

Farm

Tribune

GARDEN GUIDE

A few do-it-now tips

BY JOHN BRADSHAW

At this time of the year it's easier to fill in small bare spots in the lawn by borrowing patches of sod from along the edge of the lawn.

Daily watering does more harm than good. Unless rain misses your garden for ten days to two weeks, Merion Kentucky blue grass will be better off if not watered at all. On other lawns where it may be necessary to apply water, be sure the soil is soaked to a minimum depth of five inches.

The old canes on rambler type roses should be cut away to the base of the plant as they will not flower again. Do save the new ones forming near the ground level as these are the ones that will flower next year. Be sure not to use this treatment on large flowered modern climbers. About all the pruning they need is to cut out old, hard wood that has stopped blooming. Once you finish pruning, scatter a complete fertilizer around the base of each bush and work it gently into the soil.

Lettuce seed germination may be poor if the weather turns hot. To overcome this, mix seed with damp sand and peat moss and store in an electric refrigerator for two weeks but not in the freezing compartment. Sow this lettuce seed in rows after this cooling treatment.

Although they do not have a summer dormant period, many gardeners move the Hemerocallis or Day lily at this time. They can even be moved when in full bloom; a good way to see what you are buying. Move them with a ball of earth around the roots and they will grow without any signs of having been moved.

Now is a good time to move small chrysanthemum plants into place for autumn flowers. Many gardeners grow them in rows in the vegetable garden and use them to fill in bare spots left when spring-flowering bulbs like tulips have died down. Because the plants are shallow-rooted, they do not interfere with the bulbs in any way, but actually protect them from too much heat.

Experienced gardeners know that many of our best garden flowers must be planted in July. If not moved then, either they don't survive or flowering will be delayed an extra year. The most important of these is perhaps the tall bearded iris that makes such a wonderful show in June. Soon after the flowers fade, the roots die off and they go into a partial rest period, even though the tops remain green. Moved at this time they make new roots in August and are ready to flower the next year.

When remaking an old iris bed, divide the old plants into single roots, each with a "fan" or cluster of leaves at the end. Lay the root horizontally, with about an inch of soil over it. Do not plant so the root rides the soil like a duck riding the water; as is often recommended. This exposes the root to injury.

Bluebells of Virginia or Mertensia should be moved now. The flower is dormant. Dealers in wild flowers offer roots at this time.

Although they may not have fully died down, now is the time to dig and move old plants of Oriental poppies. Order new varieties from dealers now.

Two other imported bulbs can be ordered now. False Autumn crocus or Colchicum and true Autumn crocus. Colchicum bulbs will flower when standing on a table without soil or water, after which they must be planted in order to make roots. True Autumn crocus must be put in soil at the earliest possible moment after bulbs arrive from Holland.

Prepare the garden for summer beauty

With a little extra effort now, the garden can be made to look lovely all summer.

Water is important during hot, dry weather. Watering should be done only when the soil is quite dry but then a thorough soaking should be given. This encourages deep penetration of water to root depth. People leaving for a vacation will find that mulching will help keep the garden from drying out. A layer of one-half to one inch of damp peat moss makes an excellent mulch, as it holds a lot of water, and will effectively shade the soil to prevent it from drying out. Now is the time to begin

protecting tall-growing plants from being damaged by the wind. One or two sturdy stakes of wood or bamboo cane will serve to support most tall garden plants. They should be tied to the stakes with string, plaster cord or wires or raffia. The plants should not be tied so tightly that the stems have no room to expand. Tomato plants, delphiniums and other tall plants in the garden should be staked.

To obtain further information on garden topics, write the Information Branch, Ontario, Department of Agriculture and Food, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, for the list of available publications.

Hydro raises rural rates

Ontario Hydro has announced an increase in rates to its 500,000 rural customers — the first general increase in 15 years. The new rates will be reflected in bills mailed on and after Oct. 1, 1968.

The increase will vary from customer to customer according to classification and the amount of energy used. The average will be nine and one-half percent.

