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LILAC—BRANCH OF PRESIDENT GREVY. Courtesy of Vick's Magazine.



# The Wisconsin Horticulturist.

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## VARIETIES OF LILAC.

Bless the dear old lilacs! How they have blossomed this spring, as if to console us for the loss of the less hardy shrubs. With a goodly collection of lilacs upon our lawns we can look forward to a fair and fragrant spring-time despite the most severe of winters.

Our grandmothers' gardens knew but two kinds of lilac, the common purple (*syringa vulgaris*) and the common white (*syringa vulgaris alba*). These had one fault; they "suckered" so that a single specimen would in a few years multiply into a plantation. It is said that the new varieties are an improvement in this respect as well as in the size and beauty of their panicles.

One of the most striking of the new lilacs is **PRESIDENT GREVY**, which has double flowers of a beautiful blue color, resembling a hyacinth, borne in panicles ten inches long.

**LUDWIG SPATH** is a hybrid from GERMANY, with very large flowers of a darker shade of purple than the common lilac.

**INSIGNIS RUBRA** has very large panicles whose unopened buds are bright red, though the full-blown flowers are lilac-purple.

The **WEeping LILAC** is a new variety with drooping branches and delicate pink or pale lilac flowers, blooming several weeks later than the old sorts.

**ROTHMAGENSIS RUBRA** is a dwarf variety described as

follows by a writer in *Vick's Magazine*: "One of the most distinct and handsome varieties appeared to be *ROTHMANGENSIS RUBRA*, noticed particularly on account of its dwarfish growth, small leaves, flexible, pendulous shoots, and very large and numerous panicles of deep, rosy-purple flowers.

*NOISETTIANA ALBA*, *MARIE LEGRAYE* and *FRAU DAMMANN* are new white lilacs.

The *TREE LILAC* (*Syringa Japonica*) is called by J. C. Vaughan "the most showy of ornamental trees." It forms a straight, vigorous, medium-sized tree and bears immense loosely-spreading clusters of creamy white flowers. The Tree Lilac comes from Japan; we do not know about its hardiness. Who can tell us?

One of the largest collections of lilacs in this country is at Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y. So attractive is this collection when in bloom that the Park is thronged with visitors drawn thither by the beauty of the lilacs.

M. C. C. J.

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Note—Since the above was written the *FRUITMAN* has come to our desk with an editorial on Lilacs by Clarence Wedge—which shows that Minnesota and Wisconsin minds are prone to run in the same channel! We append what Mr. Wedge says about white lilacs: "We have a collection of the newer varieties of lilacs that are just beginning to bloom and are very interesting to us. The old fashioned white variety is very slow in getting into bloom and never very profuse, even as an old bush. Some of the new double white varieties bloom the year after setting and are much prettier every way."

"Are these real down pillows?" "Oh, no; they're only marked down for the day."—Exchange.

## DECORATING COUNTRY CHURCHES.

The people of East Charlemont, Mass., like to see their tidy little church brightened by at least a few flowers every Sunday. The flower committee of their Christian Endeavor society interested in the cause many ladies of the church, and the plan devised for church decoration was so simple and successful that it may be found helpful to other churches. At the beginning of the year a meeting is called for all members interested in church decoration. At this meeting all the ladies present are asked to write below their names, upon a slip of paper, the date of some Sunday in the year when it will be most convenient for them to furnish flowers for church decoration, and to superintend the work of arranging them. Ladies who have conservatories, or fine collections of window plants, are likely to choose the winter months; those who have only outdoor gardens, mid-summer Sundays; those who have no garden at all, days in spring and autumn when wild flowers are abundant. The slips of paper are collected by the chairman of the committee, who makes a calendar of the Sundays, with the decorator's name opposite each one and hangs it in the vestibule of the church.

If it is found that several have chosen the same Sunday, usually the parties will agree to help each other, or fix upon a second choice. If there are Sundays that no one has chosen, then the work of decorating falls upon the flower committee.

Some of the most tasteful decorations I ever saw were in country churches, and of wild flowers. Azalea-day, Golden-rod day, Aster-day, Daisy-day, etc., on which the decorations of these flowers were signal successes, are still fresh in my memory. Sometimes when Easter comes in April, and there is a dearth of Easter lilies, sheaves of great snowy dogwood blossoms take their places, and at Thanksgiving there is always a perfect glory of chrysanthemums

in the little church. Apple-blossom day is one of the prettiest of all; Sweet-brier Sunday another.

The young people always meet at the church for work late Saturday afternoon, so that the flowers may be fresh on Sabbath morning. If there are to be only one or two vases of fine flowers, the decorator comes early to church and brings them with her.

L. GREENLEE, in *Vick's Magazine*.

### EAT SPINACH.

If you want to be healthy, eat spinach. The specialists have discovered that this plant is the "most precious of vegetables." It contains salts of potassium, iron and other things which conduce to a good complexion, long life and a cheerful disposition. The man with a disordered liver or the woman with a bad complexion should contract the spinach-habit, and these things will be rectified. If the system needs iron, eat spinach and the yolk of eggs. The chemist Bingo says that these two articles of food contain more iron to the square inch than "the most renowned ferruginous remedies." French beans and lentils contain much iron, but spinach beats them both. It is said to possess more medicinal properties than almost any other article of food. So convinced has the medical profession become of the value of the once despised spinach that, according to the *Sanitary Record*, "it is already an active ingredient in several new and salable tonics." The iron in spinach is easily assimilated and the vegetable is easily digested. The fact that spinach has such a remarkable effect upon the complexion will recommend it to the girls and its beneficial effects on the liver will recommend it to the men. In short, the virtues of the vegetable are so numerous that it would take a long time to tell them; but if the spinach habit grows to anything like the proportion reached by the oatmeal-habit, we shall shortly turn into a strong, iron-built, fresh-complexioned, anti-bilious nation.—New York Press.

