

FOR FARMERS' STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

NATURE NOTES
The wild grape, *Vitis vulpina*, is undoubtedly the vine mentioned by Leif Erikson when he found part of the continent he called Vinland or Wineland. Four years ago I put a cutting of this plant in on the south side of the house, and although I consider his rather a bleak place, the grape has thriven apace: It had ten or a dozen bunches last year, and promises to have sixty or seventy this fall. A visitor who was examining the plant, remarked "You will be able to make some wine from this!" "I am afraid that wine made from wild grapes would be like the Rhine wine, thin and sour. Did you ever hear the old rhyme about it?"

"In Spain, that land of monks and apes.
The thing call'd wine doth come from grapes:
But on the noble river Rhine
The thing call'd grapes doth come from wine!"

"No, I don't think they'd make good wine, but I tried some wine from green grape last year with great satisfaction." "What's the idea of mentioning apes?" said he. "Why, the only place in Europe where wild monkeys may still be found, is the Rock of Gibraltar, and if my memory is not astray the popular name for these simians is 'Barbary apes.'"

Rhubarb is plentiful this year, perhaps because of so much moisture. Do not sell it at an unprofitable figure, but clean it, split it lengthwise, and dry it out. I stretch a wire over the kitchen range and bend the stalks across it. In about three weeks the rhubarb is thoroughly dehydrated, and is then broken into short pieces packed into paper bags and kept in a dry place. (It would, I imagine, keep indefinitely). A handful or two of these "chips" boiled with sugar, makes a grand winter confection, with a better taste (to my fancy) than fresh rhubarb.

Those two very warm days at the turn of the month, brought many June-bugs (Lachnosterna) to maturity. As usual, they kept chattering up against the window when the lamp was lighted, then dropped, presumably stunned for a time, to the ground. For an experiment I put a pail, about quarter full of water, just below the window. Next morning I tipped the bucket and counted the drowned bugs. There were thirty-seven. As the bugs are the parents of those pestiferous "white grubs" I felt pleased with the "bag," as hunters call it.

Another troublesome insect is the ant. The big black Carpenter Ants will attack the tunnel trees of a certain age, and the little brown garden ants tunnel the ground and stable aphids on the roots of grasses and plants. The aphids repay their care by producing "honeydew" of which ants are very fond. Various methods of getting rid of the ants have been devised, but I find that poisoning the insects is probably the simplest. I procure one of those circular fly-pads—a well-known brand—and step it for a while in a pint of a little better than lukewarm water. Then take out the pad, and sweeten well, preferably with brown sugar. A couple of teaspoonfuls of this sweetened liquid, which is laid, on its side, near the run of the ants, usually which must be emptied occasionally. Those two-ounce inkbottles are "just the thing."

I notice, in today's (June 3rd) Guardian, an advertisement from a well-known florist, who is certainly to be commended for bringing within reach of the public all the floral novelties of the year. The plant breeders seem to have excelled themselves in 1936, and many new varieties of Cosmos, Calendula, Marigold, Petunia, etc., appear in the catalogues of 1937. There is a great advantage in being able to buy these novelties as seedlings rather than seeds, and I hope our gardeners will make the most of it. Why grow old, out-of-date, and inferior varieties?

Noticed a Starling in the garden yesterday morning. It was in the company of two Grackles, but was distinguished by its smaller size, shorter tail, and yellow beak. It was catching worms, much as a robin does. Starlings have become a pest in some parts of the country, but elsewhere in Western Canada (I read) the school trustees authorized the schoolteacher to offer a prize for the greatest number of dead Starlings brought in by the children. Two thousand and "cadavers" were brought in to that school. Of course the plan is to get after these birds before they get so numerous.

A short story of the Sweet Pea appears in the April number of the Nature Magazine. The Sweet Pea has gained such a prominence of late that in the florist trade it is the second best seller, next to the rose. The first Sweet Pea was a small lavender-blue flower, found in Sicily, by an observant monk, who admired its perfume. He collected and sent its seeds to England in 1699. Two other colors were found in Devon in 1701, a white and a red, but the ruffled flowers were only the size of those of the vegetable pea little notice was taken of them.

