

#GARDEN

A Healthier Garden

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Many kitchen scraps and common household items can be repurposed to enhance your garden. Ingredients like banana peels, orange peels, apple peels, beer, and ginger water natural, eco-friendly solutions for fertilizing, pest control, root rot, and improving soil health. Here's how these everyday items can benefit your garden.

1. Banana Peels Soaked in Water as Fertilizer

Banana peels are rich in potassium, phosphorus, and calcium, essential nutrients that promote strong plant growth and healthy root development. When soaked in water, these nutrients are released, creating a natural fertilizer.

How to Use

Chop banana peels and soak them in water for 48 hours. Use the resulting liquid to water your plants, especially those that need a potassium boost, such as tomatoes, peppers, and roses.

Benefits

- Boosts flower and fruit production.
- Promotes strong root growth.
- Enhances disease resistance.

2. Orange Peels Soaked in Water as Pesticides

Orange peels contain limonene, a compound with insect-repelling properties. When soaked in water, these compounds create a natural pesticide that helps keep pests like aphids, ants, and mosquitoes away from your plants.

How to Use

Soak orange peels in water for 48 hours, strain, and pour the liquid into a spray bottle. Use it to spray around plants or directly onto leaves to deter pests.

Benefits

- Repels pests like aphids and ants.
- Safe for beneficial insects when used properly.
- Eco-friendly alternative to chemical pesticides.

3. Apple Peels Soaked in Water as a Nutrient Solution

Apple peels are a good source of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Soaking them in water releases these nutrients, creating a gentle nutrient solution that nourishes your plants.

How to Use

Soak apple peels in water for 24-48 hours, strain the liquid,

and use it to water your plants, especially leafy greens and flowering plants.

Benefits

- Provides essential nutrients like potassium and calcium.
- Improves plant health and resistance to disease.
- A gentle, natural alternative to chemical fertilizers.

4. Beer to Loosen Soil and Improve Breathability

Beer is more than just a drink for you; it can also help improve your garden soil. The yeast and sugars in beer help loosen compacted soil, making it more breathable for plant roots and promoting microbial activity.

How to Use

Pour flat beer directly onto compacted soil or use it in your compost to speed up decomposition and improve soil structure.

Benefits

- Loosens compacted soil, improving root growth.
- Enhances soil structure and makes it more breathable.
- Stimulates beneficial microbial activity.

5. Ginger in Water to Remove Yellow Liquid and Rotten Roots

Ginger has natural antifungal properties, making it effective in treating root rot and preventing fungal infections. When soaked in water, ginger helps clear up yellow liquid around the roots and promotes healthier root growth.

How to Use

Soak fresh ginger slices in water for 24-48 hours, strain the mixture, and use it to water plants suffering from root rot.

Benefits

- Treats and prevents root rot.
- Promotes healthier root growth.
- Reduces yellowing and deterioration of roots.

Conclusion

Using kitchen scraps like banana peels, orange peels, and apple peels, along with beer and ginger, provides natural, affordable solutions for common gardening problems. These everyday items offer a sustainable, eco-friendly way to fertilize, control pests, support root health, and improve soil structure. By harnessing the power of these ingredients, you can create a healthier garden while reducing waste.



Choosing a Name for the Dynasty

On November fourth, the Soviets had called Reza Khan to officially congratulate his ascension to the throne. During the conversation, the Soviets had suggested the possibility of establishing an embassy in Iran and Reza Khan had agreed to the request. What Reza Khan wasn't aware of was that until then, the only country with an ambassadorial level had been Turkey. Now, the Soviets would be the second country with that level of diplomatic relations with Iran. On December 27th, Konstantin Yurenev was promoted to the rank of Ambassador. This meant that now, the Soviets had a higher diplomatic relationship with Iran than the British. Percy Lorraine was only a senior foreign diplomat and now had to walk behind the Soviet Ambassador in all political gatherings, speak after the Soviets and was outranked by Yurenev.

● Bulbul Joshi

A few months before on May 6th, 1925, the parliament had approved a broad and important piece of legislation. Through this law, all titles, civilian, trade-related, religious and pseudo-military were revoked. All Iranians, old and young were required to select a family name. Reza Khan himself had decided to give up on the 'Sardar Sepah' title to set an example and settle on a family name.

A name that embodied centuries of history, tradition and prestige. It was an ancient language that the old kings of Persia spoke. A name that aligned with Reza's nationalistic vision and his goal to revert his country to its past golden glory.