SAN JOSE SCALE—AN IMPORTANT LETTER FROM PROF.  
WEBSTER.

The following letter was written by Prof. F. M. Webster, Ohio State Entomologist, to Prof. Goff of our Experiment Station, and it is here published in order to better acquaint our nurserymen with the foe with which we have to deal in the San Jose scale.

DEAR PROFESSOR GOFF:—

In reply to yours of May 4th I would say that we first discovered San Jose scale in the \_\_\_\_\_ nurseries of \_\_\_\_\_ O., late in the spring of 1897. As soon as I learned that the premises were infested I stopped the shipment of every thing that was being sent from blocks of trees that were found infested. This was the first intimation that the proprietors had of the presence of this scale in their nursery, which included some three hundred acres. My assistant and myself worked in this nursery more or less during the summer, but in the fall I refused to give them a certificate upon anything except their peach stock, and then with the provision that they should fumigate it, which they proceeded to do. In the spring of 1898 I sent a special assistant to the nursery, at their expense, to examine all stock shipped from the nursery. In fact he had full control of the shipment of stock, and anything at all suspicious was consigned to the brush heap, while such as seemed to be free from scale was given a thorough fumigation, after which he attached to each package, not a certificate, but a statement of what had been done. In the meantime, we tried all sorts of experiments in fumigating in order to determine the efficiency of the measure, for upon that its protective value rested entirely. Although we placed badly infested trees in the most distant part of the fumigating house, some of them being thickly covered with mud and others drenched with water on being placed in the room, we were never able to find a living scale on trees that



were thus treated. I, at that time, told the proprietors that it would be impossible for them to continue their business in their present environment, as the scale had become badly diffused, and urged them to abandon their premises and locate elsewhere with an entirely new stock, taking nothing from their old grounds. They thought they could avoid doing this, however, but last fall, when they came to see the condition of stock that they had hoped would prove to be free of scale, they gave up all hopes and leased an entirely new tract of land, some 25 miles distant, and expect to plant it with stock of which none of it has been taken from their old premises at ———, but yet has been thoroughly fumigated.

I cannot understand why your nurserymen, in Wisconsin, should feel toward this matter as they do. If I owned a nursery, myself, I would have it inspected every year, even if it cost me a hundred dollars to have it done; and besides this I would fumigate everything that came on or about the premises, in the way of fruit and ornamental shrubs on which the scale is known to live. While I do not believe that inspection, even if most carefully done, is infallible, yet I do know that it has a tremendous influence in keeping nursery stock free of injurious insects, and an annual inspection, carried out year after year, becomes more and more efficient and valuable.

By the way, I did not say much in regard to your proposed method of cheap inspection in Wisconsin, but I will say to you, confidentially, that I should hesitate to allow my certificate to be used on stock brought from Wisconsin that had been inspected in the manner that you mentioned the other day in Chicago. Your nurserymen, instead of wishing for, or even tolerating such inspection, should positively refuse to entertain the idea at all, and demand that their inspection should be done as thoroughly and carefully as that in other states, for otherwise they will most assuredly be placed at a disadvantage. Since our meeting I have

looked over a very large orchard near Toledo, Ohio, that ought to be worth to the owner a good many thousand dollars, but it is infested with San Jose scale from one side to the other and fully one-third of it is dying out from the effects of this pest. Not only this but the whole neighborhood is being overrun, as I found from an inspection of the adjoining premises. I cannot see why the San Jose scale will not cause as much destruction in Wisconsin as it has done in Michigan or Ohio, if left to itself. I have told our nurserymen that, if they were unfortunate enough to get the scale, the sooner they could find it out the better it would be for them, for the thing is worse than a cut-throat mortgage at compound interest, and I think that if I had your nurserymen in Ohio for a few days, I could convince them that the statement was not overdrawn. As you have been at both of our gatherings in Chicago, I would like to ask you if you do not think we might get together at Columbus, next summer, at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and affect a permanent organization of nursery inspectors, and, then, while our certificates might bear the name of the inspector, I would suggest that a certificate be given also as a member of that association. I believe that if we were to work together as a body, we could do a great deal toward shaping and advancing nursery inspection, from the fact that a refusal on our part to accept certificates of any incompetent, or otherwise objectionable inspector, would compel the state employing him to displace him with a more competent man. We could, it seems to me, exert a vast influence towards a better system of inspection and the management of nursery stock, than is at present in vogue.

Yours very truly,

F. M. WEBSTER.

Sourcasm is the vinegar of conversation.—Puck.

## BLACKCAPS AS A HOME CROP.

We want to write briefly about the best varieties of blackcap raspberries for home use without regard to their value for market purposes.

Although not generally known there is scarcely any fruit where there is such a diversity of flavor as in the separate varieties of blackcaps. Some of these are dry, quite tasteless and so full of seeds that they are a veritable bone-yard; others are soft, juicy, luscious, quite seedless, and of a very agreeable flavor. It is of this class we write. They will ripen in the order named.

Souhegan is about the first good variety to ripen its fruit, producing the first ripe berries with the very late varieties of strawberries. The canes are very fine, clean, strong, healthy growers. A planting of this variety will last many years without resetting. It is enormously productive, of jet black fruit of medium size, and one of the most beautiful looking berries one could wish to look at. As a rule nearly all of our very early fruits are decidedly lacking in quality. The Souhegan blackcap is an exception, however, and is one of the choicest flavored raspberries we have in cultivation and should have a place in every private garden.

Palmer ripens directly after the Souhegan. The canes are exceptionally large, strong growers. It is a prolific grower, the fruit is large and of very beautiful color and fine flavor, a splendid table berry and one that is becoming more popular each year.

