

Gardening Today

Going to Portland's fall rose show Tuesday and Wednesday of this week was an education. Included in the program was a section for exhibitors on how to groom roses. The program disclosed that there is a method of polishing the foliage and removing damaged petals prior to exhibition. Some of the exhibitors - as well as judges - had forgotten to read that portion of the program.

As a whole, this was one of the nicest rose shows I have seen. Also, as a whole, the foliage was not too good.

"Bad weather," Floyd Bower,

president of the Portland Rose society, told me shortly after I got to the show.

Foliage on Mr. Bower's entries was very good, I noted. I even mentioned this.

"Lot of spraying," he explained. Put the two together and you really have the answer. It takes more spraying to have nice roses and nice foliage when the weather is damp and free from sun than when it is nice and mild with a soft breeze blowing. Breezes blow away some of the chances for mildew.

"Men," Mr. Bower also informed me, "as a rule prefer red roses." He told of the amount of Christopher Stones and Crimson Glories he had planted in his garden. Crimson Glory, he admitted was "very likely" his favorite rose. He had 205 bushes in his garden and these represented but 16 varieties.

He likes mass plantings of one variety. Twelve of his 16 varieties were included in his entry of 12 different varieties on which he won first prize in that group. Mr. Bower also indicated he planned to attend the northwest flower and garden show to be staged by the Salem Men's Garden club October 23 and 24.

Sutter's Gold Good
Fred Edmunds, curator of International Rose Test Gardens at Portland, had an interesting display of roses - the newer ones, from the test gardens. Here Charlotte Armstrong, which was so beautiful at the spring show, was a little disappointing. The buds were not so perfect, the coloring was less good. That, too, might have been because of undeniably bad rose weather during recent days. But I missed the fragrance. The rose was so beautiful in the spring that I am sure I do not recall whether it was fragrant or not. Probably not. This week it stood along side of Sutter's Gold, which was unusually good in its autumn coloring and it had a pleasant tea-rose fragrance.

The comparatively new, small red Rose of Freedom, proved popular with visitors at the Portland show. As I stood alongside of it, many were the favorable comments made by those who hesitated long enough to look at a rose. It, too, was a fragrant. Two other roses, which Mr. Bower called my attention to as being "a little extra nice at the show" were Sonata and Dickson's red.

We all hope that weather will permit some nice blooms yet for Salem's flower show.

Garden Calendar
Oct. 12—Annual plant sale at the Mt. Angel Garden club meeting.

Oct. 14—Brooks Garden club flower show, Farmers Union building.

Oct. 21-23—Orchid show, Meier & Frank, Portland.

Oct. 23-24—Northwest fall garden and flower show, Salem Armory.

Oct. 30-31—Chrysanthemum show, Salem Armory.

Nov. 6-7—Salem Chrysanthemum show, Salem Armory.

Questions and Answers
S. T. asks where she can go to see a chrysanthemum show.

Ans.: Watch garden calendar in this column. Today carries notice of one this month in Portland and one in November at Salem.

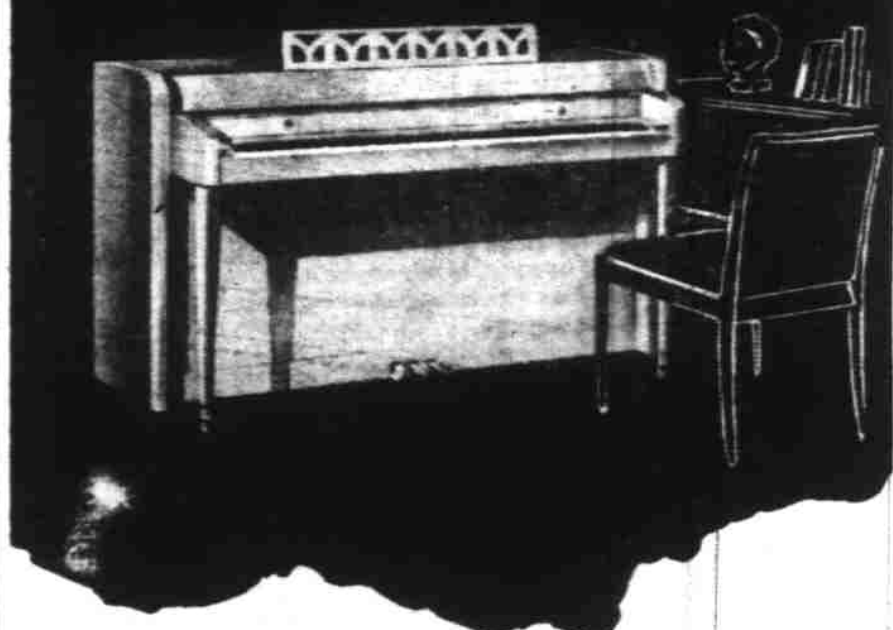
N. L. writes that he is told there is a root rot destroying rhododendrons. Wants to know symptoms and cure.

