

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 1945

YOUR VICTORY GARDEN . . . By Henry L. Free

Soil Rich in Humus Is Best For Growing Delphiniums

THERE is a subtle lure about the perennial delphinium. The flower garden or border that does not include it seems to lack an essential. The delphinium of today possesses a characteristic beauty of its own. It is without rival in its class as a plant of tall habit with erect columns of azure-blue, gentian-blue, shades of sapphire, tones of Imperial purple, and pure white with a contrasting black center. Delphiniums are ideal as background plants when grown in groups of five or more, and especially beautiful when planted in combination with regal or madonna lilies.

Delphiniums do best in a loose, friable soil rich in humus and plant nutrients, to which lime is added every second or third year. Drainage is essential and additional fertilizer, rather high in nitrogen, should be made when the plants are six inches high, and at the time the plants are cut back following the first bloom.



Mr. Free

Thrive in Sunlight
Delphiniums want full sunlight or very little shade, and need staking for protection from strong winds. They resent crowding—two feet between plants should be minimum. Staking is best done by placing a 6-foot stake along side each plant and tying with soft twine or raffa about 12 inches apart. Staking should be done when the plants are about 3 feet tall.

Seeds from the first blooms, and sown as soon as they have ripened, will produce the best plants. Seed should be sown in a sifted, sandy, peaty, loamy soil. Add no fertilizer to the seed mixture.

Young plants will develop before

frost and, if given a protective mulch during the winter, will be large enough to transplant to the garden next spring.

Protect seedlings with an inch covering of coarse sand, and mulch lightly with straw or hay. Delphiniums are more likely to be killed by poor drainage or smothering than by freezing weather. Use seed only from the best plants and blooms.

Delphiniums should be divided every third year. Dig up the plants, shake off the soil, and cut the clumps apart with a sharp knife. Each division should have at least three good, strong shoots.

Plant in Autumn
Discard any poor-looking roots. Mid-September is the best time for planting. If you cannot make your plantings in September, arrange to do so in early spring, just as soon as the ground is workable.

Delphiniums are often a disappointment because of an insect known as the cyclamen mite. The plants appear to be blackened by something, become deformed, and contributing cause for crown rot, a fungus disease which forms at the base of the plant.

Infected plants should be dug up and destroyed and the soil and neighboring plants disinfected with a mercurial compound such as semesan, or bichloride of mercury, one seven and one-half grain tablet to each pint of water.

Record Australian Drought Destroys 20,000,000 Sheep

By WILLIAM MCGAFFIN
Times Foreign Correspondent
IN AUSTRALIA'S DROUGHT AREA, July 4.—Bare red earth, red as though it had been burned that color by the relentless sun, and carcasses of sheep strung out for miles across the flat prairies—that is what you see when you drive into the Riverina district of Australia.



Mr. McGaffin

In normal times, it is the mainstay of Australia's economy, the greatest producer of wheat and Merino wool on the entire continent. Now its once-green fields are scarred and torn by one of the worst droughts in Australia's history—a drought rivaling the great drought of a decade ago in our Midwest.

HERE the locale is different. Kangaroos and ostrichlike emus lend a bizarre touch to the landscape. Devastated areas of saltbush, an important wild-growing feed for sheep, take the place of charred cornfields.

But the general picture of human misery worked by nature on a rampage is the same.

Here, as in America a decade ago, the spirits of stout-hearted men are beginning to waver as they face ruin in their endless gamble with the elements.

IN AUSTRALIA'S drought—Riverina is only one of the many areas affected—20,000,000 sheep have perished. To absentee landlords who own the huge sheep "stations," running into thousands of acres, it is a grim toll.

But the greatest sufferers are the little men who work the places for them and the small acreage farmers who are trying to make a go of it independently.

In the last few weeks, the long-awaited balm from heaven has begun to fall and a thin coat of green is seen here and there, raising hopes but creating new problems.

NOT NEAR enough rain has fallen and none can say whether it will continue and break the iron grip of the drought.

But the graziers must decide now whether to restock their flocks while

prices still are low, with the chance the rains will cease, or not restock and risk having to buy later at soaring prices. With the first rains, the price of ewes jumped from 90 cents and \$1.35 to as much as \$4.50 a head.

ONE GRAZIER had his problem solved for him by a colony of ants which he saw climbing a kurrajong tree.

The ants to him meant more rain was coming—so he bought sheep from a dealer although the price was steeper than he had wanted to pay.

