

# FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

## Apply Plant Food To Assist Early Growth

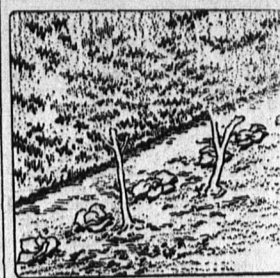
In applying plant food to established lawns and perennial borders conditions are encountered which differ greatly from new plantings and which permit much earlier action.

Plants which are full grown when spring begins—in which class grass plants are included—begin to grow much earlier than most of us realize. They are likely to make their best growth in temperatures which are too cold for gardeners to enjoy.

Early growth is always most important because it determines to a considerable extent the ultimate development of a plant. Just as a well-fed infant will grow into a sturdy man, able to take care of himself, so a baby plant which is well fed will develop a vigor which will enable it to tolerate the most adverse conditions which may be encountered.

Plant food may be applied to lawns and established borders as soon as spring thawing begins. As the deep frost leaves the soil assumes a condition which has been

described as "honeycombed." The surface is pitted, and plant food applied at this stage will immediately



Honeycombed Condition of Soil as Frost Leaves Cross Section Showing Pitted Surface

ately dissolve and sink into the soil. The ground is soft, so that the food elements are quickly carried down to the roots of plants to stimulate their early growth.

Inflation may increase greatly the cost of fresh vegetables in the market," said Mr. Burdett, "but it will not increase the cost of growing them in your own garden. There are two ways of figuring this cost. You may count the time you put in sowing and cultivating, as well as the labor, to be charged against the crop, or you may look upon gardening as exercise and recreation, a healthful and enjoyable way to spend leisure hours, and the crop as so much clear gain. Either way you will find a good hedge against inflation.

## Loss of Spring Litters

We are approaching the season when one of the chief topics of conversation among farmers will be the heavy annual loss of spring farrowed pigs. When hog prices are at profitable levels, as they have been during the past year, this loss becomes a serious matter for the breeders. The fact that some sows never lose a spring litter while some others never lose one, is evidence that this loss is largely preventable.

In a small percentage of the cases failure may be attributed to conditions over which the breeder has little control, but such causes are rare when compared with the numerous fatalities due to improper feeding methods.

The great lack of knowledge of the elementary principles of live stock feeding is the chief problem affecting the swine industry in P. E. Island today. Every farmer knows what constitutes a balanced ration, but very few understand what goes to make up a balanced ration. Every farmer should know that a balanced ration must contain everything that the pig requires to develop a litter of strong, vigorous pigs. It must contain sufficient minerals to build up the skeletons of the pigs. If these minerals are lacking, the litter may be born dead, deformed, or so lacking in strength that they die immediately after birth. If they live for a time, rickets may be the result. A balanced ration must contain protein to build up muscle and blood in the unborn pigs. Any deficiency in this respect may result in oversized, flabby, weak pigs at farrowing time. In this province protein is usually the low constituent in our live stock ration. Skim milk or buttermilk are the only high protein feeds grown on our farms and used for pigs. All other common pig feeds are low in protein; potatoes and roots have only 1 per cent protein, oats, wheat and barley average about 9 to 10 per cent. In a balanced ration for sows carrying young or nursing a litter the ration should contain 15 to 20 percent protein. How can we make up such a ration if we use potatoes and home grown grains without milk? Take potatoes and grain in equal parts and we have a ration with about 6 per cent protein or less. This is a wide deficiency from the necessary minimum of 15 per cent. Yet we find hundreds of farmers feeding such an unbalanced ration. When easier follows, they can't be lucky.

## FLOUR FEED Now in Stock

- BRAN
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Robin Hood—Western Queen—Royal Household—Five Roses—Regal—Purity and Beaver Flour, all of which we are selling at lowest prices. WANTED—Good quality OATS, WHEAT, BARLEY, BUCKWHEAT and HAY and STRAW, for which we are paying highest market prices.

