

Canadian Garden Service 1950

By Gordon Lindsay Smith

An Ounce of Prevention

It is a lot easier to keep a garden healthy than to try to cure a sick one. The latter job is possible, of course, but it takes time and in the meantime one is apt to get discouraged. There is no dark secret about flourishing flowers, vegetables, grass and other things that go to make up a fine garden. The first point that matters is clean, vigorous soil and good seed or foundation stock. When one buys seed and plants from reputable Canadian sources and does so regularly each year, there is far less danger from disease and insect pests. With certain bulky things, too, like potatoes and gladioli bulbs, most experts treat before planting with some of the ready-prepared chemicals now on the market.

In our great grandfather's day they didn't have to worry much about diseases carried over in the soil, but that is not the case now. In the older sections of Canada, at least, there are a lot of things lurking in the soil that only treatment of seed and fairly constant spraying or dusting of the plants can keep in control. In using any of these solutions one should remember to follow directions carefully. If these call for soaking several minutes or several hours then that is the only effective procedure. Of course it is not necessary to treat many kinds of seeds, provided of course we get good stock in the first place.

Be Ready for Pests

The second bit of advice from the experts is to be ready for any attack of insects or disease before the damage gets serious.

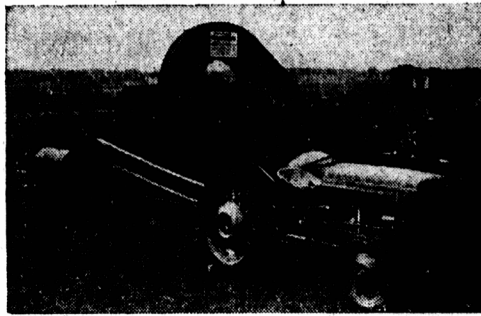
In this preventive policy a little special equipment will prove valuable. A good sprayer or duster and a few pounds of material to use in the same are just as important as cultivating tools and fertilizer for the growing end of the job.

It is possible to buy the raw ingredients and mix up sprays and dusts and this is often the course followed where the garden is very large. But ready-mixed sprays with only water to be added, and dusts ready for the gun, are inexpensive and they will save time and trouble in most cases. For the ordinary sized garden one of the small hand sprayers that hold a few quarts will probably be sufficient, but for larger jobs and for lawn work with 2-4-D to kill weeds, a larger piece of equipment will be necessary. In recent years many gardeners have turned to dust and dusters. For a couple of dollars one can get a hand-operated gun that will cover a large garden in a very few minutes.

Get Going Fast

The main thing with sprays and dusts is to have a little material ready and to start using it at the first sign of trouble. If this is done there will be no trouble in

New British Grass Drier



A newly designed grass drier which employs a burner of the type used in gas turbine aircraft engines was recently demonstrated by the manufacturers at Redhill Aerodrome in Surrey. For some time Tiltman Langley Laboratories, Limited, have studied the possibility of applying gas turbine technology to industry, and this led to the design and development of a new type of grass drier. The grass drier employs a burner of the type used in gas turbine aircraft engines. A thin layer of grass is dried in a rotating drum, the warm air being circulated by means of a fan. A small amount of the moist air is expelled and replaced by the fresh air used for combustion. The drier is designed for the use of the small farmer and can be moved with ease by a tractor or by a separate engine. The grass drier can be modified for use as a grain drier by fitting an adaptor-trunking to the outlet of the large fan and connecting it to a flexible hose, which has several rigid tubes branching from it for inserting in the grain sacks. This picture shows: The grass-drier, which is designed for the small farm, seen during its recent demonstration.

copied with almost any type of the biters or eaters we use a poison for the suckers, a burning spray.

A point to keep in mind is that insects, pests, divide themselves into two types — those that bite or eat holes in the foliage and those that suck the juices. Damage from the first is soon noticeable, that by the latter shows up when the leaves or plants wilt. For

LONDON, June 21—(Reuters)—War Minister John Strachey told the House of Commons today that substantial reinforcements of land and air forces are arriving in Malaya to fight Communist guerrillas.

