

THE DUPLIN TIMES

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Good Idea—Getting These Heads Together



Courtesy New Orleans Times-Picune

THE PRESIDENT'S FARM PLAN

The New York Herald Tribune has devoted a thoughtful and sympathetic editorial to the farm problem. The basic trouble, it points out, is that increased farm productivity has been accompanied by a declining market. During and after the war we fed much of the world and, rightfully, farmers were given every incentive to expand acreage. But these incentives—of which the biggest was high fixed price supports—were continued after world conditions had greatly changed. The inevitable result was enormous and incredibly costly surpluses.

Then the Herald Tribune considers the President's new farm plan, with particular emphasis on its principal element—the soil bank. Under this concept, acreage would be withdrawn from all production and the farmer, in return, would receive cash or its equivalent in grain now held by the government. At the same time there would be a long range conservation project to put marginal land into forest or grass land that would retain water and reduce erosion. The paper said: "President Eisenhower's program constitutes constructive answers to the most pressing economic problem facing the country. His proposals are far better for the farmer and the country than a mere return to fixed parity prices, which would only encourage greater surpluses at greater cost to the nation in payments and in storage expense. Land will not be diverted from one surplus crop to another, or to grazing, which would add to the livestock raiser's woes."

Finally, the Herald Tribune made a point with which all should agree when it is said: "The farm problem must not become exclusively the political football of an election year. It is a national issue, demanding, within the limits of reasonable controversy, the judicious consideration of both Republican and the Democratic parties as well as of all sections of the country."

of a private enterprise. But it is not only possible but common when the government provides commercial services.

Parcel post is an excellent example. When this service was started, in 1913, Congress specified that it should be self-sustaining, should not unnecessarily compete with private transportation service, and should supplement, not supersede, private carriers.

Those were admirable and reasonable specifications—but they certainly have not been realized. The service has been conducted on a below cost basis—at the expense of all the taxpayers. It is estimated that the deficit, to the end of last year, was more than \$1,200,000,000. During the 1947-51 period, according to one reliable study, for every dollar the shipper spent on parcel post, almost 42 cents had to be ponied up by the general taxpayer to meet the difference between what the shipper paid and what it cost to provide the service. In the latter year, congress took certain corrective steps. However, the service is still being operated at a loss. The effect of all this on taxpaying private parcel services, which have no subsidies, can be imagined.

The least government can do, when it enters the realm of business, is to see to it that the charges cover all the costs—and that the people who want and use a service pay the bill.

Ornamental Shrubs Are Link Between Tall Trees And Low Growing Flowers

Ornamental shrubs are the link between the tall trees and low growing flowers of our yards. They are the "fillers-in" to form backgrounds and screens and to give enclosure to different parts of the yard. The list of shrubs available at present from nurseries is a large one—actually several hundred, and there isn't room here to list all the varieties of deciduous and evergreen shrubs available. You can rely on any good nurseryman for recommendations to fit your yard and pocketbook.

Deciduous shrubs may be transplanted anytime while they are dormant—that is, after the leaves have fallen in autumn and before the buds open in spring. In most parts of the North shrubs are planted both in fall and spring. Fall planting is done while the soil is in good condition for working. It is a long season, the weather is more favorable and the plants are more likely to be freshly dug. On the other hand, cold, drying winds during the winter may cause losses. Spring planting insures plants starting growth promptly after the frost is out of the ground, but there are disadvantages. Among these are the following:

Spring planted shrubs have often been in storage for long periods and they reach their destination with lowered vigor. Too often the soil is extremely wet and hard to work with early in the season.

As a general rule, spring planting is less risky in the extreme northern states but from the latitude of Columbus, O., and south either spring or fall planting is possible.

When planting all dried and broken roots should be cut cleanly and the branches should be trimmed back to reduce the leaf surface by approximately 1-3, depending upon the amount of roots lost in digging and root pruning. Holes should be dug large enough and deep enough to allow roots to be spread out in their natural position at the same depth as they grew in the nursery.