Foreign Reactions to Iran's New Monarchy: Recognition and Diplomacy

The British, the Soviets, Turkey and all other foreign legations in Tehran were quick to recognize Reza's new title. They didn't even wait for the constituent assembly to express their congratulations to the new king.

Percy Lorraine, a British diplomat who served as the British Representative to Tehran, wanted to make sure that the British would be one of the first countries that would recognize the rule of Reza Khan.

United States was the only country that waited for the vote of assembly before officially recognizing the new king. But even they had expressed their sentiments of friendship beforehand.

Reza Khan's relationship with

the British Empire had already strained over their support of Khazal. Lorraine worried that any delay in their recognition could further tarnish the goodwill between the empire and the soon-to-be king. Lorraine had personally called Reza Khan a few days after the dissolution of the Qajar monarchy. But the soon-to-be king was still waiting for an official congratulatory note from the British government.

Diplomatic Tensions with the British and the Russians

The issue got more complicated after an incident with the Soviet minister. On November fourth, the Soviets had called Reza Khan to officially congratulate his ascension to the throne. During the conversation, the Soviets had suggested the possibility of establishing an embassy in Iran and Reza Khan had agreed to the request. What Reza Khan wasn't aware of was that until then, the only country with an ambassadorial level had been Turkey. Now, the Soviets would be the second country with that level of diplomatic relations with Iran.

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This offended Lorraine and he took the issue to Moshar, the foreign minister, but the deed was done. On November 3rd, Great Britain, Turkey, Germany and the Soviet Union all sent notes of recognition, and five days later, Italy, Belgium, Poland and Egypt followed suit.

Reza Khan's Oath of Office: A New Era for Iran

On December 12th, only one week after the establishment of the assembly, they concluded their work and finalized their changes to the constitution. On December 15th, Reza Khan appeared before the delegates to be officially sworn in as the new king.

In a small ceremony, Reza kneeled before the Quran, the holy book of Islam. He kissed the book as a sign of respect and gave his oath.

"I call upon Almighty Allah as my witness and swear by the Holy Quran and all that is sacred before God, to dedicate all my efforts to preserving the independence of Iran, safeguarding its borders, and protecting the rights of its people."

Iranians had a new monarchy. Reza Khan was now the first of his name in the house of Pahlavi and the king of Persia.

Ahmad Shah's Protest: The Last Stand of the Qajar Monarch

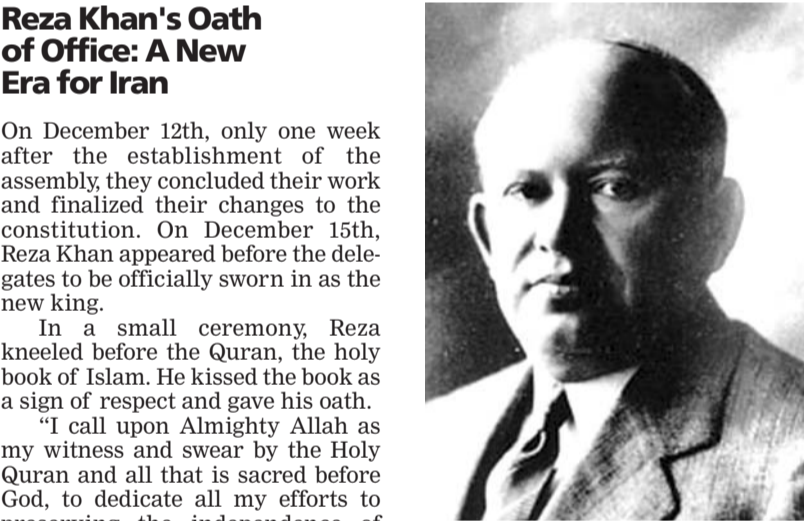
While Reza Khan was busy legitimizing his kingdom, Ahmad Shah, exiled in Paris, sent a telegram protesting the Constituent Assembly's decision to abolish the Qajar dynasty. In the message, he declared himself the rightful king of Iran, rejecting Reza Khan's claim to the throne.

As you may recall, only a few months earlier, Ahmad Shah had announced his intention to return to Iran. However, after witnessing widespread protests in cities like Tabriz, where people were calling for a regime change, he reconsidered. Now, he declared



Reza Khan gets sworn in as the New King in the Constituent Assembly – Dec 1925.

#RULE



Konstantin Yurenev (1888-1938).



