

Southern Oregon Miner

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THE SAME OLD STUFF

Ex-President Hoover is telling the folks that their freedom and their opportunities in life are being mortgaged. He expresses fears that the American system of liberty is being endangered. Mr. Hoover balanced the budget all right, and yet business and industry and a lot of other things became unbalanced during his administration. He knows now exactly what to do. But what happened to his massive intellect, his profound wisdom and his mighty statesmanship when they were so sadly needed to avert calamity? Do you hear any noise from his party, any clamor that he be returned to the office of president? Maybe he can hear it himself, but to everybody else the noise sounds exactly like the utter void of silence.

ANSWERS MR. MORGAN

"After centuries of embarrassing perplexity, civilization has been defined," says George W. Bird in a letter to the Oregon Journal. "The famed banking house of Morgan has spoken. Mothers with large families are not eligible. But to employ a maid-servant is ample credential to enter the portals of 'civilized' society consisting of 30,000,000 Americans. The balance, or 98,000,000, are stigmatized as jungle inferiors or a splotch of protoplasmic jelly directed by that highly complex and intricate organism known as civilized man. Such, in brief, is the information gathered at a congressional investigation. This strange release of plutocratic error confirms the theory long held by man, that the highly gifted are frequently penalized while straying in fields outside their own domains. But no lack of mental capacity is apparent in acquiring the confidence of American investors, and unloading foreign bonds totaling billions that immediately struck bottom. This form of legerdemain is not suitable for amateurs."

THAT ALPHABET JOKE

The politicians of the Old Deal are now spending most of their time trying to make jokes about what they call the "alphabet administration." Sly little digs and all that sort of thing. Political pabulum of the chiseling style. But listen to what the WPA of the New Deal has done for the Ashland district. The farmers of this district used to pay from ten to fourteen dollars per acre for irrigation. The WPA work done in the district has reduced the cost per acre to less than four dollars. And the Ashland and Medford sewage projects put across by the WPA are going to take the filth and stench out of Bear creek, which will be a mighty big boon to the trading districts. Old Dealers may sneer, but the people smile.

CONSERVING THE SOIL

The AAA and the NRA are gone. But their influence remains. For AAA there will be soil conservation. Secretary Wallace warns the country that unless the soil is conserved, the plowed soil of fifty million acres will disappear within fifty years. He urged farmers to hold on to their program. The farmers will do exactly what they will not be swayed by the silly knocking of the Old Dealers.

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Mack Lillard

Spring Time Is Garden Time

Feeding plants becomes more general. Plants obtain their food from two sources, air and soil, through two sets of organs, leaves and roots. Plant food constituents taken from the air and soil are conveyed to the plant through the cells where they are separated and recombined into new forms adaptable to the use of the plant. Certain forces enable the plant not only to absorb the air and the soil solution, but to select from the constituents contained in these the particular chemical elements needed for their use in the proportions required.

The plant food constituents contained in the soil water enter the plants through the roots. Plants can use these elements only in the form of solution because no solid particles, however small, are able to pass through the thin walls of plant cells. The soil water dissolves some of the plant food material with which it comes in contact and this nutrient solution passes into the roots through root hairs, those slender white hairlike branches found on all roots.

The movement of solutions containing soluble plant foods from the soil into the plants is accomplished by the process known as Osmosis which is the equalization of two liquids of different strength and separated by plant membrane. The mechanical part of this movement is known as "turgor" of the plant cells. This is the swollen condition which enables cells to maintain their shape and keep in condition for performing their functions. The passage of solution by osmosis into cells causes them to fill up to such a degree as to produce pressure from within on the cell walls and to cause a more or less rigid swollen condition. This condition is maintained by continuous absorption of solution which takes place so long as the cell sap is more concentrated than the solution in the soil, but if on the other hand the soil solution is more concentrated than cell sap, the solution leaves the plant cells, passing into the soil which causes the cells to lose their fullness and to wilt or become limp. If this process is carried on too far the plants may die. It is this process that we observe when plants are over fertilized and is often seen on lawns that have been fertilized without immediately being watered to reduce the solution to safe strength.

It is well known that plants use some soil constituents in much larger amounts than others, and it is a matter of great interest to know how a plant obtains its food supplies in the proportions needed. Through the process of Osmosis plants exercise a certain kind of power of selection, distinguishing between nutritive and non-nutritive constituents, as well as between those used in smaller and larger amounts.

