



MODERN FARMER

Canadian Garden Service 1950

By Gordon Lindsay Smith

Most for the Money

It is truly amazing how fine a garden is possible in a very limited area, like the average urban lot. But to get this satisfaction one must choose flowers, vegetables and shrubs rather carefully. It just isn't possible to have many big things or vines that spread and trail.

In the flower line it is best to stick to a large proportion of small plant, tiny edging things like alyssum, ageratum and the dwarf types of marigolds, zinnias and nasturtiums. One can get a fine showing with a few dozen petunias, and this year it will be possible to include the new flaming red type. Larger flowers like the hollyhock, dahila and canna should be used sparingly, though there is usually a corner at the back where one or two of these will add to the picture.

With shubbery the average person almost invariably plants too much, too close, and uses too big kinds. True, when first purchased, these things are tiny, but so is a maple or elm tree when it is a baby. There is a wide variety of small shrubs available, and by choosing carefully one can get a succession of bloom or bright colored foliage throughout the entire season. It is never a good plan to plant any shrub nearer than three feet to a building. Weather conditions are usually more severe in such locations and the soil dries

out too readily. But in any case, as the shrubs grow the walls will restrict natural development.

A Lot for a Little

Even if the plot available is only 10 by 20 it is surprising the amount that can be produced. Of course where the family is more than average in size, more space is desirable.

In these small vegetable gardens it is important to plan rather carefully. There will be no room for tall or sprawling things. For the amount of room needed nothing can give greater satisfaction than lettuce, beets, carrots, radish and beans. The latter are particularly suitable — a twelve foot row well cultivated and fertilized, will furnish many meals of the finest quality.

For such vegetables it will not be necessary to leave more than 12 to 15 inches between rows. One can get still more production by inter-planting; that is putting very early things, like radish, lettuce and spinach in every other row, with the beans, carrots, beets, etc., in between. The first maturing are used and out of the way before the second group require all the room.

One can usually find room for a few stalked tomatoes around the edge of the small plot and also a hill or two of some of the small squashes. Incidentally, there is a new squash on the market this year, very much like but earlier than the acorn type.

Be Sure Seed is Right

Here is some sound advice from a Canadian government bulletin: "Good seed can be obtained from the local seed store; it can be relied upon as it conforms to established Government standards. But it is a good plan to ask your supplier to give you the varieties best suited to your particular locality. Often a crop does not do well because a variety of seed was used not suited to the district."

Next Week -- There is plenty of time.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming



We have received from the Hudson's Bay Company a more extended report on their recent silver fox and mink sale than the despatch which appeared in the Guardian a few days ago. It is as follows: FOX — SILVER (including mutations), offered 13,151. The offering was normal for this season. A sudden curtailment in demand, apparent in Europe for the past month due to slow retail sales, was evident in this auction, and was largely responsible for the low percentage sold. Demand was concentrated on the better types of Standards and Pearls, and the low end of the collection. A small offering of specials (Blonde Foxes) was 100% sold, with prices ranging from \$16 — \$27.50. Selected Silvers sold 40%, Inferiors 26%; Selected 1/2 and 3/4 57%, Regulars 46%, Inferiors 31%, Selected Pearl Platitudes 41%, Inferior Whitemarks 79%, Standard low grades 53%, Mutation low grades 61%. Prices were unchanged compared to our February Auction.

Standard silvers including fulls averaged \$17.40 with prices ranging from \$12.50 — \$25; Regular silvers averaged \$12.75 — with prices ranging from \$6.50 — \$12; Standard 1/2 silver averaged \$20.20 with prices ranging from \$17.50 — \$26; Regular 1/2 and 3/4 averaged \$15.30 with prices ranging from \$11 — \$18.50; Inferior 1/2 and 3/4 averaged \$9.25 with prices ranging from \$7.50 — \$12.50; Pearl Platitudes selected averaged \$21.70 with prices ranging from \$16 — \$27; Pearl Platitudes regulars averaged \$17.05 with prices ranging from \$13.50 — \$19; Pearl Platitudes inferiors averaged \$9.10 with prices ranging from \$8 — \$10; Selected Platitudes averaged \$15.30 with prices ranging from \$12 — \$21; Regular Platitudes averaged \$11.80 with prices ranging from \$9 — \$14.50; Inferior Platitudes averaged \$8.20 with prices ranging from \$7 — \$10.50; Whitemarks were all withdrawn with the exception of the inferiors which averaged \$6.85; low grade standards averaged \$3.75, low grade mutations \$2.25.