Sweet Peas had got into the catalogues by 1730, but only five colors were known, and the white bicolor was named "Painted Lady." Not until late in the Nineteenth Century did the hybridists realize the possibilities of the plant; which, despite the hybridizing still retained its fragrance. Henry Eckford (of England) commenced systematic work with the best types in 1876, and created such an interest that in 1900 a National Sweet Pea Society was founded. At the time of Eckford's death in 1905, there were over 300 varieties listed.

In 1901 a large, waved type of Sweet Pea was developed simultaneously by two originators, Silas Cole, gardener to the Countess Spencer, and also by a Mr. Viner, from Eckford's variety "Prima Donna." In this case it was difficult to apportion the credit, but since another gardener, W. J. Unwin, had also found the waved type and called it "Gladys Unwin." These "Spencer type" Sweet Peas caused a new wave of enthusiasm amongst gardeners and by 1911 shows were offering large prizes for these flowers. One show offered a total of \$5,500.

On this continent the greatest Sweet Pea breeders are, beyond doubt, Anton Zvolanek and W. A. Burpee. When Zvolanek came to America from Vienna in 1886, he brought seeds of a hybrid between the Sweet Pea and the common vetch, that blooms early in summer. From these, after the introduction of the Spencer types, he proceeded to develop the first twelve named varieties of the "winter orchid-flowering" sweet peas that created the furore of 1913. Mr. Burpee, in his 1896 catalogue, promised a double sweet pea, and the attractive "Bonnie Ruffles" a large, long-stemmed variety, with more than one standard, took the gold medal at the Scottish National Sweet Pea Society in 1936, while the ruffled "Burpee Blue" gained the Award of Merit from the National Sweet Pea Society of Great Britain in the same year.

Comparing small folk with great, colors of Sweet Peas, red, white, I have in my own garden three and Wedgewood blue, growing separately. The white—which is faintly flushed pink—produces a high proportion of double and triple flowers; that is, with two or three standards. This is the result of selection only, and not hybridizing. The red, or rather scarlet, variety is much more sparing of its duplexes, and special care is required in securing seed from them. The blue has never to my knowledge, "sported" into duplexes at all.

CORONATION HUMOR
From across the "big-sea-water" comes accounts of incidents on Coronation Day in the poorer streets of Newcastle and Gateshead, both on the Tyne. Generally such streets have no garden space in front, the door opening right on to the sidewalk. The contractor, however, is prohibited from covering all the building site and must leave a stipulated number of square feet as back-yard for air-space. The back-yards are enclosed by a continuous wall, much higher than a man's head, and reached by separate doors for each household. A narrow pavement outside the wall takes care of foot-traffic, and a cobble-stone cart-track fills the space in the middle of the back-street. In the back streets we encounter such vehicles as "coal-carts," garbage wagons, costermongers' barrows, etc., while ambulances, and cars for weddings and funerals, affect the front streets only. But for the great day of May 12th, a new idea had arisen. The back-streets were cleaned up, and strings of flags, streamers, and ship's bunting, cascaded from wall to wall. Tables were improvised, benches and chairs provided, and a sort of universal tea-party organized. One photograph of Back Charles Street, Gateshead, gives a vivid idea of the rejoicings. The street is a short cul-de-sac, with a runcous wall across the end. The table stretches nearly to the wall, and about three-score people are grouped round it. They are mostly women and children, but one can make out three men, one of whom seems to be a clergyman. In front is a girl with a water-ewer, such as is associated with a bedroom wash-basin probably full of tea. On the other flank is a portly dame, with biclops

CONSERVATION

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS ON THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS, MARSHFIELD.

(Continued)

Comparison of coastal and mountain flyways. The Kittatinny Ridge and, at times the parallel ridges north and west of it, are essentially migratory flyways for hawks and eagles, and to a lesser extent, for accipiters. The coastal flyway, judging from reports from Cape May, N. J., is evidently used by the bulk of the accipiters and falcons, the ospreys and turkey vultures which breed in the north-eastern part of the country; consequently, our totals, for the last-named two species especially, are unimpressive.

