

La Grande Evening Observer

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SECTION TWO

NUMBER 146

THE HOME GARDEN

What is Home without a Garden?

Home Garden Best.
Among the profits of the home garden is one which is seldom counted, but which would alone be sufficient to justify the trouble and expense of growing one's own vegetables.

It lies in the huge advantage of serving things fresh, within a hour of being picked from the plants on which they grew. It has long been known that the exquisite flavor of fresh peas and sweet corn, to cite notable examples, begins to deteriorate if they were not served within an hour after they were gathered. This opinion has now been fortified by science, through experiments conducted by Messrs. Strauch and Church and published by the bureau of chemistry of the Department of Agriculture. Prof. Charles A. Appleman of the Maryland experiment station has published a full report of chemical experiments of the same order.

The experiment establish that the sugar content of sweet corn will range in the neighborhood of five per cent. This is in the proportion of three spoons of sugar in a cup of coffee. In a normal summer temperature, even with the husks still on, the sugar content will begin to fall in an incredibly short time, perhaps in the first thirty minutes after picking. In scientific language because of this is the condensation of polysaccharides, chiefly starch. Respiration is, indirectly, also a factor.

In the first twenty-four hours after corn has been picked, thirty per cent of its sugar will have disappeared and in the next twenty-four hours, twenty-five per cent more. About thirty per cent of the sugar remains fixed in the corn but after ninety-six hours all evidence of the delicious corn flavor has disappeared.

Wrapping the corn in oiled paper does not help. The only thing which will prevent the loss of sugar is refrigeration. In a freezing temperature, only seven per cent loss occurred in twenty-four hours, and in a temperature of fifty, about fifteen per cent.

In general what is true about sweet corn is true about all vegetables, especially all those which depend upon their sugar content for flavor. The experiments explain why vegetables which are displayed for sale in the hot sun hours after they have left the garden, never possess the flavor of the home garden product. They teach a lesson for both the grocer and the housewife. First, that if vegetables cannot be served immediately after picking, they should be placed in the refrigerator, and second, that to enjoy vegetables at their best they should be picked in the garden not more than half an hour before they are placed on the fire for cooking.

And one moral of this is that full enjoyment of that great American dish "corn on the cob," is reserved for the fortunate families that "grow their own."

Hotbeds Explained.

When a gardener installs a hotbed for the first time, he has made a joyful discovery, wonders why in the world he never had one before, and it is safe to say that unless he is badly cramped for garden room he will never be without one again.

A hotbed gives the gardener at least a month's head start on the season, a chance to get all his vegetables and flowers going in advance of the outdoor planting season, and when it is time to plant the seeds in the open ground he may set sturdy seedlings in the beds ready to go along and give him a crop from two weeks to a month earlier than usual.

There is nothing difficult about the management of a hotbed and a little experimenting will soon render a gardener as expert as it is at all necessary to be, with the most that can be lost during the experimenting being a little seed which can be replaced readily enough, or seedlings that have not advanced very far.

The principal trouble nowadays in making a hotbed is to secure a supply of fresh horse manure, which is the necessary material for furnishing the heat, the fermentation of the manure furnishing the bottom heat, which is the greatest spur to germination and growth. Oil stoves are sometimes used with success when manure is lacking.

A hotbed is merely a wooden frame, or, if permanent, made of concrete, to carry glass sash. They may be made of any size to suit a gardener's convenience, but the standard size of frame and sash is the 3x5 foot unit.

A hole is dug in the ground slightly larger than the frame. This is filled to a depth of from fifteen to eighteen inches with fresh horse manure, a strawy manure being the best, which has been stacked up and turned from time to time for several days in order to distribute the fermentation more evenly. This is packed down by tramping it, the manure extending a few inches beyond the walls of the frame on all sides. The frame is then placed upon the manure and four to five inches of good garden soil are spread over the manure.

At first the manure will ferment quite violently and will be altogether too hot for plants. The sash should be raised frequently, and the temperature

perature and to permit gases to escape. A thermometer should hang on the side of the frame where it can be seen easily. Sow the seed when the thermometer shows the temperature to be 80 or 85. Close attention to watering and ventilation must be given. The soil should not be allowed to dry out nor yet to become water soaked. It is best to water early in the day, so the plants will dry off by night and minimize chances of damping off.

Hotbeds are sometimes started as early as January, but this is hazardous in the northern states, as the manure may become spent before the cold has departed. Usually March is the month to start hotbeds.

It is easy to make home-made hotbeds, but there are also frames knocked down, with the sash, all ready to be shipped and set up, on the market.

How Cold Frames Work.

Do you want pansies practically all winter?

Fresh pansies?

Double daisies and forget-me-nots in March or early April?

Hyacinths, daffodils, early tulips or primroses a month in advance of the outdoor season?

