

# Out-of-Door Togs for Midwinter Sports



WITH THE WHITE SWEATER GO WHITE HAT, GLOVES AND BOOTS.

It is more and more the custom to run away from the conventionalities of town life, whenever one can, and enjoy the fun and freedom of the country. The big houses out on Long Island and in Westchester are ready to open at a moment's notice for a holiday or week-end party at any time during the winter, and most of the millionaires now have their winter estates or camps in the Adirondacks as well as villas at Palm Beach, so that within a few hours one may enjoy ice-boating and coasting, or sea bathing on summer sands.

All this craze for out-of-door life in midwinter has had its effect on costume and where, formerly, any old thing was good enough for a day in the country in winter time, provided it was sufficiently warm to keep off the nip of Jack Frost, nowadays there is an elaborate and carefully selected wardrobe for winter athletic use. And, of course, first and foremost in this out-of-door winter wardrobe, come the jolly, informal, comfortable knitted togs. Who would wear a coat when custom permits a delightful, cozy, easy-fitting sweater? And who would endure the irritation of a hat with hatpins when a delightfully knitted bonnet or hood may be cuddled on over hair and ears? Even skirts are knitted to match sweaters now and these knitted suits, which originated in Switzerland at the winter carnivals, are now worn here by women who skate, tramp or take part in other cold weather sports.

The new sweaters are very different affairs from the loosely knitted affairs that used to stretch out of shape after a few wearings. Winter sweaters are knitted with a close stitch and color is often introduced to give a jaunty, attractive effect. The white sweater will always remain the favorite, but many colored models are seen, a warm brown, a little darker than a mustard shade, being the favorite. With brown furs and a brown

corduroy skirt a brown sweater looks very smart indeed, and of course with such a costume, tan boots will be worn.

Just now the out-of-door color, par excellence, is white. For motoring there are snowy coats of white ratine, white rabbit fur, or white corduroy and the skating girl with her white sweater and cap, wears a short skirt of white corduroy, a big white fur muff and dainty white buckskin boots. If straps are used with the skates buttoned boots may not be worn and fashion must be sacrificed to convenience and comfort, for tightly drawn straps across boot buttons will make the skater's progress most uncomfortable. With the walking costume, however, or the motoring costume the white buckskin boots with their dainty white pearl buttons are most attractive and these boots do not become soiled as easily as in the summer season when dust is flying about, and the ground is softer.

Corduroy is much used for country out-of-door wear just now and the favorite color is brown. A brown corduroy skirt will wear endlessly and when accompanied by a white sweater, hat and gloves an smart tan hood, looks very business-like and "sporty" indeed. One of the illustrations shows a pale tan sweater and hat with a brown corduroy skirt, the sweater having brown striped border trimmings. The gloves carried with this costume are of yellow enamel. Doeskin gloves are also liked for out-of-door wear and these heavy gloves can be washed out and hung up to dry overnight. The hat pictured with this tan and brown sweater is one of the knitted affairs built over a buckram frame, the brim rolling back from the face. These hats are just as warm as the worsted caps, but the frame underneath gives them a trimmer, smarter appearance.

The muff, scarf and cap of worsted seem particularly well suited for country wear, though of course, such belongings would be impossible in town. Even a conventional tailored suit of dark serge or mixed worsted, worn with such jolly knitted togs, loses its formality and becomes an unconventional costume to match the knitted belongings and its wearer's rosy cheeks and bright eyes. The knitted set illustrated is made of tan worsted with a border of dark blue and a large mother of pearl button with a silver rim adds a touch of brightness to the cap. Sometimes these caps are caught back thus, at the top, with a cameo brooch, or a fraternity pin is displayed in this advantageous place.

At Hot Springs and other winter resorts many of the gay blazer sweaters have been seen. These knitted coats are not as attractive to some tastes—as the pure white or fawn colored sweater, but the striped affairs are undoubtedly chic. The middie sweater, with its knitted sailor collar and chevron embroidered in cross-stitch on one sleeve is liked by youthful skaters and some of these sweaters are belted at the waist, giving a very trim, neat effect to the figure. Angora sweaters are the warmest and at the same time the lightest sort—and they cost more than ordinary knitted wool models, but for all their distinction they cannot approach the knitted sweater in jaunty youthfulness of effect.

