

Pure Water, Greatest Natural Resource

This is the fifth in a series of articles on Conservation prepared and presented by the Conservation Committee of the Louisburg Garden Club. We hope you find them interesting as well as informative. Today's article is about water.

Pure water is one of our greatest natural resources. It is the life blood of the land; it determines man's destiny. Water has shaped our living customs, just as it has played a part in shaping the earth's surface.

Water is so commonplace that we are inclined to take it for granted, yet no single resource assumes a more important role in our lives. We depend upon it in thousands of different ways to meet our daily living needs. One can live much longer without food than without water. Animals and plants depend upon it. All living things must have water as they are made partly of water, as we ourselves are. We build our homes and industries near it and our farms require abundant supplies to reach their full productivity.

Water in streams and lakes provides transportation. It is used to generate electricity and its energy turns machinery; so indirectly, it is a source of food. We use water for swimming and fishing. It is used for air conditioning units, for washing clothes and many other things. Industries are a large consumer of water. Our two most important uses, of course, are human consumption and irrigation for crops.

The problem of getting a supply of pure drinking water is becoming increasingly difficult for many communities. Pollution has been caused by dumping wastes from our home and industries into streams, lakes and tidewaters. Silt from eroding land does its part, too. Fish and plant life cannot live in water where this has taken place. The most dangerous of impurities found in water are disease germs. Typhoid fever is one of the diseases carried by water. Mud is another common impurity. It spoils the taste of water, and makes it unfit for laundry work, bathing or manufacturing.

In our own county 50 percent of our open wells are polluted to some degree, making

them a health hazard. This is an amazing figure in just one county.

The problem of getting a good supply of water is nothing new. Three thousand years ago a city on an island in the Mediterranean Sea has no water. Not only was the water in the sea salty, but the water in the wells dug on the island was salty too. The people had to dig wells on the mainland nearby, far from the shore. Then they built a stone-lined ditch or aqueduct to carry the water down to the shore. There it was loaded on boats and taken to the island. This seems a more difficult task even than the carrying of water from a well or spring in a bucket.

Over the years land has been cleared at an extravagant rate, causing the rainfall to speedily run off. This quick run-off

does not allow the water to seep into the earth to keep underground streams flowing. Thus the water table has gradually been receding. Drainage and filling of wet land areas further deplete our water supply. Every abuse that we impose upon our life-giving resources -- soils, forests, grasslands, wildlife, further depletes our supplies of usable water.

Nature has widely distributed water, about three-fourths of the earth being covered by it in the form of oceans, rivers, and lakes. Yet we find that water, like most of the other natural resources which serve man's needs, is critically short. Short due to our abuses, the increase of human population and their increasing demands for its use. As more automatic machines are invented and used in the average home, such as

washing machines and dishwashers, the supply will become even less. Since people have contributed to our lessening water supply, it is up to the people to begin correcting it for our future generations.

The same supply of water is used and reused. Vapor and moisture goes from the ocean to the cloud and under the right conditions, comes back to earth as rain. Seepage from underground flows eventually find their way to rivers and lakes which in turn flows into the oceans to again form vapor for another cycle. We know this to be true for the Bible says, "All rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again."

"Do you depend on a water pump? Anyone who does and has had to do without it for several days for those occasional necessary repairs, knows what the 'taken-for-granted' use of water means. We will hear much about water conservation in the future. So, stop, look, listen and support the programs.

Know Your Weather

By E. M. Sims

Does the moon affect the weather and the planting of crops?

