

SOUND ESSENTIALS FOR A FRUIT GARDEN



Japanese "Botan" Plum.

(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)

Don't expect good fruit and plenty of it unless you feed the trees and bushes accordingly.

Large seeded grapes should be discarded.

Ashes and bone are first rate fertilizers.

Bury all bones about the roots of vines and trees.

Strawberries may be grown the first two years under the grapevines.

Make the soil rich before setting out the vines and plants.

If a large crop is wanted, give additional dressings of fertilizers, ashes and bone dust.

Top-dress the orchard and fruit garden, but keep weedy manure out of the strawberry patch.

Give the blackberries a corner of cool land and cultivate for two years. After that only cut back the tops and thin out the old canes.

Trees in the fruit garden should be headed low for reasons of convenience and for other reasons affecting the welfare of the trees. Only dwarf varieties should be planted here.

For the fruit garden, the advice not to trim is as bad as not to cultivate. It is the business of the tree to reproduce itself, and the more limb, the more seed in the fruit.

Mulching hill land that washes is better, in many instances, than plowing. Plowing is but mulching by throwing one portion of soil over another. Mulch with litter, boards, boughs, or even rocks, where they are plentiful during the hot weather.

The farm table may be supplied with fresh fruits from rhubarb time, on until late grapes, outside, to be fol-

lowed by the fall and winter orchard fruits and the surplus of the gardens preserved in various ways. Now is the time to plan your next year's work.

Plum trees should not be pruned until late winter, or in the spring before the sap starts.

A patch of ground, even so small as the eighth of an acre, planted with the different kinds of berries, including currants and grapes, and given good attention and cultivation will supply the average family with all the small fruit that can be used, and enough for winter besides. A few dwarf pears, peaches, plums and cherries will vary the product in an agreeable way.

The common wild choke-cherry bears a dark red fruit in large clusters, which is much liked by some; is an abundant bearer and a small tree. In spring it yields numerous fragrant white flowers, and is worth growing for ornament if for no other purpose.

For a yard fence, try the hardy orange, Citrus trifoliata; plant in single rows, 18 inches apart. The bush is of dwarf, compact habit, making one of the most ornamental hedges, covered in spring with thousands of sweet smelling orange blossoms, and in the fall with a lot of little sour oranges. It does not throw up sprouts.

Make a map of your fruit garden as well as of your orchard, drawing it on stiff cardboard, or smoothly dressed board, making every tree, bush or vine, every row of small fruit, giving the names of the varieties.

This will be found of especial value in case you wish to replace with the same variety any which may have died, or having found it particularly satisfactory may wish for more.

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



No Lady Blacksmiths Wanted on Washington Job

WASHINGTON.—The National museum wants a blacksmith and specifies that this blacksmith must be a male blacksmith. No woman blacksmiths, no matter how brawny, need apply. The National museum wants that male blacksmith, and has announced it to the world through the medium of the United States civil service commission, which will have to pass on the points of the candidates.

For fear that a whole slew of woman blacksmiths will descend on the National museum, the civil service announcement is headed in large, aggressive letters, "Blacksmith (Male)" and then goes on to say: "The United States civil service commission announces an open competitive examination for blacksmith, for men only." Therefore, the dainty young blacksmithess who knows how to grab the off hind foot of a recalcitrant mule, slap it into her lap and then hammer a hot shoe into place on a hoof that would sink a dreadnaught, need not apply for the museum job. Not that she wouldn't be entitled to a place in the museum—for she would—but they just don't want her over there. It's a rank discrimination against the fairest and most tender of our budding young girl blacksmiths, but the hardened old scientists at the government's big aggregation of George Washington's uniforms and pterodactyl bones don't want any female blacksmiths roughing up the iron to make it look red hot. Not a bit of it. They want a man.

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National Capital Quite Happy Without Congress

TO many minds the national capital without congress may seem like "Hamlet" without the melancholy Dane, but it is not; au contraire, as they say in diplomatic circles, the government goes ahead without appearing to miss the legislators. Of course, President Wilson has not said that he "is glad to get congress off his hands," but some folks suspect—some folks suspect. So official Washington has been as reconciled to the departure of congress as "big business," that bugaboo of imaginative minds, popularly is supposed to be.

