

The Athens Reporter

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C. G. Young, Editor and Proprietor

Gardening In Canada for Amateurs

Not more than ten per cent. of the bedding plants we buy in the spring and early summer are raised from seed. Most of them are cuttings from old plants that have been taken in from garden beds or boxes the previous fall. There is no reason why anyone who has a sunny window in a room where the temperature will not drop below 45 degrees during the winter cannot repeat particularly attractive plants in the garden another year. Geraniums, coleus, petunias, periwinkle or variegated vinca, and salvia can all be saved over the winter and made to serve the double purpose of providing a winter window garden, and a supply of bedding plants for next season.

The first step in the saving over process is that of taking up and potting the plants. This is usually a "potting down" process. That is, the size of both the foliage and the root system of the plant is deliberately reduced. The plant should be removed from the bed or box when the soil is comparatively dry. The earth clinging to the root system will shake off fairly readily and it is then possible to cut back the roots so as to leave a good compact ball, the size of which will depend in every case upon the size of the plant. The pot to be used should be unglazed or at least well scrubbed—unglazed earthenware flower pot, unglazed. If a new pot is used, soak it for half an hour at least in clear water before planting in it. In size the pot should just take the root ball comfortably when it has 2½ to 3 ins. of earth in the bottom, will allow an inch of earth between the roots and the side of the pot, and will allow for the covering of the roots with from an inch to an inch and a half of soil.

The plants should be firmly set with the fingers. The pot should not be filled full to the very top. An inch or rim left above the soil will permit watering without wastage of the surrounding territory in the living room.

The top of the plant will now require attention. It should be desiccated cut back so that there will be small dormant buds on the root system until it has again started to expand. It is not wise to cut back to the extent of leaving more bare sticks. Leaves have the ability of forming a protective food for the growth of the plant. If these are cut off, containing chlorophyll, that is the matter which gives the plant its green color to all vegetation, the plant will have a struggle to hold on to life. The entire leaf should be carefully removed by hand, and the plant should be kept in a cool, shaded place for the common varieties of bedding plants one inch of bare soil and one inch of leaf growth.

Bring Indoors by Degrees

The soil mixture to be used in potting should be 1-3 good garden loam, 1-3 sharp sand and leaf mould (½ and ½) and 1-3 old, well rotted manure. The addition of a couple of fertilizer bone meal to a handful of the mixture will supply the plants with nourishment late on in the winter and in the early spring. If a mixture of this kind is used, there will be no need to give them any further fertilizing during the winter.

The plants should be set in a sheltered place out of door and kept until the first frost of the season. The plants should be set in a potting room, as much as possible, and then to indoor conditions gradually. An enclosed porch or light shed window is a good place for them at first. After a week or so they may be brought into a cool room, and later moved into a sunny window in a warm room. They may look rather dismal for the first few weeks indoors but they will soon begin to respond to the renewed warmth and sunshine, and by February should be filling the window with both flowers

and foliage. It is when they reach this stage that they become the source of a supply of new plants by providing hosts of cuttings to be rooted and grown along until planting-out time comes.

A considerable number of the garden annuals may be perpetuated in exactly the same way. The professional greenhouse men invariably grow their winter supply of carnations, antirrhinum and calendula from cuttings and for the amateur, winter bloom may be secured by taking up and potting verbenas, zinnias, asters, stocks and ageratum as well as the plants better known as house plants, that have already been named. None of the last mentioned group except ageratum should be "potted down" but allowed to remain as much as possible of their root systems. Asters and stocks should be cut back so that the new growth thrown out will be sure to produce good flowers.

The successful keeping of the plants in the house is merely a matter of watering and sunshine. Sunshine is the prime essential for plants from which flowers are expected, therefore the window garden must be carefully selected and it pays to make adequate preparation for the health, and well-being of these plants which are to be kept over.

Bottom Heat Fatal

If no other arrangement is possible every pot taken into the house should be supplied with a saucer. If it is possible to have a metal tray—two or three inches deep—the saucers are unnecessary and success is more likely. The tray should be filled with cinders or small gravel. For the window garden in a living room one should get a few pounds of finely broken marble, sold as poultry grit. When the flowers are watered the tray should be dampened but not filled, so that water stands more than half an inch deep in the bottom.

Never place plant in doors directly over a radiator unless a sheet of asbestos cloth covers the shelf to keep down the heat. Bottom heat is almost sure to be fatal to most of the common house plants, and even when the roots are protected from such heat and prevented from drying out, the heat rising directly around the plants is none too good for them. The temperature near a radiator or heater of any kind is likely to vary more and more rapidly than in a remote part of the room. This is bad for the plants, for although bedding or house plants will stand for changes of temperature between 40 and 90 degrees, the nearer they can be kept to 70 the better they will thrive.

