

**The Eastcote and District
Horticultural & Allotment Association**

BULLETIN

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THE EASTCOTE AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL AND ALLOTMENT
ASSOCIATION.

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Registered as an Approved Society under the Land Fertility Scheme.
REGD. No. 1832.

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ALLOTMENT NOTES.

By JACK HARDY, N.D.Hort.

DEAR MEMBERS,

Your show on the PINN SITE is at hand and all final preparations should now be made. When you have decided which particular specimens are most suitable for exhibition, give them a good soaking of water and a last feed of a general fertiliser. Make sure that your Celery and Leeks are provided with good stout collars for blanching them—a dose of soot-water will give a good green appearance to the leaves. Feel around some of your potato plants for good specimens, water them and cover up again, marking the place with a small stick. Exhibition potatoes should be washed and then wiped over with milk to give them a polish and a clean glossy skin. Beans must be straight and young—the judge will snap one or two to test for age, and all pods of peas must be full, as these will be opened by the judge. Beetroot, when cut, must be a deep red colour, and marrows must permit the thumb nail to readily puncture the flesh. Onions must be cleaned and all old scale-leaves trimmed off, but *do not* skin them down to the pale green under-skins—each onion should look ripe and of a healthy brown colour. Tomatoes should be *just ripe*, plus the small stalk and of a rich red colour. Turnips when cut open must be sound and young. Cucumbers are best shown with the “bloom” still upon them, so do not handle them too much, and points are sometimes gained by retaining the dead flower at the end of the cucumber. Sweet corn should not be stripped of its sheath of leaves—just cut the cob from the plant and exhibit it as it is, but make certain by feeling it that it is full of seeds.

After all these hints on exhibiting, together with the monthly cultural notes, you should be able to exhibit some produce of which you can be proud. There will be a great deal of healthy competition from other Societies, but let this be an incentive to you in order to win both of the Society's Cups, The Woodman Cup and the Eastcote Cup.

THE CABBAGE APHIS (*Brevicoryne brassicae*) :

This has been a serious pest everywhere this season, and, as it may continue throughout September and October, I feel that you ought to know more about it.

Life History.—The winter is spent in the egg stage on the leaves and stems of Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage and Broccoli, but it is probable

that the adult insects live on through a mild winter in small colonies until the spring. The generations then become complicated from the end of February onwards, but sufficient to say that they become most prolific from the end of May onwards, when winged aphides are produced. It is this latter stage which causes most trouble and spreads the pest far and wide.

Controls.—(1) Pull up and burn all old plants in the spring, and do not allow them to stand and flower.

(2) Spray all seed beds with a proprietary compound such as XL ALL, or mix your own as follows :—

3 ozs. Nicotine.
4 lbs. Soft Soap.
40 gallons water.

Use this spray during the 2nd and 3rd weeks in May.

(3) Dust the plants during May with a 3 per cent. Nicotine Dust.

Warning.—On no account use Nicotine on green stuff for human consumption. An alternative is to be found in proprietary Derris Compounds which are non-poisonous, such as Kattakilla or Drymac No. 1.

YOUR ALLOTMENT THIS AUTUMN.

Cultivated Land.

Land previously cultivated should be dug up and left rough as soon as possible and before it becomes wet and sticky. Dig when moderately dry, as serious harm is done to the soil when dug while in a wet condition. Farm yard manure can be dug in by spreading it over the surface before digging. Basic slag, to provide Phosphates for next year, should be sprinkled into each trench as digging proceeds at the rate of 4 ozs. per square yard, but DO NOT apply basic slag if farm-yard manure is being used.

Straw.

Straw is now to be had in abundance and is highly valuable on our heavy soil. Dig in large quantities, but remember that the bacterial action necessary to decompose straw utilises large quantities of nitrogen from the soil. In order to counteract this loss, it will be necessary to apply small quantities of Nitrate of Soda or Sulphate of Ammonia as a top dressing next spring.

Leaves.

Collect every available leaf and mix them with your compost heap to provide humus to return to the soil.

Potash.

