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SPECIAL MEETING DATE

Dec 7. 7 p.m. Noel Wien Library, Fairbanks. Seminar on Soil Remineralization (run-down soils, dying forests, acid rain, CO_2 build-up, greenhouse effect, ice age cycles, Hamaker theory, soil fertility-building factors, etc.) by NAFEX member, Paul Dozier. (see article on rock powder).

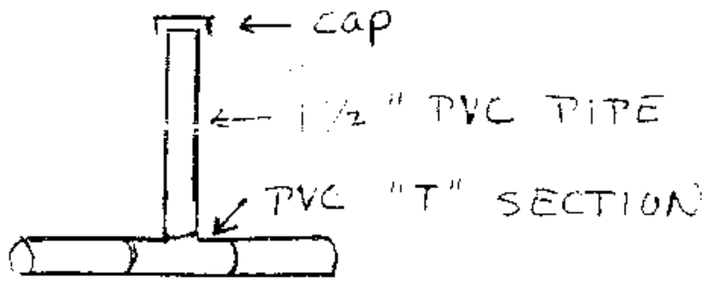
A BETTER MOUSE TRAP?

[Reprinted from the Alaska Horticultural Newsletter, Dec 19, 1987.]

Many of you have complained about rodent damage last winter. I have told several people about a safe way to bait for rodents. It may not be a better mouse trap, but it is a better mouse bait container for nursery fields or those hard-to-reach places. I learned of this simple solution to replenish rodent baits, even under 2 feet of snow, in Alberta. These "T-shaped" bait containers have been used successfully at the Plant Materials Center for the past 3 years.

One and one half inch PVC pipe and a "T" is used to make a larger "T". It is inverted and attached to a stake, 1x2 or other support to be freestanding in you field or container area. The total length of the cross bar of the "T" is 18-24 inches. The length of the "stem" of the "T" depends upon the depth of snowfall your area receives, mulch used, or height of bench you are using it behind. A cap should be made of PVC or a can which fits the pipe to keep the bait dry.

The "T" is staked in the field or area with the cross bar resting on the surface. Bait can then be replenished as necessary during the winter when plants are covered with snow or under a mulch you do not want to disturb. The bait is kept away from other domestic animals which may be around the nursery or greenhouse. - C Wright



KIWI UPDATE FROM ANCHORAGE

The kiwis in my garden did very well this year except for one male arguta which might not make it. The rest of the plants went dormant this year, losing their leaves with no fall dieback at all. Last year the Arguta leaves all turned black onthe plants and a lot of the stems turned black, also. The following list is a summary of the growth on my plants this year. The kolomiktas were planted this past spring, and the argurtas the spring before.

1) Female arguta grew 4 ft back from the roots
2) femal kolomikta #2 pavlovskaya. This arrived very poorly rooted and didn't grow at all until August when it gained 6 inches. It looks real healthy but essentially lost a growing season.
3) female arguta , second year growth- 8 ft. Very pretty plant.
4) male kolomikta- the only bare root plant of the bunch. Grew 4 ft and had 4 blossoms this spring. It didn't turn white or pink at all. Perhaps there's too much shade.
5) mald arguta regrew 4 inches from roots; poor progress
6) female kolomikta #7 aromatnaya. I pinched off during the last week of July, after it had grown 8 ft. It would easily have grown 10 ft. if I'd let it continue. As kolomiktas are only supposed to grow 3 ft a year, I can't figure out why it grew so much. All the plants are on the east side of the house, and this one is in the northern corner and behind a birch tree. Perhaps kolomiktas like lots of shade.

All the plants are under straw for the winter. I'm probably going to put up some wires next year, though, as the plants are getting big and they'll have to start braving the elements.

-L. Toombs

ROCK POWDER IS THE BASIS FOR SOIL FERTILITY

Gardeners at Venetie, Alaska traditionally gather river silt to apply on their gardens, with good results. The same practice was discovered at an archaeological dig in Canada, by the Nation River north of the Yukon River. The Hunzacuts use it on their apricot trees in a desert-type climate zone. Their health and longevity are well documented. In Austria the government has been treating dying forests and acid lakes with ground gravel dust since 1983 with excellent results and no side effects. Sheep ranchers in Australia are pleased with their healthy animals and verdant pastures. All they did was apply gravel dust.

So how does this stuff work? Fungi and other microbes thrive on soil containing all the essential minerals. Lack of an essential mineral such as iron retards or cancels growth of most life forms. When a soil becomes depleted of these minerals, either by not receiving organic or inorganic mineral replacement, fertility decreases. Since 1843 we have had NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium supplementation to increase the production of plants. Complications came with this practice: susceptibility to pests increased, lodging of grain plants, weakness in myriad forms, and salination of the soil. And now we see nitrate pollution of ground water supplies, chemical warfare on pests and weeds. On a world-wide scale we learn of diseasters in farm areas, and economic chaos as a result. All of these problems can be related to soil demineralization. But this is a natural process, you might add. Yes, and we have the power to add to the process, or reverse it.

We would all like to foster fruit shrubs, vines and trees beside our homes here in Alaska, yet many of us have felt thwarted by the elements. "My favorite (apple, pear, apricot) won't grow here", we lament. Then we are amazed at the newly established fruit varieties brought to Alaska. We always have pioneers who will prove a point and flourish in most unlikely circumstances.

Take the Mennonites, for example: they migrated from Holland through eastern Europe, northern Asia, Siberia, Manchuria. Although they are agrarian, they have had to keep moving for political reasons. They had three subsistence techniques we might well want to learn to ensure our own survival one day: 1) save seeds and plant small fruit trees everywhere they went; 2) use riverbed silt on tree roots and gardens as a fertilizer; 3) propagate earthworms (red ringtails). In a settlement of Mennonites in northern China, they still keep worms indoors in winter, in pots of edible plants. All summer, these worms work in the garden outdoors, where worms might not survive winters on their own.

