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NOTICE! NOTICE!

Notice is hereby given to the delinquent tax payers of the TOWN of MILTON, that beginning May 1, 1926, I shall advertise and sell at public auction such properties as are needed to pay taxes that are in arrears.

GUS LILLYDALE,
Tax Collector.

By order of the Commissioners. 4-15-26.

Mingled Sanitation

Doctor—"Have you taken every precaution to prevent the spread of contagion in your family?"

Rastus—"Absolutely, doctah. We've done bought a sanitary cup an' we all drink from it."—Exchange.

"PUTTING ONE OVER" ON PLANTS

(By Louis E. Reichard, in Our Young People.)

Plants that observe union hours, plants that "do over-time," plants that are as temperamental as a prima donna, these and many others whose peculiarities and characteristics vary as widely as do those of human beings are the subjects of experiment and study by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Just recently an experiment was in progress at the Academy of Science and National Research Council, Washington, D. C., conducted with a view to learning the extent to which plants may be made to flower and bear fruit as man wills, by increasing or decreasing the time of their exposure to light.

In an effort to add another to the already long list of secrets that science has wrested from nature, Dr. W. W. Garner, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, arranged some plants in a case divided into four compartments in which each group received identical treatment, except the hours of lighting ranged from eight to twenty-four per day. Each compartment was equipped with a time-recording device, which automatically controlled the number of hours to which the plants were exposed to light. This was done by cutting off the "juice" and thus extinguishing the 1,000-watt electric lamps at the expiration of eight, twelve, and sixteen hours each day for the first three compartments, while the fourth one ran the full twenty-four hours.

Above the plants and between them and the artificial lights was a sheet of cold running water—three inches deep to prevent excessive heat. Dr. Garner is authority for the somewhat startling statement that an electric lamp sends out 97 per cent heat and only 3 per cent light.

Tests having shown that temperature alone is not responsible for the fruiting and flowering of plants at certain seasons of the year, the experts of the Bureau adopted a simple plan to determine whether the length of the day is a cause contributing materially to that well-known tendency or habit.

They built a "dark house," so constructed as to admit air freely at the bottom and allow its escape at the top, without the admission of daylight. For convenience, a small series of steel tracks leading into the "dark house" was provided, and on these tracks were mounted a number of trucks with steel wheels capable of supporting containers in which the plants were grown.

With this equipment it was a simple matter to transfer the plants into and out of the "dark house" at regular intervals, each day. For example, if it was desired to give a particular lot of plants eight hours of light each day, their "cars" would be waiting for them for their daily outing at eight o'clock in the morning. Then, the regulation union day over, they would be rolled back into the "dark house" at four in the afternoon.

The results of this simple experiment were rather startling. For instance, the chrysanthemum, which is always associated in our minds with fall weather, showed a marked preference for comparatively short hours. However, it is barred from joining the union, since it bears flowers on a ten-hour-day basis. On the other hand, the soy bean known as Peking proved itself eligible for admission, as it indicated a readiness to call a seven or eight-hour trick of duty a full day.

The tests made showed conclusively that a large number of plants, including most of the so-called summer annuals, regularly flower after mid-summer as the result of the decrease in the length of the day; and that while relatively short days favor the flowering and fruiting of these plants, long days are more favorable to rapid and extensive vegetative development. Some of the plants, therefore, if they receive the full benefit

of the long days of summer, may reach giant proportions before being brought to a flowering stage.

Thus science, ever unfolding nature's secrets, regulates the hours and growth of plants largely as we do the hours of labor of men and women. To just what extent this control may be carried on in this and other directions, no one can even guess.

It is probably very fortunate that the law that "like produces like" works immutably, unchangeably, inexorably. If it were not so, a lover of beautiful flowers, imposed upon by a designing scientist, might find some bright morning that his wonderful rose bed had been turned overnight into a pumpkin patch; or a victimized farmer, planting his seed wheat in good faith, might be startled and dismayed at producing acres of ragweed. Nature's laws can be learned and may be co-operated with, but rarely, if ever, are they actually transcended.

While it is possible to delude the unsuspecting chrysanthemum and other fall-flowering plants into believing that the autumn days have come by shortening the light period, thus coaxing them to flower prematurely, they show a tendency to become as temperamental as movie "stars" if their hours are too greatly interfered with.

