

# Capital Journal HOME PAGE

## Questions Answered

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Q.—What dormant spray should be used on fruit trees now? H.H.  
 Ans.—Use a miscible oil spray any time now on a calm day when temperature is not below 40 degrees. When buds swell use Bordeaux mixture. The later this is applied the weaker the solution should be.

Q.—Can shrub broken off by weight of snow be tied together and made to heal over?—C.R.  
 Ans.—Probably not. It is usually better to prune or cut it off and re-graft to the old stock.

Q.—Should drainage from a septic tank outlet be directed from trees and shrubs?—O.W.  
 Ans.—Yes, for you might run the risk of too much moisture, thereby wetting the plants.

Q.—In setting out roses, I notice some new growth starting, should this be pruned?—O.S.  
 Ans.—In setting out roses, prune bushes back about one-third. The new growth you mention is due to warm indoor conditions at your dealers. If left on it might be frost-bitten! Cut it back to an outside eye and plant, the new growth will resume shortly.

Q.—I have tried to purchase one of the recently introduced roses locally but the nursery does not have it. Can you tell me where to send for one as I want it badly?—Mrs. C.W.  
 Ans.—We do not recommend any dealers, and, incidentally, one should not expect to find a complete assortment of all of the plants in the plant world at any nursery. This would be a tremendous undertaking in itself! Perhaps your dealer can secure this rose for you as we do have several large wholesale growers in Oregon. Perhaps with the one rose you mentioned the nurseryman grew it without satisfactory results and, hence, did not wish to stock it for his customers. Of course, any plant that has been given enthusiastic reports when introduced will be hard to keep in stock. We recall our own experience in having to wait some little time before securing the rose Peace, when it was newly introduced.

Q.—What are some shrubs that root well in water?—J.A.  
 Ans.—Daphne, ivy, oleander and cistus all root well in water. Change the water once a week and keep in dark location to prevent growth of algae in the water. A few pieces of charcoal in the water will keep it sweet.

Q.—What is the recommended pruning practice for apples?—H.H.

Ans.—Most of the fruit is borne on short spurs that form on branches two years old or more. These spurs, can produce fruit for a number of years. Thin out new growth on bearing trees to encourage development of new fruit spurs. Risers (vertical shoots) along the top side of the main branches should be removed as they form, but retain one to supplant the branch after it has passed its peak of activity.

Q.—What foliage plants make good background or contrast for colorful flower beds?—Mrs. R.S.  
 Ans.—Centauria Gymnocarpa grows to two feet, is grayish green foliage and goes splendidly with blue salvia, pink zinnias, cleome, or cosmos. It also does well as a background for yellow coreopsis or dwarf bedding dahlias.

Q.—I have seen a grayish-white lacy foliage plant growing about four feet tall. It is beautiful. Can you give me an idea as to what it might be?—Mrs. R.C.  
 Ans.—Probably Silver King Artemisia. It has somewhat the same effect as gypsophila but is more erect. It dries well, too, for dried arrangements.

Q.—Will any of the flowering fruit tree branches force into bloom if cut and brought in now?—Mrs. O.W.  
 Ans.—Yes, try any flowering tree or shrub on which buds show. Plunge in water and keep in dark basement or closet until the buds start to open. Slightly tepid water will hasten the action. Forsythia opens easily, so does jasmine, flowering quince and Prunus pissardi. The pink or red flowers forced will have blooms of a paler color than those blooming outside. Daphne will also force well.

## Your Garden Notebook

By MARK M. TAYLOR

**WHAT TO DO IN FEBRUARY.**  
 Plant or prune roses this month.

Spray, with dormant spray, every shrub or tree when temperature is above 40 degrees. Perennial clumps may be moved now.

Sweet peas may be planted this month.

Tender annuals can be planted indoors or in hotbeds or coldframes for transplanting to a garden location later.

Trim rock garden plants, filling in bare spots with new ones. Give bulb shoots now coming through, a protection from frost with straw, fir boughs or light sifted compost.

Plant evergreens or tall shrubs with roots in ball of earth. Plan new plantings on paper first, then determine eventual growth to be sure space allotted is correct.

