

## Sweet-Scented Flowers for Spring

According to our location, we may be expecting frost any night now, or it may yet be two weeks or more away. But winter surely is coming and it behooves us to make such preparation as is needful to further our garden prospects for another year. We can hardly have too much vegetable matter in the soil of the vegetable garden, matter that will add the humus which is so necessary to the working of the minute bacteria in the soil. In the past this was usually maintained by the free use of good stable or farmyard manure. As so many gardeners are now unable to procure all the manure they require, and as humus of some kind is so valuable in maintaining soil fertility, we must rely upon other sources of supply; hence the reason why we sow rye, winter vetch or other crops in the fall, to be dug or plowed under in the spring. This practice is known as green manuring, and where a full supply of animal manures is lacking its value cannot be overestimated.

Soil fertility is also greatly increased by cultivation. The more thoroughly a soil is worked, the more its fertility is increased. It is a widely known fact that the small farmers in many parts of Europe obtain yields much heavier than do those in this country. This is due not so much to the manure and fertilizers used as to the untiring energy displayed in cultivating the soil.

In order that the constituents of the soil shall be made available for the use of plants, it is necessary that air be freely admitted. Without a plentiful supply of oxygen, many plant foods remain dormant in the soil and consequently are useless to the growing crops. But the admission of air is not the only benefit derived by good cultivation. By frequent and thorough digging of the ground, the depth of good soil may be gradually increased, and every inch gained in depth means a decided increase in fertility.

When we mention good cultivation, it includes, of course, the important operation of hoeing between growing crops, and this is also one of the best means of fighting the ill effects of drought.

### COLORS AND FRAGRANCE COMBINED.

If you decide not to sow cover crops and have a quantity of fresh manure at your disposal, dig as much of the garden as possible this fall but leave the top quite rough. Fall digging is an excellent practice; it gives the frosts and snows a chance to do their duty with the undersoil which is thus brought to the surface, and what is of equal importance, many of the hibernating insects will be exposed and killed.

In grandmother's time the garden was not considered complete without its quota of sweetly scented flowers; in the old-world garden of my boyhood days we had huge beds of old-time flowers such as mignonette, ten-week stocks, sweet-smelling herbs, sweet-brier roses and others that I do not now recall. What a delight the garden was to us all!

It always seems that there is something even more wonderful and subtle

about the unseen gift of fragrance than the more striking gift of color. A half century ago hardly any garden, large or small, but boasted its clumps of lavender, rosemary, sweet-leaved geraniums, of which there are many kinds. Then there were the lemon-scented verbena, thyme and the numerous annuals, not omitting the sweet pea, all having their own delicious fragrance. To many, mignonette has no attraction owing to its lack of color, but a few sprays included in the bunch of flowers we may be sending to a friend just adds the finishing touch with its delicate and delicious odor.

When making up your list for next year's flower garden, do not fail to include at least a few of the plants named. Where gay colors and fragrance combined are necessary we get petunias, phlox, stocks, and the like, but what we want in addition to color in the garden is fragrance, and for this reason we must fall back upon many of the fine old favorites.

### THE VERY EARLIEST BLOOMS.

In addition to bulbs for outdoor planting, there are a number which have much to commend them to the flower lover. All bulbous flowers have their own special charms and beauty, and that precocious spring flower, the crocus, is certainly one of the most attractive, but only a few gardens have plantings of the crocus species for fall blooming. They are quite equal in charm and beauty to what are known as the Dutch crocuses, and they are quite as easy to grow.

The number of fall-flowering species is quite large, but many of them are not in general cultivation. The autumn-flowering crocus or colchicum, also called meadow saffron, deserves greater attention than it receives from amateur gardeners. It blooms during the fall months and so helps to diminish the gulf that exists between the flowers of the old and those of the new year. As the crocuslike blossoms come before the leaves, and to prevent their being spoiled by soil splashed up in wet weather, it is advisable to plant them in short grass, or spread lawn clippings around the clumps of bulbs. They are best planted in August.

The spring snowflake—*Leucojum vernum*—which vies with the snowdrop in simple beauty, is also well worthy of a place in all gardens where good collections of uncommon flowers are appreciated. The drooping, white, green-tipped blossoms of the spring snowflake add a fresh interest to the border in early April. They should be planted in clumps of six or more, two inches deep, during September or October.

