

Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

Lots of Time to Plant Dahlias

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Garden Editor, The Statesman

While you hear a lot about planting dahlias early, and you are being urged to plant them now, don't get in too big a hurry. It seems as if all of our winter may not be out of the weatherman's system yet. If you don't get them in much before the first of May, you may have gained more time than you could have lost.

If properly cared for dahlias will flower a long time—usually from July to frost. This is one reason for their popularity. Another reason is the wide range of types—formal, informal, semi-cactus and cactus. And you have pom-pom, types and giant sorts.

A. L. McCafferty, member of the Men's Garden club of Salem, has concise directions for Dahlia culture in the delightful little "Hobby Gardeners' Guide," issued by the club.

Says Mr. McCafferty: "About two weeks before planting time, spade the soil and leave the surface rough. Then broadcast a handful of bone-meal on each hill and leave until the day of planting when it should be raked in and the ground made smooth.

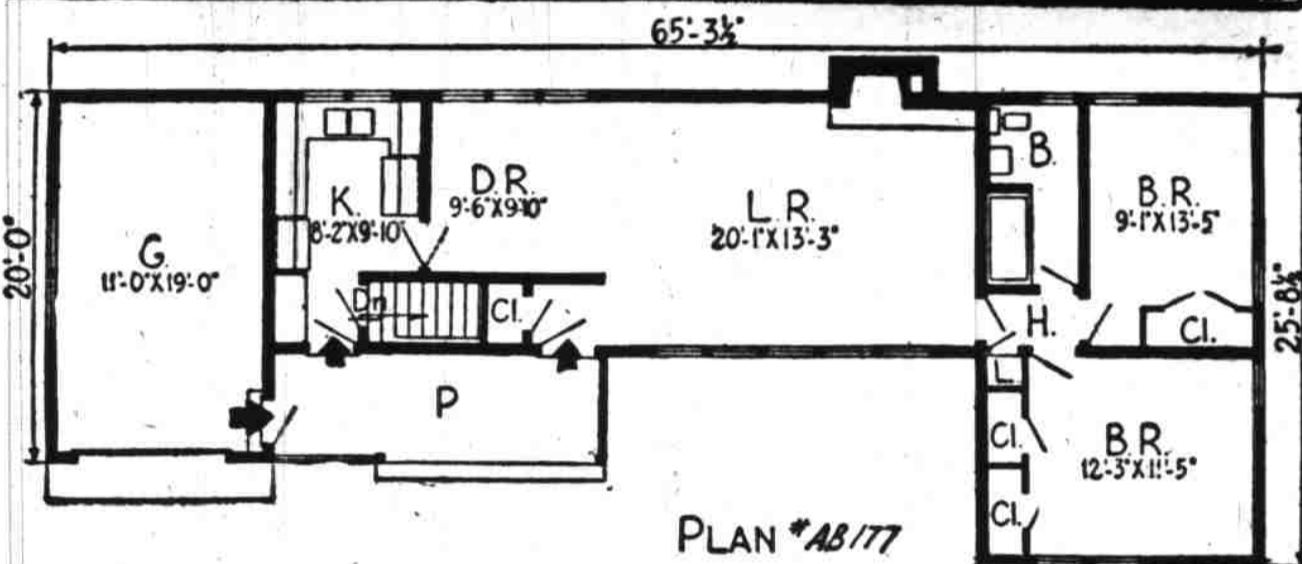
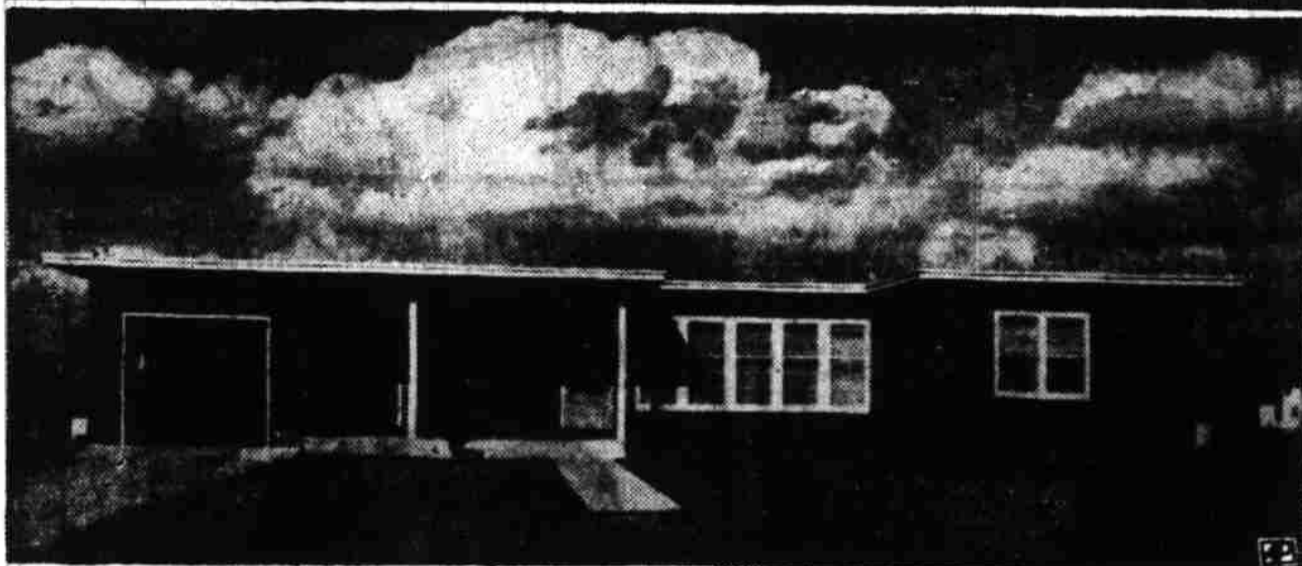
"Full sun and moist, well-drained garden loam are desirable. In planting, set the crown of the tuber four to six inches below the surface. Plant a stout stake at the same time because the dahlia will need support later in the season, particularly the larger varieties; you would be apt to damage the tubers by driving the stake after the planting had been completed.