When plants are taken in for the winter they should be inspected carefully for parasites and thoroughly disinfected so as to start clean. In spite of all the care that can be exercised one is more than likely to have some sort of pest put in an appearance before the winter is over, so it is not worth while to go looking for trouble by carrying in a miscellaneous supply of thrips and mealy bug and aphids.

A NATIONAL ASSET

As the greatest transportation company in the world, the Canadian Pacific Railway has maintained a national service in the Trans-Canada Limited which is second to none, and on the conclusion of the summer schedule of this crack train has transferred the equipment to the Vancouver Express, which leaves Toronto every night at 10.10 p.m. on its trip across the continent, via Winnipeg, Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, the spiral tunnel, Siemans and parts of the Canadian Pacific Rockies famous throughout the world, on its way to Vancouver, where the travellers are unanimous in their praise of the service of the Vancouver Hotel. The Canadian Pacific also operates a steamship service to Victoria, the Mecca for winter tourists.

Not only does the Vancouver Express carry tourists and standard sleepers, but it also carries a compartment-observation car complete in itself, while a parlor car is added from Revelstoke to Vancouver.

Added to this national service is a feature service from Toronto to Montreal via the Lake Shore Line, which has been entirely rehabilitated with crushed rock and relaid with 100-pound rails, insuring a maximum of comfort for travellers at night as well as an absence of dust in daytime. Trains leave Toronto Union Station at 9.00 a.m. daily, 10.10 p.m. daily. Arriving at Windsor Station, the traveller has the benefit of immediate facilities in the women's rest room, lunch room and barber shop, which cannot be duplicated in any other station in Montreal. An added convenience is offered those who wish to travel to Montreal from North Toronto, in the 9.45 p.m. train, daily except Saturdays, from Vancouver to Toronto.

Canadian travellers will find the service of the Vancouver Express and the Lake Shore Line with any information, very satisfactory. They are fully qualified to offer a "second to none" service to the public.

Clean in Soapuds

If you use the old-fashioned formula clean them occasionally by washing in clean soapuds. This will keep them smooth.

Substantial Breakfast

On a very warm day physicians say it is advisable to eat a substantial breakfast and make luncheon a very light affair.

VERMIN IN LIVE STOCK

Much Injury Done by Lice to Farm Animals

Vermis Multiply Rapidly—Treatment for Cattle, Horse and Hog Lice—The Louse a Robber of Profits—Soft Bacon.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Thousands of dollars are lost each year by stock owners neglecting to take the necessary measures to destroy the lice that infest the stock. Millions of these busy little insects make life a misery to the animal, and they also make the animals a source of loss to the owner. The keeping of live stock as a medium of support for the farmer, it is unprofitable. Many people neglect, for reasons best known to themselves, to apply the simple remedies that destroy vermin and prevent losses on live stock operations.

Lice Multiply Rapidly.

Lice multiply most rapidly in dry, cold weather, and are found in greatest abundance on long-haired, old and poorly cared for stock during March and April. Spring rains tend to reduce the numbers of vermin on animals that are exposed to the weather, and the lice become less numerous as the season progresses. A few seem to survive the summer and show their presence in the late autumn or early winter when their progeny have increased to millions, and bring torment to the unfortunate animals that support them. Rub and scratch is the practice, until the hair is off and the louse is either crushed or pushed further along. Bare patches are noticed on side of neck, breast, head and back, wherever the animal has been able to reach—evidence of vigorous attempts at relief from the tiny tormentors. Animals that are tied and not free to rub themselves have a harder lot than those running free.

Treatment for Cattle Lice.

All animals should be given a good grooming with brush and curry comb to remove scurf, loose hair, and any vermin that may be off guard, then apply the following:

- Soft soap ..... 1 quart
- Hard soap ..... ½ pound
- Coal oil ..... ¼ pint
- Water ..... 2 quarts

Mix the quantities of soap and coal oil together first, then add the two quarts of boiling water. This will make an emulsion if thoroughly mixed, to which a gallon of warm water must be added before applying to the animals. An ordinary stable brush is a good instrument with which to apply the emulsion. Care should be taken to saturate the skin over the entire body. Repeat the treatment in ten days; another brood will be up and doing by that time. Sheep dips prepared by reliable manufacturing chemists are available and very useful in destroying cattle lice. There are three species of lice attacking cattle, viz: the long-nosed louse, the short-nosed louse, and the biting louse. Herds that are regularly groomed during the winter suffer but little from lice.