A dormant miscible oil spray should be applied to fruit trees now to protect against scale.

**ELECTRIC SHOCK KILLS MAN.**  
 MEMPHISVILLE (AP)—An electric shock suffered when he attempted to repair fallen power lines at a farm near Sheridan, claimed the life Tuesday of Lyle E. Ryan, 36. The widow and several children survive.

## Garden Center Gets Backing

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Interest in and activity for the establishment of a Garden Center in Salem has been revived in recent weeks upon reorganization of the Salem Garden Council, which was originally created with that lofty purpose but which, as many things do, reached a state of lethargy. Now, the council has been reactivated and has taken definite plans toward the establishment of a Garden Center. The Council's recommendation is for the use of the Bush barn in the Bush park, with the upper story to be used for club meetings, etc., while the lower portion would be a source of garden information, instruction and exhibits for the edification of any who wish to avail himself of the service.

In the Capital Journal of August 26, 1953 we advocated just such a Garden Center, pointing out that there are more than 200 such centers in cities throughout the United States, many with a much smaller population than Salem's, and many with much less favorable growing conditions. Many of these cities had to construct their own building, an advantage Salem has if the Bush barn is used.

What is a Garden Center? It is a place where horticultural information is made available to home owners with the purpose of improving the ornamental character of the home grounds and thus making the city more attractive. A Garden Center usually (1) maintains a library of books and magazines on horticultural subjects; (2) conducts lectures by competent authorities on subjects of interest to the home owners; (3) maintains a plant identification service; (4) conducts horticultural exhibits and (5) conducts demonstrations of various gardening practices.

The cost of establishing and maintaining a Garden Center is largely in the original investment (where a new building must be constructed, which is not necessary under the Salem Garden Council's plan) and a small maintenance cost, usually absorbed in park maintenance. It has been found desirable in most garden centers for the city to hire a Garden Center Director on a full time basis to assure a derivation of the full worth of the idea.

The Cleveland, Ohio Garden Center is one of the largest, has its own beautiful grounds and building and a director who is a nationally recognized plant authority. Detroit is another example of the large garden center with its building on famed Belle Isle in the midst of botanical gardens and greenhouses where much of the plant materials used in other city parks are grown. Ft. Pierce, Florida, a city smaller than Salem has a model center of its own, created largely by donations plus a \$1,000 subsidy from the city. The grounds about its building were landscaped and are maintained by garden club members as a civic activity.

While the establishment of a Garden Center, even where a building might be provided, will not be done overnight or its full effective operation be put underway immediately, it is a most worthy project of the Salem Garden Council and its member garden clubs. It is to be hoped, then, that our City Council will act promptly and favorably upon the proposal, for it is a program that has proved most successful and worthwhile wherever tried.

A Garden Center in Salem would fill a definite need for the increasing number of home owners in the city, many of whom are wholly unfamiliar with growing conditions in the Pacific Northwest or with plants indigenous to this area. This would be but one more step towards making the City of Salem a better, happier, more attractive city.

## Building Satisfactory Garden Must Start With Foundation

By MARK M. TAYLOR

February is a favorite month with gardeners, (provided no snow or ice storms abound) for planting and pruning of roses.

The building of a satisfactory garden, of whatever type, must begin with the soil. Soil is the foundation of a garden, just as a good foundation is essential to good building. The existing condition of the soil must be determined in order to take the necessary steps to correct faulty conditions. Neutral soils are those equally balanced in content of lime and humus. An acid soil usually contains a larger percentage of humus, an alkaline soil indicates a deficiency of humus with an excess of lime. Acid soils are more often found in areas with abundant rainfall, hence the Willamette Valley is predominately of that type of soil. Roses grow best in a slightly acid soil, one reason for their abundance in Portland, the "City of Roses" and adjacent localities.

Heavy and tight soils can be improved by adding gypsum at two handfuls per plant. This improves drainage, hastens decomposition of organic material and lowers the pH value of the soil. In preparing the soil remember that humus furnishes a great deal of plant food and most soils need liberal amounts of humus-forming materials.

