

Questions Answered

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Q. — Are holly seedlings any good to raise for trees? Will they bear berries? I have two growing nicely. I enjoy your page very much — Mrs. A.K.

Ans. — Holly seedlings will produce good trees. After all, seeding is Nature's own way of propagation. As to their bearing berries, that depends upon the sex of the tree. Grafting a seedling with a berry-bearing branch from another tree often assures fruiting. If you have two seedlings fairly close together there is a good chance their proximity will insure pollination without grafting. Only time will tell, however.

Q. — When should begonia tubers be started? — Mrs. A.J.

Ans. — Some local gardeners start begonias in March in flats or pots placed in a warm, protected place. Water slightly until the shoots start from the tuber. As sprouting begins place in a flat or pot in a mixture of peatmoss, leafmold and sand, or peatmoss alone. Set the tubers about a half inch below surface and keep in a warm (but not hot) location where there is light and keep watered until desired size is reached, then set out in garden in a spot that does not get direct sunlight, filtered light being preferable. Soil must contain plenty of humus. Set plants with points of leaves pointing in the direction you wish blooms to face, fertilizing occasionally with fish meal or a liquid fish fertilizer is most beneficial. In watering, sprinkle the foliage occasionally, too.

Q. — When should perennials be fertilized? — Mrs. W.M.

Ans. — Just before growth starts in Spring use a balanced fertilizer for best results.

Q. — What pruning should be done on blackberries and raspberries? — H.H.

Ans. — Cut out old canes, reduce the number of new areas and remove suckers.

Q. — Can Amaryllis be started in pots now? — Mrs. G.J.

Ans. — Yes, but do not delay. The usual starting time is in January indoors or in a greenhouse.

Q. — What temperature is necessary to germinate the seeds of gloxinias and tuberous begonias? — Mrs. W.W.

Ans. — A temperature of 70 degrees is generally recommended.

Q. — I would like some foliage plants suitable for an office waiting room to be in a box one ft. wide, one ft. deep and about six feet long. There is no sunlight in the room and the lighting is fluorescent. — Mrs. R.S.

Ans. — You can choose from Philodendron, Ficus, Tradescantia, Dichorisandra and Escallonia.

Q. — Can you recommend some plants that can be used in an office that is an inside room — lighting is fluorescent? — R.B.

Ans. — See answer above. These plants can also be grown in pots.

Q. — Do petunias come true from seed? Mrs. L.W.

Ans. — Certain strains that have been inbred for generations do; others may not. Consult your dealer when buying.

Q. — Are the Indica Azaleas hardy to this area? Mrs. C.N.

Ans. — Yes, I know of a number of specimens in the Willamette Valley that have survived for years.

Q. — Will azaleas stand full sun? If so, what kinds do you recommend? Mrs. A.R.

Ans. — While traditionally a shade-loving plant, any azalea must have light in order to bloom. I have a bed of Kaempferi Azaleas in a Western exposure and they have outdone themselves in blooming. Filtered sunlight is best for most of them, however.

Q. — Can begonia tubers be divided? Mrs. H.R.

Ans. — Yes, divide so each part has a sprout. Dust the cut parts with sulphur.

Q. — How can I rejuvenate a camellia that has been sickly and has produced very few blooms? — Mrs. H.A.

Ans. — Feed with cottonseed meal, fish meal or a liquid fish fertilizer when growth starts. Do not neglect watering during hot weather and syringing the foliage. Your trouble may be from moles undermining the shrub. If so, tamp down the runs and keep moles away. Planting in galvanized wire baskets is a good idea for this problem.

Q. — Can you recommend some plants that can be used in an office that is an inside room — lighting is fluorescent. — Mrs. R.S.

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LADY OF SONG



Jerry Wahl, singer, who will be one of the featured entertainers in the musical comedy show which will be presented free at the 1954 Portland International home show and remodeling exposition, Feb. 26-March 7 at Swan Island. Featured at the spectacle-extravaganza will be over 180 separate exhibits showing the newest innovations in home building and furnishing. Doors will be open at 5 p.m., week days and at noon Saturdays and Sundays.

