

## Garden Notes

Every year, there are hundreds of thousands of coniferous evergreens sold in Canada to home owners who are landscaping their property or renovating their plantings.

Because these plants grow rather slowly, the nurseryman must keep them for many years before they are large enough to sell, a factor that makes them very expensive. They are very valuable plants for use in garden design for they give a sense of permanency to home plantings and provide much wanted contrast to the deciduous trees and shrubs.

Coniferous evergreens are best treated as shapes when considering them for ordinary garden use. We speak of them as broad pyramids, narrow pyramids, globes, cones, spreading and vase or urn-shaped types. For most of Canada the following shapes are most suitable among those most generally available.

Broad pyramidal types are those usually placed at the corners of the home or to accent the entrance to the driveway. The forms most acceptable are the blue-green Burk's juniper, the deep green Canaan's juniper, the silvery-blue Hill juniper, the Springbank juniper, and the very fat and opulent dark green Mounbatten juniper. A more unusual but extremely beautiful silver broad pyramidal type is the boulevard false cypress.

Most of these plants will grow from 15 to 20 feet high if they are left unpruned and from six to eight feet wide. They will take pruning very well, so if they get too tall their leading shoots can be cut back in early June or late August. Smaller forms are the Spartan juniper with silvery foliage and the Spiny Greed juniper with prickly grey-green foliage.

The globe types or the ball-shaped evergreens are quite useful for planting near entrances or steps as accent plants. There are many kinds of arbovitae for this purpose, the best being the globe arbovitae and the Woodward, Little Gem and Little Champion cultivars.

The most popular plant though for this use is the dwarf mugho pine that can be kept in perfect shape by cutting the newly developed candles in half in late May of June. Some globe-shaped yews are sold and can be maintained as globes if clipped each year; these are invaluable for planting in the shade.

The vase or urn shaped types of evergreens are used primarily to add height to otherwise flat plantings such as might be obtained by using spreading junipers. The most perfect vase shapes are produced by the Japanese yew and hybrid yew.

The best form of the hybrid yew is Brown's yew. These plants are necessary for the north or shady side of the house and the extra cost entailed is a justifiable expense. Typical vase-shaped junipers are the Blaauw juniper, a silver,

very rugged type that will stand the worst of winters and will not easily break down with snow, and the Meyer juniper with pinkish blue needles on very compact plants.

There are two types of spreading evergreens for home planting, the large bushy type and the low spreading type. Of the former, the Pfitzer juniper is the most popular. There are two forms, the common Pfitzer juniper and the golden Pfitzer juniper, both growing to the heights of three to four feet with spreads of four feet. There are also upright cultivars of the same type that provide a useful background to the lower kinds. All Pfitzer type junipers will grow fairly well in the shade.

The Hetz juniper with its silvery-blue foliage provides contrast and is very vigorous. The Gray Owl juniper is quite similar but with a greater preponderance of silvery-blue waxy berries.

Lower spreading types that cling more to the soil and are useful for ground covers are usually found in cultivars of the Savin juniper and the creeping juniper.

In the Savin juniper group are the showy, deep green Tamarix juniper, an extremely graceful form with pendulous tips to the spreading branches that give a cascading effect; Arcadia,

that hugs closely to the ground and has fresh green foliage; Hickii with a spreading habit and yet upright branches, and the Ramlosa juniper, a cultivar that was selected from forms obtained from Sweden and grown at the Plant Research Institute for many years.

Of the prostrate junipers belonging to the creeping juniper group, the most satisfactory are the Waukegan juniper, with light blue foliage; the Andorra juniper, that turns to bronze or purplish-bronze in the fall; the Bar Harbor juniper, with silvery foliage and the Wapiti juniper, a vigorous growing, soil binding, cultivar with dark green foliage.

To conclude these notes, I would urge you to bear in mind that all evergreens, particularly those growing

**ROADSIDE POLLUTION**  
Farmers may be able to combat roadside lead pollution from cars, trucks and buses by fighting back with fertilizers, lime and soil organic matter.

Scientists at the Canada Department of Agriculture have confirmed earlier research reports that exhaust from cars, trucks and buses is polluting roadside soils with an extra dose of lead.

near the house, will have ample water at all times. During September, October and even November, the plants will go into the winter dormancy.

