Budding Generally Accepted Method of Rose Propagation

By MARK M. TAYLOR

The mass production methods of the commercial rose grower that brings roses to you at reasonable cost are both interesting and rather simple. Roses may be propagated by budding, by slipping or by planting seeds. Many home gardeners prefer to increase their rose supply by taking and rooting cuttings, but results are not always too satisfactory. Many "own root" roses are weak or slow growing. Growing roses from seed is also a slow process. Budding is the generally accepted method of propagation. This is a form of grafting which has already been covered in this column. There is a difference, however.

Roses are usually budded onto wild root stocks, such as Ragged Robin, Shafter, Multiflora and Maretti. Budding is not a skilled operation but it does call for patience. Taking the "stick" slit the bark as low down on the base of the plant as is convenient. The slit is made in a T shape. The bark is opened at the cross of theT by a twist of the knife. The bud (that is the Scion) is cut from bud wood. In cutting the bud the cut is made very shallow so as to not include any of the hardwood beneath the bark. The "heel" of the bud will be oval shaped and can then be inserted in the opening in the T of the stock. Wrap the bud in place with a small strip of rubber to hold it securely in place. Water the plant immediately after budding to keep the sap rising. Two or three weeks will be necessary to see if the bud will live. All other branches that may start from the root stock should be removed so that all energy will enter the new bud. By Midsummer the new bud should bear flowers. Budding is usually done in each spring before the sap rises.

Now, permit us the use of a pun: If you don't want to be a grafter—why not be a budder, brother?

Plant Propagation By Cuttings

No other method of propagation appeals to the amateur gardener as does rooting cuttings. Cuttings are made from the terminal branches, from roots or from leaves.

First, let us consider softwood cuttings: Select growth that is strong on terminal shoots. The length of the cutting may vary from two to six inches, but should be long enough to have three leaves. Cut straight across with a clean, sharp knife. Make the cut at a node or just a little below where the growth is of the right maturity. Leaves at the base of the cutting are stripped off and the cutting immediately placed in sand. It is often advisable to dip the cut end in harmone powders available to facilitate growth of cuttings. Plant in flats, seed pans or pots. Cuttings may be set close together. Root in clean sharp mason sand or you can add peat moss to sand to help hold moisture. Firm the sand about the cuttings with a block of wood. Make holes for the cuttings first, don't just poke them into the sand as this might damage some of the plant tissue. Water thoroughly immediately after planting. Insure adequate moisture and humidity at all times by shading, syringing and watering. Rooting will be aided if sand temperature can be maintained at about 65 to 75 degrees.

Half hardwood cuttings can be rooted in a similar manner except that the temperature of the rooting medium and air must be higher. This includes roses, holly, laurel and other shrubs.

Leaf cuttings are used principally with gloxinias, Rex begonias, Paulowina and African violets. Use well matured leaves. Cut away the outside half to one inch of the leaves. Roots form where the veins are injured. Cut out small sections across the veins. Stake the leaf down to the flat of rooting medium with toothpick or small pegs. Continue as above. Transplant the cuttings as soon as the roots are a quarter to a half inch long.

You can progagate nearly all plants by cuttings. Try delphinium, chrysanthemums, Canterbury bells, gaillardia as well as most woody shrubs. Softwood cuttings should be taken in May through August.

Garden Notebook

By MARK TAYLOR

The magnolia is one of our first flowering trees to bloom in spring. Magnolias have long been considered a symbol of the deep south (particularly the old south inasmuch as the camellia is beginning to replace the magnolia in southern popularity). Right here in Oregon I have noticed many gardens in which the focal tree was a magnolia, so perhaps it is not a exclusive of southern gardens.

The Star Magnolia (Magnolia Stellata) is the hardiest of all magnolias and, hence, one of those most often seen outside of the deep south. The flowers have 12-18 petals and are very fragrant and nearly four inches in diameter. It has large, narrow, thick, dark green leaves that turn bronze in the fall. It is most often used as a shrub hereabouts, in a conspicuous place is it branches from the ground. It blooms in April, usually. There is also a variety, Rosea, with pale pink flowers.

Many magnolias have been brought to America from China, one of which is Magnolia Wilsoni. It bears cup shaped, fragrant flowers six inches in diameter.