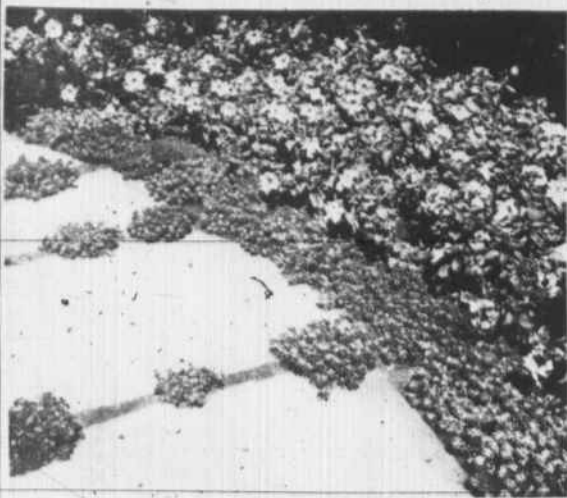
Yes, the moon does affect the weather. It also affects the tides and high tide at the time of full moon is usually higher than usual. High tide at the spring equinox is even higher when the moon is full at the same time.

The moon's effect on our daily weather is not yet fully understood, or determined, though it is believed to exert an effect. As for its value in the planting of crops, many farm experts hold it has a definite relation, and results over the years seem to prove the theory.

The explanation for this theory is not yet known.

Parents of young children should find time to teach them courtesy and good manners despite the press of other things.

LITTLE NEED TO WEED



With the present popularity of terraces and patios, the many different kinds of paving often present weeding problems. Why give weeds a chance to grow?

Early sowing of annuals which naturally grow low and spreading will give these a head start, and if you keep a space clear around them for just a little while, there'll be no need to weed later in the season. The annuals will cover the cracks and provide color and, sometimes, fragrance.

Shown in the illustration is sweet alyssum used in the cracks of a flagstone path. It also is used as a border along the edge of the path so that border and cracks will gradually merge into a carpet of one color. As you know, sweet alyssum is available with flowers of white, pink, lavender or purple so even this one annual offers a wide choice.

Creeping zinnia might be used in a similar situation and its small yellow flowers would present a different color scheme from alyssum. Lobellias with blooms varying shades of blue or white would be equally suitable and grow especially well in light shade.

For long-season weed avoidance, verbenas in mixed colors or in white, pink, rose, lavender, or purple would be a happy choice--for these annuals continue to grow and flower until hard frost.

Portulacas are the gayest of the spreading annuals. Coming as they do with single or double flowers in bright yellows, roses, pinks and white, they are particularly suitable for a sunny situation where soil is poor for they thrive under these conditions.

ASCS NEWS

John R. Davis

Franklin County ASCS Manager

Cotton producers on 267 farms in Franklin County released a total of 1000.6 acres of allotments which they did not wish to plant during the coming year. Producers on 408 farms have requested 1677.0 acres additional acres to plant. At present, there are only 988.0 acres of cotton available for reappportionment. The Franklin County ASCS Committee has requested 689.0 acres from the State ASCS Committee to be used in satisfying requests. The County Committee must reappportion the released acreage not later than Friday, March 12, 1965.

at the ASCS Office in Louisburg.

Many producers have already filed lease agreements to transfer tobacco acreage between farms for 1965. Before any acreage can be transferred, tobacco yields must be figured and a written lease between all parties involved must be filed with the County ASCS Office on or before April 1, 1965, which is the deadline.

Safe Driver

Clarkdale, Ariz. -- After driving for 68 years, John A. Alrich had his first minor traffic accident. The 93-year-old man told police that his first automobile was a one-cylinder 1896 model.

BRIGHT IDEAS

FOR GROWING HOUSE PLANTS

Biggest problem for amateur plant growers and hobbyists during the short days of winter, or with out-of-season flowers, is to provide a steady supply of the sun's red and blue radiant energy, essential for plant growth.



You can now grow more beautiful plants than ever before with Sylvania Gro-Lux fluorescent lamps. They supply the correct light to stimulate growth, yet use no more electricity than standard fluorescent lamps. Gro-Lux lamps come ready-made, or you can create charming, decorative touches by building them into storage walls, room dividers, bookcases, hutch cabinets, or dry sinks.



For a particularly novel and dramatic effect, use the special lamps for lighting wall-recessed or free-standing aquariums. Either way, studies show that Gro-Lux is beneficial to water plants and enhances the color of both fish and plants.



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