

# News of Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

## Garden Gabbing

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Lot of gardeners starting seedlings in seed boxes use plant bands as a safety measure. These bands are made of either wood veneer or asphalted paper. They make four sides of a cube, open at top and bottom and enclosing six cubic inches or more of soil. They are placed touching each other to fill the flat, then filled with soil. If the wick-watering method of irrigation is used the bands should rest on a cushion of soil to facilitate even distribution of moisture.

Plants grown in these bands can be lifted from the flat and transplanted without their roots being disturbed. This a voids transplanting shock and insures rapid growth of the plant in the garden. It is not necessary to remove the paper bands in transplanting, since they disintegrate under outdoor conditions.

Plant bands are inexpensive and give definite advantages to the plants grown in them. The disturbance of a plant's roots causes a shock, which is increasingly severe as the plant grows larger. Anything that reduced this shock will favor the rapid development of the plant and advance the harvest from it.

Knight Percy, Salem gardener from way-back-when, says that very few people are taking advantage of the opportunity that grapes offer our home gardeners in the Willamette Valley. By this way-back-when busi-

ness I don't mean in actual years, but Knight has done his gardening in Salem for a long time and he does know the Willamette Valley garden possibilities.

He reports that with a proper selection of varieties you can pick grapes from your own vines from mid-August until late November. There are fine varieties of the California type of grapes that do as well here as do the American varieties which we usually find growing in this section.

Grapes are of two types, the one known as the American or Slip-skin, and the other variety known as the European or Vinifera, sometimes, too, called the California type. Concord, Campbell and Niagara are among the American types. Of the Vinifera varieties which will ripen in the Willamette Valley are Perle de Csaba, which ripen in mid-August; the Seneca, Early Muscat, Malaga. Early Muscat is one of the best grapes grown in the area. Malaga is a very large white Vinifera of fine quality that usually matures in the valley although there have been crops of this that matured too late to produce enough sugar for good quality. Cardinal is a good red Vinifera, that is also a little late but sometimes does well here. Most years the Golden Muscat will also ripen.

Willamette red raspberry is generally rated as the top raspberry for freezing. This variety, which was originated at OSC, is a heavy producer. Where irrigation is possible, this will produce a second crop of fruit in the fall. Raspberries may be planted now.

It is also time to plant those blueberries. These grow best in soil that has large amount of organic matter. Sawdust, compost, rotted manure, peat or leaf mold are all of value to the blueberry. Dig a hole 18 inches deep or thereabouts and fill this with a mixture of one of the above materials well mixed with the soil.

Set the ball of the plant no deeper than it was in the nursery. Give the plants a good soaking, watering every 10 days during the growing season. About April first and again June first, add about one fourth pounds of sulphate of ammonia per plant.

Blueberries are shallow rooted and must have their root-rot in aerated upper layers of soil. To reduce the need of hoeing, which cuts off the feeder roots, it is well to spread 4 to 6 inches of sawdust around the plants after first having tilled out the weeds. Sawdust has little value as a mulch when applied on top of sod or heavy weed growth.

Blueberries eventually grow to fair size. Give them plenty of elbow room. They should be spaced five to eight feet apart.

Two or more varieties should be planted for pollination purposes. Planting season is from November until mid-April.

If you have occasion to transplant a comparatively large tree, use peat plentifully, as this permits water to reach the root area more easily. Guy the trees securely with three wires to prevent wind-whip. Deeper watering is possible where two or three pieces of four inch tile is set in the soil around the tree with the opening at the surface of the soil. Watering through these tiles, brings more water to the root area. Plant your big trees as early in the season as possible.

Each year in daffodil blooming time, The Statesman garden editor gets numerous questions about lack of bloom from the amount of daffodils. Sometimes this is overcrowding, and the bulbs need dividing at the close of the season — or when the foliage begins to yellow.

More often the cause is from the daffodil fly. To control this, put naphthalene flakes close around each plant at the time the King Alfred daffodil is in bloom. This seems to be about the time the fly begins to move about. The control should be repeated at ten-day intervals, for three applications.

