Most of us in the United States are not sufficiently aware of the European threat to our liberty—our own leaders must bring us this awareness, quickly.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART THREE

SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 6 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1941 | $1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

BEAUTIFY YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

Mosquito Control Methods Reviewed By Garden Editor

How sad that summer and mosquitoes are practically synonomous in these parts! How often have you heard the words—"We had to give it up because there were too many mosquitoes!" How many parties were ruined because the fire didn't keep the pests away. All this *could* become a thing of the past if we would all co-operate in a campaign of Mosquito Abatement. Where is the hero who will bring this to pass?

The problem is not at all as hopeless as it appears at first to be. In a campaign waged in Evanston, the mosquitoes were reduced 75 percent. The important factors to remember are because mosquitoes wander over an area of nearly a mile we must be willing to cover a similar area from the point to be cleared. The troublesome ones in fishless ponds or weed-grown pond margins, marshes or swampy areas.

According to Dr. E. T. Boardman, of Cranbrook Institute of Science, the solution is the introduction of fish (goldfish) into the ponds, raking out weeds along pond margins or running fish channels from deeper holes out into swampy areas, and using insecticides to kill mosquito larvae.

Mrs. McDaniel of the Department of Entomology writes that a great deal can be accomplished by the use of kerosene or pyrethrum on the standing water in the immediate vicinity. Kerosene at the rate of 1 ounce per 15 square feet will give control if used once a week. It does not render the water unsightly and is safe, in large garden pools an emulsion of pyrethrum is preferred: Liquid soap (40%)—1½ gallons; Fuel oil—95 gallons; Pyrethrum extract—5 gallons; Water—45 gallons.

Mix water with the soap for ten minutes. Mix oil with pyrethrum and then with soap and water. Dilute this stock solution 1 part to 12 parts water. Twenty-five gallons will do an acre.

Information can be had on all sides. The need is for a person or group of persons to direct the project. Recently, State Senator Baldwin introduced a bill to create a Ragweed and Mosquito Control Commission. Perhaps State help is the ultimate solution. Meanwhile we are the persons to be bitten in this community; one would think we could help each other exterminate the villains!—D. T. P.

Build 3 Theatres At Fort Custer

FORT CUSTER—Military counterparts of the familiar Roxy or Rialto, minus the brilliant marquees and lavish interiors of most civilian theaters but meeting the same entertainment needs in streamlined fashion, are provided for in the construction program which has made this one of the nation's major military centers.

Three large theaters, comparable in size to those in most medium sized towns, and one smaller theater, are included in the fort expansion program. Two are now in operation and two others are nearing completion. Private builders were awarded contracts to erect the theaters by Captain Alfred B. Plasmeier, the fort constructing quartermaster.

MOOSE WEIGHS 885

MUNISING—Heaviest of the four moose being fed experimental diets like those given captive deer at Cusino wildlife experiment station is the old bull, Ferdinand, who tipped the scales at 885 pounds at last weighing in, when Abbie, the young bull, weighed 610 pounds; Lulu, the young cow, weighed 760 pounds; and Ma, the old cow, weighed 800 pounds. Birth of two moose calves is expected at the station in May or June.

Beautiful Lawn Adds Much to Value of Home

The lawn is the foundation upon which the landscaping plan depends. For this reason it must be a beautiful green color, possess a dense, vigorous turf, and be free from weeds. A lawn in poor condition detracts greatly from the beauty of the home regardless of the excellence of the other plantings. Lawns which have been carefully built and maintained will last for many years.

Soil for the Lawn

The lawn grass possess the ability to adapt themselves to quite a wide range of soil conditions. A beautiful lawn can probably be more easily obtained on a loam soil than on either a lighter or heavier soil, but the home owner should not be discouraged if the soil at hand is either very light or very heavy.

Where the soil is rather extreme for the best growth of grass, it is desirable to attempt to improve the texture of the soil. This can be done by the addition of a sandy material to a heavy soil, or of a clay material to a light soil, or by resurfacing the area with three or four inches of a desirable loam or sandy loam soil. These operations usually involve considerable work and expense, but are justified by the better results that will be obtained and by the smaller effort which will be necessary for the upkeep of the lawn after it is established.

Preparation of the Soil

The operations involved in the preparation of the soil depend largely upon the size of the area to be seeded. If the area is large enough to warrant, the soil may be plowed, then disked two or three times, and finally harrowed to pulverize it completely.