Agricultural Notes From Britain

NEW RIVERS WILL PROTECT FERTILE RECLAIMED LAND FLOODS

(By L. F. Easterbrook)

On the eastern side of England, near the coast, lies a strange and fascinating stretch of country—the Fens—formed over many centuries by silt deposit which gradually builds up until it is only covered at high tide. Then men have come and reclaimed the land, thrusting back the sea with dykes and walls.

Land is still being won back in this area. In 1946 a group of farmers reclaimed 3,000 acres on the shores of a large indentation in the coast known as the Wash. They employed contractors to build two sea walls, each six miles long and projecting ten feet above the water level. The land inside that wall will be grassed over and become firm, high quality farming land.

But what we in Britain call the Fen District, covering some 750,000 acres, was reclaimed 300 years ago by the fourth Duke of Bedford, who joined with other landowners to form a "company of adventurers" for this purpose. They employed a Dutch engineer, Cornelius Vermuyden, to do the job. It is a tribute to his work that it stands to this day and has won for Britain some of the most fertile soil she possesses.

20 Years' Work

Vermuyden's scheme was a most ingenious one. He cut drains at the foot of the higher lands to carry away the surplus rainfall which poured down on the Fens. He led it away to the rivers or the sea by these drains so that it could not add to the wetness of the marshes. A further system of drains was introduced to carry water away from levels from which there was no natural fall. He widened and straightened existing rivers, and cut new watercourses that were rivers in themselves. It took 20 years to finish the work. Since then banks have been added to contain water that might overflow existing dykes or river banks in time of flood. These extra banks restrain the floods from racing over the dead flat countryside and in flood time they become like great reservoirs. As the water is carried off above the level of the ground it is not uncommon to see a house standing beside a river, but below it, with the river-bed level with the bedroom windows.

It is remarkable how Vermuyden's work has endured three centuries of wind and floods. But Nature never gives up the battle and this century it has become evident that unless large scale reconstruction is undertaken, sooner or later a great calamity must occur. We have had several warnings. The last one was in the great blizzard of 1947, when the Fen waters burst their banks and many acres of fertile land were flooded. It could easily have been worse.

Like a Sponge

There are several reasons why the problem of Fen flooding has become more acute. Improvements in land drainage and macadam roads have combined to increase the flow of water from the higher lands that drain into the Fens. But also the Fens are sinking. They sink about an inch a year, for they are like a great sponge and as the water empties out, the peaty surface dries and crumbles away in dry, windy weather.

It is believed also that bacteriological action is eating the soil away. This is not only lowering the level of the Fens and so adding to the danger of serious flooding; it is interfering with existing drains and waterways. For the sinking takes place unevenly, so that two ends of a waterway may sink more than the middle, with the result that the middle becomes a hump-back up which the water will not flow.

So we are preparing to put into operation the biggest scheme for making the Fens safe since Vermuyden won them back for Britain. It will cost over \$18,000,000, but it will save spending \$300,000 a year for ever on makeshift arrange-

ments that might still not avert a first class catastrophe. Two entirely new rivers are to be cut to carry flood water from the high lands harmlessly to the sea and there discharge it into the sea. One river, 27 1/2 miles long, will encircle the Fens from the river Lark to Denver, in the county of Norfolk, where a great sluice controls both the outflow of the rivers and the inflow of tidal water from the sea. Another river, 11 miles long, will run from Denver parallel to the Great Ouse to a point a little way up from King's Lynn, also in Norfolk. The work will take at least six years, but when completed it will be capable of dealing with flood levels higher than the greatest ever recorded.

A National Investment

The State will pay all but \$1,800,000 of the total cost. For this rich land is a national investment that effects a dollar saving and grows more food to the acre than any other we possess. The remainder of the money will be paid by those who live in Fenland. It will represent an additional charge of about 15 cents of the dollar (\$5) on the rateable value of Fenland property. But already some Fenland farms are paying as much as \$6.16 per acre for the insurance against floods they possess.

