

Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madson

Don't Be Afraid to Move Begonias Into Yard

Pots Provide Protection for Choice Plants

By LILLIE L. MADSON
Garden Editor, The Statesman

You can sink your potted tuberous begonias, pot and all, right into the garden, if the pots are large enough, Dale Herigstad told us this week as we stopped to chat a bit with him at his newly-established Middle Grove Nursery. I knew Dale when he was a youngster at Silverton before he went to Oregon State College from which he was graduated in 1948 in the school of horticulture. Dale is one person who intends to follow his school. So often young men seem to graduate in horticulture and then go out and buy a grocery store or service station. But to get back to the tuberous begonias—

Too many people, Dale said, leave them in pots that are too small to furnish ample food for the growing season. It is better, then, to take them out and set them directly into the garden. But if there are a lot of moles, sometimes the pots furnish added protection.

Every year I get a number of inquiries as to the identification of the tree on the south side of the Salem Postoffice lawn. Usually the inquirers wait until the tree is in bloom, but this year some one has become infatuated (so they said) with the shape and foliage of the tree even before it is in bloom.

This tree is (as it has been in so many previous years) Albizzia julibrissis. Its common name is silk tree, but one seldom hears this. Most folk seem to refer to it as Albizzia. The name comes from an Italian naturalist.

The silk tree does so well in the Willamette Valley that I'm surprised not more of them are grown here. Every year we at The Statesman office get numerous inquiries about the tree—you'd think there'd be forests of it around by this time.

Worth Extra Cost
The tree runs a bit more costly than many ornamental trees, but it is well worth the few dollars it costs.

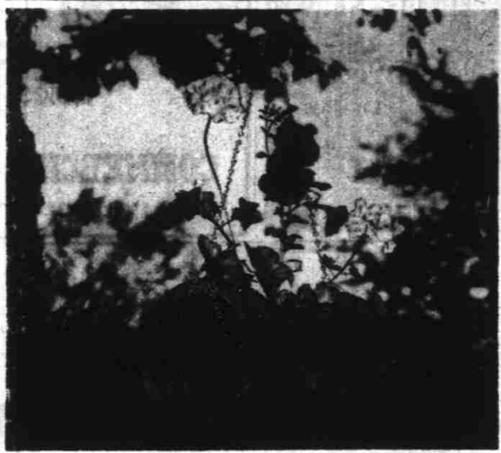
The tree is of medium-sized growth, seldom getting over 30 feet tall, and most of the time remains much smaller than this. It grows a broad spreading crown. The pink flowers appear later and add much to the beauty of the tree.

Although it doesn't look it, Albizzia is quite hardy—the variety we have here. I have had one for eight years, and while it is very slow growing, it has given me much pleasure. It has come through some rather severe winters during that time and at no time have I given it any special protection. I'm quite sure the same holds true of the one on the Salem Postoffice lawn.

While we are on the subject of Salem and its plantings, let's move over to the Capitol grounds. Anyone who likes trees and shrubs certainly has a lot to admire here—but just recently I've been getting complaints of the lack of color around the buildings. Why, say visitors, aren't they bright annual flowers used. Then they go ahead and name some other states where annual flowers brighten things up—like the government building in Victoria, B. C., the state house grounds in California, and other state buildings here and there where salvia, zinnias, marigolds, petunias are used.

It seems no good to remind them that no one has prettier grounds than we do when the rhododendrons and azaleas are in bloom. It seems that all of our visitors can't get here at that time.

A few masses of bright flowering annuals planted in front of



This colorful hanging basket is made from Oregon clay, fashioned into a tittle with one side open to permit planting of flowers. Wooden pieces fill the ends from which the chain is attached. The clay for the tittle baskets is "mined" at Needy, east of Silverton. The baskets are formed and baked at a family kiln near Molalla and are sold in garden stores throughout the valley. (Farm Photo for The Statesman)

Medicine Chests Become Larger

It was only a few years back when about all a hobby gardener had to stock in his plant medicine chest was bordeaux mixture, nicotine sulphate and lead arsenate. A modest working knowledge of the eating habits of chewing and sucking pests was sufficient. But those glorious old days when the most effective control of the occasional bug or worm was the thumb and index finger—used to drop each one into a container of kerosene, are gone.

We are producing much better fruit and crops and flowers and vegetables, but we are doing much more about it, too.

There are almost endless varieties of chemical controls, some specifically aimed at certain problems, and others proclaimed as all-purpose. Some even have added plant food to the formulae.

The shrubbery would give a cheerful look during the summer, wouldn't they?

