

Repledge for War Savings "SALADA" TEA

Making the Most of Fallen Leaves

By K. M. Broman, Superintendent of Arboriculture, Niagara Parks Commission

Dead leaves, weeds and other waste organic materials should be used to the fullest extent. Particularly the carpet of leaves that covers the lawns and roadways each fall should be collected and preserved for its fertilizer value.

In autumn, one sees many misguided individuals raking up leaves and setting fire to them by the roadside! Besides doing the asphalt or concrete no good, this burning of leaves is anything but pleasant to their unfortunate neighbours. Others do their burning in the garden, believing they are adding valuable quantities of potash to the soil. This is true to a small extent, but the loss of other valuable leaf elements coupled with the effect of the excessive heat on the soil probably cancels any beneficial effects. One need not dwell on the hazard of fires which accompanies this wasteful method of leaf disposal. Instead of dissipating Nature's bounty in this way, the leaves should be gathered with a view to building a leaf-mold compost.

Compost Heap

The choice of a site for the compost heap is important, and the following points should be carefully considered.

- (1) A damp spot is preferable, since water is essential for the rotting process.
- (2) It should be in a shady spot, since too much sun will dry out the compost.
- (3) Shelter from the wind is necessary, because wind will lower the temperature sufficiently to kill the organisms which cause the decay. If a higher temperature is maintained, the process is speeded up and undesirable weed seeds, runners and roots are destroyed.

Proper Mixture

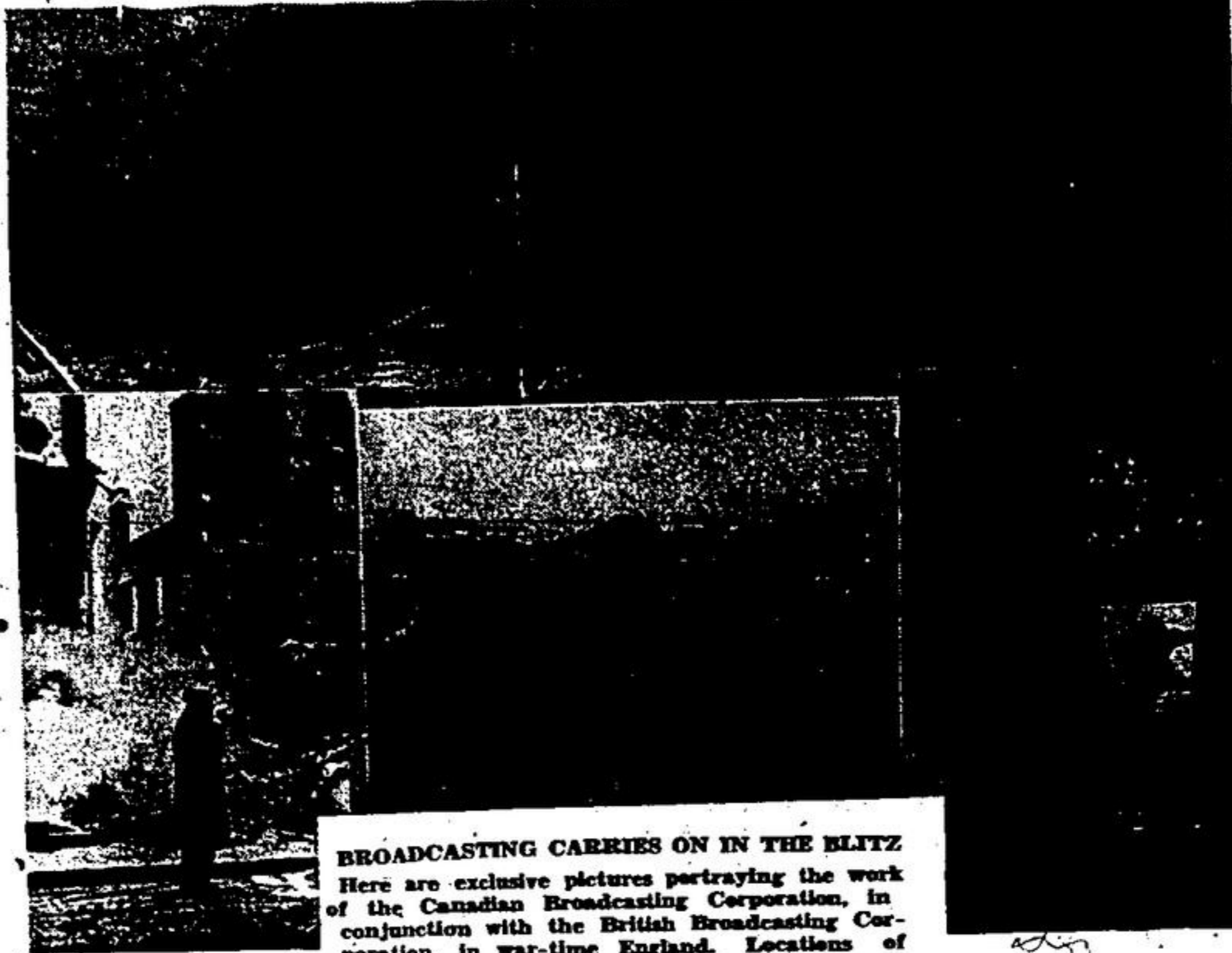
Practically any leaves are suitable for leaf mold, but the correct mixing of the ingredients of the compost is of great importance. If young and succulent materials, such as green weeds and grass are used, a too rapid decomposition takes place producing a sticky, foul-smelling mass, of poor fertilizer value. On the other hand, if dry, dead leaves are used alone, decay is

