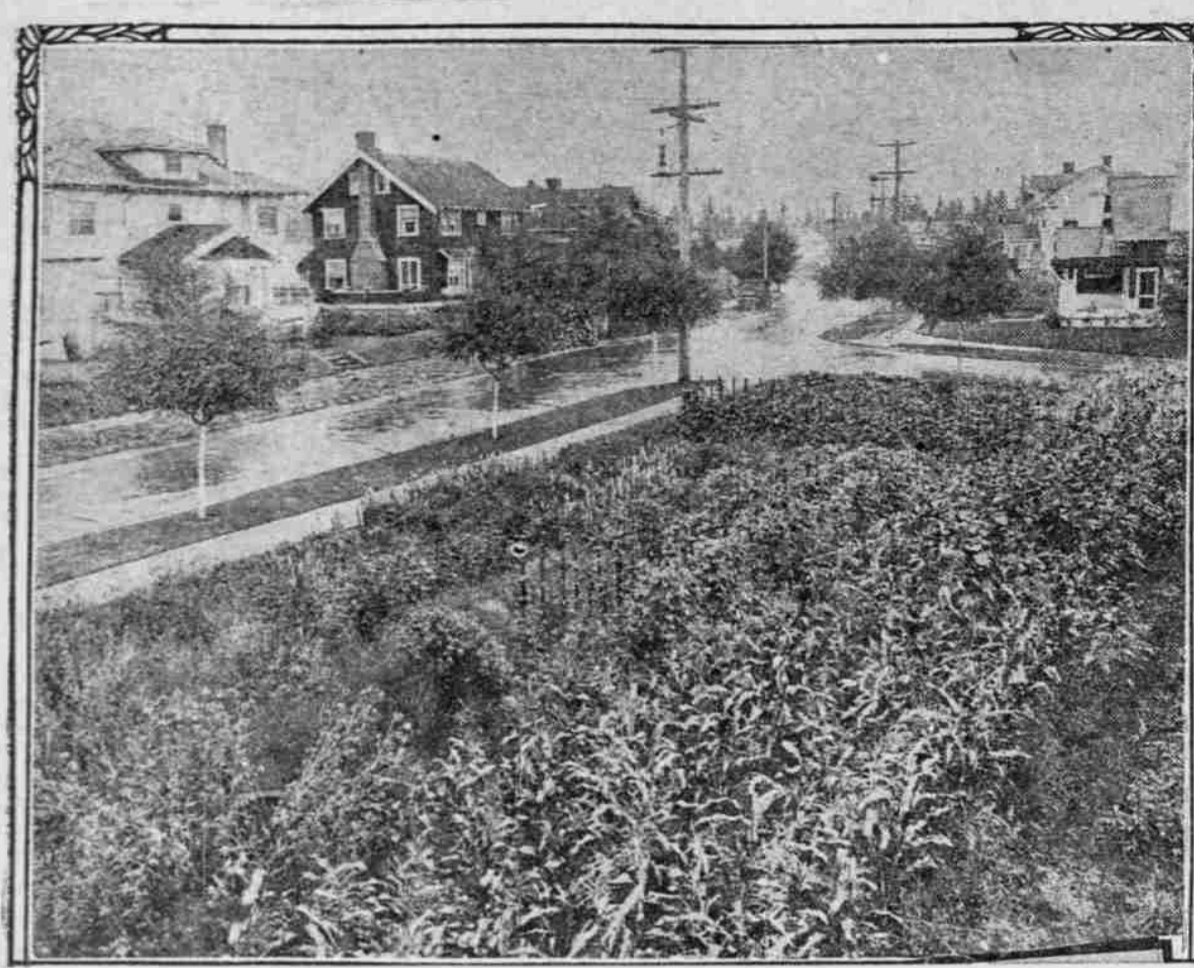


Chats With Home Gardeners



HOME GARDEN OF MRS. FERDINAND E. REED, WIFE OF THE VICTORY GARDEN DIRECTOR, IN LAURELHURST.

DEAR FRIENDS: Last Sunday we gave a list compiled from our local seedsmen of the best varieties of fruit to plant in our home gardens and the best sorts of each for our home use.

