

Zinnia Rules as Nation's Favorite Garden Flower

A recent survey shows that 65 per cent of all gardeners who plant seeds, buy packets of zinnias, and usually they buy two packets, sometimes more. This seems to put the zinnia right on top as America's favorite summer annual, and indeed, who has a better right than this "Garden Cinderella?"

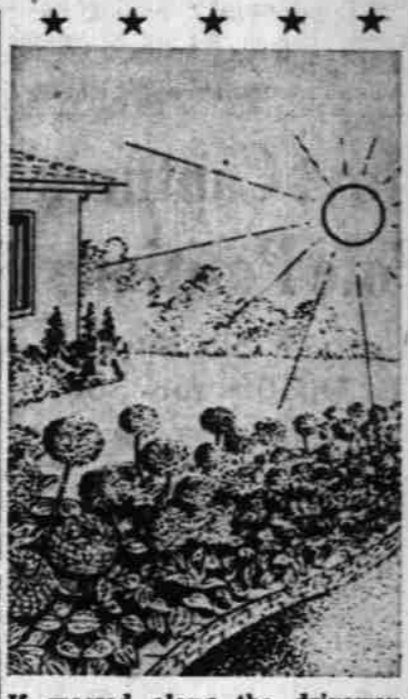
A zinnia as we know it today, is entirely different from the flower the Spanish explorers found in Mexico a hundred years ago—if you were to visit Mexico today you would probably never recognize the ragged purple flower growing on the upland plains. In the first place, our garden flowers are full doubles, with many rows of petals; a feature first developed by plant breeders in France in the last century. The Germans are credited with developing the modern plant shape—before then the zinnias generally grew three feet tall.

Rise in California
It was an American, however, who created the giant-flowered zinnia we grow today in our gardens. During World War I California became the flower-seed producing center of the world, and a specialist in zinnia seeds was a man called John Bodger. He selected from a field of cut-and-come-again zinnias one plant with extremely large flowers, and called it the Dahlia-flowered zinnia. From this point on the zinnia's meteoric rise to fame began, for the new flower was not only easy to grow, and produced many flowers, but the blooms took medals in every garden show in which they were entered. The Dah-

lia-flowered zinnia was almost perfectly suited to America's hot, dry summers, and it soon became the "best seller" of the seed gardening world.

Simple Rules
Growing big zinnias is so easy that you can start your seeds right now, even if you will be on vacation at that critical period when the flowers are just coming into bloom. There will be flowers galore awaiting you when you return, if you follow these simple rules:

1. Pick a spot with full sun at least 8 hours a day.
2. Sow your seeds in place, where you want the flowers to bloom. This is important, for zinnias do not like to be transplanted. Sow in moist soil, 1/4 inch deep.
3. Don't water your seedlings until they are 2 inches high, then irrigate, don't sprinkle, to avoid mildew.
4. Thin to 8 inches apart for mass display. Zinnias look best interlaced; never "string them out" in a line.



If massed along the driveway, zinnias give a bright, warm welcome to visitors.

Garden Calendar

- May 15—Rural Life and Soil Conservation Sunday.
- May 15—Rhododendron Show, Crystal Lake Springs' Island, Portland.
- May 21—Countryside Gardeners Flower Show, Aurora Legion Hall, 2 to 9 p.m.
- May 21-22—African Violet Show, 1390 S.W. Broadway, Portland, 2 to 9 p.m.
- May 27-28—Roseburg Garden Club Show, Episcopal Parish Hall, 1:30 to 10 p.m.
- May 30—Fleet of Flowers, DePoe Bay, 2 p.m.
- June 4—Turper Flower Show.
- June 4-5—Pacific Northwest Regional Iris meeting, Silverton and Canby. Saturday night banquet and business meeting, Silverton.
- June 8-12—Portland Rose Festival.
- June 9-11—Strawberry Festival, Lebanon.
- June 10-11—Portland Rose Show.
- June 11-12—Eugene Rose Show.
- June 11-12—Late Rhododendron Show, Crystal Springs Lake Island.
- June 12-14—American Iris Society convention, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
- June 14-15—Annual convention of Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs, Reed College, Portland.
- June 18-19—Salem Rose Society Annual Show, Izak Walton League building.
- June 30-July 1—Nehalem Bay Flower Show, Nehalem.
- Aug. 6-7—Portland Gladiolus Show.
- Aug. 17-18—Grants Pass Gladiolus Festival.
- Aug. 20-21—Grand Ronde Gladiolus Show, La Grande.
- Aug. 25-26—Folk County Flower Show, Rickreall Fairgrounds.
- Sept. 3-10—Oregon State Flower Show, Oregon State Fair, Salem.