so slow that after months of standing the compost possesses poor manurial value. Experience has shown that a mixture of two parts of green stuff to one part of dry is best. The main object in using these proportions is to obtain a correct balance between the amounts of carbohydrate and nitrogen present; a lack of carbohydrate and an excess of nitrogenous compounds will produce a too rapid rotting with a consequent loss in essential plant nutrients. Furthermore, these proportions encourage proper ventilation—a most necessary feature, if the best leaf mold is to be produced.

Often, in building a compost heap, unskilled persons will shake the soil from the roots of weeds and other plants before throwing them on the pile. This is not at all necessary. In fact, it helps to retard the fermentation process, since, besides containing organisms which help to promote decay, a small amount of soil in the compost heap helps to conserve moisture.

The above balance is hard to attain under normal circumstances; consequently, in actual practice, a slightly different scheme is followed. The chosen site of the compost heap is covered with a layer of leaves one foot deep. This is watered thoroughly, then covered with a good sprinkling of Cyanamid (CaCN₂). By repeating these steps, the compost heap is ultimately completed. The Cyanamid, besides providing valuable nutrients, aids in heating and controlling undesirable acidity.

To produce the best leaf mold, some consideration must be given to the care of the compost heap. (1) It should be so shaped that rain water will collect there and prevent a too heavy loss of moisture. (2) After the pile has stood for six weeks, it should be turned and, if necessary, thoroughly watered. (3) This treatment should be repeated once more after another six week period has passed. (4) Water may be added at any time, too much water, however, will cause the pile to become water-logged, which will prevent proper fermentation or even cause the leaching out of undesirable fertilizer salts.



BROADCASTING CARRIES ON IN THE BLITZ
Here are exclusive pictures portraying the work of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, in conjunction with the British Broadcasting Corporation, in war-time England. Locations of course are secret, but these pictures serve to show the extent of the damage. Upper right shows anti-aircraft fire. Lower right is a view of a BBC engineer in emergency shelter.

Economy of Nature

One cannot refrain from commenting on the economy of nature. The tree produced the leaves so that they might manufacture its food. This is done in a most interesting manner: A gas, carbon dioxide, is taken in through the pores in the leaf, and the water and the dissolved mineral matter absorbed by the roots are made to combine in the sunlit leaf to produce a sugar and other substances which make up the plant body. Yet, even after it has finished its role as a sugar mill, its usefulness is not at an end, for the valuable salts remaining in the leaf are to be returned to the soil to be used again and again. When man destroys this balance between nature and plants, he is directly responsible for the production of poorer plants and flowers.

Still, this needless destruction of valuable organic materials continues year after year. If the public cannot see the value of leaves, the municipal authorities certainly ought to initiate a move to prevent the loss of this valuable fertilizer. It would be an easy and profitable matter to start a city compost heap which would supply the necessary fertilizer for public boulevards, flower gardens and parks. Moreover, the constant demand for

leaf mold will ensure a means of paying for the labor involved. It is to be hoped that soon both authorities and people in general will stop wasting this vital substance.

