

By Lillie L. Madsen

Garden Gabbing

By LILLIE L. MADSEN, Garden Editor, The Statesman

It is still true that only God can make a tree, but man has been given the privilege of caring for that tree, a privilege he too frequently neglects.

For instance, shade trees growing under conditions where leaves, grass chips and other natural litter are removed, require artificial feeding if they are to be kept in healthy, vigorous conditions, says the National Arborist Association.

Use a fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potash—in other words use what is frequently termed a "complete fertilizer." A good fertilizer should contain from 6 to 10 per cent soluble nitrogen. Three to five pounds for each inch of trunk diameter at breast height should be applied to the whole root area, reducing this amount by the proportion of the root system under buildings or pavements where this situation occurs.

I liked this little squib from Bill Egan of the Men's Garden club of Salem: "One of the 'New for '54' is Blaze Zinnia, the only flower to win All-American selection—which doesn't prove anything except that a planting in a corner of your garden this summer should be a good August conversation piece.

It's evident in watching the comings and goings of plantings around homes of ranch-house architecture (or, when in cities one finds block after block of this style house) that the "new look" has the old-line landscape architect in a tizzy—wondering what to try next.

The basic landscape principles we all learned in classes of another day house style simply do not apply: Conceal the foundation of a house that has no foundation to hide? Reduce the apparent height, when a healthy jack rabbit could clear the ridge in one jump? The down the house to the landscape when the house is already so low that you are more tempted to reach up to its roof and give it a yank to pull it out of the ground? Create a vista—and how, pray tell, on a 30 by 80 foot lot?

But "they" have been planting annuals—at least 75 per cent of them have—and the home owner has found hundreds of attractive plants, ranging in height from the ground-hugging thing to the 10-foot castor bean for the "accent."

One good piece of advice I picked up was not to go plant-happy and wind up with scores of packets of seed, none of which fit with the others. It's better, I was told, to pick a single class of annuals and stick largely to this until you have felt your way around a little. For instance if you should choose zinnias—there's everything you need from the tiniest little dwarf to those standing up two and a half to three feet. You have color harmony; you have ease of cultivation and fertilization, because your plants need all the same care and you have continuous bloom. Almost the same holds true of the marigolds—although these do not give the variety of color—but if you like yellows and brown—what could be better than the marigolds such as the dwarf French, the intermediate height, the larger carnation-flowered newer sorts, and on to the taller giant African ones?

Another suggestion is working in Phlox drummondii and petunias together. These will give you variety in color and size. And the annual larkspurs tie in well with these for a taller corner accent. Speaking of larkspurs, I was surprised last blooming season at what had been done with this annual since last I had given it particular attention. Or some of the new snapdragons in rust resistant, double types can be used. Even in snapdragons one as "Sky-scrapers," semi-talls, and the lower growing kinds—but no ground-huggers yet.

Things to Do

Give your Madonna lilies a dusting with bordeaux or spray with 8-4-100 bordeaux mixture. Check iris for leaf spot, if any found spray with bordeaux, leaf-strength. Plant new asparagus bed, setting plants 8 to 10 inches deep, measuring from crown, and two feet apart. Pot up and start carna roots for late May planting. Give rhododendrons and azaleas a complete fertilizer. Plant one or two new rhododendrons, camellias or azaleas. If moss on lawn, have husband vigorously rake with iron rake to remove loose moss and then apply sulphate ammonia—one pound to 100 square feet. Spray roses with all-purpose spray to start black spot and mildew control.

Thomson Files Anneal Notice

NEWPORT, Ore. — Notice of appeal was filed Friday for Richard Thomson, convicted of attempting to kill his business partner by hitting him over the head and sending him over an embankment in a car. Thomson was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Thomson's attorney based the appeal on a contention that a confession repudiated by Thomson should not have been referred to in Thomson's trial.

dew control. (A very fine new trade-named all purpose spray out for roses this year.) Prune out only shoots on climbing roses that bloomed last year.

Flower of the Week



Tithonia, pictured here, is frequently known as Mexican Sunflower, and this particular one, named Torch, was recently an All-American Silver Medal winner. The plants bearing this flower are compact and upright bushy in form. They will grow four feet tall. Flowers are fiery orange.

First Flower Show of Year Due to Open

The Salem Camellia and Rhododendron Society will hold its 6th annual show at Stan Baker's Motors, 525 Chemetka Street on April 10 and 11. Exhibits must be in place by 12 p. m. Saturday so that judging can be completed before the show opens to the public at 2 o'clock. Exhibitors are to furnish their own containers for arrangements, but for individual flowers, containers will be furnished. The information committee, furnished by the society, will furnish names for the camellias and the placing committee will see to it that they get into the proper location. All exhibits must be left until 8 o'clock Sunday night when the show closes. The show is open until 9 o'clock Saturday night and opens again at 10 a. m. Sunday.

In the arrangements quality of flowers count 35 points with harmony 20. Arrangements themselves count 15 with proportion and balance 20 and relation of the arrangement to the container counting 10. Each woman who attends the show will be presented with a camellia. The usual schedule in horticulture will be followed both for blooms and for potted camellias. A division is being provided for rhododendrons and azaleas which may be in bloom by that time, with ribbons offered for the best truss or plant of species and the best three trusses or plant of azalea.

