

Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

There's Still Time for A Garden of Annuals



For best results in sowing annual seeds, mix small seed with sand to spread them evenly (left), and sift porous soil to cover seeds (right).

Preparation of Seed Beds Is All-Important

By Lillie L. Madsen
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Those of you who have not yet sown annual seeds in flats for planting out, can still have a flower garden of annuals this summer.

Most annual flowers can be sown directly in the garden, and will produce flowers in a few weeks. When sown here they are to stay the season through, they mature in a shorter time than when plants which have been started earlier under protection, then moved to the garden.

Prepare Seed Bed Well

Some annuals are much more vigorous if they do not have to be transplanted. But in sowing directly, your seed bed must be prepared better. You may have noticed how the farmer who seeds spring crops, goes over and over his soil, working it to a fine point. That is what we should do when we sow annual seeds in the place they are to grow.

The soil should be prepared to a depth of at least four inches, and plant food raked into the surface or spaded under.

Mix fine seed with sand to make it easy to spread, broadcast it over the area to be covered, then sift fine porous soil to cover it lightly. Mark the place where seed has been sown and keep the top soil moist using a fine spray until the seeds have germinated and the little plants begin to grow vigorously. Thin out excess plants and move them to other locations.

Three to Each Plant

Seeds large enough to handle can be placed precisely where plants are wanted, but at least three seeds should be sown for each plant desired.

Quick germinating and fast growing varieties (flowering in 30 to 40 days) include: Clarkia, marigolds, annual poppies, linaria, candytuft, alyssum, zinnias, ageratum, centureas (bachelor buttons), annual phlox, China Pinks, annual larkspur, stocks, and salpiglossis.

Seven Days a Week

Your Statesman is now available by mail in Oregon SEVEN DAYS A WEEK at \$9.00 a year (in advance), with the Sunday paper delivered ON SUNDAY on many rural routes.

Garden... Calendar...

- May 21—Final day of Men's Garden club of Portland spring flower show. Portland Auditorium.
- May 25 — Mill City Garden club, Mrs. Charles Dolezal president.
- May 25 — Labish Garden club. Hostess: Gertrude Senger. Topic: "My PRESSED Flower Pictures." Speaker: Ora Gregg.
- June 1 — Begonia Society. YMCA 8 p. m.
- June 5—Salem Garden club. Woman's club building, 2 p. m. Speaker: Edgar Kline. Topic: "Lilies for the Garden."
- June 5—Sweet Home Garden club.
- June 6—Riverside Garden club, Scio. Mrs. David Sprague, president.
- June 8-9—Portland Rose show.
- June 8—Labish Garden club. Informal Rose show. Talk: Marguerite Lowery. Topic: "Corsages from your own Roses."
- June 9—Jordan Garden club. Hostess: Euna Darby. Program: Round table discussion. Election of officers. Arrangements for the day: Betty Westenhouse, Agnes Sandner and Hilda Maertz.
- June 13 — Woodburn Garden club, Mrs. H. Butterfield. Hostesses. Mrs. A. Murphy, Mrs. Ralph Seely, Mrs. Mabel Livesay.
- June 12—Dayton Garden club. President, Mrs. Cora McFarlane.
- June 13—Scio Garden club. Mrs. Bessie Philippi, president.
- June 13—Swegle Road Garden club. Hostess: Mrs. Floyd King. Speakers: Mrs. Byron Garrison, "Fertilizers"; Mrs. Don Stauffer, "Hybrid Seeds."
- June 14—Mount Angel Garden club. City hall, 7:30 p. m. Mrs. Joseph Brockhaus, president.

Hybrid Field Corn Trials are Held

The 1949 hybrid field corn trials for the Willamette valley were made at Corvallis on fertile river bottom soil of the Chelalis series and a green manure crop of rye was plowed under. Approximately 200 pounds of ammonium sulphate was applied as a side dressing when the corn was about 8 inches high. The field was irrigated twice with a sprinkler irrigation system.

The only hybrid to exceed Oregon 525, one of the standard hybrids for the Willamette valley, in yield by a significant amount was Wisconsin 412 A. The yield of Oregon 355 was below Oregon 525 in 1949, although it was above Oregon 525 in two of the past three years. Oregon 525 is somewhat later in maturity than Oregon 355 and apparently the 1949 season favored the later maturing hybrid.

