

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

FUR FARMING and ITS ACTIVITIES

GIVE YOUR SILVER FOXES PROPER CARE NOW AND REAP THE BENEFITS LATER

Many silver fox farmers have difficulty in raising a definite percentage of their pups to maturity. They meet with heavy and unexpected losses, and many reasons have been advanced to account for this mortality. And what are some of these reasons? In many—and perhaps the majority of cases the losses can be attributed to poor sanitation, cleanliness and proper feeding on the part of the rancher. Of course it would be unreasonable to expect to raise all pups to maturity, but certainly there are losses that could and should have been prevented. From early in March and thence through the whole season every rancher should make it a rule to practice by every means under his control proper sanitation of his ranch. If legitimate success is to be achieved in raising silver foxes to maturity, you cannot expect to do so if they are infested with worms and parasites. Young pups are much more liable to the several diseases met with on all ranches than are the adult animals. The best way to prevent resistance to these diseases than all other is to raise a crop of healthy, prolific, well-furred silver foxes, and there are several ways in which this can be done.

Approximately a fortnight before the female is due to whelp, carefully inspect the kennel, and assure yourself that it is clean and in good sanitary condition to accommodate the expected litter of pups, and thus eliminate as far as possible any undue losses from lack of care in this respect. Experience and practice has shown that up to this time it is advisable to feed the female fox all the meat she can reasonably take care of in say ten minutes feeding time. Some foxes have a habit of burying a portion of their food, and this must be prevented. It is preferable to cut down on each animal's ration to consume a stated quantity of food. Two weeks before the expected litter is to arrive, gradually reduce her quantity of meat ration, and instead supply her with a dish of whole milk at the noon feeding hour. So as to avoid having to enter the pen, the dish should be placed just inside the pen door. Some foxes will pay no attention to this milk diet before whelping time, but the milk diet should be continued until the pups are born. A ration of beef hearts or beef can be given at the morning and night feeding time, but just as soon as it is noticed that the female has begun to whelp, the rancher should remain away from the pen, only approaching it at the feeding time.

Be careful not to place too much food in the pen at this time, as the female fox will only eat very sparingly for several days after whelping. Later the mother's feed may be gradually increased until she is getting a normal ration—and don't forget to always place the dish of fresh whole milk in the pen at noon. When the pups are at least three weeks old, begin to feed the pups the kernel and pups. After this period the rancher may satisfy his curiosity and give each pup a round worm pup capsule. When the pups are twenty-four days old, the meat ration should be gradually increased until the mother will commence to carry the meat to the pups, and she will also require an increasing quantity of milk at noon. Supply the mother fox with all the milk she will take, and advance the dish to within a short distance of the kennel, so that just as soon as the pups are able to travel about, the milk will also be accessible to them.

PROPER FOOD FOR PUPS

After the pups have reached the age of five weeks they should be able to come out of the den to the dish, and if they do so it will now be necessary for you to take special precautions in the preparation of the mid-day meal. A small quantity of dry, uncooked cereal (some ranchers use the shredded wheat, ground finely) can be placed in a dish, and over this you can pour a teaspoonful of high grade cod liver oil.

When the cereal has become thoroughly soaked with the cod liver oil add the whole milk. Cod liver oil given in this manner every alternate day will be sufficient. You need not hesitate to over-feed young pups—it can't be done. If they develop pot-bellies, it will not be from over-feeding, but rather because they have worm trouble. As the pups become older, gradually increase the amount of the cereal in the mixture in proportion to the age of the pups. When the pups are six weeks old, discontinue the meat ration, and night and morning supply them with the milk and cereal, gradually eliminating entirely the noon feeding.

Once a day, in addition to the milk and cereal, you can feed them ground green bone, ground meat, ground lettuce, these latter three ingredients to be mixed with the cereal and milk. For a litter of four pups a small handful of ground meat will be enough.

SELECTIVE BREEDING

I sometimes wonder if the man who improves his herd of fur bearers by selective breeding is not born with a special gift along this line.