**Where To Plant.**  
 In preparing your rose garden you will first have to determine where and how the beds are to be made. Roses must have sunlight, good drainage and freedom from competition of neighboring trees or shrubs. For example, don't plant a laurel hedge for a background for your rose garden as it will rob the roses of needed fertility. I have seen some fine examples of raised beds for roses wherein the soil in a rose bed area was built up to a higher level than that surrounding, being held in place by some split timbers for a natural appearance. Especially are raised beds desirable where drainage is poor. Then, too, the level of the blooms is raised so that in walking through the garden the blooms are at eye level, or more nearly so, and in smelling range!

Another interesting method observed at a friend's garden in Minneapolis, was where the roses were all planted in wooden tubs, nothing more than large, square wooden boxes which were mounted on small wheels so they could be moved to the most advantageous part of the garden (or into the greenhouse in cold weather!).

**Buy Strong Plants.**  
 Buying a new rose is often a problem for in going through a nursery salesyard one is soon confronted with the distinction of patented and non-patented roses. Patented roses are usually higher priced, sometimes quite a bit higher and the novice assumes that the fact that a rose is patented indicates better quality. Nothing is farther from the fact! Some of our best roses today are some of the older varieties of as much as 30 years ago. What, then, is to determine the rose you want to plant in your garden? Of course, color is all-important, but you want a plant that breaks into bud readily, produces new strong, healthy canes low down on the plant. In shape the plant should be symmetrical not tall or spindly or too spreading; leaves should be hard, glossy, abundant and resistant to disease; the flower buds should be long and pointed or urn shaped with strong necks to prevent drooping; stems should be long for cutting, the flower should be fragrant, high-centered with petals of good texture and abundance. After blooming the petals should drop cleanly from the plant. Flowers should be produced abundantly during the growing season. Color should hold up well in hot weather and not fade or tend to turn bluish.

Your nurseryman can advise you of the good or bad features of any rose, as can neighboring rose enthusiasts, so do not hesitate in taking their advice when choosing plants, so that you will achieve peak performance for your efforts.

In maintaining an existing rose garden in good condition, pruning is essential. The tendency of some gardeners to prune rose bushes down to knee height or lower is, to me, a poor pruning practice. There is more satisfaction from a rose garden wherein you are able to admire and inspect blooms on plants which are waist high or higher. A rose lover

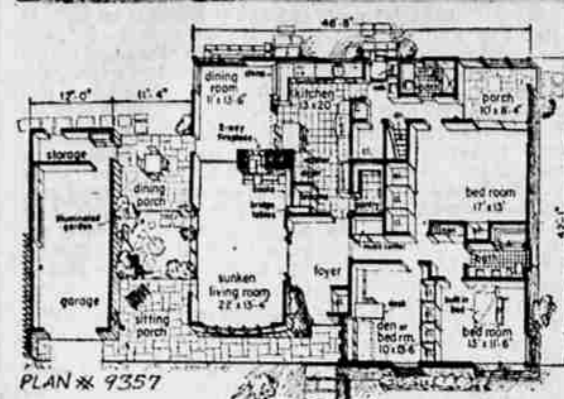
enjoys the perfume of the flower but does not want to get down on his knees to get it! A large bush, well cared for will have more blooms than a smaller bush. Roses should be pruned in their late dormant period. Late pruning helps to prevent die-back and the appearance of tender new growth which might be nipped by a frost.

**Remove Dead Wood.**  
 First, in pruning, remove all weak or dead wood. When old wood becomes unproductive it should be cut. If you want large plants remove all new canes except those needed to replace dead or damaged ones. If plants are overgrown they can be cut back to give a uniform appearance. In pruning make your cut 1/4 inch above a bud eye, preferably one that points to the outward side of the plant. Any stems that cross another should be removed. Tree roses are usually pruned more severely than other types lest the heads become too large for the symmetry of the plant. Pruning of climbers should consist of removing the old wood or any weak shoots. Old wood is removed when it becomes weak, diseased or scaly.

One scheme followed by a number of local rose enthusiasts is to prune their roses on Feb. 12 and Feb. 22, half of the pruning being done each time. Thus the plants are brought into bloom at different intervals, it being usually about four months after pruning before the new blooming season starts. So, it is a good idea to divide your pruning work under some such plan, particularly where you have two or more plants of the same variety.