All will do well under such conditions and the most attractive. Gloxinias will give beautiful flowers, too. Fluorescent lighting helps.

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Capital Journal HOME PAGE

Delphinium Stately Plant That Flourishes Well in This Area

By MARK M. TAYLOR

One of our most stately and attractive border perennials is the delphinium, often called perennial larkspur. Actually it is a short-lived plant not able to stand excessive heat, hence it flourishes well in this area.

Perhaps the best known strain of delphinium is the Pacific strain, created by the veteran hybridizer, Frank Reinelt of Capitola, Calif.

Seed of delphinium may be sown as soon as fresh seed can be secured, using a cold frame, flat or controlled and protected seed bed area. When the seedlings make their first leaves they should be transplanted four to six inches apart in a similar area and grown there for six weeks when they should be large enough to transplant to garden conditions. The following Spring move the seedlings into the perennial border. Soil requirements are a rich, deeply cultivated soil slightly on the alkaline side.

Some gardeners prefer to sow their seed in January or February in the greenhouse or in pots in a sunny window. Upon germination they are given as much air as possible at the same time protecting them from the cold. Later they are transplanted to flats or pots and in May, may be transplanted individually to the perennial border. Bloom will probably appear right after June. Delphiniums will probably form large clumps which may winter over out of doors if water is prevented from standing in the crown. These clumps may be divided in early Spring to increase desired plants.

DPT will control most insect pests bothering delphinium, as Bordeaux mixture will control most fungus diseases. Actually, these impressive flowers are not as susceptible to insect pests or to disease as many other plants, hence their added value in the garden. One big advantage of having delphiniums in the planting is that the rarest color in flowers is blue and, in them, that color is represented at its best. There are light blue, medium blue and darker blue to purple shades available some with white or black beads that make a pleasing contrast.

Mildew is one of the primary enemies of delphinium and is noticeably present when they are planted close to a wall or too close together. Mildew is most likely to be noticed in the Fall season, although it may attack plants at any time when moisture is prevalent. Dusting with sulphur is the recommended preventative. Green Rot is a disease noticed only West of the Rocky Mountains and close to ocean areas. Plants showing signs of this disease should be destroyed to prevent spread of the infection.

When the first crop of blooms on delphiniums has faded, cut the flower spikes off above the foliage and keep the plants on the dry side for two or three

weeks until new shoots begin to appear, then cut the rest of the stock off. A spoonful of ammonium phosphate sprinkled around the plant and well watered in will aid in developing the new shoots which will grow into flower spikes.

An attractive border or background planting of delphinium never fails to arouse comment. I recall one garden with the property line boundary marked by a single row of delphiniums. To say this was striking is to put it but mildly. The tall stalks carrying a large shaft of flowers in a variety of colors — the stalks being nearly eight feet tall, the upper three feet of which were covered with blossoms in varying colors were gorgeous. This plan provided a splendid background for other perennial plants in the foreground and added a stately dignity to an otherwise informal border. Easily grown and cared for, truly the delphinium is the answer to the "lazy man's garden."

Your Garden Notebook
By MARK M. TAYLOR

DO YOU KNOW?
That Delphinium originally came to us from Siberia?
That Chinese Sacred Bamboo (Nandina) is really a member of the Barberry family?
Cenby Pachistima is an evergreen ground cover to twelve inches high and is a native of the Pacific Northwest?
That many of the mock oranges are native to the Southeastern United States?
Poncirus Trifoliata, or Hardy Orange, is frequently used as a hedge in the South because of its dense growth?
The term "hose in hose" applied to azalea blooms means actually that one flower corolla is superimposed upon another?
That tuberous begonias may be had in forms similar to carnations, roses, carnations or individual novelties such as ruffled types and singles?
That bamboos are members of the grass family?
Blooming now are, jasmine, Daphne, pussywillow, primrose, saxifrage and periwinkle?
Now is a good time to plant shrubs or trees?

Wheelchair Homes For Veterans
More than 29 million dollars has been granted by the Veterans Administration for specially equipped homes for disabled veterans, including those of the Korean war. New "wheelchair" homes total 2,662 and remodeled homes for seriously incapacitated veterans number 267.