A. HORNE & CO. CHARLOTTETOWN

## Vegetables Grow Cheaply In Backyard

200 Square Feet of Ground Will Make Family Income To Rising Food Costs.

Exercise and Recreation Are Healthful and Enjoyable Ways To Spend Leisure Time.

Do you believe inflation is coming? Is the cost of living going to soar, while salaries and wages lag far behind, bringing difficult times for the manager of the family budget?

If so, why not "hedge" or take insurance against inflation effects, just as wealthy investors are said to be doing? James H. Burdett, director of the National Garden Bureau, says that every family which has as much as 200 square feet of soil at its disposal for a garden this spring can become largely immune from the effects of inflation on the food bill by growing its own vegetables.

"Inflation may increase greatly the cost of fresh vegetables in the market," said Mr. Burdett, "but it will not increase the cost of growing them in your own garden. There are two ways of figuring this cost. You may count the time you put in sowing and cultivating, as well as the labor, to be charged against the crop, or you may look upon gardening as exercise and recreation, a healthful and enjoyable way to spend leisure hours, and the crop as so much clear gain. Either way you will find a good hedge against inflation.

"It is generally agreed that the first effect of inflation is upon the cost of living. Prices rise on consumption goods; the food we must have every day, the clothes we wear out and must replace, the items, in short, upon which most of the average income is expended.

"A rise of twenty-five per cent in food prices will place a heavy burden upon most families, if the money income does not rise in the same degree, and economists say there is always a lag here; prices rise faster than wages and salaries.

"The home garden can easily grow 25 per cent of the food which a family needs; and this will balance the budget, even if inflation does its worst."

A demand for small homes with more than the usual amount of land attached has been noted by real estate dealers all over the country. Mr. Burdett pointed out; and this was directly traceable to the opportunity for counteracting inflation which such a property afforded.

"The quickest moving real estate in the Chicago area for a year has been plots of one or two acres, giving abundant opportunity for home gardens," he said. "This trend means that the building expansion which is on the way. The depression has taught millions of Americans the value of a garden, where one can always exchange his labor for food, on the best possible terms. The home gardener enjoys the finest food and pays for it by enjoyable and healthful exercise."

It is a good practice where practical. If it is impossible to have a hotbed, however, a coldframe is the next best. Although seed cannot be started in as early by a month or month and a half it gives a substantial advantage over sowing in the open ground, besides protecting from changes in weather conditions and from the destructive effect of heavy rains.

Frames of varying size may be made at home, although the standard size, 3 by 6 feet, is most desirable since that is the size of commercial coldframe and holed each.

Seeds of all except the more tender plants may be sown in coldframes by the middle of March except in the more northerly states

and by the first of April it is usually safe to put them all in. Covers must be provided in the shape of straw mats, old quilts or blankets or similar covers along a sudden cold snap comes along.

In addition to giving an early start on seedlings, a cold frame is a great convenience for wintering perennials that are too tender to stand thawing and freezing and winter wet such as wallflowers, pansies, some of the pink foxgloves, Canterbury bells and others. They will be protected throughout the winter in the frame and may be set out again in the spring ready to bloom.

The best new garden is the one planned first on paper, and ruled out according to plan. Use ruled paper in making the plan.

## NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

### THE NATURE EVERCIRCULATOR

I have just received the current aspects. The term "Evercircularator," a periodic selection of high class, but most interesting matter relating to nature study in all its aspects. The term "Evercircularator" ("Evercircular" for short) requires some explanation. A number of persons interested in the same subject agree to form a circle for its study, and to pass round, generally by mail, a parcel of literature dealing with the subject. A list of members, and instructions for dealing with the parcel are enclosed in it. In the case of the "Nature Evercircular" its rules read:

(1) Members of the circle are requested to enter the date on which the Evercircular was received, and also the date on which it was mailed to the next member, into the appropriate columns. (2) According to present arrangements, one week is allowed for perusal. (3) The last member of the present list returns the Evercircular to the first on the list. (4) If any member has a friend who wishes to join the circle, his name and address, on a separate slip of paper, may be enclosed in the envelope containing the rules, for inclusion in the next list. (5) Members who have suitable matter (magazines, newspaper cuttings, or M.S.) are asked to include it in the Evercircular, inscribing such matter when it again comes round.

