

Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

Don't Let Storms Postpone Garden Planning; Purchase Begonias Now

Get 'Em Up and Doing—Somehow this weather of the past week hasn't been conducive to gardening—not even to garden thinking. But unless some of the latter is done now, you just aren't going to be ready for the great outdoors when that time rolls around.

You may not feel like garden shopping, even, but unless you are the kind of gardener who, when May comes whizzing by, just drops in to a florist or greenhouse and looks about very briefly before beginning: "I'll take that one,—and that one, and that yellow one over there . . . while you plunk down \$10 or \$15 without thought, you'd best be shopping now for your tuberous begonias.

The tubers (and of gloxiana, too) are now available in any garden stores, that have a right to call themselves that. Pick out the smooth, firm tubers. The idea now, is not to plant them at once but put them right side up in a shoebox top. Sprinkle lightly with water a couple times a week, keep them in a temperature around 60, and give them plenty of light. After the growth buds begin to show signs of life, is the time you plant them. Planting soil could be a mixture of old leafmold, fairly well decomposed, and barnyard manure in equal proportions, to which some coarse building sand has been added.

Even Cheaper—Even a cheaper method of planting tuberous begonias is by seed. Put an inch of drainage material in the bottom of your seed flat. Sift a mixture of two parts leaf mold and one part peat moss through a coarse screen, and on top of this spread a finer mixture. Water thoroughly and when well drained, plant seed as thinly as possible and cover with a window pane. Spread a newspaper over this to keep the light out. Keep the temperature around 60 degrees and when signs of drying out are noticeable, place the whole in a container of lukewarm water. Remove when surface shows moisture. When germination gets underway, take off the paper and lift the edge of the glass to give a little ventilation. Don't take the glass off entirely until the seeds are well sprouted.

A Rose By Any Other Name—Roses, no matter what they are called, will always be one of the top attractions in a garden. This new one, originated by Francis Meiland of France, and introduced this spring by Conrad-Pyle Co., is Grand-Mere Jenny. It is a dainty, graceful rose of soft pink and gold—just as the name would imply. It is a seedling of Peace and the coloring is somewhat similar. This has a larger area of pink on each outer petal. The buds are a little more slender and pointed, but it opens just as beautifully as does Peace. You'll recall that the beauty of the full-blown Peace is one of its assets. Jenny grows upright and is well branched. It has already received gold medals from the National Rose Society of England and the French Horticultural Society.

Better Be Thinking About 'Mums—It takes some early thinking about the new 'mums to get them ready for planting this spring. They have to be ordered, you know. Those new large flowered Cushion types are attracting considerable attention. There's Lilac Star, a very showy, pinkish lilac coloring with large, stiff pointed petals that stand bad weather rather well. The blooms are very double and will eventually open wide to show brilliant, deep gold centers. This one comes into full bloom early in the season.

There are four other "Stars" which are in for some popularity this spring. Gold Star, Marion Star, Moonlight Star, and Star Frost. The latter gets its name from the outer petals, a contrast to the deep rose-pink center. The others are long, broad and a bright frosty pink.

Garden Chrysanthemums have come a long way in the last 25 years, and this latest step is an especially interesting one. More than 20 years of chrysanthemum breeding work has gone into the cushion type alone. The plants make broad, low mounds, 13 to 15 inches high at the centers and 30 to 35 inches across. Individual blooms run from 2 to 3½ inches across, grow in clusters and cover the plant almost entirely with color.

These 'mums need the same good soil, sunny situation, food, water and pinching back which chrysanthemums require and are not to be dissuaded. One of the most common mistakes is to not need to be tied up.

RECIPE GIVEN—Furniture polish can be made by mixing thoroughly 1 cup of turpentine, 1 cup of raw linseed oil and 1 tablespoon vinegar. Use a little on a soft cloth for polishing varnished or shellacked surfaces.



One of the new type garden chrysanthemums, the large-flowered cushion Lilac Star, is just coming into full bloom. When in full bloom the whole plant becomes one solid mound of color.



Grand-Mere-Jenny is one of the new roses to be introduced this year. This seedling of the ever popular Peace, has a somewhat more slender bud, but is more pink. It opens with the same fine form, however, that characterizes Peace.

New Plant Food Holds Promise

Gardeners are showing considerable interest in the announcement about the new lawn fertilizer, Golden Vigoro, which will be available this spring for the first time.

The manufacturer makes two important claims for this product: 1—It is non-burning no matter what the weather and grass conditions are, when used according to directions, three pounds per 100 square feet; 2—A single application will carry the lawn through the summer. Nitrogen in the new mixture, it is claimed, will be released slowly over a 14-week period making it unnecessary for a number of applications a few weeks apart.

Extension Unit Changes Topic

The Home Extension meeting, "Color, Clothes and You," which was originally scheduled for which home extension units in February, is to be postponed. Mrs. Bea Humphries, who had planned to prepare this meeting is unable to because of the continued illness of her mother.