Kansas is the next in order of ripening. This is a comparatively new variety of blackcap from Kansas. Its canes are of strong growth, very hardy and prolific. The fruit is fully as large as the Gregg, of magnificent color, firm, handsome, and of superb quality. In fact we think it a little better in flavor than any variety of blackcap we have been familiar with for the last twenty-five years and

we can remember a great many kinds that have come and gone during that time. The Kansas can be relied upon to give satisfactory results wherever the raspberry can be grown. Of this fact we are certain, hence we do not hesitate to recommend a trial of it in every home fruit garden and are willing to assume the responsibility of recommending with this variety the Palmer and Souhegan.

These three will make a very desirable combination and give a long season of this popular fruit.

We have a new blackcap now on the market which promises to excel any other variety ever before introduced. It has the best and most trustworthy endorsements. If it fulfills the claims of the introducer it will indeed be a valuable acquisition. This new variety is called the "Cumberland."—T. J. DWYER in AMERICAN GARDENING.



#### CULTURE OF THE RED RASPBERRY.

A writer in the STRAWBERRY CULTURIST gives some excellent hints about the setting and cultivation of red raspberries which we think may be of use to Wisconsin growers. He says: "The practice among the best growers here is, first select the best and richest land that can be had. It should be naturally rich and if not so, must be made so, if paying crops are expected. Land rather on the stiff order is best, though pretty fair crops may be grown on light land if plenty of manure is used. A crop of cow peas or clover turned under is a good start. Prepare the land in the best possible manner early in the fall. Lay off rows three by six feet for most varieties, but the Cuthbert, which is a rank grower, had better be four by six. Run the rows deep and drop a plant at each cross, covering up the roots and packing the dirt tight with the feet. A short handle hoe is a good tool to use. The plants must be kept covered up in the cart which precedes the setters, and kept wet. A

raspberry plant is easy to kill and should be handled very carefully. The top should only be a few inches above ground to show where it is and if tops are long, as they often are as they come from the nursery, they must be cut back as they will bear some fruit which, if left, will weaken and often kill the plant. A shovel full of manure, good strong compost, should be put around each hill at once. Better still is to broadcast the land if you can afford it. The following season begin to cultivate early and keep it up till frost comes in the fall. A crop of vegetables like early potatoes or some crop that can be cultivated all the time may be grown between the rows if well manured, but if not well manured it had better be left out and the entire time given to the berry plants. Nip off the leading cane about fifteen inches high which will induce side branches. The following year if you have it give more manure. Trim in March. Cut the canes to about two feet. Give clean cultivation the entire season except at picking time when it will have to be delayed until the crop is harvested when they should be harrowed clean and laid by. I do not cut back the greencanes any after the first season but allow four or five good shoots to make a hill. All others should be cut out and treated as weeds. The first crop is only a partial one. The second one is the best one and after this unless well cared for the patch will begin to fail and will be apt to winter kill. A new field should be planted every year and if the old one dies it should be dug out. The young patch should be worked late in the season and not laid by too early for it will make its most vigorous growth in September. The second year for fruiting it should be trimmed in proportion to the growth the canes have made. About one third the live wood must be cut away and all the dead wood cut out and burned. This will get rid of lots of insects. Plow early in March or April and work three or four times at least before picking. Use pint baskets always and try to keep picked up clean. Keep the picked berries out of the

sun as much as possible. What I have said applies to red raspberries only. The same rule should be followed for blackcaps except they should be set early in the spring instead of fall and the young shoot nipped back during the growing season."

### GOOSEBERRY CULTURE.

Major Frank Holsinger of Kansas gives in the Western Fruit-Grower his method of growing gooseberries:

The cultivation should be thorough, but not deep. For field culture plants should be rather above four feet between rows and about the same in the row. There is no objection to planting in the orchard among young trees, as slight shade is not particularly objectionable. Little pruning is necessary to the growing of gooseberries. If, however, they are allowed to touch the ground they will root, and care should be taken or your stools will soon become a tangled mass.

To keep them thinned sufficiently requires considerable attention as well as patience. By checking the growth, in removing superfluous wood so as to keep the plants within bounds, you will develop fruit spurs and cause them to bear more abundantly.

The gooseberry can be grown from cuttings, but this is not always a success. Usually sufficient new plants are formed by allowing the plants to stool. This can be precipitated by throwing up the earth around the stools in July, when the wood has become somewhat hardened. In the fall or spring these shoots can be severed from the parent plants and set out or treated as cuttings. While sometimes difficult to propagate from cuttings, every and anything having any roots will grow readily.

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PRUNING GOOSEBERRIES.—I confess I have been slow

to attempt much pruning. It is a disagreeable job at best. That it will pay I am not certain. Usually the only pruning we give them is to remove the suckers or plants that take root from the tops coming in contact with the ground. Gooseberries should be renewed at least every five years.

PICKING GOOSEBERRIES FOR MARKET.—We provide the men with stout leather gloves and strip the bushes in baskets. Of course we strip off many leaves in thus stripping the bushes. The berries are then run through a fan mill, as you would wheat to clean. It costs us about 10 cents per crate of twenty-four quarts to thus prepare them for market.

#### SEEDLING APPLES.

A. J. Philips, Secretary Wis. State Horticultural Society.

This morning this subject seems uppermost in my mind, for several reasons.—

First, some ten days ago I visited the tree on which grew those beautiful red apples that were admired by thousands at the Omaha Exhibit. I was anxious to see how it stood 45 degrees below zero last winter.

Second, I have seen lately that my friends G. J. Kellogg and A. D. Barnes seem to be agreed that we should spend more time looking up new seedlings.