## Chief Smith Notes Danger Of Trash Fires

With spring house cleaning already underway or scheduled shortly in many homes, Chief Ellisworth Smith of the Salem fire department points out the dangers involved in lighting trash fires.

"We realize here in the department that a really good spring cleanup will leave a housewife with a pile of trash and other rubbish to dispose of," he explained, "but we also realize a trash fire can easily get out of hand."

If fire is the only means of getting rid of trash, Chief Smith cautioned, a few common sense rules should always be observed.

These rules are: Never light an outside fire on a windy day; set out and attach a garden hose and keep it handy until the fire is completely out; use a wire mesh basket or a metal container with a cover for the fire and keep it well away from any building, fence or tall grass; keep children away; and stay with the fire until it is out and the ashes are cool enough to touch with bare hands.

Last year in this country, he revealed, 11,000 persons died and property valued at \$900 millions was destroyed as a result of fire. "These figures should point out the necessity for safety," he declared.

## Cascade Road Group Meets

Statesman News Service  
STAYTON — Meeting in Stayton this week were members of the Cascade Highway Association with Brownville, Lebanon, Scio, Silverton and Stayton represented.

Marion County Commissioners Roy Rice and Ed Rogers said the county court has issued an order for a survey of the re-routing near Silverton which would be accomplished within a few weeks. Silverton has the improvement of James Street scheduled for the summer.

Silverton was reported strongly behind a move to re-route the highway northward from the Evergreen school to eliminate a winding section now existing — it would follow a draw and join the Salem-Silverton road near the Service Lumber Company and angle onto James Street.

The group also approved purchase of 25 metal enamel road signs to be posted at strategic points bearing the legend, "Cascade Highway — the Beeline, Portland to Springfield."

The association will have its May meeting in Silverton.

## Hazel Green Club Elects Officers

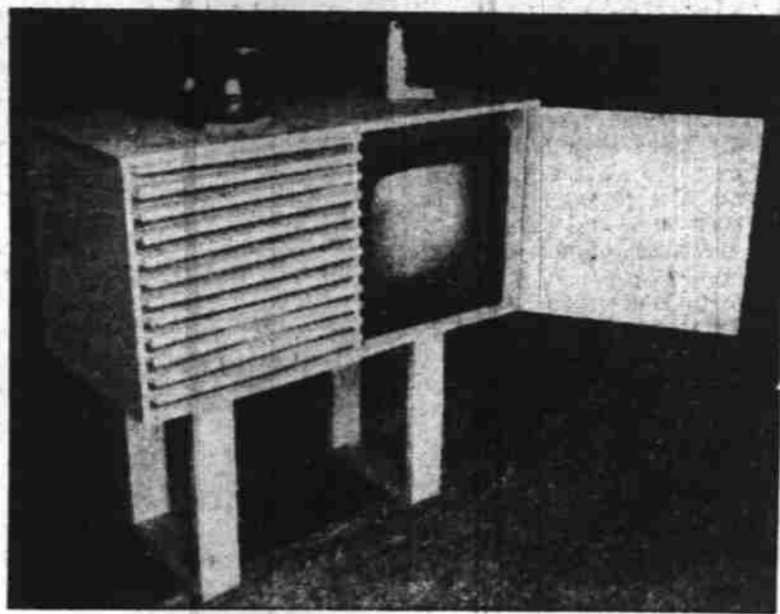
Statesman News Service  
HAZEL GREEN—Mrs. Lloyd McDonald was elected president of the Hazel Green Sunshine Sewing Club at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. A. M. Zahare Wednesday.

Other officers chosen were: Mrs. Dorothy Zielinski, vice president and Mrs. Marvin Van Cleave, secretary.

The day was spent in tying two quilts for Mrs. F. O. Johnson. A covered-dish lunch was served at noon.

## Home Workshop

# Custom TV Cabinet Has Many Features



By BILL BAKER

Furniture Designer to the Stars  
One of the handsomest luxuries in the home of today is a custom-built television cabinet. But when you make it yourself this luxury actually becomes an economy.

The television cabinet I have designed stresses simplicity, good taste and practicality.

Set on well proportioned frame legs, the body of the cabinet is high off the floor, making for easy cleaning underneath. The legs bring dials and knobs to a handy height for dial-twirling, yet your screen remains at a perfect level for relaxed viewing.