Today we will consider, as briefly as possible, the little "tricks of the trade" which make some fruit do so well, and inattention to which makes so many failures. Often in all gardening as well as fruit raising just a little more work of preparation, etc., or the same amount of work differently applied, makes all the difference between success and failure.

Kind of Soil Preferred.

Our fruit trees, shrubs, vines and plants should all be set out now just as soon as possible, while they are dormant. After they start to grow in the spring transplanting gives them a setback.

The land best suited to the growth of an apple tree is a deep, moist loam, but it will produce fruit upon almost any soil except one that is very wet or composed largely of sand.

For pear trees strong, rather moist land is preferred, though they will grow on any soil, but like the apple, grows well on a variety of soils.

Peach trees like sandy loam, clay loam or even clay, if it is thoroughly drained and not too much enriched by the trees come into bearing. The ideal soil is a light one with a clay subsoil and with many small stones mixed in it to give it drainage.

The apricot thrives in a warm, rather thin soil with full exposure to the east. The nectarine (a smooth-skinned peach) has the same requirements.

Plum and prune trees like a deep, moist loam, though they grow under a variety of conditions if given plenty of exposure to air and sunlight.

Cherry trees, as we know, seem to grow wonderfully anywhere in the Willamette valley, the best soil for them is said to be rather light and moderately rich and warm.

In deciding what fruit trees to set out on your land the foregoing may be helpful as an index of the variety which thrives best on the kind of soil you have, although we know that nearly all fruit does well on nearly all the soil we have in our gardens, if the spot where the fruit is planted is properly prepared and drained.

How to Prepare the Soil.

As our gardeners most of them too wet to plow yet, a place to set out our new fruit trees or bush fruits will have to be spaded up and prepared for each individually, provided the spot you choose is dry enough to work now.

Most of our soil is clayey, which is a strong soil, rich in elements of plant and tree growth, but it retains moisture too long, is too adhesive and in dry weather becomes hard as a brick. No fruit trees do as well in such a soil as where it is broken up by adding sand, muck, leaf mould, manure, etc. Lime is a great help to break up a hard clay soil besides sweetening it, and even coal ashes, where nothing better is available, though possessing no virtue of themselves, tend to loosen the soil.

To set out a fruit tree a good-sized space should be loosened up very deeply. In the finest commercial orchards of Oregon (which means in the finest fruit section of the country) a method often practiced is to set off a small charge of dynamite in the hole where each tree is to grow, not because the ground is so rocky, but to loosen up the soil for a distance around in all directions.

The same principle applies in digging a place for our garden fruit. The larger and deeper place you loosen up the less resistance will the new rootlets find and a tree in a prepared bed can grow twice as fast as one in a hard, impervious soil.

If the spot by the fence or in some long-uncultivated corner that you choose for your fruit tree is very hard, take a pickaxe and loosen it up and then work it over with the spade.

Setting Out Trees.

There are two or three worth-while "tricks" to remember here. The first is to carefully take off your top soil when you begin digging to set your tree and put it in a pile by the finest make the hole for the tree a little deeper than you want it and put some of the richer top soil at the bottom to set the tree on and fill the rest around it, using the sub soil for the top.

After the spot has been deeply loosened (plowed or spaded), the hole for the tree need only be large enough to allow the spreading of the roots in their natural position, the size depending on the size of the tree, but that the soil is very poor some well-rotted manure or fertilizer may be added and well mixed with the surface soil but about the roots of the tree, but that is not generally necessary here. Coarse, unfermented manure may be added after two or three inches of soil are covered over the roots and should be mixed with the remaining soil or spread on top.

In buying your trees of the seedsmen you will prune them for you and tell you just how deep in the ground to set them. A planting table of standard distances apart recommended for planting fruit accompanies this article. Our seedsmen warn us particularly not to crowd our fruit together, as all fruit needs plenty of room to grow.

Having your tree set in the bottom of the hole on a cushion of fine loam

top soil, spread out the roots carefully, trimming off any broken roots, and cover with about three inches of the top soil, then cover with a layer of water now, before filling the hole up completely. Then fill up the hole with the subsoil. The soil should be pressed very firmly about the roots, but that on the surface should be left as light and loose as possible.