Third, yesterday I had an interview with our friend and coworker, J. S. Harris, and after discussing the winter he said, "I am looking for some good trees from the Zettel seedlings, as several of them wintered perfectly at my place in Minnesota."

Fourth, just a few moments ago, on opening my desk, I saw a life-like picture of our friend, the late J. C. Plumb, who always took such an interest in Wisconsin's new seedlings.

Fifth, my own interest in seedlings gave me an oppor-

tunity to visit Washington and become acquainted with many noted horticultural workers of the United States.

But I have written and talked so much on this subject of late, that in this paper I speak of only four new apples and one crab that seem to be proper candidates for trial in our state.

First, the red seedling I referred to at the commencement of this article, is ten years old. It came up from the root of an old Talman Sweet tree and has borne three consecutive crops. When I visited it, lately, I found blossoms enough for at least a bushel of apples this year. Last season some of the specimens kept until Feb. 1.

Second, when at Wausau recently, to please a German friend of mine I drove nine miles to see a seedling tree, which he thinks will capture the \$1000 prize offered by the Minnesota Society for a winter seedling. It is a fine looking tree and all who have seen it say the fruit is fine. It has borne five crops. The red apple I have named the Roxana, for the lady who first called my attention to it, and the latter, the Windorf, for the man who planted the seed which he said he took from a Northern Spy. If the buds on this tree develop and produce fruit this season, after 55 degrees below zero up there, it will be worth a trial.

Third is the handsome sweet Fameuse shown at our last winter's meeting by Parsons & Loope, which, by the way, many thought was entitled to the first premium in that large seedling show. If this bears fruit this season it is well worth a trial when the above gentlemen are ready to put it on the market. It was keeping nicely at the time of our meeting in February.

Fourth in the list of apples is one that Mr. Zettel called my attention to, named by him the Mier. This, too, seems to be the offspring of the Northern Spy and no 1898 top-grafts on my place wintered better than this one.

Last is a new crab called Lyman's Prolific, which seems to be as hardy as a wild crab and, so far, on my grounds is



perfectly free from blight. My attention was called to this by a fruit dealer in Minneapolis, who said it was an excellent seller in their markets.

I have all the foregoing growing under restrictions and by the time the owners are ready to place them in the market I think they will be well worthy of further trial, as the first four are quite good keepers. By that time I hope to be able to furnish further information regarding them.

Seedling apple men are of two classes and both have a mission to perform. First, the Planters of Seeds, like Pat-ten and Thompson of Iowa, Dartt and Gideon of Minnesota, Zettel, the late S. I. Freeborn and others of Wisconsin, all men entitled to honor and praise as much as military heroes.

Second are a class of men who are the cuckoos in horticulture; they bear the same relation to the first as the cuckoo does to other birds, when it appropriates their nests to its own use.

These men look up and investigate the first men's plantings—and if they find them fairly good they sell and disseminate them, generally giving the planter credit for the work he did, but seldom giving him much of the returns. Myself and many others belong to the latter class, and we think we, too, are doing a good work for the apple growers of the north. We claim some praise and think we deserve some profit.

When I look over our trial orchard at Wausau and see that two-thirds of our apple trees are northern grown seedlings, I am constrained to say, "Surely some one has done a good work in this line."



"What are pauses?" the teacher asked the first class in grammar. "Things that grow on cats and dogs," answered the smallest girl.—Credit Lost.

## FRUIT IN WASHBURN COUNTY.

About eleven years ago I bought 40 acres of land adjoining the saw-mill village of Shell Lake, on the Omaha road, about ninety miles north of St. Paul.

There was about three acres enclosed, the remainder was about as rough and stumpy a piece of land as the eye of man ever rested upon.

Within the enclosed three acres were three standing apple trees and one that had been broken down, also eight plum trees. The three standing apple trees blossomed and bore fruit the first year—Transcendant crabs, and a sprout did a thriving business from the root of the one that had been broken down. I tried to cultivate the ground among those trees for two or three years, then sowed grass seed and let the grass take possession and it has held its own pretty well, up to date.

The three crabs have borne every year. The plum trees bear a cloud of blossoms, but the little plums begin to fall off soon after the falling of the blossoms and I will tell you that I have never had enough plums come to maturity on those trees to be able to name the variety. The trees have grown nicely, are large and thrifty, filled with blossoms every year. Who can tell me the reason of the plums dropping before ripening? If a few happen to hang on they are swelled up or puffed up or have their hides punctured with black looking spots and the meat on one or the other side is hard or shrunken down nearly to the pit.

That sprout from the broken down apple-tree continued to grow year by year and when it attained its fifth year it blossomed and bore five great, nice, smooth apples, red on one side. Every year since, that sprout has been in the apple business and has yielded a very nice little crop of splendid apples. You will observe that I do not know very much about apples. I used to call it the Duchess, but it is a later keeper. Though I shall have to admit that owing

to the size of our family and the small quantity of apples borne by said tree it has not proven a very late keeper with us; but I do think, it would keep well into the middle of winter, at least.

I planted a small orchard which was doing finely, had been bearing two years, i. e. the dozen crabs,—the Wolf River, Wealthy and Duchess had not yet come into bearing—when a forest fire swept over my place and took house, barns, pigs, chickens, my new orchard, an acre and a half of raspberries, gooseberries, currants, everything. But we have survived and I have since set out a few apple trees which are doing well. One Duchess tree I failed to care for properly, left wire with name-tag attached fastened around the body of the tree; the growth of the tree did not break the wire and as a consequence the bark grew over it and I concluded it would kill the tree, so did not pick off the blossoms; it matured eleven very large, nice, smooth apples. It was a three year old tree, I think, and second year from nursery. We shall grow plenty of apples in Washburn County yet.

JAMES FOGLE.



#### OUR FRIENDS THE BIRDS.

Mrs. Addie Nisbet Wolcott.

