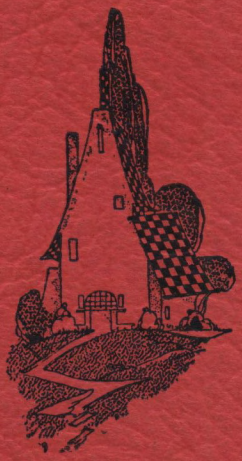
A Garden of Flowers
For Every Home

The WINNIPEG FLOWER GARDEN 1951



Presented by

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society

FOREWORD

In presenting the 1951 Winnipeg Flower Garden the committee have in mind a retrospect of the development of the grassy prairie plains during the first half of the Twentieth Century. A half has passed, become a memory, a tale that has woven into it the dreams, the endeavors, the successes and the failures of venturesome men and women who left comfort and certain future to carve out a new land full of hope and faith. It is wonderful what has been accomplished by these enthusiastic pioneers, and no less in the line of horticulture. They often worked alone as they endeavored to transform their wind-swept homesteads into cosy homes, with shelter belts and fruitful gardens. Much has been learned from their trial and error efforts. Now we have volumes of reliable information that should make possible during the remaining half of the century an even greater transformation across the Prairie Provinces. That is for the future.

Those members who have the several issues of the Winnipeg Flower Garden, have a no mean fund of information on the many phases embraced by the term horticulture. The committee seeks to keep up-to-date on its subject matter and so avoid becoming boring by much repetition.

The committee is always interested in suggestions from the readers and others that may make the successive issues helpful to the members of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society.

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Winnipeg Horticultural Society

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1945—Mr. Eric Sochting
1946—Mr. J. C. Williams
1947—Mr. J. H. Nichol
1948—Mr. W. J. Tanner
1949—Mr. Q. C. Moffatt
1950—Mr. A. M. Oswald

*Deceased.

Winnipeg Horticultural Society

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31st, 1950 MEMBERSHIP — 520

RECEIPTS

Membership fees for 1950		$ 461.00
Membership fees for 1951		48.00
Membership fees paid in advance		46.00
Government grant, Membership		48.90
Government grant, Exhibition		369.25
Municipal grant		100.00
Donations		426.00
Advertising		1,525.00
Subscriptions to magazine		67.00
Sale of tickets, annual meeting		106.03
Sale of books		12.50
Entry fees		45.25
Surplus from picnic		9.57
Miscellaneous		9.05
		3,273.55
Balance on hand, Nov. 1st, 1949		617.33
		$3,890.88

DISBURSEMENTS

Flower show:		
Prizes	$ 468.50	
Prize lists	49.68	
Rent of rink	50.00	
Cartage	16.00	
Music	16.00	
Other expenses	25.92	
		$ 626.10
Home Grounds competition		181.80
Year book		1,358.61
Printing		172.95
Postage		158.42
Honorarium, 1950		200.00
Phlox for premiums		26.75
Your Garden and Home		67.00
Telephone		42.00
Annual meeting		133.00
Other meetings		18.00
Stationery		19.99
Miscellaneous		25.46
		3,030.08
Balance on hand, Nov. 1st, 1950		860.80
		$3,890.88

R. W. BROWN,
Secretary-Treasurer.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the President and Members, Winnipeg Horticultural Society:

I have compared the above statement with the books and vouchers, relating thereto, and certify that it is a correct record of the receipts and disbursements of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society for the year ending Oct. 31st, 1950.

Winnipeg, Nov. 20th, 1950.

G. S. REYCRAFT,
Auditor.

Winnipeg Horticultural Society

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1950

This, our 20th annual Meeting brings us together once more to survey the results and accomplishments of your Society during the season just closed. The disastrous flood disrupted the usual spring activities of our members. Further damage and destruction was suffered from the near hurricane which visited us in August. The flood prevented us from holding the annual home grounds competition but in other respects the activities of the Society were well maintained and were characterized by greater participation by our members.

The Membership in your Society was increased to 520 and is a fine tribute to the efforts of the Membership Committee.

A total of nine general Meetings with an average attendance of 114 were held during the season at which a wide range of subjects was discussed by able speakers. The Directors met on seven occasions to plan and carry out the business of your Society and the Committees set up by the Directors were active in carrying out their allotted tasks.

On the last Sunday in July, 150 of our members enjoyed an interesting and instructive day at the Dominion Experimental Station at Morden. Mr. W. R. Leslie, the Superintendent, acted as host and his Associates conducted groups to the many points of interest.

The annual Flower, Vegetable and Fruit Show was again held in the Civic Caledonian Rink. Despite unusually adverse weather conditions which preceeded the show the fine collection of exhibits attracted very gratifying crowds. The success of the show was due in very large part to the untiring efforts and efficient supervision of Mr. W. J. Tanner.

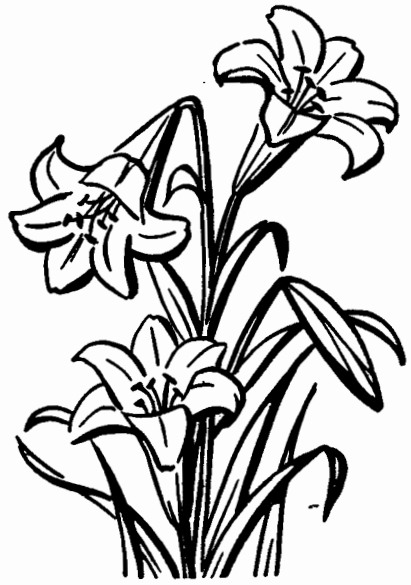
The Year Book Committee, under the able Chairmanship of Mr. Claude Law, produced an unusually outstanding year book, of which 1,000 copies were distributed. Another at-

tractive book is now in preparation and will be sent out to members in the early part of next year.

The Society furnished Judges for the annual Vegetable Garden competition sponsored by the Winnipeg Free Press. The winners of the competition were awarded four trophies and a good number of cash prizes donated by the Winnipeg Free Press.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the fine cooperation and loyalty I have enjoyed from the Officers and Directors of the Society during the year it has been my privilege to act as your President.

A. M. OSWALD



Winnipeg Horticultural Society

Report of Home Grounds Committee for 1950

To the President and members of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society:

Your committee begs to submit the following report: As many of our members' gardens were badly flooded it was decided to abandon all Home Grounds competitions for this year with the exception of the Free Press-sponsored Vegetable Garden competition.

In late May and early June, the prospect for garden crops in the Red River valley wasn't at all bright and it was the opinion of your committee that vegetable growers should be encouraged this year in preference to flowers. Your directors appointed a subcommittee to advise flooded home owners how best to take care for their flooded grounds and plant material. A list of helpful suggestions was written up and received wide publicity.

The vegetable garden competition was keenly contested, 67 gardens were entered in the various classes. Besides trophies to the following class winners, the Free Press donated $160.00 in cash prizes.

Class A	Mrs. Jean Green
Class B	Mr. D. E. Walker
Class C	Mr. C. F. Polley
Class D	Mr. Eric P. Jones

Your committee wishes to thank the following judges: Prof. C. W. Lowe, Messrs. G. Churcher, G. S. Reycraft, T. E. Howard and R. W. Brown for placing the winners in the various classes.

After the flood we had a favorable growing season and a long frost-free Fall and horticulture made a grand comeback, except in some badly flooded areas where gardens were completely washed out.

We are looking forward to holding all of our Home Grounds competitions, including Rock Gardens, next year.

H. MACDONALD,
Chairman of Home Grounds Committee.

Winnipeg, December 7, 1950.

Let Us Now Praise The Early Prairie Gardeners

DR. H. M. SPEECHLY

When the editor of the "Flower Garden" asked me to review "horticulture during the first half of the 20th Century", in not more than 2,000 words, I felt that was impossible. Instead, I have chosen to recall the memory and the work of prairie gardeners during the first 30 years of this century. Here I present to our readers in mere "thumb-nail" sketches of some forty women and men whom I have known and met, with one exception, during that period. As many of these have passed on to other realms of service, I think it will be best not to stress that, other than by alluding to them in the past tense. Nevertheless, the memory of them is fragrant still. One particular reason for my personal knowledge of these fine folk lies in the fact that from 1911 to 1916, I had the honor of being President of the parent Society known as the Manitoba Horticulture and Forestry Association, whose offspring the Winnipeg Horticulture Society is.

Arriving in Winnipeg from England in August 1901, my first contact with a Manitoban gardener was the venerable Anglican Archbishop of Rupert's Land, Dr. Robert Machray at Bishopscourt. It was he who showed me with pride his hardy apple trees bearing good fruit, but he sadly admitted that equally hardy local young rascals raided his apples. Later it was always a pleasure to meet another distinguished minister of the Gospel, the Rev. Dr. A. Baird, whose massive dignified but always friendly presence at horticultural meetings added much practical garden-lore, adorned with lively sense of humour without stint.

To my mind the old-timer of greatest distinction was A. P. Stevenson, whose farm at Nelson, close to Morden, was famous not merely for its garden but for its orchard, favoured by its situation and its soil conditions. He was also a widely travelled Dominion Inspector of Farm Forestry which entailed long absences from home during which he knew his good wife ever kept a watchful eye on the garden and the orchard. His occasional visits to us at Pilot Mound were enlivened by his pleasant wit and stories of his experience.

