

Practical Farming

Helpful Facts Gathered from Reliable Sources
Of Interest to Montana Farmers :: :: ::

(NOTE) If you have any idea to offer to the other readers or wish anything to appear in these columns kindly send it in.

HOW TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF DURUM WHEATS

By Professor H. L. Bolley, Botanist and N. D. Seed Commissioner.

Get a pure variety of proper market type, free from all other kinds of wheats. Sow it on clean land in a region where Durum wheat is adapted to grow. The grower should then keep his seed in good condition, improving it from year to year. To do this be sure to harvest it a little before it is thoroughly mature. Most people allow Durum wheat to get over-mature and it gets injured before harvested. It should be harvested dry. The seed should be saved dry. It should then be graded so as to eliminate as far as possible all other kinds of seeds, particularly other kinds of wheats. This process, continued year after year by the same farmer, provided he never sows the wheat on the same and more often than once in five or more years, is sure to give a success in increased yields and improved qualities. Assuming these general methods, one of the chief means of improving the Durum wheats is to keep well in mind the nature of the wheat, and sow it only in those particular regions in which it is especially adapted to grow.

When, Where and What to Sow

The Durum wheats have been in the habit of growing for countless numbers of years upon rather light weight lands—lands which tend to be underlaid with gravel or ones of high mineral type rather than the reverse, and particularly lands which are rather dry or which are semi-dry in character, and approaching desert conditions of atmosphere in day and night—very hot days in the maturing season, very cold nights. It has never been grown continuously or successfully in lands of the heavy clay, wet, improperly or not thoroughly sub-soiled. It does not do well in very drained, very highly nitrogenous grounds, particularly if those grounds contain a high percentage of moisture throughout the maturing period. On such lands Durum wheat is apt to grow white and soft, punky and large berried, and the straw is apt to be subject to all the diseases to which any wheat is heir. The Durum wheats are noted for their tendency to resist rust and root diseases which are rather characteristic of the bread wheats. They almost wholly fail to do this if sowed upon wet, heavy lands.

Those who persist in sowing the ordinary varieties of Durum wheats upon the heavier, wetter lands, similar to those found in the heavier land regions of the Red River Valley or similarly located black lands where there is a heavy rain-fall during the maturing and harvesting period, will not only fail to produce the quality of wheat which is characteristic of the proper types of Durum for milling purposes and thus fail to get the grade on the market which they hope to get but when those wheats go on to the market will tend to discredit the Durum wheats from other regions of the state which can produce them. Western South Dakota and Western North Dakota are ideal regions for the growing of Durums. They correspond very nearly to the original home of the chief varieties of Durum.

As to the variety, it is of the greatest essential that the seed be pure Durum. There should not be any common bread wheats in them because the common bread wheats introduce that type of flour which is not desired in the Durum flour. Durum flours are used for special purposes. It is very important that a variety should be selected that is characteristic of the Durum varieties on the market, demanded by the market. Those who are familiar with Arnautka and Kubanka varieties will understand that these are the ones which have made the reputation of Northwestern South Dakota and Southwestern North Dakota in the growing of Durum wheats. They are rather large, bright colored—rather light amber colored grains, and when the sample is a perfect one, there is no sign of cloudiness in the berry, only a pure, bright, amber col-

or, no white bellies, no black points, no shrivelling, almost as hard as horn and so brittle as to break when bitten. These are the wheats on which the market value of Durums is based. Thus I would recommend the use of Kubanka or Arnautka Durums or some type of Durum of essentially the same characteristics as to color, hardness, etc. Having selected the variety, remember that a variety of wheat, a variety of hog, breed of cattle, corn, or whatever it may be, does not run out, degenerate in type, unless one lets it do so. The wheat will not degenerate in type or run out if each year one selects only the plump-est, the best, and most standard types of grains and plants on a properly prepared seed bed, protected from the diseases which are characteristic of wheats by a proper general practice of crop rotation. The tillage of the soil should be good, such as will conserve moisture, and keep an even supply of moisture coming throughout the season. Weeds, of course, should be eliminated by proper tillage or cultivation of the soil the year previous whereby all the weed seeds have been properly germinated and disposed of. Weed seeds, however, are not to be considered bad in the same sense as other kinds of wheats. The chief weed in wheat is another sort of wheat.