If you wish "a garden beautiful, filled with blooms and verdure green," make the most of the fallen leaves.

Junior Farmers Honour Newlyweds

Mr. Jack Ruddle was host to seventy members of the Norval Junior Farmers and Junior Institute on Tuesday evening, October 14th. The theme of the girls' meeting was "Nutrition." "My favourite vegetable and how I like it served" was the roll call. Reta Fisher gave a fine paper on "Foods on the Home Front." Mrs. Elmore Archdekin demonstrated several ways of serving vegetables attractively. Irene Leslie gave the current events and Joy

Ruddle conducted a contest.

During the Junior Farmers' meeting the president, George Henderson, conducted a quiz program, John Bird gave a talk on some junior farmer news. Day Charles led a discussion on the Farm Forum Topic "The business of farming as compared with other businesses."

During the joint meeting the president, George Henderson, called upon Mr. and Mrs. John Williamson (Jean Lundy), Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Archdekin (Janet Henderson) and Mr. and Mrs. Bill McCaugherty (Bea Lyons). Charlotte Wilson then read the following address:

Dear Newlyweds:
I say newlyweds because we have with us three newlywedded couples. It is not often that the Norval Juniors are favored in having three. We are very pleased to have you here to-night. To our new members by marriage, we welcome you and trust you may be with us many times again. We wish you all health, happiness and prosper-

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR LIVER

Think it up right now a good food like a million!
Your liver is the largest organ in your body and it does the most important work. It filters out all the poisons from your blood, gets rid of waste, supplies energy, stores sugar and fat to keep you going. When your liver gets out of order, you feel sluggish, tired, and your health begins to decline. You become nervous, irritable, and you lose weight. You may even get sick. So can you see, it's important to keep your liver healthy. That's why you should take a course of Fruit-A-Tives. It's a natural, healthy, and delicious way to keep your liver in top condition. It's the only fruit-based liver tonic that's safe for everyone. Try it today! You'll feel like a new man. Buy it at your grocery store or drug store. 25c. 50c. 1.00. Canada's Largest Fruit Tonic Plant.

FRUIT-A-TIVES

ty in your flow homes.

To you, Jean and John, we ask you to accept this gift. You both have been willing helpers in the Juniors and we hope you will find it possible to continue to do so. Jean has played an important part in the girls' work so we can say to John, he picked one of the best.

To you, Janet and Elmore, we ask you to accept this gift as a remembrance from the Norval Juniors. We are very sorry you will be living away from us. Janet has been a very good helper with the Junior work and will be missed. Elmore is known to most of us and we hope we may have frequent visits from you both.

To Bea and Bill, our newest of newlyweds, we ask you to accept this gift. Bill is not known to many of us, but knowing Bea so well we feel we should know Bill. Bea has been 100% with the Juniors since its beginning—being one of its first members. She will be greatly missed but think she will still remember us in thought even if she cannot attend as regularly as before.

And so to you all, again the Juniors say, good luck and good wishes.

Harold McClure, Lorne Lundy and John Bird presented each couple with a large floral picture, after which the grooms replied.

Dancing was enjoyed to the music of Stewart's Orchestra with Angus McNabb as floor manager. Lunch was served and a vote of thanks given the host by George Henderson and John McNabb.

The next meeting will be held at John Bird's on November 11th.

The Irishman was relating his adventures in the jungle.

"Ammunition, food and whisky had run out," he said, "and we were parched with thirst."

"But wasn't there any water?"

"Sure, but it was no time to be thinking of cleanliness."



Our Town is at War

● Men are drilling in our town . . . our own men . . . men we call by their first names. Some of them quit good jobs to join the army . . . some quit school. When the Empire went to war and Canada went to war . . . this town went to war. Every now and then a few more men from this town leave for active service. We're taking the war more seriously. Are we? Are we all? Are those of us who haven't joined up doing all we can? Are we lending all

we can? That's one thing we can all do . . . one thing we must all do. We must all buy more War Savings Certificates.

The help of every Canadian is needed for Victory. In these days of war the thoughtless selfish spender is a traitor to our war effort. A reduction in personal spending is now a vital necessity to relieve the pressure for goods, to enable more and more labour and materials to be diverted to winning the war. The all-out effort, which Canada must make, demands this self-denial of each of us.

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