

Farm, Home and Garden

Victoria Festival Tonic for Gardeners

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Garden Editor, The Statesman

If you have seen anyone around Salem this past week out digging furiously, morning, noon and night, rain or shine in her—or his—garden, pulling weeds from grass, straightening edges on flower beds, removing dead material from shrubs, trees or garden, it's a pretty safe bet they have just returned from the Victoria Garden Festival.

That's the effect Victoria gardens have upon one, and the festival is not a flower show; it's viewing scores of private gardens not open to the public at any other time.

Much of Victoria is built on rugged rocks. Instead of trying to dig out the rocks—which would indeed be a hopeless task there—the gardeners in Victoria have made the best of them. And it is amazing what that best can be.

Tiny rock plants of gold, purple, lavender, red, rose—made whole acres of rocks colorful. While primroses were past their best, we did see a number of very fine ones still in bloom. The pink flowered pulcherrima were still lovely—growing unusually well in the Victoria sea breezes. Some of the deeper rose Campidana were also very good yet. Here and there in shaded spots we found a few of the polyanthus in the various shades, particularly in the copper and rusts, yet in bloom.

One of the finest gardens viewed was that of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Edgell. Most of the garden lay to the back of the house on a sloping hillside from which a tangle of brush had been removed and fine trees and shrubs substituted. The pink clematis Montana was in bloom across the full length of the house. There were flowering cherry and crab trees, and as one wandered in and out over the rock gardens, one came across one after another of rare and beautiful azaleas and rhododendrons.

A bell-shaped deep red rhododendron was Cinnabarium Oreotripes. We liked Jean Marie de Montague, not unfamiliar to us from Salem gardens. This has full green foliage which is ornamental in itself, and is rounded trusses of bright crimson flowers proved very attractive. There was the pale pink Fraganissima and the yellow-bellied Concattina.

At the J. G. Worth home we found a series of natural rock terraces extending to the seashore. Here were a great variety of conifers, rhododendrons and rare shrubs.

The largest collection of primroses was viewed in the garden of V. W. Abier—2,000, we were told, growing with rock and alpine plants, rhododendrons and azaleas in a natural woodland setting.

Many of the gardens had their own private little cove beach. More stretched down toward the sound or ocean, giving magnificent views. The Royal Roads Canadian Services College, not always open to the public, was one of the attractive spots.

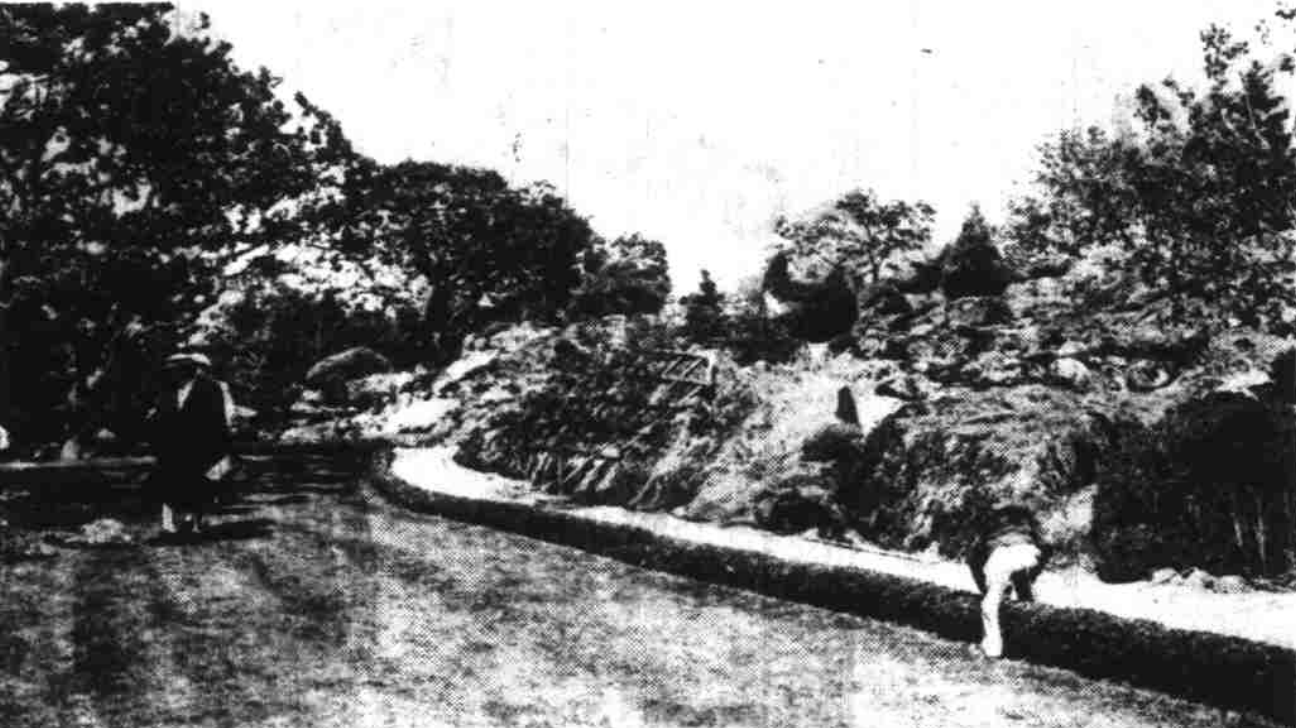
Among the trees which fascinated me were the huge deodar cedars and a maple they called "griseum," one of the most beautiful I have seen.

And if you think of wallflowers simply as a yellow or brown velvety thing—you should see those growing in the Victorian gardens—rose—pale yellow—white—deep mahogany—red.

