

# News of Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

## "Lovely" Sight

### Tree Blooms Again on Lawn Of Postoffice

By LILLIE L. MADSEN  
Garden Editor, The Statesman  
Driving down State Street past the post office lawn Thursday, I noted The Tree in bloom. So I know that before the week is over someone will call or write me a note to ask "What is the name of that lovely tree in bloom on the State Street side of the Post Office lawn?"

I'm going to beat the inquirers to the draw and tell them ahead of being asked: It's Albizzia Julibrissin, variety rosea.

We go through this every year, and anyone who has seen the tree doesn't mind hearing about it again. I'm sure—or, for that matter—being reminded that it is now in bloom and worth going several miles to see. I wouldn't want any of the newcomers to our area to miss seeing it.

As a whole the Albizzia is a tree for a sub-tropical climate, and only this species is hardy enough to survive here. That it is hardy, has been definitely proved as it has survived a number of rather severe winters in the valley.

The tree is closely related to the Mimosa, or acacia trees, and cultivation is much the same. The difference between the Acacia and Albizzia tree lies in the stamens, which are free in the former and united as base in the latter. Too, the acacias are be-

## Author is Grassman, Too



There's no better-known grassman in the United States than Louis Bromfield, novelist, whose organic farming at the famous Malabar Farm at Lucas, Ohio, has drawn international attention. Harry L. Riches, former Marion County Agent, was once a guest at the ranch. Here Bromfield is pictured at his home, keeping his lawn green and healthy by feeding, through the hose, a soluble, all-nutrient fertilizer.

lieved to be more short lived than is the Albizzia.

Remember—don't forget to drive by to look at the tree while it is in bloom.

The 1953 American Rose Annual reached my desk this week and on the cover is pictured the lovely new red Chrysler Imperial, the patent for which is now pending. This is an origination by Walter E. Lammerts introduced by Germain's in Los Angeles. It won the Portland Gold Medal in 1951 and was the All-American Rose Selection this year.

Besides the new and up-to-date information on care of roses and the listing as well as illustrating of the newer varieties, the book this year contains some interesting general rose reading, such as the story of the White House Rose Garden which was started 40 years ago at the direction of the first wife of Woodrow Wilson soon after he became president.

There are also articles on early American rose hybridizers, on roses in England and France, on Pioneer roses, municipal rose gardens, rose show awards. . . .

I particularly liked the article by Philip Armstrong, of Dalton, Pa., which deals with the old question of "When Should We Plant Roses." His general answer is "It All Depends," but he amplifies fully, giving considerable worthwhile information on reasons for various planting times.

Another fine article is the one by E. Eugene Pfister, president of the American Rose Society, who urges more simplicity in cultural practices for roses. "Because many people have the idea that growing roses is an arduous task, we, who grow roses, should simplify our cultural practices and help make rose growing more popular," says he, while going on to give some of the important steps in becoming familiar with the care of roses.

Don't believe everything you read. . . I've said that a lot of times—even if I'm hoping you believe what I write. But something should be done about outlandish advertising claims—and this is not referring to our own advertisers—but those that claim outlandish things for back-east plants. Those of you who may

## Questions Answers

**Question**—This may not seem like a regular garden question but the door leads to the garden—What can we use to paint a copper screen? Have been told that it needs protection. M. F. G.  
**Answer**—A good grade spar varnish will give a copper screen the protection it needs.

**Question**—Some weeks ago on your agriculture page on Thursday you mentioned a new insecticide for flea beetle control for potatoes. I meant to keep the clipping and evidently lost it. Would you repeat the name of the material? G. A. T.  
**Answer**—Probably Aldrin insecticide. This was cleared as tuber flea beetle controller sometime ago. Scientists say this insecticide if properly applied, will control tuber flea beetles, Western spotted cucumber beetles, and wireworms without affecting the quality or taste of potatoes. They recommend two to five pound lots of Aldrin to the acre, disked into a newly prepared seed bed for a depth of six inches. There are also various dusts used on the tops of the potato plants—but these should have been started sometime ago.

**Question**—Is it too late to plant iris? We are newcomers here, but before we arrived, a Salem relative sent me a clipping written by you saying that late June and July were iris planting time. We'd still like to get some in. A. R. C.  
**Answer**—No, irises are funny things—you can plant them from June to late autumn—but the earlier you get them in, the better blooms you really get as a rule.