Once in a while one finds a breeder of fur-bearing animals steadily and continuously improving his herd through selective breeding, which has never heard of Mendel's laws of inheritance, yet this man has the ability to hit on the right animal, not only to produce fine animals, not only in white, but all the time. To make a real success of fur farming "We must be breeders and not merely masters of animals." To many ranchers "be selective" is more easily said than accomplished. At certain seasons he starts wondering about many things, wondering if the best of his best matings will be anything like what he expected to produce. He starts speculating as to whether his ideas of line breeding will work out, or whether he should like to have them, which animals to keep and which to cull. He worries about the wisdom of disposing of that old male animal, which has produced so many fine litters, and if he has already introduced new blood in his herd, he is in a fever of expectation until he finds out what the offspring is like from the new blood fusion.

As a matter of fact, breeders of fur-bearing animals have not yet arrived at a definite agreement on any uniform method of breeding, and we continually hear of and read conflicting statements about the best and surest methods of breeding in order to get desirable results. The best method to tell you "Mate sure to improve your herd." But will you? If you mate the best with the best and know the ancestry of both male and female for generations back, and if there were no other characteristics in any of these former generations—its quite possible you may be on the right road to success.

Many prominent ranchers believe that success in building up a uniform herd is the result of common sense and not too much theory in mating. It is a good idea to observe a natural love of the animal, you are raising, and a mental picture of the ideal specimen you are trying

POINIS NGROWING LILIES OY BEAN SCOUCHGRASS ROSE PLANTING FROM SEED IN CANADACONTROL

When new rose plants are received, it is important that the roots should not be allowed to dry out under any circumstance. It is a good practice when opening the parcel of rose plants to plunge the roots into water and leave them there for several hours, or to bury the plant, root and branch, in moist soil for a few days. Either of these practices will restore the moisture in the stems that has been lost during the winter season.

Hybrid tea roses should be planted about 18 inches apart; hybrid perpetuals, two and a half to three feet apart, and the rugosa hybrids, the under any circumstance. It is a good practice when opening the parcel of rose plants to plunge the roots into water and leave them there for several hours, or to bury the plant, root and branch, in moist soil for a few days. Either of these practices will restore the moisture in the stems that has been lost during the winter season. Hybrid tea roses should be planted about 18 inches apart; hybrid perpetuals, two and a half to three feet apart, and the rugosa hybrids, the under any circumstance. It is a good practice when opening the parcel of rose plants to plunge the roots into water and leave them there for several hours, or to bury the plant, root and branch, in moist soil for a few days. Either of these practices will restore the moisture in the stems that has been lost during the winter season.

TO PRODUCE. With these things you should have every chance of producing a reasonably fine herd of animals. If you combine with these the science of husbandry, you will raise fur bearers all the faster.

"A knowledge of heredity is of great economic value to the breeder." A herd of foxes that are uniform, uniform in color, physical characteristics, and density of fur, are always impressive. A herd of this nature will indicate careful breeding, and rigid culling, and they will be produced by careless, promiscuous mating, nor the introduction of the first new herd male that pleases the eye.

On the other hand, a herd that has a variety of shades of fur, and bodily characteristics is never very impressive. A herd of this nature will indicate careless breeding, and rigid culling, and they will be produced by careless, promiscuous mating, nor the introduction of the first new herd male that pleases the eye.

This question now arises as to what are the best methods to be taken to accomplish this uniformity, and accomplish it in the shortest possible time. Can it be done by the introduction of "new blood" through the purchasing of other foxes from outside herds, or by the process known as "line breeding"? This term "line breeding" is very indefinite. Some term it inbreeding, and on this account it is considered by some who have tried it as dangerous. Others again claim that inbreeding is intelligently applied, producing a high percentage of results. Line breeding of the very best, some very fine herds of fur producers, even without the introduction of new blood. However, the rancher who attempts line breeding should be a natural born breeder, or he should be willing to take the time to make a study of heredity, and learn something about it before attempting to get results from such methods.