Reza Khan Assembles His Government

The day after the ceremony, Foroughi, who was the acting prime minister, along with all of Reza Khan's cabinet, resigned from their posts so that the king could select a new prime minister. This was more of a formality since Reza Khan nominated him again to the post. Reza Khan was an inherently suspicious person, yet, Foroughi had his complete trust. He had trusted him with the role of acting prime minister every time he had left the capital for long stretches of time, including his absence when dealing with Sheikh Khaz'al. What's more is that Foroughi had a good relationship with the British and the Soviets didn't object to him either.

On December 16th, Foroughi presented his new cabinet to the parliament.

In this new cabinet, two figures stood out. The first was Ali Akbar Davar, appointed as Minister of Public Works and Commerce. Known for his bureaucratic skill and boundless energy, Davar would play a crucial role in shaping Iran's internal politics.

The second was Abdol Hossein Timurtash, named Minister of Court. Timurtash, though relatively unknown and not initially part of Reza Khan's inner circle, had earned the favour of the king. His charm, wit, and tireless efforts in helping Reza Khan abolish the Qajar dynasty had caught Reza's attention. Reza Khan, eager to make a strong impression on European leaders, saw in Timurtash the sophistication to elevate his court's image, and Timurtash did not disappoint.

Together, Timurtash and Davar became pillars of the Pahlavi



Reza Shah ascends to the throne – 1926.

monarchy and architects of Reza's success. Yet, their partnership would ultimately lead to their disgrace and death only a few years later, a story we'll explore in another episode.

Planning for the Coronation

After the collapse of the Qajar dynasty, Timurtash took upon organizing the coronation ceremony. Timurtash, who was a nationalist, wanted to refer back to Iran's historic coronations. The only problem: there wasn't enough information available beyond the 200 rule of the Qajars.

Timurtash started communication with the Europeans to get inspiration from their coronations. Reza Khan wanted nothing to do with Qajars, so, the steps were taken for a new crown to be designed. The new crown was made of gold and silver adorned with red velvet, reminiscent of ancient Sasanian royal crowns.

Reza Shah's coronation ceremony took place on April 25, 1926, in the ballroom of Golestan Palace.

The Coronation Ceremony: Reza Khan's Ascension to the Throne

True to his character, Reza Shah kept the event simple and dignified, shunning extravagant displays. Government representatives, senior clergy members, and foreign legations attended, along with citizens who came to honour their new king.

Reza Khan arrived at the palace in a carriage drawn by six bay horses. Timurtash and Foroughi followed in a separate carriage, showcasing their importance in the new monarchy.

High-ranking military officers and ministers each carried a piece

of the crown jewels and regalia. Among these treasures was the legendary sword 'Worid-Conqueror', once wielded by King Nader Shah, a symbol of Persian strength and ambition, famed for his conquests, including his capture of India's Peacock Throne.

In the palace courtyard, Reza took his place atop the Marble Throne to receive his people, following the tradition of rulers like Fath' Ali Shah. Ever a soldier, he wore his military uniform, with a royal robe draped over it.

A senior Tehran cleric opened the ceremony with a speech, followed by Prime Minister Foroughi, who recited verses from Ferdowsi, the national poet of the 10th century.

Afterwards, Reza Shah addressed the assembly and the nation, to share his vision.

The Pahlavi Dynasty is Born

He spoke of his commitment to safeguarding religion as the unifying bond of the nation. He outlined the reforms he aimed to bring to education, the economy, and agriculture, and, as expected, advocated strongly for strengthening and expanding Iran's military.

Reza promised that his rule, and the actions of all who served under him, would be defined by honesty, moral courage, and perseverance.

Timurtash stepped forward, holding the freshly crafted Pahlavi crown, a symbol of a new era. In the Qajar tradition, a royal elder would anoint the king by setting the crown upon his head; but Reza had no noble blood, no lineage to legitimize his claim, he had come from humble beginnings, alone.

Concluded.

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Timurtash handling the newly crafted Pahlavi Crown – 1926.

#RARE

Color and Form

Pesquet's Parrot of the cloud forests, the Striking Jewel of Papua New Guinea



Pesquet's parrot, also known as Pesquet's parrot of the cloud forests (*Psittirichas fulgidus*), is one of the most unique and strikingly beautiful parrots in the world. Native to the mountainous rainforests of New Guinea, this bird's unusual appearance and behavior have made it a subject of fascination for bird-watchers, ornithologists, and conservationists alike.