Previous to the Hudson's Bay Sale the Montreal Fur Auction Sales (Canada) Ltd., offered 7,000 silvers and mutations before a limited number of buyers which included some large New York dealers and a British agent buying for Denmark, but they made up their minds to buy only below the recent market and shippers were equally determined not to sell below it, with the result that few lots changed hands and a final analysis showed that not more than 25 per cent sold at prices unchanged from recent sales.

We have to thank our good friend Dr. Charles P. Bassett and his colleague, Dr. Hugh F. Travis of the United States Fur Animal Experimental Station at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., for a chart showing the comparative value of some horse meat substitutes. Explaining it they say . . . "It is inadvisable to tell a rancher that he can replace so many pounds of horse meat with so many pounds of some other product without considering the complete individual diet, the age and species of the animals being fed, and the time of year when the diet is to be used. In a general way, however, the chart will give those interested a better idea of the composition and relative value of some of the products available for use as horse meat substitutes. The primary use of horse meat in the fox or mink diet is to supply protein for body growth and repair, for fur growth and for the production of young.

Horse meat also supplies a certain amount of energy, minerals and vitamins. In this respect, however, it is not significantly better than some other fresh animal products. The protein content of horse meat is about 18 per cent. If all the proteins in 100 pounds of horse meat could be separated out and placed in one pile, there would be approximately 18 pounds of protein in that pile. Most ranchers think that all of this protein can be used by the mink or fox, but this is a false assumption. Some of

the protein will be found in tendons and ligaments, some in cartilage, some is present in the bone, and some in connective tissue. As a consequence, about 2 1/2 pounds of the 18 pounds of protein present in the 100 pounds of horse meat is not digested by the mink.

The chart shows that the rancher has a considerable variety of meat and fish products that he can use with benefit. Horse meat, beef liver, beef spleen, beef tripe, beef udders, chicken waste, meat and bone scrap, fish meal, soy bean meal, haddock and herring. Some of these are very high in total digestible nutrients such as beef udders, chicken waste, meat and bone scrap, fish meal, soy bean meal, haddock and herring, but the rancher of course, will have to take other things into account besides the nutritional value of the product he feeds. He has also to think about the fur of the fox and what will produce the best color of fur with the best color of underfur and pelt when prime.

We know, or we think we know, that fish — particularly herring — if fed in quantity through the fall months, is very liable to give an off-color feathery pelt. That was our own experience shortly after we started fur farming. Then too, chicken waste is not always a safe feed, probably because some chickens might be tubercular, but from healthy flocks it is doubtless of value. We have never fed beef udders but we do remember our good friend the late Franklyn Boyver, feeding them and he had a high regard for them, using them in the winter months especially. Beef or pig liver, while much higher in price than horse meat, is a must with mink ranchers who have to feed 5 per cent of it to prevent anaemia. Fox ranchers also have to use it to some extent.

Meat and bone scrap which have a very high total of digestible nutrients, is ground up and utilized by the fox food manufacturers, particularly those who market pellets and together with other ingredients it has given successful results in the production of pelts of adult foxes particularly. We regret that we cannot publish the chart in its entirety but throw out the above hints which may be of value in diversifying the diet of ranch mink and ranch foxes.

PASTURE WEEDS AND 2-4-D

OTTAWA, April 23, 1950 — Even in well managed pastures, weeds can become a serious problem. While fertilization will reduce many weeds to a negligible proportion, some seem to thrive best under these conditions. For instance, at the Fredericton Experimental Station, reports T. C. Chlason, tall buttercups have become a serious problem on the fertilized pastures. Of late years, Canada thistles have also been on the increase.

