

Take Care In Picking Seed For Gardens

Agriculture Leader Gives Method For Treating Vegetable Seeds

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(Written for The Associated Press)
WASHINGTON — Long before home gardeners start preparing the soil for spring planting they usually select the seed they intend to plant. One of the traditional joys of gardening is the seed catalog.

Long sessions over these provocative volumes are a pleasure to the entire family. Imaginations run riot and optimism is the keynote.

This is a fine attitude for gardening is fun, and all the family can share in it—at the same time contributing substantially to better living. However, as every person who has gardened even for one season knows, there is more to it than buying little packets of seed and dropping them in the ground.

The kind and quality of seed selected is vital to success. Buy your seed from a reliable seed dealer, and take his advice about varieties suited to your locality.

Read carefully any information printed on the seed envelope. The Federal Seed Act of 1939 requires that all seed shipped in interstate commerce must be fully and accurately labeled to indicate the quality of the seed.

The law requires that seeds must have been tested for germination within six months prior to the date of sale and that the label must carry the date of the test. Vegetable seeds which are below standard in germination may be sold only when so labeled.

But even high quality seed, suited to the region and climate and planted in fertile soil may bring little or nothing in the way of a crop if precautions are not taken against the ravages of plant diseases and the depredations of insect pests.

One of the things new gardeners do not always realize is that many plant diseases are carried by seed and that harmful fungi are often present in the soil. Plant diseases can rarely be cured, but they can be prevented by taking precautions against these sources of infection before planting.

Chief of these precautions is seed treatment. Seed treatment falls into two groups: seed disinfectants which kill the bacteria or fungi carried on or with the seed; and seed protectants which safeguard seed from attacks by decay-producing organisms that may be in the soil or on the seed.

The process of treatment for small quantities of seed is simple and the novice gardener need not be dismayed at the prospect of undertaking something unexpected. In many cases the treatment consists only of putting a very small amount of certain chemical compounds in dust form—as much as will stick to a tooth pick—into the little seed envelope and shaking it for 3 or 4 minutes with the seed, then screening off any excess dust.

Since the quantity needed for even a fairly large garden is small, Freedom gardeners will be wise to buy the smallest available package of the proper compound and get other gardeners to share it with them.

As a caution, do not use red copper oxide on the cabbage group—Cauliflower, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts.

The key to success is using the proper treatment for the different kinds of seed you plant.

Zoo Keeper Does 'Impossible' In Mating Lion, Tiger

SALT LAKE CITY (UP)—Throwing out all textbooks, the Salt Lake City Zoo has accomplished the supposedly impossible: mating a full grown lion and tiger, traditionally deadly enemies.

Mae and Huey are boxing playfully in their cage at the Hogle Zoological Garden here these days, and the zoo keeper, Joe Naylor, said Mae, the three-year-old tigress, was "expecting her first offspring either in mid-April or early May."

Lions and tigers have been mated before, but as far as zoologists know, not when brought together after reaching maturity. The German animal expert, Carl Hagenbeck, experimented successfully in the field but his method was to rear the lion and tiger together from cubhood.

Some of the resulting progeny were sent to zoos in England and this country, but no case is on record of a successful mating in the United States. The hybrid offspring are variously called "tigelions," "tigers" and similarly coined terms.

Cautious Approach Used
Naylor took nearly ten months to get his pair together. Mae had a twin sister, named Daisy, both born in the San Francisco Zoo. When the Hogle Zoo acquired Huey from Miami, Fla., he was placed in a cage four stalls from the young tigresses.

Gradually Naylor moved the young lion closer to the pair, cage by cage. Finally they were in adjoining cages and began a friendly, if somewhat cautious, acquaintance.

Last summer Naylor told his boss, Joseph Sloan of the city parks department, his plans for mating the pair.

"I was told I was crazy," Naylor said with a chuckle. "And not only by local authorities. We had a visit last summer from experts of the Bronx Zoo in New York, and from several West Coast cities, including Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. They all told me I was nuts in even thinking about it; that I'd find a dead lion on my hands some morning."

Trouble at First
In mid-December Naylor kicked open Huey's cage.

"I literally shoved him in with Daisy and Mae," he said. "At first they snarled at each other and the two tigers backed Huey into a corner. There was a little blood and some fur flew, but that lion was just plain scared to death."

After a few days of armed truce, Naylor removed Daisy and left Huey and Mae together.

"Two days later they were as friendly as a couple of puppies," Naylor said. "They'd box together in the mornings and romp all over the cage together."

Event Expected
He said that on Dec. 28 the pair were mated, and that the mating season lasted until Jan. 24.

Naylor added that Mae shows all the signs of being expectant, and that if she is, the kittens are due in late April or early May. Tigers have a gestation period of 105 days and usually produce three cubs.

Watching the two animals lying fondly together with the tigress' head nestled against the lion's shoulder, "Cupid" Naylor rubbed his hands cheerfully.

"They're mated now for life," he gloated. "It'd be a shame to break up such a happy home, and they said it couldn't be done!"

TO KEEP THEM HONEST
SYDNEY, Australia (UP)—Photographs will be taken of the inside and outside of every building along the route of a proposed subway through the heart of Sydney. The photos will be protection against unjust claims for damages to the buildings during construction.

COEDS COST MONEY

NEW YORK (UP)—American industry loses \$8,000,000,000 a year through worker absences, 40 to 50 per cent of which are caused by the common cold and its complications. The figures are from J. Lanza of the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center.

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HE LOST MONEY

BOSTON (UP)—Richard Marshall was fined \$72 for illegally parking his automobile 11 times. Nearby is a parking lot that charges 75 cents nightly.

WRONG JOB

CHICOPEE FALLS, Mass. (UP)—Convicted of drunken driving, Marvin Bray resigned as head of the Chicopee safety council.

LEGION POST GROWS

INDIANAPOLIS (UP)—American Legion national headquarters announced that 59 "giant posts" were organized in 1947, each of which has 2,500 or more members. Post No. 1 in Omaha, Neb., retained its title as the "world's largest American Legion post by mustering a final 1947 membership of 18,811.

MUSKRAT GETS TOUGH

LEBANON, Pa. (UP)—A muskrat got lost downtown and wasn't much interested in getting help from passersby. Huddled on a doorstep, the animal took a few swipes at pedestrians before a policeman threw a bag over its head and put it back into the creek.

Although it is commonly believed that strong gales may be expected at the time of the equinox—when the sun apparently crosses the celestial equator—continued observations have failed to show any unusual prevalence of storms at this season.

Tuileries Garden in Paris gets its name from the plants that were located there in the 13th Century.

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