First and foremost, the various executive departments do not live in constant dread of legislation that may turn them topsy-turvy. Criticism on the floor of congress of blindness to the civil service, or other alleged sins of commission or omission, is not to be feared, and in other ways the minds of the department heads and their aids are greatly lightened.

Moreover, the heads of the departments no longer are besieged daily not to say nightly also, by regiments of statesmen in search of jobs for important constituents. Of course, there is no "closed season" for office seekers, but the pressure is greatly relieved when the statesmen hie them home and get out of reach of the post office department, the department of agriculture and other happy hunting grounds for the self-sacrificing hordes which are willing to serve Uncle Sam—for a consideration.

Beyond this, the pension bureau is relieved of daily calls from congressmen, in person and over the phone. The army and navy no longer are importuned for honorable discharges for men who had been discharged from the service for every crime in the calendar, from cowardice to grand larceny—of which the former is considered the greater offense.

And so it runs on through each executive department; peace prevails within their precincts and opportunity is afforded to perform the real work for which they were created.

Many Jobless View Rock Pile, but Few Tackle It

EVERY once in so often a great philanthropy, carefully planned in advance out of pure altruistic motives, curls up and dies in an unaccountable fashion. Such an occasion is this—involving two District commissioners, a social problem and a rock pile located at South Capitol and M streets.

In an effort to solve the question of unemployment the commissioners decided to allow 30 men—husky men, armed with their own hammers—to break up the rock pile. It was possible, said the commissioners, for a forward-looking, earnest man to earn about a dollar a day.

Among the first to arrive was a large colored man, whose unalterable determination to become a pugilist at an intermittent acquaintance with Occoquan. He studied the pile from various angles. He patted the concrete with his hand. Then he sighed. All of the concrete was equally hard.

"Ah! go back to jail," he said, in a low, sorrowful voice; "de rock ain't no harder dan dis—and you gets fed free."

One man worked furiously—so furiously that they went to him and questioned him.

"You seem interested in your work," they said.

"Not me," he puffed, taking another terrific slam at the concrete, "I'm getting myself in condition so I can beat up the guy that tipped me off about this job."

So the rock pile remains, a silent and sinister monument. And with it remains the problem of finding work for the unemployed, or perhaps the commissioners have demonstrated there is little or no real unemployment in Washington.

Secretary Daniels Acts as First Aid to Cupid

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY DANIELS has received numerous congratulations as to the result of his assuming the role of first aid to Cupid through reinstating Joseph E. Austin as a member of the service. Austin, an ensign, was dismissed from the service because he married the girl of his choice while his ship was in Honolulu harbor several years ago. At that time the naval regulations forbade the marriage of junior officers because it was felt their salary was not enough for two to live on.

Mrs. Austin, resenting the suggestion that she was a handicap to her husband, interested Secretary Daniels, and he persuaded congress to pass a law reinstating Austin. Then, when criticized, he declared if he was in love with a girl and that girl would marry him, he would wed her no matter what the cost.

Elaborating his views in his home, the secretary said: "When we follow the lodestar of love we cannot go far wrong. In every walk of life the married man is far more efficient than the single one. The latter has no distinct purpose in life. But the married man has. There are the wife and the babies to think of. And he must of necessity be more steady than the man who cares only for himself.

"Ever since I have been in public life I have advocated marriage. It is the greatest steadiest in life. And I want to say here that so matter what others may think, I do not believe that men should be refused the right to obey the dictates of love by red tape regulations."

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If you want the right quality and want to be sure you are getting what you pay for, insist on the Certain-teed label. The price is reasonable. No one can tell the quality of a piece of roofing by looking at it. The man is not living who can take three kinds of roofing of different qualities and tell with any degree of accuracy the length of time each one will last on the roof. He cannot tell their relative values by looking at them. Why take the chance of guessing, when you can get the safest guarantee on the best quality goods at a reasonable price.

If for any reason you do not care for the highest quality—if you want a temporary roof, we also make goods sold at the lowest price on the market, because we have unequalled facilities, and are making approximately a third of the entire asphalt roofing and building papers of the whole world's supply. Our facilities enable us to beat all competitors on price goods as well as on Certain-teed quality. The difference between the total cost of the goods, the freight, the laying, etc., between quality goods and price goods is insignificant. It is much better policy to cut out the guessing and let the manufacturer of real responsibility insure you on all the vital points. He knows what he puts into the goods and what they will do—you can't insist upon getting everything as represented.

