

Field of Horticulture Contains Wealth of Good Opportunities

Botanists Say Big Advance Apparent

By MARK M. TAYLOR
Capital Journal Special Writer

Opportunities in the field of horticulture today are more promising than ever despite the great advances made by science in recent years, botanists generally agree.

The development of the so-called "wonder drugs" that have done so much to relieve human suffering are finding their way into curing or preventing many of the diseases common to plant life. The field of plant pathology offers limitless opportunity for the young scientist willing to devote his energies to research in combating plant diseases. The tracing of the sources of plant diseases forms a real challenge to the pathologist of the future.

The war against insect pests has but just begun. The hundreds of thousands of species of insect pests that do damage to plant life comprise a seemingly never ending struggle. And, while inroads have been made, there is still much that can and must be done to prevent the destruction of certain types of plant life by insect hordes. Entomology, too, is an important research science which offers a grand opportunity to the young scientist.

While it has been said that plant exploration has passed its golden age, the lure of discovery is ever present and, despite the extension of the civilized world to all parts of all continents, the possibility of new discoveries is always present at nature, in her changing ways, produces new species of old plants or discloses an occasional new genus not now known. In fact, there are some areas in North America not yet exposed to man's curious gaze where new plant discoveries are possible. Particularly this may be true of the so-called Alpine plants.

Growers Eager

Commercial growers are eager to find new novelties. Wealthy individuals and institutions are continuing to investigate wild and cultivated plant materials from all over the world, constantly adding to the list those suitable for use in our gardens, greenhouses or farms.

The United States Department of Agriculture systematically endeavors to locate, bring to this country, test and propagate new and worthy plant material, utilitarian or decorative.

The opportunities in government service, both state and federal, are many and such to satisfy the energetic capabilities of the young horticulturist whatever his personal interests may be. The bureau of chemistry and soils, of entomology and plant quarantine and the other branches of the Department of Agriculture offer interesting and challenging opportunities for the trained horticulturist.

Not alone does the youth have opportunities in state or federal administration of information, services and administration of regulatory measures of state or federal departments, but the opportunity for individual experimentation is ever present, either carried on independently or in government research agencies.

Perhaps, the greatest personal satisfaction and ultimate personal benefit derives from individual experimentation and study, especially in the field of plant breeding.

Opportunity Beckons

The development of new plants that are harder to raise, resistant or more colorful than existing varieties is an opportunity that beckons from nearly every plant family.

Development of new plant varieties is not limited to cross breeding but the advent of certain chemicals has made it possible to artificially produce mutations that afford novelties heretofore unheard of. Even greater strides in this field of endeavor is expected with the use of radioactive properties.

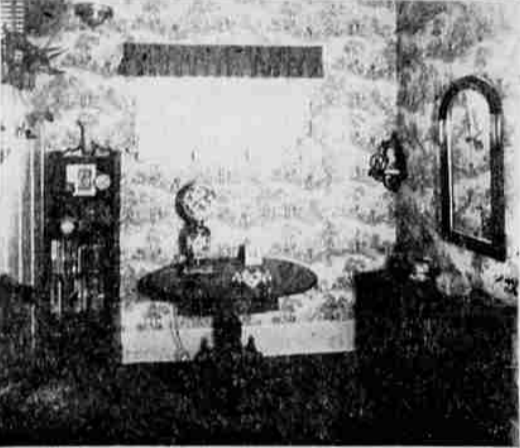
The seemingly endless search for something new in plant life affords the historically-minded individual an opportunity to study development of different kinds of plant life to determine which factors resulted in the evolutionary process that netted the present existing species. As in other fields of endeavor, much can be learned from studying the past effects and causes. The discovery of wholly unknown types of plant life found in bomb craters following World War II serves to illustrate the great storehouse that nature has to keep life existent on this planet.