Neighbor to him was His Honour Judge Corbet Locke, K.C., whom we knew well. I have a fine picture of him standing amongst his own apple trees. You can almost hear

his hearty laughing chuckle! What an enthusiastic advocate of farm forestry was that fine old Irishman, J. J. Ring, who lived two miles from Crystal City, surrounded with well-grown tree protection; a model for the whole district. Among real old-timers were the Criddles, brothers and sisters, of Aweme, equally famous in agriculture and garden lore, and the study of Nature. Too soon Norman of that ilke steeped with the true naturalist spirit, modest as a true scientist, passed from our prairie circle. But Stuart is still with us as keen as well, as a Criddle! I cannot refrain from recalling the sight of the two young brothers putting up a gallant battle against the best Winnipeg doubles at a Tennis Tournament of the Winnipeg Club. From Valley River came and does come still to our Annual Meetings the friendly person W. J. Boughen, no orator, but he knows a lot about hardy apples, plums, and small fruits, on which he dotes.

When around 1914 the Three Towns Horticultural Society, including Killarney, Crystal City, and Pilot Mound, bloomed for a short time, only to be frosted out by the chilling influence of the war. Archie M. High was one of Killarney's genial co-operators, and D. W. Morden, of Pilot Mound, showed not only Southern Manitoba but any city gardeners what grand stocks and asters his prize-winning efforts produced. These were equalled by Mrs. A. D. Piggott, of Morden.

In those earlier days, tulips and other hardy bulbs as well as peonies were not much grown until such were started in the early decades of this century. Then there was Sam Larcombe, of Birtle, the winner of many International prizes for cereals and vegetables. He was a regular "John Bull", full of information, profusely spread on any platform, and a keen gardener, too. I have heard his women folk, too, were a great help in his flower garden.

I am very anxious to honour those plucky farmer ladies and others who in addition to their domestic duties found time to brighten their home surroundings with flowers inside and out. Of such were Mrs. David Watt, of Birtle, Mrs. Dumbrill, of Charleswood, Mrs. H. W. Dayton, of Virden, Mrs. J. B. Hodgson, of Warren, Mrs. R. C. F Collins, of Morris, Mrs Vialaux and Mrs. F. T. Anderson, of Charleswood, and Miss Agnes McKay, of Macdonald. Of course, there are others, but these I was privileged to meet.

Amongst the officials in various Government posts there were many keen gardeners. Possibly the earliest of these was J. J. Golden, who came to Manitoba in 1880 and became eventually the Deputy Minister of Agriculture here, always interested in his quiet way with gardens and Nature. My first contact with S. A. Bedford was at Brandon, where as Superintendent of the Experimental Farm, he spread the

summer brilliance of petunias to great advantage. Later he became Deputy Minister of Agriculture, always keen as mustard where gardening was concerned. Conceding nothing to his predecessors in the same post, Jas. H. Evans, now retired, still distils good humour, wit, and wisdom with all his Welsh enthusiasm over flowers, fruit, and vegetables. Perhaps the most helpful Manitoba Minister of Agriculture was Hon. Geo. Lawrence, M.P.P. for Killarney, who aided Horticultural finance materially. In the university sphere, F. W. Brodrick, formerly Professor of Horticulture for many years, was the hard working Hon. Sec. of the Manitoba Horticulture and Forestry Association. Always pleasant and urbane in his contacts with country and town. Manitoba and the West owe him much. It was he who secured from the Buchanan Nursery a large number of hardy plum trees still to be seen in the grounds of the University of Manitoba. He continues to respond keenly to any problems of horticulture. Here too, I may allude to the university florist, Thos. Jackson, whose pleasant smiling face must be well remembered by graduates, and whose exact hold on good gardening was always at the service of inquirers.

Amongst all Western horticulturists in particular and over much wide circles, Russell Leslie, Superintendent of the Morden Experimental Farm, is well known for years of courteous helpfulness in all problems relating to hardy flowers, vegetables, shrubs, fruits, and trees. On the platform his ready wit, flavoured with an ironic humourous touch, distinguishes his precise and scientific approach to the subject.

Here I would pay tribute to a Brandon citizen, whom I have never seen, but of whose garden on the south bank of the Assiniboine, I have heard much praise, with its unique adaptation of a water grotto. I refer to G. J. Sykes, formerly city clerk of Brandon. Another old time gardener, Peter Middleton, we know as the great upholder of the Brandon Horticulture Society as "the oldest bar none in Manitoba"!

Horticulture has been much indebted to two editors of Agriculture journals for recognizing fully through their own practical and technical appreciation of the fact that horticulture is the "handmaid of Agriculture", on our prairies. I knew first George Batho, editor of the Nor' West Farmer, who also edited voluntarily, the now extinct "Manitoba Horticulturist". He was naturally keen on pushing the necessity of planting hardy trees on the north and west sides of the prairie buildings and gardens, if the farm was to be a home in the real sense. He was always courteous and receptive and an excellent committee man. The editor of pleasant memory was George F. Chipman, whose special hobby was the growing of hardy fruit trees in his Charleswood orchard. I think

I must link with these men Miss E. Cora Hind, the distinguished Agricultural Editor of the "Free Press", who, while she brooded as goddess over crop prospects of the whole West, always had a deep tenderness for a garden of flowers.

It was in Fort Garry that several years ago Klass de Jong with his ever-pleasant smile took his magnificent cauliflowers to the World's Fair at Chicago and won the North American Championship. Did the Mayor and Council with a brass band accompanied with enthusiastic thousands welcome him home? No. That is reserved for Futilities! Realities like cauliflowers get only, well, a news paragraph. I have even thought that it took a long time for Real Estate in Winnipeg to realize that a great asset to our homes is a good garden with all is possibilities. Yet men like D. W. Buchanan, on retiring, concentrated on fruit growing; and W. G. Scott, former city treasurer of Winnipeg, showed great vision when he planted in East Kildonan five or six acres of that glorious hardy perennial, the peony. In all its brilliant sweet-scented modern types, such as wonderful development from the old dull crimson, piney rose, of Ontario. I must not forget George Champion, bright transplant from Kew Gardens, to become Superintendent of Winnipeg Parks Board; H. L. Patmore, of Brandon, John Caldwell, of Virden, S. R. Henderson, of Kildonan, and his neighbors, W. H. Whellams, Jas. Birch, and Jas. Barrett, of Winnipeg, and F. C. Hack, of St. Vital, all of whom contributed to our annual conventions. Doubtless I have not recorded every name, but space is limited, and these are folk whom I have known personally.

Finally, I have reserved the name of one who perhaps would allow that I was his first horticultural friend. At the 1914 Horticultural Convention all unsuspected, a luminary modestly arose upon our horticultural horizon, a young bachelor farmer-gardener from Dropmore, Frank L. Skinner, by name. Then to our credit, we officials, secured his interest so successfully that he placed his foot on the ladder of fame as a practical scientific gardener and has never ceased to rise to the top. In the 1915 Vol. II of the Manitoba Horticulturist appears his first contributions in print. Later, with the recognition of his fine hardy hybrid Maxwill Lily by the Royal Horticulture Society of England, as an outstanding product of hybridization, he became well known to all North American gardeners and prominent figure in the Great Plains Group. Well has he deserved to receive from the King the order of M.B.E., and from the University of Manitoba the degree of L.L.D. For once the cult of the garden has received due honour.

Some Helpful Books of Reference in The Public Library

ADVENTURES WITH HARDY BULBS	Wilder	(36)
ANNUAL FLOWERS	Jenkins	(45)
AROUND THE GARDEN	Jenkins	(47)
A STREAM IN YOUR OWN GARDEN	B. B.	(48)
BEGONIAS	Buxton	(39)
BULBS FOR THE GARDEN	Wood	(40)
CACTUS CULTURE	Shultz	(32)
CACTUS GROWER'S GUIDE	Higgins	(50)
CLEMATIS	Markham	(35)
FRAGRANCE IN THE GARDEN	Dorrance	(37)
GARDENING FOR VICTORY	Putnam and Cosper	(46)
GARDEN AND GREENHOUSE CHRYSANTHEMUMS	Laurie and Kiplinger	(46)
GERANIUMS	Wilson	(36)
HERBS, THEIR CULTURE AND USES	Clarkson	(42)
HOUSE PLANTS	Butler	(35)
HOW TO GROW FOOD FOR YOUR FAMILY	Ogden	(42)
HOW TO GROW DELPHINIUMS	Leonian	(36)
IRIS CULTURE FOR THE AMATEUR	Spender and Pesel	(37)
LILIES, THEIR CULTURE AND MANAGEMENT	Woodcock and Coutts	(36)
OLD TIME HERBS FOR NORTHERN GARDENS	Kamm	(36)
ORCHIDS FOR AMATEURS	Briscoe	(48)
PERENNIALS PREFERRED	Wilson	(43)
PLANTS IN MY WINDOW	Parmenter	(49)
ROCK GARDENS	Bissland	(39)
ROCK GARDEN PLANTS	Elliott	(47)
ROCK GARDEN AND ALPINE PLANTS	Correvon	(30)
THE COMPLETE GARDEN HANDBOOK	Simon, Pierce, Harleck, Elliott	(50)
THE COMPLETE BOOK OR FLOWER ARRANGEMENT	Rockwell and Brayson	(47)
THE CHRYSANTHEMUM GROWER'S TREASURY	Marself	(45)
THE LAZY GARDENER	Prior	(47)
THE PLANT DOCTOR	Westcott	(48)
THE WEEKEND GARDENER	Jenkins	(50)
VEGETABLE GROWING	Knott	(47)
VICTORY GARDEN MANUAL	Burdett	(43)

This is not a complete list of books on horticulture topics but indicates the possibilities of valuable information to those who will go to the Public Library on William Avenue. The numbers in brackets indicates the year of publication.