Chionodoxa, or glory-of-the-snow, is also well worthy of our attention, its bright and cheerful flowers opening in April, or soon after the snow is gone. The variety *luciliae*, having blue flowers with a white centre, is the best known and should be planted freely wherever there is room. A double row along the front of a border or other bulbous plants looks well, or it may be arranged in clumps towards the front of the hardy border, or among dwarf shrubs.

## Poultry

I think that the pullets in the farm flock often mature faster than the owner realizes. This is especially true when they have a good range and balanced rations. This rapid growth follows a period in mid-summer when the development has seemed to slacken. It results in over-crowded brood coops and colony houses. The remedy is to have the pullets accustomed to the roosts in the laying house before they are ready to lay. Then they mature rapidly and avoid a lot of the summer colds that result when pullets are overcrowded.

Some poultrymen have the roosting sections supported in front by short blocks which set in cans partly filled with kerosene. This keeps red mites from crawling from the dropping boards up to the roosts. The commercial lice paints which will fill every crack and crevice in the roosts are also of help in keeping down mites. Never nail roosts to the walls of the hen house or the point between each roost and the wall will become a hiding place for thousands of mites. Wires from the ceiling to the front and rear of the roosting section enables the poultryman to break the connection between the roosts and the dropping platform.

Early moulting as a means of culling is being disputed by some practical poultrymen. They find that some good layers have moulted early. It is my opinion that some early moulters may be fine layers but in general the early moulters are not so good. A combination of points must be considered in all culling operations.

### POULTRY NOTES.

Mustard increases egg production. Poultry raisers who have experiment-

ed with pure mustard as a helpful stimulant and tonic, have also proven that the use of mustard actually increases egg production during the winter without in any way injuring the health of the hen, or shortening its life.

A teaspoonful of mustard added to the daily rations of hens during the slack season not only brings up the egg production, but keeps the birds toned up in physical health.



### If You Were?

If you were busy being kind, Before you knew it, you would find You'd soon forget to think 'twas true That someone was unkind to you.

If you were busy being glad, And cheering people who are sad, Although your heart might ache a bit, You'd soon forget to notice it.

If you were busy being good, And doing just the best you could, You'd not have time to blame some man Who's doing just the best he can.

If you were busy being true To what you know you ought to do, You'd be so busy you'd forget The blunders of the folks you've met.

If you were busy being right, You'd find yourself too busy quite To criticize your neighbor long Because he's busy being wrong.

Mixed vegetables, well cooked, either canned or fresh, are called macedoine.

## Shipment of Registered Wheat.

Productivity, purity and vitality are the essentials looked for in good seed. On account of Canada's northern latitude and rigorous climatic conditions combined with immense tracts of rich virgin soil, Canadian-grown seed of any kind or variety when planted in a southern latitude is known to yield a bigger crop of better quality than does seed of the same kind or variety produced in the southern latitude. Of recent years this phenomenon has been capitalized by potato growers in the South Atlantic States. These growers usually obtain a large portion of their seed potatoes from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Grain growers and seed firms from south of the Canadian boundary look to the Prairie Provinces of Canada for much of their high class seed grain supply.

But not until now has Canadian pedigreed seed found its way in commercial quantities to another continent. The S.S. "Hesperia" which sailed for Buenos Aires recently, carried 600 bushels of registered Marquis wheat produced by a member of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association in Saskatchewan and exported from Montreal.

This variety of wheat is Canadian-bred of imported parentage, the parents being Hard Red Calcutta from India and Red Fife from Germany. The originator of Marquis, Dr. Chas. E. Saunders, first placed Marquis at the disposal of Canadian grain growers in 1907. Now 90 per cent. of the Canadian spring wheat crop is Marquis. Two years ago it was estimated that some 12,000,000 bushels of the United States spring wheat crop belonged to this variety.

### PRODUCT OF TWENTY YEARS.

By the educational and control work of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, extending back over a period of twenty years, the most promising strains of various kinds have been pedigreed and multiplied in their purity. Superiority of pure-bred seed is obtained and maintained by:

1. Approval and acceptance of varieties based on extensive plot tests by plant breeders at Government stations throughout the Dominion. Only those varieties of proven outstanding merit are accepted for registration.