If you've never had a television set with a door on it, you'll be surprised to find how much it helps keep the screen clean to leave the door closed when the set is not in use. And for those with small fry who are hard to discipline, the door can be equipped with a small lock.

The pattern is worked out to give you a cabinet that will accommodate anything up to a 21-inch screen table model with-

out removing the set from its original casing.

The cabinet's simplicity provides an accent of smart contrast to period furnishings. Set in a modern interior, it emphasizes and highlights the contemporary note.

An unusual outside grille gives the television cabinet its single touch of decorative detail and serves also to break up the overall impression of size, making the piece as suitable for a small room as a large one.

The complete pattern package includes shop-tested, easy-to-follow directions in simple, clear language. A complete list of the required materials offers you a wide choice of woods to work with. Neither power tools nor metal clamps are necessary.

Get your modern television cabinet pattern by sending your name and address (clearly printed, together with one dollar in cash or money order to Bill Baker, THE OREGON STATESMAN, P.O. Box 1111, Los Angeles 33, California. ASK FOR BILL BAKER PATTERNS NUMBER 108. Other Bill Baker patterns available: No. 106, Compact Fishing Box, \$1; No. 101, Lazy Susan Coffee Table, \$1; No. 105, Planter Desk, \$1.

## Lime Rating Card Created As Soil Aid

Western Oregon farmers can now take most of the guesswork out of using lime to combat acid soils that are cutting crop production, especially among clovers, alfalfa and other legumes.

Attacking the common belief that "lime is lime," Oregon State college soils department has provided county extension agents with a score card that rates the effectiveness of all commercial lime registered for sale in Western Oregon.

T. L. Jackson, extension soils specialist, says scores are based on purity and degree of grinding of liming materials which vary widely among brands now sold in the area. The score card shows the amount of each brand needed to correct acidity to levels needed for growth of various crops. It will also guide farmers in measuring relative costs of brands.

Acidity is one of the major factors limiting crop production in western Oregon and liming to neutralize acids and supply the plant nutrient calcium is the only practical solution to the problem.

Nearly two thirds of 850 soil samples from Willamette valley farms tested during 1953 at the college soils laboratory were too acid to give good production from legume crops, which grow best in non-acid neutral soils.

A big oil tanker with 145,000 barrels of fuel oil carries the equivalent of 36,250 tons of coal.

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## Bethany 4-H Clubs Plan Benefit Social

Statesman News Service  
SILVERTON — Bethany 4-H clubs are sponsoring a pie social, candy sale and a program at Bethany School on March 26 for the benefit of summer school 4-H scholarships. L. B. Scharback will give the pie sale.

Mrs. Nels Torredal is the lunch chairman, Mrs. L. R. Harvey is in charge of the program, Mrs. Chester Bjorke and Mrs. Reider Povover are the pie chairmen and the 4-H girls are in charge of the candy sale.

Jeff Hoyt and his trained dog, Skipper, will be on the program.

The United States produced about 8.1 lead pencils for every person in the country during 1953.

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## Questions---Answers

**Question**—Want to start an arborvitae hedge. When should I slip the plant so that it will start outdoors? Please give any information necessary. Mrs. T. B.

**Answer**—Cuttings from the arborvitae should be taken in late summer and placed in a frame or cutting box during the winter. It is rather difficult, though, to start a cutting outdoors. It will do much better in a small greenhouse or frame. One of the cold frames made in the basement window well, as some are now doing, seems quite satisfactory for starting. Most often arborvitae are started from seed. There are many varieties, you know, and some will not start from cuttings at all, while others root readily.

**Question**—Have tried to grow the fragrant daphne now in bloom, but seem to have no success although other plants grow well for me. One I have had for three years and thought I'd be able to keep it now turning yellow with the foliage dropping off. What could be trouble? Give hint on cultural detail. May be doing this wrong. W. R.

**Answer** — The yellowing and dropping of foliage would indicate trouble at the root. Without knowing more about the situation, would be difficult to say cause. Check these: Rodents undermining? Mice eating roots? Good drainage? (Poor drainage will turn the foliage yellow in a hurry). Is soil humusy and loose? Soil deficiency? (Add light dose of superphosphate and sulfate of potash if this is trouble).

