

# News of Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

## Garden Gabbing

By LILLIE L. MADSEN  
Garden Editor, The Statesman

**OLD ROSE WANTED**—Does anyone have a Marcia Neil rose? This is an old-fashioned rose, known mostly to history. However, someone might own one and if so M. McKeown, who lives at 1643 Chemekeeta St., Salem, would like to hear about it.

**FIRST GREEN THUMB**—Who had it? That's a question M. L. Mully of Columbus, Ohio, would like to know. Says he has looked through everything he knows of and can find no "origin" to the Green Thumb. "All I have succeeded in learning is that everyone knows the significance of the Green Thumb but no one seems to know where it originated. Horticultural authorities just scratch their heads to offer widely different explanations. Ordinary people say they've heard their parents and grandparents use the term. Many think it goes back hundreds of years. Yet the earliest mention of the Green Thumb that I have found dates back only to 1925."

Mully also wants to know the author of this familiar little verse:

*"Denied are the secrets of soil, seed and weather,  
To thousands who struggle to put them together.  
But, certain as morning, success seems to come  
To those chosen people who have a green thumb."*

Can anyone help me out? We don't want to let Ohio down, do we?

**ALWAYS PRUNING TIME**—Climbing roses and spring flowering shrubs are not alone about needing pruning attention during summer. Some of the shade trees also need pruning. Either on the property or along the sidewalk, some may have branches hanging so low that even when not wet like they have been much of this late spring and early summer (like they have been much of this late spring and early summer) they hit passers-by, or yourself when you mow the lawn beneath them. In other trees there may be dead limbs which show up better in summer than in winter when all the branches are leafless. It does no harm to saw off such limbs providing the cut is flush with the trunk and is covered at once with tree-wound paint.

**SUMMER FRAGRANCE**—The air is filled with good smells in the garden during the summer, and there are no better ones, to my way of thinking, than the heliotrope. There are so many little greenhouses around on home property, now, and as heliotrope plants are becoming more and more difficult to find, some encouragement to growing cuttings of these should be given.

Cuttings taken in August or late July root easily and the small plants may be kept in the greenhouse (or even indoors, for that matter) until next spring. Growing a few heliotrope plants from seed is also interesting. Heliotropes bloom freely all summer and into autumn or until frost hits them. Every year I have some growing in my garden just for the fragrance of them—especially toward night of a warm day. They take quite a bit of sun throughout the day.

While heliotrope has remained much the same since the proverbial far-off "Grandmother's Day," there is a newer variety now, Purple Prince, with unusually dark purple blooms. This is also listed as a very free bloomer.

**IVY GERANIUM**—This is one plant that seems to thrive best on lack of attention. Too much attention may make it pouty, and refuse to perform properly.

Also there's a good range of color to work with. Ivy geranium is usually available in flats in colors from red and pink through lavender, purple and white. It is wise to keep your ivy geranium trimmed regularly to induce short bushy plants and new flowering wood.

**ON FUCHSIAS**—Are you watching yours this summer? It's been pretty good fuchsia weather, anyway, so far. They are a plant for the half shade. If situated in a full shade area, they tend to become leggy.

If planted in the full sun, they become bronzed, stunted and produce a profusion of small flowers.

An ideal situation, of course, is the east side of a building where they will receive morning sun.

There are many new ones and at a recent meeting of the Oregon Fuchsia society members, some of the better 1954 introductions were named to include:

Alice, a single apple blossom pink and light pink, one of Mrs. York's introductions. It's an entirely different fuchsia in that it is a small pot plant. Never grows over one foot high.

Pink Fairy, a Waltz hybrid, in a medium height with large double pink blooms. Said to be a very showy pot plant, valuable for exhibition.

Blue Waves, a tall grower in deep double violet-and-rose. Pink Mairy, a Waltz hybrid, in a medium with large Avalanche, hybridized by Schnabel, is a white double semi-trailer which is whiter in warm weather.

Sleigh Bells, another Schnabel product, is a medium height, shade lover, single white. The corolla forms into perfect bells.

Boudoir, a Reiter hybrid, in a pale blue and cream double, a low-growth bush type.

Tumbling Waters, also a Reiter, is a double large purple and red with the corolla in a frilly purple puff. It's a true cascade type trailer.

## Wood Preservative Advised

Oregonians need to use wood preservatives even in building small buildings, porches, trellises, outdoor benches. Why? Because preservatives do three important things: Seals pores, thus keeping

out moisture; keeps fungus growth, which causes decay from growing; and saturates wood with a chemical that doesn't appeal to saw bugs or termites.