BULLETINS AVAILABLE FROM:
Publicity and Extension Service,
Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario

Annual Flowers for Canadian Gardens — Pub. 796, Farmers' Bulletin No. 143.
Deciduous Trees and Conifers More Commonly Used for Ornamental Purposes Throughout Canada — Pub. No. 599, Farmers' Bulletin No. 49.
Hedges and Their Uses — Bulletin No. 142.
House Plants — Pub. No. 798, Farmers' Bulletin No. 145.
Ornamental Shrubs and Woody Climbers for Canadian Gardens — Pub. No. 713, Farmers' Bulletin No. 100.
Planning Your Garden — Pub. No. 795, Farmers' Bulletin No. 142.
Pruning, Thinning and Utilizing Trees — Pub. No. 770, Circ. No. 176.
The Construction of Small Greenhouses — by R. W. Oliver.
Freezing Fruits and Vegetables — Pub. No. 773, Household Bulletin 21.
Home Canning of Fruits and Vegetables — Pub. No. 789, Consumer Bul. 1.
Hotbeds and Cold Frames — Pub. No. 702, Circ. 166.
Insects and Diseases of the Potato.
Potato Culture — (Wartime series).
Irrigating a Prairie Farm Garden — Pub. 657, Circ. 145.
Low Temperature Injury to Late Harvested Potatoes — Pub. No. 593, Circ. 128.
Tomato Culture — Pamphlet 100.
Tomato Diseases — Pub. No. 759, Farmers' Bulletin No. 122.
Vegetables for Frairie Farms — Pub. No. 663, Farmers' Bulletin No. 83.
Wartime Garden.
Budding and Grafting of Fruit Trees — by D. S. Blair, Arthur Kellett & W. L. Kerr.
Currant Culture — Pub. No. 833, Circ. 181.
Gooseberry Culture — Pub. No. 833, Circ. 185.
Diseases of the Raspberry — Pub. No. 760, Farmers' Bulletin No. 123.
Poison Ivy — Pub. No. 820, Circ. 180.
Fire-Blight of Apples and Pears — Pub. No. 659, Circ. 146.
Orchard Soil Management and Apple Nutrition — Pub. No. 802, Tech. Bul. 65.

BULLETINS AVAILABLE FROM:
Publications Branch, Manitoba Department of Agriculture,
Legislative Building, Winnipeg

Bacterial Ring Rot of Potatoes (1950).
Lawns - Their Preparation and Care — Pub. No. 233 (1950).
Shelterbelts and the Farm Woodlot.
Bulb Culture - Indoors and Outdoors (1950).
Strawberry Growing in Manitoba (1950).
Garden Insects and Their Control — Pub. No. 232 (1950).
Home Vegetable Storage — Pub. No. 184.
Soils and Health.

OTHERS:

Growing Small Fruits in the Prairie Provinces — Line Elevators Farm Service, Winnipeg.
Farmstead Planning and Beautification — Alberta Dept. of Agriculture, Edmonton.

THE ARRANGEMENT AND NAMES OF PLANTS FOR CONTINOUS BLOOM IN THE HOME GROUNDS

HECTOR MACDONALD

It is possible and desirable to have plants blooming in our Winnipeg gardens from shortly after the snow melts in Spring till severe frost in late Fall. In our rugged climate, we must be satisfied with just one or two species in early Spring, and again at the end of our season we have only a few species that linger on after the first frosts. From early June till frost, usually in early September, we have a wide variety of free blooming plants to keep our home grounds well supplied with flowers. During this season of plentiful bloom, we have to consider the varieties of plants which give us continuous bloom for about three months.

Arranging the plants to give a continuous show of bloom is not too easy, as a number of factors have to be considered, such as height, colours, and the individual tastes of the home owner. In this article, we will give some direction as to height and colour, and leave the home owner to arrange the rest to suit himself. For the names, with the help of Government Bulletins and Nurserymen's Catalogues, we can, if we use discretion, get the names of suitable plants.

For early Spring bloom, we depend on a group of plants which store food and energy over winter in order to produce bloom before the ground really warms up. Probably the first blooms are from our native ANEMONE PATENS, or provincial flower emblem and commonly called the Prairie Crocus. This little plant does well in the garden if its wants are attended to, a sunny well-drained location in sandy loam, transplant in late summer when the "Crocus" is dormant. In early springs Prairie Crocus have been in bloom in March, and frequently are seen blooming in the snow.

Our next early plant is from Siberia, the Blue Squill or to give its formal name SCILLA SIBIRICA. The white form is fairly common too. The dainty blue or white bells are a cheerful sight in early Spring, often when the weather is still bitter. The bulbs should be planted in September, and like to be left undisturbed to increase and multiply. Try them on the adge of shrub borders or under trees where the shade is not too heavy.

Rock Cress or ARABIS is another early plant. There is a wide range of shades from white to deep pink.

These three wee fellows are very hardy and suitable for

rock gardens as well as flower borders. They are most effective when planted in masses, but their location must be well chosen, as provision must be made for planting between or around them in order to conceal the ripening foliage in mid-summer. A spot from the centre to the rear of the border is best, where their presence is concealed by free growing annuals or perennials in mid-season.

Shrubs, of course, must be considered when planning for early bloom. One of the earliest is FORSYTHIA OVATA, this kills back to the snow line but when the snow melts the lower branches are soon covered with small golden flowers. Siberian Almond or PRUNUS NANA, and PRUNUS TRILOBA are early and very showy with pink blooms. These shrubs are suitable for foundation or shrub border planting and from three to four feet high.

As the weather warms up Tulips, Iceland Poppies, and various forms of Iris make a brave show. Tulips, of course, are planted in fall and for best results should be renewed each year; if left in the border they gradually diminish in size and numbers and eventually disappear. Iceland Poppies or PAPAVER NUDICAULE are valuable as cut flowers and come in a wide range of colours from white to red, about 18 inches high the flower stems rise from rosette type plants. The varieties of Iris are legion, and there is an endless range of colour. A well-drained location is best and transplanting and division of roots is best done after flowering. The Tall Bearded Iris is best known, but two early blooming species, IRIS ARENARIA and IRIS PUMILA should be considered for early bloom. For Tulips, Iceland Poppies and Iris, a location should be chosen where they can be hidden during Summer, the Poppy, however, often blooms late in August.

Still early in the season, we again consider woody subjects, and the Dolgo Crabapple provides a flourish of bloom, followed in fall by bright fruits, esteemed for preserving. If there is room in the home grounds, a good crabapple should be grown. Spiraeas, too, are showy early in the Spring and Summer. Garland Spiraea or SPIRAEA ARGUTA and the Oriental Spiraea, SPIRAEA MEDIA SERICEA, are very hardy, and useful for low shrubbery and foundation planting.

Next we will consider our choice of plants for the Summer show of bloom, and annual plants now enter the picture. There is a wide choice of plant material at this season, but for this article long blooming subjects will be considered. For a satisfactory border a mixture of annual and perennial flowers is best. Arrangement really is a matter for the individual home

owner, colours and habit of growth that appeal to one person may not be pleasing to another.

In any bed or border dwarf plants are used at the front or on the edges, and Sweet Alyssum, "Little Dorritt", or "Violet Queen" are excellent. This year, 1950, Alyssum in sheltered places bloomed well into October. Dwarf edging Marigolds are profuse bloomers all summer.

Just behind the edging plants we can have Annual Phlox or PHLOX DRUMMONDII, for a variety of bright colours it is hard to beat. Annual Phlox is suitable for planting over or among the Spring blooming subjects such as, Squills and Tulips, the Phlox foliage is not too dense and the bulbs underneath can ripen and prepare for next Spring.

Petunias, Snapdragons, Zinnias, Marigolds and Geraniums all love the sun and are medium in height. There are colors in this group to suit all tastes and all can be depended on to bloom throughout the growing season; they are, of course, not hardy and must be planted each year. We have a hardy perennial which does bloom all summer, GAILLARDIA ARISTATA. Reserve a place for this yellow and red daisy-like flower just behind the Sweet Alyssum.

For back grounds, we need tall subjects and there are two perennials that seem to the writer to be inseparable; the False Sunflower or HELIOPSIS and LYTHRUM Morden Pink. Both are very hardy and free blooming, the Lythrum survived six feet of flood water and several inches of silt last Spring and bloomed as usual. Heliopsis is a good golden yellow, named varieties can be had.

Better not forget the shady corner found in every home lot, and Tuberous rooted Begonias are the answer. Start them indoors in late March, plant outside in June, water freely and they do like a little extra plant food. For all this they will return a gorgeous show of bloom till frost cuts them down. The tubers should then be lifted and stored in peat till March.

In September, we often get frost in the Winnipeg area, our gardens lose their color overnight, and our flowering plants are scarce. In sheltered corners, Hybrid Chrysanthemums and New England Asters will carry the ball a little longer. When the bloom is gone, we should still have color, bright coloured bark and fruits on trees and shrubs will brighten up the home grounds after the flowers and leaves are gone. We have been considering continuous bloom, but don't let us overlook "Year Round Colour".

The First School Garden

C. E. L. H. LAW

It was early in 1908, when the writer arrived at his first school in Manitoba. This was the Swan Creek School, Cold Springs P. O., near the present town of Lundar. Lundar then was simply a Post Office in the home of the late Halldor Halldorson.

A year or two before, the original old log-school had been replaced by an up-to-date lumber building, hard by. The old building had stood in a poplar bluff. It had been removed, and the site was littered with plaster and had become a tangle of weeds, mostly thistles. Having grown up on one of the best garden farms in Ontario, that had produced prize exhibition produce in grains, grasses, fruits and vegetables, the lack of these was much missed. It was soon learned that the scholars and many of the parents knew little about the value and the growing of many vegetables. Instead of producing on their own land grains, and fodder crops for their stock, the settlers were spending their limited dollars in purchasing poorly crushed weedy chop, etc., offered for sale.