As you know, there is an acute shortage of potash. Burn all woody stems and other garden refuse and collect the ashes, keeping them in a dry place. These ashes are rich in potash and can be raked into the surface next spring when preparing your seed beds.

ADVISORY BUREAU.

Some months ago we established a system whereby members' queries were answered through the pages of this Bulletin. So far something like an average of four per issue have been replied to in detail. These queries have been sound and sensible and have shown intelligent interest on the part of the members. Not only does the individual benefit from the answer, but many others who, no doubt, have often had the same query in mind. No question is too simple or too difficult, so please utilise this service to the full for the benefit of all readers.

The Month's Queries.

(1) I propose planting some apple trees this autumn. As I understand it is necessary to mix the varieties for satisfactory pollination, what varieties do you suggest I need for a Cox's Orange Pippin which is my chief choice? (V.R.)

Cox certainly must have another variety with it as a pollinator. The most suitable is Emmeth Early or Early Victoria, but others which are quite satisfactory are—James Grieve, Ellison's Orange, Laxton's Superb and Miller's Seedling. (J.H.)

(2) My runner beans are dropping their flowers and there appears to be very few beans forming. Can you give me a reason? (J.B.)

Without doubt your beans are suffering from lack of moisture at the roots. The flowers in consequence fail to "set," and therefore fail to produce beans. Give them a thorough soaking of water every other day for a week and you will soon see the difference. (J.H.)

(3) Can you supply me with a list of 12 good perennial plants suitable as an edging to my herbaceous border? (W.H.)

You do not state the exact nature of your soil, but if it is heavy loam over clay, I would suggest the addition of plenty of charcoal and mortar rubble for the success of the following list :—

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Armeria Caespitosa. | 7. Saxifraga Umbrosa (London Pride) |
| 2. Artemisia Stelleriana. | 8. Stachys Sylvatica. |
| 3. Dianthus varieties. | 9. Alyssum Saxatile. |
| 4. Heuchera Sanguinae. | 10. Viola Cornuta. |
| 5. Saxifraga Megasea. | 11. Aubretia varieties. |
| 6. Nepeta Mussini. | 12. Helianthemum varieties. |

Do not let the Latin names scare you, as I am afraid that there are no simple names for most of these cultivated plants. The nurseryman will be familiar with these names though, and ought to be able to supply the plants. (J.H.)

(4) Are clippings from a privet hedge harmful if used in a compost heap? (T.G.M.)

So far as I know, there is nothing obnoxious in the contents of privet leaves and stems. If the clippings are young and soft they should rot down quite well. The only objection that I can see is if, when clipping the hedge, you cut hard into ripened stems, there will be difficulty in rotting them down and they should then be of more use if burned for the production of ashes. (J.H.)

More later,

JACK HARDY.

A DAY IN THE GARDEN.

by JACK HARDY.

In these days of "Holidays at Home" and long hours at work, it comes as a pleasant change to be able to potter around the garden for a day or two. It means leisurely inspections of this plant and that plant, an occasional chat over the fence with the fellow next door similarly favoured, and the pleasant relaxation which comes with the knowledge that you can stop work when you feel like it and start again when so inclined.

I like the ease with which it is possible to don old clothes, and, after taking an unusually long time to read the morning paper over innumerable cups of tea, to wander out and plan the day's work. Without a doubt, the first job must be to mow the lawn—it really does not need mowing urgently, but it seems the proper thing to do, as one can make a goodly show in a couple of hours. I was not one of those who dug up the lawn for a vegetable patch—I have about twelve poles of vegetables which enables me to keep ourselves and a few friends in vegetables for most of the year, so I think I am still entitled to my lawn.