On our way into Portland stockyards the other day—going over the Cascade Highway—we noted a little wayside stand in the Molalla area. It was manned by three youngsters and they were selling tile hanging baskets, which their parents formed at spare moments and baked in a kiln at the place. The youngsters could tell us all about the business, too.

The clay was dug at Needy—where tile clay has been dug since pioneer times—and fashioned at Molalla and sold mostly through Salem and Oregon City garden stores.

They were very attractive baskets and make good planting—Yes, I had to bring one home. The tile are fitted with painted wooden ends and the baskets hang from chains. They are very nice dangling beneath trees and are well suited to fuchsias, petunias and vine-geraniums.

I've had a number of inquiries in recent weeks for a tree book, particularly a "good one on evergreens." There are numerous fine books on all sorts of trees. A good general one for identification is Emerson's "Our Trees, How to Know Them."

A very fine conifer book is L. H. Bailey's "The Cultivated Conifers." Neither of these is recent, but both are very fine. Bailey's, I believe, was reprinted in 1949. Another very fine book is Donald Wyman's "Trees for American Gardens." The Bailey book is around \$10 and the Wyman around \$7. I do not recall the price of the Emerson. But likely you can borrow these from your public library and look them over before you make up your mind which one you want to buy.

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Garden Calendar...

- July 9—Lambert Meadow Gardeners annual picnic. Home of Mrs. Jack Bartlett.
- July 18-19—Pacific International Gladiolus show, municipal auditorium, Sacramento, Calif.
- July 24-25—National Gladiolus Society Show, U. S. Botanical gardens, Washington, D.C.
- July 25-26—Fuchsia and Shade Plant Show, Inglewood, Calif.
- July 30-Aug. 2—Vancouver, B.C. Begonia Show.
- July 31—Salem Garden Club tour and tea.
- Aug. 1-2—Gladiolus show, Portland Journal lobby and auditorium.
- Aug. 5-7—Victoria Gladiolus Show, Victoria, B.C.
- Aug. 6-7—Vancouver Gladiolus Show, Cullingswood, B.C.
- Aug. 8—Silverton Jay-C-ettes Summer Flower show, Eugene Field Auditorium.
- Aug. 8—Eastern Oregon Gladiolus Show, LaGrande.
- Aug. 12-13—Oregon State Gladiolus show, Grants Pass.
- Aug. 13-14—Major Gladiolus Show, Vancouver, B.C.
- Sept. 5-12—Oregon State Flower Show, Salem.
- Sept. 18-19—Victoria Fall Show, Chrystal Gardens, Victoria, B.C.
- Sept. 26-27—Oregon Early English Chrysanthemum Society show, Mount Scott Community hall, Portland.

Control Methods Of Potato Pests Recommended

To prevent potatoes from becoming infested by flea beetle larvae, the vines must be dusted during the growing season.

Dusting should begin soon after the plants are up and continued at 2 to 3 week intervals during the growing season. Control is had by dusting with 5 per cent DDT. This treatment will also control the western spotted cucumber beetle, a common pest of potatoes.

The use of aldrin in the soil at the time of planting potatoes eliminates the need of applications during the growing season. Soil treatments of aldrin will also control wireworms.

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Questions---Answers

Question—What is the evergreen tree close to the northside of the Bradford Lumber Co. building on Fairgrounds road, across from Mayflower building. Reminds me of Torrey Pines in Southern California, but having seen them once can't be sure.—C.L.T.

Answer—This is a Cedar of Lebanon (Cedrus libanatica) one of our very finest evergreen trees. It does exceedingly well in cultivation and there are some interesting horticultural forms. There's a dwarf (comparatively speaking) variety with compact, shorter, thinner leaves. The variety is known as Nana or Rehder. But any Cedar of Lebanon is an addition to one's place if there is room. The Torrey pine is beautiful, too, but I do not believe it will thrive here in the Valley. It's at its best in San Diego County (Southern California) along the sea and on Santa Rosa Island.

Question—We burned a lot of pitchy fir in our fireplace and are wondering how we can get it "unburned." It's full of soot. We know this isn't strictly a garden question—but then our fireplace is in the garden and we would like to know how to get the soot out.—M.S.

Answer—There are some chemicals which are made for this purpose, but they burn quite rapidly and create quite a little blaze. Many stores carry them. Can't you get up on the fireplace and clean it out from the top? Tire chains are very good for this. Lower the chain and swing it about to loosen the soot.

Question—Can you identify the tree from which this leaf was taken? The leaves are all this way—just as if the end of it had been cut off. Every once in a while I run across one of these trees. They are all so perfectly shaped the other day I saw one look like they belonged. They almost look like water lilies in a small size. When the trees first come out in the spring they seem to be a yellowish green and then turn darker. I'd sure like to have one, but don't know what to ask for.—D.T.