The thought came of combining the removal of the unsightly weeds on this little plot of ground where the log school had stood by cultivation, and as a premium for the effort we had a crop of grains, vegetables and flowers. The space was limited and so each variety was allotted small space. The school trustees acquiesced in the venture, and the children eagerly brought what tools they could find at home and vigorously cleaned and dug the area. The seeds obtained by the teacher from Ontario were studied by the scholars, instructions were read and many questions asked. They keenly shared in the seeding, weeding, thinning and cultivating this little "Garden of Eden" to them. The weather was favorable, but the soil was not the best. Though there was considerable leafmould, the excess of alkali more than counteracted the benefits. Still the crops were encouraging, and proved an inspiration to several young residents.

The news of this venture spead by the "grape-vine" far and near. There must have been considerable discussion about it in the homes. Most of the residents were Icelandic. Many settlers came to see what was being done, some came many

miles. The children shared in the vegetables and flowers, trying out something new and found a desire for more. Some settlers undertook to clear acres of land and seed down to fodder and grain crops to supply their own requirements, and some more varieties of vegetables for the table.

The School Inspector, Mr. E. E. Best, arrived in time in the Fall to see this project and commended it. He believed it was the first school garden in Manitoba. His appointments had taken him over wide portions of settled Manitoba. This venture was continued the following year reaping the benefits of the efforts the previous year.

Thoughts on Trees for Winnipeg Streets

DR. H. M. SPEECHLY

Ever since I settled in Pilot Mound "in the south of Manitoba", trees have interested me. That was in 1901. I soon became acquainted with the late A. P. Stevenson, of Nelson, near Morden, and J. J. Ring, of Crystal City, and learned their practical outlook on the need of more trees in this West. Later I became a member of the Canadian Forestry Association which brought me in touch with Robson Black, Abraham Knechtel, Prof. F. W. Brodrick and Norman Ross. Later still, during my six years as President of Manitoba Horticulture and Forestry Association, I became the least distinguished member of the Dominion-wide Forestry Committee, containing such capable men as Howe and Zavitz, of Ontario, and Macmillan, of British Columbia.

My job was then to advise on Farm and Prairie Forestry. Probably few people now remember that, in order to encourage the use of trees to protect homes on the wind-swept plains of North Dakota, the state government experimented with the system of 'Tree Claims'. It was proclaimed that any settler who planted seven acres with hardy trees, such as poplar, cottonwood and box elder (the Yankee name for Manitoba Maple) on his quarter-section (160 acres) could claim that quarter-section without further payment. This proved an utter failure, because through ignorance or carelessness these tree-claims perished. The fact is that a mile or two S. E. of Pilot Mound on the farm of Jas. Maclean, there stood a good sample of a tree-claim, planted under a similar regulation in the early 1870's, which impressed me. The plan failed in Manitoba too, with that exception. Planting trees for the protection of farms on the open prairie is a different thing from city planting. For comparison it may be briefly stated that the ground must be prepared as if for a potato crop, on the north and west sides of the farm buildings.

The outer row should be all of willows which hold back the snow in winter and do not break down. Inside 40% may be Manitoba Maples, with as many White Poplar, Balsam Poplar, Cottonwood and Aspen Poplar as desired. Within the shelter

of this bluff for ornamental purposes the native White Spruce is the best conifer, so easy to grow under the protection of a good bluff. I am not concerned now to advocate Scotch or Austrian Pines or Colorado Blue Spruce, but it is good fun to add these if you desire. I am of the opinion that the American Elm (Ulmus Americana) is a much neglected tree in farm bluffs. On a farm in Saskatchewan that I knew well, you can see elm trees growing from Winnipeg seed, picked up on Home Street.

This is all a background for thoughts on trees for the streets of Winnipeg and other prairie cities. In this respect we are past the pioneer stage in tree-planting. So for the future, no wise person will plant Manitoba Maple with its tendency to attract caterpillars, nor any of the Poplars which set afloat fluffy seeds hated by hay-fever victims and have no grace of foliage or growth. Here, as in Toronto, the Cottonwood Poplar is hideous in height and gawkiness of branching, a clumsy giant. Willows are splendid for the protection of the river banks from erosion and are well placed there but not on streets or gardens.

I have never grown either the soft or the hard Maples of Ontario, but I understand that the hard Ontario Maple will not grow here. With the soft variety it is different, because if you keep your eyes open you can see specimens of that beautiful maple in St. James Place, Wolseley Avenue and the vicinity of Yale Avenue. I once planted some of the local seed but there was no germination.

We are very close to the northern edge of the growth of the Oak which is too dwarf to give shade, and looks well only when occupying bush areas. Chestnuts have often been planted in Winnipeg, but have never proved attractive enough to induce the Winnipeg Parks Board to grow them. Nor are the Birches, whether the White "Canoe" Birch or the beautiful Weeping Birch, suitable for our streets, though attractive in a well-kept garden. Nor is the Mountain Ash, though a fine ornament for parks and large gardens, ever planted on city streets. "What about conifers such as Spruces, Pines?" does someone ask. These are evergreens and therefore very desirable for ornamental planting in parks and large gardens. In such gardens they are good for background and side-ground planting. Even in a garden a spruce in the "Christmas Tree" stage is attractive but soon outgrows its surroundings. What kind of a tree, then, is desirable for city streets? Such a tree should be long-lived, with strong trunk, good limbs and attractive foliage, not too vulnerable to insect pests. It would therefore give excellent shade, but would not collect dust or other

rubbish. My conclusion is that we have three trees that fulfil these qualities. In my opinion they stand thus in order of merit — The American White Elm, the Basswood (Tilia Americana), the European type is called the Lime or Linden tree, and the Ash.

The Elm is a great asset for shade and grace of foliage on our streets. It is never defoliated like the Manitoba Maple, though the leaves are a bit spoiled by the aphis curling. It is easily grown from seed ; in fact, every Spring Elm seedlings are prolific weedlings, easily destroyed though, as every gardener knows. In this city, now that we have Elms 30 to 50 years old, we know that they were planted too closely. The worst example of planting too closely is Broadway Avenue. One result of this is that the slender roots have an evil effect on underground water and drainage pipes, and even invade flower-beds as every gardener knows. The fierce gale of August 7th last revealed what may happen to well-branched trees like the Elms. This wealth of leafage sometimes complicates the existence of overhead wiring and the lighting system. It would seem wise to plant Elms at least 50 feet apart in the future and prune them wisely.

As for my second choice, I can hear someone say "Basswood"! Where do you ever see that? In the area bounded on the south by Broadway, on the north by Portage, on the west by Vaughan Street, and on the east by Garry Street, formerly known as the Hudson's Bay Reserve, there are many specimens of Basswood. It has a more beautiful rounded leaf than any other of our hardy trees. It is, if properly trained to one trunk, a lovely shade tree. In fact, you can spot these trees from other trees on Broadway by observing their tendency to put out basic suckers. Also it is the one tree whose bark the yellow-breasted woodpecker, known as the sap-sucker, repeatedly punctures in rings without apparent harm. The living presence of these trees amongst the earliest planted in Winnipeg proves this. No other street-planted tree produces flowers with delicious scent as does the Basswood in mid-July.

Lastly, the Ash is as hardy as any tree, resists the attack of insects on its leaves, and can grow to a fine height as you can see on Chesnut Street. It was a pity that Toronto Street was planted all in Ash, because the leaves are last to appear, and first to fade.

WATER for the GARDEN

BY LEONARD YAGER

Water — whether in form of rain, or artificially applied — makes the garden grow! Some garden crops respond more readily than others in water use. Water is important in that it dissolves chemical nutrients in the soil so that they can be absorbed by the tiny root hairs of the plant. Plant foods are produced in plants in the green leaves — and to this day their synthesis in the green leaves of the plant remains a mystery. Three elements, carbon, hydrogen and oxygen are basic elements making up plant foods. Foods produced in the plants are carbohydrates such as starches and sugars, and oils and proteins.

The source of the three elements are water from the soil and carbon dioxide from the air brought in through the stomata of the leaves. By the combination of these two substances, one a liquid and the other a gas, and by the catalytic action of chlorophyll, the green coloring matter in the leaves, plus the energy of the sun, these two substances are combined to form the carbohydrates. These carbohydrates are transported through the plant in the form of sugars and are stored in different parts of the plant in less mobile forms such as starches, fats, oils and proteins.

Water is an indispensable constituent of these plant foods. It must be present in sufficient quantity to satisfy the needs of the growing plant.

There are several methods of applying water artificially — the two main methods are overhead or "sprinkler" irrigation and ditch or furrow irrigation. The overhead methods of watering are initially more expensive to install, but are more useful on undulating or uneven land difficult to water by the furrow method. Water can be used more efficiently, with less waste by the sprinkler method. Fertilizers containing nitrogen may be added with the irrigation water as a supplementary feeding device. Some commercial potato growers are practicing this successfully in the state.

Frequent light sprinklings can do more harm than good in the home garden. A thorough watering about once a week is much more beneficial. An inch of water per application is suggested. Frequency of watering will depend on natural rainfall, texture of the soil, and other factors. Waterings at five to ten day intervals are suggested for garden crops. Waterings which merely wet the surface encourage shallow

rooting. Plants growing under such circumstances are less able to survive prolonged dry conditions than unwatered plants.

The home gardener may find the porous canvas hose excellent equipment to water the garden. This method applies the water to the soil gently, without washing, and distributes the water evenly. Water sprinklers, too, are useful.

Shallow cultivation of the garden a day or so after each rain or irrigation is recommended. It helps to prevent packing and crusting of the top soil which would reduce percolation during future waterings. Cultivation is, of course, important to kill weeds which rob the plants of much needed water and plant nutrients.