What Plants Require

There are about fifteen elements necessary for the healthy normal growth of crops. All of them must be available in variable proportions. Maximum crops are to be produced. It is the function of complete fertilizers to supply all of these elements in their proper proportions as required by crops. They vary in importance and are conveniently grouped as follows:

Carbon, Hydrogen and Oxygen obtained by plants in abundant quantities from air and water.

Magnesium, Iron and Sulphur, used only in limited quantities by most crops and therefore only of vital importance in a few sections where the supply in the soil is not plentiful.

Sodium, Silicon, Aluminum, Manganese, Chlorine, and others, the complete functions of which have indicated that their presence in the soil is of more or less importance.

Calcium, (lime) not a fertilizer in the same sense as are other elements. Lime is used, as a soil amendment, not so much for its direct effect on plants as for its mechanical effect on the soil which is of indirect benefit. Lime neutralizes the acid in soil and greatly improves its mechanical condition.

Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium, each of which is of vital importance to every grower because soils generally are deficient in all of these elements; the purpose of each is explained in the following paragraphs:

Nitrogen (Ammonia) is the most expensive plant food element entering into the manufacture of fertilizers and is the fundamental element of vitality in either plants or animals. Nitrogen promotes the growth of the leaf and stem, imparting a green color to the leaf, making it larger, richer and more luxuriant in appearance.

Phosphorous (Phosphates or Phosphoric Acid) is an essential plant food. The chief function of phosphorous is to stimulate an early root formation, promoting flowering and fruitfulness and hastening the maturity of the crop. It is very important for all seed bearing and fruit crops.

Potassium (Potash) is a very necessary constituent, absolutely essential to the formation of carbohydrates which comprise starches or bulbs, seeds, etc., the sugar of fruits and vegetables and the fibrous matter of plants. It tends

to impart tone and vigor to the plant, aiding in the formation of woody fiber in the stalk and decreasing susceptibility to plant diseases.

Complete Fertilizers are materials containing a combination of the three most important plant food elements: Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium. The proportion of the three elements in their relation to each other is varied to suit crop requirements and to overcome soil deficiencies. They are, however, always used together because experience has proven that each of these elements in order to function at its best requires the presence of the other two in available form. It is the purpose of complete fertilizers to supply crops with these necessary plant foods which the soil, unaided, cannot supply and which are not provided in sufficient quantities by the application of manure or the growth of legumes or cover crops.

The modern fertilizer factory makes a number of different formulas of complete fertilizers in which the amounts of the principal elements are varied to suit the particular crop for which they are intended, or to meet the deficiencies in the soil on which the crop is grown.

VEGETABLE GARDENING

The growing of vegetables is a hobby that each year is becoming more popular because it combines health promoting outdoor exercise with the very pleasant task of reducing the family living expense. Not only does it give us an ever present supply of vegetables close at hand but it means fresh vegetables that are tender, appetizing and delicious. No market, however modern, can sell you vegetables as fresh and good as those you gather from your garden. The secret of real goodness in vegetables lies in their being used just as quickly as possible after they are brought in from the garden.

Preparing The Garden For Planting

"Well begun is half done" is one of those ancient maxims which comes very near to being true in the case of gardening. The preparation of the soil is half the battle and more than half the work of gardening. Digging is the basis of good gardening and the better the job of digging the better the garden. Unless the soil is so exceptionally poor and shallow that it needs special preparation, a spade's depth is ample providing the soil is broken up and thoroughly pulverized after it is turned over.

The right way to dig thoroughly is to thrust the spade or the spading fork into the soil in a vertical position to its full depth and then lift and turn over the soil. Having turned over a spadeful, break it up with the edge of the spade in a fairly fine condition. Do not leave clods. With this preliminary breaking up as the soil is turned over is an easy matter to go over it with a garden rake and hoe and pulverize the surface to the proper texture for seed sowing or for young seedling plants.

The soil itself is a good guide as to when to do spading. The right time to dig is when the earth will fall apart readily. Test it by taking a handful of soil and then breaking it apart with the fingers. If it breaks apart readily, it is in condition for digging. If it remains a compact wet mass in the hand, it is too wet to work and will dry into hard lumps and should not be spaded over until later when it is in proper condition. Once the soil has been properly spaded the next step is to incorporate into it the plant food necessary to properly grow the things we will plant.

