

## Garden Notes

by A. R. Buckley

**FLOWERING SHRUBS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**  
Did you know that in most of Canada it is possible to have an attractive shrub in bloom every growing month of the year, from March or April to October or November? Here are some good examples that may be seen on the grounds of the Plant Research Institute at Ottawa.

In March, if the weather is still severe, we must look to the pussy willow for our first flowering shrub. The common variety that grows in nearby swamps has very

small catkins, so if I were planting one, I would choose the goat willow (*Salix caprea*), a native of Europe. It does not look out of place in the shrub border and will provide you with the most beautiful of all catkins in very early spring. Not easily available from nurseries is the Erdinger willow (*Salix erdingeri*) with even larger catkins on a more robust shrub.

If the weather is mild during March, the brave little February daphne (a common name given to the *Daphne mezereum* by those who obviously live farther

south) will burst into bloom. I have often seen this shrub covered with flowers at one corner of the garden while snow was piled up at the other. I prefer the white cultivar 'Album' to the common lavender one because it seems to fit in better with the crocus, muscari and squills, which often flower at the same time.

During April we have the Korean golden bells (*Forsythia ovata*) which always produces a good crop of blooms, the Nanking cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*), a very beautiful shrub that never fails to flower in the Ottawa area, and the dwarf Russian Almond (*Prunus tenella*) with large pink almond-like blossoms.

Toward the end of this month those who have tenderly cared for the saucer magnolia (*Magnolia soulangeana*) will be rewarded by a crop of lovely pink tulip-like blossoms.

May brings such an abundance of flowering

shrubs that it is hard to choose only a few. I must include the beautiful almond cherry (*Prunus glandulosa*) and its relative, the hardier, double flowering plum (*Prunus triloba* 'Multiplex').

In mid-May I prefer Judd's viburnum (*Viburnum juddii*) to any other shrub. It is very elegant and distinctive and has clusters of fragrant rose-tinted white blossoms, which are produced in abundance.

For late May into early June, having become a little tired of the overplanted

bridal-wreath spirea (*Spiraea vanhouttei*), I now prefer to flower in the Ottawa area, and the dwarf Russian Almond (*Prunus tenella*) with large pink almond-like blossoms.

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chinese 'Saugeana' the Chinese lilac blooms earlier than the French hybrids and makes a more graceful flowering shrub.

June is the month for mock orange (*Philadelphus*). Of these I would recommend either Dame Blanche, Galahad or Bouquet Blanc; all three are bushy compact types that will not take over the whole garden. The beautybush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*), which also blooms at this time, is a highly desirable shrub with pink bell-shaped flowers.

During July, shrubs that bloom are very rare, and we are ever grateful for fine compatible shrubs, the spike broom (*Cytisus nigricans*), the shrubby lespedeza (*Lespedeza bicolor*) and the buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). The broom is yellow and grows four feet high, each shoot terminating with a spiky raceme of deep-yellow flowers. The lespedeza has very graceful clusters of bluish pea-like flowers produced in abundance on an eight-foot shrub, and the buttonbush, that grows wild hereabouts, has globe-shaped one-inch pincushion-like flowers and glossy, bright-green foliage.

In July, in the Dominion Arboretum at Ottawa, shaded by maples and treeform buckeyes, may be seen the spectacular bottlebrush luckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*) in full bloom. This large widespread shrub withstands all kinds of rugged conditions and grows well in almost any soil.

The smokebush (*Cotinus coggygria*) produces its inflorescence through July and August right until the end of September, when its feathery plumage waves in the wind. Something novel, the Royal Purple smokebush, has deep-purple

leaves as well as fine plumage.

I always associate Snowhill hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) with August, although it starts to flower in July. It has very large, round, snow-white flowers, and although some field crops may be sold directly to processors, the majority are sold in the form of stock products.

The best and most graceful of all shrubs in flower in August, and that keeps on through the month of September, is the Summer Glow fireweed (*Amorpha canescens*). This beautiful soft pink light-green foliage.

September sees the pearly hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora') change to green. In October, until the heavy frosts of November, the Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), which produces its yellow flowers with strap-like petals. The odd thing about this shrub is that it is the same time as its fall are falling.

I have named here different kinds of shrubs of which, with the exception of the broom and the Echinacea, should be obtained from nurseries and if planted in a border or around the house will give interest in summer and fall. Most hardy in all parts of Canada. Of course, in the parts of British Columbia the season may be extended to include plants that flower all year.

Lyall MacLachlan

Haldimand County has 225,000 acres of land for growing crops by far most

are sold in the form of stock products. The kinds of livestock as dairy, beef, swine and poultry, are kept on that convert these crops into products.

farmers we are crop first and livestock second. This may not be the case on some poultry operations which operate on a limited acreage of land and purchase all their requirements.

With dairy, beef and swine we are certainly producing from white to rose and with producing livestock. These days of pollution in this kind of livestock program is not desirable. Livestock are returned to the field to be used in growing crops instead of polluting problems.

pollution programs on farms become more and more over a period of trial and error a may have selected a system that is individual needs

The low profit group had profits per acre of: barley \$3; wheat \$1; corn \$12; oats \$2.

The average profit group had profits per acre of: barley \$22; wheat \$42; corn \$31; oats \$14. This was on the basis of yield per acre of 67 bu., 48 bu., 101 bu., and 71 bu., respectively.

