

THE COMPOST HEAP

Successful gardening operations necessitate the possession of a good compost heap. It is easily made and a wonderful convenience and help.

The foundation of a compost heap is manure which is best obtained from a cow stable. In case this is not available, straw manure from horse stables or dropping from poultry houses will serve.

One advantage of a compost heap is that it affords a means of converting almost every kind of garbage into valuable fertilizer. A compost heap of this character should stand a year before it is really most valuable as a fertilizer.

GUARDS HIS CLOTHES

An Old Raincoat Put to Good Use by Motor Cyclist

As collectors of dust and mud motor cyclists are unequalled.

A young man who was rather particular about his clothes, and who disliked to stalk into a hotel after a motorcycle ride covered with all the earth



his wheels could throw upon him, found a way out of the difficulty.

He secured an old raincoat, split it up the back almost to his waist and equipped it with snap fasteners on each side so that he could fasten it about his legs when riding.

It doesn't look very nice, but it keeps off the mud and dirt, and does not cost very much either, as the cheapest sort of a raincoat was used.

"Killer" Killed

At Coatbridge David Russell, fifteen years and eleven months old, was formally remitted to the sheriff on a charge of murdering "a killer" at the slaughter-house named William Stewart. Russell, who is himself "a killer," is alleged to have stabbed Stewart fatally during a dispute over a half skin.

Using Farm Waste

A farm engine driven by a gas motor, has been invented in Europe that is equipped with its own producing plant for making gas from waste material such as bark, sawdust or dry leaves.

A Huge Crane

The largest crane in the world, erected at the Scotch shipyard, can be utilized at every point within a circle 326 feet in diameter and can lift loads of 200 tons to a height of 140 feet 75 feet from the center.

Not Yet Explored

It is estimated that there is about 7,000,000 square miles, or about one-eighth of the land surface of the world waiting to be explored by dis-

MARTINS BUILD QUEER SAFE NESTS

World's Most Industrious Bird—Small Boys Meet Clever Opposition in These "Swallows"

A writer from Western Canada says: The sand martin or bank swallow, as it is sometimes called, is possibly the most industrious of its feathered brethren, as it persistently rebuilds its nest in the face of the sternest opposition. It is not a large bird, being about five inches long and of a dull greyish brown color, with white on throat and breast; but is extremely graceful as it appears on a calm evening skimming in beautiful curves almost to the ground, then gracefully rising above one's head into the blue.

In Strange Places

They usually build their nests beneath the beams in vacant huts, in caves of old stables or in steep cut banks of the rivers, and are particularly partial to a district where limestone abounds. In these banks they have been known to excavate two or three feet, working with their bills and feet, making a hole just about big enough for a man's hand at the entrance and widening gradually at the inner part. These holes are usually about four feet from the crest of the bank and only a few inches apart. They are lined with dry rootlets of grass or feathers. On these downy cushions are laid the five little white eggs with spots of reddish brown, where the mother bird may hatch her young.

Crows Are Enemies

The moisture necessary for making the walls firm is readily carried in their beaks from the shore of the river, and while these banks are practically safe from intrusion by man, the crows learn to know the hatching season and are on the alert to devour the young swallows as they emerge from the nests. The small boy has been known to lie flat on mother earth, and reaching over the edge, obtain the eggs, but it is a risky undertaking as the steep banks are of shifting sand. From the river bank below, the all with its myriads of holes presents a honeycomb effect, and almost seems to move as the little heads peep up and out.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Canada's Backward Position Shows in a Government Report

In 1910 the Dominion Government appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the needs and equipment of the Dominion respecting industrial training and technical education, and the systems and methods of technical instruction obtaining in other countries. The following is from the report of the Commissioners, showing the need of industrial and technical education in Canada: "Until recently Canada was an interested and debating spectator of the movements for industrial efficiency. The training of young workers to dexterity in manipulation and technique, and to an understanding of the principles and processes which lie at the base of all trades and industries, was not provided for in the courses. When manufactured goods were wanted in increasing quantities and variety, and towns and cities were growing by leaps and bounds, it was discovered that there had been practically no organization of means for preparing the hundreds of thousands of young people to become the best qualified artisans, farmers and housekeepers in the world. The country's growing wealth was ample for the cost; but the educational work was becoming backward in the extreme, and worse than that, was developing into school systems that had few points of contact with or relation to industrial, agricultural or housekeeping life."