NATURE'S RELIABLE GUIDE FOR GARDEN PLANTING

Nature furnishes guides for garden planting which are even more reliable than the calendar according to the department's garden specialist. The old residents of the soil such as the maple, dogwood, and white oak are the best interpreters of nature's moods in spring, and quickly reflect them, so that the gardener who follows their silent suggestions may arrange the planting of his vegetables accordingly.

When the silver maples begin to put forth their leaves and the "catkins" appear on the willows and poplars, nature is indicating that the season is right for the planting of such vegetables as lettuce, mustard, onion seeds and onion sets, parsley, the round-seeded peas, early Irish potatoes, radishes, spinach and turnips. This, of course, is provided that the soil is in good order, which can be determined by taking a handful at a depth of 3 or 4 inches from the surface, compact it in the hand by closing the fingers, and if, upon opening them, the ball of earth gradually falls apart, it is ready to be spaded. Manure should then be buried a full spade depth below the surface and the soil should be made fine and compact with an even surface.

Not until about 10 days after nature has set the date for the above-mentioned vegetables should such garden truck as beets, carrots, and kohlrabi be planted. A second sowing of peas can also be made at this time.

The dogwood and the white oak begin to show signs of awakening at a time when other vegetables may be planted. These include bush and pole beans, sweet corn, cucumbers, muskmelons, watermelons, and various kind of squash. The gardener and housewife will rarely plant too early if they wait for nature to tell them what to do.

TIME TO DESTROY RODENTS

Time and experience have fully demonstrated the utility of virus as a rodent exterminator particularly squirrels, gophers, and mice pests. Nearly all forms of poison have given way to strychnine, and for this purpose, there is nothing better than a strychnine coated wheat. The cupid-ity of manufacturers has in many cases led them to diminish the amount of poison below the safety point, with the result that it has proven worthless in use. Disappointment has also arisen through improper coating. Farmers today are depending more and more on the well-tried, tested brands of coated wheat for the destruction of squirrels and gophers. No stock, fruit, grain or alfalfa grower should jeopardize his crop by failure to act promptly this season.

These rodents are now asleep; soon with the warm sun's rays, their whistle will be heard and this is the psychological moment to sprinkle the poisoned wheat. A few grains in the early morning dropped down each burrow, will turn the trick. The long fast makes the creatures ravenous and the poison is immediately effective. Fields have been shown where thousands of these rodents have been destroyed in twenty-four hours, by this method.

MINERS CAUGHT BY SNOWSLIDE

Fifty Are Killed and as Many More Injured.

RELIEF HASTENS TO SCENE

Great Avalanche Sweeps Away Several Bunkhouses at Britannia Mine in British Columbia.

Vancouver, B. C., March 23.—Fifty miners were killed and as many more injured by a snowslide which swept away several bunkhouses at the Britannia mine at Howe Sound, B. C., according to a dispatch received here. Besides the bunkhouses part of the aerial tramway of the mine was carried away.

Soon after reports of the avalanche were received here a steamer with physicians and nurses left for Howe Sound.

Details are lacking, owing to the fact that communication with the mine has been cut off. Telephone wires are down.

The Britannia is a coal mine employing more than 1,000 men.

At last reports rescuers were working on the pile of debris, but few bodies had been found.

CHARLES F. ADAMS IS DEAD

Members of Family Famous in American Political History.

Lincoln, Mass., March 21.—Charles Francis Adams is dead at his winter home in Washington, D. C. He had been ill with grip for a week. His home is in Lincoln.