**Question**—What is wrong with inclosed camellia leaves? Quite a few like this appearing on my camellia. G. V.

**Answer**—Late-spot, fungus disease. Pick off and burn worst of diseased foliage. Spray with Bordeaux mixture, foliage strength. May have to repeat a couple of times at 10-day intervals.

**Question**—My poinsettia has finally quit blooming. Read in another garden column where one could plant these out in the spring and leave them there for next winter's bloom. We were new here last fall and are not sure. One of my neighbors says they won't come through the winter outdoors, but tois columnist says they will. Do you know? T.A.H.

**Answer**—You must have been reading a column from Southern California where they bloom outdoors rather well in the winter. But they will freeze here. Even the cold, chilly rains we have would ruin them. When danger of frost is over, you could plunge the pot in a shady spot outdoors and take it in again in the fall. With good luck and proper care you should be able to get bloom again next winter.

**Question**—What, actually, is the Christmas-Rose? I saw one described and have sent for it—New York. That was two weeks ago, and in the meantime I received a card from the advertiser saying it would be sent as soon as planting could be done. Could you tell me something about it? D.C.

**Answer**—This is the common name for Helleborus niger, a perennial which is now blooming—and has been in bloom for some weeks. You could have purchased it at any number of Willamette Valley florists, nurseries and garden stores.

The plants are good in either a shrubby border, a fern bed or a rock garden. If you want the flower chiefly for cutting (and they work well this way), the plants may be grown in beds by themselves in good soil.

## Garden Calendar...

March 25—Salem Camellia and Rhododendron Society, YMCA 8 p.m. Russell Gainer, speaker. Visitors welcomed.

March 25—Mill City Garden Club.

March 25—Labish Meadow Gardeners, Anne Zielinski, hostess, 1:30 p.m.

April 1—Salem Begonia Society, YMCA 8 p.m. Visitors welcomed.

April 2-3—Silverton Junior Chamber of Commerce Home Show, Silverton Armory.

April 4-8—Twenty-fifth annual convention of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Ocean Forest Hotel, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

April 5—Salem Women's Garden Club, 2 p.m. Salem Woman's Club House, 460 N. Cottage St.

April 8—Men's Garden Club of Salem, YMCA 8 p.m. Visitors welcome.

April 11—Mt. Angel Primrose Show, St. Mary's Dining Hall, Mrs. O. J. Williams, general chairman.

April 14—Mt. Angel Garden Club meeting.

April 16—Stayton Garden Club, 8 p.m. Mrs. Katie Fery, hostess, assisting, Mrs. Edna Fery and Mrs. Mary Metz. Speaker: Oliver Brougher, Scotts Mills. Topic: "The Birds of Our State."

April 22-25—Multnomah County Spring Garden Show, Gresham.

May 1—Silverton Jay-C-Elite Flower Show, Eugene Field Auditorium.

May 8-9—Salem Garden Council Spring Flower Show, Izaak Walton League building.

May 12-15—American Rose Show and Convention, San Francisco.

May 22-29—Silverton Iris Show, Cooley Iris Gardens.

May 26-29—National Iris Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah.

May 29-June 1—Salem Lions Club Home and Garden Show, State Fairgrounds.

June 6-9—Pacific Regional Garden Club meeting, Ashland.

June 8-9—Oregon State Garden Club Federation, Ashland.

June 12-13—Salem Rose Society Show, Izaak Walton League Building.

## Garden Books

"Flower Arranging for Juniors," by Virginia Stone Marshall (Little, Brown) is an excellent book on the subject. Experienced exhibitors stress the fun and skill in learning the principles and techniques of making arrangements. There's nearly always a junior division in our Willamette valley flower shows now. Why not let Junior learn to do that arranging by himself through a book?

"Plant Disease Handbook," by Cynthia Westcott (Nostrand, 1950). This still costs \$7.50 but it's a very fine book, well indexed, which is so necessary in this type of publication. If you don't want to buy it for your own library, you probably can borrow it at your city library.

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