Congress authorized the VA in 1948 to defray 50 per cent of the cost of "wheelchair" homes for eligible veterans up to \$10,000. These grants can be used to buy a lot, to remodel a house, or to apply against a mortgage of a suitable house already occupied.

New Process for Starting Seeds
A new product developed and popularized in England during the past two years is offered for the first time in America to assist gardeners in giving their seeds a fine start under ideal growing conditions. Known as FERTIL-Cubes these one-inch cubes of plant food in a vermiculite base contain and protect the germinating seeds in a cup-shaped depression, isolate them from plant diseases, particularly the fungi which cause damping-off, and insure that the growing plant is well nourished throughout its life.

As every gardener knows vermiculite provides excellent bedding for germinating seeds. It is porous, holds moisture, contains no insect eggs or larvae or plant diseases. Vermiculite is inert and does not feed the plant.

7 terraces and how to build them
You can extend your living space and make your home more attractive at the same time with a distinctive terrace. And now's the time to start building it, for plenty of pleasant outdoor living this spring and summer. In the March issue of Better Homes & Gardens there's an article that shows you how to build 7 different terraces. One that just suits you and your family. Get March Better Homes & Gardens on your newsstand today.

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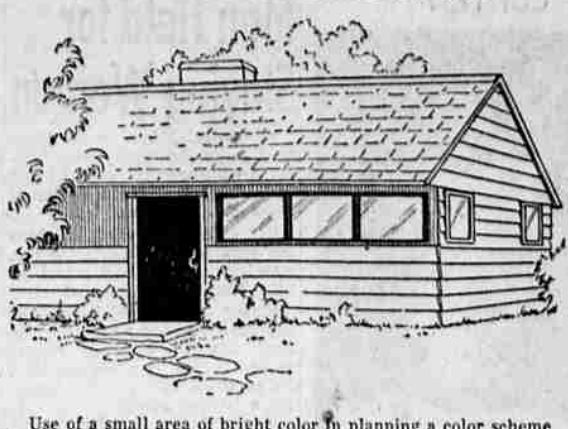
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ACCENT COLOR CATCHES EYE



Use of a small area of bright color in planning a color scheme for the exterior of a house is advised by professional color designers. This eye-catching color, called "accent color," contrasts to colors selected for roof, sidewalls and trim. For the house sketched above, accent color, printed in heavy black, was used on the door and on the trim of the narrow horizontal panel of windows. The roof color remains the basic exterior color. It is chosen from the great variety of solid and blended colors available in asphalt shingles and the weather and fire resistant roofing material. Colors for walls and trim harmonizes with the roof.

On the House

By DAVID G. BAREUTHER
AP Real Estate Editor

Air conditioning is changing the style of houses, sizes and shapes of homesites, landscaping, roofs, placement of windows, the direction in which a house may face and many other features.

The result is that anyone planning to build a new house might be prudent to consider these factors, whether air conditioning is planned in the equipment or not. To own a house that could be converted economically for air conditioning might prove to be a better investment than a house calling for major alterations.

The reason such details are becoming so important is that they can save the homeowner money.

"A flat roof is harder to cool than an attic house," say the experts. "A cathedral ceiling—running up to the rafters—is one of the hardest to cool."

"A house in a treeless tract must handle about twice as big a heat load as the same house in the woods."

"White paint is one of the cheapest ways to cut cooling costs."

"Old fashioned shutters are hard to beat for shielding east and west windows."

"A house in Minneapolis needs a much wider overhang on its southern side than a house in Dallas."

These are some of the facts developed in research by the University of Illinois, the National Warm Air and Air Conditioning Association and House & Home. Architects are making use of such information in designing houses.

An "Idea and Fact Book" published by the Carrier Corp. for the use of 5,000 architects, says:

"In any residence there are five major sources of heat with direct radiation from the sun and heat from outside atmosphere accounting for three-quarters or more of the total heat load."

"These factors will compensate for the sun:

"1. Designing the proper overhang which will shield walls and windows from the sun's radiation. Overhangs must be gauged for the section of the country in which the home is located, because of the angle of the sun at various distances from the equator."

"2. Locate trees, planting, garages or other structures to do a shading job for rooms that would get the direct sun."