In some parts of the state, some water is high in toxic salts. Such water should be used sparingly, or not at all. Where such water is present, it is better for the gardener to practice other water conservation methods such as mulching, wider spacing of the rows and immediate destruction of weeds. Trapping of as much snow in winter as possible by use of natural or artificial windbreaks is suggested. Collection of snow or rain water is recommended under such circumstances. Dugouts and other reservoirs of rain and snow water are helpful measures in conserving a supply of water, low in toxic salts, for garden use.

Vines in Prairie Gardens

The trend to employ vines more extensively in Manitoba gardens promises more diverse beauty on the prairie scene. It has been pointed out that a lack common to local gardens as compared with those of Great Britain and Western Europe is the relative absence of vines and of stone-work. Winnipeg gardens have recently enhanced the charm of that city by building stone walls, rock terraces, rock gardens and flagstone walks. There remains much scope for more general use of vines.

Ornamental vines bring distinctiveness to the home grounds. They are the curtains and lacey draperies furnishing the outdoor living-room area of the home. Their placement is to clothe pergolas, arbors, porches, trellises, fences, old trees, stumps and rocks. Their presence imparts airiness and daintiness to the plantings. Some vines maintain interest into the winter by merit of their berries and fruits. Others bring glory to the landscape in autumn when their foliage becomes brilliantly colored. All vines and climbers contribute variety of plant texture and outline to the area.

There is a moderate choice among vines adapted to Manitoba gardens. The rugged winter climate forbids practical success with wistarias, Boston ivy, climbing rambler roses, some of the large-flowered clematis and Eurasian sweet-scented honeysuckles. However, gardeners have at least a dozen attractive hardy vines from which to choose their woody plant draperies.

Riverbank Grape (Vitis riparia) is a native vine that may be considered the most fully useful. It is a vigorous grower which clings by tendrils. Although thriving in sunshine it tolerates considerable shade. The species is dioecious so a staminate plant must be present if the pistillate forms are to produce their interesting, long-clinging bunches of purplish-black small grapes.

American Bittersweet (Celastrus scandens) is a favorite for climbing up a post or stump or over a rock. This native is useful in adorning fence posts. The plant is vigorous, usually free of pests and esteemed for its yellow and crimson fruits which are retained during winter.

Western Virginsbower (Clematis ligusticifolia) is a very vigorous vine native to the prairies. It is a strong grower and may have shoots 18 feet long. The numerous white flowers

are followed by interesting fluffy seed heads. An objection to its use may be its ability to spread about as the seeds become carried by winds.

Golden Clematis (C. tangutica), an oriental type sometimes called the Chinese clematis, which may extend to height of about 9 feet. Its bright yellow flowers come freely in June and sparingly again in September. The large plumy seed clusters are sparkling and attractive. This species has not self-seeded to any troublesome extent. It appears deserving fourth rating of hardy, woody vines for general purpose use.

Dropmore Scarlet Trumpet Honeysuckle (Lonicera hirsuta) northern form, (L. sempervirens) is a hybrid developed by L. F. Skinner at Dropmore. Its showy scarlet and golden flowers suggest those of its more tender pollen parent, the esteemed Scarlet Trumpet species. At Morden this ornamental appears fully hardy. It tends to bloom bountifully from June into September. To cover low objects, to add variety to the herbaceous border and to clothe low uprights this is a new handsome candidate. It is a sister of L. browni but is probably hardier for prairie winters.

Grace Clematis is another of Skinner's recent hybrids. It is an improvemnt on its C. serratifolia parent, having 1½-inch creamy white flowers in July and August. It will reach a height of over 9 feet, being more vigorous than the Golden.

Thicket Creeper (Parthenocissus inserta) the native vine, which is closely similar to Virginia Creeper, is probably the most widely used vine in Winnipeg. Its virtues include great vigor, rare brilliance of bright red autumn foliage, and numerous clusters of small bluish-black berries. Adverse characteristics are its susceptibility to insect injury and tendency to growth of suckers. Fortunately, the insects involved are easily combatted by D.D.T.

Redtwig Virginia Creeper (P. quinquifolia hirsuta), a native of eastern Ontario, seems to be the most adapted of vines which are capable of climbing brick and masonry walls. In most winters at Morden it comes in spring unharmed. An eastern wall is more kindly to it than a southern or western exposure. It is hardier than Engleman Virginia Creeper. The woolly twigs are reddish.

Amur Grape (Vitis amurensis) as brought from Manchuria, this vine produces fruits resembling those of the native Riverbank Grape. The large leaves are rough, assuming added interest when they take on purplish and crimson tinting in October.

Native climbing honeysuckles are found twining about trees and underbrush in many Manitoba woodlands. Most common are: **Limber** (Lonicera dioica), **Donald** (L. glaucescens), and **Hairy** (L. hirsuta). Flowers on the first two are pale, yellowish, while the Hairy Honeysuckle has orange or reddish-yellow blooms, and can grow higher. These subjects from our own woods have value for furnishing posts and rocks but are seldom used for arbor covering. Their bright lustrous red and salmon berries add color for many weeks.

Kolomikta Actinidia (Actinidia kolomikta) is an oriental vine which may be adopted by gardeners for the sake of variety. A height of from 6 to 10 feet may be expected. The clusters of white fragrant flowers are followed by green sweet berries. Similarly to Riverbank Grape, this species is dioecious, requiring plants both pistillate and staminate.

Dutchmanspipe tends to kill back in the face of winter cold.

Jackman Clematis is uncertain unless planted in a favorable sheltered spot. Some low shrubbery or ground cover plants are set about the vine to protect the roots.

Dorothy Perkins, Crimson Rambler and kindred roses can be grown providing the grower is prepared to do considerable laborious nursing. The shoots are to be laid down on the ground in late October and covered with a mulch of about two feet of dry leaves. These remain until about the first of May. The leaf blanket is capped with a waterproof top. Thorough irrigation is given in periods of dry weather.

FACTS ABOUT SOIL

A Languid Gardener Talks

By

G. S. REYCRAFT

Is there a Languid Gardener in your neighborhood? I mean someone who produces wonderful gardens—and seemingly with a disgracefully small amount of work. In the minds of many this has raised an intriguing one-word question. How? How does he do it?

Why not ask him? Usually you will find him handicapped by false modesty. He is proud of his accomplishments. He may counter your questions by ascribing his success to (1) clean living, (2) upright character (3) facts about soil and plants. However, if pressed further—or not even pressed at all—he may admit that his favorite hobby is sofa-gardening; that he has acquired much of his "know how" comfortably so inclined. He will further explain that his hobby has taught him how to make plants happy by giving them what they want, with a minimum of work to himself through utilization of a few basic gardening facts. He will further state that the first step to successful gardening is based on Facts about Soil. He will explain these facts as follows.

What is soil? Soil is made up of organic matter (decayed plant or animal tissue) and mineral matter derived from the parent rock from which our soils were formed. He will explain that soil also contains countless minute organisms known as bacteria, fungi and molds which live on the organic matter breaking it down and making it of use to growing plants. These microscopic organisms play an important part in making nitrogen and minerals available to the plant.

He will further expound on the advantages to a Languid Gardener of blending these various soil components into a loam that is easy to dig, plant and cultivate. Such a soil contains sand which helps to keep the soil porous for good drainage and easy entry of air. It also contains clay, which adds body to the soil, acts as a storehouse for plant foods, and prevents the too rapid loss of water from the soil. Thirdly, a good garden loam must contain humus (decomposed organic matter) which absorbs water like a sponge. Humus also furthers the growth of the countless millions of organisms which live and multiply on its decomposing matter releasing nitrogen as well as assisting in the release of other plant food contained in the surrounding soil in a form unavailable to plants.

Next, he will probably stress the importance of the physical characteristics of a soil by explaining that 93 per cent. of the dry matter in most plants is made up of carbon and oxygen from the carbon dioxide in the air and hydrogen and oxygen from water in the soil. He will accordingly emphasize the necessity of a soil that is open and porous, but also spongy enough to hold water. Such a soil will also allow the minerals contained in the soil, as well as applications of commercial plant foods to become dissolved by the soil moisture and held in a readily available form and in a position where it is obtainable by the plant roots. This is important as soup is the only dish plants can eat.

His next step will likely be to ask you a question. What is your soil like? Is it hard, stiff and lumpy? If so, you have a predominantly clay soil. Clay soils, however, contain a store of plant foods that can become available by proper handling, such as fall digging, not working when wet, and by the addition of sand and humus. A fertile clay loam can be the result.

However, if your soil is light and sandy, he will probably tell you that sandy soils are usually poor soils, being low in soluble plant food, which leaches away after every rain as well as being low in humus. The best solution is to add large quantities of humus and some clay if not too hard and lumpy.

Our Languid Gardener, still taking it easy and enjoying his importance will possibly swing back again to one of his favorite topics—humus its importance as an essential soil conditioner. However, he will be quick to caution you on depending on humus as a source of plant food, pointing out that its value is very limited and variable in most cases. He will recommend the application of commercial plant foods which supply definite and balanced amounts of readily available plant nutrients. He will also be sure to close this portion of his discourse with the statement "Humus and plant food go together and neither does its best work in the absence of the other."

Following on this, your logical question is: what do you mean by humus and where do I get it? His answer will be that there are three kinds of humus available to the gardener; well rotted manure, peat or peat moss, and garden compost. Manure is excellent and may be more reasonably purchased if fairly large quantities are required. However, is should be well rotted and free of weed seeds. If you live in the Winnipeg area good well-rotted manure—free from weeds if taken well down in the pile—can be obtained from the huge accumulated mounds of many years standing at the rear of the Public Stock Yards in St. Boniface. It is, however, a

good suggestion to have your load dumped in the back of your lot in an inconspicuous place, where over a period of time you can check to make sure the manure is free of weeds seeds—as well as having a quantity of manure to draw from as required. Peat Moss which is sometimes bagged commercially is slow to decompose and is especially good for sandy soils. It is also an excellent mulch and soil conditioner but is rather expensive in any quantity. Also if you are able to obtain a load of peat soil, of which there is considerable quantity a short distance east of Winnipeg, you will again have an excellent mulch and soil conditioner. And lastly, there is the garden compost pile made up of leaves, grass clippings and other vegetable refuse, interspersed with a sprinkling of commercial plant food to hasten decomposition.