For instance, it was found that if certain short-day flowers, instead of being given a single exposure to light each day, were transferred to a dark house at ten o'clock in the morning and returned to light at two o'clock in the afternoon the mid-day siesta was almost without effect in hastening flowering, although the two daily light periods aggregated considerably less than twelve hours in duration. Thus plants like human beings, have to be pampered and humored if we wish them to do their best.

In striking contrast with the group of plants discussed in the late spring and summer. These plants, it is quite obvious, do not require short days to reach the flowering stage. On the contrary, it has been found that short days prevent, or at least greatly delay, flowering and fruiting.

The conclusions that have been reached are that while short-day plants are diverted toward flowering and fruiting by shortening the daylight period, in the case of the long-day plants that stage of developments may be induced by the lengthening of the daily period of illumination.

So in the summer the daily light period is readily shortened by use of dark chambers into which the plants are placed for a portion of the day. On the other hand, in order to initiate flowering out of season in long-day plants during the short days of winter or to prevent its occurrence in short-day plants, it would be necessary to lengthen the daily period of illumination.

With this exercise of control already possible, scientists tell us that within suitable limits of temperature and other factors in plant growths there seems to be no reason why almost any plant may not be made to flower and fruit at any season of the year in any region. This does not mean that we can or may trifle with, violate, or upset nature's laws at will. However, if we wish our chrysanthemums in the summer instead of in the fall, our violets in the winter rather than in the spring, our poppies in the autumn in preference to the summer, we need but ask the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, to tell us how to wave the magic wand of science over our favorite flowers in order that our wishes may be speedily gratified.

HOME OF T. A. PINCHBACK DESTROYED BY FIRE

(Continued from Page 1)

John Brandon, together with four or five colored men, whose names were not secured, were attracted either by the alarm or by the light of the burning house, and came running to give any aid that was humanly possible.

When all further efforts at sav-

ing the furniture had to be abandoned the men carried out the meat and lard from the dairy and smoke house which, being so near the residence, was seen to be doomed.

Since the air was quiet and no wind blowing the house burned for an hour or more before being consumed. This enabled the workers to save more furniture than would otherwise have been possible. As it was, quite a lot of household effects from the downstairs rooms were saved, and some from the rooms upstairs.

On Sunday following the night of the fire the neighbors called to express their sympathy for Mr. Pinchback and Miss Blanche, and to offer their services. The front yard, enclosed by its white picket fence, was intact, except for the two large oaks and the ivy-clad tree, which had been fatally scorched and shrivelled by the intense heat. There stood the rose bushes, the lilacs and the boxwood as if nothing had happened. The garage, well-house and tobacco barn were standing not far away, uninjured. In the fields nearby could be seen the blooming orchard and the trellises of grape vines.

Against this background of a home in ashes, surrounded by every evidence of industry, thrift and good taste, stood Mr. Pinchback. Before him lay the wreck of fifty years of devoted labor. For him and his children that home had been the center of hallowed memories and cherished hopes.

Under the reaction from the excitement of the night before, Mr. Pinchback stood before the ruins in something of a dazed and reminiscent mood. He received his neighbors courteously, and recounted for them the events of the fire and the story of how he and his wife had worked, through the nearly fifty years of their married life, to accumulate what they had.

Mr. Pinchback has passed the three-score and ten years mile post. But in his tall and vigorous form and in the unconquerable light of his eyes one could read the signs of a reserve of strength that had manfully met the disaster which had overtaken him. He is the type of man who stands four square to every wind that blows, and his friends who know him say that they are confident Mr. Pinchback will ere long recover from this heavy blow and will build again, either on the old home place or elsewhere.

It is thought that the fire originated behind the mantelpiece in the sitting room downstairs. A heater was kept in that room. And it is supposed that the mortar may have worked out from between the bricks and allowed the fire to reach the wood work. It is understood that Mr. Pinchback carried some insurance on his residence, which, his friends say is a source of great satisfaction to them.

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THE SONG OF THE BLUE BIRD

What is the bluebird singing to you
From the branch of the old apple tree?
What is the message he's bringing to you
That makes you laugh with glee?
Is he your good fairy that tells to you
Secrets that we cannot share?
Singing his songs to the heart of you,
Sweet on the clear morning air.

How can we share this joy with you
We who are weary and worn?
Can't we go back to the dawn with you
And join you in life's glad morn?