



George Abrahams
Naples, N. Y.

THE GREEN THUMB

SWEET PEAS: It'll soon be time to sow sweet peas. Many gardeners have asked The Green Thumb why it is sweet peas are so difficult to grow. The secret of getting good blooms is to plant early, either in fall or early spring. St. Patrick's Day or Good Friday are good times to plant sweet peas, because they demand a cool soil and a cool atmosphere for best growth. They are not a hot weather crop. We like to plant sweet peas in the fall, just before the ground freezes, but spring planting is effective. Dig a trench 1 1/2 ft. wide and deep, mix the soil with superphosphate at the rate of 1 lb to 10 linear feet.

Plant the sweet pea seed 2 inches deep. We sow ours in a trench 6 or 8 inches deep, then cover at first with only 2 inches of soil. As the plants increase in size, the trench is gradually filled in. This is better system for us. Make sure they have good drainage. Cinders in the bottom of the trench make fine drainage.

We don't like to use manure for sweet peas because of the blight trouble experience. The vines come up about 2 feet, then wither down and it is our belief that manure supplies the fungus responsible for this. You can grow good peas without manure. Sprinkle some lime in the soil because this crop likes it. Keep nitrogen out of the soil. For best results, treat your sweet pea seed with a legume inoculation, bacteria which take nitrogen from the air and make it available to plants. You can buy this material from your seed store.

Sweet peas need full sunlight, and water at all times.

Diseases: When flower stalks wither, seed pods shrivel and lose the green color, that's anthracnose disease one of the worst pests you'll have. Don't plant sweet peas near an apple tree because the disease passes the winter on limbs and fruits of apples.

Pick flowers daily as fast as they come out, otherwise your vines will peter out. Pick in morning before sun hits the plants. Plants are then full of water and stems break off easily. Don't use a knife in picking. If sweet peas are wilted after cutting, hold stems under warm water and cut off an inch or two. They'll recover from wilted condition in 30 minutes. You can color your blooms by using cake coloring. Set stems in, and dye flowers.

As a final word, support your vines early, when about 4 inches high because if they topple over, they seldom seem to grow as well as when staked early. Chicken wire or twiggy branches stuck in both sides of row make good supports. Chicken wire does not get hot from sun as many believe, and burn plants.

HOME GROWN LEMONS: Many gardeners are successfully raising lemons in the home. So-called Ponderosa lemon is a dwarf house plant that produces edible fruit, some weighing over a half pound. We've been asked for cultural details on this lemon. It likes a cool room, 55 to 60 degs. F., ideal. Soil mixture should consist of loam, sand, and some leafmold, all mixed with rotted manure and fortified with 1/2 cupful of bone-meal (or superphosphate) to each peck of soil. This mixture is good for any of the citrus fruits. Lemons like ample water, as do grapefruits, oranges and preferably watered from beneath. A good soaking in sink twice a week is good. Also syringe to wash away dust, keep insects down. Right now is a good time to give top growth of lemon tree a light pruning, and if your lemon (or other citrus) has not been reported in the past 4 yrs. report, using above soil mixture. Give citrus all sunshine possible and good drainage.

When summer comes, set the plants outdoors in partially shaded spot, plunging pots up to rim. This summer treatment helps ripen the wood and prepare fruits for late fall and winter display.

If you start citrus from seed, don't expect lots of fruit, since these come from large outdoor trees and shouldn't be expected to bear indoors. Indoors these are capricious as to blooming and bearing. Citrus started from seed can be whip-grafted in spring and made to bear. Of all the citrus, we've had best luck with Ponderosa lemon.

Insects: Be on lookout for scale insects and aphids. These exude a gummy substance, very sticky, making leaves unsightly. Mix up a solution of black leaf 40, 1 teaspoon to 2 qts. of soapy water, and scrub leaves once a week until pests are cleaned up. If blossoms of your dwarf orange, or lemon trees drop and bear no fruit, the soil and room temperature may be too dry, or lack of light may be cause. Soil and air must not be too dry when flowers and fruit are forming.