The yield trials with commercial corn hybrids and varieties have been conducted annually for some years at the Oregon Agricultural experiment station and branch stations situated in the corn-growing areas of the state. The purpose of the trials is to make available information on the relative performance of available corn hybrids when grown under identical conditions.

Question—Can you tell me where I can get a bush of Tom Thumb, the tiny little deep crimson rose? Also the little dark pink miniature which has such a good fragrance? S. S. J.

Answer—Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and I will send you the name of a place where they may be obtained. You are probably referring (in question 2) to Sweet Fairy. If you are interested in miniature roses have you seen the Oakington Ruby or are you acquainted with Pixie?

Question—Are there any lilies which do not mind lime? I have a space where lots of lime has been used in former years. I planned to plant some lilies there but was told they'd die if there had been lime in the soil?

Answer—This might depend upon what you meant by "lots." The candidum, the eleganz, the hansonii and the tigrinum don't seem to mind some lime in the soil. But they can get too much.

Question-Answer Box

Question—I have some old sawdust which I had intended to use as a mulch for my azaleas. Now I am told it will wreck them. Is that correct?

Answer—No, sawdust makes a good mulch for azaleas, particularly old and partially decayed sawdust. Sawdust decays slowly and in so doing removes much of the nitrogen from the soil. A well-known commercial grower at Eugene grows all of his rhododendrons and azaleas with a sawdust mulch. He scatters commercial fertilizer high in nitrogen, over the mulching in early spring, and this, he says, removes all danger of harm to the plants.

Question—When we make big cuts on our trees or shrubs, like we have had to this year, what is a good material to use to cover cuts, or will the air heal better than anything else? B. C. H.

Answer—It is well to use bordeaux mixture or one of the combination insecticides, and fungicides prepared under various trade names.

Question—What is wrong with inclosed rhododendron foliage? E. S.

Answer—A fungus disease, known as leaf-spot. Spray with bordeaux mixture 4-4-50. Don't let diseased foliage drop. Remove and burn.

Question—Was given a beautiful red amaryllis during the winter. It has finished blooming. Can it be held over to next fall for another season of bloom? W. A. W.

Answer—As soon as the weather is safe from all night frost, plunge pot in open ground outside and keep growing during the summer. In September bring

inside and gradually reduce water. It is not necessary to re-pot unless it is root bound. Take off a little of the top soil, add new garden loam and a little well-rotted manure. Start watering when flower buds begin to show and water more freely when leaves develop. There is little difficulty in producing good amaryllis if these simple directions are followed.

Question—We have a new place. The lawn is in but not one flower. Won't have much time to fuss with flowers that need extra care but do want something for color and something that will bloom repeatedly. Something that doesn't need to be sprayed everytime I turn around. For next year we will plan a real flower garden but just want color this year. C. B.

Answer—There are a number of plants you could buy which would fit in with what you want. —Geraniums, petunias (nothing could give more color with less care) marigolds, rust-resistant snapdragons (don't try to grow these from seed for this year's bloom), zinnias, red salvia . . . these are just a few. Local greenhouses and florists carry a great wealth of material.

Good feeding provides the kind of nutrients that enable ducks to live and grow to the limit of their bred-in ability.

A pig creep is an arrangement that will permit the feeding of special feeds to the pigs and exclude the sow.

Flies are carriers of turkey diseases.

Flower of The Week --- Bleeding Heart



The bleeding heart, known formally as *dicentra spectabilis*, is one of the choicest memories of old-fashioned gardens. It is also the most widely cultivated of all the plants of this order. A third point very much in its favor is that it is one of the most easily cultivated.

L. H. Bailey, one of garden-

ers' top authorities, reports that the bleeding heart was not introduced to western cultivation from Japan until the late forties of last century. Robert Fortune saw it on the Island of Chusan, where he also got the Chusan daisy, the parent of pompon chrysanthemums.

The first live plants seen in England flowered in May, 1847.

Its popularity spread rapidly, and soon the plant was found in almost every garden cultivated.

If given room and moisture the plants will continue to grow throughout the summer, furnishing attractive foliage during warm weather.

It is propagated most readily by division in very early spring.