His final salvo will probably be on commercial plant food by explaining that the proper use of complete garden plant foods in accordance with the manufacturers instructions will in most cases be the deciding factor in making the difference between just another lawn and garden and one that is both a source of pride and profit to the gardener; that a complete plant food supplies the plants with the proper proportions of the three major plant foods, nitrogen, phosphorus and potash together with certain essential minor elements such as iron, manganese, magnesium, sulphur, zinc, copper and boron. He may briefly sketch their place in plant growth by pointing out that the most important function of these elements are as follows: Nitrogen—produces leaf and stem growth; phosphorus hastens maturity, produces larger and more abundant bloom and seed; potash is essential to cell division of plants; while the minor elements such as magnesium sulphur and iron have a function in the production of chlorophyl, the green part of leaves, with the others acting primarily as catalysts.

Possibly by this time you have realized that in spite of our Languid Gardeners easy ways, part of the secret of his success is his sofa planning — even to drawing up a scale plan of his garden long before spring is upon us. On his garden plan he will put the tall-growing plants on the north or west side of the garden so they won't shade the smaller ones. He will also do some grouping not for the sun but for himself. He will put together those vegetables which will need most of the summer to grow such as tomatoes, cabbage, peppers. This saves steps. Also, for convenience, he places at one side such perennial crops as strawberries, rhubarb and asparagus, and to make sure that he doesn't have too much of a certain crop all at once and then none for the rest of the summer, he sets down his plantings for the entire season on the scale plan. In January, for example, he can tell you confidentially just when he will harvest his next season's

lettuce and what will follow when the lettuce is finished. He maps his flowers in the same way. Then when spring comes he has just to follow his plan.

Our Languid Gardener is not lazy for he realizes that good gardens are the results of good care of the gardener and acts accordingly. However, everything he does is designed to save himself work. He can do this because he knows WHY he does or cultivates or does this or that—and, hence, generally does about half as much as his neighbors. Consequently he is able to enjoy his garden to the full and that is why he is proud to be known as The Languid Gardener.

SELECTING FRUITS and VEGETABLES for EXHIBITION

BY LEONARD YAGER

Perhaps you plan to exhibit vegetables and fruits at your local fair or horticultural show this summer. Now is a good time to be thinking about the requirements for good exhibits.

The first thing you should do is study the schedule very carefully. Study the rules and regulations of the show and abide by them. Look over the various classes and see where you can make entries.

Blue ribbon winners don't just happen by accident. The specimen earning the ribbon likely was grown under careful cultural practices. But that is only half the battle in gaining that coveted blue ribbon. The good exhibitor must be able to select his or her specimens so that they are uniform, of proper maturity, free from blemishes of one kind or another. The exhibit must also possess good flavor and quality, as the judge has a habit of tasting this and that vegetable and fruit.

Study the schedule and classes carefully! This bears repeating several times. If an exhibit calls for five specimens of a vegetable, it must be that number — no more and no less. In fairness to the other exhibitors, the judge should disqualify such entries from competition and thus penalize the exhibitors, for not following the schedule correctly.

The largest specimen or specimens don't necessarily win the prize. Quality is far more important than size. Oversized vegetables or fruits often suggest coarseness of texture or over maturity. In regard to selecting for size a good rule to follow is to select well-grown specimens of a size somewhat larger than average grown vegetables or fruits for that class.

Here are some of the general considerations to keep in mind when showing garden vegetables. As a general rule vegetables cleaned or brushed free of soil are preferred to washed vegetables. The judge is likely to frown on vegetables or fruits that are needlessly oiled or otherwise treated to give an unnatural appearance to the exhibit. A few of the outer leaves of cabbage may be removed to make the exhibit appear more attractive, but they should never be peeled too severely. The dry outer skins of onions should never be peeled off. The slick, shiny appearance of peeled onions may appear to enhance the exhibit. The judge frequently discourages such a

practice by not placing awards on peeled specimens, as such onions will not store well.

In exhibiting root crops such as carrots or beets, it is best to cut the leaves about one-half inch to one inch from the root. Do not leave the tops intact on root crops as this can cause severe wilting of the root before the specimens are judged. It helps to bring root crop exhibits in a damp cloth or newspaper in order to keep them fresh looking. About two inches of stem should remain on squash and pumpkin exhibits. Summer squash should be shown young and tender. Winter squash and pumpkins should have a firm, hard skin indicating well matured fruits. Some species of squash are difficult to distinguish from pumpkins. An examination of the ribbing of the stem near its attachment to the fruit will settle the argument. Deeply ribbed fruits are pumpkins, whereas the non-ribbed stems indicate squash.

Similar principles apply in selecting fruits for exhibit. Except for the raspberry and its relatives, most fruits should be exhibited with stems attached. Do not rub off the whitish, waxy bloom or coating found over the skin of plums and other fruits. Examine fruits carefully for blemishes due to careless handling, disease or insect injury. Always bring along enough extra material to replace specimens that may have become bruised accidentally in the transportation process. This is a good procedure to follow with vegetables, too. But don't put more specimens called for in the schedule, when setting up the exhibit.

Uniformity is one of the most important considerations in judging specimen classes of vegetables and fruits, if more than one specimen is called for. If that is the case, select a sample with specimens that are uniform in respect to maturity, size, color, shape and other characteristics. Taking heed of this will go a long way in capturing the blue ribbon for the exhibit.

Some Interesting Annual Flowers

By E. T. ANDERSEN

ASTERS — Kirkwell — a dwarf compact type in several colours; excellent for bedding or edging.
Early Giant — an early long-stemmed strain producing a large flower.
Queen of the Market types are still tops, and so is Heart of France in ruby red.

BALSAM — Bush type — dwarf — double flowers on tips of branches.

CLEOME — (Spider Plant) — Pink Queen, and Golden — useful for tall background.

COSMOS — Sensation Strain — Radiance and Dazzler in rose and maroon crimson. Also a Pink and White variety.

DAHLIAS — Coltnesss and Unwin bedding strains. Very good from seed.

MORNING GLORY — Heavenly Blue, Pearly Gates (White). Well balanced — good combination.

LAVATERA — Sunset (Loveliness), (Soft Pink) and Rosea. Good tall bedding annual.

PETUNIA — All doubles such as Colossal Shades of Rose, Rose of Canada, Single bedders such as Fire Chief, Celestial Rose, King Henry, Snowstorm.

POPPY — Shirley poppy — Pierrot — striking red with black patches. Good new annual.

RUDBECKIA — Starlight. Good for cut flowers, semi and fully double in yellows, bronze and brown.

SALVIA — Blaze of Fire, Good early for bedding.

STOCKS — Double Ten Weeks strain — good for bedding or cutting.

SWEET PEAS — Cuthbertson strain of Spencers. Tolerate heat better than old strains.

SNAPDRAGON — The double and Tetra snaps have larger florets but often shorter spikes. The intermediate Majestic types probably better for bedding.

ZINNIAS — The small flowered Mexicana type and the larger flowered Fantasy and Cactus flowered types add new interest to this fine group of annuals.

DAHLIAS

By T. E. BABB

For those of you who are interested in that lovely variety of flower, whose original home was Brazil, relative of the lowly dandelion and described to me by a schoolboy as a glorified sunflower, follow some notes on the culture of dahlias by an amateur hobbyist who has had a great deal of pleasure growing them.

About the middle of April the tubers are taken out of storage, placed individually in boxes or grouped approximately one-half inch apart in flats — resting on and lightly covered with moist peat. To encourage growth the containers are placed close to the furnace, and to avoid rotting, care is taken not to expose the tubers to excessive moisture. After the shoot has grown through the peat, the tuber is planted in an individual container (usually a box 11″ x 5″ x 4″, but sometimes a flower pot). The plants are then grown in a cold frame until about the first of June when they are planted in the location selected for them. Because dahlias freeze easily, the plants are carried to the basement when frost threatens.

The question now arises — how is the ground prepared for planting? Each Fall, just before freeze-up, the soil is dug twelve or more inches deep and left without breaking up. In the spring it is turned over again and raked. To avoid harming the roots of the growing plant stakes are driven into the planting location approximately thirty inches apart. A hole from six to eight inches in diameter and at least six inches deep is dug in front of each stake and some Wizard brand sheep manure worked into the soil.

The garden is now ready for planting. So that the colors of the different varieties harmonize a plan for planting is made. Then the dahlia plant is placed in the hole so that the shoot end has a slightly higher elevation. The tuber is covered with soil and the plant watered. Then the hole is filled with soil and a collar made of tar paper, cardboard or tin is placed around the plant to protect it from cutworms. Three staggered rows of dahlias planted from short to tall growing plants in graduated heights makes a good show of mass blooms. Dahlias grow well in direct sunlight or partial shade. Any that have a tendency to fade should be planted in partial shade.

One must keep a watchful eye for harmful insects such as the green leaf hopper and tarnish bug. When these pests

are around derris powder and D.D.T. flower spray may be used to good advantage.

If large exhibition flowers are desired, no more than five branches should be allowed to grow on one plant and only one flower bud should be allowed to develop in one position.

During growth the plants should be well watered and lightly cultivated at least once a week. At flowering time the plants do better if heavily watered.