It isn't too difficult to grow these big dahlia-flowered zinnias in your own garden. But to do so successfully, you have to follow the rules. Also you have to use good seed or plants grown from top quality seed. They are best if used in the mixed colors, all of which blend, one with the other. Zinnias will not do well in shade. They must have warm sunshine for most of the day.

Top Sweet Corn Flavor Lost Soon After Picking

Only the home gardener, who can sink teeth into an ear of sweet corn within an hour or less after it is picked, really knows the supreme tenderness and flavor of this American favorite.

Loss of flavor begins at the instant it is picked. Chilling can slow this down, but nothing can stop it, except popping the ear into boiling water as soon as possible, say from 5 minutes to half an hour after picking.

Varieties of sweet corn differ much in sweetness. When you find a variety that pleases you, the best way to enjoy it is to make several sowings, spaced so that they mature one after the other, prolonging the season.

Yield Figured
A patch of sweet corn in a space 15 feet square in normal weather should yield ten dozen ears. This is approximate, of course; each stalk bearing at least one ear, and some of them bearing two.

Hybrid sweet corn is gradually displacing open-pollinated varieties, though many home gardeners continue to grow the latter. The harvest season of a hybrid variety is usually shorter, while the ears are larger and the yield heavier. Most hybrid varieties are disease resistant, and more vigorous growers than open-pollinated kinds.

To maintain a continuous supply of one hybrid variety, more frequent sowings should be made. There are some advantages in

sowing at the same time several different varieties, of varying maturity dates, in order to produce a long harvest. This practice also extends the pollination period of the planting, and lessens the danger of failing to fertilize the silks, which may occur in unfavorable weather, when one hybrid variety is grown alone.

Sow in Short Rows
A sowing of sweet corn should be made in four short rows rather than in a single long row. This insures that when the pollen is ripe, a cross wind will carry it to the silk in the young ears of an adjoining row, rather than wasting it on the ground, as might be the case in a single row. Each silk must be fertilized by pollen, in order to produce a kernel, and many failures with corn are traceable to poor pollination.

Seed should be sown about two inches deep either in continuous drills or hills. In drills, sow three or four seeds to a foot, later to be thinned out to six inches apart for dwarf growing varieties or a foot apart for tall ones. Space the hills two to three feet apart in the rows, according to the size of the variety, and for both drills and hills, space the rows two to three feet apart.

Deep cultivation of corn must be avoided because the plants have shallow roots; but all weeds should be kept down and the soil stirred, to break its crust, until the plants are half grown.

SEED LETTUCE NOW
Lettuce seed germinates best in a soil temperature of 60 to 65 degrees. If necessary to sow when temperatures are higher, place the seed between moist cloths and store for several days on ice. Dry the surface of the seed before sowing.

Home Builder Should Avoid Monotony

Home builders have a warning from one of the nation's leading architects to avoid monotony of sameness in their new homes as the nation faces up to the task of building over a million new dwellings each year in the future.

It is easy to avoid row-house weariness, Ralph Walker, prominent New York architect, recently told a Washington audience. All over the nation designers are showing the stuff American ingenuity and imagination is made of as they adapt wood—the world's oldest building material—to modern needs.

Saying there will always be a "coming age of wood," Architect Walker pointed out that wood is being used, not alone for its efficiency, but more because of the lasting delights found in its varied patterns, in its fragrance, and in its rare functionalism.

Lumber leaders echo Walker's enthusiasm for wood by pointing out the great renaissance in wood in modern American home design. There is an increasing use of some of the lovely and incomparable soft-woods, like Douglas fir, west coast hemlock and western red cedar, throughout the home.

Designers are using the texture, grain, colorings and distinctive characteristics of these warm-toned softwoods more and more as the central design theme. No two pieces of wood are exactly alike and in this wide range of natural beauty, architects are finding the tremendously satisfying variety needed to give each home its own set of fingerprints and its own character.