## Jersey Breeder Awards

Rock Ella Jersey Farm Ltd. of Hornby, Ont. have just been awarded the fifth Constructive Breeder Award from the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club on a high type and production herd. In qualifying this award 22 tested cows the past year have average production of 11,162 lbs. milk and 1.5% fat, 5.29% milk solids (147 - 144). The average classification of 43 head of the herd is 86.39%. During this period, the Campburn H C Sena, a daughter of Valtallina Gen Madcap, was produced at 11,231 lbs. milk, 6.11% fat, 5.44% a Gold Medal record. She is a daughter of Chatsworth Lodge Lou's Pattern and is bred and owned by Lloyd Gurney and Sons, Princeton, Ont.

In the senior three-year-old class, the first place winner is Lollyn Tess Janice who produced at three years, 70 days of age, in 305 days, 11,231 lbs. milk, 6.11% fat, 5.44% a Gold Medal record. She is a daughter of Chatsworth Lodge Lou's Pattern and is bred and owned by Lloyd Gurney and Sons, Princeton, Ont.

In the senior two-year-old class, the first place winner is Lindale Merit Glamour, a Grand Champion daughter of Lindale Merit and Lindale Bijou Gladys, bred by Maurice Beaty, Milton, Ont. and now owned by Brian Sayles, Paris, Ont. She produced at two years, 321 days of age, in 305 days, 10,636 lbs. milk, 5.83% fat, 5.48%.

## Jersey Class Leaders For February

During the month of February the highest records made in various age classes as reported by the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club were as follows:

In the mature class (10 years and over) Jester Sybil Jane at 12 years of age produced in 305 days 13,823 lbs. milk, 4.56% fat, 4.56% a Gold Medal winner. She is a daughter of Jester Aiming owned and tested by Jester Brothers, Grand Bay, Ont.

The highest record made in a junior four-year-old class was by Valtallina Gen Madcap, a daughter of Valtallina Gen Madcap and owned by Robert Anderlini, Aldergrove, B.C. Her record was, at three years, in 305 days, 11,231 lbs. milk with 8.75% fat at 5.97%.

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old class the highest records were made by Crestlawn Milestone Lynn, a daughter of Marlu Commando Milestone bred and owned by John Brooks, Jerseyville, Ont. She produced at two years, 130 days of age, in 305 days, 11,608 lbs. milk, 5.41 lbs. fat, 4.66%.

In the senior yearling class, first place was taken by Starcrest O C Mistress Marie who milked 7,923 lbs. fat, 5.20%, in 305 days, at one year and 346 days. She is a daughter of Chatsworth Lodge O's Cavalier and Starcrest Master Marie, bred and tested by A. Neilson Stark, Georgetown, Ont.

The winner of the junior three-year-old class was Lollyn Tess Janice who produced at three years, 70 days of age, in 305 days, 11,231 lbs. milk, 6.11% fat, 5.44% a Gold Medal record. She is a daughter of Chatsworth Lodge Lou's Pattern and is bred and owned by Lloyd Gurney and Sons, Princeton, Ont.

The Hamilton Automobile Club advises motorists it is illegal to drive in Ontario with studded snow tires after April 30.

The April 30 deadline is also in effect in the Provinces of Manitoba, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island.

Mova Scotia has an April 15 deadline, while in Newfoundland these tires must be off April 16.

There are no specified qualifications for Alberta, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.

For motorists travelling into the nearby United States, New York's deadline for studded tires is April 15, no restrictions in Ohio and May the 1st for Michigan.

White painted wood is out, soft pastel blue plastics are in - for the fashion world of bees, that is.

And the man setting the fashion trend is a scientist, Dr. G. A. Hobbs of the Canada Agriculture Research Station, Lethbridge, Alta.

Dr. Hobbs, internationally famous for his work with the alfalfa leaf-cutter bee, is currently experimenting with colors and plastics for hives.

He wants to replace clumsy, heavy and hard-to-make wooden hives with light, easy-to-assemble plastic models.

The preliminary research indicates that plastic hives - polystyrene to be completely accurate - make dandy homes for alfalfa leaf-cutter bees.