In planting hedge plants such as privet, it is well to plant three inches below the crown to encourage growth of more side shoots and increase the thickness of the hedge. Mellow soil should be worked through the roots. When all the roots are covered the soil should be firmed by tramping. Then fill the remainder of the hole with water, allowing this to soak in before raking the dirt in loosely to complete the planting. A two or three-inch mulch of leaves should be spread around the newly planted shrubs after a couple of handfuls of Vigoro are scattered around each shrub.

The best time for pruning shrubs depends upon their flowering habits. The shrubs which bear blossoms on new growth in the late spring or summer should be pruned in late winter or early spring while those which bear blossoms on last year's wood growth should be pruned soon after blooming. Remove one or two of the older canes at the ground each year to keep the shrub open and bushy. The new growth will be able to develop in normal branching form. Never give shrubs other than hedges, a "haircut" type of trimming.

Easy-To-Grow Flowers Answer To Wide Spread Problem Of Colorful Gardens

Do you like lots of color in your garden but lack for the time to care for a wide variety? Then you need easy to grow flowers. Listed below are six requiring only simple culture and for the small lot, they are all that is needed. So many gardeners load up with many different flower seeds, then finding that they have too little space after all, they limit each to just a few plants. The result is a border which, though better than none at all, is a hodgepodge of all colors, shapes and sizes, and is not nearly so pretty as one having fewer flowers in larger masses.

First choice would be the zinnia for the ease with which it may be grown. It furnishes color in the garden and abundance of cut flowers for weeks. No annual serves these purposes as well as the zinnia. In its many forms, it ranges from the tiny Lilliputs to the huge California Giants.

Petunias, especially the purple, white and hybrid red strains, serve admirably as a ground cover for bulb beds. Their spreading foliage covers the dying bulb foliage effectively. Petunias may be started in a cold frame or sown directly in the garden, but they should be thinned out.

Sweet Alyssum is another indispensable annual serving as a filler for odd spots and corners, or as a continuous border the whole length of the flower bed. The seed is sown where it is to flower, scratched lightly into loose soil. In less than six weeks the growing plants are in full white bloom. Shearing the plants at ten-day intervals, first on one side and then the other, will keep them in bloom all summer.

Annual larkspur with medium tall spikes of pink, blue and white fills the need for taller growing plants in the back of the flower bed and

adds the necessary areas of blue. Larkspur does not transplant from flats easily. It is best to sow it very early in the spring, thinning the plants to three or four inches apart. Bright yellow French marigolds may grow as high as three feet and their carnation-like blooms make excellent cutting flowers. Other varieties in bush form may grow only to a height of one foot.

Nicotiana, or flowering tobacco, with its deep red, pink and white star-shaped flowers, winds up the list of easy to grow annuals. It is a rapid grower from seeds sown directly on the surface of the soil but needs, thinning to 8 to 10 inches apart.

Each of these flowers is disease-proof, drought-resistant and troubled by few insects. However, they all appreciate a fair level of soil fertility. Work two pounds of Vigoro per hundred square feet into the soil before planting. Don't fertilize; too much plant food may cause scraggy growth and inferior blooms.

What Questions Vets Are Asking

Q. I am the widow of a World War I veteran, receiving a monthly VA pension. I am receiving survivors insurance benefits, based on my late husband's employment. Are those benefits considered income, for pension purposes?

A. Survivors insurance benefits, which you receive on the basis of your late husband's employment, are considered as income.

Q. I borrowed some money on my permanent National Service Life Insurance policy. If, by chance, I can't repay the principal or interest, will my policy be cancelled?

A. Your policy will not be cancelled until your total indebtedness equals or exceeds the policy's cash value. Should that happen, your policy would cease and you no longer would be insured.

Q. I am a disabled World War II veteran taking training under Public Law 16. If I am injured while training, would I be entitled to additional VA compensation?