Where color and odor make no difference, creosote is still one of the best preservatives, and cost is around \$1 a gallon.

Among the new preservatives which are colorless and odorless, or green in color, include Copper Naphenate and Pentachlorophenol. The former is green in color and imparts that color to the treated wood.

Some lumber now on the market is treated with a preservative before put out for sale. Usually this bears a marking to that effect.

## Things to Do

Water as infrequently as possible so that roots drive down deep to keep the plants supplied with moisture. Soak a lawn or trees and plants to a 12-inch depth—certainly no less than eight inches, or they'll die out while you're on vacation.

Do not water right around the trunk of a tree or stem of a plant. You encourage rot and disease this way. There are no roots to water. Instead flood the area six inches to a foot from the trunk or stem (depending on the size of the plant) on out just beyond the end of the branches.

Watch your gladioli for thrip. Dusts and sprays on the market will give excellent control.

Keep withering pansies picked off to induce further bloom. The same holds true for sweet peas.

Watch your roses carefully, cutting off dying bloom. Make it a light summer pruning by cutting back six to eight inches, depending on the type. You'll get better fall bloom this way.

Don't irrigate roses after 4 p.m. or you'll be encouraging black spot and mildew.

The United States had a record 2,291,000 marriages in 1946.

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## Home Workshop

### Short, Tall, Contour Chair Fits Them All



Garden 2-col outlines with 2-36-2 Short, Tall (no overline) Actress Dorothy Martinson, recently voted "Miss Most Beautiful Legs in Hollywood" poses in Bill Baker's new make-it-yourself contour lawn chair. The chair is a companion piece to Baker's contour chaise lounge.

**BILL BAKER**  
Furniture Designer  
"Ah, this is the life. Nothing anyone can say will bother me. I'm too relaxed and too content to let the cares of the world disturb me now. If this isn't sheer bliss, I don't know what is."

That speech was made by a famous motion picture star when he first settled into a custom-built contour lawn chair that I designed at his request.

And you'll make a speech something like it, too, when you build this chair for yourself and try it out, for I am making the design available to you in my extra-simple pattern number 123.

This contour lounge chair has home features that you won't find in any readymade garden chair.

First, the chair follows the contours of the body. No matter if you are short or tall, you'll find that this chair is right for you. Using the typical contour makes it ideal for all.

Smoothly rounded slates form the seating area. They are scientifically placed, making it possible to move it from one position to another with little effort.

Sturdy arms add to the sleek lines. The chair is solid. You won't have to worry about sag which is

noticeable after one season in many outdoor pieces. Yet while the chair is sturdy as a rock, it is still as comfortable as a feather bed.

When you receive the contour lounge lawn chair pattern you'll be surprised at how easy it will be to bring it from raw wood to finished product. The construction principles are so simple that even the novice woodworker will have no trouble with it.

Exact-size paper pattern pieces will let you trace out the design cut and assemble with no problems.

Included with the pattern will be a list of suggested materials, detailed easy-to-understand directions, plus suggestions for painting or varnishing.

ad to 2-36-2-Short, Tall-garden. Get your pattern for the Contour Lawn Chair by sending one dollar (\$1) in either check, cash or money order to Bill Baker, Salem, Oregon, Statesman, P.O. Box 1111, Los Angeles 33, California. Be sure to include your name and address (clearly printed). And remember to ask for Pattern Number 123. Full available is . . . Contour Chaise Lounge, pattern 116, priced also at \$1. The two pieces are matched.

## Garden Calendar . . .

- July 24-25 — National Gladiolus Society Show, U. S. Botanic Garden, Washington, D. C.
- July 24-25—Fifth annual Garden by the Sea Show, Nehalem Bay Garden Club. Open Saturday 2 to 8 p.m.; Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m.
- July 29-31 — Vancouver, B. C., Horticulture Society Begonia Show, Hudson Bay Company Auditorium, 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- July 31-Aug. 1—Annual mid-summer shade plant show, sponsored by California Fuchsia Society, South Ingwood, Calif.
- July 31-Aug. 1—Yakima Gladiolus Show.
- Aug. 4-5—Vancouver, B. C., Gladiolus Show.
- Aug. 5-7—Victoria, B. C. Show.
- Aug. 6-7—Annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show, Hayward, Calif.
- Aug. 6—Annual Strawberry Industry banquet, Multnomah Hotel, Portland.
- Aug. 6-7—Annual Oregon Fuchsia Society Show, Meier & Frank auditorium. Free admission.
- Aug. 7-8—Oregon State Gladiolus Show, Canby.