Magnolia Soulangeana (often called Tulip Tree, which it is not) is the magnolia most frequently seen in this area. It has large tulip-like flowers, creamy white inside with purplish to rose cast to reverse of petals.

Magnolia Virginiana (Southern Sweet Bay) flowers are heavy and very profuse. This prefers a moist location. It has waxy, white flowers in June heavily perfumed.

Magnolia Acuminata (Cucumber Tree) is popular as a lawn tree in Southern gardens. It has yellowish flowers with petals about three inches long followed by fruit that is long and narrow, resembling a cucumber.

Magnolia Cordata is fairly rare. It is an extremely attractive ornamental tree with pure yellow flowers.

Magnolia Grandiflora (Southern Magnolia) is well known as the evergreen magnolia and is part of many legends of the South. It is almost a solid pyramidal mass of big, glossy, dark green leaves. It has very large and pure white flowers.

Questions Answered

Question — What is the right time to take chrysanthemum cuttings? — Mrs. S. C.

Answer — I have always followed the practice of taking cuttings in March.

Question — I have a camellia that has never bloomed. It has no buds this spring. What is wrong? — N. L.

Answer — Probably it is a variety that blooms late in life. Some varieties must be as much as 10 years old before they have been known to bloom. Oftentimes grafting to a vigorous rootstock will force blooming.

Question — I have an 8 foot rhododendron, can I move this successfully? — L. T.

Answer — Yes, this can be done but I do not envy you the task and would suggest that you have a professional do the job or you may lose a valuable plant.

Question — I want to add a good white rose to my rose garden this spring. What would you suggest? — Mrs. N. E.

Answer — Most authorities rate Frau Karl Druschki to be the best white rose yet created. Personally, I do not agree. It is a rank grower and unless pruned constantly will send out long untidy shoots. The color is a pure white but a profusion of buds makes a chore of disbudding if anything near a perfect bloom is to be produced. In addition it is exceptionally thorny.

Innocence is a good white single rose. It has broad petals surrounding a colorful cluster of stamens. It has beautiful, pointed buds pale apricot colored.

McCredy's Ivory, while not a pure white, is a constant winner in flower shows. It has good substance of leaf and flower.

Question — What is the main use of polyantha roses in the garden? — F. G.

Answer — These are used for low borders, corners or rock gardens. They may be planted quite closely together.

Question — Should rose beds be cultivated deeply? — F. G.

Answer — Yes, it is well to cultivate thoroughly but do not cultivate too close to the plant because you might sever some of the large feeding roots.

Question—What sprays should one stock for a rose garden this season? — R. A.

Answer—Lead arsenate spray for chewing insects. An oil spray in spring will often control scale. Use copper and sulphur sprays for fungus diseases. Some firms package a complete rose spray kit so that you can mix insecticides and fungicides in one spray application.

Question— May carnations be propagated from cuttings? — Mrs. G. R.

Answer — Yes. Some growers use the green tip at the end of the stems or branches. Some use the firm side branches only. Cut near a node and root in the usual manner.

Question — What are good perennials for window boxes? — Mrs. B. V.

Answer — Persian candytuft (will stand full sun), campanula carpatica (some shade needed, anemones perennial phlox, stock statice, etc.

Question — What are some good but unusual pot plants? Mrs. M. L.

Answer — Roses do very well but are not commonly seen in pots. Be sure the pot is large enough. Some of the new miniature roses make very attractive small pot plants. Calla lillies can be grown in this manner, as well.

Question — The roots of some plants are coming through the drainage holes in their plants. Should these be cut?—Mrs. M.L.

Answer — No, this is an indication that the plant is growing too large for its container. It should be repotted to the next size larger pot.

Question — Do yuccas survive in this climate? S. R.

Answer — Yes, they grow very well in this locality. They have always produced blooms in mid summer so I would say that they do very well here with a minimum of care.

Question — Must tuberous begonias be planted in the shade? N. E.

Answer — No. Plant in a location where there is filtered sunlight, preferably. The natural shade of overhanging trees is best.

Question — Should tubers be started indoors? — N. E.