Nature creates healthy worms, trees, animals, and people when the minerals are all present. We can re-establish the process that originally created soil, on any scale we please. Let us begin by experimenting on our own fruit shrubs and trees, lawns, gardens and even that spruce down the road. For more information on this topic contact Paul Dozier, Alaska Soil Remineralization Assoc. P.O. Box 58615, Fairbanks, AK 99711. 488-9785. -P. Dozier

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PLANTS AVAILABLE FROM WHITNEY NURSERY

On the next page and a half is a list of the apple and pear trees available from Dan Whitney for 1989. The charge is $9.00 per tree which includes shipping. Anyone interested in ordering trees should mail in requests, listing cultivars and rootstocks wanted, to me along with a check payable to Robert Purvis. 'Rescue', 'Parkland' and 'Patterson' are already sold out, but there are good quantities of the 'Nor-' series apples and many others. Dan will ship the trees probably in March, and they'll be available after that. Any questions, call me. -R. Purvis

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A FEW BACCATA FACTS

Did you know (or ever want to know) that Malus baccata was first introduced as a cultivated plant in 1784 by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England. It grows wild in northeastern Asia to northern China. It has been hybridized with at least 4 other crabapple species and the list of named cultivars numbers well over 100 including 'Adam'(Manitoba*) , 'Almey' (Morden,Manitoba), 'Columbia' (Ottawa) , 'Dolgo' (South Dakota) , 'Hopa'(South Dakota) , 'Kerr' (Morden Manitoba), 'Osman' (Ottawa); 'Radiant' (Minnesota), 'Red Splendor' (Minnesota). 'Royalty' (Saskatchewan) and 'Whitney' (Illinois). * place of origin. -PSH

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

WHITNEY'S ORCHARD & NURSERY - trees available for purchase in 1989

Name	Root	Amount	Small	Row
1912-23 Edible Ussr. Pear	Pyrus Ussuriensu	8		6
Battleford	Antanovka.		2?	12
Battleford	Ran		2?	12
Battleford	Ranetka.	1		11
Beacon	Antanovka.	2		12
Beacon	Ran	1		12
Braeburn	domestic	1		11
Braeburn	M7a Seedling	1	1?	6
Brearley	Ranetka.	1		12
Carroll ?	Antanovka.	1		12
Carroll ?	Antanovka.		1?	12
COE	Ranetka.	2?	2?	12
Collet	Antanovka?	1		11
Collet	Ranetka.	5		6
Early Geneva	Baccata.	1		11
Flury	Borowinka.	2		11
Gala	Borowinka.	8		11
Glenorchie	Antanovka?	1		11
Glenorchie	Ranetka.	2		12
Glenorchie	Ranetka.	4		6
H-12 (Heyer 12)	Ranetka.	1		6
Heyer 12	Ran	1	1?	12
Jerseymac	Baccata.		1?	11
July Red	Borowinka.	4		11
July Red	Ranetka.		1?	12
Kerr	Baccata.	1		12
malus Sargentii				6
mantet	Baccata.	2		11
mantet	Ran	3		12
MM-447/55-45 Edible Uss. Pear	Pyrus Ussuriensu	2		6
MM-447/55-45 " " "	Pyrus Ussuriensu	1		6
Noran	Baccata.	1		11
Noran	Baccata.	1		6
Noran	Ranetka.	2		12
Noran	Ranetka.	1	big	6
Noran	Ranetka.	22		6
Noran	Sargentii.	3		6
Norcue	Antanovka?	1		11
Norcue	Antanovka.	1		6
Norcue	Baccata.	4		6
Norcue	Ranetka.	1	1?	12
Norcue	Ranetka.	1		6
Norda	Antanovka.	1		6
Norda	Baccata.	8		6
Norda	Ranetka.	3		12
Norda	Ranetka.	1		6
Norda	Sargentii.	1		6
Norey	Ranetka.	3	1?	12
Norey	Ranetka.	1		6
Norey	Ranetka.	4		6
Norney	Baccata.	1		12
Norney	Baccata.	3		6
Norney	Ranetka.	2		6
Norland	Ranetka.	1	1?	12
norson	Antanovka?	1		11
Norson	Antanovka.	1		6
Norson	Baccata.	3		6
Norson	Ranetka.			6
Oriental Beauty	Baccata.	2		11
~~Oriole~~ Norland	Antanovka	3	1	12
~~Oriole~~ Norland	Baccata.	1	1?	11
~~Oriole~~ Norland	Ranetka.	2	1?	12
Parkland	Ranetka. Sold Out!	~~2~~		12
Patterson	Ranetka. Sold Out!	~~1~~	2?	12
Pioneer #3 Pear	Pyrus Ussuriensu	3		6
Prunus Armeniaca mandsh		10		6
Prunus Salicina Mandshu		35		6
Rescue	Ranetka. Sold Out!	~~12~~	1?	11
Reda Manness	Ant	1		12
Snake Fair	Ant	1		12
Snake Fair	Ran	2	1?	12
Stewarts BF		1		6
Stewarts BG			1 almost dea	6

Name	Root	Amount	Small	Row
Summered	Antanovka	3	27	12
Trantman	Bacatta	1		12
Tyrustrup	Bacatta	2		11
Ure Pear	Pyrus Ussuriensis	9		6
Ussurian Pear		19		6
Young	Bacatta	3	Very Big	11
Usta Bella	Ranetka	9	57	12
Usta Bella	Ranetka	1	Just a bud	6
Yellowjay	Ranetka	1		11