

Farm Tribune

GARDEN GUIDE Les Faux, Heads

Wide Choice Of Trees For Your Lot

By John Bradshaw

It's been said by people much wiser than me that nothing contributes more to the comfort and welfare of mankind than a tree. It seems to me that this Centennial Year offers an excellent opportunity for the whole family to plant a tree and watch it grow over the years. In later life the children will say—"Remember when we helped mother and dad plant that tree." Such is the fibre on which memories are made.

Modern mass nursery production has meant that far too many trees of the same kind are planted each year. This need not be because a search through nursery catalogues will soon reveal that there's a wide choice of trees that are just a little bit different.

A typical example would be the Red Horse Chestnut. In choosing an attractive shade tree for the garden you cannot afford to overlook this one. Everyone knows the glorious candles of white bloom that the ordinary chestnut produces. Just imagine the same tree with reddish pink flowers. It's a fairly fast growing shade tree and the flowering time is May and June. Unlike the common chestnut, this tree does not bear nuts which disfigure the garden. Its height at maturity will be about 30 feet.

In this area the Golden Rain is one of the best medium sized flowering trees for the home garden. In mid-summer the whole tree is a cascade of golden bloom. The flowers are borne in long chains which create a breath-taking sight when they stir in the breeze. Here's a lawn specimen tree that will delight both you and your neighbors. It will grow about thirty feet high when fully matured.

There are too few gardens that contain a dwarf Japanese Red Maple. This maple can be grown either as a colorful dwarf tree or a small shrub. Because of its slow growth it makes an excellent specimen tree or shrub for lawn planting. You'll find its foliage is never dense enough to harm the lawn and the brilliant crimson color never fails to attract attention. This blood red color makes an eye-catching contrast if set among the evergreens in the foundation planting. The Japanese Maple needs full sun but will tolerate moderate shade. Under the latter conditions the crimson color is not nearly so pronounced.

Not every nursery carries the pyramidal English Oak, but any trouble you may have in finding it will be forgotten when you see it growing in your garden. Its shape is the same as that of the Lombardy Poplar but it has none of the latter's faults. Lombardy Poplars mature somewhere between 16 and 20 years of age and then gradually die away.

On the other hand, the Pyramidal Oak is long-lived, slower growing and more compact. Its leaves turn brown in the fall, and cling to the branch until early next Spring, giving the tree a most attractive appearance throughout the winter months. During the summer the green foliage is a joy to behold.

One of the most ideal shade trees for any garden, large or small, is the Little Leaf Linden. There's hardly a better tree for street planting as it's able to withstand the fumes, smoke and dust, that pollute the city air, much better than most trees.

The Little Leaf Linden has a dense pyramidal shape, handsome heart shape foliage and eventually grows to 100 feet in height. Don't plant this tree close to public utility wires or the house.

For my money, one of the best introductions in the past few years as far as ornamental shade trees are concerned, is the Sunburst Thornless Locust. This shade tree is fast growing but has few, if any, faults. Being a hardwood, the limbs are not easily broken down in wind and ice storms. The tips of the branches are a bright golden yellow, shading to bronze at the ends and they appear as if you had taken a paint brush and covered each tip with bright golden paint.

While it is a very fast grower, it will not grow out of bounds, and the eventual height at maturity is anywhere from 30 to 40 feet. It makes an excellent lawn specimen shade tree because the diameter of the trunk is very small.

Now is the time to make your choice of trees so that you'll be ready to plant them the first day that the soil becomes workable in your garden.

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Union Says

Farmer Low Man Far Too Long

Mrs. Michael Opstnik, women's president of the Ontario Farmers' Union, told members this week farmers have been "low man on the economic and social totem pole far too long."

The agricultural community has been the "soft spot" with-in society, open to misuse by the power blocks, she said.

This is where the OFU comes in — "we as a farm organization become a block of strength also looking for a soft spot."

"Not very humanistic," she admitted, "but the basis on which this society is founded and unfortunately if we are to survive as farmers, we must learn the name and rules of the game being played and apply them."