It might be worth recording the progress of this lawn. It is not a good lawn, and neither is my mower—possibly one is the direct result of the other—but during the last summer the lawn took on a miserable brown colour during the drought, just as most lawns do on this heavy clay soil, and, as a few patches of clover remained green throughout the whole year, I thought I would encourage the clover

to cover the entire surface. Accordingly I dressed the lawn with 1 cwt. of lime last autumn—it measures about eight poles in area—the result this season has been beyond my wildest dreams. It is one solid mass of clover from beginning to end. It is always green, and when freshly mown looks like a piece of green velvet. If I leave it a week it is smothered with flowers which serve a most useful purpose for my bees. As mentioned, my mower has seen better days, so after a preliminary cut up and down I decided to adjust it. Mowers invariably present a mystery of cogwheels, nuts and bolts. I found that the bottom plate was a little slack and caused the knives to stick occasionally. A half-turn of the screw-driver to the four big screws underneath the plate put the matter right, and by adjusting the roller a little higher I seemed to be assured of a good close cut. This was the case.

Unfortunately, more work lay ahead, as the cut was so close that I needed the grass-box to collect the mowings.

As time was no object, I spent an interesting hour exploring the depths of my garage, uprooting all sorts of oddments which I did not realise I possessed. For instance, there was a box half full of six-inch labels—this was too much for me, as there is nothing I like better than dabbing white lead paint on labels and rubbing it off again. Believe me, this makes an admirable surface for pencilling-in the name of a plant, and so, without more ado, I set to work and produced a dozen labels which I knew were badly needed in the herbaceous border.

By this time the garage was no fit place for anyone wishing to keep cool—the sun had penetrated well and truly, and so with a call to my wife that a cup of tea would be appreciated I sauntered over to the herbaceous border. A few labels were speedily renewed here and there but soon I noticed patches of Grousel and Fat-Hen growing among the supposedly cultivated plants—that's what becomes of concentrating upon vegetable cultivation—so I set to and plucked the offending weeds by their roots. As I got going, I found more weeds than anticipated, but nothing daunted, I carried on and ultimately had a fair-sized heap. It struck me then that rather than throw them on the compost heap, they would serve a far more useful purpose if fed to the rabbits. Rabbits like Grousel very much and I amused myself for quite a time feeding handfuls to each hutch.

It soon appeared fairly obvious, however, that I had neglected my duties recently and the heat of the day was not improving matters greatly. So I collected the necessary implements and scraped away for quite a time, emptying the litter onto the compost heap. Curiously

a number of rabbit keepers have of late tried to impress upon me the fact that rabbit manure possesses certain harmful qualities for vegetable crops. Frankly, I cannot swallow this statement. During the course of each winter, five hutches provide me with about one cart load of manure—I use hay for bedding, which is consumed in large quantities by the rabbits—and I think my Tomatoes and Celery offer good evidence of the manurial value of this by-product of rabbit keeping. The Nitrogen content obviously varies, but it is certain that there is a fair supply of available nitrogen.

However, having attended to the rabbits, I proceeded back to the flower border, only to be reminded by my wife that a cup of tea had been standing by the mower for more than an hour, and that lunch was awaiting me, and also that, if I wanted further cups of tea, I had better consider making them myself.

Lunch sounded attractive. As with most of us these days, I am never able to get home for a mid-day lunch, and the novelty was as attractive as a picnic. What an appetite though—and a sleep!! My forty winks were rudely disturbed by the sound of a mower nearby—the clock indicated 4-45 p.m., and upon strolling out to see the cause of the disturbance—behold, there was my wife on the last cut up and down the lawn. Truly a grand day's work!!! But there will be to-morrow, which is also a holiday.

ASSOCIATION NOTES.

Lime.—As announced last month, members are requested to send in their orders for Lime, either to me or to their Road Stewards. The price will be 1/6d. per cwt. and cash with order will be appreciated. As last year, it is hoped to be able to arrange dumps in various parts of the district to save as long a carry for the members as possible.

DO NOT DELAY IN FORWARDING YOUR REQUIREMENTS

Ripening Tomatoes.—Mr. Woodman, in his July notes to his customers, includes a note on this, and we are taking the liberty of quoting this for the benefit of our Members. "Whilst on the subject of Tomatoes, we heard that the green fruit at the end of the season can be ripened in a box of sawdust as follows:—Layer of sawdust, layer of thin paper, over and under, the Tomatoes not touching, then sawdust and so on till the box is full or the supply of tomatoes is used up. Care should be taken not to bruise them, of course, and they ripen at the same time all through the box. Our informant kept some until Christmas by this method, but we have not yet tried it,

so cannot speak from experience." If any of our members do try this method we should be glad to hear of the results.