"3. Windows should be so located whenever possible as to miss the direct rays of the sun. Usually larger windows should look to the north, or under an overhang to the south."

"4. Venetian blinds can be used on windows that face into the sun."

"5. Light colored houses with white roofs absorb less heat than dark roofs. This helps to reduce the heat load."

Flowering Crabs Popular Trees
By MARK M. TAYLOR
Among the flowering trees popular to home gardeners, especially in the Willamette Valley, are the flowering crab apples, many of which are valued for their beautiful flowers as well as their serviceable fruits.

Probably the most popular and most widely grown is Bechtel's Crab (Malus ioensis), a variety of the native prairie crab known as Iowa Crab. It blooms in May and June, often so densely covered with its double pink blooms as to resemble a huge bouquet. Of a delicate blend of pink and white the flowers have a pronounced wild-flower sort of fragrance that is not a small part of their charm. The tree may grow to a height of 15 or 20 feet when fully developed and have a fruit of a waxy green color.

Another most popular crab is the Floribunda Crab, which may reach 20 feet. The buds, held on narrow stems thickly along the branches are red, turning to light pink when they open giving an interesting varicolored effect. It is a very dense bloomer and also has small ornamental yellow fruit about the size of a pea which remains on through most of the winter.

The Scheidecker Crab is often rated as one of the best crabs, being compactly formed having large double flowers of a light rose color, with a pronounced fragrance, the blooms staying on the tree for quite some time.

The Redvein Crab (Malus Niedzwetzkyana) is one of our most popular flowering trees. The flowers are a deep rose color, single and are followed by fruit of dark red and good size. This variety of crab apple makes a splendid jelly of a good red color.

Sargent's Crab is a Spring shrub six feet high with clusters of pure white flowers and red fruit. This is the only crab apple small enough to be considered a shrub, it may grow twice as broad as it is one high (so give it room!). It blooms in mid-May. The fruit is small for crabapples but remains on well into the Fall, thus maintaining a colorful spot in the garden. The fruit also attracts birds.

For an accent spot in the home garden, for color and for fruit for home made jellies, one can't go wrong in planting selected varieties of the flowering crab apples. For specimen planting, or for a focal point in a landscape plan, the flowering crabapple should not be overlooked.

Garden Group May Use Barn

The Salem Parks Advisory Board Tuesday night recommended that the Salem Garden Council be permitted use of the barn near Bush House in Bush Pasture Park.

The Garden Council has in mind an improvement of the barn at a cost of \$10,000, and if the City Council approves the recommendation will go ahead with the project.

The city would be asked by the Garden Council to put a foundation under a garage near the barn and to provide storage for some park equipment now stored in the barn.

Members of the Garden Council told about their plans at a meeting in City Hall Tuesday afternoon attended by park board members, Mayor Al Loucks and other interested agencies. The mayor said no special measure for park financing is proposed for the May election ballot. Mark Astrup, chairman of the park board, said the present 2-mill tax is not adequate. It raises about \$70,000 a year.

2 Berry Growers' Groups Meet Here

Programs for two berry grower meetings in Salem have been completed by D. L. Rasmussen, county extension agent. The strawberry growers will meet at the Izaak Walton building, 500 South Cottage street at 1:30 p.m. Thursday. Cane growers will assemble at the Dairy Co-op building, 2135 Fairgrounds road at 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Speakers for the strawberry conference will be Dr. Karl Baur, Portland; George Waldo and Robert W. Every, of Oregon State College. Soils, strawberry varieties and insects will be discussed.

Dr. E. K. Vaughan, plant pathologist of OSC, will discuss disease control problems in caneberrys during the caneberry growers meeting. Use of regulators to increase berry size will be discussed by Quentin Zielinski, also of OSC.

How to build a beautiful lawn now

Now is the time to repair your lawn or start building a new one. And you can have a thick velvety stand of grass from border to border this year. An illustrated article in the March issue of Better Homes & Gardens shows you step-by-step everything you need to know about repairing and building a lawn. Read "All you need to know about spring lawn care" in March Better Homes & Gardens. On your newsstand now. Get it today!

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