The top soil should be kept loose at all times by thorough cultivation, first to prevent the escape of moisture by forming a layer of loose nonconducting soil (a dust mulch) on the surface, and secondly, but the essential feature of plant food by the introduction of air. Cherry trees, however, seem to do well surrounded by sod.

Setting Out Small Fruit.

In general all the foregoing applies to our bush fruits, which are set usually in rows, spaced according to the planting table given today. But the general points of deep loosening of soil, keeping the surface top soil to put about the roots, adding fertilizer, etc., where needed, spreading out the roots carefully, firming two or three inches of soil down around them with the feet, adding water in the hole if the soil is dry when you set out your fruit and filling in the top soil loosely, so that a soil mulch will be kept up on top; all this applies to setting all fruits and if carefully followed will make a wonderful difference in its growth and yield.

A brief glance at the peculiarities of the bush fruits may be helpful in deciding which are best for you to raise in the garden. The following are some of the best for your garden and how to treat each individually.

Berry Fruits.

Raspberries, loganberries and blackberries all do well here. Nowhere in the United States do all these fruits grow so well as in the Willamette valley, of course, the loganberry belongs to our coast alone, so we should take particular pride in it.

These small fruits all succeed in almost any soil that is not too wet and heavy. They must have sufficient moisture during the growing and fruiting season, and the essential feature of a good berry soil is thorough drainage not only during the growing season, but also during the winter months. Soil that becomes saturated with water and remains so should never be used for berries. Nothing can take the place of thorough cultivation for berries. The system should be as follows: Work the soil as the soil is dry enough to be worked and should be deep enough to loosen up the soil, yet not so deep as to injure the feeding roots of the plants. The summer tillage should be shallow and frequent and continue regularly.

Two Kinds of Berry Fruits.

Those berries called "upright growers" are such plants as produce erect canes, as raspberries, loganberries, and the logan and Phenomenal berries and Evergreen, Himalaya Giant and Early Mammoth blackberries, which produce long prostrate vines or canes.

There are two systems of planting—the "hill" and the "row." The hill system affords the best opportunity for cultivation, air drainage, sunlight on all sides of the plants and ease in harvesting the crop, while the continuous row permits the planting of more plants.

The upright growers may be planted according to the system, but the vines should be trained to grow in hills or rows, which are spaced four to five feet high in the row. These posts should have wooden crossarms nailed at the top and about 1 1/2 feet from the ground, and the vines stretched between these arms upon which the vines or canes are trained, tying them with strips of soft cloth.

The vines growing in rows should be treated in the same way, but the stakes may be higher and more wires (or poles) may be used.

Currants and Gooseberries.

The peculiarity of the currant is that it is a heavy surface feeder, so it should receive heavy annual dressings of well-rotted manure or commercial fertilizer. After thoroughly working the manure into the soil, the surface should be left smooth and as near level as possible. Regular surface cultivation should continue until picking time. Gooseberries are peculiar in that they will grow well in a partial shade, provided it does not become so dense as to cause the gooseberry mildew.

A north or northeasterly slope is better for gooseberries than a southern slope, as the gooseberry is very partial to a moist, rich, deep, well-drained soil. Gooseberries are shallow-rooted plants, but very heavy feeders. Be careful not to cut the roots in hoeing. Gooseberries like loganberries, are delicious when fully ripe, and should not be considered as only useful when green. There is no better fruit grown

for canning, spicing or preserving than ripe gooseberries.

Grapes.

Grapes should be grown by every home gardener. A grape vine trained over the porch, etc., is beautiful at all seasons of its growth and gives us most valuable fruit besides.

When grapes are grown commercially they are pruned so closely that a vineyard looks like a field of brown stakes with twisted brown knobs on the tops, but in our own dooryard it is not necessary to sacrifice so much

beauty and quantity of fruit, simply that the size may be increased. The vine needs a trellis support of some kind always and it must be pruned in the summer, runners will draw from the plant so that it cannot fruit properly, though pruning does not commence for two or three years after the vine is set out.