The above data shows that there is a wide range in profit per acre among the four crops of barley, wheat, corn and oats. But there is even a wider range in profit per acre within each crop.

Often we hear the statement that higher prices are the answer to the

## Haldimand Crop Costs 1971?

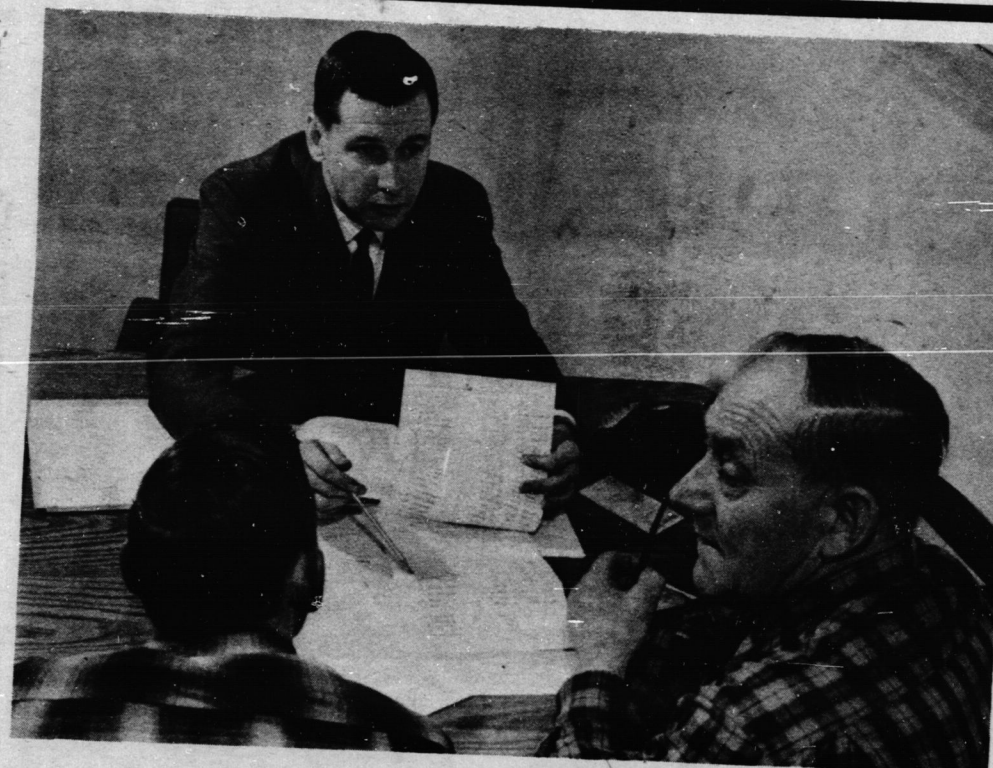
The Jarvis Record, Thursday, March 11, 1971—21A

### NIAGARA REGION CROP COST RESULTS COMPARISON OF AVERAGE COSTS (Per Acre)

	BARLEY	WHEAT	CORN	OATS
1. Material Costs:—				
Fertilizer	\$ 8.66	\$10.77	\$14.98	\$ 9.32
Seed	4.80	5.13	4.23	4.20
Spray	1.36	.50	5.47	.90
Other	1.23	2.39	7.37	2.21
TOTAL	16.05	18.79	32.05	16.63
2. Production Costs:—				
Tractor	4.92	7.93	7.37	5.02
Other Machinery	5.21	8.17	9.25	3.25
Labour	5.36	8.31	8.25	4.90
Custom	5.88	4.18	3.75	6.57
TOTAL	21.37	28.59	28.62	19.74
3. Land Costs:—				
Rented	6.16	5.72	7.81	15.00
4. Storage & Other Costs	1.57	0	2.72	1.80
5. Total Production Costs	52.28	56.72	80.03	46.94
6. Yields—				
Grain (bus.) (67.5)	64.12 (48)	84.00 (101)	111.10 (71)	49.70
Straw (Ton) (.83)	9.96 (1.3)	15.00	(.92)	11.04
Crop Value/Acre	74.08	99.00	80.03	60.74
7. Profit per Acre	\$21.80	\$42.28	\$31.07	\$13.80

farmer's cost-price squeeze. No doubt they would help in many cases. But for the farmer who lost \$12 an acre growing corn, higher prices are not the answer to his problems.

As we plan for the 1971 cropping season first we should select those crops which do best on our particular farm. Then secondly do the very best management job possible in growing these crops. If you wish to keep more detailed records on your crops, record forms and information are available at the Cayuga Agricultural office.



Farm management specialist Lyall MacLachlan giving counselling service to farmers on crop costs. (ODAF Photo)

### Ontario's "Topp" DHIA Herd

Murray Hunt, ODAF Livestock Specialist, in a note to Russell Steele, DHIA Supervisor, Selkirk, says the herd of Ern Topp, RR 1, Canfield, is probably the top herd on DHIA in the province. Improvement over the 13 years 1958 to

1970 amounts to 170 percent. Herd average during that period rose from 9,935 lbs. of milk to 16,842 lbs. Mr. Hunt indicates that this herd is an excellent example of how a dairy herd can progress on DHIA.

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— A group of Indian craftsmen have formed an organization known as the Salish Weavers to encourage interest in the ancient art by supplying wool, dyes and looms to the Indians and marketing the finished product.

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