**Question**—What's wrong with inclosed sample of our cedar. What do I do to save tree? Also our low growing cotoneaster is all covered with spider webs. Seem to be dying it up. What to spray with? L. R.  
**Answer**—Cedar shows damage from needle miners and cedar tip moths. Several species of these larvae, web needles and mine into twigs, killing them. Winter is spent in the mines. Spray with light-medium summer oil emulsion plus nicotine sulfate in early spring, or lead arsenate through spring and summer. Use lead arsenate on web worm on the cotoneaster.

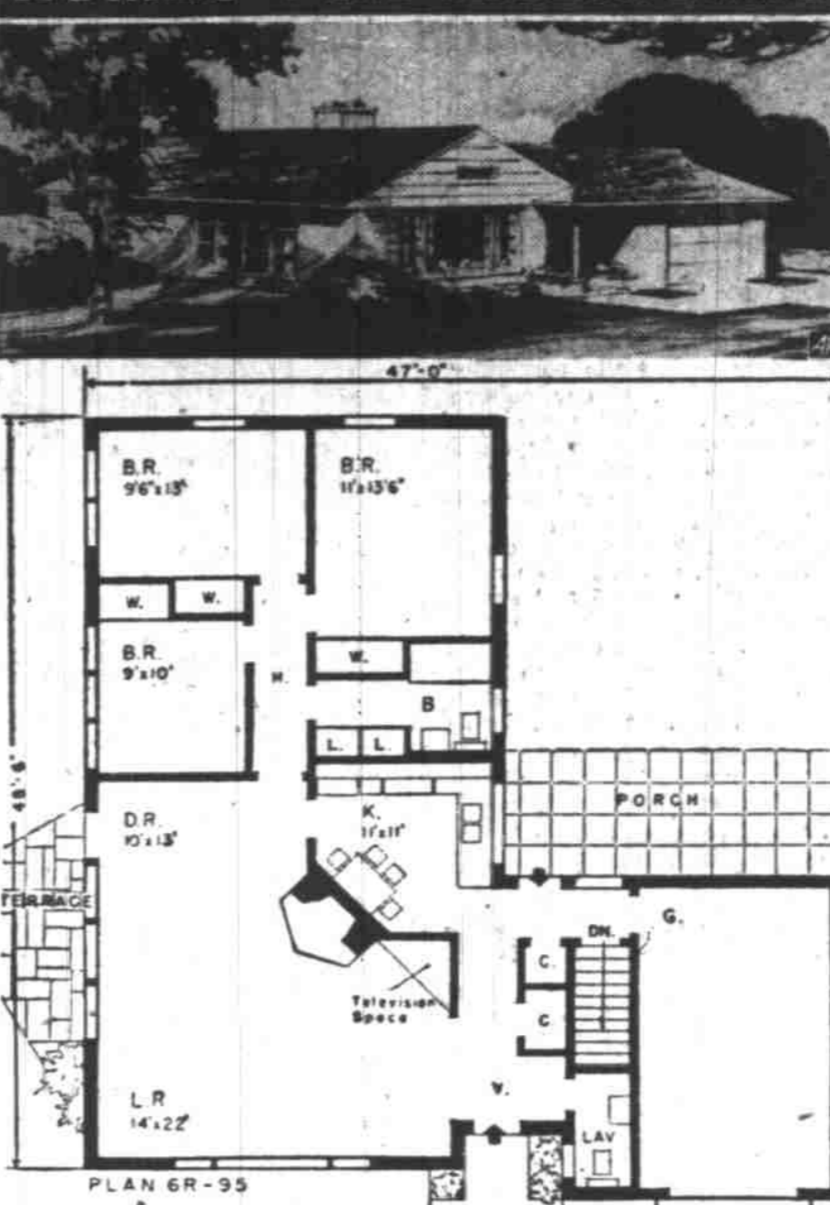
**Question**—What's the creeping Zinnia? Is that the real name for it? A neighbor is growing a plant which she calls this. R. A. C.  
**Answer**—This is really Sanvitalia. It makes a fine ground cover, especially when combined with Royal Carpet Alyssum for color contrast. Grows easily from seed and practically all seedsmen offer it.