The farmer has no better, truer or more useful, no pleasanter nor more interesting friends than his feathered tenants, the birds. How cunning their confiding ways! How dainty their dress! For there was never a bird not robed in the daintiest of plumage. Even the despicable little English sparrow, "ruffian in feathers" though he be, is a dandy little ruffian,—"Cannot one smile and smile and be a villian?" And the crow is dressed in a jaunty suit of sables which glistens like satin in the sun.

Their quaint ways while home-building and above all

their sweet songs prove them pleasantest of comrades. Farm life would be dull indeed without these feathered friends. "What a good time they have with their wings!" the six-year-old granddaughter said to me one day, as she watched the birds flit over the fields and orchard.

If you ever have seen one nestful of robins fed, you have some idea of the number of worms and insects one pair of robins will destroy in a season. Multiply this by the number destroyed by the song and ground sparrows, the meadow-larks, blackbirds and bobolinks which tenant our fields and one can form some estimate of the value of bird-labor to the farmer:

Florence Merriman says the California fruit growers have a substantial reason for their friendship for the bushlits or pocketmakers, cousins of the eastern chickadees, in the way these birds destroy the scale that injures the fruit trees.

Pennsylvania farmers have named the rose-breasted grosbeak the "potato-bug bird," and have taken active measures to protect these beautiful birds, for the value of their labor to the potato crop.

But it is not alone our pleasure in their songs, or the value of their work, which endears them to us. We love them for their association with olden memories.

"There are no friends like the old friends,

When you and I were young,

When the buds of April blossomed

And the birds of springtime sung."

The first robin's note sounds Spring's tocsin of victory over Winter's blasts. The bluebird's song is as the whispering of the wind in May's tender leaves and rosy buds. And the "honk honk" of the wild geese is a bugle cry of victory over the icy banners of the Storm King; then we know the aerial procession is winging its way northward, "The Choir Invisible," will soon be visible and gladden our ears and hearts with its music.

Some early spring morning, early, for, as Thoreau

says, "You must taste the first glass of the day's nectar, if you would get all the spirit of it," the air will be filled with joyous spring sounds, the chorus of "The minor songsters" as Bradford Torrey calls them,—the flute like a-klee, a-klee of the redwinged blackbird, the musical chirp of the ground sparrow and cheery whistle of the meadow lark. The grass is green on the southern slopes, the apple buds are swelling, and you feel as though life had a longer lease than in February's sleets.

Some May morning we hear a clear flute like call which brings us all to the door for a glimpse of the brilliant songster. "P-e-ter P-e-ter P-e-ter breees," in the most mellow of whistles, his song sounds to me, for so my mother interpreted the song of the golden robin, as she called him, years ago. "My bird of flame," Lowell calls him. The scarlet tanager and summer tanager are his only rivals and they are much rarer birds. Never but once have I seen the summer tanager in his uniform crimson dress, although the scarlet tanager is an occasional visitant. But the Baltimore oriole generally builds his pensile nest on one of the swaying branches of the tall elms in our vicinity and delights us with his strong, rich whistle and gorgeous orange and black livery, throughout the season.

Spring is at full tide when some one announces the important fact, "I saw a bobolink this morning." Sir Robert Lincoln is a favorite on the farm, although we can not express our appreciation of his joyous song as poetically as Thoreau has, who says of him, "It is as if he touched his harp within a vase of liquid melody and when he lifted it out the notes fell like bubbles from the trembling strings." \* \* \* "Away he launches and the meadow is bespattered with melody." Still his "bobolink, chink, chink, spink, spank, spink," is as dear as it is familiar to our ears.

There is a modest grey bird who comes about the same time as Sir Robert whose haunting call brings pleasant

memories of happy childhood days, when the grass was greener and skies bluer than now.

“But ‘Phoebe’ is all it has to say,  
 In plaintive cadence o’er and o’er,  
 Like children who have lost their way,  
 And know their name and nothing more.”

There is seldom a homestead but shelters Phoebe’s “adobe” homes for they are friendly birds and prefer the society of the “featherless bipeds.”

The most gifted and highly prized of our bird friends comes late in the spring, after all danger from snow and frost is over. “It is time to plant corn when the brown thrush sings,” father used to say. And a rare singer he is, rich and full his song sounds from the top of the tallest tree, a song the busiest farmer will pause to listen to. While at the East they claim six of the thrush family, the brown thrush is the only one who makes his home here.

There is a small, dull plumaged bird not often seen, one of the goatsucker family, a flycatcher is the way ornithologists classify him, but listen to the poet’s tale.

“I love to stray by the woody rill  
 When the evening shadows play  
 And hear the song of the whippoorwill  
 As he sings his evening lay,  
 Whippoorwill, Whippoorwill.”

Cornell University has sent out a letter asking the children to build houses and help to entertain the birds this summer. If they would only tell us how to rid our premises of the miserable house sparrows we might perhaps persuade other birds to accept our hospitality. They have driven the robins, catbirds, and even the king birds, away from our orchard where they were used to nest. What will drive the English sparrow away?

Appleton, Wis.

**STRAWBERRY THOUGHTS BORROWED FROM THE FRUIT-MAN.**

"Listen, while a thought just borrowed I unfold."

**PREPARING THE SOIL.**

This work must begin twenty-four months before the time set for harvesting your big crop of berries. If you have set June 1901 for that harvest, begin now by plowing your ground. Your fertilizer should be in shape to incorporate readily with the soil. The object this season is to thoroughly pulverize the soil to the depth of eight or ten inches, and encourage every weed seed to germinate that it may grow and be destroyed. When October comes, it should be as mellow as an ash heap and entirely clear of vegetation. You will then be ready in April 1900 for the next step towards victory.