An authority on breeding says in part: "Line breeding is a real art, one which demands a high degree of courage. Not every man wants to face the facts. Altogether too many people would prefer to have an animal which appears to be a splendid individual on the surface, but which is likely to pass on considerable faults, than to have one which may not be as good to look at, but which will never pass on germ plasma which will create another less desirable specimen than itself."

Experimental Farms Note

Raising lilies from seed is one of the most fascinating phases of the garden work. Like most of the open-pollinated plants the seed will produce the greatest range of variation that it is possible to imagine and particularly if two varieties are grown in close proximity and become cross-pollinated. It is by this method that new and distinct varieties are obtained. Some varieties require to be hand-pollinated to insure seed setting. This is easily done by taking the pollen from the stamens of one plant and dabbing it on the tip of the central stigma of the flower that it is to produce its seed. The pollen grains will stick to the stigma and can be seen quite readily. Some of the species that require hand-pollination to be sure seed will be set are: Brown, L. candidum, L. Hansonii, L. Long's, L. speciosum, L. sulphureum, L. testaceum, L. tigrinum as well as some varieties of L. elegans.

If the freshly gathered seeds are sown soon after they ripen they will germinate much more quickly than where the seed is kept and allowed to dry out before sowing. In localities where there is a heavy snowfall the seed may be sown in cold frames in which light or sandy loam soil has been placed. Before winter sets in the beds should be mulched with the leaves that it is much better to sow the seed in pots with good soil and good drainage, and store in a ventilated pit or cellar where growth will not take place. In spring bring these up to heat and the young plants will soon appear.

It has been found that lily seeds will sometimes remain in the soil over a year before germinating as in the case of the seeds of L. auratum, while in the case of others, like L. tenuifolium germination will take place in a month or less. It is a good plan to sow the seed in a light soil, and to separate the seedlings, producing much better plants. Transplanting to nursery rows in frames with good potting soil as soon as the plants are larger enough will hasten growth. By the end of the third or fourth season many of the plants will be large enough to be planted out in the permanent position.

Once a seedling has bloomed and it is found to be outstanding it is an easy matter to propagate it from scales or bulbs or offsets. Every year you should have at least a few lilies to fill in the awkward gaps in the season of bloom.

Greatest of Garden Delicacies

Corn on the cob, fresh from the field, is a delicacy of the table, but it is a chapter on table luxuries all by itself. No other vegetable, perhaps, inspires such language of approval as a steaming platter of this sweetest of garden edibles. It is as universally liked as roast beef in old England; as much so in the United States. It is a staple of the summer table, as bright flowers or shaded elm trees.

But only the home gardener, and those of his favored friends, may partake of this festival fruit, for only when it is freshly taken from the stalk does it have the flavor and sweetness which account for its popularity. When left even a short length of time corn will lose much of its flavor and when left a day or two on the market—an unavoidable thing, especially in the large cities—altogether, a chemical change taking place which turns the sugar into starch.

Corn will grow on almost any type of soil, but it is naturally a rich soil crop. Consequently, the richer the soil, the better the produce, and it is a

Experimental Farms Note

The Dominion Department of Agriculture during the past ten years has introduced and tested hundreds of varieties and strains of soybeans from various parts of the world. Through selection and breeding it has hoped to obtain new varieties better suited to the various conditions throughout the Dominion. While soybeans have a much more limited adaptation in Canada than in the United States, where approximately 4,000,000 acres are being grown, the development of better adapted varieties will constantly enlarge the area throughout the Dominion in which this crop can be successfully produced.

The soybean gives every indication of becoming a valuable addition to the field crops of Canada. Its possibilities are being actively investigated in almost every province of the Dominion, although production at present is limited almost entirely to the province of Ontario. The total area for the Dominion in 1933 is estimated at 15,000 acres. Since the total acreage in 1928 was probably less than 1,000 acres, the increasing interest in the soybean as a field crop is fully evident.

