

Farm, Home and Garden

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Compost Heap Good Place to Haul Leaves

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Garden Editor, The Statesman

Composting for garden soils is an old story, but well worth repeating at this time of the year. Since the fall rains have started and the leaves are falling fast and furious, it is often surprising to know the quantity of leaves hauled away for burning where instead they could be used to great benefit around home gardens and flower beds.

Many gardeners are handicapped right from the start because of the lack of organic matter in the soil and since stable manure to add organic matter to city gardens is a hard thing to obtain, the compost pile is all the more essential.

A fancy compost pile is nice to see, but a lot of good benefits of composting can be obtained even though the pile is not exactly square and built perpendicular on the sides as recommended. Just piling the leaves in the corner of your garden area and throwing a little soil and fertilizer in with them and letting them decay will do a lot of good next year.

So long as one has to rake leaves to have them hauled away it is just about as easy to carry them back to one corner of the garden and start a compost pile.

Roses are red—anyway I'm getting notes about how satisfactory is the floribunda Carrousel... a California origination which has an abundance of vigor and beautiful coloring... I haven't seen it yet but am looking forward to that privilege.

A note drifted in to me this week which I suspect arrived during my vacation and throwing misplaced. But Mrs. Cecil Smith had a rare dahlia in her garden which had two different kinds of blooms on the same stem. Ordinarily the blooms, those who saw the plant told me, are white with a red center. Of the two blooms one turned out to be normal color and the other was of reddish-orange color all over. We hope to hear of the final outcome of the plant. It continued to produce two types of blooms.

I stopped the other day to see Effie May White's African Violets out at Four Corners and was amazed at two things: First, what a large variety she actually had, and second, how mechanically she handled a plant I had always supposed had to be handled with gloves, figuratively speaking.

There are a couple of things you have to be careful of, however, she admitted. One of these—maybe both of them, she added as an after-thought—was to keep the plants from getting chilly. Too much of a change in night temperature, any chilly drafts like taking the plants outside without protecting them from winter winds, using cold water in watering them—these things are all taboo if you want your A. violets to bloom, Effie May insists. I stood watching her transplant a couple of little numbers. Her soil is all mixed beforehand and her daughter tells me that it is mixed just as carefully as a cake. Then she waters this with hot water before she sets her plant in it. The cold of cool soil and the hot water combine to give the right temperature for planting.

She had double ones, pink ones, all shades of blue ones, rose ones, wine ones—and on and on. There's no disputing that Effie May knows how to grow African violets.

While rambling around the countryside looking over this and that, we drifted into a dinner at Monitor at the IOOF hall not too long ago. Sitting at a table next to us (and enjoying, as we were, the fine ham dinner) were two gardeners. Mrs. Henry Annen and Mrs. Rose Buch from the Mt. Angel area. We conversed and learned that Mrs. Annen's beautiful white Christmas roses had not yet budded this fall. Frequently, she said, when the weather is mild, they will start blooming outdoors around Christmas and continue into the spring. When the weather wasn't mild, they didn't do so well.

Out at the very attractive Chrysanthemum Show held at the Salem Heights Community hall under

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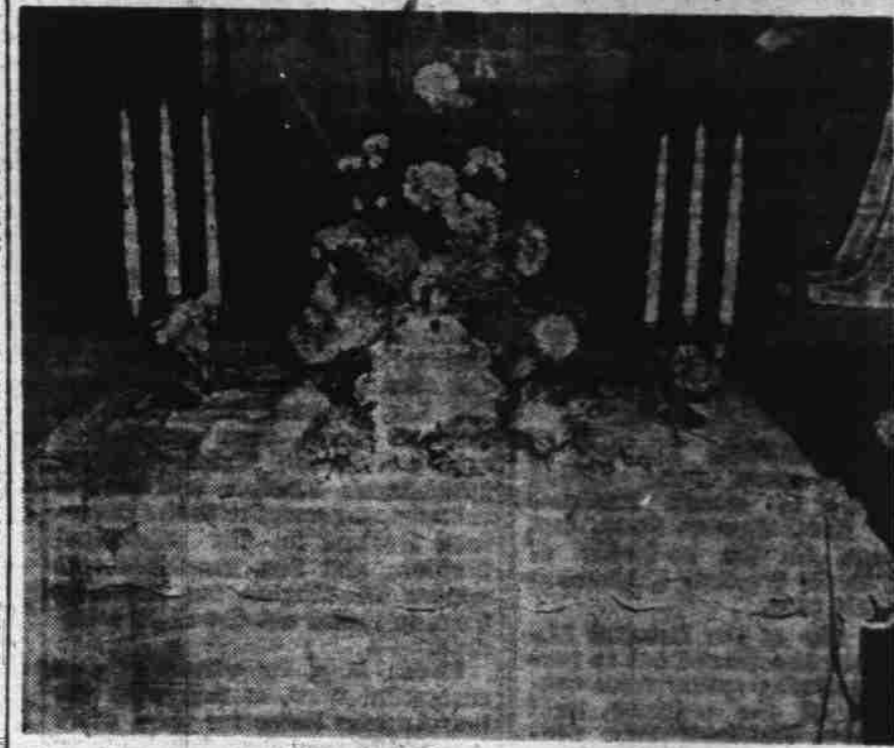
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Mannequins Add Touch to Flower Show



Unusual arrangements were featured at the recent chrysanthemum show held by the Little Garden Club of Salem Heights. A bridal party was arranged on the stage (top photo). With the reception table, corsages and other accessories displayed below the stage. (Statesman Garden Photos).

the sponsorship of the Little Garden Club of Salem Heights, I had quite a chat with Charlie Cole (Mrs. Cole always calls him "Arthur," I note) and, as usual, I came away with some more knowledge. Charlie objected to the habit of using naphthalene flakes with gladioli bulbs as being "as old as the ark." Better, said he to use DDT dust. He takes the plants up when they are through growing cuts off the top, puts a teaspoonful of DDT dust in a bag and shakes them up "good" before storing for the winter. He suggested such materials as Garden Dust or Botano as being very good, and said if one used these to follow the directions on the container.

