

Horticulture in Western Canada

NORTH DAKOTA farmers are interested in horticulture and will be particularly interested in the report of the Western Canadian Horticultural Society, first meeting, held at Regina, Saskatchewan, on November 11-12, 1943. This reviewer has just had an opportunity to see a mimeographed copy of that report.

Much discussion was had on the Manitoba recommended list of fruits on account of the fact that many varieties had been killed or injured severely by the 1942-43 winter, the winter said to be the most severe in forty or fifty years. The report contains detailed maps showing horticultural areas in Alberta, horticultural areas in Manitoba, and a statement of the horticultural areas in Saskatchewan.

Our friends across the border are very much alive horticulturally. They are capitalizing on the horticultural breeding program at the Dominion Horticultural Experiment Station at Morden, Manitoba, and the extensive horticultural work at the Dominion Experimental Farms such as the Dominion Experimental Farm at Indian Head, Saskatchewan and the work of other Experiment Stations and private plant breeders.

This reviewer is particularly interested in the section of the report which dealt with a consideration of chlorosis and its prevention. We have many cases here in the Red River Valley where trees and shrubs, particularly shrubs, become chlorotic—that is the leaves turn

yellow or whiten, bleach out and the plant doesn't make a healthy growth. I have noted it particularly on spiraea and on the Rugosa roses. Chlorosis may be due to a variety of causes such as too much lime carbonate in the soil, a definite disease, and winter injury. Probably the most common and the one most easily controlled is that due to excess of lime carbonate in the soil. It prevents the iron from becoming available to the roots of the plant. Methods of control which have been suggested for trees are to drive in iron nails, the injection of iron salts, and the spraying of the leaves of the trees with ferrous sulfate. Other attempts of correcting the condition of the soil are by putting ferrous sulfate in the soil, and increasing the amount of humus. These are direct methods of acidifying the soil. In most cases these attempts of changing the reaction of the soil are not too favorable because some of our subsoils contain a large amount of lime carbonate.

It is interesting to note that at Lethbridge, Alberta, trees and shrubs following alfalfa did not show chlorosis. (Review by H. L. W.)