Present production in Canada is chiefly for seed, which, being extremely rich in protein and oil, has a high commercial value. The industrial uses for which the soybean can be utilized are numerous. The seed also has considerable value on the farm for live stock feeding and since the soybean plant itself possesses a highly nutritive value for fodder, it is quite possible that as production increases the crop may be used as a green manure rather than in industry. As the soybean is comparatively new as a farm crop in Canada, the Dominion Department of Agriculture has issued a pamphlet giving full information as to the characteristics of the soybean plant and seed, their adaptation to soil and climatic conditions, the various purposes for which soybeans are used, the most suitable varieties available, and general instructions on how the crop should be grown and handled.

BORDEAUX DUST

(By Gordon Lindsay Smith)

In combating flea beetles, or in treating potatoes for insect enemies, a Bordeaux dust may be used in place of the regular poisoned Bordeaux spray. Such dusts can be purchased from all commercial supply companies ready mixed, or they may be prepared on the premises, providing a good mixing machine is available. The following is the standard formula for Bordeaux dust—copper sulphate (dehydrated, and ground very fine) 12 pounds; arsenate of copper (arsenate of lime 8 pounds; vegetable insecticide, Dominion Department of Agriculture.

TRY SOME EARLY STUFF

Now that May is here it should be fairly safe to try a few rows of those vegetables which are usually sown until later. If Frost does not come along, there is a small loss, whereas if the stuff pulls through there is the satisfaction of having from one's own garden, vegetables unusually early. Beans, potatoes, corn, tomatoes and a few of the other tender and summer vegetables can be turned in this way. With hardy sorts like spinach, radish and lettuce, one can make the first sowings just as soon as the ground is fit to work. Frost may hold them back but it will not hurt them. Handle the end of the planting season in the same way. This is a make a sowing or two after the usual time for planting so there will be stuff coming along weeks after the main crop has been picked.

A VALUABLE REFERENCE

Gardeners will find a good seed catalogue indispensable. Height of the flowers, times of blooming, whether they are suitable for such special purposes as edging, screening, cutting and fragrance are all mentioned and are vital factors in laying out a satisfactory garden. In the vegetable line the catalogue continues this useful service by listing different varieties under the heading of early, late and medium so that a succession of vegetables is possible right through the season. With unusual sorts, special directions are given in regard to care and preparation for the table.

SPREADING OUT VEGETABLES

With but few exceptions it is advisable to make several sowings of each vegetable. Otherwise all mature at the same time, and then

SPOTS ON JUPITER

(Experimental Farms Note)

An astronomer in Cleveland—so runs a press notice—has observed a "white spot" on the south equatorial belt of the planet Jupiter. This was on May 8th and 7th. The spot was a hurricane area, 2,000 miles wide and 20,000 miles long, in the Jovian atmosphere.

It has long been known that the atmosphere of Jupiter has "weather disturbances." Every picture of the planet's surfaces differs from the preceding one. This is rather a curious fact, there are several factors which should make the atmosphere a rather tranquil one. First, the inclination of Jupiter's axis to his orbit is about three and one half degrees only, so that its seasonal changes (so productive of disturbances on earth) are very slight. The sun's heat which is responsible for part, at least, of terrestrial disturbances is only one-twentieth of that received by the earth on a similar area; this also should make for quietude. And as Jupiter is a gas planet, twelve years to complete its circuit around the sun, any changes induced in its atmosphere by solar action must be very slow. We must look for other causes to account for these "spots" on the planet.

NO TROUBLE

(By Gordon Lindsay Smith)

There is a somewhat wide spread belief that it is much more difficult to grow beautiful flowers than a few rows of common vegetables. But this opinion is not well founded. In many respects it is easier to produce the flowers. Of course there are certain things like geraniums, roses, delicately shaded carnations, and a few herbaceous perennials, which require practically no skill and with the minimum of attention will allow the owner to grow them in almost any position, though it should not be too shaded. After thinning, no more attention is needed. The ordinary variety French Marigold is another flower which should not be overlooked by the gardener who has a little time to devote to his hobby and also the California Poppy, Cosmos and ornamental Sunflower. This selection will give plenty of bloom, a fair range in color and also in height.