Annual Linn County Tour Set May 24

Four livestock farms in the Holley, Sweet Home and Foster areas will be visited during the Linn County Livestock Association's pasture and livestock tour on May 24, says Jack Cochran, Brownsville, president.

The tour starts at 10 a.m. at the Jack Adams farm 1.3 miles up the Calapooia River from the Holley Bridge. Features at the Adams farm are hogs and beef cattle produced on 80 acres of pasture irrigated with a low pressure perforated pipe system. The farm annually markets 500 fat hogs. E. C. Murney is the farm manager.

The second tour stop is the Dan Ashton farm, also in the Holley area. Ashton specializes in commercial sheep. Of special interest here are non-irrigated hill pastures that have received special fertilization.

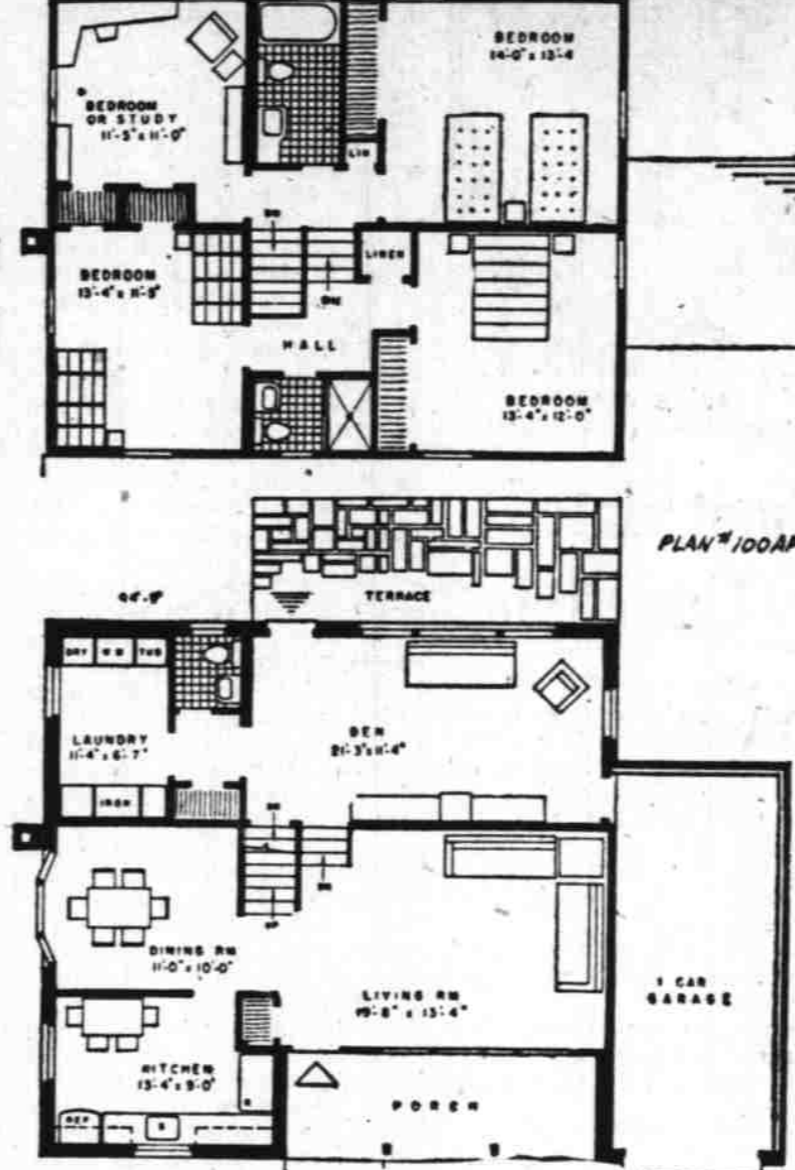
Farm ponds, a covered trench silo, a laminated rafter round-roofed barn, irrigated pastures, the use of sewage sludge as fertilizer, and beef cattle are highlights at the third stop which is the farm of L. B. Thompson and Sons. The farm is located one mile west of Sweet Home on the Holley Road.