Use a cold frame. The cold frame is a garden marvel, even more remarkable than a hotbed, to one who has never employed it before. The protection given by glass, even without artificial heat, is surprising, and particularly if the double glass is used. Hybrid tea rose cuttings rooted in the late summer go through winter without losing their leaves. It is possible to grow the deliciously fragrant wallflowers, favorites in English gardens, but little known here, and have a beautiful spring display of their yellow, orange, mahogany and crimson flowers of delicious fragrance. Penstemon, those gorgeous perennials that must have a long start if they are to be grown as annuals, are easily available. These may be started in the summer, wintered in a cold frame and bedded out as soon as the weather is warm and furnish spikes of their gorgeous trumpets all summer.

Foxgloves and Canterbury bells and the so-called hardy garden chrysanthemums, which often are so hardy in the open ground, come through with their leaves green and thriving and the "mums" will have a start sufficient to enable them to bloom ahead of the killing frosts which often come before they have a chance to flower.

Where a supply of horse manure for a hotbed cannot be secured, the cold frame is the best substitute. Bank it up with earth or leaves. The ground within it will soon thaw with a few warm days, and seed can be planted from a month to two weeks before the outdoor season. Tender plants such as tomatoes, egg plants, and peppers, of course cannot be planted in a cold frame until later, but lettuce, radishes, onions and the like can be started on their way and the nuisance of having many boxes in the windows indoors is done away with.

Burn Up the Pests.
In getting ready to make garden this spring, it is an excellent plan to see that all the stalks of last year's vegetables which may have been left standing are removed and burned.

In the first place the ashes will make good fertilizer as the stems of nearly all vegetables contain excellent fertilizing material in their ash, and an even more important consideration is that by removing and destroying them the insect pests are likely to be checked.

Many insect pests find refuge under boards, among the dried leaves or stalks over winter. Often the spores of fungus diseases which create havoc are only waiting in these old stems to get into action with balmy weather. By burning the refuse a great quantity of them will be destroyed.

It is a good plan when ordering seeds for the early garden to lay in a supply of insecticides and Bordeaux mixture for fungus pests, along with the seeds, as they will be all found in the seed catalogues and will be on hand ready for an emergency.

Paradise Fish.
Among the paradise fish, found in China, the male blazes with a silvery flash on the surface of the water; to the underside of this he transfers the eggs as soon as they are laid, guarding them from intruders.

SECTION OF COLD FRAME SHOWING PLANTS GROWING IN WINTER MONTHS.

Hot on the Job in the Arctic

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The Bear, U. S. Coast Guard cutter, carries the Stars and Stripes to the Arctic ice fields in its rescue work. Here it is towing a helpless vessel out of an ice jam.

Just Thirty Years Ago in the Grande Ronde Valley

March 25, 1892.
There was a large attendance at the mixed picnic social at the residence of Mrs. A. C. Huntington Tuesday evening.

A Sommer, the largest individual taxpayer in La Grande, was the first man to subscribe his portion of the \$100,000 subsidy fund.

Harvey Cross, the father of the two children, Samuel and Charles, died Tuesday evening after a lingering illness. The death of his wife, Mrs. Mary Cross occurred about a year ago.

The La Grande chapter of the Masonic lodge held a special session Tuesday evening on the occasion of the visit of the grand orator. A number of visiting brethren from neighboring lodges were present.

C. P. Morton Post G. A. R. of La Grande gave their first campfire in Slater's Hall Monday evening. The attendance was quite large, and the evening was highly enjoyed by those present. At the conclusion of the literary and musical exercises, refreshments, including the regulation hard tack and coffee, were served. A number of visiting veterans were present.

A meeting of the farmers alliance was held at the Grange Hall last week. The proposition from the La Grande chamber of commerce to furnish a mill site and a cash bonus of ten per cent on the amount expended in the plant was accepted. The alliance proposes to erect a mill of one hundred barrels capacity at an estimated cost of \$22,500.

The outgoing council held their final meeting Monday evening. The business on hand was principally of a routine character. The reports of the recorder and city treasurer were duly received. The resignation of J. E. Graham and J. E. Foley as members of the water commission were handed in and accepted by the council. Under the order of the new business the new members of the council were duly installed. G. M. Richey and William Stephan having been appointed to succeed Mayor-elect Reeves to the chair. The new officers elected for the year are as follows: Marshal, J. H. MacLachlan; deputy marshal, J. C. Ardrey; recorder, J. W. Knowles; auditor, Jos. Palmer; surveyor, A. Philbrick; street commissioner, H. B. Brown, and city attorney, M. Baker.

The Republican Club met Tuesday evening in the Engineer's Hall, with a large and enthusiastic attendance. The committee on permanent organization recommended that the name of the club be the "Blue Mountain Republican Club of La Grande." The following officers were elected: W. J. Snodgrass, president; J. W. Knowles, secretary, and O. Ralston, treasurer.

Venice Inundated by a Huge Tidal Wave

(By Associated Press)
LONDON, Mar. 25.—A Central News dispatch from Venice says that a tidal wave late Wednesday night inundated the city. The water rising to a depth of more than three feet in some of the public squares.

Venice, situated virtually at sea level and threatened by canals is subject to periodic inundations, due to unusually high tides and spring freshets. The squares such as St. Mark's are under water at such times, but the rise seldom exceeds a few inches.