Under the big polo coats of ratine or the smart double faced coats which are so much worn this season, a one-piece frock of serge or mohair is usually worn. When the coat is removed in a restaurant or at the clubhouse at tea hour, the simple frock looks better than a skirt and blouse of contrasting fabrics. A very attractive little frock of this sort was of dark blue mohair with pipings of gray blue and green plaid. On the skirt were two scalloped flounces—ungathered—and the scallops were piped with the plaid silk. There was a high grille of plaid and the bodice was trimmed with narrow pleatings of the plaid taffeta and small brass buttons.

MUFF, CAP AND SCARF OF WORSTED FOR COUNTRY WEAR.



NOTHING LIKE A SWEATER TO SKATE IN.

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nearly 2,000 tons of water, making a covering of about 18 inches of water, or its equivalent, that must be kept available. Where the rainfall is insufficient to furnish this amount, irrigation must be resorted to or the crop will suffer. If I had these conditions and a strong soil I would adopt the true mulch system in growing some varieties of apples, especially where the varieties grow to a size that is too large for the popular market.

On the other hand, should we plant the trees and then begin a systematic method of preparation by constant tillage, depending upon it alone to so transform the crude elements into available nutrition that the orchard will reach its desired development, and expect the source of supply never to be depleted?

To my mind, neither system should be adopted as an ironclad method. Different soils and different conditions demand different treatments. No two pieces of land are alike. Wide differences can be found within a few yards, and these conditions call for food elements in varying proportions.

Dark green leaves, bright colored bark, and a foot or more of new growth each year indicates sufficient nitrogan. Too much can be supplied in bearing orchards, encouraging a tendency to grow wood instead of fruit.

When the leaves are light colored, ripening too early, the bark dull and dark, and the growth short and stubbed, the supply of nitrogen is deficient. Many suckers, sappy growth, pale, tasteless, unripe fruit, shows a lack of potash.

Phosphorus goes into the fruit, wood and seeds, but only about one-fifth as much is used as of nitrogen, and one-sixth as much as of potash. The mineral elements must be supplied in chemical form. Nitrogen is supplied by the legumes in the form of cover crops; these are sometimes indispensable in preventing washing and leaching or blowing, and in holding moisture, while their greatest value lies in the addition of fertility to the soil.

In the selection of these plants we must remember the two great classes, the leguminous plants which gather the free nitrogen and make it available for other plants, and the non-leguminous plants which use in their growth the already available nitrogen. We build up the skeleton of our fruit with nitrogen, but the delicate coloring, rich flavor and firm texture is developed from the other two elements.

The mulched orchard, whether it be an artificial mulch of straw or other material, or the sod mulch where the grass is cut often and placed about the trees, usually shows a deficiency of nitrogen in the size of the fruit and growth of wood, the fruit being a little smaller and the growth shorter, but the fruit is better colored, has a firmer texture, and will keep longer, and the wood will withstand frost injury better.

If we apply Leibig's "Law of the Minimum" according to which "the yield of a given crop will be limited by the amount of limitation of any one constituent of food," we are of course obliged to abandon the mulch system. Yet on the other hand, it is not difficult to find clean cultivated orchards where the fruit shows a deficiency of phosphoric acid by its green, immature, poor color, and insipid flavor.

### Mulch for Color.

Admitting that it is the potash and phosphorus that gives us color and quality in our fruit, there are soils where the conditions are such that we could sacrifice size for the other qualities. In such cases I should adopt the true mulch system of growing as heavy a grain crop in the orchard as possible, cut it often, the first time in the spring before it draws too heavily upon the moisture (unless it were irrigated land where moisture can be applied at any time) and place it beneath the trees.

On the other hand, if size is the factor that we are obliged to work for, then cultivation and the stimulation by the addition of nitrogenous crops must be the accepted method. I mention the addition of nitrogenous crops because I do not believe in absolute clean culture, and as sure as it is followed in the orchard, the same disaster faces the grower as the man has experienced who has grown wheat after wheat to the end. I believe that there is a happy medium between the mulch and clean cultivation methods.

