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# Northwest Gardens

By JOHN H. HANLEY, Ph. D.

**FRESH SEEDS GROW BEST.**... in by far the majority of cases, which is one reason why it isn't a bad idea to start some of your favorite perennials before much more time is lost. Things like Hollyhocks, Delphiniums, Foxgloves, and Canterbury Bells have been giving up quantities of fine, viable seeds, freshly-collected from the brown pods.

Started now, the young seedling plants will be large enough and strong enough by October to enable them to go through an ordinary winter without difficulty, though it would be best to draw up around them some sort of light, loose mulch, such as straw, for added assurance.

Late sowing of such seeds, or of vegetables like lettuce, carrots, and beets, is definitely DEEPER seeding than in spring. Reason is obvious... to get the seeds down where the soil is more uniformly cool and moist. As a further precaution one can lay shingles, light boards, or even burlap strips out over top of each row, thus reducing evaporation of water and keeping soil temperatures cooler. Immediately, as the germinating seeds show through, remove the covering else the plants will be spindly, bent and weak.

Transplant them when the first pair of true leaves is distinct, preferably to a carefully prepared bed of screened soil (in a cold frame, if one is available).

Other than the matter of cool temperatures and uniform moisture, the principal precautions to be taken in the preparation of the soil in the seed beds and in the transplanting areas are (1) the soil mixture... one part good garden loam; one part leaf mold; and one part vermiculite or peat; (2) all put through a one-quarter inch screen; and (3) protection against damping-off disease (seedlings topple over, disintegrated and thread-like at the soil line) by mixing ferric dimethyl dithiocarbamate dusts into the soil, or by dusting or

drenching seedlings with same after they (young plants) are up. Don't set the transplants too closely, either. Space them out four inches by four inches, or even more, to permit them to grow large before fall. Scatter slug bait liberally among them as fall approaches, and do it again as the weather begins to break in February or March. Slugs always become active earlier in protected sites, such as the cold frame or beneath a mulch.

**A JOHNNY-COME-LATELY.**... in most gardens is our most common disease, one about which we have been talking for several months... 'Powdery Mildew.' It CAN and does show up early, of course, on plants like Lupines, Peas and Roses, but on such things as Summer Phlox, Delphiniums, Chrysanthemums and Zinnias its presence is often not noticed until August comes along. The recommended materials for use in keeping it in check are dusting sulphurs, or all-purpose garden dusts containing sulphur.

**PREVENTION** is the key word in Powdery Mildew control... before the whitish or grayish, powdery coating of mildew spreads over the leaves, apply the dust lightly, but often (every 7 to 10 days, often when mildew is spreading). Be sure that the newly unfolding foliage at the tips is regularly covered.

Do NOT use sulphur on cucumbers, however, else you will burn them badly. Instead, apply copper-containing dusts or sprays for mildew on cucurbits.

**IT PAYS TO BE HEALTHY.**... not only for we human beings, but for garden plants, too. Consider the elm trees in the east, attacked as they have been by a disease brought in from Europe. The disease is apparently spread by bark beetles, said bark beetles always seeming to select the weakest elms to attack. Oak trees in the forests of the

same area are now succumbing to another disease which appears to be similarly transmitted, with the weaker trees getting it first. Yes, there definitely IS something to the close relationship between the health of a plant and its ability to survive disease attacks.

That's one sound reason why you should check two things (1) the nitrogen, phosphorus and potash level of your soil, PLUS (2) making certain that the trace elements, those vital minor chemicals which plants absolutely require, are present, too. Best way to assure their presence is through the use of any of the good booster mixtures which are available at seed stores, and which contain them.

**TWO GORGEOUS LILIES** come into their own at this season, the so-called Rubrum Lily and Auratum, the Gold-Banded Lily. If you use clean, mosaic-free, American-grown stock, chances are good that you will have no trouble with them although Rubrum has been known to be killed by the underground attacks of the grub worms of Strawberry Root Weevil.

To protect them, just mix one of the lindane-chlordane-DDT dusts into the soil at planting.

**OUTSTANDING AMONG EVER-GREEN SHRUBS.**... is Irish Bell Heather, now in flower. Blooming time continues into October. See them in nurseries and select the flower colors you like. Transplant this fall or next spring.

## Guesses Err As To Space Needed In Stopping Car

The majority of motorists underestimate the distance which is required to stop a speeding car, the Portland Traffic and Transportation Commission said this week.

There is a considerable number of drivers who, when asked how far they may expect to travel in stopping from a speed of 40 miles an hour, will offer some explanation as "a couple of car lengths." This estimation is absurdly inaccurate and such misjudgment of stopping distance is sometimes responsible for a traffic fatality, the commission said.

The truth is that a car traveling at 40 miles per hour is moving at approximately 78 feet per second, commission officials said. Since the best driver reaction time is about half a second, the motorist would not even put his foot on the brake until the car had already traveled about 40 feet.

The stopping distance required on a dry, level concrete surface after the brake is applied will add another 90 feet at that speed, bringing the total minimum stopping distance to 130 feet, according to the commission.

Total stopping distance at other speeds were reported as follows: 20 miles per hour, 44 feet; 30 mph, 83 feet; 50 mph, 193 feet; and 60 mph, 264 feet.

### PILGRIM LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid of Pilgrim Lutheran church of Beaverton will meet at the church for regular meeting at 10:00 a. m. on August 17th.

Luncheon will be served by hostesses, business meeting following. All ladies welcome.



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## READERS SAY...

**"CONTINUE TO GROW"**  
Dear Editor:  
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John Plume  
1800 S. Fir Lane,  
Beaverton

## METHOD IN TACKLING

Method is not less requisite in ordinary conversation than in writing, provided a man would talk to make himself understood.

## POST OFFICE JUST KEEPS ROLLING ON

Business in the Beaverton Post Office just keeps rolling on and on, with each report showing a little more increase over the report before.

As of July, 1950, reports Donald L. Jenkins, postmaster, growth this year, from January to July, shows an increase of 24.9% over 1949. Figures for last year are \$23,867.39 while for 1950 (first half of the year) the total is \$29,670.80.

From July, 1949, to July of 1950, an increase of approximately 108% is noted. Last year the statistics showed \$2,626.65 business volume and this year it has increased to \$5,553.63 during the month of July.

## Justice Of Peace Takes Quarters On S. W. First St.

Thurlow Weed has moved his law office and the Justice Court for eastern Washington County from 237 Farmington to 220 S. W. First Street, just east of the Beaverton post office. Remodelling plans call for partitioning the quarters into a 10x20 private law office and 10x20 Justice of the Peace courtroom, as well as installation of glazed glass in door and windows.

Judge Weed last week was appointed Registrar of Elections by the county clerk. New county residents and those persons who have moved to a different precinct in the county should register before the end of the first week in October.

## Traffic Deaths Jump Over 100% For July Month

Traffic fatalities in Oregon leaped to new highs during July with more than a 100 percent increase over deaths recorded in July of last year and a 67 percent increase over June fatalities, Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry reported today.

Preliminary count of last month's deaths reached 50, the worst July on record, Newbry said the toll may go higher if delayed reports of fatalities are received or if persons now listed as injured later die as a result of their injuries.

May, June and July, Newbry continued, have been tragic months in the state's accident picture... with 31 deaths in May, 39 in June, and 50 in July.

Earlier in the year, it seemed probable that Oregon would continue the downward trend in traffic deaths first noted in 1947. Now we are faced with the possibility that this year's accident fatalities will skyrocket to new records unless motorists exercise increased caution on the streets and highways. Newbry concluded.

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