The Fen people are hardy folk. They and their ancestors have fought the menace of rising waters for generations and they will tell you, in their rather taciturn way, that after all they and their livestock and their farms are still there to tell the tale after 300 years. In conversation they are inclined to belittle the threat under which they live. But this is not only because they are familiar with it. One does not talk too much of the things one really fears and there is not much doubt that when the work is finished many a Fenman, especially those living in houses where the floods roar down the narrow channels level with the upper storeys, will sleep as he has never slept before on winter nights when the tempests of those parts lash torrential rains to fury.

Export Of Live Horses

As from June 1st, Britain will allow the export of live horses valued at 100 pounds (approximately \$300) or more, without restriction. The value is F. O. B. and must be declared in accordance with Customs requirements.

This minimum, announced by the Board of Trade in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, is considered adequate to prevent any export of horses for slaughter.

Horses vs Tractors

OTTAWA, June 23, 1950 — The ever-increasing performance and efficiency of the tractor during the first part of this century does not mean that in the near future the horses will have disappeared as a factor of importance in world agriculture, says an editorial in "World Crops", a magazine published in Great Britain and distributed throughout the world.

According to this article, there is no reason to believe, as some prophets do, that the horse "will survive merely as an instrument for sport and recreation, a charming relic of a bygone age". On the contrary, writes the editorialist, the horse has, and will continue to have, a definite part to play in the farm economy for many years to come and, indeed, indefinitely. It will supplement the work of the machine and their roles are complementary, a sort of symbiosis, in fact.

Point is given to this in a recent circular of the British Ministry of Agriculture which describes the alarming decline in the number of farm horses during the past decade. The circular stresses the fact that tractors have to depend on imported fuel oil, while the horse "proceeds under its own steam generated by home-grown food".

"Even assuming that adequate supplies of tractors, spare parts and fuel can be relied upon, say the writer of "World Crops", there are still many occasions when

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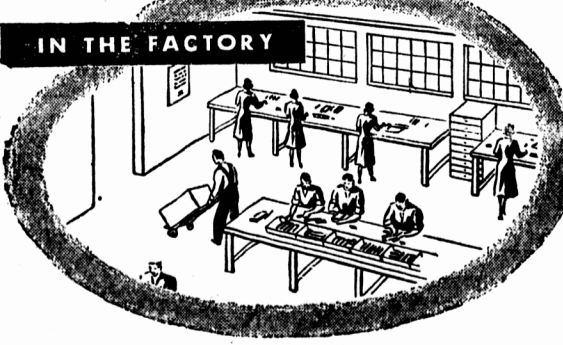
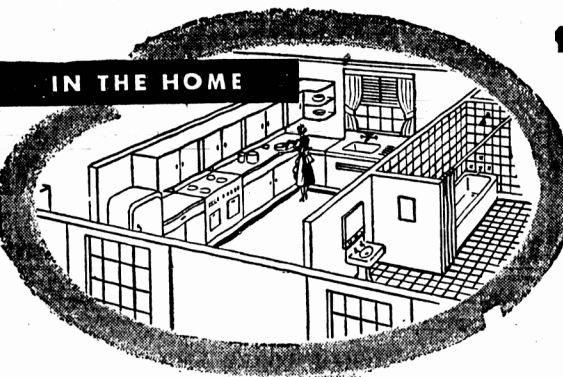
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The Neighbors

By George Clark



"If they're gonna kill time anyway, why don't they talk with us?"

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Start feeding Miracle Hatching Mash about six weeks to two months in advance of the time eggs are collected for incubation. The result will be a higher percentage of fertile eggs and a higher percentage of chicks that hatch out strong and well-nourished. You'll be off to a good-money-making start.



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PULLETS GROW FASTER WITH 'MIRACLE' GROWING MASH

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