

Park's Floral Guide

Describes and Pictures every Choice Flower; Pronounces the hard names; Tells when the seeds "come up"; Teems with Cultural Advice. It will save you money and insure success. Unlike any other catalogue; Offers the largest list of Flower Seeds in this Country. If you can't get it elsewhere send to Park. This Guide, with Park's Surprise Seed Mixture (1000 sorts), yielding new flowers every morning, also 100 Coupon, and copy Park's Floral Magazine, oldest, most popular floral monthly in the world, all for stamp. Flower Folks, don't miss this offer. Write today. Tell your friends. Address GEO. W. PARK, La Park, Pa.

OUR EXTRA SPECIAL KNIFE OFFER

The Commoner, One Year.....\$1.00 Regular price \$2.25
 American Homestead One Year..... .25 ALL FOR \$1.25
 The Excelsior Wonder Knife..... 1.00 ONLY.....



This illustration shows the actual size of holes that may be cut with the leather punch blade.

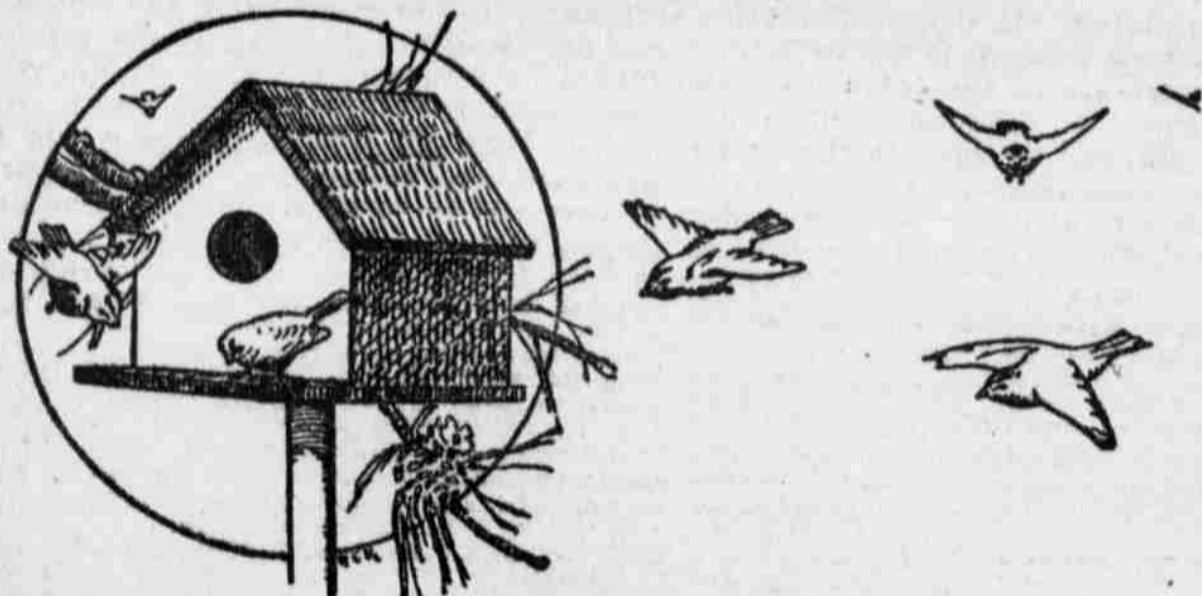
This is the leather punch blade. THE EXCELSIOR WONDER KNIFE

The handiest and best knife ever manufactured. Built for practical use, with especial care to make the knife sufficiently strong for use of farmers, stockmen, teamsters, and sportsmen. Both blades are of the finest tempered tool steel, finely ground and polished. Illustration shows reduced size of knife. Besides large blade, this knife has a smaller punch or reamer blade 2 1/4 inches long, and cuts holes exactly as shown above. The Leather Punch will be found indispensable for making various sized holes in leather for buckles, rivets, belt lacing, etc. This knife is thoroughly finished in every detail, is brass lined, has German silver mountings, and a handsome stag handle.

We are enabled to make this extraordinary offer by special arrangement with the manufacturer to send each knife direct from the factory, with a full guarantee by the maker. Accept the above offer, and you will receive a Wonder Excelsior Knife mailed direct to you from the factory by prepaid insured parcel post. Address order, for above offer to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.

GET THIS BEAUTIFUL WREN HOUSE FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Without Cost Under Our Special Offer



—and then wait and see how much enjoyment they will get watching for the coming of the birds to your own home yard. Nothing could please them quite as much as this Beautiful Wren House which we are giving without cost to all who accept our special limited offer given below. Nothing will give them as much entertainment and instruction as the study of birds and their habits. The wren is one of our most useful birds, is found in all parts of the United States, and is known as the sweetest of all American song birds. He will come anywhere and stay from April until September if he can find suitable lodgings. This little house is built just right to suit his requirements and will perfectly protect him from the sparrow. May be placed in a tree, on a post, or hung on the side of the house or barn. Here is our offer:

Little Folks, 1 year.....	\$1.00	} SEND ONLY \$1.00
Wren House.....	.50	
American Homestead, 3 years.....	.50	
Total regular price for all.....	\$2.00	

Little Folks is a strictly high-class monthly magazine for young children, taken by over 100,000 mothers for the educational, entertaining and instructive features it contains.



Little Folks provides continuous entertainment for the children, and enough of it to keep them busy the whole year round. Little Folks is a source of inspiration and help for little children and all who have to do with them.

Little Folks is "a story teller, a picture-book, a play-fellow, an out-of-school magazine," full of simple, sunshiny fun, that fosters in every child those moral and mental qualities which every mother loves so much.