Grapes need a well-drained thin soil with a warm southern exposure. A light gravelly soil with a sandy subsoil containing many very small stones is best. Plant on the south or west side of the house or where they get plenty of sunlight, and on high, well-drained soil.

The crown of the vine should not be planted deep, as the grape naturally roots near the surface. A little fine ground bone mixed with the soil about the roots is very helpful.

Strawberries can be grown in any good rich garden soil, but a light sandy loam gives the earliest berries; however, we are especially favored here by being able to raise ever-bearing strawberries, so we can have them from May to late in the fall.

New plant strawberries in or near clover sod or hay fields. In a very dry summer on light land the crop is often injured by drought but if a leaf or two of the top before planting. Do not expose the roots to sun and air while planting. Keep them covered with soil or a damp cloth. Plant in a bed rather than a long row. Dig a trench and plant the roots deeply so that the crown is just even with the surface. Spread out the plant roots carefully and press the soil firmly about each and maintain the soil-mulch on the surface at all times to keep in the moisture, give air drainage, and kill the weeds that must always be kept out of a strawberry bed.

It takes only a few well developed, well cared for plants to supply a family with berries enough to make it is said that strawberries produce, under good conditions, more bushels per acre than the potato.

Besides the economy in raising your own berries is the great advantage of always having firm, fresh berries to eat, ripe and sweet, instead of the stale market ones that have to be picked green for shipping.

In selecting all plants a well-rooted plant, even though the top is small, is far better than a large top with a small root. Let me urgently advise you again to set out at least a little new fruit this spring.

—INEZ GAGE CHAPEL.

MILK WHALES SUGGESTED AS SOLUTION OF LIVING COSTS

Alma D. Katz, Life Insurance Dispenser, Hits Upon Novel Plan to Alleviate Milk Shortage and Reduce Prices.

BY ORTON E. GOODWIN.

It is now authoritatively denied that Alma D. Katz, who combines the pastimes of extracting life insurance premiums and milk and selling both milk and insurance, intends to use his Waucoah farm on the Columbia river for raising milk whales.

For this reason, the coterie of Arlington club members who so kindly floated an issue of stock for a series of companies to be headed by Katz will have to look elsewhere for their president.

Mr. Katz, be it understood, does not believe that whales' milk is better than the cow variety. For this reason it will be altogether futile to expect Mr. Katz to name to head the Oregon milk whale raisers' corporation, the Oregon milk dealers' distribution company nor that great educational concern, the Oregon whale milk monthly.

Mr. Katz, be it further understood, is not interested in whales, does not grow or raise or breed whales, would not milk a whale if he had one and would not sell whale milk if he had a milk whale.

With that point clearly brought out, the story may now be told.

It began when State Veterinarian Lytle, being a seriously jocular mood, gave a published interview on a dull day.

"The milk shortage may be swatted some day," quoth Lytle. And the domesticated whale may do it. With the whole Pacific ocean as a farm the domesticated whale would put the Oregon dairy business off a mammoth scale. Whales are mammals, each of which furnishes about a barrel of milk a day at a milking and while at present they are a little too shy to be exactly classed as easy milkers, they would produce an enormous scale.

The account was printed off and on the back of the clipping was carefully printed another article, so that the whole looked like an excerpt from a newspaper.

Mr. Katz, so the account said, was even now driving piles into the river to which to moor his milk whales. To Alaska's cold climate had he sent for Eskimos who should be trained to handle the milk whales. Mr. Katz was to bait for whales not needed for the herd could be sold on the local market.

"Under the present system," Mr. Katz was quoted, "it costs \$4.30 to produce 100 pounds of milk, so that each whale, being self-supporting, will produce \$35.77 worth of milk each 24 hours, without any cost save the cost of the milker."

Dual purpose whales would be raised, too, for thereby "as the people of Oregon are educated to eating whale meat, all dry female whales and all male whales not needed for the herd could be sold on the local market."

When those clippings were judiciously distributed, they should blame Everett Ames for suggesting to his fellow club members that for the sake of dear old Oregon and the dear old club, they must finance dear old Katz in his perfectly stunning move.

And wasn't Dr. Joseph Biederback ready to take office side by side with the sterling whale farmer Katz. Yes, even so.

Stock in milk whales Inc. and all the other-while milk companies went soaring.