"Frequent surface cultivation is beneficial until about the middle of July or until the buds begin to form. Then cover the ground with a two-inch layer of peat-moss, straw, grass clippings or similar material. Do not cultivate or disturb the soil surface after the plants begin to bud or bloom. Occasional feedings of liquid manure or a good 2-8-10 commercial fertilizer is beneficial, particularly when the buds begin to form.

"Unless the weather is very dry, dahlias require very little water until they begin to bloom; then water thoroughly, soaking the ground, every week or ten days through the blooming season."

And—good luck with your dahlias; it takes some of that too, you know!

HOMES FOR AMERICANS



UNFETTERED BY SUPERFLUITIES, this modern flat-roof house with wide projecting eaves around the entire perimeter was selected as Plan AB-117 by the American Builder, construction trade publication, 30 Church St., New York 7, N. Y. Designed by McEnary & Kraft, Minneapolis architects, this plan was construction tested on a site near that Minnesota city. The house shown in the photograph was built for approximately \$11,000 exclusive of land. The 29-foot combination living and dining room, with fireplace and wide windows is a feature. The porch shelters the main entrance, kitchen and garage entrances. Space occupied by cellar stairs can serve as a utility room if a basement is eliminated. (AP Newsfeatures).

Valley Garden Gossip

Elizabeth Lord, who knows, perhaps better than most any one else living in Salem, the best place to plant anything in the garden, the countryside or park, once passed this bit of gossip on:

When nature experts disagree, that isn't news; but when two nationally known naturalists and wild flower experts agree, that IS news. Margaret McKenny, widely-known writer of plant and animal life, and Cecil Solly, nationally-known garden authority, have, Elizabeth said, agreed that rilliums must not be picked if you want them to continue to grow in Oregon wild spots. If you must pick one — choose one of a clump — and only pick one.

Like many other Americans, Ullswater Pansy, one of the finest of blue pansies, has parentage from Europe. Ullswater's parents are from Switzerland, but she certainly has improved since she came to this country. If she is planted near a rhododendron or azalea, where the soil is sure to be acid, the coloring is even a brighter blue. Acid fertilizer will do the same trick without the rhododendron or azalea.

Some shall be chosen and

others will be cast out, says Carl Benson philosophically. Of his 1,000 holly trees, more than 400 are being cast out — because of the cold weather. Carl, who once gained national fame for his pheasant farm, has been gaining wide recognition for his holly groves near Silverton. The trees are all growing on own root, so the frosted ones will be cut to the ground to grow up again — he hopes.

Speaking of pansies — and we were a bit ago — Marguerite Clarke, whom we all know best for her primroses, is showing some of the finest Blumlisalp pansies we have ever seen. These (also coming from Swiss parentage) vary from pale pink to bright carmine-rose, with some beautiful medium shades of rose in between that variation. And for those of you who like the coppery reds in pansies, there are the Firebeacons — really brilliant.

Did we tell you we heard about a new insecticide which you spray on your narcissus stalks and around the ground close to them to catch the fly before it lays the egg which hatches into the worm which is doing all this damage to the Willamette valley narcissuses?

Statesman Question - Answer Box

QUESTION — About three years ago you gave me the name of an almost coreless carrot. We liked it very much, but later moved into an apartment house and lost the name. We are on ground again this year and I'm gardening. Can you tell me what carrot this was? It had sort of a blunt root end. H.A.R.

ANSWER—Probably the Nantes half long. This is practically coreless.