2. Careful inspection and scoring of seed fields by trained inspectors.

3. Testing of seed from approved fields for purity and germination by Dominion Seed Laboratories.

4. Final inspection, grading, marking and sealing of seed at growers' premises or central cleaning plants.

5. Careful recording under registration numbers of all eligible seed stocks each year.

Production of registered seed for the season 1921-22 in the Prairie Provinces amounted to some 80,000 bushels. This amount is not nearly sufficient to meet the demand, and consequently provision is now being made for production of this class of seed in greater volume in order that not only may home requirements be filled, but that the growing demand from foreign countries may be met to some extent.

The Argentine shipment will be followed through the Commercial Intelligence Service Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce, and it is expected the performance of this seed in Argentine will lead to increased purchase of Canadian seed by grain growers of the Southern Republic.

### RED CLOVER IN NEW ONTARIO.

During recent years red clover seed produced in the Dryden district of New Ontario has been giving exceptionally good results wherever used throughout Canada. The findings of private farmers in this connection have been confirmed by growing tests carried out at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and at branch farms elsewhere in the northern latitudes.

The success attained by this seed has created an active demand for it, especially from the better class dairy farmers of Ontario. During the past season the local Co-operative Association of Seed Growers at Oxdrift, consisting of some seventy active members, cleaned and sold for Canadian consumption some \$30,000 of clover seed.

When it is remembered that Canadian clover seed imports for the three years ending March 31st, 1923, totalled 8,393,470 lbs., valued at \$1,785,095; that Northern Ontario can produce a strain of clover seed infinitely better adapted to Canadian conditions than the imported seed; that the home demand for clover seed is steady at good prices—it will be appreciated that in clover seed production a golden opportunity yet awaits New Ontario farmers who will seriously undertake this phase of agriculture.

Rarely do potatoes sprayed with Bordeaux mixture to kill the hopper-burn fail to repay it many times over.

## Kiss Your Money Good-bye

By Hilda Richmond

Every year farmers trustingly hand over large sums of money to sharks of various kinds, and the worst feature of it is they are so afraid of being laughed at that they keep the transaction a secret and let their fellow beings get swindled.

Once and for all, the man who offers an unlawful rate of interest and the man who proposes to give more than the market price for property, are sure to need more careful scrutiny than that the average farmer is competent to give. The kinks of the law and the tricks of swindlers are for legal minds to fathom, so the farmer who goes into a deal of any sort without consulting competent authority must be prepared to take a big risk.

One of the easiest of the schemes worked upon farmers is to offer a very attractive price for a farm, usually a mortgaged farm that the owner is anxious to dispose of. I have seen this scheme worked more than once.

A stranger comes and looks the place over and says that he thinks he knows a man who will give a good price for the farm. Of course the farmer, who has been offering it at a lower figure, eagerly jumps at the chance. A commission is agreed upon and in a few days the prospective buyer appears. He is pleased with the farm, but his business interests are such that he can not buy except under contract until he disposes of a farm or some property elsewhere. However, he will pay \$1,000 down, possibly more, depending upon the size of the farm, and take immediate possession of chattels and all if the owner will contract for delivery of deed some months later. Usually this deal is pulled off in early spring, although it works at other seasons.

The delighted farmer lets go of the proposition that he has found too heavy for his time, or strength, or age, or business ability, contracting to take a second mortgage for the amount over and above the first mortgage which the new owner is to assume. An attractive rate of interest is named for the second mortgage, which is to be paid first, and the new owner whose interests are large elsewhere, according to his representations, puts a man on the farm and the retired farmer moves to town or to a smaller place.

When the new owner gets on the farm, things begin to happen. Everything is crowded to the limit, no repairs are made, taxes are unpaid and the interest on the mortgages, first and second, goes lagging. In the meantime he is having difficulties in raising the money for the other payments; and after long suspense, and perhaps litigation, the owner has to take it back. The former owner can not prove that the two sharps divided the large commission which was collected when the contract was entered into, but it looks very much as if the game was played by the two to get the proceeds of the farm and the commission for the investment of \$1,000. The large business interests of the eager buyer prove to be worthless mortgaged lands or heavily encumbered business rooms in almost deserted towns, and so no recourse can be had by law.