Field Open

Thus, it seems to this writer, that the youth of today have splendid opportunities in the field of horticulture whether his current interest be one of the sciences, chemistry, pathology or entomology; adventure—in plant hunting and exploration, or such other phases as marketing and administration; legal, quarantine and regulations; administrative, dissemination of information and education; and marketing; the application of sound business methods in horticultural production.

Yes, the opportunities in horticulture, today, seem greater than ever before in our history despite the great advances that have been made to recent years. A youth, contemplating his fu-

Pictures Show Victorian Design



These three pictures show the antique Victorian theme which dominates in the decoration of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lambert. The picture at the upper left is of a Victorian woman's chair. It is finished in a maroon velvet and is only a part of a collection of Victorian antiques in the home. The picture, lower left, shows an antique peer-cabinet in the entrance hall of the home. It holds family pictures, books and some glass pieces. Against the wall is a walnut chest with grape carving. The picture above shows a sapphire hobnail hanging lamp and a walnut dining table with cane bottom dining chairs.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Salem Home Has Victorian Theme

Some Furniture Almost at Old As Queen

By JANET TUGMAN STONE
Capital Journal Writer

Queen Victoria would feel at home if she could step into the parlor of the Ben Lambert home on Leslie street today.

An entrance hall and two large rooms, done in pinks, reds and roses, is full of furniture in the Victorian style which is in fact almost as old as the queen herself.

Wall paper in pale, dusty pink meets a dark taupe rug in all the front rooms, with a lining of pink baseboards and woodwork.

Perhaps the first thing you would see as you enter the living room is the large mirror over the fireplace. It is encased in a heavy, scrolled gold frame and runs the full length of the mantle. On the mantle are spaced a pitcher of cranberry blue, a pitcher of thumbprint figurines and German bisque and Meissen china pieces.

By the fireplace rests a television set, the only apparent concession to modernity.

Victorian Seats

If you were asked to stay for coffee, you would choose a seat from a Victorian woman's chair with grape carving covered in maroon velvet or a Victorian couch covered in a lighter shade of velvet.

In either case you would have, at your side, an oval marble topped table. There are two in the room, one is small and has on it a sapphire blue butter dish of 1800, used as a candy dish, a Chinese vase and a Chinese blue antique bone-dish ash tray with an amber glass match holder. These are only part of the collection of early American glass in all colors. Mrs. Lambert has distributed about her rooms.

The Lamberts have done an unusual and interesting thing. They have made footstools out of picture frames. These frames, says Mrs. Lambert used to hold "hair wreaths." She simply turned them on their backs, nailed on small round legs and put in maroon and pink pieces of needlework. These stools are good size, the largest of two, about 24 by 23 inches.

Antique Lamp

The first thing you would notice when you look into the dining area would be the gigantic lamp hanging overhead. It is, naturally, an antique and is adorned with a sapphire blue hobnail shade, accented with brass, and crystal prisms.

It hangs directly over a round walnut table (antique), which is encircled with antique chairs, two of which have needlepoint and two, cane bottoms.

There is a five-foot, six-inch "what not" in the corner which is filled with milk glass and glass and china displays. Mrs. Lambert has been particularly interested in small glass baskets and has about 40 of them.

A chest with grape carving, matching the chair in the living

Shorter Light Period Speeds Plant Growth

But in Some Cases The Reverse May Be True

We all realize, to some extent, that adequate light is essential to healthy plant growth. But, the plant scientists have determined that growth of some plants can be speeded up and flowering time period of daily lighting. In some plants the reverse result is effected.

Tuberous begonias, for example, will bloom earlier if given longer periods of light. Some plants, like roses and carnations do not seem to be affected by the changing periods of light.

Tests have shown that by interrupting the periods of darkness with, relatively, low levels of light intensity, even a few minutes in some cases, affected blooming.

It is a common practice of chrysanthemum growers to shorten the hours of daylight in increasing proportions as the season progresses to force the plants to bloom earlier.