Charles Francis Adams was widely known as a publicist and historian. He was a great-grandson of President John Adams, a grandson of President John Quincy Adams and a son of Charles Francis Adams, minister to Great Britain in the Civil war period. A biography of his father, which included a review of the diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Great Britain over Civil war problems, was one of Mr. Adams' most notable books.

SAYS MOTIVE WAS REVENGE

Negro Woman Clears Up Murder at Monmouth Ill.

Peoria, Ill., March 23.—Police officials here said they had obtained a confession from Annie Marie Knight, a negro woman of Monmouth, Ill., that it was her husband, John Knight, and Lovey Mitchell who murdered William E. Dawson, his wife and daughter at Monmouth on the night of Sept. 30, 1911.

Mrs. Knight was brought to Peoria by Chief of Police Morrison of Monmouth.

John Knight, the woman's husband, is serving a term for burglary at the Joliet state penitentiary.

SCOTT'S MISSION SUCCEEDS

General Induces Plute Indians to Lay Down Arms.

Bluff, Utah, March 22.—The Plute uprising in Utah ended when Brigadier General Hugh L. Scott returned to Bluff with Chief Old Polk, his son, Tse-ne-gat, Chief Posey and Posey's oldest son.

The capture of the ringleaders by the United States army officer and his small party of personal escorts accomplished the peaceful settlement of the rebellion by the Indians which had resulted in the deaths of six men and the wounding of many others in the early fighting between a posse and the redskins.

The prisoners brought here were aullen and uncommunicative.

BANKER KILLS WIFE AND SELF

Action of New York Corporation Official a Mystery.

New York, March 23.—Howard Hoo-cock, forty years old, treasurer of the Astor Trust company of this city and prominent in New York society, shot and killed his wife as she was playing the piano for his entertainment in their home.

The banker then committed suicide with the same revolver.

According to the police the banker left no word explaining the murder and suicide, nor could any member of the household throw light on the affair. The servants declared the couple were on the most affectionate terms.

FOUR AMERICANS DROWNED

Officer and Sailors of Vessel Perish Off Constantinople.

Berlin, March 23.—A Constantinople dispatch reports that Lieutenant Commander W. F. Bricker and three sailors of the United States converted yacht Scorpion were drowned in the Bosphorus, off the Turkish capital.

The four men, with Lieutenant H. S. Babbit and another sailor, were returning to the Scorpion in a row-boat after spending the day in Constantinople. The boat was capsized. Babbit and one sailor were rescued.

VICTIMS CAUGHT WHILE SLEEPING

Snowslide Hit Howe Sound, B. C., at Midnight.

BODIES BADLY BATTERED

Houses Swept From Their Foundations and Carried for a Half Mile Down the Mountainside—Number of Deaths Estimated at About Fifty.

Vancouver, B. C., March 24.—Until the arrival of another steamer from Howe Sound no further information is expected concerning the extent of the loss of life in the snow and landslide that swept away part of the plant of the Britannia mines. A steamer which arrived here with several of the injured brought word that the death list probably would reach the first estimates of fifty. Eighteen bodies have been recovered and twenty were known to have been injured. The slide occurred shortly after midnight.

There was a report like a dynamite explosion; in fact survivors declared they first thought the mine's magazine had blown up. A mass of rock, snow and huge trees swept down from near the summit of the mountains.

It carried from a ledge a bunkhouse, cookhouse and one or two of the houses occupied by the families of the employes.

Houses Carried Half Mile.

The entire mass of debris then shot downwards, stopping half a mile farther, near Britannia creek, where some of the mine workings are situated.

When the rescuers got to work they found some bodies free of the rocks and snow, but so badly battered as to be almost unrecognizable. About a dozen men coming off night shift from the mine narrowly escaped. One man was buried in the snow for several hours, only his hand appearing above the surface. He was rescued unhurt, although nearly frozen.

The bodies are being retained at Britannia Beach, where an inquest will be held. No cause can be assigned for the landslide as the mountain top in the neighborhood was considered hitherto as being quite stable. American capital is largely interested in the Britannia mines, which produce copper and silver.