To prevent wind damage the plants are tied firmly to the stakes, but not tight enough to hurt their stems when they have grown about one foot tall. This procedure is followed with each additional foot of growth.

After the first heavy frost the stems should be cut off six inches above the ground and the tubers left to mature until just before freeze-up, removed from the ground and stored. After digging the clumps of tubers (you hope) they are thoroughly washed with the hose and divided. Usually one can see the dormant eye, and it is important that each tuber has an eye. If the eye is not visible more crown is left in the hope that an eye will appear later. All small roots are cut off the tuber and any wounded part is sulphured. Then part of the tuber is moistened and numbered with a soft indelible pencil. Each variety is given a different number. Thus it is easy to keep a key so that one may have a record of the planting stock.

For storage, about six inches of peat (not peat moss) is placed in a box and the numbered tubers placed side by side so that one is not touching its neighbour. When the first layer is completed the tubers are covered to the depth of one inch and the second layer is started. This procedure is followed allowing enough space to cover the top layer with five or six inches of peat. As the tubers are placed in the box, the variety number is written on a card, and when the box is full the card is tacked on so that one may know where to look for the various varieties in the spring. Then the storage boxes are placed in a cool part of the basement and left until April when they are uncovered and arranged in boxes or flats for starting.

Following is a list of Dahlias that I have enjoyed growing:

Red — Mrs. G. La Boutillier, Murphy's Masterpiece, Red Menace, Cherokee Brave, Virginia Rute, Maffie, Pop Harris, Lynn Fontaine, Gretel, Fort Monmouth.

Pink — Pink Giant, Rosy Morn, Premier's Winsome, Pink Flamingo, Mrs. Ida D. Warner.

Yellow, Orange and Cream — Croydon Glory, California Idol, Lord of Autumn, Kitty Haw, Kay Francis, Monarch of the East, Miss Glory, Watching Giant, Sunrays, Michigan Radiance, Golden Standard, Gold Commissioner, Nagels Orange, Rita Wells, Jane Cowl.

Blended — Carl Dahl, Treasure Island Sunset, Josephine G, Your Lucky Star, Irene Dunn, Charles L. Mastick, Coral Island, All American, Phyllis Knight.

Bi-Color — Koki, Louis Walcher, Jannette, John Stevens.

Purple — Robert Ripley, Jean Trimbee, Glamour, High Speed, Bette Davis.

To the foregoing list I would like to add some varieties that I have not grown myself but have admired greatly growing in my friend Jack Midwinter's garden:

Yellow — Nobby's Light.

White — Faithful, Michigan White, Darcy Sainsbury.

Blended — Five Star General, Crowning Glory.

Purple — Mrs. Henry Pape, Jane Lushe.

A Gardener's Companion A Notebook

C. E. L. H. LAW

A companion is one that you can confide your experiences without fear of derision. Every gardener has many, many experiences that are often hard to remember, and a companion that can be relied on to help out is a blessing. Such a companion can be the gardener's notebook.

During the year, every gardener has so many matters to think about that there are occasions that some information is wanted on short notice. Without such information one may fuss and be quite upset for lack of knowledge. Someone else might be able to help, but who? What may well be done?

Often the information comes in quite a forceful way and if noted then such is available any time thereafter. It is likely to happen again. With the memorandum recorded in the notebook, the matter can be accurately recalled, and the gardener can proceed without unnecessary delay.

Such a notebook can well be about 3 by 4 inches, with wire binding so that all the leaves lie flat. The current year's calendar should be at the top. The ruling should be fairly close.

All observations should be dated, and clearly but briefly recorded. All the odd numbered sheets should be allowed for general memoranda, while sections of the reverse side sheets can well be devoted to special topics, such as Lawn Care, Tulips, Roses, Delphiniums, Dahlias, Gladioli, Composts, etc. The notebook can well have plans of (1) the vegetable garden showing areas allotted to different vegetables, (2) the flower-beds, rockeries, border-planting, etc.

The following are some of the matters that should find dates:

The plans for the new vegetable and flower gardens;

List of seeds and plants selected and when and where ordered or obtained;

Any new procedure to be followed in preparing the window boxes or garden;

Dates of seeding various vegetable and flower seeds;

Dates of planting bulbs, shrubs, perennials;

Dates of transplanting tomatoes, cabbage and bedding plants;

Dates of first bloom to appear, last frost, first rain, first frog croak.

Dates of bloom on your favourite fruit tree, lilac, rose, etc.;

Date of first vegetables from home garden, first potatoes, corn, etc.

Date of first Fall frost, first hard frost;

Date of spraying various vegetables and flowers;

Dates of harvesting vegetable crop, noting the quality of the crop;

Dates of any excessively wet and dry periods, or excessive heat, windstorm;

Dates of placing fruit, vegetables and bulbs in winter storage.

Such and many more that any of you can find during the course of the season may well be noted, and may be worthwhile some future season.

Such may well be a guide for future operations, for there is a right and many wrong times to do certain things about the garden.

Then there are other matters that should be noted, too. We see the parks, visit our friends and often see something that we can well do or not do ourselves. We see exhibitions and so come to know some newer varieties that are well worth trying, too. We cannot hope to try every new variety offered.

A section of this notebook can be well reserved for memoranda from meetings and pictures shown at horticulture meetings, conventions, etc.

Such a notebook should fit into a man's vest pocket or ladies' handbag and be always on hand. The accumulation of data will be a sound basis for the following year's operations and can be quickly consulted when in doubt. You will probably find ways of improving your manner of making and recording memoranda each year. This is an article that costs little and may be worth much to the one who takes time to keep it up-to-date.

FLOOD AND PLANTS

To those of us closely associated with the welfare of plants and how they are affected by their surroundings (and that will include all of us) it is of interest to reflect for a brief time on how some of our favorite plants around the garden fared in the 1950 flood. A study of how some of these reacted might also suggest to us their requirements with respect to drainage, and watering. Some interesting observations can be made. However, because the depth and duration of flooding varied greatly from one area to another it cannot be said, without qualification, that one plant or species can tolerate flooding and another cannot.

In general, I think, it can be said of the 1950 flood that where land was under water to a depth of 6 to 7 feet it was about one month before it drained off. Where only 1 to 2 feet was experienced it remained for about 2 weeks. Thus both depth and duration were in favour of the less deeply flooded areas. Another factor which favoured the shallowly flooded areas was that it was not till near the end of May and early June that warm weather occured. Thus where water drained off before the end of May the temperatures of both water, soil and atmosphere were low enough to prevent growth and also rotting of plant tissues by organisms till after the water had cleared. This was not true of deeply flooded areas where conditions particularly in early June favoured growth and rotting of crowns and roots.

Let us briefly now consider various garden plants under six headings: 1. shrubs; 2. trees; 3. fruit trees; 4. perennial flowers; 5. grass; and 6. vegetables.

Shrubs

Almost without exception those shrubs which are native to our natural wooded areas along streams or shrub covered ravines withstood even deep flooding without injury. This is indicative of the fact that these, no doubt, have evolved under conditions subject to periodic flooding and those species and individuals not able to tolerate such conditions would long since have perished from our native riverside bush stands. These native species include such as the Viburnums Highbush Cranberry, Downy Arrowwood, Nannyberry), Red-stemmed Dogwood, Wild Plum, Sandcherry, Saskatoon, Chokecherry, Pincherry, Hawthorn, various willows, and native rose species.

Many of our leading imports did not fare so well. Among these were Common lilac or varieties of Syringa vulgaris commonly known as French or grafted lilacs, Sharpleaf Cotoneaster, Nanking Cherry (Prunus tomentosa), various species of caragana including common caragana, various species of barberry, Rocky Mountain Juniper (Juniperus scopulorum), and Alpine and Golden currant. Several, if not all of these, survived flooding up to 1 or 2 feet, at least in some cases — probably where drainage was good. Deeper flooding generally was fatal or very harmful.

Some of the imports which showed good flood tolerance were the Rugosa hybrid type of roses, including Hansa and Grootendorst, willows such as the Purple Osier, Golden and Red Stemmed types, Tatarian honeysuckle, various varieties of mockorange and spireas that were not deeply flooded.

It is interesting to note that at Kildonan Park, Hybrid Tea and Hybrid Perpetual roses wintered as well and produced blooms as well or better than ever before. Possibly some of these flowering shrubs like more moisture than they sometimes receive.

Trees

The large growing trees showed much the same picture. All of the native riverbank trees such as the elm, ash, oak, Boxelder or Manitoba maple, basswood and poplars came through essentially without injury. Of native trees the birch was the only species which was killed and this was probably because of poor drainage in deeply flooded areas. Large sized evergreens such as Colorado or Blue and White spruce, Scotch and Jack pine suffered injury mostly to the branches which were submerged and lost their needles. Smaller trees of these species which were completely submerged were killed outright. This in general was true also of junipers and Thuja or arborvitae. Evergreens, as a group, like well-drained soils. White spruce showed slightly more tolerance than did Colorado spruce.

Fruit Trees

Apple and plum trees which were fairly large and carried their branches well above the water came through with little injury excepting to submerged branches. Smaller trees were in many instances killed to the ground with new growth subsequently coming from the roots or near the base of the stems. These should be examined to determine whether the grafted variety has been lost.

Perennial Flowers

Losses were heavy in this class of material, where deep

flooding was experienced. In most areas of light flooding the main effect on perennial flowers was delay in development. Where deep flooding occurred only a few species survived. Notable among these were daylily (Hemerocalis), Lythrum (Morden Pink and Dropmore Purple), Sea Lavender (Statice latifolia), Siberian Iris, Ribbon grass, and White Pyramid Phlox. Such important groups as the peonies, bearded iris, delphinium, lilies, most phlox, tulips, chrysanthemums and bleeding heart were largely destroyed. It is interesting to note that in some areas heavy stands of seedlings of both perennial and annual flowers germinated and developed. Some of these were lythrum, petunia, snapdragon, and sunflowers.