Instead of the "Color, Clothes and You" meeting all units will have "Vegetables, Attractive, Nutritious and Delicious". Leaders for this are to be selected at the January unit meetings, and February will have an all day meeting instead of the half day.

Early Names Of Interest To Zoologist

Dr. Kenneth Gordon, Oregon State College zoology professor, is taking an avid interest in the historical names used in taxonomy, the naming and cubbyholing of plants and animals in scientific classifications.

Lewis and Clark, and other early explorers, collected natural history specimens on expeditions and sent them to museums and scientists for identification. The scientists, in turn, often named the plants and animals after the finder.

In the animal kingdom, the Lewis Woodpecker and the Clark Nutcracker, the latter of which is found high in the mountains near Crater Lake, were named after the explorer team.

Lewisia, the bitterroot found in the Bitterroot Mountains in Montana, was named after Lewis. Two sub-species of salmon—Lewisii and Clarkii—were also named for the two great explorers.

David Douglas, an Englishman who visited Oregon in the 1830's, probably should be one of the best remembered persons in Oregon. He's the namesake of Douglas fir.

John C. Fremont, an army officer who headed a government expedition into the Rockies, Oregon and California in the 1840's, is commemorated by Fremont's pine squirrel.

New Herbicide Kills Crabgrass

A close relative of 2, 4-D, known as Crag Herbicide No. 1, which did some selective weed controlling in established vegetable gardens, has been tested thoroughly as a control for one of the most stubborn of all lawn weeds, crabgrass.

Four applications, about a month apart, are said to give excellent control of crabgrass in other grass lawns. Applications should be made between April 15 and May 15. It may be applied with a hose applicator or with a sprinkling can. "The thing is to get it on in a very uniform coating of the diluted spray. It is an exacting job and the directions of the manufacturer must be followed to the letter for good results. But the patience is repaid.

is commemorated by Fremont's pine squirrel.

Naturalist Thomas Nuttall, botanist with Nathaniel Wyeth in Oregon in the early 1830's, had the common Oregon dogwood, Cornus Nuttallii, designated for him.



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Scratches on Furniture Can Be Removed

Avoid scratches on furniture by using care to prevent them. Always use small pads under vases and other accessories placed on tables, mantles, chests, pianos, and so on. Felt or molskin glued to the bottom of such pieces will help eliminate scratches. A coat of wax also acts as a protection when scratches are not deep.

Removing Light Scratches
Light scratches may be made less noticeable by rubbing them with a little linseed oil furniture polish or liquid wax.

Another method is to rub the scratch with a commercial scratch remover, selecting one that matches the color of the finish.

For scratches on natural-colored woods that have not been stained (mahogany, walnut, cherry and oak) rub with the cut end of an oily nut meat such as a pecan or walnut.

Treating Deeper Scratches
Filling the scratch on walnut or light mahogany stains with iodine may give sufficient color. Potassium permanganate solution (a few crystals of potassium permanganate to 1 teaspoon of water) may be used to touch up mahogany. Apply with a toothpick or small brush.

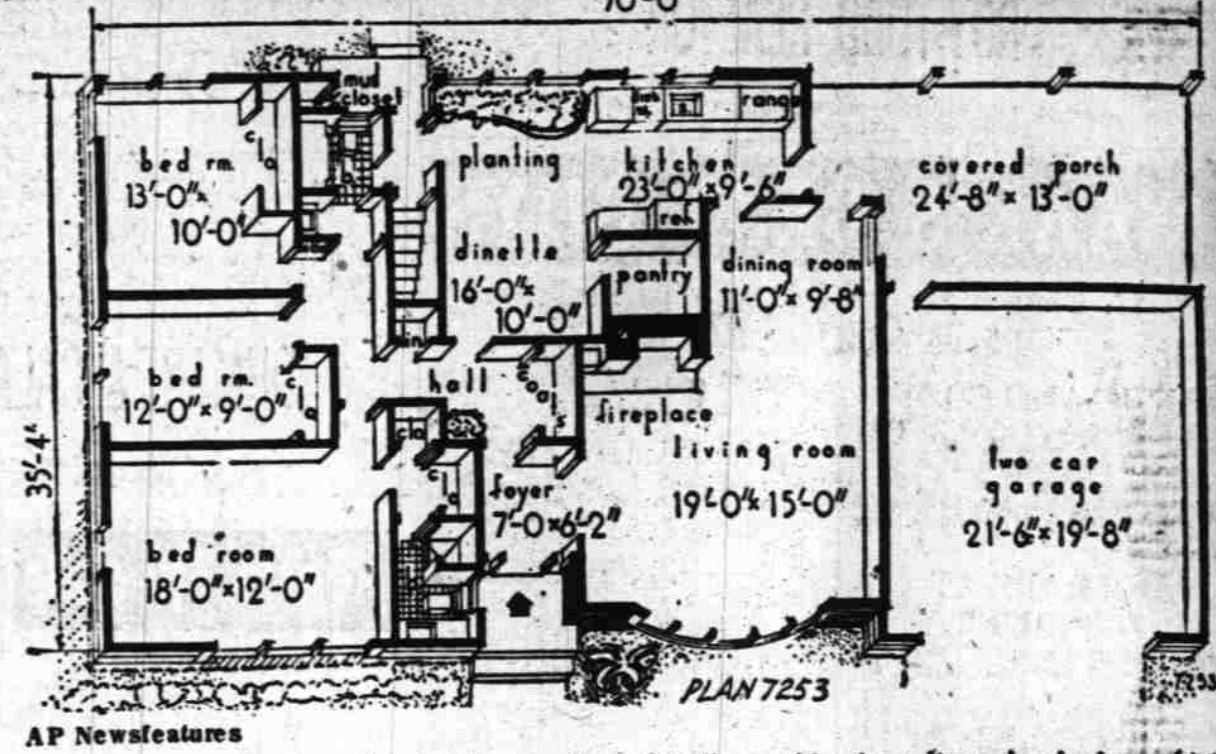
Still another method to blot out moderately deep scratches, is to apply a matching oil stain to the scratch. Use a very small brush or a toothpick tipped with cotton to apply the stain. Wipe off the surface and let dry for 2 hours. Then apply one or more coats to more than fill the crack with the same kind of finish material as used originally. Allow this material to dry completely, and then rub the spot with powdered pumice stone and oil (paraffin, linseed, sewing machine or thin mineral oil may be used) until it is very smooth. Clean off the pumice and oil, and give the entire surface a coat of wax or furniture polish. Rub down well.