Strong winds—bitterly cold gusts now that winter has set in "down under"—are a by-product of Australia's drought and have caused the freakish death of many sheep. Flying sand has settled in their collars and the first light rains have hardened it to a crush weighing sometimes 20 pounds.

Their necks rigid in this "plaster cast," the sheep have been unable to graze even when fodder could be found, and have starved.

GRAZERS have discovered that sheep have almost as hardy stomachs as their fellow-ruminants, the goats.

They digest pumpkins, apples, pears, potatoes, wheat, oranges and raisins when deprived of their regular fare, such as native shrubs and the kurrajong, bull oak, boree and box trees.

The drought revealed, also, that crossbred Dorset Merinos are harder than the aristocratic, inbred Merinos.

The former have shown amazing ability to scurry up sloping trunks or stand on their hind legs to reach leafy food while the pure Merinos have starved in such circumstances.

WHEAT farmers have suffered as greatly as the sheep graziers in the drought, as evidenced by the drop in yield from the 150,000,000 bushels of the last pre-war harvest to only 53,000,000 bushels on the current harvest.

But despite the ravages of the drought, Australian agriculture somehow has managed to meet the vast new demands of war.

About 5,000,000 extra persons—including hundreds of thousands of American troops—have been fed, and fed well, in addition to the 7,000,000 population of Australia.

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LIFE MAY EXIST ON TINY PLANETS

Dark Companions of Stars May Be Habitable.

By Science Service

NEW YORK, July 4.—Life may exist on thousands of habitable worlds among the millions of small, dark planet companions of bright stars throughout the universe, Dr. Henry Norris Russell, Princeton university professor of astronomy, declared here.

Explaining that in the sun's planetary system, life has scored twice out of three tries, Dr. Russell holds that it is reasonable to suppose that, within the vast expanse of the universe, there may be many other bodies which actually support life.

There are only three possible habitable bodies in the solar system—Venus, the earth and Mars. The fact that the maximum surface temperature on Venus is probably that of boiling water indicates to Dr. Russell that there is no life on that planet. Life has probably existed and may still exist on Mars, Dr. Russell finds.

In Last Three Years

"Outside the system composed of our sun and its circling planets, there was no evidence for the existence of other planets till within the last three years," Dr. Russell said.

"Recent precise photographic observations, however, show that several of the nearest stars have invisible companions, revolving about them, which can be detected because their attraction causes the bright stars to move in slightly wavy curves."

"The smallest of these companions are certainly dark bodies, and may fairly be called planets. We can find small companions of this sort only if they belong to some one of the few hundred stars which lie nearest to the sun. Among the many millions of remoter stars, there are very likely great numbers of them. Though the conditions for habitability are fairly stringent, there may well be thousands of more, of habitable worlds among them."

Life on all these possible worlds is quite unlikely to be in the same stage of evolution as it is on earth today," Dr. Russell said. On some, there may be only primitive forms, he explained. On others, there may be living creatures far surpassing mankind in intelligence and character.

OLDEST NAVIGATOR IS FIGHTING JAPS

PHILADELPHIA, July 4 (U. P.).—Capt. William H. Chambliss, who at 79 is the oldest navigator in the U. S. Merchant Marine, is realizing his ambition "to help wallop the Japanese."

"My wish now is to go on helping finish Tokyo," he said. Chambliss, who wears ribbons of three wars on his chest, arrived at his Philadelphia home recently after he saw action at Leyte. Before that, he sailed to the Pacific war zone numerous times, carrying bombs, army and navy materiel and personnel.

"I watched the first American troops on Leyte moved down by Japanese guns in the hills," he said. Chambliss has been a skipper since 1884. He retired after the first world war. Then came Pearl Harbor.

"On the day of the sneak Japanese attack on Hawaii, I sent a telegram to the Navy Department requesting that I be moved from the retired list so I could help wallop those Japanese," he said. "They told me to report."

The dean of the merchant marine proudly relates that he sailed a Liberty ship on the first convoy to Russia. No one ship or man was lost on the trip over.

After that, he made numerous trips to New Guinea, the Philippines and Hawaii.

But the Mississippi-born veteran has his eyes fixed on even more important work. He wants to sail into Tokyo.

NEW MAGNET LIFTS WEAPONS IN RIVERS

CHICAGO, July 4 (U. P.).—A new type magnet for lifting revolvers and other weapons from rivers and lakes has been developed by Charles M. Wilson, director of the Chicago police crime detection laboratory.

The magnet will lift 175 pounds. Heretofore, police have used cumbersome electro-magnets with a lift of only 40 pounds.

