

PLANT SCHOOL GARDENS SOON

FIFTY FOUR PUPILS ENLIST FOR WORK

Mrs. J. D. Davidson Encourages Many Youngsters in Agriculture—May Obtain Plot of Ground in Center Addition—Girls to Have Club.

More and better vegetables and flowers will be raised this year by the pupils of the Bend public schools if the plan of Mrs. J. D. Davidson, who will again have charge of the school gardens, matures.

With an enlistment of 54 pupils from the 4th to the 8th grades, a number almost four times as large as last year, planting of the gardens will commence just as soon as a suitable plot of ground can be obtained. Mrs. Davidson is considering a tract in Center addition and this may be selected for the gardens if the school board consents to have the ground fenced.

To Have Canning Club.

An added feature for the school girls is being planned this year by Mrs. Davidson in the way of a canning club. Mrs. Davidson's home will be thrown open to the girls and special equipment will be placed at their disposal under Mrs. Davidson's direction. The girls will can both fruits and vegetables, and if the standard of work is reached in this work which the instructor hopes for, the canned varieties will be placed on exhibit next fall at the county and state fair.

Children are Interested.

Unusual interest, according to Mrs. Davidson is being shown this year by the children in the gardening work which was started last year. It is hoped that each pupil may have a section of ground 8 feet by 20 feet for cultivation. The children are permitted to realize on their own gardens by sale of the products.

Cultivation of flowers will be one of the features this year. The children will probably place an exhibit at the annual Flower Show in August.

If the ground can be fenced this week, planting will probably begin some time next week.

Poison Formulas for Rabbits, Gophers, etc.

A—Jack Rabbit Poisons.

14 quarts oats.
1 ounce strychnine alkaloidal powder.
1 ounce soda-bi-carbonate (baking soda.)

Place fourteen quarts of oats in a receptacle such as a galvanized wash tub. Mix one tablespoon of ordinary dry glass starch with one teacup full of cold water. Add this to a pint of hot water and boil until clear. This starch should be smooth and free from lumps. Add the strychnine powder and soda, then beat until the solution is of the consistency of cream. A small teacup of table salt dissolved in the hot water previous to adding the solution occasionally increases the efficiency of the poison.

Pour this creamy mixture over the oats and mix thoroughly until every grain is coated. It is a good plan to let the grain stand a few hours and then mix again. Distribute in large tablespoonfuls about stock yards or previously baited poison corrals from which stock is excluded. It is a good plan to bait these corrals with a few forkfuls of green alfalfa hay a few nights previous to exposing the poison and thus get the rabbits to feeding there regularly. Clear cold nights, when snow is on the ground and the rabbit's natural food supply scarce, is the best time to expose poison. Every quart should make from twenty-five to thirty-five doses.

B.—16 pounds alfalfa hay chopped in 2 inch lengths.

1 ounce strychnine sulphate.
2 gallons water.

Dissolve the ounce of strychnine and the two gallons of hot water and then sprinkle over the chopped hay, mixing until all the moisture is absorbed. This poison must be used inside corrals and care must be taken that it does not blow outside where stock can reach it.

C.—Digger Ground Squirrels.

16 quarts barley.
1 ounce strychnine powder.
1 ounce soda.
One fifth ounce saccharine.
1 quart starch solution.
One half pint corn sirup.
Prepare this poison as in Formula A. Distribute in small tablespoon-

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fuls slightly scattered on the high dry ground near the burrows. When used intelligently in this manner, it will not endanger the live stock. Each quart of poison should treat from 25 to 55 burrows. This poison is most effective when used when green food is scarce, preferably when the animals first come out of hibernation or before going in, in the fall.

D.—Pine Ground Squirrels or "Sage Bats."

10 quarts wheat.
5 quarts barley.
5 quarts oats.
1 ounce strychnine powder.
1 ounce soda.

One fifth ounce saccharine or substitute 1 cup salt.
1 quart starch solution.
One half pint corn sirup.

Prepare this poison as in Formula A. Distribute in teaspoonfuls scattered near the entrance of each burrow and expose as in directions for Digger squirrels. Each quart should treat from forty to fifty burrows.

Pocket Gophers.

Where a few pocket gophers infest a field they may be easily controlled by the use of several makes of traps now commonly on the market. For ridding alfalfa fields, long stretches of ditch embankment and other large areas of them, a much more practical method of destroying pocket gophers is by the use of poisons. A poison prepared as follows has given good results in experiments by the Biological Survey and large areas of national forests have been cleared of this pest in this manner:

Cut parsnips or sweet potatoes into cubes one inch long by one fourth inch square on each end. Wash these baits and place them on a screen to drain. While still damp sift over them from a pepper box one eighth ounce strychnine alkaloidal powder which has previously been triturated with one tenth ounce saccharine. The baits are now ready for use.

The burrows are best located by means of a gopher probe. This can be made from any stout handle about thirty six inches in length. One edge should be bluntly pointed and a foot rest aids in the probing in hard soils. One soon becomes expert in locating the gopher burrows or runways by probing the ground a foot or two back of the terminal mounds.

The runway can be usually felt as the point breaks through it. The rounded end of the gopher probe is now used to enlarge the hole and bait or two dropped into the burrow, the probe hole then being closed. Baits should only be introduced at three or four points in each burrow system of ten to thirty mounds as this is usually the home of a single gopher. In our experience, baits placed fairly in the runways will invariably kill the gopher. These directions apply to the small pocket gopher of Eastern Oregon and the Middle West. It is quite possible that the poisoning of the large pocket gopher of the Pacific coast may require a slightly different method. However, the above is certainly worthy of trial. One soon becomes expert in locating the runs and assistants usually average

from 300 to 500 burrows per day. All equipment and utensils used in the preparation of poison should be kept plainly labeled and out of reach of live stock, children and irresponsible persons.

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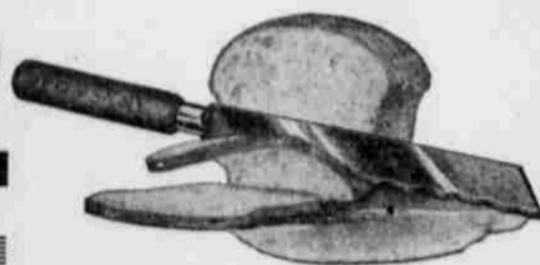
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