**PROPER CULTIVATION.**

Let it be constant. In the frequent droughts of the northwest, provide the dust mulch to make the plants do their best.

Within a week after planting the cultivator should go through. Shallow cultivation is the rule which must be observed faithfully. After you have done the best possible, running as near to the plants as you can without disturbing them, you will find a month after planting, a healthy row of weeds in line with your plants. Now you must drop all fine theories of "Fruit Growing Made Easy." Look up the honest old hoe of your grandfather's day, and vigorously tackle those weeds. Your plantation will need three hoeings before the runners cover the ground. After that hand weedings are in order for the plant row. You will of course have an adjustable cultivator, which you will gradually narrow as the runners extend.

After August 15, there are usually but few weeds, but the ground must be kept loose. As late as October 1, there

will be an occasional weed to pull from the rows. The cultivator must go the same way each time it is used, throwing the runners constantly in one direction. If your work is thoroughly done, you must not expect over a three weeks' rest between cultivation and mulching.

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If fruit is to be kept over night, never leave it crated. Remove boxes, placing them on shelves, where a current of air will pass over them.

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For home market the fully ripened fruit is chosen, and the harder berries for shipment.

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If the small green leaf worm attacks your plants, dust the vines when damp with air-slacked lime.

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New York has a new state law affecting berry growers. It requires the use of the dry measure quart, any thing smaller must be marked "short."

#### LETTER FROM SECRETARY PHILIPS.

EDITOR WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

A man who evidently reads both the monthly magazine of our state and the one published by the Minnesota Society, calls me to account by saying, "Your account of seedling apples, given at the last Minnesota meeting, does not agree with the one given by Mr. Hoxie, your former secretary, at the Illinois meeting. You told us the old Wolf River tree was dead, and he said it has not missed a crop since 1862. Which is correct?"

In answer I will say Mr. Hoxie wound up his article by saying, "What I have given you is only my opinion."

What I said I knew to be a fact, that the old tree had been dead about ten years. It never bore annual crops, nor heavy crops, but fair crops of very large apples on alter-



nate years. This latter is true of the younger trees, of which I have thirty in bearing.

This man, who seems to be somewhat critical, further says, "You said the Avista had borne 31 crops; Mr. Hoxie says 20 crops; who is right?"

Answer—Both; 31 is right, and Mr. Hoxie said over 20, which also is correct.

Our critic further states, "You said none of the Duchess seedlings of your state, so far tested, had proven better in tree or fruit than the parent, and he speaks of one in Waupaca County that is as hardy and a better fruit. Who is right?"

Answer—I do not know. I have seen the fruit and tree of the Casey, the Rose, the Ratsburg, and the Duchess No. 1, in that county, all said to be Duchess seedlings; but none are better in tree or fruit, except perhaps Rose, or No. 2, which is a very hardy tree of about same season as Duchess, but the fruit drops, with me, the day it is ripe, so I do not propagate it.

I am in hopes that, on trial, some of Mr. Zettel's Duchess seedlings may take the laurels from the parent.

The Duchess seedling which I find in the best shape after February, 1899, at my place and at the trial orchard, is the Hoadley, introduced by Hon. Charles Hirschinger of Baraboo.

The gentleman further remarks, "You said in speaking of the winter apple, the Windsor, that the old tree was dead. Now your co-worker, G. J. Kellogg, writes in the March magazine that the old tree stands in Dane County. How about this?"

Answer—It might stand there and be dead, as many trees that bore heavily last year are this spring. But before I went to the Minnesota meeting last winter I wrote to John Howie of Waunakee, who lives a few miles from the tree, that I was intending to stop and see the tree. He answered, "You need not stop, you have waited too long, the

old tree is dead and gone." This was my authority.

I have endeavored to answer your questions correctly, and hope this is satisfactory.

A. J. PHILIPS.

### HORTICULTURE IN THE SCHOOLS.

Professor Hansen of South Dakota says: "About horticulture in the public schools, I will say that while the United States is ahead of the world in almost all things, there is one thing in which we are fifty years behind Europe. Four years ago I visited some of the leading horticultural schools in Germany, and in some of those I happened to be present over a week where a class of schoolmasters were taking a course in horticulture. They had attended a two weeks' course in the spring and had now come back for a two weeks' course to finish up. They told me all about the German system. Connected with every German schoolhouse is a small orchard, nursery and garden. School children from seven to eight years old are taught how to graft and how to take care of trees, and all the details of horticulture are taught along with the A, B, C. It has been the work of Dr. Stoll of Silesia, and it has been carried on for the past fifty years, and to a large extent it has been broadened each year. It is now found in all the schools of Germany and other countries of Europe. If we should adopt European methods in this line, we might find many problems worked out for us. In this matter of teaching horticulture in the schools, we are far behind the nations of Europe."

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The above clipping is from the NATIONAL NURSERYMAN. Prof. Hansen addressed our meeting last winter in Madison, hence is known personally to many of our members.

One enthusiastic Waupaca horticulturist suggests that

this summer will be a good time, and Eureka a good place, for the Wisconsin Horticultural Society to "make the welkin ring" on this subject.

Edward Atkinson, whose pamphlets the Government has excluded from the mails which are forwarded to the Philippines, is now 72 years old. He was born near Boston, has been engaged in business since his early youth, for twenty years past has been president of a manufacturers' mutual fire insurance company, is a member of many scientific societies, and has attracted public attention as a prolific writer upon taxation, wages, the currency, banking, insurance, and the art of cooking economically with the assistance of his "Aladdin" oven.

#### A SEEDLESS APPLE.

An apple has been grown that is almost entirely without either core or seeds. So marked has been the success of some of our most eminent orchardists that they are prepared to state that within a very few years we will have an abundance of pears and apples entirely without seed or core of any sort.