Yes, rose planting and pruning time is with us! Planting ingeniously in a rose garden can make a modest home a showplace. Try out some planting schemes of your own origination. The rose has long been popular, but never more so than today. Roses are grown in practically every country in the world and in every state in the Union, but assuredly none flourish better than those in our own Willamette Valley.

## HOMES FOR AMERICANS



An illuminated garden in the breezeway where a tree grows through the roof, is one of the features of this plan. A glass wall separates this garden from sunken living room. A pantry adjoins the kitchen. There are three bedrooms and two baths. This is plan 9357 by Rudolph A. Matern, architect, 90-04 161st St., Jamaica 2, N. Y. (AP Newsfeatures)

## Land Exchange Bill Approved

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Ellsworth (R-Ore) said Wednesday he expects the House to act next week on his bill to prevent federal land acquisitions from interfering with sustained-yield timber operations.

The bill was approved by the House Interior Committee last week but developed opposition in the Rules Committee and was never brought to the floor for consideration.

The bill's provisions would take effect whenever the government found it necessary to acquire privately owned timberlands included in a sustained-yield unit. It would stipulate that the owners be furnished a similar block of timberland from the federal domain so the private unit's economy would not be impaired.

Since the bill developed opposition in the Rules Committee, Ellsworth has drafted an amendment designed to meet the objections without altering its objective.

As it now stands, the bill specifically declares that lands included in national parks, monuments or wilderness areas are not eligible for exchange. It would give the department or agency responsible for administering federally owned lands a voice in the selection of the lands to be transferred.

The bill in its amended form was approved Tuesday by the House Interior Committee.

## Home Extension Polk Co. Dates

Home Extension Calendar: Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m., Ballston Unit, Community hall, cakes and cake decorating. Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m., radio broadcast, KOAC, Corvallis, Polk County 4H. Feb. 9, 10:30 a.m., Mistletoe unit, school, cakes and cake decorating. Feb. 10, 10:30 a.m., Grand Ronde unit, Community club, cakes and cake decorating. Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m., Brush College unit, members home, cakes and cake decorating. Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m., Riekkell unit, grape, program planning meeting 11 for project leaders.

## Make Do



PREVENT FLOODING lower shelves when defrosting a refrigerator by tucking a sheet of plastic or a cut-open paper bag around the freezing unit to funnel water and ice into the drip tray.—(Popular Science.)

## Canned Goods Rates on RR Cut

WASHINGTON (UP)—The Interstate Commerce Commission has granted railroads the right to reduce rates on transcontinental shipments of canned goods.

The reduction of 10 cents a hundred pounds will take effect tomorrow and will apply to shipments traveling either direction from coast to coast.

The railroads proposed the reductions last month, and the ICC permitted them to take effect without a hearing. The Interoceanic Steamship Freight Association and others had protested the rate reduction.

## Potato Week Plans Boosted

"Eat more spuds" is the slogan that has been adopted by grocers, wholesalers, jobbers and store keepers for "Potato Week" which will be in effect February 8-13.

It is suspected that many families turned away from the lowly spud as a food during the time when retail prices were up around 8 and 10 cents. With the cost more nearly normal, many persons have not resumed the habit of eating those big baked potatoes or hashed browns.

The idea of a week devoted to an effort to dispose of an over-supply of potatoes originated with Ronald Phair, Klamath Falls grocer. He boosted sales in his own establishment by about 500 per cent as a result of his program.

Later Pacific Fruit took up the cudgels for the grower and was joined by many other wholesale houses.

Locally about 20,000 bushels of valley spuds are being channeled into the retail outlets. These spuds are said to be excellent cookers, having been raised on nonirrigated land.

Many stores intend to display potatoes from several parts of Oregon, including those grown in Klamath county.

The movement of the 1953 potato crop into retail outlets is reported to be approximately 1000 carloads below the previous year.

adopted from a story in their reading books and was written into a play by Alan Gardner, Allen Bates, Norman West, Linda Miklia, Richard Jones, Eileen Dalke, Nancy Stark and Roberta Lauellette.