Principal element in the device is an alloy known as alnico which is easily magnetized. Once charged, the magnet will retain its power for six months and can remagnetized.

One of the magnets, 28 inches long, has lifted a 90-pound electric saw with motor and stand. It can lift nearly twice that weight, Wilson said, and will easily pick up revolvers, rifles, shotguns or knives from a river bed.

RATION CALENDAR

MEAT—Red Stamps K2 through P2 are valid through July 31. Q2 through U2 valid through Aug. 31. V2 through Z2 good through Sept. 30. Stamps A1 through E1 are valid through Oct. 31. Meat dealers will pay two red points and 4 cents for each pound of waste fat.

SUGAR—Stamp 36 good for five pounds through Aug. 31.

Canning—sugar forms are available at ration boards. Spare Stamp 13 in Book 4 must be submitted with application for each person listed. All applicants must establish eligibility for canning sugar.

CANNED GOODS—Blue Stamps T2 through X2 are valid through July 31. Y2 and Z2 and A1 through C1 valid through Aug. 31. D1 through H1 good through Sept. 30. J1 through N1 are valid through Oct. 31.

GASOLINE—A19 is good for six gallons; B7 and C7 and B9 and C8 are good; E2 and E3 each good for one gallon; R2 and R3 each good for five gallons.

SHOES—No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 "airplane" stamps in Book 3 good indefinitely. A new shoe ration stamp will become valid Aug. 1.

GROCER IS FAVORITE VICTIM OF HOLDUPS

SAN FRANCISCO, July 4 (U. P.).—Mike Stathis, 65-year-old grocer, apparently has been elected "the man we would most like to hold up" by local burglars. Stathis told police he has been held up four times in four months. Gunmen have been getting less each time, Stathis smiled. The last haul reached a low of \$110.

Jap War Will Take Greater Oil Supply

WASHINGTON, July 4 (U. P.).—If you are planning to convert your home heating unit from coal to oil, don't do it. That's the advice of petroleum administration for-war. The reason is that more oil of the type used for home heating will be needed to carry on the Pacific war than was needed prior to V-E day, according to PAW. The agency believes that there is a widespread, but erroneous impression that fuel oil will be more plentiful as a result of the defeat of Germany. Actually, according to PAW, there will be no increase in the amount of fuel oil set aside for civilian use until we have whipped the Japanese. Applications for converting from coal to oil in the East and Midwest have increased nearly 35 per cent over the number received in the same period last year.

THIEF LOSES HAUL IN TRAILING VICTIM

FLINT, Mich., July 4 (U. P.).—A robber who forced the door of a Flint shoe repair shop and struck the owner on the head was short-changed. "PAW takes this stand not as a matter of preference, but as a matter of necessity. The oil simply is not available to permit such conversions, even though new oil burners may be placed on the market."

He followed Benjamin G. Tracey, to his shop after he saw his "flash" ing a \$1500 bankroll in a tavern, but by the time Tracey reached the shop he had disposed of the roll and had only \$77 in his pocket.

STRAUSS SAYS— IT'S ONE DAY NEARER PEACE!



"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness!"

From the Declaration of Independence

And Junior—on occasion—erases the celebratory look—and with the Lincoln hand-over-the-heart Salute—pronounces reverently—"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America—and to the Republic for which it stands—one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for All!"

JULY FOURTH, 1776—JUNE TWENTY SIXTH, 1945

It is significant . . . that the signers of the Declaration wrote "All men." The "pledge to the Flag" ends on the challenging note . . . with liberty and justice for all."

President Truman addressing the Conference . . . spoke of it as a Charter of Peace . . . a World Constitution . . . "looking forward to the time when all worthy human beings may be permitted to live decently as free people."

From the Declaration of Independence . . . signed in Philadelphia 169 years ago . . . to the signing of the Charter . . . by 50 nations of the world in San Francisco just a week ago . . .

and continuing today in the Far East . . . where our men are carrying the Flag deeply in their hearts . . . and proudly and valiantly in the field of battle . . . (they bought 2 Air Fields on Okinawa at the price of 3 cemeteries) . . . the Flag is steadily, irresistibly, irrevocably moving toward its destiny. . . . It is a flag in the Service of Human Brotherhood . . . of Universal Liberty, Universal Justice. It seems ordained to be the Divine Instrument through which the Divine Spirit is bringing to the peoples of the world . . . the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy . . . the answer to their prayer, the injunction and the blessing . . . "Peace on Earth . . . Good Will Toward Men!"

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