Harrison Lake and the hot springs, and they are well worth seeing. I was at Banff also, and up Mount Norway to the Ski Jump, thence to the hot springs and the bathing pools, etc.

"I stayed a few days with the boys at Calgary and Edmonton. Brother Harold is as busy as ever, and they are doing quite a large business, the largest in the Province of Alberta, so competent judges tell me. But competition is very keen; Safeways, Piggy Wiggles, Eatons, and the Hudson's Bay Co. all have a large trade. I have been over a large section of Alberta, which is still suffering from drought for there has been little snow this winter. There is a general exodus to the North, where they had good crops, as can be seen by the large number of straw stacks. I left home March 2, and haven't seen a bit of snowfall since. The ground is all bare around Edmonton and to the North of it, which is something new, they tell me. The general topics of conversation were the weather, Turner Valley Oil, and the Aberhart Government, with much difference of opinion on each.

The farmer's hope that Premier Aberhart may be able to fulfil his promises. The business man as a rule, I think, see no possible chance for that. However, time will tell.

"I haven't seen any Island papers since leaving Calgary, but they were eagerly looked forward to and read, the "Newsy Notes" to get some material today for the Conservation column; they have promised to have some ready for use. I got some in Montreal, and hope to get some in other places, but it is hard to get Canadian material suitable. It is needed out here just as badly as in the East. Game is getting perhaps not so scarce, but is being destroyed at a fast rate, and time will see it ruined already. I cannot see any remedy but reforestation, and in places trees won't grow for the drifting sand covers them up.

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British Demand For Canadian Chickens

Ten thousand boxes of dressed poultry (about 500,000 pounds or 20 cars) were shipped from Canada to the British market during the week ended March 13th. This is the largest shipment of poultry that has ever been made in one week. From January 1 to March 12, 1937, Canadian export poultry shipments to Britain totalled 37,750 boxes, or about 1,777,500 lbs., compared with 16,463 boxes, or approximately 823,400 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1936.

Officials of the Poultry Services, Dominion Department of Agriculture, are pleased with the increased poultry shipments to the British market. They are, however, more encouraged by the marked improvement in the quality of this year's shipments. More of the Canadian chickens exported in 1937 are of the milked quality than formerly.

According to information received by the Dominion Department of Agriculture from W. A. Wilson, Canadian Animal Products Trade Commissioner in London, England, there is active inquiry for Canadian chickens on the British market and a better feeling developing for them. The market is firmer and higher prices are being paid for the best grades. This, it is stated, is due to the improved economic conditions in Britain and the preparations for the Coronation festivities, which will extend over several weeks. The British market gives promise of providing a reasonably profitable outlet for considerable supplies of Canadian poultry, provided the requirements in respect to price, quality and uniformity in packing are strictly observed.

land. It is probably "circumpolar" in growth, that is, it is found in a belt of countries around the Northern hemisphere. We have one colony of it in our own little island at Dunk River. But just as land-tops may differ, one from two persons may differ, one from the other, so the Vancouver Polypody differs from ours. For instance, the lobes of the fronds taper more and are quite sharp pointed. As soon as I received the fern I potted it, and also sowed some of its spores in special soil, hoping it is not too dried-out to grow.

With regard to the depletion of our forest areas, we have had lots of warnings from other countries, but they fell on deaf ears. In British India, on the slopes of the Himalaya Mountains, there grew valuable forests of hardwood trees, and in the early days of British rule these were exploited just as our own forests are. It was soon found that floods and famines were the result, and the Government created a new Civil Service Department, the India Forest Service. (It was not a patronage job either for the Candidates had to pass a stiff examination before they entered on the work). This service was responsible for foresting the denuded slopes, and also for regulating the annual cut, and in this way it has entirely remedied the conditions complained of. The Misty Valley in another object-lesson, and before its devastating floods are controlled great changes will have to be made, and much land laid out in forest. Even here we would sooner cut down a tree than plant one, and its not good policy. Perhaps Sweden has the best plan for dealing with the national woodland—but that's another story and must wait.