Answer — Yes, they do well when started indoors in March or early April then, when they are well started, set out as soon as damage of frost seems unlikely.

Question — Can I do anything to help certain semi-hardy plants in event of frost? — Mrs. J. D.

Answer — If frost strikes and you have not protected those plants, it is good idea to wash them off with a hose the first thing in the morning.

New Program Home Builders

Hartford, Conn.—The "forgotten man" of housing — the low income purchaser—has been given the highest priority in a sweeping new program to extend home ownership to millions of lower and middle income families.

The plan was outlined this week by Emanuel M. Spiegel, president of the National Association of Home Builders.

The housing program also calls for lower down payments, a longer payment term, adequate financing for modernization of the old homes, and to reorganize the government's housing agencies in order to give greater service to the public.

The New Jersey builder, making his first policy statement since he assumed the presidency of NAHB last month, said the proposed program is designed to enable the industry to maintain an annual production of more than 1,000,000 new homes and to rehabilitate each year at least 750,000 older units which are structurally sound but in need of modernization and repair.

Among the recommendations offered by Spiegel were:

Providing FHA by congress with sufficient insurance authorization to provide a continuous revolving fund; increasing the interest rate on guaranteed or insured home loans in direct relation to the interest rate on government bonds; reducing down payment requirements, particularly on medium priced housing; restoring FNMA to its original function as a secondary market for mortgages; holding defense and military housing programs within demonstrated needs; increasing the estimated six billion dollars now spent each year for ordinary home repair and modernization by at least $2 billion; substituting rent assistance for public housing programs for those families which are handicapped by shortage of funds; eliminating useless portions of FHA; housing and finance agency should be continued as a supervising agency only; transfer technical aspects of VA-guaranteed home loans to FHA; review the public housing program carefully before any further funds are committed or appropriated.

Wild Flowers Home Garden

By MARK M. TAYLOR

As Spring approaches, we watch with anticipation for each new flower to come into bloom. While it is early yet, wild flowers will soon be with us. Here are some to watch. It will soon be noticeable from our highways that the colorful blooms of our wild flowers have taken over again. Why not add some of these choice plants to our home garden? Do not attempt to dig them promiscuously however, from the wilds. Many do not transplant easily and besides it is unlawful to pick or dig flowers near a highway. We have several nice shrubs that nurserymen have cultivated and which we can add easily to our home plantings and thus "continue" Oregon's wild flowers for years to come.

Oregon Red Currant is a dandy, has red flowers in May. This shrub is host to the white pine needle rust and because of this is banned in some areas. If you have fine needled pines nearby do not use the currant unless consulting your county agent.

Philadelphus Gordonianus or Mock Orange is a thing of beauty, with its fragrant white flowers. It would be an addition to any garden.

Rhodendrons are native, of course, as we have seen them in the mountains and along the coast.

California Poppy is just as wild here as in California. It is so prevalent at times as to become a pest.

The Blue Elderberry has large heads of creamy white flowers, with blue berries later that attract birds.

The Pacific Dogwood is a sight to behold in its native setting and can be simulated in ones own home planting. It is a large grower and has many creamy white flowers. There is also a Bunchberry that grows less than one foot tall, yet it belongs to the Dogwood family. The Western Dogwood has red bark on its young twigs and white berries. This is valuable for its colorful winter twigs.

Of course when talk of wild flowers, first thoughts go to Trilliums, all of which may be found here and introduced into the home planting. Also try Fairy-Bells and False Solomon Seal. Mertensia and Hounds Tongue (Cynoglossum Grande) do well in shade. These have blue flowers and are easily propagated from seeds. Mertensia is a native perennial of blue, white or purple bell shaped blossoms inclusters easily grown from roots stocks in shady, moist garden spots. Synthyris has white or purple flowers very early in Spring. They are excellent for the rock garden and may be propagated by seeds or division. Mycromeria (or the Good Herb) is a native orchid with greenish flowers on 3 to 9 inch stems. Also called Green Adder's Mouth. They take care similar to that given terestial orchids.

Also we have our native Larkspur, Columbia, Birdbills, Baby Eyes, Penstemons, Mt. Hood Lily and the Lewisia which is a low growing evergreen. Quamashia Quamash or Blue Camas is a showy flower. The Indians at one time used the bulbs for food. It grows to 2 or 3 feet with flowers ranging in color from white to purple.