Habitat and Distribution

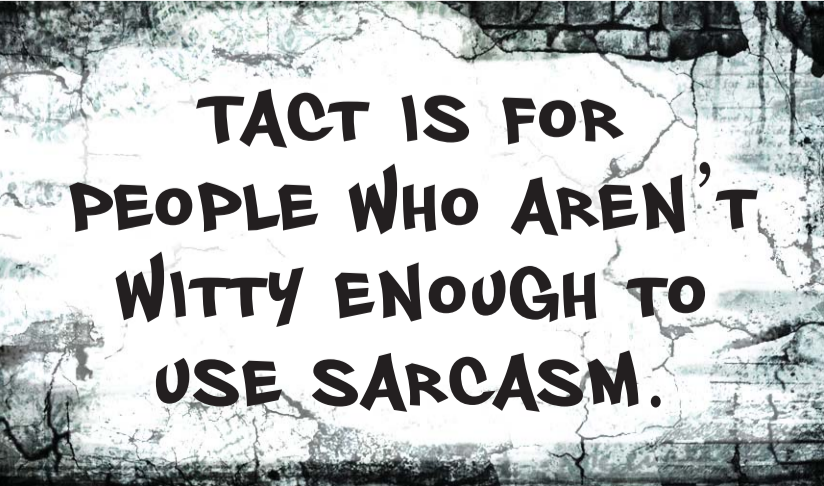
Pesquet's parrot is found primarily in the mountainous cloud forests of New Guinea. These rainforests, which occur at altitudes between 1,000 and 2,000 meters (3,280 to 6,560 feet) above sea level, offer a unique ecosystem that is home to a range of rare and endemic species. Pesquet's parrot is most commonly spotted in the Central Highlands of Papua New Guinea and parts of Irian Jaya (now part of Indonesia).

A Bird of Beauty and Importance

Pesquet's parrot stands as a reminder of the incredible diversity of life found in the rainforests of New Guinea. With its striking appearance and fascinating behavior, it captivates anyone lucky enough to spot it. However, the future of this remarkable bird depends on continued conservation efforts and protecting its fragile habitat from the growing threats of human activity.



THE WALL

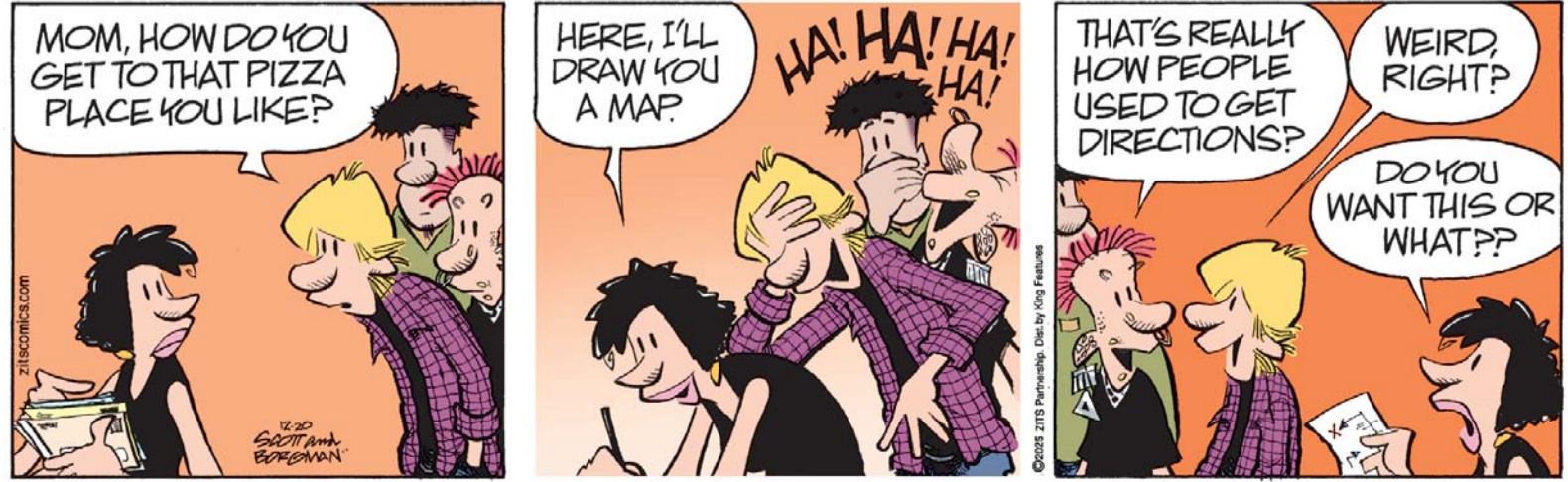


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman