

PLANT AND INSECT NOTES.

Miss Ann Martinovsky, Gerald, sent along some interesting hints on the cultivation of native plants. She writes - "We have had great success growing wild plants but we have recently moved so now we are busy starting a wild flower garden in our new home. We had especially good luck transplanting native fruit trees - chokecherry, pincherry and high-bush cranberry. Care must be taken where chokecherry and pincherry are planted as they spread by suckers but the high bush cranberry is very ornamental and doesn't spread. Scrub Oak grows fast when started from acorns and transplanted at a year old. Later a few of the bottom branches should be trimmed off to force an upward growth and care should be taken to see that two growing tips do not develop due to accident. If this happens, pinch off one of the tips and in a few years one can have a very nice, well-shaped young oak tree. Mountain Ash do best if planted in part shade, then they grow much faster. The Manitoba Basswood also does well in our district."

A.O. Aschim, Love, sent us some comments on collecting butterflies and moths. He points out that collectors in this province are very fortunate, in that "specimens, considered strictly, eastern, southern, mountain and arctic, all verge between the southern prairies and the northern barren lands." He also points out that, while the tropical butterflies in the southern United States are pretty well known, very little work has been done on the butterflies and moths of the arctic zone and that undoubtedly several new varieties still remain to be discovered in northern Saskatchewan as this field has hardly been touched as yet.

Mr. Aschim is of the opinion that an enthusiastic butterfly collector has every thrill in making his catches that the fisherman or hunter enjoys and at a cost small in comparison with other hobbies! He suggests that we get collectors to write short articles for the "Blue Jay" on any one phase of collecting.

When Lloyd O. Peterson, Officer in charge of the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Indian Head, was in Yorkton early in August, he discovered that several spruce trees in the city were quite badly infected with two insect pests - the Spruce Mite and the Pine Needle Scale. The former causes a brown webbing along the ends of the branches and the latter takes the form of small white patches on the needles. Both pests are all too prevalent on cultivated spruce in the prairie provinces and eventually kill off the foliage, unless controlled by spraying. Details on this point can be obtained from the Indian Head Laboratory.

On June 10 members of the Y.N.H.S. came across thousands of a small red beetle, something like an oversized lady-bug, along the roadside and in the fields at Crescent Lake. These proved to be the Red Turnip Beetle, an insect which sometimes does considerable damage to turnip and other plants of the cabbage family. When noted they were eating almost anything in sight - it was suggested that, probably following a warm spell, they had hatched out in unusually large numbers and were on their way to fresh pasture.

"Wonderment as to whether the season was spring or fall struck a party of Regina naturalists Sunday, Sept. 10, when they suddenly came upon a crocus patch where thousands of the furry lavender April blossoms were in bloom. L.T. Carmichael, past president of the Regina Natural History Society, one of the party, said an occasional crocus blossom in September was no rarity but never before had he seen a whole field of the blossoms so late in the summer. The patch was just above one of the Qu'Appelle valley coulees. The valley, said Mr. Carmichael, presented a lovely picture with maples, ash and some of the poplars turning yellow."

-(Regina Leader-Post)