**Landscape Now Service Center**  
 1055 2nd St. Ph. 4-3573  
 Complete Lawn and Garden Service

**Linoleum NATIONAL BRANDS CAPITOL FLOOR COVERINGS**  
 217 S. High Ph. 45751

**For Dependable Service Cascade Transfer & Storage Wallace Bonesteel & Son**  
 Warehousing Custom Lift Trucking Service Car Unloading  
 1625 Front St. Phone 3-4444

**BECKE and WADSWORTH**  
 All Kinds of Insurance and Surety Bonds  
 562 State St. Opposite Court House Phone 4-3333



**Make the Basement Home Base!**  
 Give your little leaguers a basement play room of their own! It's easy and fun to do it yourself when you start with a colorful, easy-to-care-for MATICO Asphalt Tile Floor.  
 We'll show you how to lay this fine tile yourself. Come in and Choose yours today — step on it!

**Our Paints are "Beautiful by the Brushful!"**  
  
**NORRIS-WALKER Paint Company**  
 1710 FRONT STREET • Phone 4-2279  
 Plenty of Free Parking Space

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
 On Floor Coverings  
**NORRIS-WALKER PAINT COMPANY**  
 1710 Front Phone 4-2279

**FREE ESTIMATE ON CUSTOM MADE Venetian Blinds CAPITOL SHADE & DRAPERY SHOP**  
 560 So. 21st Phone 4-1856

**REAL ESTATE LOANS COLONIAL INVESTMENT CO.**  
 ROBERT W. GORMSEN, PRES.  
 687 Court by TRUCK 4-2283

**INSULATE WEATHER STRIP**  
 Free Estimates  
 No Down Pymt.—36 Mos. to Pay  
 All Work Guaranteed  
**CAMPBELL ROCK WOOL CO.**  
 370 Salem Heights Ave. Ph. 2-6282

**For Freshening Charm Custom Made Drapes**  
 See our unusually large selection of patterns that you may have your draperies made from. Prints, solid colors, florals, traditional, modern and abstract designs in a variety of materials. Also available in a selection of weaves and colors, the amazing new fireproof, mothproof, fade-proof and washable Glasscloth.  
 We also feature Kirsch rods, both traverse and curtain. Paris and repairs on Kirsch rods available, too.  
**FREE ESTIMATES GLADLY**  
**Capital Shade & Drapery Shop**  
 Mfgs. Salem Venetian Blinds  
 560 South 21st Phone 4-1856

**Log Truck Owners of 2 Counties Meeting**  
 A meeting has been arranged for all log truck owners in Polk and Marion Counties for Friday in Salem.  
 The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at Truck Sales & Service, 555 Front Street, and will cover all phases of proper operation, according to J. L. Curtis of Oregon Timber Transport Operators, sponsors of the meeting.  
 Any person who is interested in the hauling of logs for any reason will be welcome to attend, says Curtis.  
 This is the first meeting of this type to be held in 1954.

**For the Best in FUEL OIL GEORGE CADWELL OIL COMPANY**  
 25th and State St. Phone 2-7431

**no fuss • no muss no bother • no dirt**  
 use Pres-to-logs  
**THE CLEAN FUEL**  
**CAPITOL LUMBER CO.**  
 PHONE 3-8862

**PLANT NOW!**  
**Oregon Grown—Garden Fresh—No. 1 Grade FLOWERING TREES**  
 Double Pink Flowering Plum 7 feet trees each \$1.75  
**FRUIT TREES**  
 Improved Elberta Peach Heavy trees each \$1.50  
**BERRIES**  
 Boysenberries 2-yr. field grown doz. \$2.75  
**ROSES**  
 Jumbo, No. 1 Un-patented varieties each \$1.25  
**FLOWERING SHRUBS**  
 Deutzias, Forsythias, Weigelas each \$1.25  
 We Have a Complete Selection of Trees, Shrubs, Roses and Evergreens, Also New Crop Vegetable and Flower Seeds.  
 Salem's One Stop Garden Center  
**BRYDON'S**  
 415 S. High St., Salem Ample Free Parking Ph. 4-5678