WEDDING RING FINGER

Traditional Reason For Choice of Fourth on Left Hand

There is a very ancient belief that a blood vessel extends from the base of the fourth finger of the left hand to the heart, whence, as is alleged, the choice of that finger for the wedding ring. In literature allusion to it is made as the "vena amoris," or love's vein. Unlike most notions of the kind, this idea is entirely correct. A vein does arise directly at the root of the ring finger and, running over the back of the hand, finds its way through the "royal" vein, the "artery," the "subclavian" and the "innominate" to the heart. This vessel is very conspicuous, standing out clearly when the hand hangs "limply downward."

The reason for putting the ring on the fourth finger, however, is probably quite different. Its use for this purpose goes back to prehistoric times, and its selection is likely to have been due to the fact that it is the least free in its movements of all fingers. Accordingly, a ring encircling it will interfere less with the use of the hand than if placed on any other digit. It happens that the extensor tendon of the fourth finger is attached to those of the third and fifth fingers by cross-bands which restrict the movements of the ring finger considerably. Anybody may test this for himself by holding the third and fifth fingers forcibly bent, and trying the ring finger.

GARDEN ADVICE FOR THE PACIFIC COAST

Others Will Do Well Also to Heed These Hints—Fall and Spring Planting

Advice for gardening and flower-raising in the Pacific country is given by A. E. Skinner of Huntington, B.C., as follows: How often we hear the expression used that there is no money in a flower garden, but who has not been at some time or other impressed with their observations, and noticed how dreary and desolate is the mansion, with grounds uncared for, and uncultivated, and then in contrast noted the beauty and enchantment of even a humble cottage, covered with beautiful vines, and surrounded with lovely flowers and well kept grounds. It is hard to give any specific plan in laying out one's grounds to the best advantage as they vary so much in size and contour. Where one has a fairly good stand of grass, beds can be cut in any shape the fancy may dictate, and borders can be dug around the house, or along the path leading to the house, enriching it with well rotted stable manure, if deficient in fertility, pulverizing the ground thoroughly.

Hiding the Unsightly

As soon as all danger of frost is over, sow such annuals as stocks, asters, phlox, drummond, marigolds, gaulthier, mignonette, cosmos, candy-tuft, etc., all of which will give a good display of flowers throughout the summer and until frost. A good many of these seeds may be sown in pots or boxes, and planted out as the weather becomes warm, and all danger of frost is over. Unsightly fences and outbuildings may be covered, and made a thing of beauty during the summer months by sowing such plants as scarlet runner beans (which are not only ornamental but edible), nasturtium, major, or climbing sweet pea, tropeaeolum canariense, and jacobinus major, all of which are easily grown from seed sown in spring. Plants of redbeckia golden glow, may be utilized to advantage to hide some unsightly corner, it being very easily grown, and attains a height of 10 to 15 feet and blossoms very freely from seed, plants can be readily obtained from florists who invariably carry a stock of all suitable bedding plants.

Start Roses Early

If you care to go to the expense of roses, or shrubs, these can be obtained at reasonable prices at the various nurseries, and I would advise planting same in the early spring as soon as the ground can be worked, the earlier the better, while they are still in a dormant condition. If you desire to grow flowers from roots or bulbs, such as dahlias, gladioli, lilies, or Montbretias, these can be planted to advantage in the spring. Other bulbs such as hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, should be planted in the fall, any time before the frost sets in. In case of a severe winter, a good protection is afforded these by a covering of coarse stable manure, which can be removed in the spring.

THE FLOWER BORDER

It is best to locate the flower border at the side or back of the lawn, rather than make it too prominent a feature in the front yard. It shows to best advantage against a background of shrubbery, or near a building or fence, which can be covered with vines and climbing plants. The size of the border should be limited only by the area of the grounds and the time that they can be put upon it. A border with irregular outline varying from five to ten feet in width is preferable to a narrow one between straight boundary lines. The ground for the flower border should be prepared deeply and thoroughly, and be made as rich as possible by digging in plenty of well rotted manure or compost. The work of stocking a border may be done at various times throughout the season. Early in the spring is the best time to sow seeds and do most of the planting; the transplanting of seedlings may be done at any time during the season when the ground is moist. Hardy bulbs and tuberous rooted plants should be planted in the fall.

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