Charlie was sporting a pretty, small, yellow Chrysanthemum in his lapel. It was, he said, a sport of Olive Langford and he had

named it Kathleen Cole in honor of a granddaughter. I learned too, that squash keeps very well all winter long if they are taken carefully, without bruising and placed in the basement. They should not be too cold and they should be kept dry.

Aumsville Group Plans Yule Cheer

Statesman News Service
AUMSVILLE — The Aumsville Auxiliary, meeting this week, voted to give Christmas treats to grade school pupils and smaller children and to send two gifts to the Veterans Hospital gift shop in Portland. Refreshments were served by Eileen Mickey and Blanch Wallace.

Yule Corsages Discussed by Garden Club

Statesman News Service
MT. ANGEL — Christmas gift wrapping and Christmas corsages were the theme at the Mt. Angel Garden Club meeting Wednesday night at the city hall.

Mrs. George Schmidt demonstrated numerous novel and original ways of wrapping Christmas gifts. Mrs. Bernard Schledler showed a dozen corsages with a Christmas motif, one a miniature wreath made on a jar rubber base.

The annual Christmas party was set for Wednesday night, Dec. 19, with following in charge: Miss Juliana Dehler, chairman, Mrs. Ray Telfer, Mrs. Alois Humpert, Mrs. Leonard Fisher, Mrs. Leo Till, Mrs. Anna Walker.

It was voted that gifts for members be paid for out of the club treasury and not be purchased by the individuals, also that the gifts be living plants.

An invitation from the Lashish Meadows Garden club was read inviting members as well as the club to take part in its Green Show.

Mrs. Mark Wampach and Mrs. Ed Zach were hostesses.

Civil Service Board to Certify Police Test Result

Results of a civil service examination for new Salem patrolmen will be certified by the Salem Civil Service Commission at its monthly meeting Wednesday at 2 p.m. in City Hall.

The tests were taken last week by 13 men, nine of whom are now temporary patrolmen on the city police force. The police department had exhausted its civil service eligible list some time ago.

annual meeting, Marion Hotel, Salem.

Dec. 6-7 — Portland Yule Show, Mount Scott Community Center, SE 72nd Ave and Harold Street.

Dec. 15-16 — Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs Holiday Show, Spanish Ballroom Olympic Hotel.

Garden . . . Calendar . . .

- Nov. 17 — Jefferson Friendly Garden Club covered dish supper, 7 p.m. City hall. Harold Wynd to show pictures.
- Nov. 17-18 — Oregon Beekeepers annual meeting Redmond.
- Nov. 20-21 — Oregon State Horticultural meeting, Memorial Union, OSC.
- Nov. 22-29 — First International Flower Fiesta — Civic Auditorium, San Francisco.
- Dec. 4-5 — Nut Growers Society

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Questions Answers

Question — Can you tell me the name of a spring-flowering bulb that has a stem about a foot long and little white like flowers — quite a few on a stem — and the petals have tiny green tips on them? I saw some last year at a flower show, wrote down the descriptions and forgot to get the name. O. S.

Answer — Could be snowflake (Leucojum vernum). This is an old-fashioned flower and it colonizes beautifully if left alone. I found some growing in an old garden out near Sheridan some years ago and talked the owner out of a bulb. It has done beautifully — left all alone in the shrub border. The flowers have become larger and while it hasn't multiplied rapidly, I now have several bulbs where but one was originally planted.

Some bulb catalogs do carry it.

Question — I have an Easter Lily now in bloom in my garden. It bloomed indoors last spring. Is this unusual? R. D.

Answer — No, Easter lilies have a habit, after being forced, of coming up with blooms at odd moments during the next few months. If it is given care, it will bloom outdoors again next summer. However, sometimes when they bloom twice in a few months this way, they are completely spent and either die or skip a season before they bloom again.

Question — Have used coffee grounds as a mulch around some of my plants. They don't seem to do so well and am wondering if this has hurt them. The leaves are a little yellow. Was told that coffee grounds were good humus. C.O.N.

Answer — Coffee grounds seem

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to act somewhat like sawdust. (Horrible thought for those of us who drink a lot of coffee) They lower the nitrogen content of the soil until they are decomposed, then they make a very good humus. Add a little extra nitrogen to the mulch when using coffee grounds.

Question — Where could I get a book on greenhouses. I stopped at a book store the other day and the clerk told me he had never had a book on greenhouses. E.L.S.

Answer — Your library should have a book of two, or at least a chapter or two in some other book, on greenhouses. Also the Oregon State College has put out some very good bulletins on this subject. One is "Small Greenhouses for Amateur Gardeners," and another is "Greenhouse Management."

Question — What is wrong with the rose leaves enclosed? Is there anything I can do to save the bushes? This stuff is scattering rapidly all over my flower bed. F.C.A.

Answer — This is mildew. There has been a bad infestation of this almost everywhere this fall. Not only roses — but a great variety

of shrubs and I have noted it even on clover fields. Rose experts say that the dry soil plus cool nights had promoted the mildew. With the rains this will soon be over now. However, if the foliage continues on the bushes and we have some more bright weather mist frost, dusting sulfur will give good control. However, we are apt to have much more mildew now until spring, when growth has started again. In the spring start dusting your roses early and keep it up every 10 days or so through the season. Use an all-purpose dust.

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