

# Gardening Today

If you didn't attend the Salem Garden show at the YMCA yesterday, you should do so today.



The Men's Garden club, which is sponsoring the show, has put forth much effort to make it a success. There is a story elsewhere in The Statesman on show winners.

Then, too, the Portland Men's Garden club show opens today at the Portland civic auditorium and will continue over Monday and Tuesday.

**Things to Do**  
Watch your peonies for blight. Dust foliage with a commercial dust containing finely-ground sooper. This comes under various trade names. Mix a teaspoonful of bordeaux powder with one cup of lime and scatter beneath the peony plant.

Divide primroses. And while dividing them watch for root weevil. In dividing, wash off the soil, cut between the crowns, taking care not to injure the roots. Keep them in water until set out and do not let them dry out again until the roots are well established. In fact, do not let your primroses dry out again until the roots are well established. In fact, do not let your primroses dry out at all. If you are not sure you can keep the newly divided-primroses watered during the summer, division had best be left until fall.

Do not forget to bait for strawberry weevil.

**Rhododendrons**  
We are just coming into the rhododendron season and those contemplating adding more of these shrubs to their gardens should take every possible opportunity to visit rhododendron gardens. It is wise to select them in flower as you know then, just what you are getting. If you have room only for a few rhododendrons, select with greatest care. One of the big mistakes of the beginner is over buying. Overplanting cannot produce the satisfactory, balanced effect that the well spaced and well planted place has. Crowding considerable amount of poor material is one of the most

common mistakes of the new gardener. In rhododendrons there are a number of varieties that are compact and low growing. It is to be remembered that Pink Pearl is somewhat leggy and if Loder's White is used in the foreground, it will cover some of this legginess.

Also choose your color of planting according to the color of the house. Avoid Pink Pearl or Mother of Pearl if your house is white. Use instead the stronger ones such as Unknown Warrior, the late blooming Azor, Coccineum, Bow Bells. If your house is brick suggestions are for the yellow, apricot and orange shades such as Souvenir of W. C. Slocock, Unique, Elspeth, Dichroanthum Neriflorum and Mrs. W. C. Slocock.

**Answers and Questions**

A. T. C. asks what makes her rhododendron foliage turn yellow.  
Ans.: This might be from more than one reason. But one of the rhododendron troubles which causes this is a form of chlorosis caused by the root system reaching some lime content in the soil. At times it is only some of the roots that reach limy soil. The root system will absorb the lime and transmit it to definite branches which soon begin to show by yellowing veins. As the lime accumulates in the system and cannot be evaporated, the cells begin to suffer and die back gradually. The only remedy is to take the plant up at once, free the original ball of earth from all new adhering soil by hosing it off with water under pressure. Remove the limy soil and replace with sandy soil mixed with an equal amount of peat moss.

F. R. S. asks if African violets come in other colors than purple.  
Ans.: Yes, there are both pink and white ones as well as the purple.

T. G. asks which variety of carrot is least apt to crack.  
Ans.: Chantenay varieties are said to be least susceptible to cracking. A little boron (but not too much) added to the soil is also said to help prevent carrot cracking.

Alfalfa was cultivated by the Persians for centuries before the Christian era.

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