For home gardens by far the most satisfactory way of supplying the plant food is in the form of commercial fertilizer properly balanced as to its Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash content such as Lilly's Garden Mucrop. A 50-lb. bag selling for \$2.85 is a liberal application for a thousand square feet of garden space.

If the soil is sandy or devoid of humus its productive capacity will be materially increased if a bale of Ground Peat is also added to each 1000 sq. ft. Ground Peat is pure humus, being partly decomposed Moss of a soft brown color. Ground Peat comes in bales (like bales of hay); it is thoroughly dry and in fine granular conditions so that it mixes readily with the soil. It carries some plant food, but its principal function is to improve the mechanical condition of the ground. Ground Peat has great moisture retaining powers and is a great help on sandy soils. It loosens up heavy soil and supplies a wonderful base for soil bacteria to perform their task of making the plant food elements in the soil available.

In the preparation of the seed bed it is well to remember that we must accomplish these things. Turn under any refuse plant material so that it will not interfere with our garden work.

Break up the soil and get it in proper tilth.

Pack it sufficiently to allow the moisture to come from below and supply the needs of the crop.

Mix the fertilizer to be used thoroughly with the soil so that

Brad's Bit O' Verse

By CLEM BRADSHAW

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick! When it comes his day
My thoughts go back and far away
Across the sea to that sweet clime
Whose fields he walked in olden time.

I scarce believe the fairy tales
Of frogless ponds and snakeless vales,
Of hosts angelic by his side,
Of mystic fires his steps to guide.

It is enough that as a man
He brought the light to savage clan;
That through the wild and trackless moor
He toiled to aid the sick and poor,
And carried cheer and sweet relief
Alike to peasant and to chief.

It is enough for my scant creed
That in her hour of darkest need
He heard old Erin's mournful plaint;
And like a true and valiant saint
He went with messages of joy
To where, a little shepherd boy,
He once had watched the lowing kine
And dreamed the dream of Love Divine.

Oh not alone to that green isle
Where shamrocks grow and meadows smile,
Does good St. Patrick's Day belong,
With badge of green and lilt of song.

For one whose deeds held high the light
Of learning through the world's dark night,
Whose life was merged in one great plan
Of service, love for fellow man,
Deserves to be forever shined
Within the hearts of all mankind.

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it will be available to the crops. Make a suitable place for seeds to germinate and for the seedlings to grow properly.

Add Fertilizer And Peat Before Planting

The proper time to add fertilizer or the humus to garden soil is immediately after it has been spaded. The task is then done most easily and these materials are properly incorporated into the top layer of soil without performing any extra labor. Working the soil down to a seed-bed with the rake and hoe automatically mixes the fertilizer and peat with the soil just where it is wanted to help the young seedlings make a good start. Properly fertilized gardens have few sick or diseased plants.

Planting The Seed

At planting time, that is when real gardening weather is at hand, plant the seeds in freshly turned and well fertilized soil, to a depth that will insure sufficient moisture for good germination. The best rule to follow for depth is to cover the seeds from three to five times their diameter with fine soil pressed down firmly enough so the seed is in firm contact with soil kept moist by capillary attraction from below.

In times of warm or windy weather the soil can be kept from drying out by mulching it lightly with ground peat, lawn clippings, etc.,

or shading with lath, burlap or other material. Be careful of one thing—see that the seeds and seedlings have moisture available constantly. Drying out for a short time after germination has started is fatal. Life in them can never be restored.

When planting in hills, make a shallow hole with a level bottom and space the seed to be planted several inches apart. This will give the seedlings an opportunity to grow without competition with their neighbors. It is a simple matter to select the best of the plants for a permanent stand when thinning out.

Cultivation

The purpose of cultivation is threefold. First, it destroys all weed growth. Second, it keeps the soil loose and prevents the too rapid evaporation of soil moisture and, third, it assists greatly in making plant food available because it stimulates the growth of those soil bacteria which transform the raw materials in the soil into available food for plants.

Each time you cultivate the soil around your plants you stimulate activity in the soil which results in the production of available plant food which causes growth stimulation.

HOW TO FERTILIZE

Gardens become more luxuriant each year as our knowledge of