

SAVE FROZEN PEACH TREES, PRIVET AND BOX-FERNS FOR FOOD

Reports of crop conditions are favorable at the present time. Estimates of crops that will be harvested in the autumn are simply estimates after all. No one can tell at the present time what the crop will be. Hot, dry weather may reduce the harvest.

RE-MOVE-ABLE STEEL CLOTHES POSTS—FLAG POLES
We have in stock a large quantity of these posts and poles. They are made of heavy galvanized steel and are of the most durable construction. They are used for clothes lines, flag poles, and for all other purposes. They are available in various sizes and lengths. Write for catalogue and prices.

War is the business of the people of England and all seem to be at it wholeheartedly. Many of the English towns hold a special morning service on Sunday for workingmen who spend their Sundays in their vegetable gardens. The service lasts only fifteen or twenty minutes, beginning at 9 A. M., and the workers are especially invited to come in their working clothes.

Game dealers have asked the Food Administration to have the legal bars protecting wild life let down so the game might be killed to help out the food supply.

If all the game in the country were killed it would not supply three square meals for each of the inhabitants of the country. Then there would be no more game for any one, and none to help protect the crops from devastating insects, but the game dealers would have a little extra profit for which they are willing to sacrifice the interests of everybody else.

Manure, straw and leaves used last winter as a protective covering should be turned under. If they cannot be turned under at present, pile them up to decay, to be turned under later.

Flower seeds, particularly annuals, are cheap and a beautiful flower garden may be had at a trifling cost by purchasing a few packets of seeds of annuals and sowing them now in well prepared beds in the open ground.

Cut away the flowering stems of flowers on long, strong stems. The flowers are yellow at the base of the petals, quickly changing to currant red, with lighter reverse.

Those having a cellar will save money by preserving eggs now. It is little trouble and the eggs will keep a year.

All the seeds of hardy perennial plants may be sown in the open ground. Some may flower a little late in the autumn and all will flower well next season.

Corn will do best on clover sod, that is, where it has been turned under, or if ordinary garden soil see that plenty of organic matter, such as manure, is turned under.

Early beets, carrots, radishes and spinach started in April should be thinned out so the individual plants will have room to develop.

Letting does not stand the heat well and thrives best in the early spring or late autumn. To have the leaves crisp and tender quick growth is necessary and rich soil is therefore advisable.

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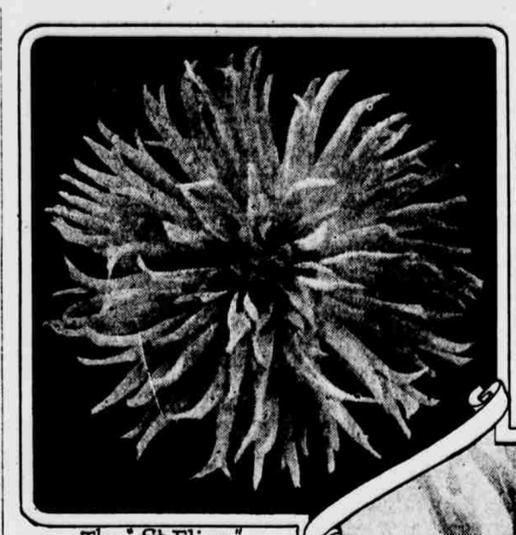
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The "St. Elias" New Mastick dahlias.

These cactus dahlias are the production of an amateur, C. L. Mastick of Portland, Ore., and are the result of hybridizing experiments extending over many years. Becky Sharp produces large perfect flowers on long, strong stems. The flowers are yellow at the base of the petals, quickly changing to currant red, with lighter reverse. Mary B. Strowbridge is a free bloomer on long stems. The outer petals are a delicate shade of shrimp pink, changing to deep canary yellow at base. The center petals are canary yellow. The flower is beautifully shaped, the petals being of good substance and slightly incurved. St. Elias is pure white and keeps well when cut. The form resembles St. Elias.

Mr. Mastick's productions are distributed by G. M. Tyler, 1960 Derby street, Portland, Ore.

BOILED FERN AND FERN SALAD. Strong growing ferns, such as the ostrich fern, Onoclea Struthiofolia, and the cinnamon fern, Osmunda Claytoniana, are common in moist places along the borders of and in wooded parts. These ferns transplant well and will thrive in most any soil of well watered, but all ferns prefer soil composed largely of decayed vegetable matter.

In Japan the stems of ferns are used for human consumption, somewhat after the method of using asparagus, and now here in America ferns are being tested for food purposes.

The tender stems should be gathered from the time they appear and before the fronds begin to unroll. Only the tender portion should be utilized, as with asparagus. Wash the parts to be used and scrub with a hard brush to remove all the hairs, which if retained impart a bitter flavor.