"They talk about a woman's sphere  
As though they had a limit;  
There's not a place in earth or heaven,  
There's not a task to mankind given,  
There's not a blessing or a woe,  
There's not a whispered "Yes or No,"  
There's not a life, a death, a birth,  
There's not a feather's weight of worth,  
Without a woman in it."



KALMIA LATIFOLIA—MOUNTAIN LAUREL.

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### THE MOUNTAIN LAUREL.

While turning the pages of Vick's Magazine for May we chanced upon this picture. Through the courtesy of that publication we are enabled to give it to you, feeling sure that to many of you it will unveil delightful memories of the past.

To you of New England birth it will bring recollections of cool brooks and shaded hillsides, of Fourth-of-July picnics and college "field days" and mountain climbs.

I sometimes wish our Wisconsin bluffs could be laurel-crowned. Beautiful as our wild-flowers are we have nothing quite as beautiful as this shrub, with its dark green leaves and great corymbs of delicately-veined pink and white flowers.

It blossoms from the middle of June until August and

is so lavish with its bloom that I have seen acres of rocky hillside completely hidden by laurel flowers.

What a magnificent shrub it would be for our Wisconsin lawns if it could be domiciled here. Who knows?

#### NOTES FROM WOOD COUNTY.

The winter has taught us some new lessons that are worth remembering. Red raspberries are badly killed excepting Turner and Loudon, those only slightly injured. Black Caps also badly killed, Older being in the best condition, but that is half killed. Columbian and Shaffer badly killed.

In currants, White Grape and Cherry are badly damaged.

Strawberries, as a rule, are in excellent condition, but Hunn is almost entirely killed out. Glen Mary is among the very largest and strongest growing plants.

Catalpa trees killed to the ground. The wild hemlock shows considerable damage from the severe winter.

It is too early to estimate the damage to apple trees, but it is evident that many varieties have suffered more or less.

Among ornamentals the Golden Glow Rudbeckia has proved itself perfectly hardy and should find a place in every garden. Pansies on clay and protected with snow, winterkilled, while others on a sandy hillside where the snow blew away from them came through in fine condition and are now a mass of bloom. The hardy forget-me-not came through in excellent condition and is already beginning to show bloom, which will continue until it freezes up next fall.

L. H. READ.

Grand Rapids, Wis.

## FROM NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA.

EDITOR WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST:—

It would not be much out of the way for me to write a few lines for the magazine, as I am very much interested in fruit and have not a few trees planted for experimental purposes. Many of these are very promising, especially plums, crabs and a few varieties of apples. However, I know full well that I am too far north for your Wisconsin orchardists to take any notice of or for your nurserymen to extend their business to this country where only hardy trees are wanted.

So far as seen through agricultural and horticultural papers, Russians are on the brink of being discarded from the nursery rows of Wisconsin and other similar states, to be replaced by better and more desirable varieties.

For the northwestern part of Minnesota, a section of country of drier atmosphere than Wisconsin, we need a different variety of trees, varieties which throw their roots deeper into the ground, than in locations where trees need not go deep for water.

But we cannot begin to think about growing fancy apples for the market; we shall be glad if only we can grow for our own use, which I think we can if we will take the trouble to do so. The greatest trouble lies with the people themselves; they say "It can't be done, we are too far north, our winters are too cold."

The reason why so many fail to succeed is because they don't know how to plant and protect a tree, and do not get hardy trees and trees that thrive in our soil.

I have over three acres of fruit trees planted, mostly for experimental purposes, and I have not a tree planted yet that is recommended for Wisconsin, with the exception of plums, a few crabs and one apple tree. However I am not discouraged from subscribing again for your paper.

OLE J. HAGEN.

Hendrum, Norman Co., Minn.

## HOUSEHOLD PAGE.

## TO IMPROVE THE FLAVOR OF BLACK CURRANTS.

By scalding black currants for a few moments in boiling water the peculiar flavor of the skin is removed. After scalding, carefully drain them, put them into fresh water, sweeten to taste, cook until done and can for winter use.

## CUCUMBER PICKLES.

Select small cucumbers of uniform size and place them in a stone jar. Pour on enough boiling water to cover, adding a large handful of salt. Let them stand over night and then drain off the water in the morning, adding more boiling water and salt and letting them stand another night. The second morning wash in clear water, dry with a towel and put in a crock. Pour over them boiling cider vinegar. Put in small horseradish roots. These pickles will keep in a stone crock all winter, if the vinegar used is good and strong.

## TO KEEP GREEN CURRANTS.

"Claribel" in the Orange Judd Farmer is authority for this simple method of keeping green currants: "Green currants may be preserved for a year by picking them from the stems, and putting them into fruit bottles with tight corks. Put the bottles cork end down in dry sand and keep in the cellar. I know these are delicious, for I ate them often at my grandmother's when a child."

A Minnesota commission man who recently gave us a call, said a car-load of strawberries from Oregon was expected in Duluth this week.

This same commission man stated that the best-picked and best-packed berries which come to him are from Sarcoxie, Mo. We have made a note of this and intend to study Sarcoxie methods for the benefit of Horticulturist readers.

WISCONSIN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SUMMER  
MEETING OF 1899 AT EUREKA, WINNEBAGO  
COUNTY, JUNE 21-22.

The Eureka society proposes to meet the visitors at Rush Lake, convey them to and from Eureka and entertain them during their stay. The trains from the south via Horicon or Burnet Junction reach Rush Lake at 6:30 p. m. and at 11 a. m. Teams will be there to meet visitors at 6:30 on Tuesday evening or at 11 a. m. Wednesday morning. The Secretary Mr. Brandt informs me that exhibitors and others who go via Oshkosh can take a boat soon after dinner at foot of Main street and reach Eureka in the evening Tuesday, 21st. The boat is named the Fashion. Please drop a card to the secretary of the Eureka society saying at what time you will come to Rush Lake or what day you will come by boat from Oshkosh and how much space you wish for an exhibit so all can be in readiness.