OBERVERS WANT ADS GET BE

The Bookworm

Have you ever visited Madame Tussaud's Wax Works? This is a famous museum in London containing wax figures of the famous men and women of all time, as well as some of the most notorious criminals.

Madame Tussaud was a young girl at the time of the French Revolution, already famed for her skill in wax modelling. She was conscripted and compelled to model the guillotined heads of her former court friends. Later the collection was taken to London and her descendants have developed it until it now occupies a unique place both from the historic point of view and also that of human interest.

So realistic and natural are the pose and appearance of the figures that the visitor is often deceived. The writer was very much provoked when an attendant paid no heed to her request for a catalog, but continued engrossed in the reading of a novel. She was about to repeat her request a fourth time in no uncertain tones when an amused grinning attendant on the face of a passer-by caused her to sink quickly out of sight with what reduced dignity she could muster.

The present proprietor, a great-grandson of Madame's, tells the story of the wax works in a book entitled "The Romance of Madame Tussaud." Interesting adventures in obtaining models, personal glimpses of the great and near-great, and amusing incidents observed in the museum, told in chaty style comprise this entertaining scrap book of sidelights.

An autobiography written in Sing Sing by one under life sentence is "Charles E. Chapin's Story." City editor of the New York Evening World for twenty years, he tells the story of his career not as a vindication, but merely as a pastime—a means of escape from his own morbid thoughts. His wide knowledge of the newspaper game, and his participation in contemporary New York life lend interest to this account. He does not dwell on the motives or the execution of his crime.

Both of these books will be ready for circulation at the Public Library Saturday night.

Each year the American Library Association compiles a list of the best books of the year with descriptive notes for each. Copies of this—Booklist Books, 1921—have just been received and will be mailed out on request to county residents who do not know what they want to read. A copy

will also be placed in each of the branch libraries for consultation by local patrons. Our mail order library service to residents of Union county is growing steadily.

TRAFFIC IN IRON ORE BIG

(By Associated Press)
CLEVELAND, O., Mar. 25.—Although speculation never was more rife, local marine men here predict that the iron ore traffic on the Great Lakes will be from 50 to 75 per cent greater this season than last. It is generally conceded that the season will open later than it has in past years, operators being almost unanimously of the opinion that a late start will not only be advisable but necessary. No boats will be sent out prior to April 1, it was declared.

The combined movement of ore, coal, grain and stone last year was \$6,632,575 net tons. Of this, approximately 24,976,813 was iron ore.

With a widespread coal strike looming, little coal probably will be left for the boats to handle until the strike ends.

Under favorable conditions many boats bring grain or ore cargoes down from the head of the lakes, and return with coal. If the coal supply is blocked, the boats must go light to the ore docks and grain elevators and the one-way cargo must bear the expense of the round trip, vessel owners declare.

PARCEL POST USE INCREASES

WASHINGTON, Mar. 25.—Shipments of fruit and vegetables in great quantities by retail and wholesale merchants to all sections of the United States is steadily increasing, according to reports made to General Superintendent W. H. Riddell, of the Railway Mail Service.

As an illustration of the use to which the parcel post is being put by merchants, it was asserted by Superintendent Riddell that recently an entire freight car was loaded with individual cases of apparatus and shipped by parcel post rates. Each parcel, however, conformed to weight regulations, and it would not have been possible to ship the car load as a bulk, it was explained.

Department officials said that there appeared to be no reason why sufficient numbers of crates to make up half car or a car load, cannot be shipped in the future as parcel post. Parcels of a perishable nature, however, which are likely to spoil within the time reasonably required for transportation and delivery, will not, it was said, be accepted for mailing. The rates for parcel post matter depend upon the zone to which shipped and the weight of the package.

PRODUCTION OF OIL WAS LARGE

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Mar. 25.—Nearly nine million barrels of oil were produced on government-owned lands in 1921, resulting in more than \$2,000,000 being paid into the United States treasury as royalties, according to the annual report of A. W. Ambrose, chief petroleum geologist of the bureau of mines.

The government receives royalties on all petroleum and natural gas and their products sold from government lands. The minimum oil royalty rate of 5 per cent is that for land leased as a reward for discovery. Most of the leases have been awarded. It was said, under a sliding scale of royalties ranging from 12 1/2 to 18 2/3 per cent. The rate on casing head gasoline is 16 2/3 per cent of the value of the gasoline extracted from the gas produced and sold.

More than 6,000 permits for prospecting for oil and gas have been issued by the General Land Office, the report stated, while 2,671 leases were said to have been granted for producing oil and gas properties. Most of the oil produced on government lands is credited to Wyoming, California, Montana and Louisiana. Natural gas comes from Wyoming and California, and casinghead gasoline from Wyoming and California.

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(By Associated Press)
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Morse and Sons Face Trial



Charles W. Morse and his three sons are among the 12 men charged with defrauding the government of millions in shipbuilding contracts. This photo, taken in the office of their attorneys, shows, left to right, two of the sons and their father, Harry F. Morse, Edwin A. Morse and Charles W. Morse.

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