With citrus fruits, best results will be obtained by buying grafted or budded trees from nurseries. Plants grown from seed produce nice foliage and blooms but cannot be depended on for fruits.

PARISH CENTER

Mrs. Jennie Klock and daughter Reta, and Mrs. Mary Reed at-

tended the funeral of their cousin Mrs. Nellie Helmer in Camden on Saturday afternoon.

D. C. Manning has been a patient in University hospital in Syracuse for the past week.

Mrs. Inez Manning attended the Teachers meeting in Altmar Monday evening.

Evelyn Manning and Reta Klock spent Monday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Popp.

Mr. and Mrs. Roice Cottet are the proud parents of a little son. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Miller mourn the death of their infant son.

Mrs. D. C. Manning and grandson Wilbur Manning have visited D. C. Manning in University hospital nearly every evening since Mr. Manning has been in the hospital.

Mrs. Mary Reed and Mrs. Jennie Klock spent Friday with Mrs. Robert Schwartz and family in Brewerton.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Simmons of Jamesville were recent guests of Mrs. Inez Manning and family.

BOWLING

Commercial League Standings for the week of March 12
Ontario 73.5, Crandall's 59.5, Partrick's 57; GLF 48, Cornell's 47.5, Scriba 44.5, Burr Five 43, Morton's Sinclair 32, House Ins. 30, VFW 26.

Team high triple—Partrick's 3,020, Scriba 2980, Burr Five 2958. Team High Single—Partrick's 1097, Burr Five 1088, Crandall's 1087; High Individual Triple—Partrick's, 641, Leon Meeks 593, Lawrence Bateman 575. High Individual Single Game—

Partrick's 251, Leon Meeks 246, Jack Lethonen 234.

High average of March 12, Charlie Backus and Lawrence Bateman tied with 172, Richard McLaughlin and Reginald Backus tied with 167, Ed Weppner 165.

NOTICE

As a result of a misunderstanding, Mexico Town Board has declared a second meeting to hear any interested taxpayer on the proposition to renew a fire protection contract with the Mexico Fire Company. The meeting is scheduled for the Welfare office at eight o'clock on Thursday, April 2.

The fire protection district at present has a contract with the local fire department which was designed to run until May 31, 1954, at a yearly rate of \$850. However, evidence presented to the Town Board clearly indicated that the cost of operating outside the village was greater than the amount of contract. Therefore, the Town Board, which is the official agent for the fire protection district, voluntarily agreed to cancel the old contract and write a new one for a three-year period at a yearly rate of \$1150. The fact that the fire

company has added a new tanker and over five hundred dollars worth of lighting equipment to their out of town fire fighting apparatus was a deciding factor in making the change.

The meeting will give any taxpayer an opportunity to voice his opinion on the action.

The fire protection district,

which is legally represented by the Town Board, consists of the Town of Mexico outside the village.

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"My phone's a 'hired hand' on 1453 farms"
says County Agricultural Agent Norm Kidder, Albany, N. Y.

"Early this morning, Bill Wais phoned me to come over and see him on a problem he had with his orchards. Later, another farmer called about making a soil test. Still another phoned me to check the variety of corn he should plant. And so it goes—dozens of calls a week keep me and my phone hard at work for 1453 farmers.

It's my job to keep them posted, and I couldn't handle it without the telephone." Growing crops or bringing them to your table, telephones serve you the year round. And in your everyday life, chores are made easier and friends brought closer, thanks to the telephone. Few things you can buy today are as big a bargain! Actually the telephone takes a much smaller part of the average family budget than it did in 1940!

TODAY'S BIG BARGAIN. Your cost of living has jumped 90% since 1940. Yet the price of phone service has risen an average of only 15%—more for some and less for others, of course, depending on the type of service and the use made of it.

You get faster, better, more useful service, too. You can reach more people. For example, in the average community today customers can call twice as many telephones as they could ten years ago. And we're going right ahead with the costliest construction program in our history—to catch up with the backlog for phones, to meet the continuing demand, and to make service even better than ever.

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