QUESTION—At a party this week, I heard two fellow card players discussing a vegetable which sounded like "Seltus." Not wanting to display my ignorance, I didn't ask them what this was, but it sounded good. Can you tell me? L.B.

ANSWER—I note in one of my seed catalogs that a "Celtuce" is advertised. This is something of a cross celery and lettuce. The cataloger says it "combines the uses and flavors of celery and lettuce. It seems this vegetable may be eaten raw or cooked. I have never seen it grown.

QUESTION—At one of the rose shows in Portland last year, I took down the names of a rose which grows about a foot and a half tall, the blooms come in clusters with the blooms almost round. They had a funny name and—of course—I lost the list. I don't suppose you'd be able to identify the type from this meager description? The one I had in mind was sort of orange in color.

ANSWER—Am not sure of the type. It could be one of the so-called Ranunculus - flowered cluster roses. In this, Carroll Ann is of a bright rust coloring.

QUESTION—Can you tell me where I can get a pink buddleia and what the name of some pink ones are? B.M.

Consider Soil in Camellia Planting

When planting camellias in clay soil where there is doubt about rapid drainage, dig the hole at least eight inches deeper than required and fill in the lower level with coarse gravel and small rocks. Then mix the soil around the plant with well-rotted stable manure, peat moss and sand so that it will be of a loose, friable consistency. Poorly drained soil with resultant lack of aeration, leads to yellow foliage and bud drop. There are a number of sprays now that give protective against root weevils, one of the worst enemies of camellias.

ANSWER—Almost any of our local nurserymen who handle shrubs will be able to supply this for you. Different growers list the pink (or nearly pink) ones under different names. In my list the pink is called "Fascinating." Have you seen the beautiful new white ones, "Peace" and "White Profusion"? These are plant patented.

QUESTION — What kind of moss is used for planting orchids on bark or in flower pots? E.M.W.

ANSWER — Osmunda fiber. You can get it from seed and garden stores and from some greenhouses.

QUESTION — What does one use as a spray for lilacs and what does one feed them? W.M.

ANSWER—Lilacs are not given to many troubles. However, when possible I like to give them a lime-sulphur treatment prior to spring growth. But don't give them that now. It is too late for any of the dormant

sprays. Well decayed cowbarn fertilizer is a good lilac food. So is bonemeal. The latter, however, had best be fed in late October or November, in January or February.

QUESTION—What varieties of strawberries are grown here and when should they be planted? This is my first year here from Minnesota and I want a few plants for home use only. H.O.

ANSWER — Marshall is the main commercial crop for Oregon. This is a large berry and the plants bear profusely. Narcissa is one of the earliest strawberries and Corvallis one of the later varieties. Of course there are such everbearers as Rockhill, Gem and Mastodon. Usually the plants are set out in late March or April.

QUESTION—Received a philodendron for Christmas. Grows very rapidly and has outgrown its pot and totem pole. Should I report or what to do? AMB Dallas.

ANSWER — Philodendrons grow very rapidly. In their native tropics they often climb many feet up into trees. They are an interesting house plant, however, and are used more and more where a bit of growing greenery is wanted. May be re-potted in soil mixture of 1 part sharp sand, 2 parts loam and one-third its bulk in fiber such as sphagnum moss. Need a taller support than the one you suggest you have. One variety of philodendrons — the devansayanum — does not grow so tall. They all propagate by cutting or division of woody stems.

Dim, all - night lights are sometimes used to prevent crowding of chicks in the brooder house.

Garden Calendar

- April 17 — Jefferson Friendly Garden club, City hall, 8 p.m.
- April 20—Dallas Garden club, 2 p.m. Hostesses: Mrs. Pearl Hughes, Mrs. E. Scovill, Mrs. James Moore, Mrs. Jack Power. Flower arrangements: Mrs. S. Sanders and Mrs. R. Mawhirter. Talks: Mrs. Robert LeFors, Mrs. Homer Bevens and Mrs. Earl Moore.
- April 21—Stayton Garden club.
- April 22-23—American Primrose society show, Masonic Temple, Portland.
- April 27—Brooks Garden club, 1 p.m. Hostess: Mrs. Gold Hadley. Topic: Companion plants, Mrs. Anna Dunlavy.
- April 27—Salem Rhododendron

- and Camellia society, YMCA, 8 p.m.
- April 27—Labish Garden club spring flower show.
- April 29 — Gladstone Garden club flower show and plant sale.
- April 30 — Mt. Angel Garden club annual Primrose show, City hall.
- May 2 — Riverview Garden club, Scio, Mrs. David Sprague, president.
- May 4—American Begonia society, Salem Branch, YMCA, 8 p.m.
- May 6-7—Portland Rhododendron show, Chamber of Commerce Visitors' Center, Harbor Drive.