

Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

Timely Tips for Gardeners

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Garden Editor, The Statesman
Now is a good time to cut back to the second or third leaf that long shoot of wistaria which has been growing so heavily in recent weeks. Shoots which follow should be headed back also if you want good bloom. You may even have a few more bloom late this summer or early fall if the shrub is watered well.

After watering—and do water deeply and less frequently—a good cover mulch will certainly help conserve the moisture. Use whatever material is at hand—grass clippings, weeds (if the seed heads are removed) sawdust, peat moss (there's no nicer mulch, really), leaves, decayed straw (this if for the country gardener who may have an old strawpile at hand).

Remember that July is the month you raise the blades of the lawn mower. Grass shouldn't be cut too short in the hot weather. Anyway, this weather slows up your grass growth.

Now is a good time to cut out all the dead branches and twigs in deciduous trees—you can see them better now than when there are no leaves on the tree. When you cut off a branch, don't forget your tree seal—it checks disease and keeps insects from chewing around on the wound.

Geraniums come in many new colors and shapes—but so long as they are geraniums they should not be overwatered or overfed if they are to bloom a lot. This does not mean that they should be completely starved or be permitted to die of thirst. However, if they are overwatered they may rot, and if overfed, grow lanky and produce scant bloom.

Soft green tip cuttings of fuchsia can make a six-foot plant during its normal one-year growth. Root your tip cuttings in January. Fuchsias like moisture but must have good drainage. Feed every two weeks after the blooming starts.

Two new 1952 varieties are getting all primed for the Shade Plant Show in San Francisco on Aug. 30-Sept. 1. These are Gray Lady, almost a blue which fades to a lavender rose against rosy white sepals, and His Excellency with white buds open as double blossoms with white sepals and violet petals flecked with rosy white.

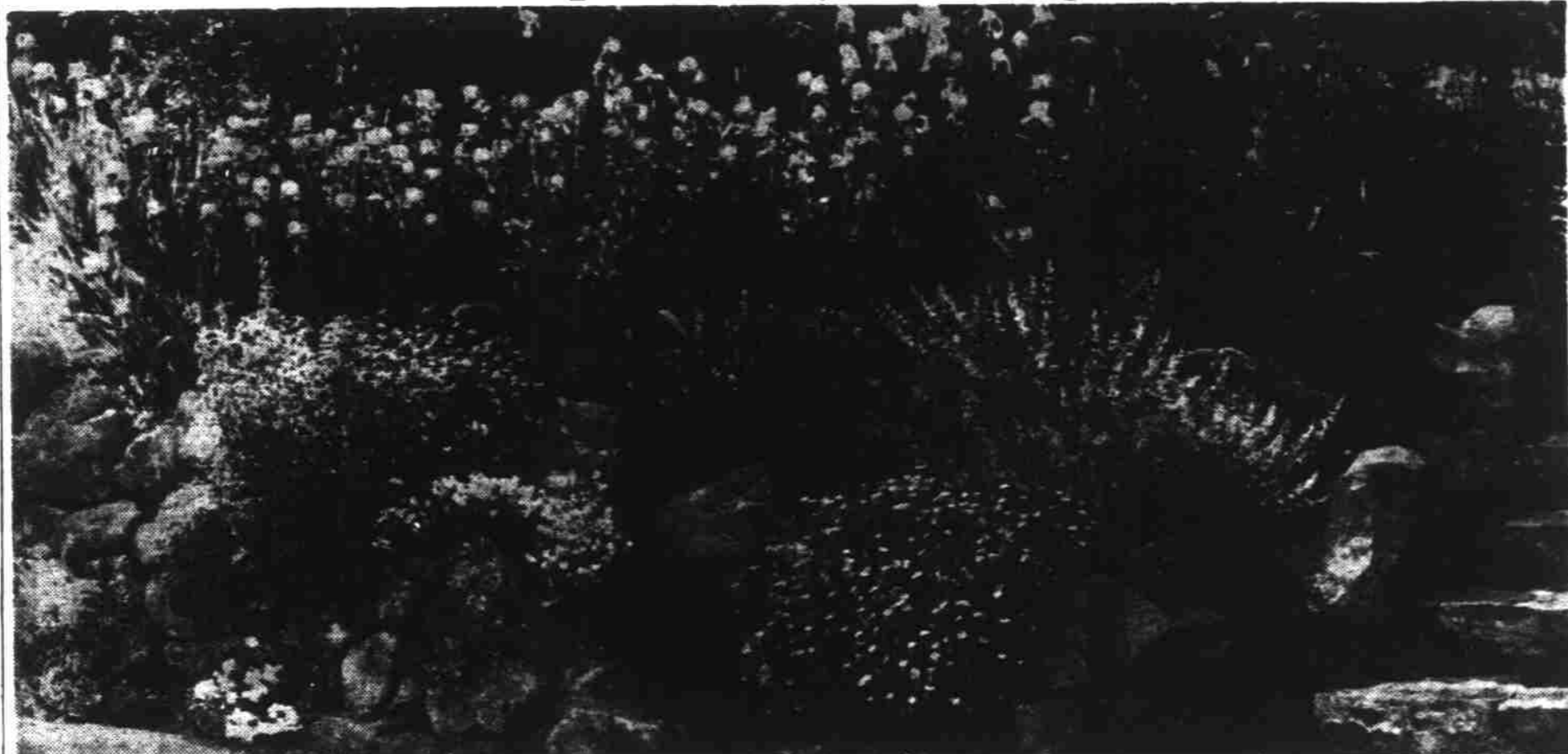
Spiders are hard on fuchsias. To avoid damage from these in hot weather, turn a fine spray of water on the plant in the mornings.