The list of members enclosed has four columns: (1) Name of member; (2) Address; (3) Date received; (4) Date forwarded. Our particular Evercircular has appeared irregularly up to the present, but is now to set out on its travels monthly. The Jack Miner League, whose organ it will be, have, by the kindness of a correspondent in the United States, been enabled to include the "Nature Magazine" for the rest of the year. This is the best magazine of its kind that I have yet seen; entirely devoted to natural history and charmingly illustrated. Our heartfelt thanks are due to the correspondent (unknown to us) who sends it.

A notice in the Evercircular urges members to ask their school teachers to form a "Junior Audubon Society" among the scholars, particularly of which may be had from Mr. Earl Bailem, of Cross Roads, P.E.I. My memory serves, such a "J.A.S." must consist of at least ten members, but where the school is small one or two might cooperate with the neighboring school to form the necessary quorum. The J.A.S. is a most educational movement dealing with bird life.

### OUR OWLS

A correspondent has a little "dig" at me for defending these birds, and is pleased that there is a bounty on them. I do not know whether the bounty is on all species or not; but I do know that biologists all agree that, with two exceptions, our owls are among the most valuable birds we have. In Britain there is being carried out a most determined effort to save the owl from extinction; and this in spite of the fact that the country is a great place for poultry and pheasant rearing. A general census of owls was ordered about two years ago.

The two species of owls which are under a cloud in this country are the Great Horned Owl and the Snowy Owl. Both are about equal in strength, and from their size are well able to tackle ducks, poultry and game. The Great Horned Owl, however, is particularly fond of skunks, and according to Reed, always gives "tumultuous" evidence of recent and close association with these animals. Out of 110 stomachs examined, says Dr. Taverner, 31 contained poultry or game birds; 13 mice; 65 other mammals; 1 scorpion; 1 fish; and 10 insects. "The evidence is decidedly against this owl." Like the Snowy Owl, this bird hunts in the day-time, and this accounts for its destruction of poultry and game.

The Snowy Owl is, unlike the "Hornie," a winter visitor only, and is comparatively rare. Occasionally, however, droves of them invade the Island (as in 1926-7), being driven southwards by severe weather and scarcity of food. "Few days are available upon its food," Reed says that they feed upon hares, lemmings, ptarmigan, and ducks, in their habitat around Hudson Bay.

The other owls said to be found in the Island, are the American long-eared, the Short-eared, the Barred, the Great Grey, the Richardson, the Acadian or Saw-whet, the Screech, and the American Hawk. The last is a very rare winter visitor.

The commonest of these is said to be the Barred Owl, and "it is usually regarded as an enemy and

by the first of April it is usually safe to put them all in. Covers must be provided in the shape of straw mats, old quilts or blankets or similar covers along a sudden cold snap comes along. In addition to giving an early start on seedlings, a cold frame is a great convenience for wintering perennials that are too tender to stand thawing and freezing and winter wet such as wallflowers, pansies, some of the pink foxgloves, Canterbury bells and others. They will be protected throughout the winter in the frame and may be set out again in the spring ready to bloom. The best new garden is the one planned first on paper, and ruled out according to plan. Use ruled paper in making the plan.

### Review of Annuals Little Known

LOOK OVER 1936 CATALOGUES FOR A FEW NEW FLOWERS TO GROW THIS YEAR.

Most gardens have their share of petunias nasturtiums, zinnias and a few of the better known annuals, but there are hundreds of other quick-growing flowers which can be had from seed the first year. Getting acquainted with the long list of annuals which seed catalogs display is no meager job. Yet, every gardener should have something new each year, and if two or three new annuals are planted every season, he will learn much about these lavish garden subjects over a period of years.