Probable explanation of fluctuating totals. Appreciable hawk migrations, their volume and flight-direction probably governed by the wind, are known to occur along some of the parallel ridges. And it is possible that birds which may elect to travel along the Kittatinny Ridge one season may take an entirely different route another season. The difficulty

like a blacksmith; evidently the representative of law and order, the leans one hand on the table, with outstretched arm, and placid face. Her apron is a Union Jack with wide colored border all round.

One of our sports an Oriental turban and other has on a headress resembling an ash's mitre. Poor as the locally seems to be, the children are neatly dressed, and the little girls have ribbons in their hair. I see no inscriptions nor mottoes here, as there were in other streets.

The motto most favored was of course "God Save the King." A street in Newcastle particularly with "God bless the King of George Street and the British Empire. Our King" and "God Save Our King" were also seen. A light-minded subject had added—"And help our Landlord next Monday." Which means, I suppose, that this rejoicing was taking all the available money. One of the surprises, in a poor street in the West End of Newcastle, was a high sheet of paper, with a quotation from Shakespeare's "King Richard III" neatly printed on it—"Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by the appearance of this son of York." One can forgive the allusions. The Guardian (June 5) tells us that Swedish Coronation visitors, intruded with the Bermundsey children's street tea parties, passed round the hat to add to the feast. The hardy and independent Northerners forestalled any such action by placards announcing "No Collection."

At night bonfires and fireworks added to the general hubbub. The bonfire on Newcastle Town Moor attracted a quarter of a million people. It was the largest in the North of England, and contained many tons of combustible. There was a great gathering of Boy Scouts; 25 of whom were deputized to light the fire, and the crackle of the flames, fanned by a strong North wind, the songs of the Scouts, and the cheers of the spectators, were broadcast by the B.B.C. The Newcastle magistrates granted an extension of one hour to the public-houses (saloons) while the Gateshead magistrates granted no extension. This led to an invasion of Newcastle by the drouthy souls of the sister borough, but the police reported no disorder, only "high spirits." The High Level Bridge, between the two towns, took on the appearance and function of a ball-room till long after midnight.

All the mining villages held "teas" for the aged and the school children at which Coronation music makers and trays together with participants. The squires and aristocracy all provided fireworks for their nearest village. The Duke of Northumberland entertained 1,000 school-children in the old feudal banquetting hall of Alnwick Castle, and gave thirty tons of fuel for a bonfire. One M.P. promised £5 to every baby born in his constituency on Coronation Day, by 6 p.m. he was out £35! (about \$175).

The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers took advantage of an ancient privilege and marched through Newcastle streets with fixed bayonets and drawn swords, and headed by the Regimental Colors. Search-lights, from ships and forts stabbed the sky at night. In the beautiful De-wheat Valley the home of my youth, your correspondent encountered nothing but mist. "For mile after mile there was scarcely a thing to indicate the road but the snow post sticking out of a river. In other times the 'snow posts' were some times placed on heights, for the traveller to steer by; some of the bases are still to be seen, but the shafts are gone destroyed by the 'snow-plasts' of a more 'morant day.' For all the unpromising weather, the folk were 'having a grand time.' I read.

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Canadian Garden Service 1937

BY GORDON LINDSAY SMITH

Although the informal flower garden is much to be preferred for average planting, at the same time this does not mean just throwing plants in centre of the bed. It is necessary to do a little preliminary planning even when only a small bed of annuals is contemplated. The good seed catalogue, which lists time of blooming, colors, heights and other points greatly simplifies this matter of lay out.

Generally the best plans to have the larger flowers towards the rear or centre of the bed so that little things like nasturtiums, alyssum, dwarf phlox and similar kinds will not be hidden. Where the bed is to be mixed, it is well also, state the experts to have late, medium and early flowers evenly balanced to insure something always in bloom.

