

News of Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

Garden Gabbing

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NEW GADGETS—As the requests for weed-killers grow longer, so has the list of various kinds of equipment manufactured for this purpose. Manufacturers have improved sprayers so that they are easier to use and at the same time do a better job in weed control. In fact weed killing has become so simplified that I never cease to wonder how I permit as many as I do, to grow in my lawn.

Among the less expensive ones and—therefore the simplest to use—is the plastic top that can be screwed on any standard glass gallon jug, such as the kind used for cider, wine, or milk (in some areas). This topper works on the principle of gravity flow and releases weedkiller solution in the manner of a watering can. This is a very fine gadget for spraying a small lawn or even small patches of poison oak.

The other day I received a very fine cane-type applicator in the mail. It is proving good for spot weeding, and the man in the family seems to enjoy using it, which is an added item in its favor. The body of the cane is filled with the weedkilling solution and a small amount of this is released each time the point is poked into a lawn weed.

Sprayers of various kinds, have been used as long as there have been weed killers. If you use a sprayer also used for insecticides and fungicides, great care must be taken to wash it out thoroughly after each use or you may kill something you didn't intend to.

Small, compressed air sprayers are increasingly popular for weed killing. Some hold about a gallon and anyone can carry these around.

If you don't know what to do with Junior some morning, fill his toy water pistol with weedkilling solution and let him use the weed targets. Of course, in the latter case, you must know Junior well enough to know he can be trusted not to turn the gun on your favorite shrubs.

HAVE A LONG SEASON—You can have a long gladiolus season. In fact there are few flowers you can drag out over a longer season. All you have to do is continue to stagger plantings each two weeks. Even if you started way back in late March or April, you can still stagger, so far as the glads are concerned.

Thrip used to keep a lot of gardeners from growing glads, but dusts and sprays on the market will give excellent control without too much difficulty. Also you should shake corns in bag full of insecticide dust before planting as extra crop insurance. Or you can dip them in a not-too-strong spray solution. If you use the latter, let them dry out a little before planting.

DUMB DUCKS—Each year gardeners, both new and old, kill scandalous number of plants and waste small oceans of water (we are not talking of rains at the moment) all because no one has yet discovered the right words to use in telling another gardener precisely how to water a garden.

Unless you have more time and more patience than most gardeners, you had best let the garden hose down. You'll never give the shrub or tree enough by standing holding the hose and watching the water run out one end.

If you over-head water, do it in the morning before the sun warms up and in time to give the foliage a chance to dry off before the sun warms up. Otherwise you'll just have to prepare to spray for more mildew.

If you are watering a tree, a shrub or the lawn, soak the ground down at least eight inches, and remember that 12 inches is an even better depth. Such things as camellias, rhododendrons, begonias, fuchsias, azaleas do not need to be soaked down that far, their roots are very near the surface. But the general run of shrubs and trees as well as lawn grasses reach deeply for their moisture.

And one more "don't": Don't water only the trunk of the tree. Most of the roots are out under the drip-line, or the point where the tips of the branches are. If you water right around the trunk of the tree, most of the roots miss the moisture they need.

Home Workshop

Long, Low Couch Has Custom Look



By Bill Baker Furniture Designer

Are you tired of looking at that old sofa in your living room? Do you wish you could replace it with a sleek, modern couch? Have you been thinking about getting a new couch for your den or spare room? Have you been blocked in efforts to add much-needed additional seating space to your home because the item you want costs two or three hundred dollars? I have a solution for your problem if you answered "yes" to any of these questions.

I have just finished a design that I think you will agree is one of the most beautiful pieces of furniture you've ever seen. It is a long, low modern couch that has all of the elegance and grace usually found in the most expensive custom-built pieces.

And yet you'll be able to have an exact copy of my couch in your home for a small fraction of its true value. You'll find the full story of it in Bill Baker's pattern number 118.

Let me tell you something about the couch. From end to end it measures a massive nine feet. The soft foam rubber seat is six feet long, flanked on each side by unique built-in end tables which have deep drawers. A bolster, also of foam rubber, forms the back and is fastened securely to the main section of the couch. You'll purchase the foam rubber (or find out where it is available) by contacting any department store or furniture supply house.

