

Questions -- Answers

Question—Why is river sand supposed to be less good than the sharp builders sand? I notice in everything you advise the sharp sand. Is it because it costs something? Are garden editors paid by companies like that? Truly, I'm not being sarcastic. Just want to know. C.H.B.

Answer—Sharp sand continues to move and work itself in around plants, and—in case of being used on lawns—around the grass-roots. River sand has a tendency to pack. I do not recommend sharp sand over river sand for everything, but there are times when it is preferable. I have had very good luck with beach sand around ferns, and many other plants. It is very good used where garden slugs travel a lot. Garden editors are paid by the newspapers which employ them, certainly not by garden supply companies.

Tennessee City Plans Smelly Tourist Event

By BILL RAWLINS
 COSBY, Tenn. (AP) — This moonshine capital of Tennessee wants to grow up to be a tourist center. So it figured out a pretty smelly way to do it.

Come the weekend of April 23, the Festival of the Ramps will get underway.

To explain to the uninitiated: A ramp is first cousin to the lily of the valley. It smells roughly like a cross between an onion and a garlic plant, liberally seasoned with vinegar. Some folks in these parts regard it as a great delicacy; the rest eat it in self-defense.

You might think the ramp would drive away more tourists than it would attract, but the first ramp held last year drew a crowd of 20,000. With Harry S. Truman as an added attraction, 50,000 are expected this year.

This is quite a throng for a community that is nothing more than a country store and a post office, run by one of the few Democrats around, Mrs. Glennie Kate Harrison.

No Grades
 Cosby is known as a bastion of Old Guard Republicanism, and Truman polled only 20 out of 400 votes cast for President in 1948. But there are no grudges on either side, and the former President will be the festival's main speaker and receive a 21-gun salute.

The festival is largely the achievement of David R. Large, who retired to his native Cosby two years ago after 25 years in the federal prison service.

"Wherever I went in the prison service," Large says, "I had somebody in from Cosby, for moonshining. They didn't moonshine because they wanted to, but because their farms weren't large enough to support a family."

"If they were in jail, their families often were better off financially—on relief."

This didn't look to Large like a very good basis for a prosperous future.

Grow Wild
 When Large was elected president of Cosby's Ruritan Club, he began casting around for ideas. He thought of ramps — allium tricoecum to botanists — which grow wild above the 3,000 foot level and are gathered in by the mountaineers about the middle of April each year. The idea of the Ramp Festival followed.

Truman will speak on Sunday, April 24. The night before, a play written by Cosby's Delmar Baxter in the hill country dialect and depicting the Cosby story will be presented by local actors.

On the big day 25 acres of green Smoky Mountains foothills are reserved for the festival crowd. One hundred State Highway Patrolmen are expected to be on hand to handle traffic.

The festival is free, but proceeds from a feed of barbecued chicken and ramps cooked with fatback will be kept by the Ruritan Club for civic development. Visitors are expected to lunt up their own moonshine.

From such a beginning Cosby hopes to emerge as a tourist center. It has rough competition. Gatlinburg, headquarters of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, is only 17 miles away.

One study of school children showed that none of the group with normal vision failed in their studies, but that 37 per cent of those who had visual troubles failed.

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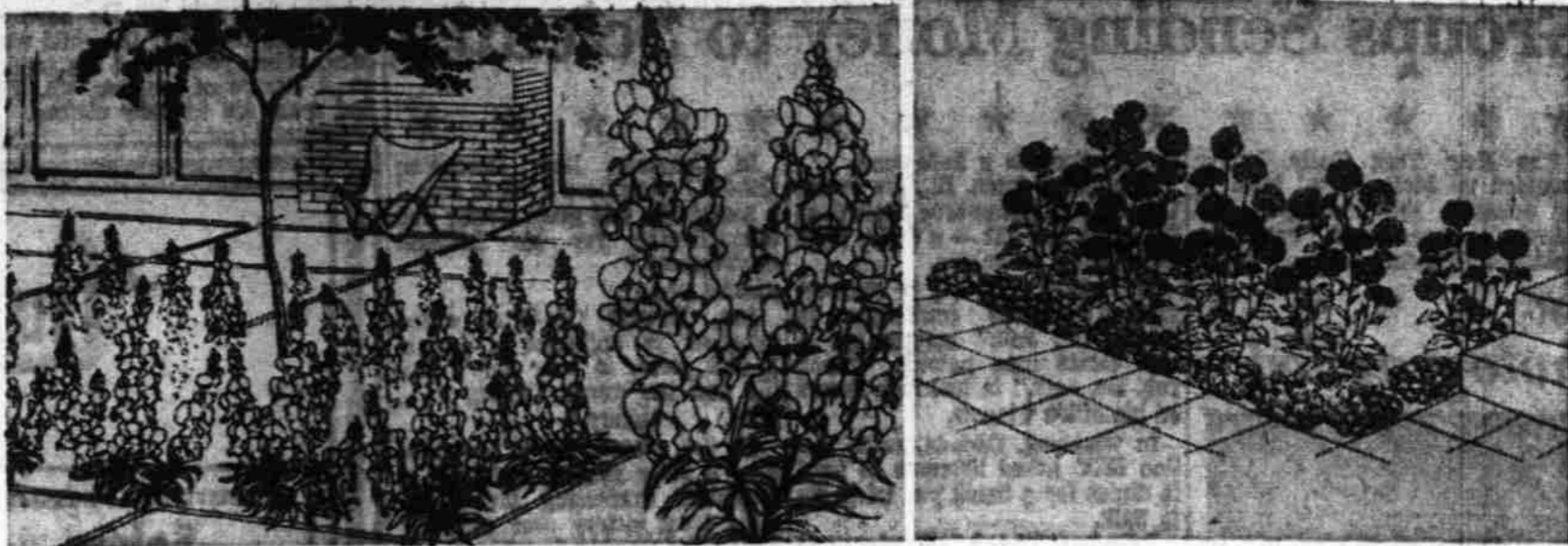
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Many Annuals 'Designed' for Areas Around New Trees



Snapdragons (left) do well in mass planting and are good plants to use around a newly planted tree as they tolerate filtered shade. Powderpuffs (right), a small-growing aster, are a "find" for summer color along the walk of a newly constructed house. Here they are shown edged with lobelia.