One of the things that bothered me most was that too frequently for comfort, the owners of the garden did most of their own



Trees, shrubs and neat stretches of green lawn play a big part in the Victoria, B. C. gardens. This is a section of the R. H. Edgell gardens there which were such a favorite with the Victoria Garden Festival goers that it was thrown open throughout the week to the visitors. First plans called for only one-day showing of the garden.



Residents of Victoria have taken every advantage of their natural "rock piles". If it were not for the intensive planting and care, much of the island would have remained barren and unattractive. The garden above was a natural rock jutting which during the festival was a mass of gold, blue, and rose colors from rock plants. In the center of the picture is a rose lattice which will soon support a mass of rose bloom. Native oaks and planted trees help out this bank of rocks, planted with alpine plants. (Statesman Farm Photo).

gardening. Some were retired folk, but more were working folk like the rest of us. And we think we are too busy!

The Victorians love gardening—they must have the gardens that they do.

To get back to our own gardens, many of which are most lovely, too: Open house will be observed at the Cooley Iris Gardens, Silverton, starting today. If the weather is good today there will be the usual beautiful flower show in the iris house. Throughout this coming week, there will be irises in bloom in the gardens and visitors will be welcome. Rholin and Pauline Cooley said Friday.

While we've had no word of a special open house at Schreiner's Gardens at Quinaby (Route 2, Salem) the irises there are lovely now and will continue to be for another week or ten days.

A new iris garden will be open at 4055 Beck Ave., Salem (in the Four Corners area) to the public on May 23 and 24. This will be known as Effie Maye's Garden, and more than 150 varieties will be on display. Included will be such as Ballerina, Confetti, Moonlight Sonata, Extravaganza—Effie Maye, whose social name is

Garden Calendar...

- May 17—Iris time at Cooley's Gardens at Silverton and Schreiner's Gardens at Quinaby (north of Salem).
- May 18—Annual meeting of the Salem Nut Growers Cooperative, 7:45 p. m. at Veterans of Foreign Wars hall.
- May 23-24—Spring Flower Show, Seattle Masonic Temple.
- May 30—Fleet of Flowers observance at Depoe Bay.
- May 30-31—Azalea Garden club annual show, Brookings.
- June 11-12—Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs, Linfield College, McMinnville.
- June 11-12—Portland Rose Show.
- June 13-14—Salem Rose Society Show, Isaak Walton Building.
- June 26-27—Victoria Rose Show, Victoria, B. C.
- August 1-2—Annual Gladioli Society show, Journal Lobby and auditorium, Portland.

Let the lawn clippings fall where they may. Unless there is an extremely heavy growth of grass, it is better plant food and humus economy to let the lawn clippings lie.

Are dandelions, plantain and buckhorn putting in their appearance? Spray them now with a selective lawn weed killer so that desirable grasses can quickly fill in the spots they vacate.

Brush out and oil the plant food spreader before you put it away for the summer. The combination of summer humidity and residual plant food sticking to the spreader can quickly cause it to rust.

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Answers to Garden Questions

Question—What spray to use for leaf spot on iris? How to save young white lilac, the two thirds top buds not leafing out and now the buds seem to die? K.M.C.

Answer—Leaf spot on iris is most frequently caused by crowded and shaded conditions in wet weather. The disease is considered more serious when soils are deficient in lime.

Control can usually be had by removing and burning all old leaves at the end of the summer. Sometimes shearing back spotted leaves in midsummer is advisable. When the disease is serious, spraying with bordeaux mixture to which a good stocker is added, may be profitable.

Question—Will you kindly identify this truss of rhododendron? I bought it from a Salem dealer and lost the name tag. D.S.

Answer—I'm sorry, but can't be sure. It resembles Mars, but don't take my word for it. Take a truss back to the dealer from whom you purchased the plant and he'll tell you.

Question—Can you tell me how to spray a grassy strawberry bed so as to kill the grass and not the berries? Will you give me the exact name of this spray? How can I rid the lawn and fence line of crabgrass? How to rid gooseberries of worms? Will the bug dust we use on the garden do any good? Mrs. C.D.

Answer—Your favorite garden stores should carry both the grass killer and the crab grass eradicator. However, these should have been used earlier in the spring. Be very careful to use them as directed, and also in asking for them be sure you get the ones that will not kill all vegetation. There are numerous kinds. About two weeks ago or so, I ran an article about spraying currants and gooseberries for the currant worm. This should have been done then. However, if you spray with lead arsenate now you will be able to get some control.

Question—There's a little greenish worm on the foliage of my currant bushes and it works rapidly eating whole leaves. I tried picking them off but they come back quicker than I can get them off. It seems as though they will be completely skeletonized. What will control these? O.L.H.

Question—Have a chestnut tree many of whose limbs continue to die back. Sometimes huge limbs suddenly wilt and pretty soon are dead. Want to save tree. Is there anything we can do? D.W.

Answer—There doesn't seem to be much of a sure cure for this. If the tree is kept growing vigorously it does help. The soil should be well-drained and fertile. Prune out diseased portion several inches below affected area as it dies. Paint cut with a tree disinfectant.

Question—Peach tree on lawn badly infected with leaf curl. Have sprayed during dormant season but leaves are still badly deformed. Same was true last year. What to do? P.T.

Question—Once you wrote something about controlling borers in dogwood trees. It seems to me it was by some form of feeding. Is there something you can give a tree to make it distasteful to the borers? My dogwood is sort

Answer—Thorough spraying with the correct materials should control this. Usually one thorough dormant spray applied at any time before buds start to swell will do the trick. Many growers spray in fall and that does it. It's too late now for a good control. But next season use lime sulfur at a 1 to 15 dilution

Answer—Dust the plants with rotenone or spray with a heaping tablespoonful of lead arsenate diluted in four gallons of water.

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