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## Lots of Lilies Grow in Our Valley



The lily bulb industry is widespread in Oregon now and many fields such as this are a common sight during the summer. A number of Willamette Valley lily growers are attending the National Lily convention in Seattle this week-end.

## Answers to Garden Questions

**Question**—What makes geranium leaves have round spots on leaves and then turn yellow, wither and fall off? Have had two geranium plants in porch box act that way. D. D.

**Answer**—Leaf spot. Pick off and burn infected leaves. Give plants plenty of air circulation. Crowding brings on the disease. Don't overwater, particularly on cloudy and damp days. Dust with Bordeaux, digging just a little into the soil around the plant.

**Questions**—What is wrong with enclosed rose leaves. Lots of yellow ones like this on bush. Bush was wedding anniversary gift and don't want to lose. New subscriber to your paper so if you answered this before, we missed it. Hope you won't mind repeating. Don't intend to miss any of answers in future. F. W.

**Answer**—Black spot, one of our worst rose troubles here. You don't say what variety of rose. Some types are much worse than others. Some lose all their foliage, and then put out another set, but this weakens bushes. While sanitation in picking up and burning the leaves affected, is helpful, it does not take the place of routine spraying or dusting.

As there are hundreds of combination sprays and dusts on the market under trade names, it is just as well to get one of these and control all diseases and insects at the same time. One of the better sprays includes ammoniacal copper, fermetate, lead arsenate pyrethrum and rotenone. This one is a little more efficient than some and does not disfigure blooms. However, the old Massey dust of dusting sulphur and lead arsenate will also do the work.

**Question**—Have some grape hyacinths that must be moved. Will I kill them if I move them now?

Would like to get some more. Are there any pink ones?—N.O.T.

**Answer**—They should be moved down, but you won't kill them by moving them now. Could you just lift them and set them down in another part of the garden to ripen off before dividing them? I don't know of any pink one, but there are whites ones and various shades of blue from a light forget-me-not to a real deep blue. Azure Hyacinth come early, and Heavenly Blue, late.

**Question**—Need something to plant in a north facing. It doesn't have to bloom all the time, but would like a little bloom in the spring. Green plants are all right for summer. House is new. But this little stretch worries me.—W.J.

**Answer**—You don't say how big a spot. Are rhododendrons and azaleas too large? How about ferns? Lily-of-the-valley? Bleeding-heart? Kerria? Calla lilies? Pansies? There is quite a variety of things to use in this location. Work the soil loose, and keep it from packing. Incorporate considerable leaf mold.

**Question**—Bark on my red bud and on my flowering plum tree has split up and down. Some of the inner wood is exposed. What cause? Y.M.

**Answer**—This may be due to a disease. Also, it may be due to a weather condition. Sometimes if trees are kept growing too late in fall by heavy watering and late fertilizing, this splitting will result

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## Cherry Tests May Tap New Fresh Market

Fumigating cherries to kill cherry fruit fly larvae and pupae may open a new market for Oregon-grown Bing and Lambert cherries.

That's the prediction of S. C. Jones, Oregon State College entomologist.

Cherries for the fresh market cannot be shipped into cherry fly-free states such as California. Jones figured that if his fumigating tests showed that all of the fruit fly's larvae and pupae were killed, commercial interests might ship the popular cherries to the untapped California fresh market.

In fumigating tests last year, he killed 100 per cent of the fly larvae and pupae. The entomologist found that ethylene dibromide gas—about 1/2 pound of liquid fumigant per 1,000 cubic feet—killed all of the pupae and larvae. He fumigated for two hours.

Taste tests of fumigated cherries showed there was a slight flavor change four days after fumigation, but the tests also indicated flavor changes lessened each day after fumigation. This year Jones is testing the fumigant's killing power on fruit fly eggs, and probably will carry out more complete taste tests.

Practical refrigerator-car fumigating methods on a commercial scale have yet to be worked out, Jones reports. When they are, he predicts a new market for Oregon-grown fresh cherries.

**GRAIN INVESTIGATION ON**  
Investigators for the Department of Agriculture are quietly moving into the major grain markets to check on companies suspected of attempting to manipulate prices to their own advantage, say extension agents. Auditors will check the books of companies whose activities "come under suspicion."

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