Roses, Bulbs, Shrubs, Trees, &c.—We have received from Mr. Woodman a list of the above, and, considering the conditions prevailing at the present moment, the prices appear to be very reasonable. The prices of Daffodils is 3/- or 3/6 per doz., and the following varieties are offered:—Emperor, Empress, Golden Spur, King Alfred, Sir Francis Drake, Van Waveren's Giant and Tresserve. The higher-priced bulbs are for double-nosed bulbs and the other price is for "rounds." Various collections of Roses are listed from 20/- to 24/- per dozen bushes. Prices for shrubs and trees are plus 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % on the pre-war list.

POTATOES.—Owing to the difficulties of transport being more acute this year, there is a possibility of long delays in getting the potatoes from the North. It is urgently necessary that orders should be placed as early as possible, and it is not too early to start thinking of what varieties you are going to grow this next year. It may be of interest to members to know that last year the various varieties ordered were as follows, in order of popularity and the amounts ordered:—

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|
| 1. Majestic | (Main crop) | 7. Doon Star | (Main) |
| 2. Great Scot | (Mid) | 8. Gladstone. | (Main) |
| 3. Sharpe's Express | (Early) | 9. Kerr's Pink | (Main) |
| 4. Arran Banner | (Mid) | 10. Duke of York | (Early) |
| 5. King Edward VII | (Main) | 11. Epicure | (Early) |
| 6. Arran Pilot | (Early) | 12. Arran Comrade | (Mid) |

Don't delay, therefore, and let us have your orders in as soon as possible in order that we may gauge the number to place.

It will, no doubt, be of interest to our Members to know that Mr. Hardy has had the pleasure recently of publishing a second edition of his book entitled *A Text Book of Gardening for Schools and Students*. In order that our Members may be informed of the views of other experts on this book, we publish two reviews.

My Garden.—Who among us has not at some time or other wished for a book that explains everything about gardening? In this book there is information on very nearly every phase of gardening and if you like the "textbook kind of book" that employs words primarily to convey information, tabulates facts and is profusely

illustrated with diagrammatic drawings, you will find this comprehensive work very satisfying. As it is written for people who are to teach gardening, it has considerable reference value and ought, one feels, to be in every gardener's library.

Homes and Gardens.—As its name implies, this is a complete text-book of practical school gardening. It covers a wide field, from surveying and levelling, through a study of soil and its cultivation, manures and fertilisers, to seeds and plant propagation. Fruit and vegetables are dealt with in some detail, as well as different branches of the flower garden. There are chapters on the herb garden and on landscape gardening, plant collecting and plant nomenclature, while entomology and mycology also come within the Author's survey. All the information is presented in a clear and straightforward style, and keen practical gardeners, as well as students, will find this well arranged volume a useful introduction to practical gardening.

The price of the book is 7/6d., and should any member desire to purchase a copy, this should be ordered from Messrs. W. H. Smith's of Ruislip, or, if members like to let me know, I will order copies for them.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR ENTRY FOR THE SHOW ON
SEPTEMBER 19TH. SEND IT IN NOW.**

A HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

In view of the large number of Members who have enrolled in recent months, and those which it is anticipated will be induced to join as a result of the Council's Show, it is considered that a short history of the Association and its accomplishments may be of interest.

On the 27th August, 1940, a meeting was called for the purpose of forming an Allotment Association, and it was then decided to form the EASTCOTE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION, and a small Committee was elected to carry forward the scheme.

Through the personal canvas of the various allotment sites by the "foundation members," a number was enrolled which, at the time of the first general meeting called for the 26th January, 1941, was in the neighbourhood of 100.