### Rules That Apply.

To summarize: Stimulate by cultivation the growth of the young trees. Cultivation feeds the trees and saves moisture. Hustle the trees in their early development as rapidly as possible, but make them ripen their wood annually before winter comes.

Start cultivation in the spring before the buds start. Young trees can be cultivated two or three weeks later than the bearing orchard, but at this time introduce a part of the mulch system by sowing a cover crop, the kind to be determined by the growth of the trees. This will help to ripen both wood and fruit, because newly sown plants take up water rapidly and take it away from the trees. This is one thing desired at this time, because tree growth must cease. Again young plants require much nitrogen, but little potash and phosphoric acid. They use the nitrogen, leaving the other elements so essential for the ripening of the trees and fruit just when they need it.

The grower cover crop will mulch, cover and protect the ground during the winter, catching the plant food liberated by the nitrifying effects of the freezing and thawing, holding it ready to be cultivated into the soil early in the spring, thereby increasing the amount of plant food. In a developed bearing orchard adopt the mulch system if size of fruit and soil conditions warrant it.

Study the trees, give them the treatment that they ought to have for the best development. That is orchard culture. Whether mulch or clean culture. Supply plant food is the keynote, no matter what the method used to effect the desired purposes.



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About the apple tree William Cullen Bryant said:

"Come let us plant the apple tree, / Cleave the tough greensward with the spade; / Wide let its hollow bed be made; / There gently lay the roots, and there / Sift the dark mould with kindly care, / And press it o'er them tenderly, / As round the sleeping infant's feet, / We softly fold the cradle sheet; / So plant we the apple tree."

"What plant we in this apple tree? / Buds, which the breath of summer days / Shall lengthen into leafy sprays; / Boughs where the thrush, with ertm-sown breast, / Shall haunt and sing and hide her nest. / We plant upon the sunny lea, / A shadow for the noontide hour, / A shelter from the summer shower, / When we plant the apple tree."

"What plant we in this apple tree. / Fruit that shall swell in sunny June, / And redder in the August moon, / And drop, when gentle airs come by, / That fan the blue September sky; / While children come with cries of glee, / And seek them where the fragrant grass / Betrays their bed to those who pass / At the foot of the apple tree."

"The fruitage of this apple tree / Winds and our flag of stripe and star / Shall bear to coasts afar, / Where men shall wonder at the view, / And ask in what fair groves they grew; / (As sojourners beyond the sea / Shall think of childhood's careless day, / And long, long hours of summer play, / In the shade of the Montana) apple tree."

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## HORTICULTURAL SUBJECT OF INTEREST DISCUSSED BY DEAN IN WASHINGTON

M. L. Dean is expected home today from Washington, where he went several days ago to attend the meeting of the Washington State Horticultural Society. Mr. Dean was assigned a place on the program and on the second day of the meeting read the following paper on "Mulch Versus Cultivation for the Apple Orchard."

In all of life's activities there are certain fundamental principles underlying their existence which are responsible for their being. The recognition of these essentials, and their development, largely measure the success of that existence. "Dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return" is a saying which measures all existence. As the dust lies beneath our feet, or is wafted through the air by the gentle breeze, do we ever stop and think that perhaps hidden in that tiny particle there may be a germ of life awaiting contact with certain environments when it will come forth and blossom like the rose?

In our passing life we notice the tiny flower with its delicate colorings, its perfume that fills the air with fragrance. We enjoy the comfort beneath the branches of the spreading tree, and perhaps partake of the delicate fruit with which it is laden. Or we are attracted by the snow peaks towering upward, heralding to the world the existence of a mountain side of beauty which is the envy of the artist's eye. All these by the action of frost and the sun's rays, or the erosion of time must return to dust. We pass it by and spurn it as more dust, yet we must humbly bow our heads, call it soil, and to it acknowledge our existence. All agricultural scientists are trying to show us how to conserve the essential elements therein, and "back to the soil" is an expression which seems to mark a popular trend at the present time.