He also learned that light blue with a black or green background seem to be the winning color combinations. These colors attract more bees to the hive.

He has also found that he can attract more bees by painting symbols - such as Ys, Xs and groups of parallel lines - on the hives.

Dr. Hobbs became famous when he proved that certain species of leaf-cutter bees were the most important pollinators of alfalfa.

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"But some farmers were a bit reluctant to buy bees", says Dr. Hobbs. "One of the problems is the work involved in making hives."

They needed a planer or jointer and a set of custommade toothed blades to put grooves into wooden boards.

"These grooves - like little half-moons - are fitted together to make a tunnel. There's a lot of work and skill involved in making these hives and some farmers just couldn't be bothered."

"So, with the help of a plastics manufacturer, we made a few polystyrene hives. The grooves are formed by a mould and, because all of the 'boards' came from the same mould, we had no trouble matching 'boards' to make the network of tunnels that comprise a hive."

The bees nested in the hives and seemed to be completely at home in their modern environment, says Dr. Hobbs.

The advantages: They are easy to assemble; Light weight (13 pounds) as compared to wooden hives (45 pounds) makes them easy to handle and move.

A few minor drawbacks have shown up with the first models, but some of these problems may be corrected.

For example, the polystyrene hives must be handled carefully because they damage more easily than wooden ones.

They must also be protected from mice during storage before cells are removed. That's because house mice will chew them

to eat the larvae in the cells.

"Those are pretty minor problems", says Dr. Hobbs. "We had only one major problem. Some cells got moldy, apparently because moisture doesn't dissipate as quickly in polystyrene tunnels as in wooden ones."

"We think we can handle this problem by replacing the aspenite backs of the hives with felt paper to absorb the moisture. The outer surface of the felt paper can be protected by covering it with wire screening. This year we inhibited - but didn't eliminate - mold growth using this technique."

"And this year we learned that polystyrene nests are superior to all types tested to date. The bees work longer hours in polystyrene nests than in wooden nests."

When the kinks are ironed out, the fashion world of alfalfa leaf-cutter bees could be in for a major revolution.

## FLEA CONTROL

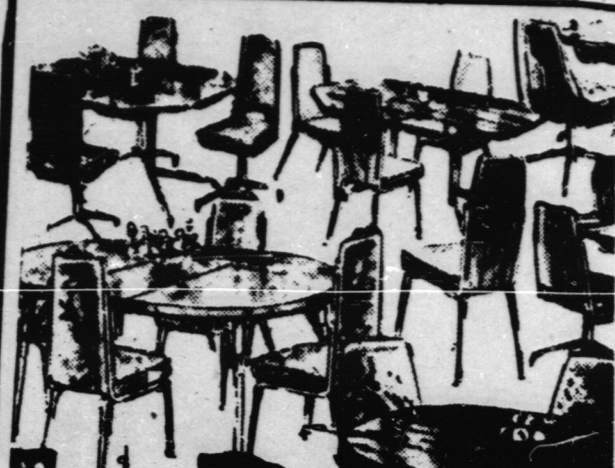
Fleas are pests. They bite and leave nasty, itchy red spots.

For information on how to get rid of them write to the Information Division, Agriculture, Ottawa 3, Ont., and ask for Publication 1187, Control of Fleas.

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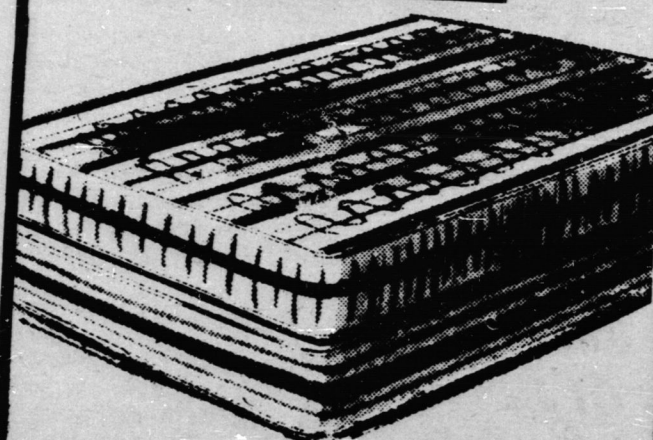


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