Fill With Shellac
First apply a matching stain as suggested for moderately deep scratches. The stain may be slightly darker than the original one, as it may become lighter in the refinishing process. Now fill the groove with white shellac. A mixture of half denatured alcohol and half white shellac may be preferred. Any surplus is wiped off and the filling allowed to dry thoroughly. If it leaves a rough spot when dried, work down with powdered pumice and oil. Wipe the wood clean and finish the entire surface with wax or furniture polish.

Another method is to fill the groove with stick shellac or a color shade that matches the original finish. Fill the damaged area slightly above the wood surface. Rub down as above or with a fine steel wool pad dipped in a thick paste of powdered rottenstone and paraffin oil. Rub until the filled area is even with the entire surface. Clean and polish as desired.

Gouges may be filled with plastic wood which has been stained to a matching color. When set, this is smoothed down with No. 80 sandpaper dipped in oil. Go over the surface with pumice and oil, clean, then finish with wax or furniture polish. Drawer-pulls which have become loosened, may be made tight by removing the pull and filling the hole with plastic wood. Replace the pull and its screw and allow it to dry several hours before using.

HOMES FOR AMERICANS



AP Newsfeatures
HOW TO READ a floor plan is illustrated graphically in this three-dimensional plan, which virtually shows the house as you would look down with the roof removed. You can imagine walking in the front door and visualize every turn you would make in passing from room to room. This three-bedroom, two-bathroom house with basement and two-car garage was designed by Herman H. York, architect, 90-04 161st St., Jamaica 2, N.Y. as his plan 7253. The house covers 1,675 square feet, without porch and garage.

Answers to Garden Questions

Question—A friend of ours sent a story you wrote on your vacation about Wickenburg. We were living in Portland then. Have since moved to Salem and are now subscribers. We used to live in Phoenix, Ariz., and then we went to The Gold Rush Days and also took the annual Desert Caballeros Ride. We've lost touch and don't know now when these events are coming off. We are going to Arizona this spring and would like to plan it for one of these events. Would you, by chance, know or be able to find out the dates for these? New Reader.

Answer—The Gold Rush Days at Wickenburg Jan. 28-30. The Desert Caballeros Ride leaves Wickenburg for its 130-mile desert trek April 4 and will be out five days. Enjoyed your chatty note very much. If you make either event would you please drop me another note? Understand some of the West's best known horsemen make the Ride.

Question—Could you tell us if there are any good skiing places near Vancouver, B.C.? We are going up in that region on business—that is we are accompanying someone going on business and want to take our skis along if any use. Wrote Vancouver, Chamber of Commerce but got no reply. Would you please hurry our answer? O.D.R.

Answer—Found there are three noted ski places near Vancouver: Hollyburn Ridge, Grouse Mountain and Westlake Lodge. Understand there are chair lifts and all, at Grouse Mountain.

Question—Please send me the name of grower of Black Vesuvius Geraniums. Also where to get seed of Christmas Rose. K.W.

Answer—Please send me a self-addressed envelope for reply.

Question—Can you tell me what this plant is? I enclosed the two leaves in hopes you can identify them. I see this plant in so many homes and no one seems to know the name. I like it very much. Is it difficult to grow? J.A.

Answer—This is the "Prayer Plant" or Maranta. Some even call it "Ten Commandment" plant, because most of the leaves are supposed to carry 10 of the spots on the leaves. Then there are others who call it the leopard plant. However, in print, it's Maranta or Prayer Plant.

It grows very easily, slowly and is a native of South America. For best culture it likes the atmosphere of the jungle: High humidity. It doesn't like direct sun as well as shade.

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