Quick Color For New Home Easy to Get

The easiest way to get quick color around a new home is with annual flowering plants, whether you buy these or plant them from seed. Even established gardens should always save plenty of garden space for nothing but annuals.

One of the problems of new home owners is generally the rubble left by the builders and thoughtfully covered over with enough dirt so that you don't know it's there until you turn over your first shovelful of soil. Quite often the rubble contains plaster left from the final plastering of the house and since this is mostly lime, only certain plants will do well there.

Unless you have removed sufficient soil, and replaced this with a good soil free from any trace of lime, don't plant rhododendrons, azaleas or camellias. If you want color this first summer, try stocks or wallflowers. The dianthus of the species commonly called "China Pinks" or "Japan Pinks," give a long-lasting blooming period, and amaranthus a good big, quick growth. Some, such as Love Lies Bleeding or Fountain Plant, grow six feet tall and are good summer screen plants.

Flowers for Poor Soil
 Oftentimes, in new construction, the topsoil has been moved around so that you have poor spots. In these try sweet alyssum, like Royal Carpet; cosmos, nasturtiums, portulaca or moss rose, and celosias like the 1955 All American Winner, Toreador Celosia, which will give you brilliant scarlet bloom if you keep it well watered.

Snapdragons will flower in poor soil, although your results will be better if you feed each plant a teaspoon of balanced plant food after it is well established. These handsome plants look fine all by themselves in a mass planting and are especially good in the space you should allow around a new tree as they tolerate filtered shade.

Good sunny spots, such as right next to steps or a walk are good for asters, which come in so many sizes and shapes it's easy to find one that is just right. By far the largest flowers come from the Giants of California asters, while Queen of the Market is early and will provide many cut-flowers. Probably the best one for small gardens is the Powderpuffs aster which require only one square foot of space for each plant and you can cut 20 flowers per plant.

Rules to remember when planting annual flowers are: Prepare the surface carefully, getting your soil finely pulverized and moist before planting seeds. Keep your annuals in masses rather than "strung out"; they look better that way. Pick a spot that has at least six hours sun each day—eight is better.

The transfer outline was announced as the President made ready to send Congress a special message next week calling for about \$3,530,000,000 for weapons and economic aid for some 40-odd countries during the fiscal year starting July 1.

Of the total, around \$2,140,500,000 will go to step up such aid to non-Communist nations in Asia. The State Department all along has had policy supervision of the new plan it also will have super-

vising authority over actual operation of the economic aid phase of the program. Operational authority over the military aid aspects will remain with the Defense Department, which also will take over from the FOA certain other military details.

"I decided to do something to help out. I managed to get dates from student nurses in various hospitals near the campus." Russo charges no fees.

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New Weevil Control Said To Work Well

Longer life for Oregon berry plants and ornamentals now appears possible through control of strawberry root weevils which are among the state's most damaging insect pests.

New insecticides under test at the Oregon State college experiment station are winning the battle against root weevil larvae or "grubs" that feed on roots and crowns of strawberry, caneberry, mint and nursery plantings.

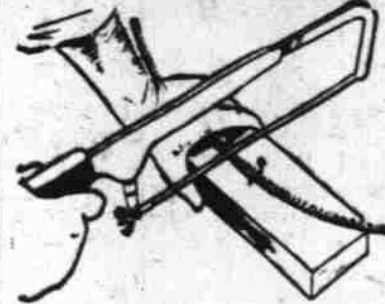
R. G. Rosenstiel, OSC research entomologist, developed the control program using soil treatments for new plantings and surface applications on established fields. Although the tests were conducted with strawberry plantings, the scientist says the findings will serve as a general guide in reducing damage to other plants.

Soil treatment is limited to new fields or garden plots before planting time, since the insecticide must be worked thoroughly into the top six inches of soil. Five to ten pounds of active ingredient per acre of either dieldrin or heptachlor gave best results in the OSC trials. Chlordane or aldrin at the same rates were less effective, but Rosenstiel says any of the treatments will give weevil control for at least three bearing years.

JAPANESE INCOMES
 TOKYO (AP) — The National Tax Board lists Toshio Iiue, president of Sanyo Electric Co., as having the highest 1954 income in Japan. He earned 113 million yen (\$275,000). No other Japanese reported earnings in excess of 100 million yen. In 1953 there were two. Fifty-one Japanese reported more than 20 million yen (\$55,000.)

Automobiles provide transportation for their jobs for 74 per cent of U. S. workers.

TOOL TIPS



AP Newsfeatures
ARMORED electrical cable can be cut easily with a hacksaw if you improvise a holder with a scrap of 2 by 4 and some nails as shown in this sketch. Practical Builder magazine says this jig will keep the saw from jumping and hanging up on the rough metal.

English Village Ruled By Six Grandmas

BISHOPS ITCHINGTON, England (AP) — This village of 1,100 is ruled by six grandmas — plus one man.

Mrs. Edith Chappie-Hyman, 56, became a grandmother to put her on a par with five other members of the village council. The sixth member is Frank Moore.

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