I am glad to hear that Mr. Harold Jenkins is well and doing a big trade. Possibly he does not remember the present writer, who nevertheless often did business with him in Charlottetown, and much admired his courteous way of doing it. And I hope to see Mr. Ludlow Jenkins this summer, if all goes well, and get the news of his further experiences in Western Canada.

PUMPKIN AND SQUASH. In the list of food plants of the Indians, I did not include the gourds because it is not likely that they were grown here by the aborigines. It must be remembered that the climate would be unsuitable in the old days before the forests were cut down. They make a climate warmer in winter it is true, but render the summers cooler and moister. Even now, I

imagine, we are on the northern limit of the Pumpkin tribe. As is well known the Pumpkin, Squash and Melon were cultivated by the Indians of the Southern part of America long before the coming of the white people. De Soto has left an account of the Squash which he found growing in Florida in 1542; and it is on record by other explorers that these plants were found growing almost as far north as the banks of the St. Lawrence. As there has always been some vagueness of species and to botanists, I got the group, even to botanical opinions of several horticultural magazines a few years ago, and from them constructed a sort of pedigree of the Pumpkins and Squashes.

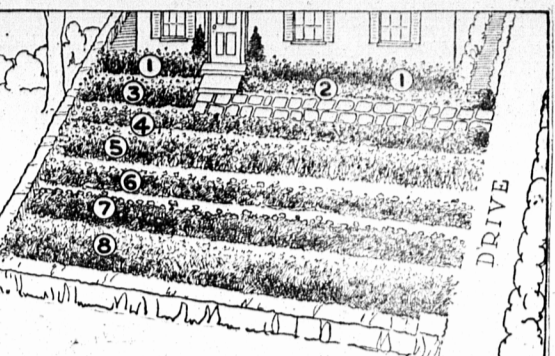
The Pumpkin proper and the early or summer Squash of the Crookneck and Patty-pan types are merely forms of the Cucurbita pepo of Linnaeus. They are very closely related and will hybridize, though horticulturists have grown the strains so long separately that they are pure and easily recognizable. (In the animal world the dog has been subjected to the same treatment. We can easily tell a greyhound from a bulldog, yet they have a common ancestor and readily inter-cross.) Linnaeus called the Pumpkin Pepo pepo, also; but it was not possible to discover why he used two generic names. Other botanists have named it C. polymorpha, meaning "many-forms." The Indians used the C. pepo boiled, baked in ashes, dried, and in bread-making.

The late "Winter" or true Squashes such as the Hubbard and Marrow types, are varieties of Cucurbita maxima Duchesne, sometimes called Pepo maxima. These will not hybridize with the pepo. The C. pepo boiled baked in ashes, used the Cushaw, whose

(Continued on Page 15)

Garden Expert Advocates Front Yard Flowers

ANNUALS FORM IMPORTANT PART IN COLORFUL ARRAYS. TYPES, VARIETIES AND COLORS SUGGESTED.



Key to Front Yard Flower Garden. Designed by Mrs. Francis King:

- 1—Miniature Sunflowers (Helianthus cucumerifolius), 2—Celsia Floussa mixed (Ostrich Plume or feathered cockscomb), 3—Cosmos Orange Flame, 4—Giant Yellow Zinnia, 5—Nicotiana Affinis (Sweet tobacco), 6—Marigold Guinea Gold, 7—A Giant Rose Zinnia, 8—White Annual Larkspur.

By MRS. FRANCIS KING Author of "The Well Considered Garden"

Six plans and suggestions for planting are to appear in this place from now on. Where ground is small and especially if the house stands on a quiet street with not too many cars always parked before it (for the smells of cars and flowers do not mix well) why not use the whole front of the lot as a gay garden? If the place is a rented one, or lived in for the first

year, the quicker solution is to sow seed, to use annuals alone. Therefore these suggestions will be mainly for the use of annuals. The seed catalogues give full directions for sowing, for starting seeds indoors or out, so that their arrangement will be emphasized, and general good effect will be specially dealt with. Wherever a hedge is specified it is one of privet (Ibota kept clipped to two feet high by one

In the sketch above such a low hedge encloses the flowers except those between entrance walk and house. If the house is brown use miniature sunflowers (Helianthus cucumerifolius) against it, below these a line of giant yellow zinnias, next the tall white nicotian, then marigold Guinea Gold, a giant rose zinnia, and nearest the front hedge successive rows of seed of white annual larkspur. Used in this order a very nice picture should result.