If your lilac has become leggy, it can be redeemed to some extent by careful pruning—but it is well to remember that in pruning a lilac you will sacrifice considerable bloom the first year afterwards. To develop new lower branches of the lilac, cut the tops and side branches back about half-way, or as much as possible without entirely spoiling the shape of the bush.

I have had a lot of questions recently concerning soil conditions. There are a number of products—or should I say that there is a good product under a number of names?—which will make a heavy clay more porous and workable. These are not usually a fertilizer. They will not improve soils of good texture. They must be worked into a few are watered—into the soil to be effective. In using them, it is recommended to follow the directions of the particular one you buy, very carefully. Applications will remain effective over a considerable length of time—two, three years. Among the better known soil conditioners are Ortho Til, Krillum, Aerofil, Terra Kem, Solife, W. D. & P. Soil Conditioner, Dupont Soil Conditioner.

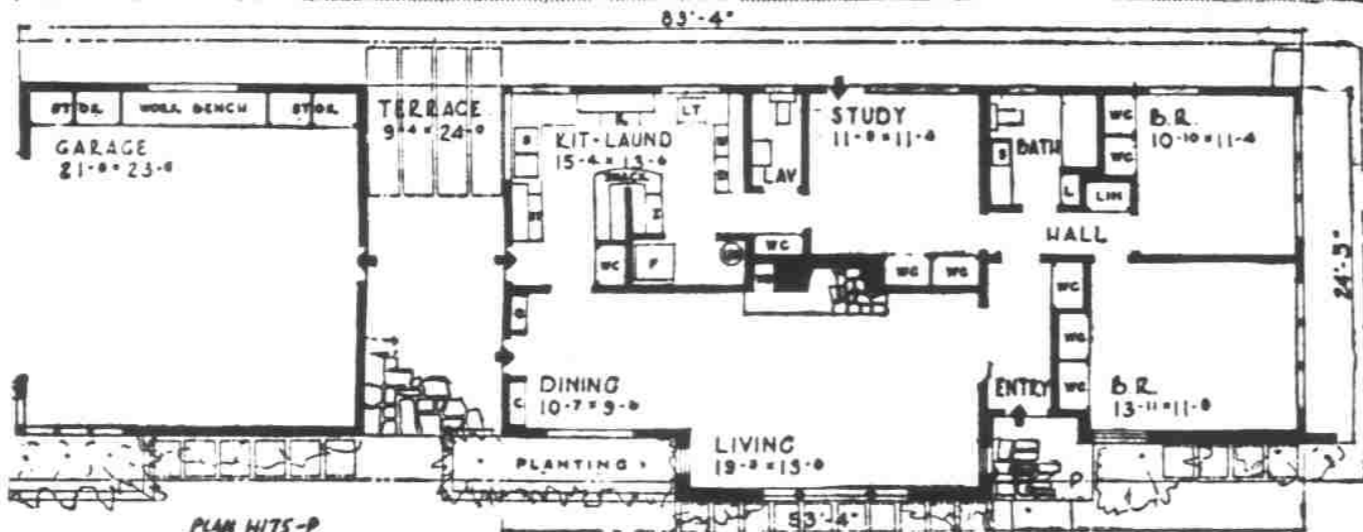
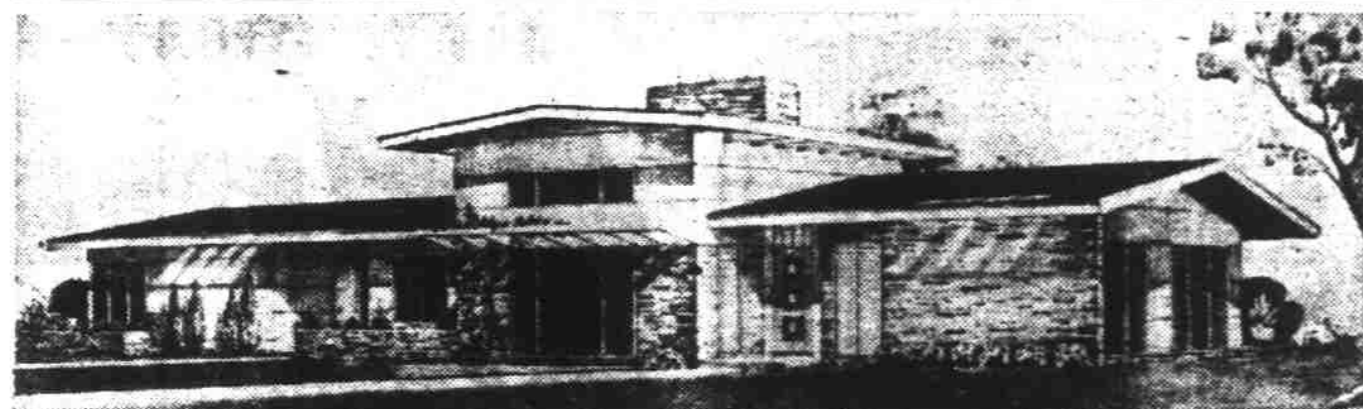
Climbing roses are pruned after flowering—which is just the opposite from the bush roses which are pruned just before they start growth in the spring. However, for continuous bloom of the bush varieties, it is a good idea to prune as they bloom. Cut sharply to an outside bud—taking a long stem. Many of the new varieties bloom

Rock Garden Requires Proper Setting, Lots of Care



Not too long ago every gardener who believed he was a gardener had a rock garden where he had a proper place for one or not. Now this idea has settled down to a more successful method of having a rock garden where the setting is suitable. But a rock garden anywhere—such as the one shown above—means a lot of care. Constant weeding, replacing soil that washes away, proper trimming and proper fertilizing are requirements for a successful rock garden.

HOMES FOR AMERICANS



California influence in architecture is reflected in this distinctive plan for a one-story house with large windows to exploit views. An elevated central section of roof provides a 12-foot ceiling for living room and liberal storage space reached by disappearing stairs in the hall between laundry and study. The study, with a glass door to the garden, is located for convenient conversion into a third bedroom. The large two-car garage with work space is separated from the house by a breezeway-terrace, all under the house roof. A heater room off the kitchen-laundry eliminates need for a basement. This is Plan H-175-P by the Homograf Co., 11711 East Eight Mile Road, East Detroit, Mich. It covers 1,376 square feet without garage and terrace. Further information and plans can be obtained from architect named above. (AP Newsfeatures.)

beautifully all summer long if treated right.

