

## Gardening Today

Because, for the next two Sunday, I'll be vacationing, I will first of all wish you a very good Christmas with lots of flowers, shrubs and garden tools beneath the Christmas tree, in the early Christmas morning stocking, or at the Christmas breakfast table - wherever you receive packages on this occasion.

Second, I wish for you a 1949 in which your growing things will do better and prove more satisfactory than ever before - something they will do only if other things are proportionately good, so my wish is all-inclusive. And third, that you will be able to keep your gardening New Year's resolutions beyond the fireside-chair stage, into the season when the work of caring for the outdoors again begins.

For myself, today I shall try to catch up with the questions which have been stacked on my desk.

If I miss any, or don't give the complete information you want, don't hesitate to write again and I'll do my best to give better satisfaction beginning January 9.

**Rose Show Plans Told**  
But first, I want to tell you of a little new plan the Salem Rose Society has for its spring show. Potted roses are to be shown for the first time here in a competitive class. Potting should start pretty quick now. Members of the rose society have arranged for containers of the same size, so if you wish to enter this division contact one of the rose society members for a container. I believe R. G. Brady is chairman of the rose show and could tell you where best to get one.

Here in the Willamette valley, we have not done much with potted roses or other potted outdoor plants, but there are places for them and it will be nice to have this division in our show.

All of Salem's garden clubs are doing remarkable things to put Salem on the garden map. It was nice this past year, when attending the Portland shows, to hear people remarking about "how

wonderful those shows in Salem were."

### Questions and Answers

C. N. asks about growing a calla lily indoors. Says she can no longer garden outside and wants to know about the potting mixture and treatment of the calla in the house.

Ans.: Like outdoors, the calla lily, to be successful, must have plenty of moisture and a rich soil. As soon as the growth is well above the ground in the pot, watering begins and must be continued daily after that. The ground should be kept thoroughly moist at all times.

A general-purpose potting mixture with added rotted cow manure is recommended. When buds begin to show, application of a weak liquid manure may be given weekly after watering. A sunny window in a warm room is good. When through blooming, set the pot out in the ground during the summer, repotting in early fall before taking indoors again.

S. S. Y. asks when is best time to spray for holly scale. Doesn't know how, when berries are at their best.

Ans.: March is the recommended month, before the new growth starts. Follow your directions carefully. Too strong a spray may cause your foliage to drop and consequently weaken the shrub. Too weak a spray - and you'll

still have your scales on the trees.

W. L. asks when to plant the fragrant daphne. Wants to give one for a Christmas present and doesn't know if the plant or just the order should be given, but prefers to give the plant if possible.

Ans.: Daphnes should be well balled when purchased and will make lovely Christmas gifts. They can be planted out at anytime when they come balled.

F. O. writes asking why none of us ever mention salal or Oregon grape when talking of Christmas greenery. And wonders if I "won't just mention it a bit" in this column.

Ans.: Maybe it is because most of us use it and are so accustomed to it we forget - but that isn't a very good excuse either is it, for we are just as used to holly and fir? However, Oregon grape does lend itself marvelously to the Christmas decorations and I noted that quite a bit of salal was used in the Christmas greens show sponsored recently by the Salem Garden Club. The horizontal cotoneaster was also used most effectively. Thanks F. O.

S. G. asks when should the conifer evergreens be trimmed.

Ans.: What is wrong with right now when the "trimmings" can be used for decorations? All conifer evergreens should not be trimmed, however. Some of them should be permitted to grow naturally, with, perhaps, only a little heading back. Others need to be trimmed more heavily. Don't just go out, or don't even just get someone, to come in and cut up the evergreens. We see too much of that. Conifers are precious and should be treated with expert care to keep them at their best.

M. G. asks if hellebore seed should be frozen before planted.

Ans.: Not necessarily. It is sometimes done when the seeds have been stored. If the seed is sown as soon as ripe, it comes up rather rapidly and the plants do very well. If you have any older plants, you will find each year quite a few little ones in the late spring coming up around these.

And now - once again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Golf course shelters, unless properly rodded, can be dangerous targets for lightning.

## Fire Quelled in Downtown Salem

An overheated oil stove in a second floor flat aroused tenants of the Barnes apartments, 265 S.

The Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Sunday, December 19, 1948-16

Commercial st., a few minutes after midnight Sunday, but city firemen kept the blaze from spreading.

Papers stuffed in and around the firebox of the stove in a front

apartment occupied by Carl Parker, caused the stove to overheat and sent a flood of smoke throughout the building. Damage was confined to the stove and a small hole burned in the floor covering.

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