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## Northwest Gardens

By JOHN H. HANLEY, Ph. D.

THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER ALL OVER. . . . is the way we can re-phrase a popular saying, to make it apply more appropriately to the Tuberous Begonia situation. No plant has so captured the public imagination over the last decade as has this all-summer-long producer of bright garden colors and interesting flower forms. Everywhere throughout the Northwest, on the coast and inland, too, more and more gardeners are using shady and half-shady spots in the garden, where few other plants had been found satisfactory in the past, for them.

Midsummer in the begonia bed often brings problems, chief among them being the following three: (1) the matter of additional fertilizer; (2) how to keep the flower buds from dropping; and (3) continued protection against the inroads of Strawberry Root Weevil. Begonias, being lush growers, frequently exhaust the soil of the needed chemicals by this time, hence the desirability of scattering a fairly liberal amount over the top of the surface mulch (which is certainly to be recommended in the hotter, drier sections).

To keep bud-drop at a minimum, by all means try for a uniformly moist soil. . . . not one which gets sopping wet one day. . . . and dries out the next. Here, too, is further evidence of the value of a protective mulch acting as it always does to reduce evaporation and to maintain an even level of moisture in the soil.

As for the weevils, it is never sufficient to say, "Well, I'll get them cleaned out after the season is over, when I bring the tubers indoors for the winter." Unlike the attacks of weevil on other plants, where the worm or grub lies among the roots, nipping them off one by one, the damage on tuberous begonias takes the form of extensive gouging and scoring right on the tuber itself.

That means some pretty bad direct damage, but, even more important, it also means that the protective, corky skin of the tuber is being broken. . . . a situation that is perfect for the entry of fungi and bacteria from the surrounding soil. Keep baiting for the adult weevils, and treat the soil with either the dusts or liquids which contain Lindane, Chlordane, and DDT.

**WANT TO CATCH A COLD?** . . . About all you have to do is to get yourself all worn to a frazzle, eat the wrong foods at odd times, don't take the proper amount of rest, and generally dissipate the energy you should retain for fighting off such things. When you are weakest and most run-down is the time a cold will strike most often.

Funny, but many plants. . . . and a lot of weedy ones, like quack grass. . . . can be taken advantage of when they are weakest. July and August are recognized by many commercial growers as ideal for the attack on quack grass. Con-

stant cultivation of the infested area during this period has proven most effective. . . . If you think you must rely upon either hand-weeding it out or scratching it out with a cultivator.

But why take the slow, inefficient way out when it is now possible to use chemicals to assist. Both IPC and TCA compounds have been found effective in Quack Grass control. See your dealer for directions as to use.

**THE OLDER YOU GET, THE MORE YOU KNOW.** . . . and it's the same way with every part of the world in which we live. What prompts the remark is the recent announcement of a leading Northwest university that such minor elements as copper, boron, manganese, magnesium, and cobalt are (1) vital to the health of plant and animal and (2) lacking in many soils of the region.

The minor or "trace" elements are vital things, even though they are needed in very small amounts and, to have the healthiest trees, shrubs and flowers, as well as the most vigorous, health-giving vegetables, it is a good idea to see that your soils get them. They are

easily applied, available everywhere at seed stores, and are not too expensive to use.

**IT IS A SAD FACT.** . . . that most of us get out into the back country only during the summer. Result? We bring in a lot of native plants at the worst possible season. What to do?

Always go equipped with burlaps or plenty of papers, both of which can be soaked and wrapped around freshly-dug natives, the better to maintain life in them during the drive back home. Also, keep in mind that early spring (and late fall on the coast) are the two best seasons for such transplanting.

**WHEN THE PEAS AND EARLY POTATOES.** . . . have been harvested, one can either re-fertilize the garden soil and seed such things as carrots, beets, more onions, bush beans and Chinese Celery cabbage, or the vacated section can be sown to a cover crop. Rye and vetch are often recommended for such a green manure crop, but you can also put in such things as winter wheat, and even oats on the west side. The idea is to give you a lush cover which can be dug back next spring.

### LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Services of the Hillsboro employment office are free to all employers and workers. Every person in the community, whether or not covered by the unemployment compensation law, may make use of the varied job programs.

Most agricultural governmental and small establishments do not send in employment reports or make pay roll contributions under Oregon's unemployment law, but services are rendered to them on the same basis as to the 50 or 60 per cent of the workers who are entitled to compensation when out of work.

Considerably more than half of all job placements made by 26 local offices of the O.E.S. last year were for farm work—and yet very little coverage is extended to this group. Domestic service, another field not subject to the unemployment law, also accounts for a good percentage of the job-filling activity of many offices, while placements also are made with governmental agencies—still not touched by the law.

Lumber and logging, food processing and construction—Oregon's principal heavy industries—claim much attention from local office staffs. Thousands of referrals and placements are made in each of these groups, while other manufacturing lines also make use of the varied job services.

While most of the job place-

ments are made on a permanent or long-time basis, a good proportion, particularly in the private household classification, are for only a few days. Odd jobs around the house, putting in wood or sawdust, domestic day-time help are some examples of short-time referral activity.

With many of Oregon's principal economic undertakings coming to a peak during the summer, local offices have been stressing employment of workers during the off-season. Many odd tasks as well as some larger jobs may be accomplished during the winter-time, the employment service points, and can do much to occupy thousands of seasonal workers and tide them over until spring comes around. Promotion of these seasonal activities has become a major activity of the O.E.S. branches in recent years.

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