If the area does not permit the use of such implements, it is necessary to spade the soil and then to use a rake or similar tool to pulverize. The simple task of spading must be done in the right way in order to produce the most desirable seed bed. As each shovelful of dirt is taken up, it should be placed on the far side of the hole, away from the spader, and struck with sufficient force with the spade to pulverize it.

If the spading operation is carefully done, the soil will be quite well pulverized, even in the lower depths of the seed bed. All that remains to be done is to pulverize the surface a few inches by the use of the garden rake. After the surface is in a desirable granular condition, it should be made perfectly smooth so that no depressions exist for the collection of water. It is generally possible to do this leveling with the rake, as the surface soil is pulverized.

The seed bed should be given a gradual slope from the house to insure proper run-off of excessive moisture. Ordinarily a slope of one-eighth to one-fourth inch to the foot is sufficient to allow for surface drainage.

If at all possible to do so, above all avoid the use of soil excavated in making the basement. Too often, this soil is removed and scattered over the area about the house simply in order to have some place to put it. Such soils are usually in very poor physical condition and almost totally lacking in organic matter, and, therefore are not desirable for the growth of grass.

If it is desired to fill in around the home, the surface soil should be removed before excavating is started and put in a corner or out-of-the-way place. After the basement soil is removed and scattered evenly over the area from which the surface soil has been removed, the surface soil can be replaced. This method will give a much more satisfactory seed bed.

At times, it is necessary to utilize clay subsoil for the seed bed. Where this is the case, much greater effort is necessary to put the seed bed in proper condition. Large amounts of sand should be incorporated, and about one and one-half times as much plant food added to the soil as where the surface soil is used.

Applying Plant Food

The early stages in the growth of the grass are most crucial ones. A good supply of plant food is necessary for the production of vigorous grass that will soon cover the entire seeded area and keep the weeds crowded out.

After the seed bed is prepared, a complete, balanced plant food should be applied at the rate of four pounds per hundred square feet and raked into the top two or three inches of soil. If the plant food is applied just before the raking of the soil prior to seeding, it can be worked into the soil and the soil surface smoothed and finely pulverized at the same operation.

Seeding

The next step following the construction of the seed bed and the incorporation of plant food in the soil, is the distribution of the grass seed, where seed is used in preference to vegetative cuttings.

If the area is small, it may be desirable simply to broadcast the seed by hand, but if the area is more extensive, it is more practical to sow the seed by machine. Whatever the method used of sowing seed, the distribution should be made in two directions, one at right angles to the other. This decreases the possibility of leaving bare spaces in the lawn.

A heavy seeding should always be made. This insures a dense turf during the early life of the lawn and acts as an effective check to the introduction and development of weeds. Four or five pounds of most grass seed mixtures per one thousand square feet of surface will usually result in a superior turf in the beginning, but such a heavy seeding discourages the natural development of the individual plants and may produce a less desirable turf later on.

America's Mother of 1940, honored on Mother's Day, May 4, was Mrs. Edith Graham Mayo, of Rochester, Minnesota.

Garden Club Gives Peat Moss to Protect Flowering Crabs

The City has completed the planting of more than 300 flowering crabapple trees. Last week the schools planted nearly 100 trees purchased with money given by Birmingham school children. This week the Cottrell Nursery will complete plantings of 200 trees to residents and other nurseries are being called on for Malus floribunda and other varieties of crab trees. The Street Department of the Highway Department will care and maintain nearly 300 flowering trees in the parkways. Hunter is backward.

The Birmingham Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association has provided the City with eight bales of peat moss for use in planting the trees in the city parks. The Garden Club also had two bales of peat moss delivered to the Birmingham Board of Education for use in planting the flowering crab trees on the grounds of the six public schools. Two additional bales were given for use on the large evergreens recently planted at Baldwin High. 100 pounds of peat moss was sent to the Holy Name parochial school for their Malus floribunda. This peat moss will help to hold moisture around the trees.

Water is essential to these trees at planting time and until they bud, and again in the dry summer months. Also, beware that rabbits do not girdle these young trees. If there is any evidence of the bark being eaten, use small square mesh wire to a depth of 8 inches from the ground around the trunk of the tree," a spokesman from the Garden Club said.

"Birmingham has made a considerable bid for fame by its splendid cooperation on this tree planting program. It is up to the City, schools and citizens to give the trees adequate maintenance that Birmingham in the future will have the title of the 'Flowering Crabapple City,' and that all who live here may enjoy these trees," she said.

Planting Garden Isn't So Tough

Denis McLane, 2, of Searington, L. I., starts out by digging.

Wait a minute, Denis. Shouldn't you plant the seeds before watering?

Now look what you've done. You planted the seeds on your overalls.

Don't cry, Denis. Older gardeners than you have troubles too.

4 O'CLOCK every Wednesday is the deadline for turning in your classified "Want Ads."

Conservation Dept. Ready for Action

LANSING—Unless rainfall is abundant and frequent in the next few weeks, forest fire fighting crews of the conservation department confess they will be hard pressed to hold losses to the low figures of last season.

Until dry vegetation becomes green again the fire hazard is one of the most serious of the entire season. Practically all men of the fire fighting personnel are in the field this week, and crews have even laid plans for removal of out-of-the-way settlers, should emergencies require it.

Alike

Mrs. Chatterton—I hope you have enjoyed this afternoon as guest of the Superwomen's Club?

Mr. Grimpe—I have, indeed. It reminds me so much of my camp in the woods. Out there the brooks babble, too.

Malin-go-tah-see Enrollment Is Up

Camp Malin-go-tah-see, the Oakland County Y. M. C. A. camp, reports that enrollment to date is 100 percent larger than it was last year at this time of the season. The camp is planning on varied activities, such as sailing, canoeing, boating, arts and crafts, swimming and diving, horseback riding, archery, trips and hikes, camera club, boxing, dramatics and other activities as the boys call for them.

One of the very popular activities for the past two seasons has been fishing, because Loon Lake is noted as a good place for lucky catches. This activity is particularly enjoyable because of the leadership of E. J. Hubbard, known to the boys as "Grandpappy," father of Eugene A. Hubbard. Grandpappy taught school for a good many years, and not only likes to fish himself but is interested in boys and their interests. He shows the boys how to fish properly, the best places to fish, how to find bait and use it, how to clean fish and prepare them for cooking. Last season the fishermen of Malin-go-tah-see caught approximately 800 fish during the season. Among them were many small mouth bass, pickerel, calico bass, perch and other species. "Grandpappy" provides bamboo poles, lines and hooks for those who do not bring their own equipment but those boys who make fishing a hobby bring their own casting rods and plugs, and go out after the big ones.

The camp is offering a discount to those who register early.

Birmingham members of the trustees of this camp are: John Maynard, President, Ernest W. Seaholm, George R. Averill, W. E. Moody and Dr. Joan K. Ormond.

Gardeners' Corner

Doris T. Patten, Editor

GLADIOLUS PLANTING

The first planting of gladiolus corms can take place now. Ordinary soil preparation is all that is necessary, with the usual care in planting any bulbous stock, that the ground be especially well drained. If you are planting the corms in a bed for cutting only, space them three inches apart in rows two to three feet apart. If they are to be used for show in a border, they may be planted six inches apart each way. Plant the corms six inches deep in sandy soil, or four inches deep in heavier soil.

SPRAY EQUIPMENT

It won't be long now, if it already hasn't happened, that the insects and fungus diseases will be back among us. Don't give up hope at the first sight of a garden problem; be prepared. Instead, you should have a spray gun for liquids and some kind of duster for powders. The type you choose will depend on the size of your garden. A tin with holes punched in it and Flit gun may answer the purpose or you may need a large sprayer. Or, you may prefer the type that uses cartridges in an attachment for the hose, and you may find use for a special duster. The important factor is to have on hand the right spray and to use it at the right time. Supply yourself with a chart and some kind of garden guide that lists the plants and their enemies. Once you learn whether you are trying to kill a sucking insect (aphids, mealy bugs, mites), in which case you use pyrethrum or nicotine sprays, or whether your adversary is a chewing insect (beetles, caterpillars, cutworms) in which case use something like arsenate of lead.

Now remember that the mildews and rusts can be combatted with lime-sulphur or Bordeaux mixture and your first medicine chest is started. In doubt ask someone who handles insecticides and don't fail to use some kind of chart. A spray in time saves nine million insects from hatching, is one way of paraphrasing the old saying.

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