

Capital Journal HOME PAGE

Magnolias Taking Spotlight in Many Ore. Country Gardens

Magnolias are claiming the local spotlight this early spring with their colorful blossoms borne in profusion. Inquiries, too, from readers prompt us to discuss this gorgeous tree, or shrub, that has so long been associated with the deep South, but which, like the Camellias, is finding a new abode in the Willamette Valley.

Magnolias are among our most ancient of trees and shrubs. The evergreen magnolia, *Magnolia Grandiflora*, is the one for which the South is justly famous. But first, let us consider the deciduous varieties.

Magnolias prefer a good deep soil and should be planted only in the spring because of their long fleshy roots. The early flowering sorts should be given a sheltered position away from early morning sun, lest frost injury spoil the flowers.

Perhaps the most widely planted magnolia, locally, is the *Soulangiana* species which may eventually reach a height of 30 feet. Varieties in rose-purple when in bloom but the petals are white on the inside. The Sweet Bay or *Magnolia Virginiana* is very desirable with its huge, creamy, white blossoms, which are quite fra-

grant. *Magnolia Stellata* (Star Magnolia) is, in reality, a large shrub with star-like flowers in early spring and is much used for landscape plantings. It may reach a height of 20 feet with fine rounded form, bearing huge quantities of three-inch blooms that are most fragrant. Variety *Rosea* has pink flower buds fading to white at maturity. *Magnolia Lilliflora Nigra* is a special not found locally, unfortunately, as it has the darkest flowers of all the magnolias and blooms quite late. It is shrub-like to nine feet tall and should do well here. *Magnolia Tripetala*, a native of the East coast, growing to 40 feet with creamy flowers opening after the leaves have formed. It has a very heavy odor. It should be satisfactory for seaside gardens on this coast. *Magnolia Wilsoni* has pendulous cup-shaped flowers but it, also, is quite rare.

The magnolias found growing wild are usually found in swampy places, hence it is well to give yours a location where it will not dry out too much. A moist sandy loam with plenty of humus worked in is preferable.

Many persons, on viewing *Magnolia Soulangiana* in bloom for the first time are impressed by the huge, colorful, tulip-like blossoms and assume, therefore, that it is a tulip tree which is entirely different, being a large tree to 80 feet with yellow-green tulip shaped blossoms. The tulip tree is widely planted as a shade tree as it is fast growing, whereas the magnolias are rather slow. In favor of the magnolias is the fact that they produce flowers while quite young while the tulip tree is a very reluctant bloomer. The writer has been waiting about ten years for his Tulip tree to bloom, although it is a good healthy specimen and a splendid shade tree!

In the South will be found varieties and species of magnolias not found here, though in most instances they would survive in our Willamette Valley conditions, so do not hesitate to include them in your garden.

Among the Southern beauties is the Yellow Magnolia, *Magnolia Cordata*, with large yellow flowers and the Cucumber Tree (*Magnolia Acuminata*), which has lemon-yellow flowers with fruit resembling a cucumber in appearance.

Persons desiring colorful fall foliage as well as spring flowers will find the Star Magnolia as very effective.

Magnolias require no pruning, are not subject to many plant diseases and, thus, become a part of the garden that adds beauty and enjoyment without constant culture. Moisture and fertility on the acid side are their simple requirements.

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House Painting Instructions

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Grab that paint brush! But before you start slapping paint on the exterior of your house, consider some new facts that have come to light.

The National Lumber Manufacturers Association warns the home handyman that painting house exteriors too frequently may increase paint failures.

Under normal conditions and assuming that the surface is already covered with good quality paint, chances are you won't need to re-paint a house with wood siding more often than once every four to six years.

You aren't helping your house if you repaint more frequently. In fact, you may be hurting it. Here's why, according to the lumbermen's association:

Quality paints weather away slowly. They give their best service when the coating is about five thousandths of an inch thick—not much thicker than our paper money. As a rule, repainting more often than once every four to six years will build up an unnecessary and troublesome thickness of paint which may crack and peel, requiring costly removal of the entire paint film.

Paint chemists and wood technologists who conducted a 15-year study of the problem of paint failures at the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis., suggests a two-coat repaint job every six years or one coat every four years—but no more frequently. Two coats every six years are generally preferred.

However, the first painting of newly erected houses, particularly when done with only two coats, is often scanty and may wear away to the point where it will be safe to repaint in less than the normal length of time.

Of course, not all paint cracking and peeling is due to over-painting. Moisture is one of the most frequent causes. Inferior paints offer poor resistance to moisture, so make sure you use a quality product.

The lumber group suggests that it's a waste of time and money to repaint your house just because the present paint is dirty. It's recommended that you scrub the present paint with a long handled brush or sponge and a mild detergent. Then rinse with a garden hose before the detergent dries. A house washed in this manner will have a fresh appearance and will be easier to paint when repainting does become necessary.