ADMITS HE MADE MISTAKE

Stock Broker Testifies Before Senate Ship Bill Lobby Committee.

Washington, March 24.—Allan A. Ryan, a New York stock broker, and son of Thomas Fortune Ryan, the financier, told the senate ship bill lobby committee he had been "in error" when, some time ago, he refused to answer the committee's questions about what business brought him to Washington during the last session of congress.

Accompanied by his counsel, Mr. Ryan testified that on his visits to Washington he had not talked with senators, although his business concerned pending legislation. He reiterated, however, his business had "nothing to do, directly or indirectly, with the ship bill."

DEFEATS PROHIBITION BILL

Statutory Measure Killed in Minnesota House.

St. Paul, March 24.—Statutory statewide prohibition was defeated in the house when an attempt to override the committee report recommending for indefinite postponement Representative Anderson's bill met failure.

When the majority report of the committee, which voted 9 to 6 for indefinite postponement, came up, Representative Anderson moved to have the bill placed on general orders.

The motion to place the bill on the general orders was defeated, 80 to 39, and the adoption of the majority vote followed by a yea and nay vote.

APOLOGIZES FOR MURDER

Zapata Officer "Regrets" Killing of John B. McManus.

Washington, March 24.—Secretary Bryan announced that regret for the killing of John B. McManus, an American, in Mexico City by Zapata forces has been expressed on behalf of General Zapata by General Palafox, in charge at Mexico City, and that negotiations for paying indemnity to the dead man's family were progressing satisfactorily.

The Brazilian minister at Mexico City has received the apology on behalf of Zapata. The men who killed McManus will be apprehended if possible and punished.

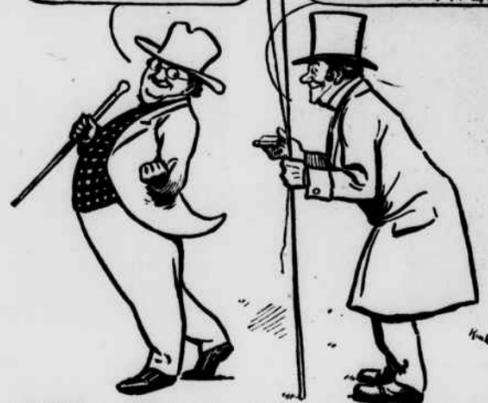
Wilson Estimates Deficit.

Washington, March 24.—President Wilson expressed confidence that the estimates by Chairman Simmons of the senate finance committee, placing the treasury deficit for the year at approximately \$26,000,000, are more nearly correct than greater estimates

THE CABBY IS GLAD TO GET THE GOOD JUDGE'S TIP.

THAT'S MY TIP TO YOU THE REAL TOBACCO CHEW

IT'S THE BEST TIP I'VE HAD IN MANY A DAY



IT'S a glad day for a tobacco chewer when he finds the Real Tobacco Chew. And when a man uses "Right-Cut" himself, finds how good it is; he takes pleasure in letting his friends hear the good news.

You get the tobacco solace and comfort. A little chew of pure, rich, mellow tobacco—cut fine, short shred—seasoned and sweetened just enough, cuts out so much of the grinding and spitting.

Take a very small chew—less than one-quarter the old size. It will be more satisfying than a mouthful of ordinary tobacco. Just nibble on it until you find the strength chew that suits you. Tuck it away. Then let it rest. See how easily and evenly the real tobacco taste comes, how it satisfies without grinding, how much less you have to spit, how few chews you take to be tobacco satisfied. That's why it is The Real Tobacco Chew. That's why it costs less in the end.

It is a ready chew, cut fine and short shred so that you won't have to grind on it with your teeth. Grinding on ordinary cut tobacco makes you spit too much.

The taste of pure, rich tobacco does not need to be covered up with molasses and sorbitol. Notice how the salt brings out the rich tobacco taste in "Right-Cut."

One small chew takes the place of two big chews of the old kind.

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