STONE CIRCLES

The Elskeddof is the annual National festival of Wales. It may be compared, in some ways, to our "Whit" week, but the greatest basis is placed on music and literature, subjects in which we are as yet lamentably deficient as compared with the Principality. There every little village has its competing choir.

The Brilliant Annual Phlox

One of the most brilliant garden flowers comes to us from the bleak plains of Texas. It took a circuitous route, however, and after passing through the competent hands of European breeders, it found its home again in a form that few Texan ranches would ever recognize, but which delights the heart of any gardener.

For mass decorative effect, the popular Phlox Drummondii is without a peer among other flowers. In its annual form it is sown at regular intervals well up to mid-summer. A continuous bloom will be assured if this procedure is followed, eliminating the blank periods when this short-blooming plant is not in flower. Fortunately they are very easily grown, and can be seen raising steadily above the ground within a short time after planting. Soil conditions are not as important to them, although a rich topsoil will be much more effective than a poor one. Phlox may be transplanted if care is taken so that the roots are not disturbed unduly, and if they are watered in their new location and shaded for the first two or three days, they will settle down, however, to see lightly, and then thin to about 6 inches apart.

Grandiflora and compacta are the two types to be found. The former grows to about 1 foot in height, and has the largest and most perfect blossoms, although there are fewer of them. Beautiful colorings and markings abound in this type, and a bed of them is appropriate in any garden. The compacta or dwarf types are best for edging although they make beautiful mass effects in beds. They are a free blooming flower, growing up to 8 inches, and have a somewhat longer season of bloom than the grandiflora.

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

W.L. IN DURHAM, ENGLAND

County Durham, England, in the North-west corner of which I sojournd for many years, has an area of about 648,000 acres, being a little less than half the area of our Province. But it had, at the last census, a population of a million and a half, all convinced that the Women's Institutes are a splendid institution. This was shown at the annual meeting of the Women's Institutes, when on April 28th, 500 delegates representing 142 Institutes, supported the town by holding their Spring Council meeting there. The Durham Federation of Women's Institutes is the full title of the organization.

Their reports for the month of April show a variety of occupations. A favorite competition in keeping with the Easter festivities, was the dyeing of eggs. Eggs dyed with onion peelings, with peelings and coffee, with dyes, and hand-painted eggs, gave the judges plenty to do. One Institute collected 220 eggs and represented 142 Institutes, supported the town by holding their Spring Council meeting there. The Durham Federation of Women's Institutes is the full title of the organization.

Some of the stunts, during the social half-hour were "unwrapping a stringed parcel with a knife and fork," a fast knitting competition, and the making of a "dinner savoury." There were the usual mystery parcels competed for but my informant does not say in what manner. Several of the Institutes put on musical entertainments and sketches (dialogues) at their meeting.

Coming to graver matters, I notice that a drapery supply house in Newcastle sent a representative to one meeting to give a demonstration in "fine needle-work"—which was a good business and embroidered window curtains. My, my, with all this finery about, a mere man would feel awfully de trop! What would more appeal to the M.M. was the dressing, boning and stuffing of a fowl by a lady from Houghall Hall, near Durham. At the Medomsley Institute meeting in the Cooperative Hall, a lecture on "The Care of the Feet" was given by a gentleman, but we were not told whether he was a bootmaker, or a chiropodist. In every instance the ladies put on a cooperative supper, to which I presume the M.M. were invited.

Early in the season is, some Institutes discussed their annual "summer outing." The motor bus has made it possible to visit places which in my time, would have been out of the question. I note that Medomsley aforementioned is off to the ever-popular Lake District this year.

