

GETTING THE MOST... FROM YOUR GARDEN

By Lyman N. White

—ASSOCIATED SEED GROWERS—

Weeds are plants that persist in growing where they are not wanted. Some of them in other circumstances can be pretty or useful—marigolds are weeds in Mexico and the Spider Plant, Cleome, of our borders sheds seeds so profusely that it can become a nuisance.

Many of them are edible. Purslane, which comes up in every garden, is cultivated in Europe to be boiled or chopped into salads. Dandelion leaves are even sold in our stores. Lambs quarter, or goose-foot, an equally common weed, with small triangular leaves, is an excellent substitute for spinach. The Indians ate docks for greens and pounded the seeds into flour.

People who make a new garden or lawn are surprised to find weeds coming up in it and are apt to think the seeds they used were responsible. Not so—the reason weeds are weeds is their extraordinary ability to survive. They produce seeds quickly and in abundance—a dandelion as many as 10,000. Weed seeds have been known to germinate after being buried for 50 years. They spring into life when stirring of the soil brings them to the surface.

Being quick starters and vigorous growers, they can beat our plants in competition for food and water. Some of them are hosts to insects and diseases that come to plague us. They also spoil the appearance of any garden. We must eliminate them and the best way to do it depends on their habits. The perennial weeds are the most difficult, as they have deep roots or wide-spread rootstocks. Docks and dandelions, are best dug out, if there are not many, or treated to a few drops of gasoline when the top has been cut to expose the root. Thick stands can be killed by spraying with 2,4-D, which must be handled with care so that it does not get on other plants—even a whiff of it will shrivel beans, tomatoes and many flowers.

With the annual weeds of the flower border or vegetable plot, the old way was to hoe and hoe the season through. It was thought, too, that the dust mulch so created was helpful in conserving soil moisture,

a notion that has been disproved by tests. The modern way is to scrape off the young weeds with a light hoeing, perhaps two or three times until the cultivated plants are hand high, then mulch heavily to exclude light from the seedlings.

Many materials are used as mulches—peat moss, grass clippings, chopped hay or straw, chaff, ground-up corn cobs, buckwheat hulls. Black plastics, tinfoil, paper have been used but not happily in gardens; they are better in fields. Before applying the mulch it is well to sprinkle the soil surface with fertilizer. This assists in decomposition of the lower layer, adding humus to the soil and providing food for the rootlets which will come up close to the surface. With the old practice of dust mulching they would have been cut off by the hoe; now the plants benefit. The roots also thrive better from the more even temperature which is maintained in the soil—cooler in the heat of the day, warmer in the night.

A major advantage of mulching is the saving of soil water which is essential to plant life, but is rapidly lost by evaporation both from the soil and, in astonishing amounts, from leaves, which can be seen to wilt and droop in hot weather when supplies do not come up quickly enough from the roots. Yet water costs money, is often scarce and its use sometimes forbidden. Save your plants and your pocket by avoiding surface sprinkling. Wait until the soil is fairly dry, then drench it, preferably with a length of perforated hose which lies on the soil and lets the water seep in. The best time is morning or evening, not in the midday heat, and the water should get down to a foot deep, which you can test with spade or trowel. This will make all the difference to your garden.

Highlight Of Girl Scout Round-Up Is Swapping With Other Campers

by MARILYN ECK, Correspondent

Colorado Springs, Girl Scout Round-up, July 10, 1959: On July 7 we toured the Air Force Academy and the magnificent Garden of the Gods. The stone formations in the Garden of the Gods are sandstone which has been worn into odd shapes by all kinds of erosion, mostly sand-storms through the centuries. On top of one of the formations we were caught in an unexpected 65 mile per hour sandstorm which showed us just how it was possible to wear away the sandstone as it did.

Upon completion of the tour, we had dinner, chuck-wagon style, at the Flying-W Ranch, when 1700 ate at the same time. Besides serving their now famous dinner, the Flying-W raises nearly 1500 quarter-horses and 2,000 head of cattle. After dinner, the hands provided entertainment in the form of western singing.

Colorado celebrated its centennial of the Gold Rush to Colorado on Wednesday, July 8. A three-hour pageant was put on by the Westernaires, a group of boys and girls ages 9 to 18, who do trick riding and roping, and by the Kashare Indian dancers.

I believe that the one thing most enjoyed in the Round-up is swapping. For one or two hours every day, girls crowd the main camp area as they swap from girls from their own state, from other states, and from foreign countries. Many girls brought as many as 400 swaps, and are already down to 25 or less.

There is so much to see and do. We have movies on the Air Force Academy, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Pikes Peak, etc.; we have mineral displays, conservation displays, swap items from each State and country; demonstrations by different patriots; photography, campcraft, nature sessions; press consultants give lectures and aid campers; youth forums about everything from racial troubles and careers, to the atom and

space problems.

An Air Force weather station is open to all. The astronomy tent has a powerful telescope through which we may view planets and stars. We participate in such activities as camp fires, square dancing, and swapping.

