Life in the Country

Hand-Fed Lamb Teams With Pup For a Day-Long Hunting Spree

By James Birchfield

Tweed Howser's lamb went hunting the other day, but didn't get anything. And what is better, nothing got the lamb.

Every year Tweed has one or two lambs whose mothers will have nothing to do with them, so he has to feed them by hand. This gets them out of the notion of being lambs, and they are likely to take up with some other animal about the place.

This hunting lamb took up with the dog. He won't have anything to do with the other sheep out in the field, but stays in the yard romping with the cocker spaniel.

It was really the dog that decided to go hunting, and the lamb, being what he is, decided to go along. Nobody knew about it until evening came and there was no lamb and no dog.

Now a lamb is smart in some ways. When you call one of them you usually get an answering bah. And this trait saved the day, no doubt, for the lamb.

Tweed went looking for the pair of wanderers. He looked in the woods and in the fields around the house. He finally got farther down toward the river before he got an answering bah—very faint and far away.

Tweed found the pair down near the Potomac about a mile from home. They had been having such a good time that they were just too tired to move.

They had been through the woods, over the back pastures into the trees beside the river. Probably they had chased a rabbit or two on their way and were simply too tired to get back home.

Now things are back to normal.

The lamb and the dog are again frisking about in the Howser yard.

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Stewart Smith from up at Lincoln, has a slick way of taking the bed off his wagon. He blows it off with dynamite.

This method might be a little complicated for most farmers, but Stewart had a stump to get out anyway, so it really wasn't much trouble.

The stump was near the house and that is way the wagon got into the act. Stewart wanted to be sure the dynamite didn't blow the stump through his house, so he rolled the wagon up on the house side as protection.

The stump came out fine and so did the wagon bed. And the house didn't get a scratch.

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The clover is getting thick in the front pasture and the peas are popping up in the garden. The grass is green and you have to drive in the cows at milking time. It's a sure sign that summer is on its way.

Transplanting Is Test of Green Thumb

By the Associated Press

Transplanting gives a pretty fair test of the greenness of your thumbs.

Nature wrote the rules a long time ago and it's up to you to string along. This is no time to try your hand at being original.

It does a plant no good to be moved, even when the operation is done with the most skillful touch. A plant may seem to perk up and grow better after it has been moved, but the operation has had no tonic effect. It's growing better because you have taken it out of surroundings it didn't like.

Soil in which your vegetable or flower plants are growing should be just damp enough to hold together about the roots. Often you can lift a plant, with a good many roots still attached, with your fingers. A trowel is liable to cut a good many roots.

A piece of broomstick whittled to a point is a handy tool for small plants. Set the plant so that it stands a little deeper than it did before. Pour some loose soil around the roots and press gently but firmly with your fingers so that all parts of the root system—bottom and sides—come in contact with soil.

If any air space is left around the roots they may dry out and your little plant will come to an untimely end.

Now you can pour either a pint of water or a pint of starter solution into the hole. To make starter solution, put a double handful of garden fertilizer, such as 5-10-5, into a pail of water, stir, and let stand overnight. Or you can use a more concentrated form of soluble fertilizer, dissolved according to directions on the label.

Starter solution helps overcome the shock of transplanting and provides the food that the plant needs at this critical point in its life.

After you have filled the hole with loose soil, press lightly around the plant, forming a little cuplike depression. This will guide water to the roots during the next few days when you'll be giving each plant a drink.

Now comes the hard part. Pinch off about half of the leaves of each seedling, starting at the bottom.

Beginning gardeners especially find this a heartless thing to do, but you'll hurt the plant more by allowing all the leaves to stay.

No matter how careful you were in transplanting, you destroy about half of the plant's root system. And now you must take away half of the leaf system to make things balance. kind to your plants by pinching off leaves, you can make it up by providing a little shade for each one during the heat of the day. Berry baskets are fine for this.

Any transplanting job follows the same general rules. It's important, when you set out bigger plants, such as rose bushes, to make the hole big enough—especially wide enough—so that roots can spread out.

Then if you do an equally good job of watering and filling, you can look at your green thumbs with new admiration.

Transplanting Time

The tomato, pepper and eggplant seed that were sown three weeks ago should be large enough for transplanting. This should be done as soon as the first pair of true leaves form, certainly by the time the second pair appear. Keep the plants growing vigorously. Plants that have their growth checked do not seem to be as productive as those that are kept in good vigorous growth at all times.

Rose Planting Now Gives Head Start

Experienced rose gardeners will start their planting as early as possible so their roses will be able to build up strength for the flowering season.

Planning will make the job easier and a spot for each rose should be selected in advance. This will avoid transplanting later on. A careful study of the garden to locate the most favorable spots will help create the best effects when the garden comes into bloom.

Locations for roses should be selected carefully because they do their best with at least 4 to 6 hours of sunlight daily. Some shelter from the hot afternoon sun will help them in the summer. One of the most important things to remember is to locate the beds where the roses will not have to compete for soil nutrients with trees, shrubs or hedges.

Selecting quality plants is one of the best ways to insure good results in the blooming period ahead. Varieties like Chrysler Imperial, a crimson red hybrid tea, and Ma Perkins, a sparkling coral-shell pink, are ideal choices. These two magnificent roses received the All-America Rose Selection Award for 1953. Other popular winners which will lend beauty and color to the garden are Fred Howard, a hybrid tea of yellow penciled with soft pink; and Helen Traubel, a lovely apricot pink. For accent, no gardener will want to be without Vogue, a brilliant cherry coral floribunda.

Hybrid teas are a particular favorite with American gardeners. Their distinctive appearances in both formal and natural plantings makes them valuable assets to any garden. In addition, they offer a continuing supply of cut flowers for the home throughout the summer.