Cut into pieces an inch long and boil for forty minutes; pour off the water and season with butter, salt and pepper and serve with such dressing as customary with asparagus.

Another method is to cook as described for forty minutes, then pour off the water, add fresh boiling water, and continue the boiling for ten minutes more.

Fern salad is made by adding two eggs, butter half the size of an egg, a teaspoonful of mustard, pepper and salt and a little vinegar. Cook like a soft custard.

To serve on toast cut up the stems and boil with salt, then place on toast and cover with white sauce or melted butter.

The young stems are less woody than asparagus and the flavor is that of almonds. In food value it is about equal to cabbage.

Now that food is high in price here is an opportunity to use one food to be had for the trouble of gathering.

In setting plants out in the garden, late in the afternoon is a good time, and water them as soon as they are planted. As soon as the water soaks in draw a little dry earth up around the plant to prevent the soil from being washed away.

Shade the plants from the sun for a day or two by sticking up an old shingle or a piece of board at an angle over each plant to protect it from the hot sun during the middle of the day.

Dahlias may be put in now for early flowers. Those planted as late as June 1 will flower before frost, and the late flowers are the best.

MULCHING IMPROVES CROPS. The beds of perennials, tulips and hyacinths were well covered with manure last autumn or early winter, just after the ground froze up solid. Instead of removing all of the covering this spring a light covering was allowed to remain. This was lightly forked under and some of the old manure was sprinkled lightly over the beds, shaking it to pieces with the fork as it was applied.

This light covering has kept the soil moist and prevented the growth of weeds. The plants are all in fine condition.

The surplus covering as it was removed from the beds was piled up and has been turned under in the vegetable garden to form humus. The top has been dressed with commercial fertilizer, and as the plants come up sheep manure, sold in 100 pound bags, is scattered along the rows and around the flowering plants, working it in the topsoil lightly with a narrow rake.

Lawn clippings make good material for mulching, and now that stable manure is so scarce all grass clippings should be used for mulch or piled up to decay and to be worked into the soil.

In using lawn clippings, manure, leaves or straw apply two to four inches thick in the middle of the row, grading it down to not over an inch thick around the plants. Do not have the mulch touch the plants.

Careful tests prove that many vegetables...

whence they conducted ceaseless raids on the insect pests of the farm.

The files of the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture are full of astonishing records proving beyond all doubt the wonderful value of birds as assistants to the agriculturist. Scientific investigation and observation have demonstrated that even where casual appearances had indicated mischief on the part of birds good work was actually being done by them. Estimating on a basis of four birds to the acre that the quality of Virginia and North Carolina destroy 1,341 tons of weed seed annually; that tree sparrows in the State of Iowa alone account for 875 tons of weed seed; recording as many as thirty-seven grasshoppers in the stomach of a meadowlark at one time (a grasshopper eating several times its own weight of hay or grain in a day); 250 fall webworms in a cuckoo's stomach, and cuckoos already gorged on such food still killing the worms and dropping the lifeless bodies to the ground; even a tiny chickadee ac-



The "Becky Sharp"

counting for 138,750 eggs of the canker worm moth in a season, such examples are used by economic ornithologists to demonstrate the value of birds to man.

On such indisputable basis as this the New Jersey Audubon Society asks the earnest consideration of the people of New Jersey who would help win the war, to the proposition of fully taking advantage of the help of the birds in war gardening. Bird protection and encouragement is advocated as an essential part of food conservation. The society is inviting correspondence with its office at 164 Market street, Newark, on the part of all public spirited and interested citizens. Begin early.

LATE BLIGHT OF POTATOES. Flea Beetle. Late blight is one of the most destructive diseases with which the potato grower has to contend. The disease is manifested by dark water-soaked areas on the leaves, which enlarge rapidly, covering the entire leaf in from one to four days. A white mildew appears over the diseased areas on the under side of the leaf, and it is especially prominent when the leaves are wet.

On the tubers irregular discolored areas appear which later become sunken, and the diseased tissue is sometimes invaded by bacteria, which bring about a soft rot.

Late blight develops during wet weather; in dry seasons it is not troublesome. Pests and heavy dews late in the season are likely to cause epidemics.

The vines should be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture, 3 pounds copper sulphate, 3 pounds hydrated or stone lime, to 50 gallons of water. This is sufficiently strong to prevent blight, but four or five pounds of copper and lime will act as a greater stimulant to the vines.

Spray first when the plants are first sprayed for bugs, adding the insecticide to the Bordeaux. Spray often enough to cover and protect new growth, about once in two weeks. Later in the season when the danger is greater spray more frequently. Late in the season is the critical time and it is better to spray too often than not often enough. Spray before rather than after rainy periods. From 75 to 100 gallons will be required to the acre when the plants are large. High pressure for spraying is desirable. From 120 to 200 pounds. See that the upper and under sides of the foliage are covered.