PROGRAM.

*Wednesday Morning, June 21.*

10:00 a. m. Meeting called to order by the president, Franklin Johnson, of Baraboo, who will deliver a short address. Address of welcome by Dr. T. E. Loope. Response by Secretary A. J. Philips.

11:00 a. m. Announcement of committees. Report of special committee consisting of Dr. T. E. Loope, Mrs. Jos. D. Treleven and A. J. Philips.

*Wednesday Afternoon, 1:30 O'clock.*

Poultry in connection with Fruit Growing, Mrs. W. H. Becker, Eureka.

Report of new Trial Orchard to date, A. J. Philips, West Salem.

Orchard Conditions in Winnebago County, Henry Floyd, Eureka.

The Brush Pile of Ninety-nine, Prof. E. S. Goff, Madison.



Condition of Orchards in Southern Wisconsin, R. J. Coe, Ft. Atkinson. Northern Wisconsin, Geo. B. Smith, Green Bay.

Wednesday Evening, 8 O'clock.

A local program will be presented, consisting of papers, declamations and music by young people selected by the Eureka and Omro societies.

Thursday Morning, 9:30 O'clock.

The Cultivation of the Currant, H. H. G. Brandt, Eureka.

Outlook for Small Fruits in and around Ripon, Ex-Pres. L. G. Kellogg.

Protection of Shrubs in Winter, M. Sperbeck of Algoma society, Oshkosh.

Cultivation of Bulbs for Pleasure and Profit, Delegate from Wood County Society at Grand Rapids.

How shall we Induce Young Men to join the State Society, Frank Stark, Randolph.

Thursday Afternoon, 1:30 O'clock.

Report on Horticulture, Mr. Merrill, delegate from the Grand Chute Society at Appleton.

The Plant Window in Winter, Mrs. Jos. D. Treleven, Omro.

The Winter of 1898-9, Geo. J. Kellogg, Lake Mills.

Cultivation of Flowers for Fall Fairs, Mrs. Root, Ripon.

Thursday Evening.

The Eureka Society will give a reception and banquet for the visitors, consisting of music, toasts, responses, recitations, etc. An enjoyable time is expected.

#### PREMIUM LIST.

##### Plants and Flowers.

Best collection house plants, not less than ten varieties, 1st, \$3; 2d, \$2.

Best collection of native ferns and wild plants, or best show of wild flowers, 1st, \$2; 2d, \$1.

Best show of moss roses, 1st, \$1; 2d, 50c.

Best collection of roses in variety, 1st, \$2; 2d, \$1.

Best bouquet of roses, or best bouquet of white roses, 1st, \$1.50; 2d, \$1; 3d, 50c; 4th, 25c.

Best hanging basket with plants in variety, 1st, \$1; 2d, 50c.

Best collection foliage plants, show of pansies, floral design, show of cut flowers in variety, each, 1st, \$2; 2d, \$1.

Best collection of fuchsias, 1st, \$1; 2d, 50c.

Best bouquet of wild flowers to be gathered and placed on the President's table, by a boy or a girl under 15, 1st, \$1; 2d, 50c.

#### Strawberries.

Best display of strawberries, not less than ten varieties, 1st, \$3; 2d, \$2; 3d, \$1.

Best new seedling strawberry, provided it has never been previously exhibited for premium by originator, 1st, \$2; 2d, \$1.

Best quart of strawberries for general cultivation or best quart of pistillate for market or best quart of perfect bloomer for market or best three varieties for the farmer, 1st, \$1; 2d, 50c.

Best quart Warfield, Jessie, Haviland, Bubach, Enhance, Crescent, Wood, Earle, Eureka, Greenville, Wilson, Gandy, Sparta, Timbrell, Wm. Belt, Marshall, Brandywine, each, 1st, \$1; 2d, 50c.

Best five other new and promising kinds or best five that makes best show on stems, 1st, \$1; 2d, 50c.

Best show currants, on bush, best show raspberries, on cane, best show gooseberries, on bush, each, 1st, \$1; 2d, 50c.

#### Vegetables.

Best exhibit of garden vegetables, 1st, \$3; 2d, \$2.

Best peck peas, best half dozen heads of lettuce, bunches of radishes, onions, beets, asparagus, six stalks of pie plant, each, 1st, \$1; 2d, 50c.

The society offers a special premium of \$2.00 and an honorary membership of one year, to the pupil of any graded or public school, who writes the best report of the meeting, the decision to be made by Prof. E. S. Goff.

#### Rules and Regulations.

No entry fee will be required, but all persons entitled to premiums must become members of the Society before receiving the award made by the committee.

No inferior fruit collection or specimens shall be entitled to premium. All fruit exhibit must have been grown by the exhibitor or some member of the family.

All local societies are invited to send delegates. All delegates are invited to take part in the discussions, and will be expected to join the State Society.

All exhibits must be in place previous to 1 o'clock p. m., Wednesday, June 21, or premiums will be forfeited. This rule will be enforced to the letter as we must protect exhibitors coming from a distance, and all fruits, plants and flowers must be labeled with name of variety, and name of exhibitor, with postoffice address. Cards will be furnished for this purpose, which must be filled out by the exhibitor.

All entries for premiums must be mailed or handed in to the secretary previous to 1 o'clock p. m., June 21.

Subscribe for the Wisconsin Horticulturist from now until March 1900 for TWENTY-FIVE CENTS! Send amount in postage stamps to

THE WISCONSIN HORTICULTURIST,  
Baraboo, Wis.