Industry now sets the pace, said Mrs. Opstnik. "It seeks its own goals, achieves its own ends, establishes a value system by which the quality of life in our civilization is measured."

She said that value systems

placed farmers as "duty" bound to "produce and feed the nation and a hungry world no matter what the costs to themselves."

The name of this game is humanity and the rules are charity, and it's a game the farmers have been playing a long time. It's a fine game, but in order for the game to be fair all participants have to be playing the same game and abide by the same rules."

Mrs. Opstnik said governments have been advancing industrialization to

the detriment of agriculture. "Farmers have been subsidizing the nation with cheap food."

Farmers are told they cannot receive more for their produce because it would inflate consumer prices, and the consumer is already complaining about the high price of food.

The consumer hollers more about the high cost of food than any other commodity he purchases in the marketplace because he is indoctrinated into believing that cheap food is his God-given inalienable right."

However, this does not extend to houses and cars, said Mrs. Opstnik.

"It is obvious that all the brief presentations and quiet, soft-spoken pleading around a government table doesn't mean a thing unless you have the force in the country to back them up."

"Until such time as the force is a solidly organized farm front, we cannot become more sophisticated in our approach to government and become as the farm unions in the British Isles, the bargaining and negotiating voice of farmers."

"The OFU has been called irresponsible because it employs measures such as last year's tractor demonstrations, said Mrs. Opstnik."

"Until governments and all segments of society recognize their responsibility to society as a whole and to the primary producer . . . we will continue to employ all and any measures necessary to ensure protection of the producer," she said.

FARMING REPORT

By AL WALL

I know many farmers who enjoy experimenting a little. Often, the ideas are rather wild ones and the failure rate is high. It's still good though, because once in a while, useful discoveries are made and even if it fails, the experience makes life interesting.

I put frost seeding in this class. I don't think anyone would want to seed 100 acres on frozen ground but a few acres would be a good project.

We know that barley seeded on frost can give higher yields than normal seeding, that the plants will be shorter with stiffer straw, and that the crop gets away earlier with a better chance of avoiding dry weather."

Seed can be scattered on frozen ground in March or April. It's best not to even try to cover it. Harrowing, when the surface thaws, too often buries the seed too deep. Left alone, the seed itself will work into soft, mushy soil as thawing.

The rate of seeding should be higher than normal. Birds will take some of it and some plants won't survive. Barley isn't killed easily by frost. It will come back even if most of the leaves are killed. With a root established, it will grow a second much faster than a crop just planted.

Lots of fertilizer is a must for frost seeding. Nitrogen can be put on before or after seeding, and it's needed for success. Weed control with chemicals is another absolute requirement. Weeds will flourish without the normal seed bed preparation, and spraying must be done at the right time.

If a field has a grass problem, it's a poor risk for frost seeding. Corn is a much better crop for grassy fields because the grass can be taken out.

So, this is a good week for the innovators to get started on spring seeding. It will be interesting for sure, and it might just work.

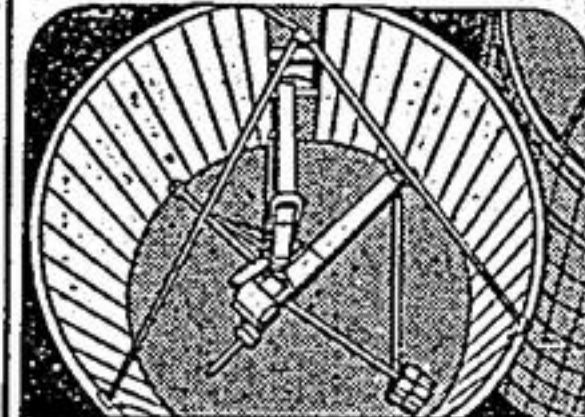
4-H Clubs are organizing in York this week. The Seed Fair and Spray School is on Thursday, and Jersey breeders are having a barn meeting at Cecil Morton's on Friday. Beef producers go on a bus tour next Tuesday, visiting beef farms in York, Peel and Simcoe.



Triplet Goats At Lemonville

Dale Claughton of Lemonville, holds triplet goats, one of several sets of triplets born on their farm this spring.

—Staff Photo.



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