The magazine contains the very best stories by the very best writers for children, and the editors are ever so careful not to include any stories that might stimulate the imagination along harmful, or even unessential lines.

When these stories are finished here are plenty of pretty colored pictures and colored paper dolls which the child can cut up without regret—for another number will come right along to take its place as an entertainer.

Accept this offer now and send us only \$1. The Wren House will be shipped to you promptly, all charges prepaid. Address

THE AMERICAN HOMESTEAD, LINCOLN, NEB.

pigs fed corn and alfalfa made much better showing than did the pigs on tankage rations. The test showed that it does not pay to grind corn for pigs. Pigs fed ground corn made the least and most expensive gains of any pigs in the test. Where a ground corn and alfalfa hay ration was used, the cost of 100 pounds gain was nearly \$2 more than the cost of 100 pounds gain where dry shelled corn and alfalfa hay was used.

AVOID CHEAP SEED

Good seed is an important matter with the gardener as well as the farmer. It never pays to buy cheap seed. Experiments were carried on a year or two ago by the Pennsylvania experiment station with some ten or more strains of cabbage seed of the same varieties from different firms. They found variations of yield from 5 to 10 or 15 tons an acre, according to the strain of seed. The seed of the highest quality meant several dollars more to the acre in net returns, even if it did cost a few cents more a pound.

WHEN IS GARDEN SOIL READY FOR PLANTING?

"When is the proper time for preparing to plant one's garden?" The United States department of agriculture's specialist says that in the spring as soon as the soil has dried so that a handful when grasped in the hand and gripped by the fingers will slowly fall apart upon being released, it is in a fit mechanical condition to prepare for planting. Clay or heavy soils should never be worked while wet. More injury may be done by doing this than can be overcome in several years of careful culture.

When the soil is found dry, as described above, the upper three inches should be made fine by the use of the hoe and steel-tooth rake; all rubbish, stones, and clods should be removed and the surface made even, somewhat compact, and as level as the contour of the area will permit. It may then be marked off for planting in conformity to the general plan of the garden.

Much of the soil in the average back yard is not only poor in plant food and deficient in decaying vegetable matter, but it is hard and unyielding. However, such is the basis which many a housewife or child has to use for the making of a garden. Teachers who plan school gardens for their pupils also have similar conditions to meet. Therefore, in order to get good results, careful attention must be given to the preparation of the soil.

Soils which are naturally moist are likely to be sour and so not in the best condition for the crop. Whether sour or not it will be well to have the pupils test them, which can be done as follows: Secure from a drug store a piece of blue litmus paper; then take a handful of the soil slightly moistened and place the paper on it. If sour the paper will turn red. To correct such a condition lime should be used. Cover the ground with a thin coat of air-slaked lime, which can probably be secured near-by at small cost, and work this in well. The use of lime, while not a plant food, will correct the acidity and will improve the physical condition of the soil.

If the soil is clayey or a stiff clay loam and the location is in a section where severe freezing occurs, it will be found a decided advantage to give the area a heavy dressing of decomposed manure in the autumn, and before freezing weather sets in spade the land so as to turn the manure under and leave the soil in a rough, lumpy condition so as to secure the benefit of the digestive action of the winter freezes in reducing the soils.

This should be repeated annually in the north. If the soil is light and sandy, a mulch of manure may be spread over it in the fall and the spading delayed until spring.

In localities where the soil does not freeze, the manure may be applied in the autumn and the soil repeatedly spaded during the winter whenever it is dry enough to be worked. The value of freezing at the north can to an extent be attained by repeated spadings at the south. The one general precaution which should always be observed is never stir the soil while it is wet.

HOMEGROWN SEED CORN BEST

Even though it is said that like produces like, the pretty ears of seed corn from the distant seed house may not, and usually do not, produce corn as good as that grown under local conditions. Results from many farmers, county agricultural agents, and the Nebraska Experiment station show an increase of from 4.5 to 15 bushels an acre in favor of the home-grown seed. Co-operative experiments in western Nebraska have shown that the native seed yields about a fourth more than corn just brought from the eastern part of the state. The results of the Nebraska Experiment station are included in bulletin No. 126, which may be had free.

INFECTED STRAW STACKS

It is an exceedingly bad farm practice to permit hogs to lie around straw stacks, especially in the winter time, as they become overheated and readily contract pneumonia. Where cholera-infected hogs have had access to a straw stack, the stack will remain a source of infection for a long period of time, and it is advisable to completely destroy the stack by burning. Where impracticable to burn the straw stack, the straw should be raked out from the sides and around the base and removed and burned. The soil around the base of the stack should then be covered with air-slaked lime and plowed.—Kansas Experiment Station.

BIG PROFIT IN DRILLING WHEAT

With wheat worth \$1.50 a bushel, the farmer in central and western Nebraska would receive \$11.10 an acre more by drilling it than broadcasting it, according to experimental data from the North Platte, Nebraska, substation. It was found there that drilling increased the yield of spring wheat 7.4 bushels an acre. In other words, drilling increased the revenue \$5.18 an acre, when wheat is worth but 70 cents. Should wheat continue to rise in price, the increase in yield on a fairly large acreage not only would pay for a \$75 drill, but would net a good profit on the investment.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES

Eighty-five per cent of the oranges, lemons, and grape fruit of California are marketed through co-operative associations. A large part of the apples from Colorado and the north-west could not be sold except through the co-operation of the growers. In Nebraska there are 239 co-operative elevators with a capital stock of more than \$2,000,000, handling annually an average business of \$38,000,000.

According to the cattle experts of the Illinois station, about one-third of the cattle of the country other than milk cows are contained in the seven states embracing what is known as the corn belt, and that their value is equal to about two-fifths of the total value of such cattle in the United States.