But there are other and finer points to consider. Certain shades blend well together and often a whole bed will be selected with this blending in mind. Of course for this sort of thing, all the plants must bloom during the same period. Fragrance should be taken into account, as there are some spicy flowers like Evening Scented Stock, Nicotina, Mignonette, Sweet Sultan and Verbena, which while rather plain as plants, in the whole garden with their delightful incense, especially shade loving flowers in the evening.

In shaded quarters, Tuberous Begonias, Pansies, and wild flowers will do well. In fact, they prefer this location to any other. In partial shade, Clarkia, Annual Larkspur, Lupine, Nicotina,

and southerly winds when the season's heaviest, most concentrated passage of hawks took place. Similarly, on October 25, 1936, a fine day with a light southerly breeze, a substantial flight of 602 hawks was observed. Yet these later flights may be actually heavier than recorded, for when easterly or southerly breeze prevail, the crossing is apt to be seen far out, in a day. It is now that Red-tails come along and presently, late in October and early in November, as the passage of Sharp-shins is waning impressive flights of the larger hawks are taking place. Goshawks are appearing regularly. November is essentially the month for Red-tails, with a noteworthy figuring prominently. Golden Eagles at frequent intervals, and other species in small numbers. The Marsh Hawk is seen in small numbers throughout the season, the females and immatures coming in October and the males last. It is noteworthy that these later migrants do not make the distant journeys which the earlier September birds make. Golden Eagles, for example, are known to winter from Pennsylvania southwards and in the east Goshawks seldom go further south than the Virginias.

A correlation between a given species and the migration period and its food habits, such as is found among most passerine birds, the Broad-wings' diet of wood-frogs, small reptiles and insects necessitates the exodus of the species from its breeding range in the north before October. The Sharp-shins' migration is nicely synchronized with that of the small passerines.

Effect of the weather on migration.—General weather conditions have been correlated with the daily flight conditions throughout the three seasons. Beyond a temporary cessation of migration during weather or heavy mists, local weather conditions, particularly regarding temperature and wind direction have little or no influence on the flights. We have found that the heaviest flights have been preceded invariably by marked meteorological disturbances in the regions of the north. The visitor to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary can be assured of profitable results if he keeps an eye on the weather charts, and elects to visit the mountain a day, or preferably two days, after the occurrence of low barometer pressure to the north of us. It is usually the second day after such conditions that the hawks, having launched on their journeys, reach our portion of the ridge. A typical example may be cited in the manner in which the flights opened on October 18, 1935, pressure was low in an area extending from Hudson Bay southward through eastern Ontario; only 34 hawks were observed. On the following day the weather cleared and was attended by widespread rains; our score leaped to 236 birds. The 20th produced 497 birds.

The migrating raptors are always seen to best advantage at Hawk Mountain during northerly winds when the flight follows the northern slope of the mountain. It is my opinion that when such flights occur, very few birds get unaccountably Optimum flights may occur, however, with less favorable winds. We refer again to September 17, 1935, a warm, clear day with light to moderate easterly

Phlox and Verbena should be grown.
On poor soil, Portulaca is a favorite as well as Alyssum. Sweet Stocks Linum, Calendula, Calliopis, Sunflowers, Schizanthus, Salpiglossis, Marigolds, Petunias, and many others. These will also successfully resist dry weather.
For cutting purposes, there is a long list to choose from but it should include Gypsophylla (Baby's Breath) useful for making up bouquets. There are several hardy annuals which can be picked with long stems just before the bloom opens and dried for winter bouquets. These include the Straw Flower, Statice, Aeracodium, Rhodanthe and many others.