Gardening For Fragrance

Gardeners all over the land are rediscovering the charm of fragrance. For a long period color schemes and changing styles of design have commanded so much attention that the old art of planting for scent was almost forgotten.

With the trend changing, however, the nose is competing with the eye in making final decisions on candidates for spring planting. The gardener who would be up to date must become acquainted with the plants to grow for fragrance.

For the same reason, perhaps, that the sense of smell is accentuated in the blind, we become more conscious of garden fragrance when the brilliant light of the summer day fades, and twilight makes of the garden a fairyland. Some flowers whose perfume is not detected in the daylight become fragrant at

night. Others give off at night a perfume different from their daytime scent. The old-fashioned tuberose which suffered a lapse of popularity for many years because it was too often used as a funeral flower, is returning to favor in gardens, being no longer used in funerals. Its odor, too heavy for the taste of many for indoor use, is delightful when diffused on the evening air. A few bulbs planted along the garden path when danger of frost is over, will be delightfully evident on summer evenings.

One of the most fragrant evening flowers is the night scented stock, usually listed as machaeta biornis. A somewhat straggly, lilac-flowered plant, not too attractive in the daylight, it emits in the evening, or after a daylight shower, a cloud of sweetness. It should be sown where it is to grow.

The sweet scented tobacco, nicotiana alba, is surpassed by none in delicate fragrance. Its long tubular flowers close in midday, but open as evening approaches and give forth their rich perfume. Sweet Rocket, a hardy perennial which grows easily from seed, is a



Nicotiana Affinis.

most fragrant flower. It blossoms in early June and 3 feet tall, with heads of star flowers resembling hardy phlox, white or lavender pink. Look for it in catalogs under hesperia matronalis. It was Marie Antoinette's favorite.

Evening primroses, oenotheras are native American flowers of notable evening fragrance. Some varieties are hardy perennials, flowering from June to October, others are grown as annuals. They like dry soil with plenty of lime and their fragrance is distinctive and delicate.

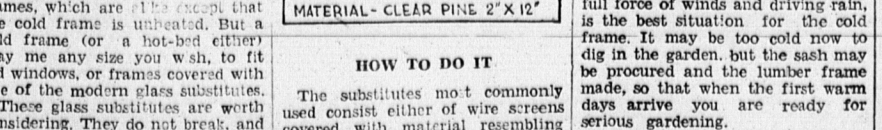
Insure your success in Poultry Raising By Purchasing Blood Tested Government Approved Chicks from the following Approved Hatcheries. P.E.I. Coop. Egg & Poultry Assn., Charlottetown Dr. J. R. Cunningham, Summerside, Willard Prowse, Brackley, J. H. McPhail, New Haven, Mrs. J. F. Easton, New Wiltshire, Mrs. E. S. Rose, Souris R.R. Prices etc. on application. Adv. Hatch. Assoc.

Cold Frame Is Year-Around Friend Of Gardener

One of the amateur gardener's best friends is a cold frame. In every month of the year there is important service it can render. In the spring it is nursery for young plants; under its protection vegetables and flowers can be started weeks earlier than they could be sown outdoors; and guarded from belated frosts until time to set them in the garden.

To make a cold frame is so easy, any one who can wield a saw and hammer can do it. It is usually made 3 by 6 feet, or some multiple of this, for the reason that standard hot bed sash are of these dimensions. This standard sash can be used for both hot-beds and cold frames, which are the best except that the cold frame is unheated. But a cold frame (or a hot-bed either) may be any size you wish, to fit old windows, or frames covered with one of the modern glass substitutes.

These glass substitutes are worth considering. They do not break, and the breakage of glass in windy localities is sometimes considerable. They are much lighter than glass, a merit which women appreciate. They do not let in as much light as glass, but for growing seedlings they let in enough.



HOW TO DO IT The substitutes most commonly used consist either of wire screens covered with material resembling celluloid, or fabrics treated with wax to make them waterproof, and let more light through. In making a cold-frame, the frame should be constructed of 1-inch boards, of cypress, white pine