We were proud, although somewhat surprised, to hear that Pennsylvania has the largest representation here, with 808 girls. New York is second with 800, and California with nearly 700.

This morning our patrol participated in colors by raising, along with 290 other girls, the 99 flags on the Avenue of Flags. Tomorrow we will give our demonstration of Polish cooking.

Now that the Round-Up is nearing its end, we realize just how much the persons in charge of training us have done to make this 1959 Round-Up the success it is. We are indeed grateful for all they have done.

100 Centenarians Died In Pa. In '58

An even 100 persons 100 years old and older died in Pennsylvania last year, the State Health Department's Division of Statistics and Records reported recently.

There were 74 females and 26 males in this group. Three of the females were over 110 years old. Forty-one died at home, 24 in general hospitals and 25 in convalescent, county or nursing homes.

Heart disease claimed fifty of the total deaths. Hardening of the arteries accounted for 14 deaths, deterioration of blood vessels in the nervous system 12 deaths, pneumonia and influenza five, cancer four and accidental falls three. Twelve died from other causes such as malnutrition, kidney infection, general senility, skin ulcer, etc.

LEGION NEWS

Election of officers was held Thursday from 8 to 11 at the Post Home. Cards were presented in order to be eligible to vote.

Candidates were: William Moran, commander; William O'Brien, vice commander; Thomas Templin, junior vice commander; Edward Buckley, treasurer; Paul Shaver, chaplain; Wayne King, service officer; Thomas Kane and Richard Fuller, sergeants at arms; Hugh Carr, historian; Edward Buckley, William O'Brien, Alexander McCulloch, Thomas Templin, Richard Fuller, Arthur Garinger, home association.

Twelfth District American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania held a caucus at Post 132, Wilkes-Barre, on Monday at 8 to make plans for the State Convention in Pittsburgh from July 15 to 19.

The following delegates left July 14: Thomas Reese, William Moran, Hugh Carr and William O'Brien.

The Auxiliary is making plans for its annual picnic. Committee members are Mrs. Doris Mallin, Mrs. Wilbur Henning and Mrs. Leonard Harvey. Date and place will be announced soon.

Daddow-Isaacs Post has been notified that it placed third in the state for Post activities. Commander Thomas Reese will receive the award for the Post on July 16 at the State Convention in Pittsburgh. The presentation will be made by State Commander Paul Walters.

Clambake of the Legion and Home Association will be held at the Grove at Beaumont Inn on Saturday August 1 from 1 until 8. Fees for members \$3; for guests \$6. Members of the committee are Bud Mathers, Thomas Reese, Edward Buckley and William Moran.

Pneumonia, Flu Deaths Decline

A decline in the number of deaths from pneumonia and influenza in Pennsylvania last year (1958) was reported by the State Department of Health.

Records of the Department show 3,494 Pennsylvania residents died from pneumonia and influenza in 1958, representing a drop of 2.8 percent from the 3,833 deaths caused by the respiratory diseases reported in 1957. The diseases ranked sixth among the most frequent causes of death in Pennsylvania last year.

The pneumonia and influenza death rate for the state was 34.2 per 100,000 population in 1957 and 31.5 in 1958. The rate for the United States in 1957 was 35.8 per 100,000 compared to an estimated 33.1 for the nation in 1958.

The state figures for 1958 show a decline of more than 50 per cent from the 1940 pneumonia and influenza death rate of 67.1. Pennsylvania's lowest rate was recorded in 1954 when there were 22.1 deaths from pneumonia and influenza per 100,000 population.

Deaths of newborn infants, attributed to pneumonia, were not included in the 1958 totals, but the Health Department records show 226 babies died from the disease less than four weeks after birth.

Among children under 15 years of age, pneumonia and influenza were the third most frequent causes of death. They ranked fifth in the age groups 15 through 24 and over 64 years. For persons aged 45 through 64 pneumonia and influenza were found to be the most frequent fatal diseases. They ranked seventh for persons aged 25 through 44.

Seventy per cent of the deaths from pneumonia and influenza occurred among people over 45 years of age, and approximately 18 per cent among children less than five years old. The remaining 12 per cent of the deaths were distributed among persons aged five through 44 years.

The statistics show a ratio of 14 male deaths for every female death from pneumonia and influenza in Pennsylvania.


Fred Mintzer, Guest On Eleventh Birthday

Fred Mintzer entertained a number of friends at a party to celebrate his eleventh birthday anniversary. Present were Robert Long, Sandy Long, Duane Long, Donna Long, Brent Long, William Tredinick Jr., Carol Ann Williams, Carol Calkins, Susan Spencer, Micky Ann Witik, Sandy Witik and the guest of honor.

"We are passing into a new era of labor problems. For a period of a few decades wage demands were reconciled by increased prices and increased purchasing power; but it looks as though this course has about gone its limit. There is much evidence of labor pricing itself out of the market. Foreign imports are making noticeable inroads on American production and into American export markets by offering goods produced more cheaply. We see it in automobiles, electrical goods, steel, machine tools, office equipment and many other articles.

—Eatontown, N. J., Sentinel

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