And then Katz heard about it. He spluttered. He fumed.

"What on earth's the matter?" they asked guileless.

Katz stammered and spluttered some more.

Every man then drew from his pocket

a clipping. Each remembered clipping it from a different newspaper, but could not recall the date.

Long hours did Katz spend looking through newspapers, trying to find der suits and damage suits galore. Then he decided he would leave town before the news was bruited abroad.

Now he seeks homes by quiet streets, seeks his office at odd hours, for what can a man say to the well-meaning diot, who walks up with a clipping and a heavy?

"Here, let me give you my check, old man. Wonderful idea of yours. It'll be the making of Oregon. Katz, you are a wonder."

So, to avoid further misunderstanding, let it here again be declared that Alma D. Katz is quite satisfied with the cow dairy business and the insurance game and that under no circumstances now will he raise, assist in raising or propagating or milking or selling or doing anything to a whale.

IT WAS a very wet day; but the Washingtonian was very, very dry.

"Saw," he tipped up to Henry Dickson, who lost one perfectly good job with the Great Northern railway, only to get another immediately with Uncle Sam helping Charles Stinger run the union ticket office. "Saw," would give a year's salary for a bottle of "wet goods."

"Is that so?" queried Dickson, of the J. Rufus Wallington-looking person. "You're on."

And Dickson stole away.

Not many minutes passed before he returned with a most prohibition-apariting bottle, which he handed to the visitor.

And the stranger handed Dickson a dollar.

"You see, I'm a dollar-a-year man," he quoth. "See you later."

But Dickson was not so gloomy as might be deemed.

"Making \$1 of an old whiskey bottle and 20 cents worth of cold tea is pretty good business, isn't it?" he remarked to Stinger. "But he should worry. He got his 'wet goods.'"

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"The Fortune Teller" had once lived a simple life in a tiny country town, but later ran away from her cruel husband with a man who promised to be more kind. They joined a circus and her ability to read the future soon brought much fame and a little money. A sort of "Madame X" creature, victim of too much whisky and coke, and, like the other woman, living over the memories of the past. To her comes one day her 20-year-old son, facing failure and disgrace and through her "fortune" she is able to put him on the right track to keep him from ruin. She decides to leave the old life, settles down under an assumed name in the same town with her son, and is more or less happy until the man who wrecked her life comes into it again.

She leaves her son, but not until her own regeneration is under way and she is strong enough to resist temptation. The lover is conveniently killed and the play has a hopeful ending. Whether in real life, so speedy a cure could be effected, is another question. In the play it seems very plausible, but the wonderful acting of Miss Rambeau could accomplish almost anything. Leighton Graves, Ommun, said to be a Californian, is the author of the play.

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NEW YORK, March 15.—(Special.)—The appearance of Marjorie Rambeau in a new play is always an event of interest. It was the sole opening of the past week; therefore, doubly welcome.

"The Fortune Teller" gives her many opportunities to show her fine emotional powers and demonstrates the fact that Miss Rambeau does not have to depend upon her youth and appearance to get across. Imagine almost any other leading woman playing the part of a 40-year-old mother with a grown boy. Most others would object.

"The Fortune Teller" had once lived a simple life in a tiny country town, but later ran away from her cruel husband with a man who promised to be more kind. They joined a circus and her ability to read the future soon brought much fame and a little money. A sort of "Madame X" creature, victim of too much whisky and coke, and, like the other woman, living over the memories of the past. To her comes one day her 20-year-old son, facing failure and disgrace and through her "fortune" she is able to put him on the right track to keep him from ruin. She decides to leave the old life, settles down under an assumed name in the same town with her son, and is more or less happy until the man who wrecked her life comes into it again.

She leaves her son, but not until her own regeneration is under way and she is strong enough to resist temptation. The lover is conveniently killed and the play has a hopeful ending. Whether in real life, so speedy a cure could be effected, is another question. In the play it seems very plausible, but the wonderful acting of Miss Rambeau could accomplish almost anything. Leighton Graves, Ommun, said to be a Californian, is the author of the play.

The cast included Hugh Dillman, Winifred Wellington, E. L. Fernandez.

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