Overfeeding chrysanthemums can bring on diseases, but this doesn't mean that 'mums aren't heavy feeders. One of the concentrated soluble fertilizers is very good to use, but in using any one of these, follow the manufacturer's directions very carefully. We all know cooks who throw "the best" cakes together and never have a failure. They are just like the gardener who dash some of this and that on and have huge success. But such tactics aren't for you and me. We are much better off if we follow directions most carefully.

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Statesman Question-Answer Box

Question—The other week you wrote something about a "flat," urging gardeners to make it "the proper depth." What is considered the proper depth, L.D.

Answer—Usually three, or at the most, four, inches deep.

Question—Is it too late to set out geraniums and petunias now for summer bloom? We are now on a place with a nice lawn not a single flower. Would like a little color and am very fond of petunias and geraniums, C.D.

Answer—If you can buy the plants now, it certainly isn't too late. They should give you a lot of bloom yet this year. In setting them out, either leave them right in the pots if they are planted singly in sufficiently large pots, or if not, disturb the roots as little as possible. Disturbance retards blooming for a time.

Question—My begonias get leggy and fall over. What can I do to prevent this? A neighbor who bought hers at the same time has lovely ones, and she doesn't seem to take nearly as good care of them. R.O.W.

Answer—Perhaps you have given them too much nitrogen? Or try giving them a little more light, particularly during the forenoon. Any hot sun is not good, but sun up to 10 or 10:30 in the morning is not harmful.

Question—Can you tell me what is wrong with the enclosed azalea leaf? A lot of the foliage got thick like this and sort of whitish. It was especially bad early in the season, but the shrub hasn't recovered at all. B.H.S.

Answer—This is blight leaf, I believe, although the one leaf did not show too much trouble. Pick off the affected leaves and spray with Bordeaux mixture.

Question—Do you favor foliage feeding? J.C.

Answer—I understand it is very beneficial. I have never tried it myself but have seen some gardens where it is employed and they seem to thrive beautifully.

Question—Why are floribunda roses getting so popular with everyone? All the papers are full of them. You write about them, so does everyone else. Do you

International Gladiolus Show, Yakima.

Aug. 9—Annual Summer Flower Show, Silverton, sponsored by Silverton Jay-C-Ettes.

Aug. 11-15—Home Grown Tuberos Begonia Show, Chicago, Ill. Garden Center.

Aug. 13-14—Vancouver, B. C. Gladiolus Society Show at Herdendale Arena, Portland.

Aug. 16-17—Nehalem Flower Show, Civic Auditorium, Bremerton, Wash.

Aug. 1-2—Gladiolus Festival, Grants Pass.
Aug. 1-2—Rockaway Woman's Club Flower show and parade.
Aug. 8-10—21st annual Western

really like them or are you just helping out the sales people? I think they are hideous. C. E.

Answer—Well—plant something else. Personally, I like them. They are very useful in many spots in many gardens. They flower profusely and over a long period. Surely, even you think the Cinnebar is pretty, don't you?

Question—If you plant the fuchsia seed which ripens on your plant, what will you get? R.L.L.

Answer—Of course, you'll get fuchsias, but what kind would depend upon what kind of fuchsia the seed was taken from.

Question—Will you please tell me the name of a good fuchsia culture book? I have been unable to find one at the stores here. C.H.

Answer—The Oregon Fuchsia Society's book "Fuchsia Culture in the Pacific Northwest"; California Fuchsia Society's "A to Z on Fuchsias"; Wood's "A Fuchsia Survey"; Norvell Gillespie, who spoke here once under the auspices of the Salem Garden Council, has a book out, "How to Grow Fuchsias," which should be very fine.

Question—Can you tell me a good garden book—just something to read—not about culture? I want one for an armchair gardener who likes to read about gardens of the world and is unable to work in a garden. Last year I gave her Fairchild's "The World Is My Garden" and she liked it very much. L.J.F.

Answer—How about Rosetta E. Clarkson's "Green Enchantment"? She should like this. It is a Macmillan book, and is the story of the medieval monastery gardens, the beginning of the flower garden, and concerning flowers for both culinary and medicinal purposes. There are also chapters on Witch's Gardens and traditional garden designs.