Grass

Most grasses survived surprisingly well. Where left undisturbed good turf had usually developed before fall. In some areas where Kentucky Blue grass was badly silted over Annual blue grass (Poa annua) germinated and made a good turf cover in a short time. In most cases, however, it appeared that the established perennial grasses survived whether they were weed grasses, such as quack, or desirable lawn grasses. Depressions and poorly drained areas suffered most killing.

Vegetables

As very few vegetables are grown as perennials little injury resulted. Asparagus proved itself as a seaside plant and survived even deep flooding without notable injury. Rhubarb on the other hand demonstrated its love for friable well-drained locations and was killed by even shallow flooding in nearly all cases. A very striking difference was exhibited by these two plants.

The foregoing observations cover only a few examples but are set forth in the hope that they may prove of interest and some value in determining the needs of plants.

E. T. ANDERSEN,
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TCA To Eradicate Couch Grass

H. E. WOOD

Home owners and gardeners often find couch or quack grass a troublesome and difficult weed with which to contend. Fence lines, the edges of paths, and any waste ground, become infested with couch grass to the exclusion of other vegetation. The vigorous nature of the plant, together with its fast spreading underground rootstocks, finds it constantly working into cultivated ground, borders, perennial beds, as well as lawns. To remove the weed by hand digging is not only laborious, but almost impossible. Some have used soil sterilant chemicals with varying degrees of success.

The announcement some three years ago of Trichloroacetate (TCA) as a grass killer aroused very considerable interest, especially among garden enthusiasts. Since its introduction TCA has undergone widespread and intensive testing. The 90% sodium TCA now on the market, under most conditions will give a good account of itself when applied to couch grass. One of the important factors when using this chemical would seem to be the condition of the soil in relation to the presence of moisture. If the upper soil is very dry the results following the application of TCA are not as effective as when the soil is moist, or when a moderate rain follows treatment.

Latest recommendations are to apply TCA as a spray to the infested ground at around 100 pounds acid — 110 pounds of 90% sodium TCA — per acre. To the householder this works out to about four ounces of TCA powder to each 100 square feet of ground to be treated. Directions on the package should be followed as to bringing the powder into solution. Probably the results will be more uniform and satisfactory if the top growth is removed before treating. Indications are that late Fall treatment may give better results than especially spring application.

Considerable testing has been carried out where TCA is used along with tillage. If the roots of the couch grass can be exposed, thereby bringing the chemical directly in contact with them, a saving of about 50% of the TCA is possible. Generally speaking, the use of TCA is recommended only for relatively small and scattered patches. Where any considerable area is infested the cost of treatment with TCA would be excessive.

With our present knowledge of TCA it is not recom-

mended for use on lawns except where the owner is prepared to sacrifice all grass on the area treated. On one trial carried out in Alberta in 1949, when TCA was applied to couch grass under ash, box elder, and poplar, the grass was destroyed without apparent damage to the trees. More testing is needed before general recommendations can be made for such use. Depending upon soil type and other factors, such as moisture, soils treated with TCA will carry residual effects of the chemical for a matter of 60 days more or less. This may be a factor when treated ground is to be planted to seeds or bedding plants that may be sensitive to the chemical.

Gardeners will find TCA a comparatively safe product with which to work. It is non-inflammable, non-poisonous, and but slightly corrosive. Experimental studies have shown it to be very low in toxicity when swallowed — similar to common salt. It is appreciably irritating to the skin and eyes and will cause burns on long contact. No appreciable hazards are believed to exist in regard to wild life or livestock which may feed on the sprayed foliage. The containers in which it is mixed or applied should be washed out with clean water immediately after using. There will be no danger to nearby plants from drift or volatility as is sometimes the case with 2,4-D.

Some Helpful Hints in Gardening

Delphiniums, monkshood and some other perennials are injured seriously if cold water is forcefully poured on their foliage on a hot day. Better to water in the evening and at ground level.

During extreme hot periods in summer, soils give up large quantities of moisture by evaporation. At the same time plants transpire much moisture through the leaves. Fresh supplies of moisture are, therefore, required to keep the plants healthy. A few minutes sprinkling with the hose is far, far from adequate even to replace the loss. Then, too, the water from the hose is often too cold for many varieties of plants. Consequently the harm done is sometimes more than the good accomplished by such watering. To avoid such damage, one may well provide several barrels to be filled in mornings or after watering in the evening, and leave it to be warmed by the sun during the day, or one may provide a long canvas hose to lie on the ground among the plants and then turn on the hose so that the water will gradually ooze through the canvas into the soil without touching the foliage. By the latter means one can leave the hose for half an hour and may not need to water such areas oftener than two or three times a week.

Some varieties of potatoes produced abundant potato seed in 1950. Do you know the difference between seed potato and potato seed?

Corn sometimes has the tendency to be damaged by smut. Dark balls of smut develop on the cob or the fertilized flower. Such growths should be removed as soon as detected by cutting the whole cob off, placed in a paper bag without shaking the damaged portion unnecessarily and burnt immediatetely so as to reduce the chance of spreading.

Corn-borers have made their appearance in Manitoba. They are insects that lay their eggs in the embryo cob, hatch into larvae which burrow through the cob portion and feed on the sweet, tender kernels of corn. Any such cobs when found should not be dumped into the garbage to spread further, but be burnt immediately.

Some shrubs require extra iron than the soil provides. They show a bleaching of the foliage. By taking the rusty water that sometimes accumulates at the bottom of the hot-

water tank and pouring it on ground around such shrubs, some of the deficiency can be provided.

The exhibitions sponsored by your horticulture society offer an opportunity to display your finest in one or more varieties of flowers, fruits and vegetables. It helps to make your neighborhood attractive to those who are looking for a choice neighborhood to live in. Even, if you have just one variety for competition, it will add much to the competition. Bring it along. The novice learns much and enjoys the experience.

Winnipeg Horticultural Society

Report of Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Show Committee for 1950

The annual Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show was held in the Civic Caledonian Curling Club Rink, on August 24th and 25th, 1950. As the Provincial Fruit Show was held at Brandon this year, your directors offered prizes for a number of fruit classes. While entries in this section were not large owing to a very backward season, they were encouraging. The past season, to say the least, was a very discouraging one for gardeners. The flood in the spring, a very poor growing season, and a storm of almost hurricane proportions when everything was just about their best, didn't promise much of a flower show for 1950. However, in spite of all these drawbacks, we had a really excellent display, particularly in the cut flower classes. Total entries numbered 671, from 89 exhibitors. Entry fees amounted to $45.25 and total prizes paid amounted to $468.50. Rent of rink and other expenses brought the total cost of the show to $626.10.

We are once again indebted to the T. Eaton Co., who very kindly loaned us the tables for the show, and also supplied transportation for them to and from the rink.

We are also greatly indebted to the Wiinnipeg Parks Board for a very fine display of potted plants, and also to the Sadok Nurseries for a fine display of all kinds of fruits. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our sincere thanks to the judges, Mr. Ormiston, Mr. Eric Goldstraw, Mr. J. Midwinter, Mr. Kras De Jong, and Mr. F. J. Weir, and to those ladies and gentlemen who assisted them. My personal thanks to all the directors who worked so hard in setting up, and afterwards dismantling the show. This report would not be complete without a special word of thanks to our energetic secretary, Mr. R. W. Brown and all those who assisted him in the tremendous task of writing entry tickets, prize lists and etc.

In closing I would like to suggest that many of our members who do not send in entries to our annual show, should try and do so. Whether you have prize-winning entries or not, the contacts you make with other contestants and the experience gained, makes the effort well worth while.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. TANNER,
Chairman, Flower Show Committee.

The Directors of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society wish to thank the advertisers, also a number of donors, whose names are withheld, as well as the following who have made donations.

The co-operation of these friends has made this edition of the Winnipeg Flower Garden possible and is appreciated by the directors.

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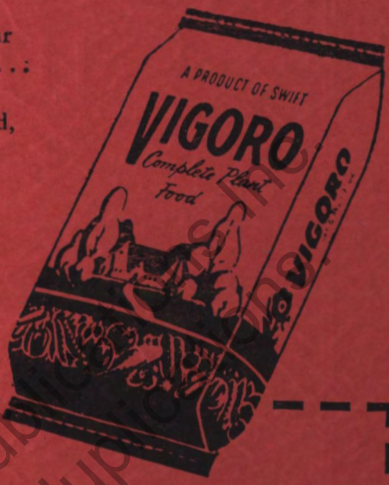

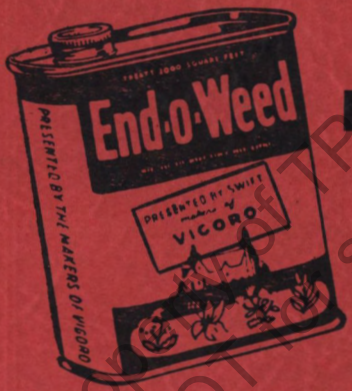

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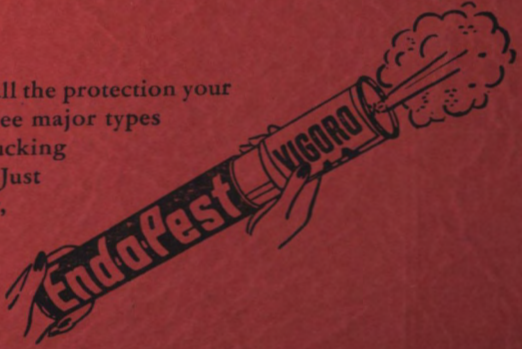

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