Complete instructions on the easy job of upholstering both seat and bolster will be found in the pattern.

An addition to the couch is the placement of planter boxes on each end table. If you want to eliminate this feature you can do so.

You can use either metal or wooden legs.

The pattern for this modern couch includes exact size paper pattern pieces of all parts. You'll just trace, cut and assemble. Easy-to-understand directions, a full and detailed list of materials, suggestions for wood selection—everything you'll need is included in the pattern.

I think you'll agree, when you see the finished piece in your home, that this design is a sensational bargain.

You'll want to order your Modern Couch-End Table pattern right away. Just send your name and address (clearly printed), together with one dollar (\$1) in cash, check or money order, to Bill Baker, Oregon Statesman, P. O. Box 1111, Los Angeles 33, California. BE SURE TO ASK FOR PATTERN NUMBER 118.

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Giant Pampas Plume



Pictured is a Giant Pampas Plume which is actually no more than a "kissin' cousin" to grandmother's old-fashioned coxcombs. This is one coxcomb which can be used as a long-lasting cutflower, for the giant plumes are borne on two-foot stems. They can be dried for winter bouquets. The plant flowers in 75 days after planted from seed, and colors are gay Mexican colors.

Questions---Answers

Answer—Sometime ago the garden editor had a few queries about Jelly Bean Cactus, which she called for help to answer. Mrs. Mary L. Goebel of Salem, very graciously supplied the information: "This belongs to the Mammillarias and its culture is given as follows: They are not too particular and thrive under surprisingly different conditions. Should be grown in a compost of two parts sand, one part loam, one-half to one part leafmold with a sprinkling of charcoal. They like the sun but do well in any well-lighted window. Growing season is from April to October."

Mrs. Goebel reports that she has some interesting cactus catalogs and books which if the garden inquirer would like to see, she may do so by calling at 1430 D Street, Salem. Thank you, Mrs. Goebel.

Question—What is wrong with our grapes? They are large blue ones. Last year they came on the vine, heavy, but soon began to turn brown and fall off. This year they are starting it again. Several others in the neighborhood are doing the same. B.B.

Answer—Sounds like what they call black rot of grapes. This disease is quite widespread particularly in eastern United States, causing more loss than all other diseases combined. All parts of the vine are attacked. On leaves, reddish brown dead spots are sprinkled with black pycnidia. When fruit is half grown, the rot starts in as a pale spot, soon turning brown and involving the entire grape, which shrivels and becomes a black, wrinkled mummy, dropping or remaining in the cluster. Does this sound like yours?

In some instances a two-spray schedule is sufficient, using Fomate immediately before and immediately after, bloom and 10 to 14 days later. With severe infection an additional pre-bloom spray and perhaps one when the fruit is about the size of peas could be applied. Of course, most of this is too late for this year, but you might try the last spray now.

While your meager description indicates the black rot, either Downy or Powdery mildew would give about the same results. In each disease, the fruit does turn brown, but there is indication also of a mildew. A light coating of sulphur, or a light coating of bordeaux will help control these mildews. These two remedies will help also in the black rot, but neither is quite so effective as the ferimate.

Question—We are putting an oak floor over a cement floor in our new house, being made out of a storage garage. We are being told that the floor will dry-rot in four or five years. Is there any way this can be prevented? A.R.

Answer—Am told that if the concrete base is given two-course hot pitch or asphalt membrane waterproofings, the finished floor will not dryrot. Prefinished hardwood squares can then be laid in matric over this.

BABIES GO TO CHURCH
GARDNER, Mass. (U) — The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic church has installed a sound-proofed room to permit mothers of young babies to attend mass while caring for their offspring. A window facing the altar permits mothers to follow the services.

PRIZE FOR SPRINT
DAWN, Mo (U) — A short race down a railroad track meant a \$5 prize for Charles A. Wheelbarger of Ludlow, Mo. He caught a coyote pup near the railroad station and claimed the \$5 bounty.