As we look about us we find that many of our great financiers, our successful lawyers, and our masters of trade, were boys who at one time made mud pies, squashed the mud between their toes, and scuffed the dust with their bare feet, but now, after advancing step by step, they have reached their zenith, and their last desire is to spend their retiring days closer to the soil. Poets write about it. The soil is nature's workshop and from it evolves all her beauties. The grain, the flowers and the trees

with their luscious fruits all derive their source of development from the products of this factory. The chemist, the bacteriologist, the soil physicist, all art pointing out methods whereby we may assist nature in her handiwork.

"Over and over again, no matter which way we turn, we will always find in the book of life some new lesson yet to learn."

J. M. Cavanaugh says: "Tis not the branches nor the leaves, / Where this of gold the sun imbues, / Nor yet the sturdy trunk that tells / Where life, impatient, active, dwells. / 'Within the fructifying mold, / That moisture from the rivers hold, / In the warm breast of mother earth, / The sturdy tree is given birth."

The nursing of that tree, the training of it, and the disposition of its products, are what enter this representative body of people together at this time. In fact, in all sections of this great country, more time and more thought is being given to the study of the proper development of the fruit tree than to any other line of agriculture. In the east with their impoverished soils, their scientists and horticulturists have given years to the work, and the question "Mulch versus clean culture" has been a live one for decades.

In dropping these thoughts someone may receive help in solving his individual problem as "thoughts are forces, living messengers of power."

**The Soil.** Any soil in this great northwest that will grow good grain crops, will maintain fruit trees during their existence without the addition of plant food and at the same time produce a normal amount of fruit, but the profits in fruit growing are secured by growing large quantities of fruit of superior quality. This extra quantity and extra quality seems to be measured by our care in either developing available plant food, or in the addition of it to the soil.

Which we remove a normal crop of apples from an orchard we are removing practically the same amount of plant food from the soil that the wheat grower markets with his crop of grain. An average crop of apples from a developed tree removes about 11 pounds of nitrogen, one pound of phosphoric acid and 16 pounds of potash. The foliage will contain 10 pounds

of nitrogen, three pounds of phosphoric acid, and 10 pounds of potash, to say nothing about the plant food used in the growth of new wood, making a total of 21 pounds of nitrogen, four pounds of phosphoric acid, and 26 pounds of potash per tree, the amount per acre taken being governed by the number of trees planted. The nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash are the essential elements of plant food upon which they live. Other minerals are used but they are usually present in the diet in sufficient quantities. This diet must be properly prepared by the cooks—sunlight, air, water and tillage. Each food must be prepared in the right way, in the right quantity, and in the right proportion to the others in order to produce the best development. All food elements must be given in the right condition.

### Preparation of Foods.

Raw meat, unground grain, contain all the elements of food for man, but plunge us into a bin of wheat and how long would we exist. Yet crush or grind the wheat, subject it to heat, add moisture, and the bacterial germ, and it is a food upon which we thrive. So it is with the food for the trees. They cannot grind and prepare their food, but when it is in the proper condition they grow and produce fruit.

We must have the plant food dissolved to cook and refine it, then distribute it, through the soil as fine as it can be made. We dissolve it by saving moisture, or applying it. We distribute the food by tillage. This distribution should all be done in the early preparation of the soil, and then cover it with some blanket and trust to nature's cooks in that hidden laboratory to ever after furnish the food in the right proportions and conditions.

It is a difficult matter to ascertain how much moisture is needed for fruit crop. We know that it takes from 200 to 500 pounds of water to make one pound of dry matter in our plants. Trees use it in three ways, developing the fruit, making leaves and wood, and the evaporation through the leaves which we should encourage because, other things being equal, the greater the evaporation, the better the growth. If it takes 150 tons of water to grow a ton of green timothy hay, we know that apples are more juicy than hay, and much more water is needed. With an average of 100 trees to the acre, and five boxes to the tree we would have about 12 tons of fruit. The leaves and wood would certainly use another ton, which would make 13 tons on one acre. At the rate used for growing timothy we must supply on that acre of ground



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