Ans.—Some reports of armillaria root rot have been received. But the disease does not seem to occur frequently. Small branches, particularly those next to the ground begin to wilt. Symptoms are very similar to those of the root weevil. Take up the shrub, cut out all dead portions and wash to roots well. Replant in different location. It may be necessary to cut some of the growth back, and should the ground be the least dry, keep it well watered.

R. T. asks when to plant Dutch irises.

Ans.: Now, as soon as possible. The Dutch irises are lovely and I don't understand why more have not been planted.

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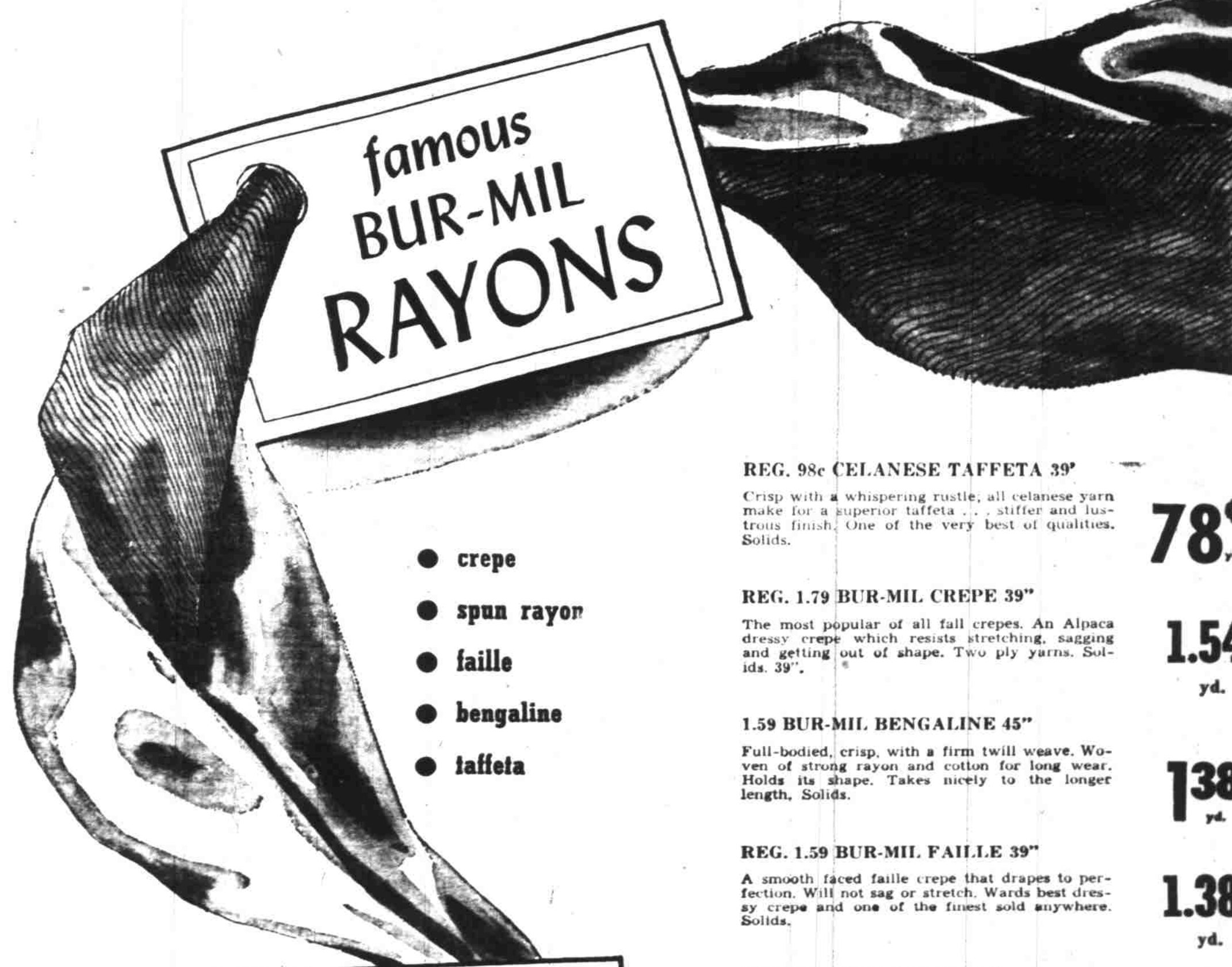
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