At this meeting the Acting Chairman, Mr. V. E. Crosson, gave a detailed account of the formation of the Association to about 50 members. Subsequently, the meeting re-elected all the pro-tem Officers for the ensuing year, together with a Committee with eight Representatives from six allotment sites.

This Committee and the Officers worked together until July, 1941, when Mr. E. J. Hammond, the then Hon. Secretary, found it necessary, on account of war work, to resign his post, but agreed to act as Asst. Secretary. His resignation was accepted with regret, and an appreciation of the services rendered by him was recorded on the minutes. He found later that he was unable to continue even as Asst. Secretary. In his place as Secretary the Committee was pleased to be able to appoint Mr. J. S. Ranger, the present Secretary, and subsequently Mr. White as Asst. Secretary. The latter, however, had to resign on being called to serve in the Forces.

At the end of September, 1941, the Association, then barely 14 months old, had a membership of 166, which, by the date of the Annual General Meeting in November, had risen to 233.

In August, 1941, a Special General Meeting was called to amend some of the rules, one of which was to enable owners of gardens cultivating at least 4 rods for vegetables to become members, although not allotment holders. At this meeting the question of the future of the Bulletin was discussed. Up to that time, this consisted merely of a single page with allotment notes by Mr. Jack Hardy, N.D.Hort., and was only circulated to those members who paid a sum of 1/- additional to their membership fee. It was agreed to increase the subscription to 1/6d., and to include a copy of the Bulletin, issued nine times per year, in the member's subscription. Many favourable expressions of opinion and congratulations have been received since, and it has been proved that this was a wise step and one which has greatly benefitted the members and has also brought in new members.

The great advantage which the Association has is that Mr. Hardy, in addition to his very extensive horticultural knowledge, is a resident in the district, and is thus aware of the trials and difficulties which members are continually finding themselves up against. He is thus able to be of great assistance to all the members and his services are placed willingly at their call.

In the autumn of 1941, this Association formed part of a Deputation to the Council which put forward for consideration many matters in connection with Allotments in the district. This Deputation was the means of the formation of the Urban Horticultural Committee and the Advisory Committee to the Council's War-time Allotments Committee.

During the early part of the current year, Mr. Veere M. Woodman consented to become the Association's first President and to add to

his interest in the Association kindly presented a Challenge Cup for competition at the Council's Show in September. Other local residents have also agreed to become Vice-Presidents.

In the first days of the Association, no trading was carried on, although some members purchased goods locally at reduced prices on receipt of an authorisation from the Secretary.

In the latter part of 1941, a considerable demand arose for Lime, and 6 tons were ordered and soon disposed of. Further orders were placed amounting to a total of 16½ tons. Other special requirements, as detailed below, were obtained and distributed to the members who were thereby enabled to save considerable sums on their purchases.

Superphosphate of Lime	12½ cwt.	Hop Manure	1½ tons.
Basic Slag	- - 5 „	Bone Meal	14 cwt.
Muriate of Potash	- 10 „	Potatoes	3½ tons.
Dried Blood	- - 9½ cwt.	Hyganic Fertiliser	8¾ tons.

By April, 1942, the membership had risen to 297, and it was necessary to call a further Special General Meeting owing to the persistent demands of residents in the surrounding districts of Eastcote to be allowed to join the Association. Encouraged by the growing membership, the Committee at this meeting put forward a scheme for a considerable enlargement in the scope of the work of the Association, including the "in-take" of the surrounding districts from which to enrol members. This has resulted in a further rapid increase in the membership which, on the 1st September this year, amounted to a total of 507, thus proving the need for such an Association.

The Committee also has been able to show on two occasions films of the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Agriculture on allotment matters and kindred subjects.

NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN. You will not be asked for a further subscription until 1st October, 1943. You will be enabled to immediately reap the benefits to be obtained by membership. As an example, lime can be obtained for 1/6d. per cwt., as the Association is registered under the Government's Land Fertility Scheme. Under this scheme the Government pays half the cost of the lime.

In conclusion, it is the aim of the Committee to assist all its members to crop their allotments to the fullest extent and to assist them in the cultivation of their gardens and to watch their interests.