Shrubs Grow Leggy

A good illustration of this fact can be observed by anyone. Look at plant growth in a dense forest area. Chances are that shrubs grow leggy and spindly in their effort to reach the life-giving light that faintly filters through the tree-tops. The same condition results if you plant your plants in your garden where little or no daylight reaches them.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has done some research work in this field on food plants. An interesting conclusion was that sugar cane fields have been lighted to prevent flowering in order to permit the plants to continue to grow. So that work might be done in the fields at night without upsetting the growth and flowering cycles, fields were flooded with green light to which the plants did not respond. Leaves reflect green light and are therefore unaffected by it.

The African Violet shows definite response to artificial lighting in both growth and flowering. Experimental studies with fluorescent lighting showed these plants to mature and bloom much more rapidly than those receiving daylight only.

For purposes of experimentation,

Home-Made Window Shades Have Popularity Return

Kitchen Especially Suitable for Project

By VIVIAN BROWN
AP Newsfeatures Writer

WINDOW SHADES are playing a comeback. You may find ready-made shades in charming textures—scalloped, hemmed and tasseled to your liking—or you may make your own to match or contrast with your room decor.

One room that gets a lift with the make-it-yourself shade is the kitchen. A shade may be rolled up to give you light when you need it and pulled down when you want to get the effect of privacy and coziness.

If a light fabric is selected for an entire floor of a building in Cleveland, Ohio, was sealed off from any daylight source and only fluorescent lighting was permitted. The results showed much more rapid growth and earlier and heavier flowering than plants of the same age grown under daylight conditions only.

Amateur Helps

The amateur gardener, too, has helped in these experiments with reports of plants grown in basements under fluorescent lighting. The starting of seeds and rooting of cuttings showed definite variances from those started under daylight conditions. It is no wonder then that, today, more and more greenhouse operators, amateur and commercial are turning to auxiliary lighting to help control growth and blooming periods.

Unfortunately, science has not yet established a definite pattern whereby the amateur can control growth of his plants with lighting for there is still much to be learned. But, it is known that light is not the only consideration. Varieties of plants, weather, temperature and moisture tend to affect changes, too, that must be considered before a rule can be established.

How, ver, plant scientists devoted to the subject of photo-periodism are optimistic that knowledge in this field may lead to weed control, bulb formation improvement and the quality and quantity of plant production may be materially bettered.

stretching. Attach the fringe of your choice. Insert narrow, inch-wide bottom rod and blind-stitch ends. Add a shade pull and roll your fabric taut and even so that it pulls smoothly.

Although in bedrooms you may wish to use pastel and fancy fabrics, kitchen fabrics should be more on the whimsical side. One delightful design in glosheen, "Grandma's kitchen," sets the color scheme for an entire kitchen. Warm tones of persimmon, olive green and ruscha in the print may be repeated in kitchen accessories such as pottery, ceramics and brass wall plaques. A small chest may be placed beneath the window, ideal for plants that need sun.



Your kitchen may be cozy and set your decor scheme with a shade you may make yourself. This novel print designed by Waverly is attached to a spring roller shade. Matching curtains and knotted fringe trimming may be added as a decorative note to add more charm.

Capital Journal GARDEN PAGE Questions Answered

By MARK M. TAYLOR

A poinsettia I received at Christmas is shedding its leaves. What should I do now? Or, is it worthwhile saving? Mrs. R. S.

It is, simply, going into its natural resting period. Withhold water gradually until completely dry and, then, store the plant in a cool basement until warm weather. Then, cut the stems back to four inches, repot in rich soil, place in a sunny window, or out of doors, sinking the pot in the ground. Feed regularly through the summer and bring indoors in September and place in a sunny place. New red bracts will form in time for next Christmas. Whether the plant is worth saving depends upon your willingness to follow these simple requirements.