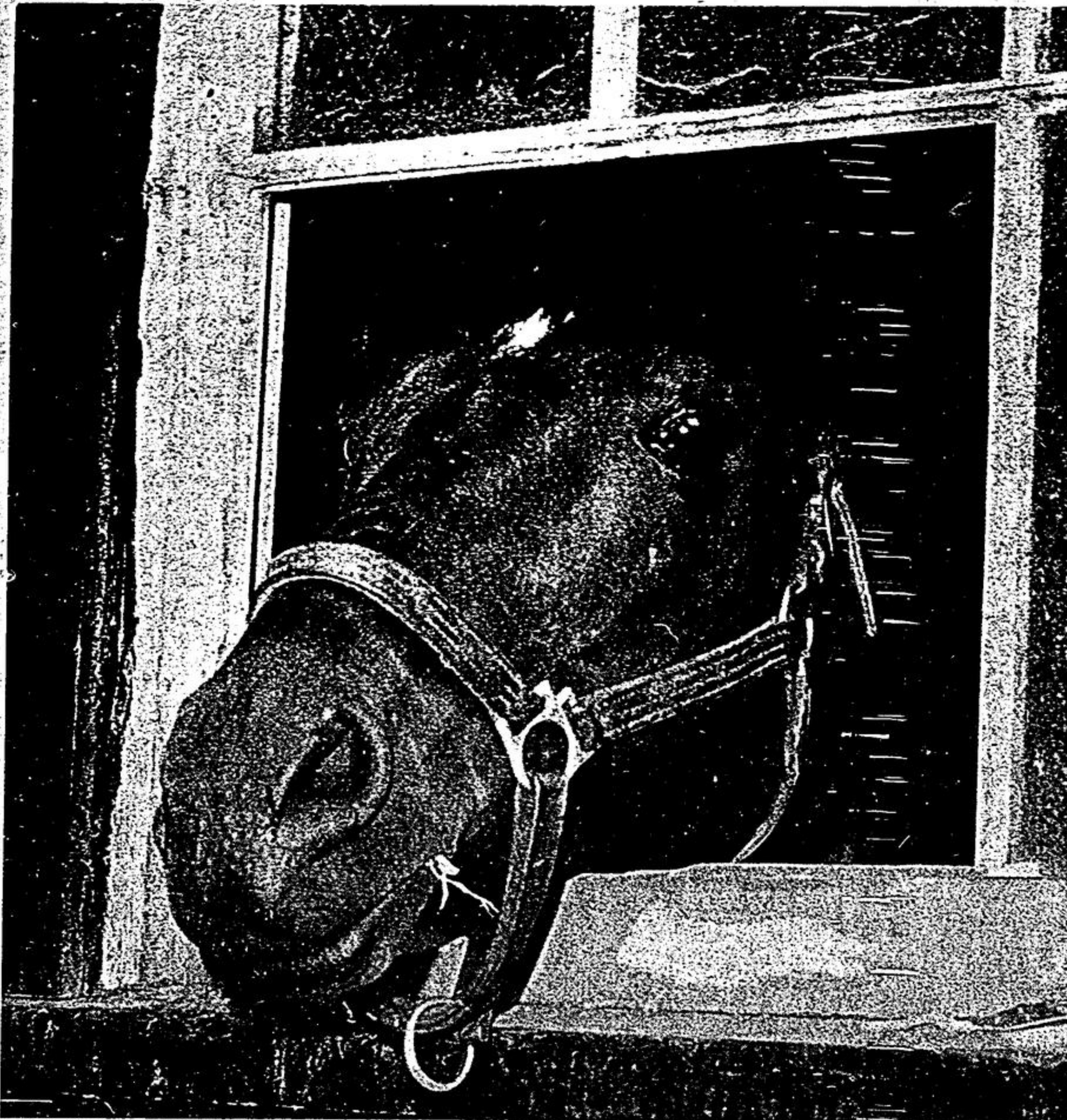
A detailed explanation of the changes is being mailed to all rural customers.

As summer cottage customers are billed only twice a year, the new rates will not come into effect for these customers until after the bill for meter readings taken at the end of the 1968 season. A fixed amount is charged in the spring, and the fall bill is based on a meter reading taken each summer.