Landscape Artist Hired for Bush Park

A layout for Bush park development will be designed by Arthur W. Erfeldt, a Portland landscape achitect, who has been employed by the Salem park advisory board.

He is expected to present a plan at the next meeting of the board.

He met with the board Thursday night of this week and discussed tentative plans for use and activity.

Insects... Like Bears Hibernate

Millions of insects spend a portion of their lives in the soil, snugly protected from and weather. In this stage of their development it was previously thought that they were invulnerable to insesticides.

With the advent of some of the new chemicals, scientists discovered that these new weapons actually killed the insect in the soil. Thus an entirely new concept of insect control has evolved.

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TELE-VIEWS

Radio-Television

By DAVE BLACKMER

A sparkling, star-studded 30 minute radio variety show featuring Dick Powell as singing master of ceremonies will kick off the 1953 Easter Seal campaign of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults from Hollywood, March 6.

Titled "The Easter Seal Parade of Stars," the program is scheduled for network airing on NBC Friday evening, March 6, from 8 to 8:30 p.m., and is being offered to the full NBC network of 212 stations. It is also to be broadcast on ABC Tuesday evening, March 10, from 8:30 to 9 p.m., and will be available to the full ABC network of 353 stations.

Stars who will participate in the program with Powell are his wife, MGM screen star June Allyson, and Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy. Hy Averback will announce the show.

Top Hollywood conductor and composer Frank Worth, who is known also for his outstanding work as assistant conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony orchestra, wrote special music for the radio show including an appropriate theme song, "Use Easter Seals." A 32-piece orchestra contributed by the American Federation of Musicians Performance Trust Funds, and Hollywod Local No. 47 will also be featured. Vocal arrangements will be presented by a 12-voice chorus.

Powell has taken a leading role in the special Easter Seal show despite duties of his first director's assignment on the RKO lot for "Split Second." Miss Allyson, who with her husband, has given generous support to the crippled children's cause in previous campaigns, makes her radio singing debut in a duet with Powell on the show.

The Bergen-McCarthy skit, announced as 12 minutes in length, has been written especially for the show by Bergen himself.

The half-hour program marks the official opening of the 20th annual Easter Seal Campaign sponsored by the National Society and its more than 2,000 Easter Seal affiliates in every state, District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. The 1953 appeal opens March 5 and continues through Easter Sunday, April 5.

Yours for the TELE-VIEWING: Show of Shows at 6 p.m. Hit Parade at 7:30 p.m.; Jackie Gleason at 8 p.m.; the grunt and groaners take over at 9:30 p.m. with Wrestling Headliners and a top mystery in Rocky King will be featured at 10:30 p.m.

SUNDAY: Omnibus at 1:30 p.m. Jack Benny Show returns to the tele-waves Sunday at 4:30 p.m. for his monthly tele-cast.

For comedy Sunday, Mr. Peepers will be on KPTV at 6:30 p.m., and Red Skelton invents a time machine at 7 p.m.

Kenland Clover Shows Increase

The production of certified Kenland red clover in Marion county is rapidly expanding and new growers are faced with several important certification requirements according to County Extension Agent Hollis Ottoway. While only 15 acres of certified Kenland was harvested in 1952, over 500 acres was seedling inspected for harvest in 1953.

First consideration prior to planting Kenland for certification is the previous cropping history of the field to be planted. Registered or certified seed cannot be certified if previous history shows other strains of red clover planted within four years.

Since Kenland is on the generation system of seed production, prospective growers should check carefully the seed at time of purchase. While breeder's seed, foundation, and registered seed can be planted and the harvested crop certified, the crop obtained from blue tag certified seed is not eligible for further certification.

Irrigation School Draws Salem Man

T. G. Lovett, representing Montgomery-Ward Company of Salem, has just returned from Portland where he attended the largest school of irrigation ever conducted by Farmland Irrigation company.

More than 80 dealers and distributors from the United States and Canada attended the school, which was begun seven years ago by parent companies of Farmland Irrigation Company, Inc., of Fresno, Calif., and Portland.

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