The tour's final stop is the Arnold Harrang farm one and one-half miles east of Foster. Here visitors will see 51 steers being supplemented with grain. The irrigated pastures are utilized under the daily ration system of grazing. Harrang also has 150 head of commercial ewes on non-irrigated pastures. Of particular interest are the orange plants which consist of S-143 Orchard grass, Granger lotus, Parker lotus, New Zealand white clover, Rhizoma alfalfa, Tualatin outgrass, and Nan-gaela sub-clover.

Cochran says that all persons interested in pastures and livestock are invited to attend.

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HOMES FOR AMERICANS



AP Newsfeatures
TWO-STORY split level is the architect's description for this five-level house. It occupies as small an area as a cottage, yet contains nine rooms, two baths, extra lavatory, plus a basement utility room with work bench space and a spacious basement game room. You enter this house from a covered porch at the living room level. Four steps below is a den or all-purpose room with laundry and lavatory adjoining. Rear terrace opens from the den. Eight steps up from the living room are a study-bedroom, bathroom and master bedroom. Five steps up from this level are two more bedrooms and a bath with stall shower. This is Plan 100AP by Samuel Paul, architect, 89-51 164th St., Jamaica 32, N.Y. The house covers an area of only 1,050 square feet with 920 square feet on upper floors.

Door Designs Keep Up with Style Trends

An interesting new decorative trend has been started in homes built in the past three years, all because of a big industrial battle out west.

Most of the nation's Douglas fir wood doors are manufactured in Oregon and Washington. Most doors in the past have been so-called panel styled. But, in recent years flush door manufacturers stepped up their output and sales so that they nearly crowded the old panel manufacturers out of business.

Then, the fur started to fly. Douglas fir panel door makers put some of the nation's top designers to work, came up with some of the few major changes in door design in generations.

Now, from these western factories are coming a whole new line of panel doors: Some with picture mouldings, others with factory-finished color combinations, still others with fabric panels over the fir, some with louvers, and a fine new line of Dutch and restyled entrance doors.

This is all part of the new trend toward more wood, both inside and outside, in home construction. The new, bright, freshly-styled Douglas fir doors blend perfectly with door jambs of the same material and siding and exterior trim of fir, west coast hemlock or western red cedar.

Mink Almanac Prepared by Salem Rancher

Clarence W. Stacey, Salem fur farmer, has recently published "The Mink Rancher's Almanac" giving year-around information on mink farming.

In addition to "what goes on each month" at the mink ranch, Stacey does some describing of shows that he attended. Of the Milwaukee mink show he says that it "was like being at a fur style show, as you could recognize the ranchers' wives among the crowd, by the fine mink garments they were wearing."

Among the hints given in the almanac are included: "We let our pens down on the ground before whelping and cover the wire with coarse sawdust. Many of the kits are born outside the box and carried in. Therefore, it is important to have a floor that a small kit won't drop through. . . . We like to feed vitamin K oil during whelping, beginning about the same time the first litters arrive and continuing for about three weeks. . . . Always be sure that your feed is fresh when it goes out to the mink. There are heavy losses of mink reported each year in the United States from food poisoning."

Short lengths of garden hose, slit along one side and slipped over the step plate of a shovel or spading fork will provide a cushion for the gardener wearing thin-soled shoes.

Don't Like Moving

Flowers which do not like to be transplanted include annual poppies, salpiglossis, mignonette, annual phlox. If necessary to transplant them, the seedlings should be grown in small pots so they can be moved without disturbing their roots.

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Fertilizers Will Increase Yield In Corn Field

This is the tale of two corn growers. One will net only \$500 on 60 acres after paying all expenses. The other may net \$4,000-eight times as much.

One is Joe Average. Come corn-planting time in June, Joe will wheel out his planter and "just plant corn," the way he's always done. He'll grow 45 to 50 bushels per acre. That will pay him peanut wages, and leave a little dab for management.

The other character is Better Farmer. He knows he must plant and fertilize to go for his 100-bushel goal: He will plant 17,500 kernels per acre and put in up to \$30 or \$35 worth of fertilizer. Risky? Sure, but all farming's a risk. He's already "risked" over \$50 an acre without fertilizer. With a break in the weather he knows fertilizer and extra seed can run his net income up to \$3,000 or \$4,000 on 60 acres.

If man stopped tending corn, scientists believe it would vanish from the earth.

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