Garden Calendar . . .

July 13—Scio Garden Club, home of Wava Miller, 1:30 p.m.
July 16-17—National meeting and show of the North American Lily Society, Seattle, Wash.
July 18-22—Annual conference of American Association of Nurserymen, Minneapolis, Minn.
July 24-25—National Gladiolus Society show, U. S. Botanic Garden, Washington, D. C.
July 31-Aug. 1 — Annual mid-

summer shade plant show, sponsored by California Fuchsia Society, Inglewood, Calif.
July 31-Aug. 1—Yakima Gladiolus Show, Yakima, Wash.
Aug. 4-5—Vancouver, B.C. Gladiolus Show.
Aug. 5-7—Victoria, B.C. Gladiolus Show.
Aug. 6-7—Annual Begonia and shade plant show, Hayward, Calif.
Aug. 7-8—Oregon State Gladiolus Show, Canby.
Aug. 11-12—Grants Pass Gladiolus Show.
Aug. 14-15—Portland Gladiolus Show, Multnomah County Fairgrounds, Gresham.
Sept. 15-18—American Rose Society Show and Convention, Syracuse, N. Y.

Jenkins Won't Enter Race

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (U) — Ray H. Jenkins, square-jawed attorney who conducted the Army-McCarthy hearings for the Senate investigations subcommittee, said Saturday he will not run for U. S. senator. "I will not be a candidate for the United States Senate," Jenkins said in a statement to the press. "This decision has not been an easy one."

The announcement ended speculation, both official and otherwise, that had been common since Jenkins was named to handle the televised hearings.

Jenkins had been qualified as a candidate for the Republican nomination for the U. S. Senate seat now held by Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn) who is seeking reelection in the primary election Aug. 5.

The state GOP executive committee, meeting in Nashville June 7, unanimously adopted a resolution urging Jenkins to run. And a "draft Ray Jenkins" movement was organized to gather petitions in each of the state's 95 counties urging him to seek the nomination.

PURE SWINDLE
SAN DIEGO, Calif. (U) — Superior Judge A. Hewicker noted on his recommendation to prison authorities that Charles Wilkie Martin, 48, be given the maximum term of 14 years: "This man is beyond rehabilitation." Martin, with five prior felony convictions, was sentenced for forging the name "Verne Swindler" to a traveler's check.

Bean Acreage Trend Upward

Snap bean acreage planted for 1954 harvest in Oregon is around 9 per cent larger than last year, the USDA reports. A total of 161,000 acres have been planted in the country this year, and around 9,800 acres in Oregon. Prospective acreage in Oregon this year is around a fourth larger than last year, and three-fourths larger than the 1943-52 average.

Acreage in Oregon is primarily planted to the Blue Lake variety. However, of the total planted acreage, around 700 acres are planted to wax beans.

Oregon's sweet corn acreage is estimated at 14,200 acres as compared to 17,800 last year. Late June reports showed that the yellow varieties are used almost entirely in Oregon.

Increase in production of green peas for processing is about 11 per cent this year in Oregon over last year.

High Prices Predicted for Tree Fruits

Short crops of Oregon fruits this summer may make it more economical for cost-conscious homemakers to buy those that are commercially processed rather than to can or freeze their own if this means buying, home economists are reporting at rural extension meetings.

The small peach crop in Oregon and Washington is almost certain to mean high prices at local markets and roadside stands they said. On the other hand, the large crop in California and other peach canning states is greater than average and will help hold down commercial prices. Economists say that the housewife will probably find commercially canned peaches a better buy, unless she has sufficient in her own garden.

Bartlett pears are also short in Oregon, but California has a good crop. For the entire Pacific Coast, Bartletts are up one-sixth from last year. This is expected to tend to keep canned pear prices near last year's level, but in Oregon fresh pears will probably be higher than last year.

A bright spot on the fruit market is brought by strawberries. Economists say that they are actually a little cheaper than last year. They also suggest that the budget-minded will be able to save more by picking their own in patches damaged earlier by the weather.

"U-Pick" signs have already appeared along a number of roadsides.

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