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(Continued on Page 14)

Vegetables Keep Best in Garden

The garden is a better place to keep vegetables fresh than the refrigerator. The economy of a garden is often considered from this viewpoint, but it is an important one. There is no waste in the garden. The garden is a better place to keep vegetables fresh than the refrigerator. The economy of a garden is often considered from this viewpoint, but it is an important one. There is no waste in the garden.

Start a vegetable garden this year as a measure of health and economy. If it is more than a spinach patch it is that much clearer gain. Tomatoes may follow the spinach and two staples of the menu are provided for the season.

meal need be gathered, leaving the rest to remain in tip-top condition for another day and another meal. A garden saves a lot of room in the kitchen, and it provides a better quality vegetable than can be provided by the refrigerator or from the cold storage plant of the grocery. Home-grown vegetables do not suffer as do market supplies from wilt from being left in the sun and they are not passed through the hands of whom cleanliness and sanitary condition are grave suspicions.

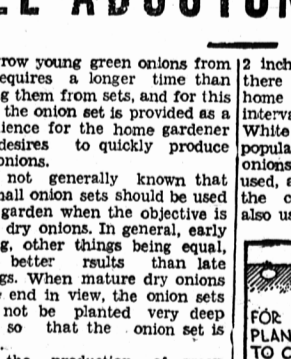
Home-grown vegetables are cleaner, of best quality, and a real economy. Clean spinach for the baby is the incentive for many garden starts. The wilted and sand-laden greens often on sale at the green grocers cannot compare with the fresh, crisp leaves that may be gathered in the back-yard patch from a nickle package of seed plus a little healthy care in the way of spading up space to plant it. But proper diet for the baby is no more important than proper diet for the adult, and although it is usual to treat a baby with more consideration than a grown-up when it comes to food, so far as a strictly hygienic standpoint.

ALL ABOUT ONION SETS

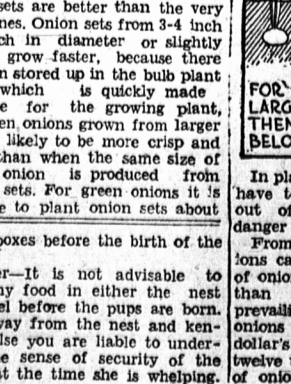
To grow young green onions from seed requires a longer time than growing them from sets, and for this reason the onion set is provided as a convenience for the home gardener who intends to quickly produce green onions. It is not generally known that only small onion sets should be used in the garden when the objective is mature dry onions. In general, early planting, other things being equal, gives better results than late plantings. When mature dry onions are the end in view, the onion sets should not be planted very deep enough so that the onion set is covered.

For the production of green onions for use in the kitchen, larger sets are better than the very small ones. Onion sets from 3-4 inch to 1 inch in diameter or slightly larger, grow faster, because there has been stored up in the bulb plant food which is quickly made available for the growing plant, and green onions grow from larger sets are likely to be more crisp and tender than when the same size of green onion is produced from smaller sets. For green onions it is advisable to plant onion sets about 2 inches in the boxes before the birth of the pups. Answer—It is not advisable to place any food in either the nest or kennel before the pups are born. Keep away from the nest and kennel or else you are liable to undermine the sense of security of the female at the time she is whelping.

FOR MATURE DRY ONIONS PLANT JUST DEEP ENOUGH TO COVER THE SET.



FOR GREEN ONIONS USE SMALLER ONION SETS PLANT THEM FULLY TWO INCHES BELOW THE SURFACE.



FOR GREEN ONIONS USE SMALLER ONION SETS PLANT THEM FULLY TWO INCHES BELOW THE SURFACE.



In planting onion sets one does not have to wait until all the frost is out of the ground, or until all danger from frost is past. From 15 to 30 pounds of large onions can be produced from 1 quart of onion sets which do not run more than 3-4 inch in diameter. At prevailing retail values of both onions and onion sets, from a dollar's worth of onion sets from twelve to twenty-five dollars worth of onions can be produced.

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THE GARDEN IS THE BEST PLACE TO KEEP VEGETABLES. GATHER ONLY ENOUGH FOR YOUR DAILY USE.