Why Motors Need Separate Wires

Separate electric circuits are used for most motor operated appliances, such as refrigerators, freezers, electric sinks, power tools in the hobby shop. The reason is that the instant of starting a motor requires much more power than after it has started to run. This sudden in-rush of current lowers circuit voltage to a point where all lights on the circuit will blink. If the overload is too great the fuse will blow out.

Carnival Planned by Congregational Group

Fun, food and frolic is the theme of a carnival planned by the Huntington Fellowship of the First Congregational Church for Friday, April 30, 5:30-10 p.m. at the Church, Cottage and Marion.

Activities for the evening include games for all ages, such as fishpond, ring toss, bean guessing, dart board, kissing tree, plus cartoon movies, country store, fortune teller, cake walk, short order dinners, and door prizes, all topped by a free stage show featuring "Carmen" by Spike Jones. A carnival atmosphere will be maintained with gay hats and favors available, Cliff Bowder acting as clown, and each booth decorated by its proprietor.

Mrs. Grace Knapp and Mrs. Donald Rowland are co-chairmen for the affair, while heads of other main committees are: art work and decorations, Mrs. William Galloway; booth planning and construction, Bob Clark and Marvin Nettleton; stage show, Mrs. Fred Bradley, Mrs. Donald DeLisle, and Mrs. Jerry Smith; food, Mrs. Marvin Nettleton; Emcee, William Galloway.

A baby sitter will be available for infants during the evening. Proceeds from the affair will go to the National Building Fund of the Congregational Church, to which the Huntington Fellowship has a pledge.

REDS ISSUES MAY DAY SLOGAN

MOSCOW (AP)—The Soviet Communist Party issued its annual May Day slogan Wednesday, featuring a call for collective security of all European peoples and an intensified struggle against the rebirth of German militarism.

Ohio produced about 33 1/2 million tons of coal in 1953.

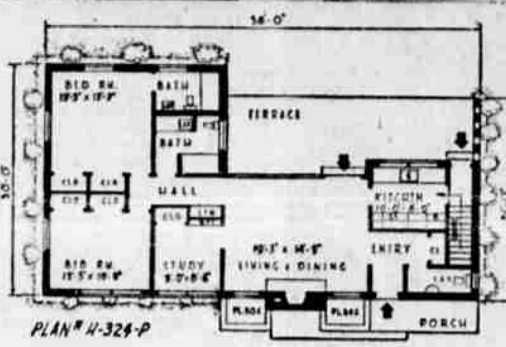
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HOMES FOR AMERICANS



AP Newsfeatures

LOW AND SLEEK, this modern design features a facade of brick and stone with a massive chimney flanked by tall picture windows and planting boxes. Living room has a window wall facing secluded garden terrace. This is plan H-324-P by the Homogral Corp., 11711 East Eight Mile Rd., East Detroit, Mich. The house covers 1,294 square feet.

(Further information and blueprints available from architect)

Questions Answered

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Q—I am looking for a good shade tree, one that is fast growing. Have heard the Sycamore would be good for this purpose, what is your opinion?—B.S.

ANS—Yes, the Sycamore is a large tree distinguished by its short trunk and broad head with bark deeply veined. It is not a rapid grower, however. For quick, clean shade in a tree up to 40 feet in height, you will find the Tulip tree more satisfactory.

Q—How are figs best propagated?—W.A.

ANS—Usually from cuttings of dormant wood in winter or early spring.

Q—Leaves of our camellia are turning yellow. What is the cause of this and what is the remedy?—Mrs. W. O.

ANS—This condition is called chlorosis and indicates a lack of nitrogen or minerals in the diet. In case of camellias, this would indicate excessive alkalinity of the soil. Correct by applying aluminum sulphate, well watered in, or a good nitrogenous fertilizer.

Q—How long will it take peony seed to germinate?—M.K.

ANS—From 9 to 25 days.

Q—We have a camellia, Blood of Christ, on which one bloom is clear pink, the rest of the flowers being white. What causes this? Will it always have pink flowers on that branch?—Mrs. A.E.

ANS—This is probably a "sport" or mutation, one of nature's ways of creating new varieties. If cuttings are taken from this branch chances are good that pink blooms will be the result. However, if the branch is left alone it will, in all probability, return to producing true white blooms.

Q—I have some potted Gerber Daisies. Will you give correct culture for them? Do they need protection, shade etc? Can they be left outdoors over winter?—L.L.M.

ANS—These are primarily florist's plants used largely for cut flowers. They are usually greenhouse grown or as window pot plants, flowering over a long period. They can be wintered over in a coldframe or with considerable protection in the garden. If kept potted, they may have to be repotted occasionally to make way for increasing root growth.