Answer—This is a tulip tree. It is a beautiful tree and native in the Great Lake states. However, many of our nurserymen carry it here. It doesn't bloom until it's four or five years old.

Question—Isn't there something we can do about nurserymen sending us the wrong thing when we pay good money for something else? You wrote not long ago about seed being labeled wrong.

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We ordered a tree from a catalog which described the tree in very flowing words. We thought it was a rare tree. I copied the name off the tag and it was Quercus Alba. Now when the leaves have come out it is nothing but a common old oak like we got in the pasture. Isn't there a law against that, giving things fancy names?—L.E.T.

Answer—But Quercus Alba is an oak, a white oak. Some of the white oaks are very beautiful and a lot of poetry has been written about them. There's nothing fraudulent about using the botanical name for a tree or plant.

Question—Can you settle a dispute for us? How many times has the rose "Peace" won the sweepstakes in the Portland Rose Show?—H.B.

Answer—Once in the past 10 years. Saturnia and McGredy's Ivory are the only two repeaters in that time. Saturnia was winner three times and McGredy's Ivory twice.

Question—What's wrong with enclosed little twig of fuchsia? We have lost three small plants which seemed to start all right and then sort of shrivel up and pretty soon all the leaves fell off and the plant died.—G.E.C.

Answer—The piece you sent me is infested with whitefly. They suck the lifeblood right out of your plant. Spray with nicotine sulfate and soap or dust with rotenone or nicotine.

Question—What ails camellia leaves (enclosed)?—K.R.L.

Answer—Sooty mold caused by honeydew secretion of small scale insect on underside of leaf. Spray with light summer oil emulsion, being careful to follow instructions on container.

Question—Am sending you a frond of my house fern. All the fern is covered with these hard little brown things along the stems. The fern turns sort of brown. When the new leaves come out they are fine for a little while and then they get this "rash" and soon look sick, too. Is it a disease?—Y.S.

Answer—This is not a disease but a fern scale, in reality insects. They are very destructive to your plant. Spray with any contact spray. Nicotine or white oil, summer strength, sprays will control.

Question—Something eating off roots on my primroses. Got some fine new ones this year. Looked sick. Pulled up one and little white grubs all over what roots are left. Do I have to pull up all of them to kill grubs?—J.L.

Answer—This is larvae of strawberry root weevil. A solution of lindane or chlordane poured around plant is usually good control.

Question—Cobwebs coming all over my cotoneaster, the variety that sprawls along ground. Thought there might be some caterpillars but couldn't see any.—F.D.

Answer—Probably web-worm. Spray or dust with lead arsenate or some other stomach-poison spray.

Portland Rose Festival Profit Just on Paper

PORTLAND (AP)—The Portland Rose Festival did not make money this year, after all. What's more, it never will, said Festival President George Henderson.

Previously, the festival association said there would be a profit of a few thousand dollars from this year's show.

Henderson said Saturday that the books will show a \$9,000 profit, but actually there was an operating loss of \$18,000. The apparent profit comes from the fact that associate members kicked in \$27,000, he said.

He added that losses from previous years demonstrate conclusively that the show cannot make money—even if the stadium is filled for the shows there. That's because there are 14 free events besides the stadium shows.

He said the festival would be continued, however, with contributions making up for operating losses.

New, Handy Shrub Guide Published

Camping enthusiasts, fishermen, tourists and others who turn to by-paths for summer recreation will find a handy guide to native shrubs of Western Oregon in extension circular 554, just released by Oregon State College.

The one-page picture leaflet identifies 30 shrubs, including common types of wild blackberries and huckleberries. Charles Ross, extension farm forestry specialist, prepared the circular especially for youth forestry groups and other summer camp organizations.

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Solons Offer Bill to Settle O&C Dispute

WASHINGTON (AP)—Legislation to end the long-standing controversy over jurisdiction and administration of a portion of Western Oregon's O & C Lands was introduced Friday by Sen. Cordon and Rep. Ellsworth, Oregon Republicans.

The bills directly concern some 460,000 acres of timber claimed jointly by the Forest Service and the Department of Interior, and another half million acres in which the two agencies have intermingled holdings.

At stake is about seven million dollars of past timber sale receipts and the distribution of future revenues. As O & C Lands under the Interior Department, 18 Oregon counties would get 75 per cent of the receipts. As Forest Service lands, the counties would get only 25 per cent.

Under Friday's compromise proposal, the disputed lands would be administered by the Forest Service but receipts would be distributed under the O & C formula.

The bill also would provide for an exchange of holdings between the two agencies to do away with the intermingling of jurisdiction.

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