Treatment for Horse Lice.

If the weather is warm enough so that it is safe to wash a horse, the kerosene emulsion given for cattle is very effective. If the weather is cold, the animal can be given a good grooming, and then either sodium fluoride or pyrethrum powder should be well dusted on the skin, and the horse blanketed. Raw linseed oil can be brushed into the hair quite easily and with good effect. A good brush and oil are death to the mites. Any treatment given should be repeated in ten days, since the powers of multiplication are wonderful. There are two kinds of lice infesting the horse, the biting and the sucking lice.

Treatment for Pig Lice.

Raw linseed oil applied with a brush to all parts of the body is very effective. The formulae for kerosene emulsion can also be used to advantage. An oil rub, always accessible for the use of swine, will do much to keep the vermin down. The practice of having a machine oil can handy at feeding time and giving each pig a squirt along the back once a week is a good one. It will make conditions unhealthy for a pig louse. The pig louse, "Haematopinus suis," is a big one, almost as long as its name, and can easily be seen.

Do not let the louse rob you of your season's profits, and do not let it annoy your animals. A little soapy or greasy material will stop its breathing for all time. Why not get after the louse to-day?—L. Stevenson, Director of Extension, O. A. College, Guelph.

Soft Bacon.

Experimental work at the Ontario Agricultural College has proven that soft bacon comes from pigs that have been fed heavily during early life on fattening feeds while enclosed in pens or yards so small as to prevent proper exercise for the animals. O. A. C. experiments have also proven that pigs grown to 125 pounds weight on mixed feeds well balanced with skim milk (2½ pounds milk to 1 pound of meal), or tankage up to 10 per cent, in the ration may be furnished on corn or barley and still produce a firm, high quality product. Dairy by-products tend to offset the trouble arising from lack of exercise, but both exercise and skim milk are better than either alone.—Dept. of Extension, O. A. College, Guelph.

ANIMAL TEMPERATURES

Interesting Figures Relating to Farm Live Stock

Horses Are Relatively Cold-blooded—Poultry Have Highest Temperature—High Temperatures Indicate Fever—Wintering Bees—Select Sires to Give Balance.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The temperatures of domestic animals are of interest, in that each class has a normal temperature range of its own.

Horses. The horse in health will have a temperature not lower than 99.5°, or higher than 101.3°. There are exceptions, of course, to all rules, and a few animals may be normal at higher or lower temperatures than those given.

Cattle. The normal temperature range for cattle is 100.4° to 103.1°, which covers the case pretty well. When a bovine animal's temperature goes above 103.1° it can be considered above normal, and that there is some disturbance within.

Sheep and Swine. Sheep to be considered normal give a temperature reading between 102.2° to 104.6°. The pig's normal temperature can be looked for between 100.4° and 104°. Some individuals run high and others low, but all are steady within two degrees during period of health.

Poultry. Poultry have very high normal temperatures, 106.7° to 108.5°. Such temperatures as enjoyed by poultry in health could not be endured by any other of our domestic animals for more than a few days.

High Temperatures Indicate Fever. Any deviation from the normal temperature is taken as a source of information regarding the state of health of our domestic animals. High temperatures indicate feverish condition, while sub-normal temperatures indicate decline and weakening of the individual to a point of grave danger. Exercise raises the temperature, and rest lowers it, hence we get higher readings in the evening than in the morning.—L. Stevenson, Dept. of Extension, O. A. College, Guelph.

WINTERING BEES

Every Colony Should Have a Queen—Have Enough Bees—Keep in a Naturally Protected Place.

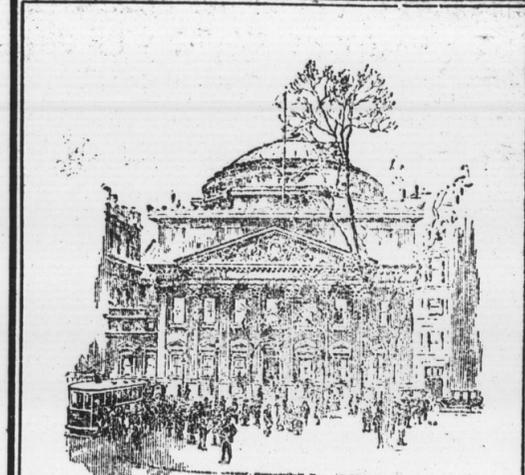
Every spring beekeepers find from 5% to 50% of their colonies have died during the winter, or are very weak. There is no reason why the winter loss should be higher than 2% or 3%, provided the beekeeper will prepare and pack the bees properly. So says Prof. Eric Millen of the Ontario Agricultural College.