The hummanna or bush escholtzia with its bright sulphur yellow flowers, is excellent for summer color, and is good for cutting. Plant it late when the ground is

warm. It is slow getting started but has a long season of bloom. The Chinese Forget-Me-Not, cynoglossum, has a strain of blue much valued in the border. Their large, graceful sprays reach a height of 18 inches. The seed is large and might well be planted in hills instead of drills. A subtropical flower with trumpet-shaped flowers and a delicate fragrance is the datura, or angel's trumpet. It grows well in most climates, but should be started early in a seed box or flat. They make fine pot plants, and are good for bedding.

A real dazzer, which might well be used to accent beds or borders, is the kochia, popularly known as the burning bush because of its fiery red colors. It grows 2-1-2 feet tall and its close-branching habit give it the physical appearance of a small evergreen. It makes a fine colorful low hedge for separating parts of the garden.

The annual statice is not only a beautiful flower for garden purposes, but may be dried for winter decoration. Xeranthemum is another everlasting which may be preserved for later use. It has silvery foliage, and attractive pink, white and purple flowers.

A flower from the East Indies of easy culture is the globe amaranth, or columbine. It has clover-like blossoms in white, flesh, rose and purple colors. Sow seed in late spring in sunny location. They bloom from July until frost. Pick a few to dry.

Euphorbia is an interesting flower because of its attractive foliage. It is another. Some of the Coleus is another. Most of these annuals can be grown with a minimum of preparation by the amateur. Although they do not take the place of the old and sure favorites, they make interesting variety, and add much to the pleasure of growing flowers. Get a few of these this year.

## CHOOSING THE MALE

Too much care cannot be taken when choosing the males to head your poultry flock. The heavy laying characteristics possessed by some individual hens is passed on through their sons. It is not in generations from mother to daughter. With this knowledge one can readily understand the importance of knowing not only the strain that your males come from, but also the actual record of their dams. Practically this in breeding dairy cattle for milk production, and it is the same with poultry. You can just as easily lower the production of your flock by using a male from a low-producing hen as you can raise it by using one from a high producer. The size of the egg laid, also the color, are characteristics which are passed on in the same manner.

It has been shown definitely at all experimental stations during the last few years. A good pedigree male mated to an ordinary good pullet or hen can raise the flock average from one dozen to five dozen eggs in one year. The poorer the flock is the greater the increase in production. For roasting, a mixture of timothy and blue grass hay is being fed although the owner would prefer alfalfa and blue grass for feeding steers. Experiments have proved the electrically-heated hotbed a success.

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## Flaming Velvet Petunia Is a Blood-Red Sparkler

All-America Gold Medal Winner Best New Flower For 1936. It Can Be Grown By Amateurs Without Special Attention.

ALL-AMERICA GOLD MEDAL WINNER BEST NEW FLOWER FOR 1936. IT CAN BE GROWN BY AMATEURS WITHOUT SPECIAL ATTENTION.

A scarlet sheen more delicate than any royal robe identifies the new petunia Flaming Velvet. Entered by a Dutch grower of international fame, this outstanding new creation for 1936 was awarded the gold medal by the All-America committee as the best new flower of the year.

It is rich and brilliant, with a velvety blood red or crimson color, and is as easily grown by the amateur as the ordinary run of the mill petunia which flowers so freely from early summer until frost. Its color and uniformity there is nothing more to be wanted. Sow Flaming Velvet like you would any other petunia, starting it early indoors in a flat if you want the best and earliest bloom. The seed is scarce this year, so you will have to get your order in early, but next year it is hoped there will be sufficient stock for everyone.

Few garden flowers are as valuable as petunias. Their color range is perhaps wider than any other, and their adaptability to almost any type of soil is amazing. Like many other varieties of this ambitious race, it is best placed where it can sprawl and tangle into a flaming mass of color. Do not plant it with straight, stiff-stemmed subjects like the zinnia. It should be an excellent window box subject, but you will have to choose companions with care to harmonize with its bold color.