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The fortune hunter must act as his own guide.



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Canadian Wheat to Feed the World

The war's fearful devastation of European crops has caused an unusual demand for grain from the American Continent. The people of the world must be fed and there is an unusual demand for Canadian wheat. Canada's invitation to every industrious American is therefore especially attractive. She wants farmers to make money and happy, prosperous homes for themselves while helping her to raise immense wheat crops.

You can get a Homestead of 160 acres FREE and other lands can be bought at remarkably low prices. Think of the money you can make with wheat at its present high prices, where for some time it is liable to continue. During many years Canadian wheat fields have averaged 20 bushels to the acre—many yields as high as 45 bushels to the acre. Wonderful crops also of Oats, Barley and Flax. Mixed farming is fully as profitable an industry as grain raising. The excellent grasses, full of nutrition, are the only food required either for beef or dairy purposes. Good schools, markets convenient, climate excellent. Military service is not compulsory in Canada, but there is an extra demand for farm labor to replace the many young men who have volunteered for the war. The Government this year is urging farmers to put extra acreage into grain. Write for literature and particulars as to reduced railway rates to Superintendent Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, or W. V. Bennett, 220 17th St., Room 4, Bee Bldg., Omaha, Neb. Canadian Government Agent

MAKE BIG EFFORT TO RENEW WOODLOT

When Second Crop Has Been Cut Stumps Have Lost Vitality—Plant Seedlings.

(By H. R. FLINT, Minnesota College of Forestry.)

Special effort should be made to secure the reproduction of the trees removed from the farm woodlot during the cutting season just passed. In many cases sprouts are counted on for this reproduction and for certain purposes such as fuel, posts and shelter, they can be relied upon to furnish the desired material. When this second crop is cut in its turn, however, the old stumps have lost most, if not all of their vitality and unless some vigorous seedlings have grown up in the meantime, the value of the woodlot is greatly impaired. Since it requires many years to build up a woodlot which has been allowed to run out, it is a wise plan to insure the production of some good healthy seedling trees each year by planting some seed of desirable species in the openings created by the winter's cutting.

During early life the sprouts, because of the advantage of a previously established root system, will outstrip the little seedlings and may deprive them of the requisite amount of light for good growth. Therefore, in the first thinning or cutting of the sprouts some special consideration should be shown the young seedlings.

The method of planting the seeds will depend upon the species used. Walnut, hickory and all of the oaks can be planted about 4 to 6 inches deep in a hole made with a dibble or spud. The smaller seeds such as red and white elm, maple and ash may be planted by removing the coarser litter from a small spot and putting on a few seeds, covering them very lightly with fine soil and a little litter.

In many cases it is better to raise or buy seedlings of the species having small seeds and transplant them in the desired location.

Ventilation is Necessary. Ventilate the cow barn or you may expect to have weakened and tubercular cows.

SHEEP GREAT HELP FOR THE ORCHARDS

Of High Value in Fertilizing Soil When Given Suitable Supplementary Feed.

The greatest value of sheep in an orchard is found probably in their being used as a means of fertilizing orchards that are bearing.

If put in somewhat early in the spring and fed a suitable supplementary food with the grass which the orchard may furnish, it will be found that the sheep will thus convey fertility to the land, and they will do so in a marked degree if fed on rich kinds of food.

Such food may consist very largely of wheat bran which is in itself a very valuable fertilizer.

It may be wise to encourage the sheep to eat freely, to add a little grain in the form of oats.

A little oil cake will also improve the food.

The droppings thus left in the orchard will tend very much to its enrichment. The outcome will be that where this system is persevered in during considerable portions of the season the orchard will thus be provided with a liberal application of fertility.

GOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR ORCHARD WORK

Nice Thing to Have Store of Apples for Winter Use—Care for the Fruit Trees.

The short apple crop has its advantages. Next year we and the buying public will appreciate them more. It is a fine thing to have a store of apples for winter use. They are fine food in various forms at all seasons of the year. They are food of which we never tire.

Care for fruit trees just the same as if there had been a large crop this year. Other fruitful years are coming and the trees will need to be in condition to give high yields.



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