Every Colony Should Have a Queen. The first step is to make sure every colony has a queen. As it is too late to require now, queenless colonies should be united with those having a queen. Place a sheet of newspaper on top of a strong queen-right colony, and place the brood-chamber of the queenless colony on top. Leave them for a week, and then shake the bees into the lower broodchamber and remove the upper broodchamber. It is taken for granted that no American foulbrood exists in the apiary. Otherwise, colonies should not be united, but rather destroy the queenless colonies and combs, if diseased.

Have Sufficient Bees. The next step is to see that each colony has sufficient bees to cover at least three frames on both sides, if examined on a cold morning when the bees are clustered. This will insure enough bees to come through the winter, provided the stores and protection are adequate. A very important factor of wintering is the question of food. Many beekeepers give every colony ten or fifteen pounds of sugar syrup made in the proportion of 2½ of sugar to one of water, and fed in an inverted feeder over the brood frames. This is done in many cases regardless of the amount of stores the colony has. Every colony should have at least 45 pounds of food to ensure successful wintering, and an opportunity to increase in strength in the spring.

Keep in a Naturally Protected Place. Bees should be kept in a naturally protected place for winter, or a board fence should be erected around the apiary to form a wind protection. Colonies may be packed singly, two in a case, four in a case, or in any other way desired by the beekeeper. Three or four inches of packing should be placed all around the colony, and not less than eight inches on top. Dry leaves, planer shavings or cork chips make satisfactory packing material. If the beekeeper will see that his colonies are put away for winter in good condition, the winter loss will be negligible.

Select Sires to Give Balance. If the dairy herd is made up of low testers and poor producers, a bull from good producing and high testing ancestry should be chosen. If the females are too leggy, select a male that is compact and close to the ground. If the sow is rough in the shoulder and short in the side, select a boar with compact, well-muscled shoulder and with length and scale.



**Victory Bond Interest**

When your interest coupons become due, or when you receive cheques for interest on registered bonds, deposit them in a Savings Account in the Bank of Montreal. The money you receive on your investment in bonds will then earn interest for you.

W. D. THOMAS, Manager.  
Athens Branch:

**BANK OF MONTREAL**  
Established over 100 years

"Mother Williams" of Broadway



(1) "Mother Williams" with her New York friends, and (2) at the Canadian Pacific Windsor Station.

Of course you have visited New York, and if you have been to New York you have been to Times Square; but while you were there did you notice the neat little old lady who was acting as sales agent for the "Billboard" outside the Putnam Building? If not you are not in the show business because everyone in the show business knows "Mother Williams." Likewise the police, for it is known to all of them that "Mother Williams" is on speaking terms with Commissioner Richard Enright, and more than one "cop" indebted to the old lady—she is seventy-two years old—for her intercession with the commissioner on their behalf.

The candies she burns at the "Church of Mother Divine" for her proteges are innumerable. Many a heartick girl has been stopped by "Mother Williams" and sent on her way with enough money to tide her over until the long-sought-for engagement was secured, and the same is applicable to actors, for on more than one occasion she has been seen to "slip them change." Nor has she cause to regret it, for with her it is always "just a little loan until you sign up." Today she probably knows and is known by more producers and actors than any other woman in the country, for few, if any on Broadway, ever pass without a word of greeting from "Mother Williams" and a "God bless you" from her.

Her kind old Irish heart will respond to every tale of suffering for "Mother Williams" knows. Mary Bridget Ann Williams was born in Toronto seventy-two years ago, the daughter of a prominent real estate man. At the age of eight she lost her mother, after whose decease she accompanied her father on a tour of Europe that included a stay in London and a four year visit to London. Returning to Montreal, Miss Williams later became a well-known and successful teacher of music, and

It is with great pride that she points to several of the present day celebrities who received their fundamental training at her hands.

In 1887 Miss Williams found herself alone in the world. The following year she went to New York where she supported herself by her music until advancing age made it impossible to continue as a teacher. From then on, until she became a sales agent for the "Billboard" and was taken under the wing of its proprietor, she did as best she could, but always smiling, and giving, perhaps, more to the world than she received from it.

Recently she took a little journey under the protection of the Canadian Pacific Railway. For two weeks she visited her old friends in Montreal whence she had travelled with the primary object of caring for her father's grave. From there she went to Toronto where her mother's last resting place was ministered to. A wonderful, cheery old lady. Is it a wonder that they call her "Mother Williams" on Broadway?