Potatoes from blighted fields should not be dug until the vines are dead, dry and killed by frost.

The flea beetle caused great damage to potatoes last year. It perforates the leaves, in some instances almost completely skeletonizing them, and making the plants susceptible to blight, both early and late. This pest can be kept in check by using a pound of arsenate of lead to 25 gallons of the Bordeaux when the spray is used.

TEST THE SOIL. The lime requirements of the soil can be accurately ascertained by means of a machine that is not only easy to operate but it is very interesting work. The soil from different parts of a field will vary greatly in its requirements of lime; some portions need heavy liming and others may need none at all. By knowing exactly how to apply a very considerable saving may be made, as otherwise lime will be applied where it is not needed and too little will be applied where heavy liming should be given. The machine is now offered on thirty days trial according to the terms stated in the advertisement appearing to-day.

By May 20 azobars may be reported and plunged in the garden. Azobars, caladiums, dracenas, geraniums, fuchsias, abutilons and other ornamental plants may be set out now.

Winter flowering bouvardias, jasminums, polsetias, aburones, etc., should be set out in the garden and plunged in the soil to prevent rapidly drying out.

Vases, hanging baskets and window or porch boxes may be set out. Fuchsias, geraniums ageratums, euphorbia, petunias, hebes, etc., if propagated now make handsome pot plants for autumn blooming if kept pinched back for about eight weeks.

Plant out bouvardia, coleus; sow ricinus, or castor oil bean; acroclonium, rhodanthe.

Onions require rich, well manured land, worked down fine and trodden firm before planting bulbs or sowing seed. The situation must be sunny. In dry weather water gently. If this is possible, until the plants become established. Keep the earth between the rows constantly cultivated.

PRIVET HEDGES WINTER KILL. Many of the privet hedges in the vicinity of New York have succumbed to the severe winter of early January. The older hedges have suffered more severely, being killed almost entirely to within a few inches of the ground. This is not an unmixed evil, for it gives an excellent opportunity to prune the hedge back and start a new and vigorous growth. Wherever a considerable portion of the hedge has been killed it will be well to cut to within six inches of the ground. It is surprising how quickly the hedge

will grow. When the new growth is well under way a few of the stronger shoots should be pinched back when about twelve inches high. This will encourage branching and make a more dense and compact growth.

W. R. SMITH. New York, May 10.

PRIVET AND BOX. An examination of some of the tall privet hedges shows that while some of the branches are dead many are still living; enough will leaf out to cover the plants well. If there is doubt as to whether the branches will leaf out the hedge may be left as it is. Later, if not well covered with foliage, it can be cut back close to the ground and new growth will come up rapidly.

Some of the box trees have badly browned foliage, but are likely to put out new leaves if given time. Do not dig up the plants until positive they are dead.

There are many different boxes. Buxus sempervirens is most generally used. It is one of the tallest growing boxes. There are several varieties of this species, including arborescens, the typical form Buxus japonica seems to be the hardiest.

Suffruticosa is the dwarf variety, used for edging, and to keep in good condition the entire plants should be well protected as soon as the ground freezes in the late autumn.

Cultivate to keep weeds under control. Weeds kept down now mean less trouble later.

Toward the end of the month tomatoes, egg plants and peppers can be set out.

Keep the hoe and cultivator going to keep down the weeds that will be very troublesome if allowed to get the start of the gardener. Loosening the soil aerates it and conserves the moisture.

Cuttings of chrysanthemums made now will make good plants for autumn flowering.

Hyacinths and tulips may be taken up as soon as they are through flowering and heeled in, in some out of the way place, where they may ripen their bulbs.

Root is used along the rows of potatoes after they are up, at intervals, about three times during the season, by gardeners in England. The root used is that of soft coal, swept down from chimneys, and is black and light in weight.

It is not too late to sow seeds of amaranthus, callopsis, campanula, clarkia, morning glory, escholtzia (how few know this beautiful flower), godetia, gypsophila, helianthus, pansy, penunia, phlox drummondii, portulaca, poppy, salpiglossis (another beautiful annual almost unknown), scabiosa, stock, trochilium.

Do not neglect double zinnias, both the tall and dwarf varieties. Sow seeds now of the newer varieties in the open ground, and they will soon be in flower. The new zinnias are much handsomer than the old fashioned varieties.

Great Britain is to allot ten pounds of sugar per head of the household to private fruit growers this season for preserving fruit.

Protect the Song Birds. Without the song birds our life would be destroyed by insects of bushes of grain, fruit and vegetables every year.

It is your duty to protect them and furnish them with safe homes, in which they will raise their young this spring. You will be paid a thousand fold for the work you do for them.

Don't Wait—Order Now. Many birds are plentiful in the early spring or late autumn. To have the leaves crisp and tender quick growth is necessary and rich soil is therefore advisable.

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