Another division has been provided for spring flowering trees and plants, one for flowering trees or shrubs, with three divisions in the latter: the best single truss or branch; the best vase of three trusses or branches and the best shrub in pot or tub. Local nurseries and seed stores have furnished cash prizes for the top winners in the various divisions.

TRANSPORTS TO ARRIVE: SAN FRANCISCO — The transport Gen. M. C. Meigs is due here next Tuesday from Pusan, Korea, with 2,806 Army personnel and 450 Marines. The Gen. A. E. Anderson is scheduled to arrive next Friday from Yokohama with 1,068 Air Force, 970 Army, 17 Navy and 5 Marines.

Advertisement for Knight Percy Nursery, featuring Hedge Materials (Laurels, Privet, Arborvitae, Floribunda Roses) and Shade Tree Specials (Weeping Willow, Poplar, Mt. Ash, Oregon Maple). Includes nursery address and phone number.

Advertisement for Cyclone Fence, stating 'NOW...you can have CYCLONE FENCE'. Features a cartoon character holding a fence sample and lists benefits like 'NO DOWN PAYMENT' and 'EASY MONTHLY PAYMENTS'. Contact information: East 8105, 400 N. E. 11th Avenue, Portland 14, Oregon.

Questions---Answers

Question—When to prune Forsythia and Japanese quince? J.B. Answer—As you cut flowers for house use or immediately after flowering is finished.

Question—My blue cypress is turning all green. Last year, almost all the blue was gone and now there are patches of light brown in the tree. What to do to save it? Or is this natural for this cypress? S. O. P.

Answer—Sounds like the root rot which has taken so many of our Oregon cypress recently. It seems that once it has attacked a tree it is impossible to control. Planting resistant root stocks and chemically treating the soil before planting, seems our only way of saving cypress growth in Oregon.

Question—Would like an annual about three feet tall, and white. Am planning a white garden this year in one corner where there's a green background. But need one annual for this one place. Any suggestions? Y. D. H.

Answer—What about the comparatively new White Wonder Larkspur? This is a beautiful, double flowering plant growing from three to three-and-a-half feet tall. White canterbury plants, white snapdragons, white foxgloves, are other suggestions.

Questions—Now that flowering plum is leaving out, find some dead wood. Saw in another article where it was now too late to prune. Should I just leave dead wood until fall? G. H.

Answer—By all means prune off, back to live wood, and paint cut with tree paint. It's too late to cut off healthy branches on maple, birches, walnut and grapes as bleeding is severe at this time of the year. Just a little later when sap-flow slows down, can prune again. But never leave dead wood when once found.

Question—Please give specific directions for starting tuberous begonias. Had some given me and have never grown them except from plants bought in greenhouses. T. T.

Answer—To start tuberous begonias, place the tuber, round side down, on moist peat moss. Spray it slightly from time to time until the young growth buds appear, then cover with the peat. When they have made a leaf or two, lift them and plant them in equal parts leaf mold, peat moss and sand. Once they are established you may feed them with one of the organic fertilizers available to dust the tubers with one of the dusts for that purpose when you start them and before planting them in pots or outdoors, dust the soil lightly. This treatment will help control the soil insects as well as the mildew that has taken its toll in the past two years.

Question—When to spray iris for leaf spot? L. R.

Answer—See "Gardening Gabbing" on this page.

Question—Found number of tent caterpillars crawling around on trees. Didn't know they were out yet? What to do. They are on my rhododendrons. T. M.

Answer—I agree with the indicated distress! It's awfully bad to have anything on rhododendrons now. Spray with lead arsenate at a scant three tablespoons to a gallon of water. Look around for webs. Insects feed nearby. Spray thoroughly.

Question—When to start chrysanthemums? Q. D.

Answer—Right now take cuttings two inches long from tips of new growth developed this season. Take from outside ring of plant. Dust with root inducing hormone powder and keep moist until rooted. Plant where they are to grow as soon as roots developed. Some folk take pieces off or "divide" as they call it, the last year's clump. In so doing take care to take the healthy, new growths at the outer edge of the plant. These may be set out where they are to grow, and a dusting with a hormone powder will help here too.

Advertisement for McCulloch Model 47 Chain Saw, featuring a cartoon character and text: 'The Great White Way to Heat. Glassheat is Clear. Install it NOW, before Spring Housecleaning... and SAVE'. Includes contact for TOWNE Equipment Co.

Bridge Lamp-Table Said Easy to Build



By BILL BAKER, Furniture Designer. Here is a bridge lamp - end table that stands as firmly on its merits as it does on its broad, solid base. Furthermore, it's a do-it-yourself project that has special beginner's appeal in the fact that it requires only a modest investment in time and money.

Combining good illumination and the convenience of a well-designed end table in a single piece of furniture, this unit has the added advantage of being built with a useful bottom platform that can serve as a stand for stacking current magazines and newspapers in one neat, easy-to-find place.

Need for developing better understanding between the city dwellers and wheat farmers and to give correct information about wheat products prompted the making of the motion picture, says Morris Wilson, president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

RENT-A-TOOL Do It Yourself - It's Cheaper OPEN SUNDAYS Salem's Tool Rental Headquarters HOWSER BROS. 1180 South 12th St.

Advertisement for Concrete Mail Box Posts, 12th Street Block Co., 1190 Vista, Ph. 2-5363. Includes a diagram of a post.

Advertisement for Hi-Spra Sprinkler System, featuring a cartoon character and text: 'I installed it myself'. Includes contact for TOWNE Equipment Co. and Middle Grove Nursery.