In one instance as much as \$5,000 was realized by the outlay of the initial \$1,000 payment. A man lost all the valuable timber from his land, the use of his farm one season, the commission he paid, the taxes, and the injury to the land by skinning it, but he was glad to take the farm back, a sadder and a wiser man.

## Hogs

One of the most handy things I have used about the hog lot is a portable fence panel.

Take four six-inch boards, twelve feet long, and place them on ground parallel with each other, the first two four inches apart, five inches between the second and third, and six inches between the third and top boards. Nail a good four-inch strip across at each end flush with ends of plank, then one in the centre. This will make a panel three feet three inches high when stood up on edge. As many of these can be made as desired.

Three of these can be set up in front of the individual hog house at farrowing time to make a pen for the sow until the pigs are large enough to follow into larger range. The ends of the panels are fastened together where they form the corners, with the ever-ready baling wire, and by nailing a strip on the corners of the hog house the ends of panels can be wired to the house. I have used these panels to excellent advantage where I had five portable hog houses. I set the five houses in a row far enough apart so that one panel would reach from one house to the other, and the five houses were placed far enough from a permanent fence so that one panel would reach from a house to the fence, thereby making a partition at each house. The panels were wired to the fence and also to the house by means of a four-inch strip nailed to the house, the edge of strip projecting an inch or more and holes bored through it where I wanted to run my wires. This

whole arrangement can be put in place ready to receive the prospective mothers in less than two hours' time.

Another great advantage of the portable fence panel is building temporary fences about the hog lot. Just set them up, worm fashion, like we used to build rail fences, and wire them together at the corners and you have a good fence which only required a few minutes to build. It also has the advantage of being easily opened at any of the corners for admitting or letting out the hog.—E. G. Storm.

### The Normans Used Mustard.

The use of mustard as a relish dates back many hundreds of years. We read that in Norman times it was commonly used in a mixture of honey, wine and vinegar, and doubtless this condiment served an excellent purpose. For in those far-off days people used to eat a great deal more heavily and with less regard for their health than we do to-day. The mixture containing mustard probably saved the Normans from the usual unpleasant results of over-eating. Mustard is recognized by medical authorities to-day to be an excellent antidote for indigestion. Mustard contains certain ingredients that neutralize the indigestible qualities of heavy, fatty meats.

### A Tip for Wash Day.

If a lump of soda is dissolved in hot water and added to the blue water it will prevent the blue from settling in patches on the clothes and makes them perfectly white.

## For Home and Country

### King George's Views on Nation-Building.

By Gibson Scott

"They grow brains as well as good cattle and grain and timber in the Ottawa Valley," reported the Government delegate with enthusiasm after a trip among the Women's Institutes there. Those who attended the North Renfrew District Annual were convinced that this was exemplified in the broad and sound vision of the delegates from the Branches, and in the splendid development of local talent and resources as embodied in the reports which showed a sustained and increased interest in the welfare of the home and community life.

The President spoke of the phenomenal growth of Women's Institutes in Ontario and the wonderful extension of their many branches of work for the bettering of Home and Country. The franchise had placed great power in the hands of women for the improvement of our country, and it was a sacred trust not to be lightly used. She quoted the words of King George "a country cannot rise above the level of its homes, nor its homes above the level of its home-makers," and in this connection read the Home Maker's Creed, embodying the ideals of Women's Institute workers. In con-

nection with our schools the President said that statistics show that only 5 per cent. of the children attending the 5,100 schools of Ontario ever went to High School. The Consolidated Schools in rural districts was the remedy proposed to meet this situation. With its additional equipment and facilities our girls and boys would have teaching and training, intellectually and physically to fit them to take their rightful places as citizens of this great country. The speaker advised the ladies to attend the annual school meeting, and to be ready and willing to co-operate with the School Board and teachers in anything for the benefit of the school and the children, and to have a say in the election of the School Board. She strongly advocated a supervised noon hour, and the hot school lunch. Referring to copies of laws of Ontario relating to women and children, just issued by the Department for the use of Institutes, she suggested it would be a good idea for each Branch to devote a part of some of their meetings to the study of these laws. In closing she again welcomed the delegates and Institute workers, and expressed pleasure at the large number present.