**Question**—This early summer I got some static seed which had strawlike coverings. I rubbed these off, thinking may be the seed hadn't been cleaned properly. The seed hasn't come up. Would taking out that stuff make the difference? B. D.  
**Answer**—Probably. The strawlike bracts on static seed must be left on. The seed always comes this way and the proper way to plant is with the closed end of the bract pointing down. There are four seeds in each bract. If more than one sprouts, the seedlings should be thinned to the strongest one.

**Question**—(Really a reply, for which I send my thanks.) The double stocks don't produce seed, only the singles do. I have started many stocks from cuttings just like geraniums. That's the only way I know how to get that particular color again. Save seed of the single color you want. Wall flowers, snapdragons, delphiniums all root well from side shoots. S. W. E.  
**Answer**—Whereas you do get quite a percentage of singles, if you buy the seed from reliable houses which say that a high percentage are doubles, you may be surprised to find how many really are double. One time I bought a couple dozen plants, all supposed to be double. All turned out to be single. I had sown a package of seeds, from a house which said these seeds would yield many doubles, and I got only a couple of singles from the entire group. I have not tried starting cuttings from stocks, although I frequently have started wallflowers that way. Verbenas, too will start nicely from cuttings.

**Question**—Can I start petunias from cuttings? Last year I had a lovely double one but it didn't winter over. I tried all spring to find another one just like it but couldn't. Now I have another one

## HOMES FOR AMERICANS



AP Newsfeatures  
DIFFERENT with a modern air, this unusual design offers free circulation throughout the house. Kitchen is convenient to both front and rear doors. Large front living room is well planned for furniture placement in relation to fireplace and television space. The house covers 1,413 square feet. If built without basement, it accommodates a good-sized utility room in place of stairs and adjoining closets. This is Plan 6R-95 by Elmer Gylleck, architect, 191 So. Grove Ave., Elgin, Ill. Brick veneer construction is suggested.  
(Information and blueprints available from architect)  
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I like very much and hate to lose it. Will it winter over in the house? C. S.  
**Answer**—You could probably winter over the plant, but cuttings from petunias grow so easily and would make much better plants. You could winter over the old plant if you wished, and take the cuttings in early spring. Don't try starting them in too rich soil. They do very well in sharp sand and bloom shortly after striking roots. One of my double ones broke off a month ago, and I stuck it into the bed along side of the others. It kept right on growing, not even stepping its bloom.

## Garden Calendar...

- Aug. 12-13—Oregon State Gladiolus Show, Grants Pass.
- Aug. 12—Annual vegetable seed field day, Corvallis, 10 a. m.
- Aug. 12—Mt. Angel Garden Club, home of Mr. and Mrs. V. J. White. Mrs. Clarence Halverson, Silverton, speaker.
- Aug. 13-14—Major Gladiolus Show, Vancouver, B. C.
- Aug. 13—Lambert Meadow Gardeners, 1:30, home of Patsy Brunka. Demonstration of club's kit for corsages.
- Aug. 14—Peach field day, OSC, 1:30.
- Aug. 17-23—Multnomah County fair and flower show, Gresham.
- Aug. 20-23—Dahlia Show, Bremerton, Wash.

during the following week. These are the latest figures available.

## Use Weeds, Garden Club Told

Statesman News Service  
KEIZER—When you pull weeds from your garden do you carry them to the fence and throw them away? If so, you shouldn't, Ed Ferrill told the Carhaven Garden Club Thursday night.  
If the weeds are left on the ground after pulling and worked into the soil, humus is restored, Ferrill suggested that when grass clippings are used as a mulch that they be arranged in layers with soil to provide breathing space. If sawdust is used as a mulch, the 3-4 year old variety is the best as the decomposition has already started and it will become available as plant food sooner than the new sawdust.  
Nitrogen should be used with it. Many people, he said, have the erroneous idea that just because soil is black, it is very fertile. The black coloration may be due to decomposition in the soil and have nothing to do with fertility. A red soil indicates the presence of iron in it and a yellow soil is usually due to poor drainage. There will be an executive meeting Thursday at the home of the club president, Mrs. R. C. Gayton. The next meeting of the club will be at the home of Dr. Peter DeMarco, 4549 Harcourt Ave., on September 3.