Spread Out Vegetables
Several sowings of each vegetable are advised. Otherwise all mature at the same time. After all, with such things as radish, spinach, peas, corn or practically anything else for that matter the time they are really worth eating is when they are right out of the garden. They must be quickly eaten or used immediately when they have reached the proper size. These vegetables will deteriorate whether they are left in storage or ripening in the vegetable rows. To avoid this sort of thing the good gardener has his vegetable coming along continuously a few feet of lettuce and baby carrots and beans ready for the table all season and he also cultivates frequently pushed growth along with commercial fertilizer and water when possible.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS

CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming



A new brand of fox and mink food is being placed on the market by the Saskatoon firm of S. A. Eddy and Company. The firm's copyrighted name for their product is "Sunlight" and the formula and manufacture are in charge of Archie H. Campbell, B. S. A. The Sunlight fox foods are available in three forms, cubes, cube meal and containing no meat. Mr. Archie Campbell, who is well known to many fox ranchers in this province, where he spent considerable time in acquiring practical information of the industry.

The other day I received a letter in the mail from a fox farmer who said that last fall he purchased four females and two male foxes from a breeder who claimed that his production averaged over 150 per cent for several years. No progeny resulted from the four females—two were double-mated with the two males—and the latter asked me to give reasons why.

In reply I stated that it was impossible for me to fix the cause, that there is always a percentage of misses in every ranch. There is also the change of feeding, the change between the ranch where these foxes were raised and the ranch they came to. The pens may have been small and perhaps with insufficient sunlight, and perhaps they had been stimulated by improper perhaps did not contain the proper ingredients to promote reproduction.

What this man complains of is something that has happened to me all, namely, you can't buy good foxes so as to improve your herd, and then meet with the disappointment of infertility. There is a good chance, however, that these foxes if kept over the second year will prove to breeders as they will become accustomed to the new ranch environment and different feed schedule.

Will MacEachern, Mermad, is one of the most successful ranchers I have in this province, and I could say a lot of other nice things about him too. He has known him for a great many years. This year he has 363 pups from 100 females, which is certainly a gratifying production. Will produces a good average quality pet, with quite a few outstanding ones. These will be a real asset to any matter what market they are placed on.

John R. Munn, Marshfield, whose foundation stock was pure Jim Tuplin, and whose pet prices correspond to those of the latter, has aimed to produce this season, and believe it or not, has succeeded after them all himself. Mr. Munn loves foxes, and no doubt a great part of his success is because of the genuine pleasure he receives from raising his charges morning and evening. He has a fine sense of humor, and he is a very good natured fellow. He is a very good natured fellow, and he is a very good natured fellow. He is a very good natured fellow, and he is a very good natured fellow.

The annual meeting of the Silver Fox Breeders and Exhibitors' Association of Prince Edward Island will be held in the City Hall, City Building, Charlottetown, on Tuesday afternoon, June 29th, at two p.m. Members of the organization should be present in full capacity and show their evidence of interest. There will be a number of directors elected and other very important matters to come before the meeting.

Had the pleasure of a short conversation of Hillard Muttart, Summerside, on Thursday when he and others were attending the luncheon given in honor of the visiting big game of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. "How is your fox crop, Hillard?" "It is mighty good, I think," said he, "as from 97 females we have 355 living pups. Here are some of our large litters—one of 10, two of 9, seven of 8." Best of all, Hillard has good stock. I do not know of anyone that has made such progress upward in such a short time. It cannot be more than four years ago this fall that I was congratulating him on winning a second place at the Fox Show at Charlottetown. Last year Muttart foxes were among the big winners of prizes.

George Calbeck states that he does not believe the unsold pelts in London amount to more than eighteen or twenty thousand, and that since the sales last week there has been a good demand for pelts at private treaty at 2 m prices, so that there is every reason to expect all this season's offering to be cleaned up before the new crop comes on the market.

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Two years ago a banker called my partner and myself in to see a consignment of 75 pelts from the West, and asked us to put a bid on them. We went over them carefully and noted that they were well-furred and would have been a beautiful lot but were almost brick red. We were so interested that we tried to rancher to find out the cause of the off-color. He had fed extensively of meat and the foxes were in open pens with the full force of Old Sol playing on them almost daily. Probably there was also a history of parasitic infestation (hookworms) as he stated that he had lost quite a few pups during the summer that showed signs of diarrhoea and were rough in the coat and quite emaciated.
R. W. "Bob" Wright, a native of

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