No. An application of ammonium sulphate at a rate of five to eight pounds per thousand square feet in early spring will boost the grass growth and the grass will take care of the moss. Vigorous raking might be detrimental in that the grass roots would be injured.

You advise spraying of all deciduous trees and shrubs. Isn't the weather too cold for that chore to be done effectively? J.J.

At the time of your writing and the time of publication of my article, yes. However, this spray program should be completed as soon as possible, as weather permits. Spraying should be done when the temperature is above 45 degrees and not likely to drop below freezing for at least 12 hours. Of course, too, spraying followed by a rainfall would be ineffectual. Choose a clear day when the temperature is right and rain is not in the immediate offing.

Factory Gives Quality

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I have a number of narcissus, ranunculus and anemones that I was not able to get into the ground earlier. Is it too late to plant them now? D.C.

Narcissus will start blooming next month but I would plant the bulbs you have as quickly as possible and they should do all right. Mix boum-eal with the soil when planting.

Bought some Chinese sacred Lily bulbs that failed to bloom. What could be wrong? Mrs. E.H.

ture in this world of ours, would do well to investigate all facts of this intriguing field for the opportunity is there and the old saying that "opportunity never knocks twice" is true.

Your Garden Notebook

DO YOU KNOW?

Commercial rose growers are using shading to defoliate rose plants prior to harvesting instead of hand methods formerly employed?

Dormant plants can be wrapped in a film of plastic polyethylene or kraft paper laminated with a film of moisture and stored for months in cool temperatures without damage?

Of all life on Earth, insects are the most numerous?

Leaf mold will hold three to 500 per cent moisture, hence its value as a soil conditioner is unparalleled?

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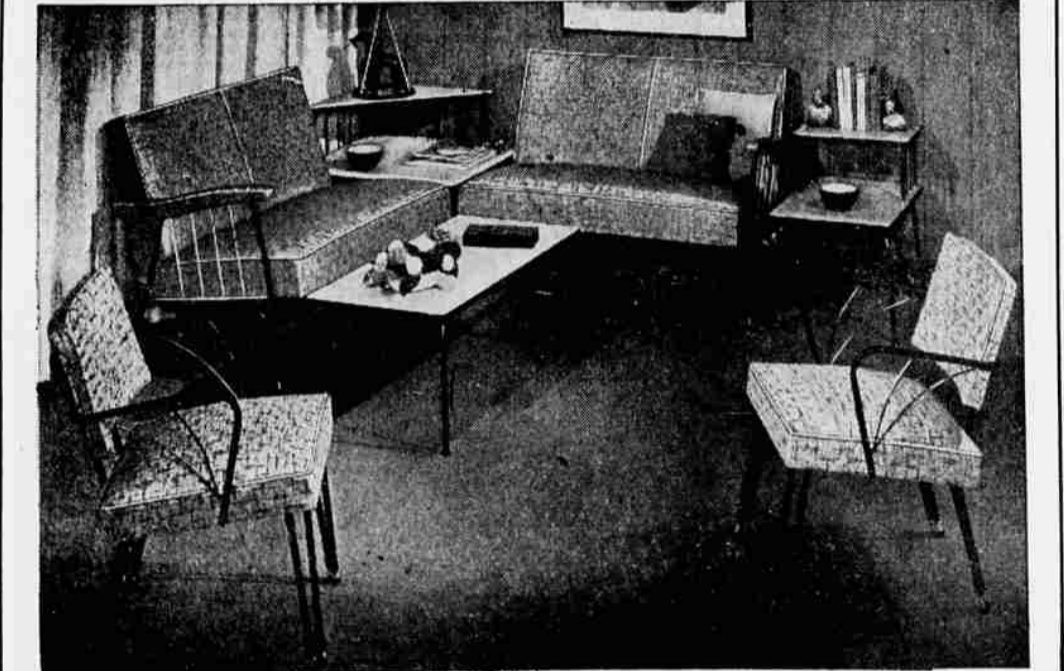
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