A. Yes, provided your injury resulted directly from your training.

Q. Will a veteran of World War II be able to get a GI loan indefinitely?

A. No. In most cases applications by World War II veterans must be made within 10 years from July 25, 1947, the end of World War II for the purpose of the Act. Veterans whose entitlement is derived from active service on or after June 30, 1950, have until January 31, 1955 within which to apply for their GI loan benefits.

NOTE: Further information regarding the above or any other VA administered benefit can be obtained at your local VA Office, Room 607 Borden Building, Goldsboro, N. C.

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THOSE WERE THE DAYS

WE BLONDES ARE RARE, YOU KNOW!
 YOU'RE LUCKY—WE DARK-HAIR GIRLS ARE SO COMMON!
 LOOK AT MY WIG! I HAD BLACK HAIR!
 YOU SURE HAVE COME A LONG WAY! TOP DOGS YESTERDAY YOU HAD BLACK HAIR!
 I USED THIS HAIR—NOW I'M A BLOW-UP!
 MYSTERY! THEY'RE ALL BLONDES WITH JUST A FEW BRUNETTES!!

By ART BEEMAN

HOSSFACE HANK

DID HOSSFACE TURN IN ALREADY?
 SHORE...HE CAN'T KEEP HIS EYES OPEN AFTER NINE O'CLOCK!
 I FIGGERED HE'D STAY UP TONIGHT IN HIS BED ROLL EF IT WHEN HE GOT KILT HIM! TO SLEEP!
 YEH...LAST NIGHT WE PUT HORN TOADS IN HIS BED ROLL!
 AN' NIGHT BEFORE LAST, WE DABBED AXLE GREASE ON HIS HANDS, THEN STICK THE CORNER OF HIS BED ROLL IN A PAIR OF WATER!

By FRANK THOMAS

SONNY SOUTH

OH, MY! AH FOGOT! AH WAS SUPPOSED TO GO OWN T' SUSAN'S HOUSE TONIGHT AN' THAR'S A BLIZZARD OUT!
 WHY, SONNY! YORE DATE IS NOT 'TIL TOMORROW NIGHT!
 IT'S SHORE GOOD 'N BE HOME, AN' I GLAD AN' DON'T HAVE TO GO OWN THAR TONIGHT.

By AL SONNERS

YOO HOO! HEY! JULIE!

WHAT?
 DID YOU LOSE A DOLLARBILL?
 WHY, YER, YES I DID! DID YOU FIND IT?
 NO, I DIDN'T!
 WELL, WHY DID YOU ASK?
 I'M JUST FINDING OUT HOW MANY WERE LOST TODAY! YOURS IS THE SIXTEENTH!

By AL SMITH

OFF MAIN STREET

GRAMPS, HOW MANY MILES DO YOU THINK A GOLD FISH SWIMS IN A DAY?
 WELL... FIRST YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW HOW MANY TIMES HE SWIMS AROUND THE BOWL!
 WATER... WELL—HOW FAR DID THE FISH TRAVEL?
 OH, ABOUT SIX BLOCKS, UP A FENCE, DOWN THE ALLEY, AND BACK HOME!
 HUH?
 YEH, HE WENT INSIDE THE CAT!

By JOE DENNETT

DREAMS

WHEN ADD SIX SPOONS OF SUGAR, TEN CUPS OF FLOUR
 BOLT!
 FOUR GLASSES OF MILK, SOME VANILLA AN' CHOCOLAT AN' ICE CREAM AN' MIX 'EM ALL UP!
 THIS DOESN'T LOOK RIGHT.
 HEY YOU!
 ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN READ?

By BRAD ANDERSON

SHOULD YOU PAY YOUR NEIGHBOR'S BILLS?

Suppose a commercial business in your town sold some commodity to your neighbor for less than its cost—and then demanded that you pay the difference and make up the loss:

That, you'll say, is absurd and impossible. And so it is—in the case

Nelly Don

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