

# MODERN FARMER

## TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The New York Auction Company will auction 10,000 silver fox including mutations, 2,000 blue fox, 500 white fox and 150 cross fox and 100 marten, Thursday, March 1st. This is the largest quantity we have seen catalogued for any sale in the United States for a long, long time and it will be very interesting to see what prices are realized.

We have received a letter from Dr. C. K. Gunn, Superintendent Dominion Experimental Fox Ranch, Summerside, requesting that the Guardian publish his article which appears below so that it may be in the hands of the mink breeders during the present breeding season. The facts are set forth very clearly and any of our breeders can easily follow them. . . . Thanks, Doctor, for your very conscientious efforts to improve the breeding not only of foxes but of mink. . . .

(3) Royal Kohlnur (homozygous) X Bluefrost.  
Dominant White of 95% type... 50%  
Royal Kohlnur Black Cross (hybrid)..... 50%

(4) Dominant White of 95% type X Royal Kohlnur (homozygous)  
Dominant White of 99% type. 25%  
This mutant type is frequently called "Snow White" and has but few black guard hairs present, therefore it is the most desirable commercial-pelt type.  
Royal Kohlnur (homozygous)..... 25%  
Dominant White of 95% type. 25%  
Dominant White of 95% type. 25%  
Royal Kohlnur Black Cross (hybrid)..... 25%

### BREEDING DOMINANT WHITE MINK

(By Dr. C. K. Gunn, Dominion Experimental Fur Farm, Summerside, P. E. I.)

There has been a keen demand for information on the best methods by which to breed dominant white mink.

Interest in dominant white mink has been further stimulated by high prices paid for pelts of this fur bearer at recent Auction Sales, coupled with the faith the fur manufacturing industry has that such white mink will have a lasting place in the production of luxurious white evening fur garments.

(5) Dominant White of 95% type X Royal Kohlnur Black Cross (heterozygous)  
Dominant White of 99% type..... 12 2/3%  
Dominant White of 95% type..... 25%  
Royal Kohlnur (homozygous)..... 12 2/3%  
Royal Kohlnur Black Cross (heterozygous)..... 25%  
Bluefrost..... 12 2/3%  
Standard Dark Mink..... 12 2/3%  
This cross produces 50% predominantly white and other coloured types.

(6) Dominant White of 95% type X Dominant White of 95% Type  
Dominant White of 99% type..... 16 2/3%  
Dominant White of 95% type..... 33 1/3%  
Royal Kohlnur (homozygous)..... 8 1/3%  
Royal Kohlnur (heterozygous)..... 16 2/3%  
Bluefrost..... 16 2/3%  
Standard Dark Mink..... 8 1/3%  
This cross produces 58% predominantly white mink and other coloured types.

Two mutations exist in mink, giving rise to white fur. One is the dominant type referred to above, while the other is a recessive mutant type mink. Although the latter recessive mutant mink breeds true, the fur is not a pure white and it tends to become cream colored or even an undesirable yellowish colour. This colour defect has caused the fur manufacturing industry to prefer the dominant mutant type mink pelt, because it is a clear snow white, free from such yellowish discoloration.

(7) Dominant White of 95% type X Dominant White of 99% type.  
Dominant White of 99% type..... 33 1/3%  
Dominant White of 95% type..... 33 1/3%  
Royal Kohlnur (homozygous)..... 16 2/3%  
Royal Kohlnur (heterozygous)..... 16 2/3%  
This cross produces 83.3% dominant white mink and 16% Royal Kohlnur hybrid Black Cross mink.

As ranchers know this is a difficult strain of mink to breed in large numbers, such that the pelts are relatively free from black (hairs) markings, which are present to a variable extent in different blends of this dominant mutant type. Actually the most desirable dominant white mink are the resultant blend of two other mutant forms, namely:—the Bluefrost and Royal Kohlnur. To produce dominant white mink, a cross of these two mutant types is the first step subsequently the white or partly white progeny can be mated together in different ways to produce more white mink among their offspring.

(8) Dominant White of 99% type X Dominant White of 99% type.  
Dominant White of 99% type..... 66 2/3%  
Royal Kohlnur (homozygous)..... 33 1/3%  
This is economically the best cross to make for production of the maximum number of white mink, in which 100% of the progeny are predominantly of the white type.

However, it is a problem to obtain profitable numbers of commercially desirable dominant white mink of uniform pelt type unless certain breeding methods are used, and for the convenience of Canadian mink ranchers who have white and near white mink to breed this season, a short resume of the types and percentages of offspring that may be expected from different crosses, when adequate numbers of these mink are crossed, are given below.

(9) Dominant White of 95% type X Standard Dark mink.  
Dominant White of 95% type..... 25%  
Royal Kohlnur Black Cross (hybrid)..... 25%  
Bluefrost..... 25%  
Standard Dark mink..... 25%

(10) Dominant White of 99% type X Standard Dark mink.  
Dominant White of 95% type. 50%  
Royal Kohlnur Black Cross (hybrid)..... 50%

(11) Dominant White of 95% type X Bluefrost.  
Dominant White of 95% type..... 32 2/3%  
Bluefrost..... 32 2/3%  
Royal Kohlnur Black Cross (hybrid)..... 16 2/3%  
Standard Dark mink..... 16 2/3%

(1) Royal Kohlnur (hybrid) X Royal Kohlnur (hybrid)  
Royal Kohlnur (homozygous)..... 25%  
Royal Kohlnur (hybrid)..... 50%  
Standard Dark..... 25%

(2) Royal Kohlnur (hybrid) X Bluefrost.  
Dominant White of 95% type. 25%  
Kohlnur Black Cross (hybrid)..... 50%  
Standard Dark mink..... 25%



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## Adjustment Of Clipper Seed Cleaner

OTTAWA, March 1, 1951—In a timely warning about the operation and adjustment of clipper type seed cleaning equipment, J. W. White of the Agricultural Engineering Branch of the Federal Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, draws attention to the fact that unless proper screens are selected for the particular type of seed separation desired, the control of all other adjustments is useless.

Providing his proper selection has been made then care should be taken in the adjustment of all other controls provided. These include adjustments for rate of feed, amount of suction, pitch of screens, brush position, speed of shake, and the amount of air blast.

By following the seed flow through the cleaner and noting the action of the various adjustments more efficient separation will result.

## Liquid Fertilizer

OTTAWA, March 1, 1951—Liquid fertilizer applied as a seed treatment on wheat, oats, or barley at Federal Experimental Stations in Western Canada has failed to produce significant increases in yields, according to information compiled by Dr. F. O. Ripley, Chief of the Field Husbandry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The tests were conducted based on an idea which has been suggested recently, that very small amounts of plant food nutrients dissolved in water, and applied as a seed treatment, may result in substantially increased yields. The idea has not been confirmed by these experiments.

The treatment used was to moisten 10 bushels of grain with one gallon of a 5-10-5 solution of liquid fertilizer. This was compared with a check plot receiving no fertilizer treatment and also with plots receiving 35 to 50 pounds of 11-48-0 commercial fertilizer.

The tests were conducted at 33 different points. These areas centered around the Experimental Stations at Brandon, Melita, and Morden in Manitoba; Indian Head, Swift Current, and Scott in Saskatchewan; Lethbridge, La-combe, and Beaverlodge in Alberta; and Agassiz in British Columbia.

At 24 of the test areas the seed treatment either had no effect at all or reduced the yield in comparison with the untreated check. In 5 cases there was a very slight increase of one to one and a half bushels per acre, and in 4 of the areas there was an increase of from about 3 bushels to 10 bushels per acre. In one test at Beaverlodge, wheat moistened with water gave a slightly higher yield than when treated with liquid fertilizer.

It was evident that fertilizer in sufficient amounts was beneficial since in 28 cases where 11-48-0 was applied, substantial increases were obtained. In only three of the test areas was there no increase in yield. It appears, therefore, that the minute amounts of plant food added in the seed treatment do not produce a significantly increased yield.

The use of liquid fertilizers in this way is of doubtful economy and may even result in decreased yields.

## Butter Stocks

OTTAWA, March 2—(CP)—Stocks of creamery butter in nine Canadian cities on Feb. 23 dropped sharply to 8,093,000 pounds from 25,871,000 on March 1, 1950, the Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Holdings by cities with figures for March 1 in brackets, follows: Quebec 276,000 (432,000); Montreal 1,773,000 (5,685,000); Toronto 1,216,000 (6,763,000); Winnipeg 1,812,000 (7,995,000); Regina 199,000 (878,000); Saskatoon 112,000 (249,000); Edmonton 1,823,000 (2,065,000); Calgary 447,000 (770,000); Vancouver 665,000 (1,236,000).

## AIDS SURVEY

Federal engineers have designed a shadow-height calculator to determine tree heights in aerial photographs.

## CAPONIZING

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## British Livestock For South Africa



A consignment of British livestock was recently loaded aboard the "Good Hope Castle" at the Victoria and Albert Docks, London, for shipment to South Africa. The export of British livestock is greatly increasing, and in this recent consignment to South Africa, twelve Jersey cows, ten Ayrshire heifers in calf, and a number of Aberdeen Angus cattle were dispatched. The ten Ayrshires are for exhibition at the Witwatersrand Easter Show and will afterwards be sold by auction. Also included in the livestock are a Saanen billy-goat, three deer, and five large white pigs. This picture shows the Ayrshire heifers being unloaded from a cattle truck before being loaded aboard ship.

## Spading Best Way To Prepare Garden Soil

Plowing on the farm and spading in the garden are ancient practices which have been much under attack in recent years but are still regarded by most tillers of the soil as the best way to prepare for planting.

Most amateur gardeners have had plenty experience in sowing without spading, in the flower borders for example. Where perennial plants are established, seeds for annual flowers must be sown with a spade, to avoid disturbing neighboring roots. But the practice is one of necessity rather than choice.

There is rare pleasure in turning over garden soil, if you take it easy, and wait until the ground is in the right condition to be turned. Never work soil which is too wet, and if the soil is heavy, don't wait until it has become too dry. There lies a point between extremes when even heavy clay can easily be lifted, and will crumble under a blow from the spade.

To tell this point, mould a ball of earth in your hand, and pat it to make a mud pie. If the pie holds together, the soil is too wet to spade. If it crumbles go ahead.

Set a definite task for your first day's work, say a strip six feet wide, running the shortest dimension of the garden. At one end dig a ditch, say one foot wide and the depth of the spade, removing all soil from it. Fill this soil near the opposite end of the strip.

Now begin to spade with the blade not parallel to the trench, but at right angles to it. This enables you to lift the soil more easily, and deposit it in the trench. Drive the spade down, not on a slant, but perpendicularly to its full depth. Take a small slice of the soil on your back, it is not strained. Lift it up, turn the spade over, so that the top soil falls underneath and bottom soil on top. In filling the first trench, you have opened a second.

To spade under manure, spread it evenly over the area, except for the top of your initial trench. When this first trench has been dug, clean the manure from the top of the next trench and throw it into the bottom of the first; then proceed with your spading, piling the soil on top of the manure.

When you have finished your day's work, you will have an empty trench, which should be filled with the soil you removed from the initial trench.

## Canadian Garden Service 1951

By Gordon Lindsay Smith

## SOME DAY PALMS?

Though residents in some of the more frigid parts of Canada may disagree, certain scientists who do not mind sticking their necks out, claim that our winters are getting warmer. They hold out the hope that some day we may be growing oranges in the Annapolis Valley and perhaps palm trees where now we are confined to poplar and spruce. That may be true, but such a change is not promised in the immediate future. Meantime the average Canadian citizen had better stick to the old-established flowers, shrubs and which experience proves will thrive in our present climate.

## NEW VARIETIES

For one thing there are many new varieties and types. Plant breeding is a work that is never finished. The people who follow

## TENDERS FOR CREAM HAULING

Tenders will be accepted until March 15th for hauling cream to Perfection Dairy from Malpeque through Hamilton to Summerside. Details obtainable by contacting A. H. Hubley, Perfection Dairy, Summerside, P. E. I.

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOL BLACKSMITHING

There still remains a few vacancies in the Blacksmithing Course—those wishing to take advantage of this six weeks' course, should apply immediately to The Vocational School. Classes for beginners will begin on MONDAY, MARCH 5th at 8:30 A.M. An allowance up to \$6.00 per week will be given to assist in payment of board, providing the applicants are between the ages of 16-30 years. If you are interested in this course, please get in touch with the Director immediately.

## Pitfalls To Be Avoided In Chick Rearing

OTTAWA, March 1.—All poultrymen who are anxious to avoid pitfalls in chick rearing should give consideration first and foremost to the source of the chicks, says W. F. Mountain, Head Poultryman, Federal Experimental Station, Harrow.

Unless the chicks are from healthy parent stock and expertly incubated, he warns, good environment later on can be only partly effective in bringing satisfactory results.

Other important things to remember, says Mr. Mountain are: a reliable source of heat; "stand-in" equipment in case of power failure; with spare bulbs and fuses; separation from pens in which adult stock are housed; careful use of drugs with adherence to manufacturers direction; careful observation of the space requirements as the chicks grow, and continuous reference to the many excellent publications offered on this subject. These can be obtained by writing to Information Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

That profession are continually producing and searching for new and improved plants. They are giving us better colors in flowers, new hardiness in both flowers and vegetables, brand new types more suited to our special climate. In exploring this wide-open field, the beginner is advised to keep in mind local conditions and requirements. Flowers, vegetables and fruits that may give wonderful results in the Southern States or in England may be far too tender for any part of Canada. Some things that thrive on Vancouver Island are not rugged enough for the Red River Valley.

But just because one couldn't grow say, melons or corn in one's locality ten years ago doesn't mean that one cannot grow these things today. On the market now are far harder varieties. Perhaps harder is not quite the word as no melon vine will stand any serious frost and corn does not appreciate it either. What the plant breeders have done, however, is to give us corn, melons and a host of other types that mature days and sometimes weeks ahead of the old kinds. They also give us faster-growing types. These two factors mean that these new kinds can be grown farther north where the season is short.

## SHORT CUTS

And there are other ways of heating nature or short Canadian growing seasons. One can start seed in a hothed or window box and have plants well-grown and ready for outside just about the time it would be safe to sow seed. This means transplanting, of course, but for a few early things almost any vegetable and flower can be transplanted. Then there are some other tricks like putting little paper caps or miniature greenhouses over hills or tender melons, squash, cucumbers and tomato plants and keeping them thus protected until danger of frost is over. In Great Britain they use panes of glass and in some places just a flower pot which protects at night and is removed during the day.

## WARBLE FLY CAMPAIGN

Cattle are valuable—kill the Warble Fly. Federation of Agriculture district secretaries have information and order forms. Contact your secretary, form a committee and organize the district. Orders should be mailed to Federation of Agriculture, Box 99.

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## Earliest Garden Harvest Green Onions In 3 Weeks

First harvest which an amateur gardener can reap from spring sowing is a mess of green onions, and how good they taste! Three weeks after onion sets are planted you can pull up green onions and serve them with the dinner salad. Sets, understand, not seed. It would take two months to grow even tiny green onion stalk from seed. Onion sets are an artificial product which men learned about from nature. The first onion sets appeared at the top of the seed stalk, where instead of a ball filled with seed, nature presented the gardener with a bundle of tiny onion bulbs, which he came to call sets.

Only a few varieties of onions produce these top sets, but when gardeners saw how much faster they developed than the seed, some inventive genius of the cave man era (onions are that ancient) had the happy thought of using small, half-starved onions instead of top sets to sow. It worked! The small, half-starved onion had a second chance to make the grade, and the speed with which it produced a large onion told the experimenter he had stumbled on this art.

To produce these artificial sets, known as bottom sets, onion seed is sown thickly, and the plants are not thinned out, so they are too crowded to develop normally.

## Care Protects Plants From Shock Of Transplanting

When the amateur gardener sets out in his garden plants which were started early in a greenhouse or hothed or a window in his home, he wants every one to live. The way to insure this is to regard transplanting as an operation, with the plant as patient and to make sure that it is performed with a minimum of shock.

It shocks a plant to move it, and gives it a set-back, but there are advantages in giving it an early start, weeks before seed can be sown in the garden. The plants that stand the operation best are stocky rather than tall, with strong stems and abundant roots. If grown in pots, plant bands or small flats, so you get them with roots undisturbed, so much the better. But even bare root plants can be transplanted with proper care.

If you grow your own plants, feed them a week before the operation with liquid plant food, and water them well the day before. Prepare a starter solution by hanging a cloth bag containing commercial plant food in a bucket of water and letting it soak overnight. Use 4 ounces of a 4-11-4 mixture or similar to each gallon of water. Or use a special soluble plant food, according to the manufacturer's directions.

Dig a hole large enough to hold the roots spread out, cover the soil about them. Taking care not to injure the roots, hold the plant in its place, then pour into the hole over the plant roots, 1-2 pint of starter solution. While the solution is in the hole, draw in the loose soil and firm it around the plant. The solution not only supplies nutrients but puddles the soil about the roots, making it easy for the plant to take up water.

Roots of plants should not be pruned. Replacement of lost roots must take place before the plant can grow very much.

Tops of plants should not be pruned. Pruning removes part of the "factory" which has to make the new plant material (carbohydrate) upon which growth depends. Pruning is likely to take off more foliage than necessary. Dead or partly dead tissues does no harm though wholly dead leaves may be picked off.

Shading is good practice when plants are succulent, when soil and air are dry and when sun is hot. But good plants can usually be set successfully without shade.

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