From time to time during the 15-year period since 1953, relatively minor rate adjustments have been made to meet changing conditions on the system. The last one was in 1966 when 173,000 customers received decreases and 165,000 small increases.

Chairman George Gathercole said the increases reflect the "inflationary pressures of higher costs on the Commission for equipment, supplies, property, salaries, wages and borrowing."

Mr. Gathercole said that a variety of cost-saving procedures, including automated techniques, consolidation of work areas and promotional load building, adopted by the Commission had enabled



One of the greats

The Tribune camera caught this shot of "Colesteo," a seventeen year old thoroughbred while on a visit to Mrs. Eileen Spicers stables, R.R. 4, Stouffville. One of the greats in 1954, winning the King's Plate and the Victoria Day Stakes, he now lives a life of retirement at the Spicer farm.

Hydro to hold the line on rates.

"However," he said "our rural system operated at a deficit last year and an upward adjustment of rates is now essential."

He estimated the increases would "barely meet rising costs — but should carry us through the next two years with-

out further adjustment."

Earlier this year Ontario Hydro increased its rates to municipal electrical utilities across the province for power supplied. Urban dwellers receive power from the electrical utility in their community, while rural customers are served directly by Ontario Hydro.

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FARMING REPORT

by AL WALL

The Sunrise Tour for farmers in York is all set to go next week. It's on Tuesday, July 16th, and the visits will be to farms in King and Vaughan Townships.

The tour is mainly to see new techniques in use for crop production; but we will see some new systems for livestock too.

The tour starts at 9 o'clock, travel is by car, and the invitation is open to everyone. We assemble at John Nichol's farm on the 3rd of King, just north of the Aurora sideroad.

Corn is the main attraction at Nichol's. The crop is good and his bunker storage is of interest, as well as an unusual herd of imported Charolais cattle.

Charlie Grubbe's place is next, with barley, wheat and Avadex on wild oats, to see. A new hog barn with a very modern system for processing and handling feed, is an extra.

The next stop is at Ewart Jennings. Barley, hay, a bunker silo, free stall housing for a 60 cow dairy herd, and year-round feeding are all points of interest.

Shur-Gain Research Farm at Maple follows. There is a very large acre-

age in corn at Shur-Gain, with several different hybrids, weed control methods, and cultural practices to see. We'll have a look too, at their set-up for feeding dairy cattle, and the Beef Research Centre.

In the afternoon, we will stop at Bob Julian's at Maple to see soybeans and barley, as well as Westonway Farms to see a very large operation for drying and storing grain corn.

We conclude at Cold Creek Farms to see a new pasture that was established this spring without breaking or working the old sod.

The tour is sponsored by the York Crop Improvement Assoc. under the chairmanship of Walter Burkholder of Pickering.

Livestock judging

The Annual Ontario County Livestock Judging Competition will be held in the Beaverton area on Thursday, July 18, 1968.

All Junior Farmer and 4-H club members, and other young farm people under the age of 26 years as of July 1, 1968, are eligible to enter this competition.

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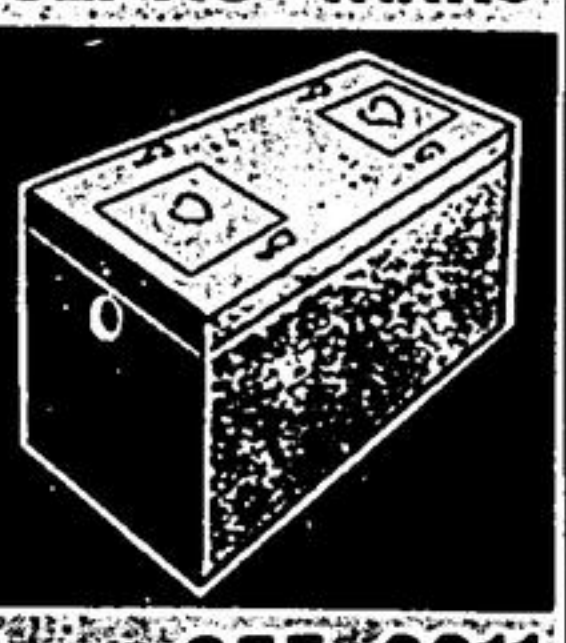
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