Q—Will seeds saved from various annual and perennial plants come true to the parent?—Mrs. H. O.

ANS—Not usually; to come true the seed is usually selected over several generations, otherwise it might revert to a previous generation type.

Q—Is it possible to save and use seed of tuberous begonias?—Mrs. H. O.

ANS—Yes, it is possible but not considered practical as the seed is so tiny it takes thousands to make a small packet.

Q—Will tuberous begonia seed produce flowers the first year? How about tubers?—M. K.

ANS—Yes, and small tubers will form, too.

Q—I have a Daphne that has not yet bloomed, why is this and what to do?—N. R.

Oregon Dogwood Among Best

By Mark M. Taylor

There are many species of Dogwood, some that are shrublike, others being large trees. Again, the deep South is noted for its dogwood festivals, trails, etc. Yet it is my firm belief that in all the South where I visited, I never saw a dogwood that would compare with our own native variety. The specie found in the South is *Cornus Florida*, the Oregon native being *Cornus Nuttallii*. The blooms of the Oregon native are much larger than those found in the South. The pink variety of *Cornus Florida* is called *Ruba*, and while grown extensively in the South, it is a true hybrid and not a specie.

It is an interesting fact that nearly every old Southern home has its dogwood tree, perhaps with a background setting of coniferous evergreens or a grassy hillside. Yet, the natural setting of our native dogwoods, too is hard to beat for being picturesque, as our native dogwood, under favorable conditions may reach a height of 40 feet. This discussion of dogwood brings to mind the following story:

I recall visiting a dentist friend in Atlanta who was wearing a dogwood blossom in his lapel. I remarked about it and he proceeded to unpin it. I had assumed that it was artificial, but he explained that while working in his laboratory one day, experimenting with the use of plastics for making dentures, he tried a formula for a liquid plastic by putting it in an atomizer. Just then a grasshopper landed on a windowsill near him and he subconsciously turned the atomizer on it. The insect was immediately encased in plastic that hardened instantly. This chance experiment led to spraying some flowers, including a dogwood blossom. The blooms were not harmed, he told me, but preserved in their lifelike form and beauty. It was a simple trick, then, to attach a pin to the bloom. In some cases the object, whether flower or insect, was guided with silver or gold and given to feminine friends as costume jewelry! I have never heard whether he followed through with this idea on any scale or not but it seemed a novel idea and one that might be commercialized successfully. However, life moves slowly in the South and we rather doubt that our friend had gone into the costume jewelry business.

To return to our subject of Dogwood—our Western Dogwood, *Cornus Nuttallii*, is the giant of the species. There are a number of Asian native species that have been brought to this country that are too numerous to list and of not enough importance to deserve spots in the home garden unless the gardener is striving to build a collection of species. These include the silky dogwood, the Redtwig dogwood, Tartarian dogwood and Pagoda dogwood and *Cornus* in the fall, only.

Q—I planted some beans on April 4. Is this too early for this locality?—H. H.

ANS—No, the chances of killing frost now are in your favor, and there should be enough warm days to cause germination.

Q—I have a number of seedling cherries springing up around and old cherry tree. Could these be used in grafting or should they simply be cut out?—Mrs. M. B.

ANS—If transplanted they can later be used as stock for grafting fruiting or flowering cherries. I did some experimenting along this line and secured a few more flowering cherries. However, unless grafted they are better removed if they do ever fruit as they are; the fruit would be inferior.

Q—I want to establish some azalea beds, when is the best time to plant them?—H. R.

ANS—Azaleas can be set out practically anytime if the roots are intact with a good ball of earth and if sufficient moisture is provided.

FENCE SUPPORTS TOMATOES



Tomato plants, pruned to a single stem and supported on a picket fence or trellis can give a larger yield per square foot of space occupied than any other vegetable. Pruning requires regular attention.

Your Garden Notebook

BY MARK M. TAYLOR

DO YOU KNOW?

That seeds need oxygen to germinate and for this reason should be planted near the soil surface?

A compass saw can be used to divide dahlia clumps?

Zoysia, a much publicized grass substitute, turns brown at first frost and stays brown until frosts cease?

Delphinium seed requires 10 to 30 days for germination at 54 degrees?

That some primroses require up to 3 years to germinate at 68 degrees?

That hard seeds take longer to germinate unless the casing on the shell is notched?

That the Lewis and Clark expedition is credited with discovering and returning to the East our Oregon Grape?

Chicory is a perennial herb whose thick roots are roasted and used as a coffee substitute that is very popular in the deep South?

(Those of us who have visited New Orleans, especially, recall the interesting and potent blend of coffee served there.)

That liming makes hydrangeas pink while applications of aluminum sulphate makes them blue?

Fulgens Anemone requires sharp drainage and full sun?

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