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GARDEN FERTILIZERS

(Continued from Page 4)

spread evenly over the garden very early in Spring will obviate the use of any other fertilizer except for special purposes.

If manure is not available in generous quantities, a compost heap will help to supply the needed humus, and commercial fertilizers will provide the plant food. A compost heap should have a place in every garden, any way. It is made simply by throwing in a pile all the leaves and garden refuse which comes to hand, with the addition of some manure, including that from the poultry yard. It may be turned occasionally, and when thoroughly decomposed, spread on the garden.

It is a waste of time for the man with a little garden to try mixing his fertilizers. Let him rather buy a complete commercial fertilizer, relying on the advice of any honest seedsman as to brand. Probably, the best way to use it is to scatter most of it broadcast and to harrow it in lightly, but to reserve a little to use in the hills and drills, working it into the soil so that it will not come directly into contact with the seeds. Then, the young plants will have ample nourishment close at hand to give them a good start, and the roots will find more waiting for them as they burrow in all directions through the earth. Plants send their rootlets a surprising distance in search of food and water, and these rootlets show almost human intelligence in traveling around stones and other obstructions to gain their end.

Nitrate of soda is a fertilizer that acts almost immediately and is used chiefly for foliage plants and where quick growth is wanted. It is a fine stimulant for rhubarb, asparagus, spinach and kale. No fertilizer will atone for carelessness and neglect.

Liquid manure may be used in much the same fashion as nitrate of soda, but in a more general way and for all sorts of products. It offers one of the best means to keep up the flagging spirits of the garden in a dry season and whenever growth seems to lag. It is easily made by filling a cheesecloth bag with fresh manure and suspending it in a tub or cask filled with water.

Many gardens need lime occasionally; for it sweetens the soil and helps to make plant food available. Unexpected results are often obtained from five bushels for a garden 50 x 100 feet.

Flowers as well as vegetables need feeding. This is particularly true of roses, which seldom get as much nourishment as they really crave. It may open your eyes to rose-garden possibilities to use a heavy mulch of manure around the plants, spring and fall, lightly forking it into the soil if its visible presence seems esthetically objectionable. A sprinkling of wood ashes and bone meal added will help, and just as the buds are swelling, a little nitrate of soda may be supplied. You can't expect to have good roses if you starve the plants.

It is the same with raspberries and blackberries and more especially with grapes. The latter are very heavy feeders and thrive on stable manure, which should not be dug deeply in the ground, but just covered with soil; and, as the roots travel far, the manure should be scattered in a wide radius.

Prepared animal manures so treated as to destroy weed seeds and concentrated to reduce the bulk for convenient transportation and use can be had of most any seedsman or garden supply house. These are perfectly safe in the hands of the amateur gardener and being dry, finely pulverized and highly concentrated are especially convenient and effective. They eliminate the many objectionable features of stable manures and solve the problem of supply of this most necessary element in garden success where manures for the lawn and garden are often difficult to obtain.

This about sums up the fertilizer question so far as the home gardener need to bother his head, except for one point: In September, it is a fine plan to plant rye to grow through the winter and be plowed under in the spring. The hens will enjoy it when the ground is bare, and it will help to fill the ground with humus—that word to be remembered.

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Each one of the above four lines of figures spells a word. Its most interesting puzzle can be solved with a little study, as follows: There are twenty-six letters in the alphabet, and we have used figures in spelling the four words instead of letters. Letter A is number 1, B number 2, C number 3, etc., throughout the alphabet. IF YOU CAN SPELL OUT THESE FOUR WORDS WE WILL SEND YOU A CERTIFICATE OF ENTRY in our GRAND PRIZE CONTEST, also a BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION OF FIVE GOLD EMBOSSED, HANDSOMELY COLORED VALENTINE POST-CARDS. All you have to do is to enclose with your answer 2 two-cent stamps to cover cost of packing, mailing, etc.—USE YOUR BRAINS. Try and make out the four words. ACT QUICKLY. Write the four words on a slip of paper, mail it immediately with your name and address and 4 cents in stamps. And you will promptly receive as your reward this SURPRISE PACKET, which is a handsome assortment of five beautifully colored, embossed Valentine post-cards, together with a copy of a New York Magazine, also a CERTIFICATE OF ENTRY in our GRAND PRIZE CONTEST. Act promptly. This is your opportunity. Address **M. C. MURPHY, Mgr., 649 W. 43d St., Dept. 310, New York**

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