

Along Azalea Row

By Faye Sunderland

Wild, gay March is nearly here—a capricious lady is March.

Wild and stormy one day, sweet and sunny the next. There is the smell of spring in the air and back in the old days, I expect we'd be ready to start tearing up the house for the spring house cleaning. Modern conveniences have pretty well done away with the old upheaval which sent the man of the house scurrying so he wouldn't have to beat the carpets. No days, we can go outside and start gardening.

To make your gardening a little easier, the garden club will hold its spring plant sale at its March meeting. There you will find plants, cuttings and small shrub from the many gardens in the area. It will be a public sale and more about it in a week or so. But de save March 13 for an afternoon of shopping for your flower garden plus a pleasant and

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sociable meeting with the ladies at the garden club.

Last week, when Mrs. Hibbard introduced her lady gardeners, she first told us of her favorite flowering shrub, the Andromeda. This is a most successful shrub here and rewards one from February through may with cluster bloom of little creamy-white bell-like flowers. It reminds one of the dainty Lily of the Valley.

Martha Harbin, the first speaker, chose the Azalea as her favorite shrub, because this is its natural habitat. Surrounding us with its beauty, we find it a blaze of exquisite blooms in our Azalea State Park, a splash of varied color on the hills and on the highway and featured in the gardens of many homes. It is most reasonable in price to raise as it needs no fertilizer. A good mulch and water is all it requires. The evergreen type is of low growth. It has a low foot spread of 4 to 6 feet and its brilliant colors makes it a wonderful shrub along paths or walks or as foreground material in groupings. The deciduous azaleas are among the most beautiful flowering shrubs in existence. They often reach a height of 20 feet. When not in bloom, their foliage is good and in winter when the leaves are gone, the branching habit of most species is interesting. Azaleas require acid soil.

Mrs. Tony Olsen brought with her, a small branch from the Cryptomeria. This can be used as either a tree or shrub. Its foliage is somewhat similar to the fir but very lacy and dainty. It originates in Japan and thrives only in coastal area. It is propagated by seed or green cuttings and we found it interesting to hear that all of the Cryptomeria trees and shrub in this area and in Crescent City, were started from cuttings of the original tree Mr. Olsen planted years ago.

The Pleroma is one of Ruth Bathiany's favorites. It is sometimes called the Glory Bush and originates in China. It sounds veary beautiful with its soft hairy leaves of copper and exotic purple blossoms. Its early winter blooming brings joy to the owner and the fact that it sometimes freezes down if not well protected, does not detrant from the ultimate worth of the plant. Mrs. Bathiany also mentioned the Sorbarie, or False Spirea. Its bloom is a feathery white plume and the shrub is of real value to the gardener with the problem of damp corners or need of a good tall background shrub. It has an adudit height of 6 feet.

Mrs. Swan found it difficult to choose just one shrub, as her garden, is to her, a series of pictures, each grouping dominated by one particular shrub. A lemon colored Genista or Broom, draws attention in the early spring. It

grows rapidly and blooms profusely. One trims it at the end of its blooming period.

Her rhododendron are grouped toward the front of the garden and when in bloom, catch and hold the eye immediately. Their vivid blooms not only sparkle in the sun but seem to have a luminous glint at night. Mrs. Swan warned that lime is fatal to the rhododendron. Paul DeBlock also stressed this point. Rhododendron and azaleas both require an acid soil.

A clematis has turned the light pole, standing of necessity in her garden, into a lavender draped thing of beauty. It is a Nelle Mosa Clematis and its beautiful foliage and long lavender cluster of bloom makes one forget that it is twined around anything so mundane as a light pole.

God might have made the earth bring forth

Enough for great and small

The oak tree and the cedar tree

Without a flower at all.

Onr outward life require them not,

Then wherefore had they birth?

To minister delight to man,

To beautify the earth."

MARY HOWETT.

LOCAL NEWS

Mrs. Barbara Blaine of Anchorage, Alaska, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Means. She brought her young son to Seattle for medical treatment. A condition, first thought to be serious, is rapidly improving.

Pioneer Harbor Resident Passes

Death came Saturday afternoon to Mrs. Ida May Foster, beloved wife of Milton Foster, at their Harbor home. Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2:00 p. m. from Baptist Community Church, with Rev. John L. Mumbower, officiating. Interment was at Smith River cemetery under direction of the Roeder Funeral Home.

Mrs. Foster was a native of the Harbor area, where she was born Dec. 18, 1892, sister of Lester, Raleigh and Wiley Jordan.

Besides her brothers she is survived by: her widower, Milton, at home; George Pitzer, Mrs. Velma Yackamouch, Mrs. Lillian Bailey, Howard Ray, Lester Ray, and Dorothy Ray; grandchildren, Robert and Arthur Bailey and Connie, Pitzer.

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