Until 2-4-D became available, the buttercups in fertilized pastures at the Fredericton Station were gaining ground, despite several attempts to suppress them by mowing and digging up. Trials during the past three years indicate that this weed may be controlled effectively and relatively cheaply by spraying with 2-4-D.

Five acres of fertilized permanent pastures sprayed with two pounds of 2-4-D acid per acre in 1949 resulted in approximately seventy per cent of the tall buttercups being killed. In addition, a similar control of the Canada thistles was obtained, also a complete kill of dandelions, plantain and fall dandelions.

While the control of buttercups and thistles was not complete, there is good reason to believe that repeating this treatment for a few years will eventually clean up these weeds.

For best control, weeds must be sprayed in the active growing stage. At Fredericton, spraying before buttercups reach the bud stage means spraying very early in June. Spraying has been made to date with a potato sprayer, using about eight gallons of water per acre. Another advantage of using 2-4-D is that it is not poisonous to stock. Pastures have been sprayed during the past two years without removing the cows from the pasture.

It should be noted that a considerable portion of the wild white clover is suppressed by this treatment. However, results indicate

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FARMERS

In The KENSINGTON AREA

You are invited to attend an open meeting with the Kensington Junior Chamber of Commerce in the Town Hall at 8:00 P.M. Tuesday, May 2nd.

Guest Speakers: Mr. R. C. Parent, Supervisor of the Experimental Farm; Mr. S. G. Peppin, Senior Potato Inspector for P. E. I. You can't afford to miss this.

Fertilizers For Potatoes

The rate at which fertilizer should be applied to potatoes depends not only on the soil, but on the climatic and economic factors. Usually, the increase in yield from a given quantity of fertilizer falls off at the higher rates of application. This is illustrated by results obtained in recent fertilizer tests with potatoes on different soil types in Eastern Canada.

In six tests on soil types in Prince Edward Island and one in New Brunswick, where an average yield of 140 bushels of potatoes per acre was produced on unfertilized plots, the yield per acre obtained on plots receiving different fertilizers at a rate of 1,000 pounds per acre was 228 bushels as compared with 237 bushels for a rate of 1,500 pounds, and 248 bushels for a rate of 2,000 pounds.

However, potatoes will respond to substantial rates of fertilizer as shown by results obtained in five tests on soil types in from 222 bushels per acre on the unfertilized plots to 243 bushels where fertilizers were applied at 500 pounds per acre, and to 297 bushels where a rate of 1,000 pounds was employed.

The most economical results will be obtained where careful consideration is given to other factors in management such as the inclusion of sod crops, preferably legumes, in the rotation, and the proper use of barnyard manure where available, reports A. J. MacLean, Field Husbandry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ont.

That, given proper fertilization and grazing management, wild white clover will make a rapid comeback.

2-4-D ON STRAWBERRIES

OTTAWA, April 23, — The control of weeds in any horticultural crop annually presents a high proportion of the cost of production. This is especially so with the strawberry due to the sprawling type of growth which makes cultivation with machinery somewhat difficult.

Within recent years, many experiments have been conducted both in Canada and the United States and it has been conducted both in Canada and the United States and it has been established that strawberries will tolerate a moderate amount of 2-4-D, reports L. P. Spangolo, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

In some of these experiments, applications of 2-4-D were made just before the strawberry plants had begun to bloom and did not appear to affect flower and berry formation. However, it is generally recommended that 2-4-D when used as weed control in strawberries, should be applied after the picking season is over.

Rates of applications for weed control in strawberry plantings in Eastern Canada as recommended by the Eastern Section, National Weed Committee, are as follows: Any form of 2-4-D, one-half pound, acid equivalent, per acre on year old plants; one to one and one-half pounds, acid equivalent, per acre on two year old plants, applied after picking season is over. Observations indicate that varieties differ in their susceptibility to 2-4-D.

GRASS SEED YIELDS ARE INCREASED BY FERTILIZATION

(Experimental Farms News)

Given soil of average fertility seed yields of most of the common grasses can be substantially increased by applications of nitrogen in the spring of the year. In an experiment conducted in 1949 at the Division of Forage Plants at Ottawa to show the effect of five different nitrogen carriers applied at different rates, it was found that nitrogen applied at the rate of 80 lb. per acre (equivalent to 240 lb. ammonium nitrate) gave a 32 per cent increase in yield over the check. It was also found that nitrogen increased seed weight and that the number of flowering stalks per unit was increased. The result from this experiment are similar to those from experiments conducted with other grass species.

Nitrogen should be applied as early in the spring as possible, in order that it may be put rapidly into solution by the spring rainfall. The form in which nitrogen is applied does not seem to be important since in the experiment re-

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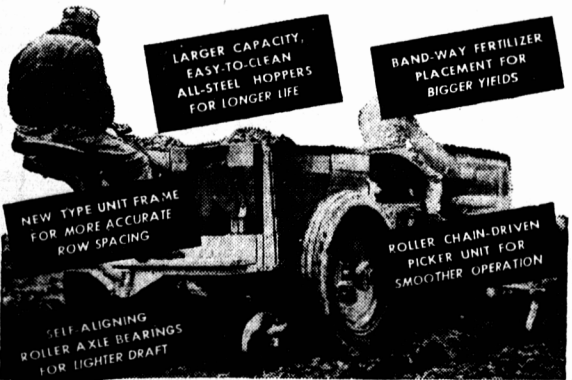
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MISSING—COURTESY
EAST LONDON, South Africa. (CP)—Traffic officers given the task of spotting acts of courtesy by motorists and pedestrians had a gloomy report to give the local Road Safety Association. In a week of spotting, they did not see a single courteous act.

CASCADE SPRING WHEAT IS THE CHOICE FOR FEED IN EASTERN CANADA

OTTAWA, April, 1950 — Feed grain prices are relatively high and small acreage of good spring wheat usually saves considerably on the money spent for chicken feed in Eastern Canada. Cascade, the semi-hard white spring wheat, is the variety to grow for feed purposes in this part of the country. During the past two years, it has exceeded all others in yield.

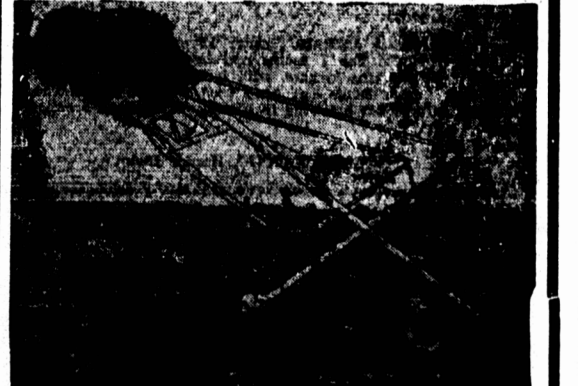
While both seasons were unusual, most farmers report that their Cascade has not been given a good chance to show what it can really do. The extreme heat of the 1949 summer prematurely ripened the crops and prevented the kernels from filling properly. In spite of this, Cascade for the last two years generally outyielded all the named varieties by from two to four bushels per acre. At Normandin, in Northern Quebec, the yields of Cascade were as low as 19.1 bushels in comparison to 20.3 for Huron and 19.8 for Coronation II. On the other hand, Cascade at Fredericton in 1949 had yielded 49.7 bushels compared to 38.0 for Huron and 40.7 for Coronation II. On a five year average at Eastern Branch Farms, Cascade yielded 31 bushels compared to 29.4 for Huron and 28.4 for Coronation II.

The fact that Cascade is resistant to stem rust and to most of the forms of mildew generally found in Eastern Canada, along with an excellent yield, has increased the interest in growing spring wheat in many areas, says J. G. C. Fraser of the Cereal Division of the Central Experimental Farm. Seed Supplies should be ample for the spring's requirements.

FARMERS

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