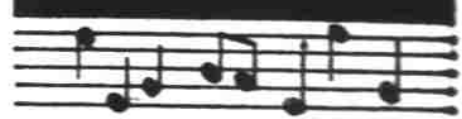
Question—How are African Violets grown under fluorescent lights? Someone was telling me this is a good way to grow this flower. B.J.A.

Answer—I have never seen this tried, but have been told that they grow well under a 40-watt tube about 12 to 14 inches above the plant. The lights are kept on about 12 hours out of each 24 and the temperature in the place where the plants are grown un-

der the light should be around 70 degrees.

Flowers cut in the late afternoon or early morning with a sharp knife, and plunged at once into water, will keep well.

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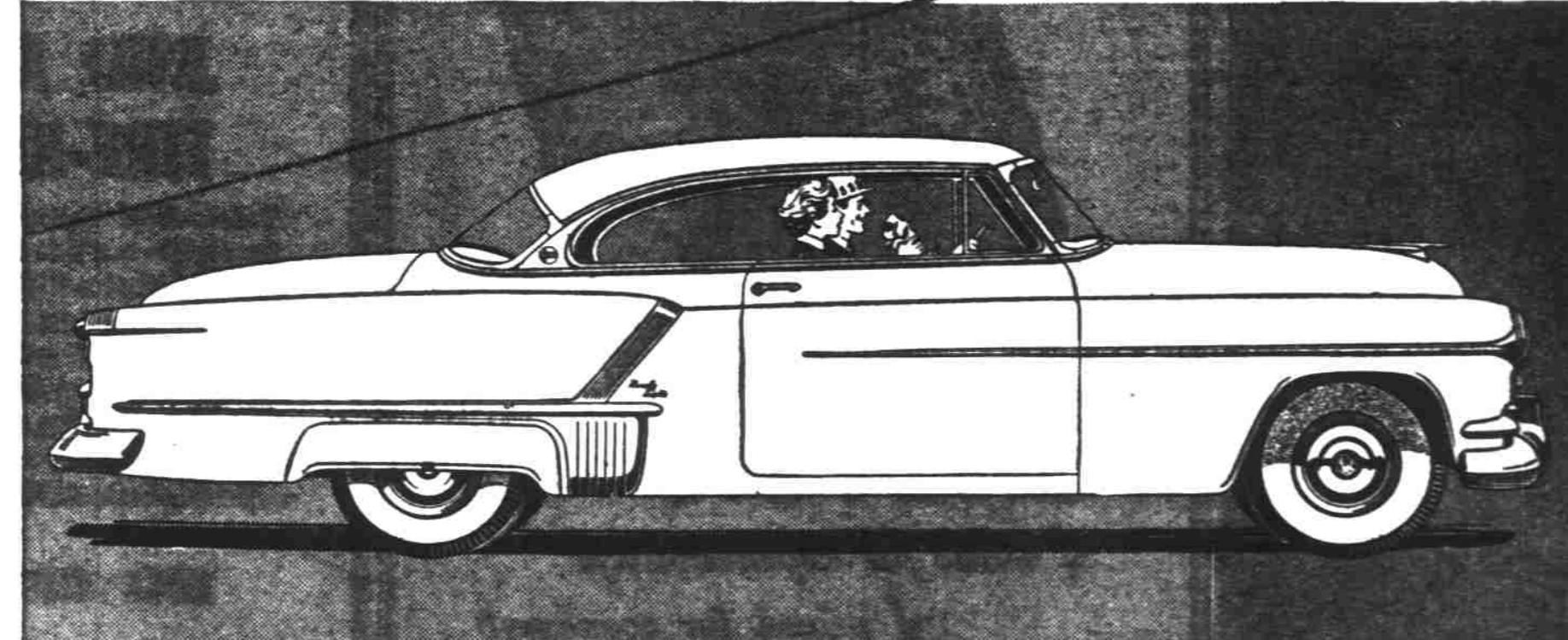
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