## Modern Trend in Garden Design

There is a modern movement in landscape design which does not stop merely with making triangular flower beds.

It rejects most of the formulas and dogmas which have been too generally applied, regardless of whether they produced the best solution for a given problem.

Typical dogmas are: That every house should have a foundation planting, to "tie the house to the ground," and that the grounds should be bounded by a shrubbery border. But a house may look better without a foundation planting and the grounds without a shrubbery border. The designer should not be expected to comply with formulas at the expense of a good effect. He should be allowed free play to devise a planting which will enhance the beauty of the house and the owner's enjoyment of the grounds.

Rather than being guided by formulas, he will follow only the fundamental principles of design. This is the theory and it seems sound, but, like some other "modern" ideas in art, hundreds of years ago who were unhampered by gardening dogmas, and well acquainted with the fundamental principles of design, nevertheless found that they had to deal with materials which nature had provided and which did not always conform with their notions of what trees, shrubs and flowers should be, to fit their favored designs. The result was that they deformed trees and shrub and suppressed the natural grace of flowers in order to produce creation which turned out to be really architectural conceptions, built of plants instead of stones.

## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

This week we might well consider the feeding principles of a veterinarian and progress of a farmer who devotes a great portion of his time to the feeding of steers.

This farmer is a firm believer of "stall feeding," in the most literal sense. His feeders go into the stanchions on December 1st and remain there until they are ready for market about June 1st. No roots or ensilage are produced on this farm and the cattle are fed dry chop, molasses has been tried, but is not much favoured.

The barns on this farm are well built and commodious and the stabling is well fitted and is provided with excellent bedding. The cattle are kept well bedded, clean and comfortable, and every stall in the stable is occupied. There is an air shaft of the well-to-do farmer about the place. A covered water trough is in front of the manger and it is opened twice a day for the cattle to drink.

This farmer is a grower of emmer, a grain not very extensively grown in Canada, but is a good yielder, producing better than 40 bushels to the acre, and weighing 40 lbs. to the bushel, which makes it heavier than oats. The hulls form about the same percentage as oats, and it runs slightly stronger than either oats or barley in protein and better than oats in carbohydrates, but hardly up to barley in the latter.

Wheat, oats, and emmer is this farmer's crop mixture, using 60 lbs. wheat, 40 lbs. emmer, and 34 lbs. oats, being one bushel each by measure. About 10 lbs. of this chop is fed per day, divided into two feeds, and about two pounds of bran per day is added. That is, each feed consists of 5 lbs. of chop and 1 lb. of bran. Ground flax is fed on this grain ration at the rate of one handful of flax meal to two steers. This is preferred to feeding of oil cake.

For roughage, a mixture of timothy and blue grass hay is being fed although the owner would prefer alfalfa and blue grass for feeding steers. Experiments have proved the electrically-heated hotbed a success.

AGRICULTURIST.

"Of no other King have humble men and women said: 'He was our friend and our father; and he loved us.'"

A FINE TRIBUTE At the Unitarian Church, New-



Flaming Velvet Petunia

ing or blowing away. The sparkling color of Flaming Velvet should make it particularly valuable to accent a bed or corner, as it fairly shouts for attention. Like many other varieties of this ambitious race, it is best placed where it can sprawl and tangle into a flaming mass of color. Do not plant it with straight, stiff-stemmed subjects like the zinnia. It should be an excellent window box subject, but you will have to choose companions with care to harmonize with its bold color.

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PROTEIN — 70% and high in other feeding properties. After all PROTEIN is the most important ingredient. Our "FASTERFAT" WHITE FISH MEAL has the highest of any Fish Meal made.

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The man with the HOE says - Collect winter is a good time to collect cigar boxes or make flats for planting seeds indoors. The All-America selections should satisfy your desire for novelties. Look over the 1936 list and order a few. Seed catalogues are printed and in the mails. If you do not already have one, order immediately.