

LOCALITY FAVORABLE TO FLOWERS; ROSES, DAHLIAS, GLADIOLI FAVORITES

CRISSEY GARDENS LEAD IN PERENNIALS

It will surprise a good many people to learn that the Crissey Gardens, which adjoin Dodge Park some ten miles east of Gresham, contain the largest collection of choice perennial flowers to be found in Oregon. The plants come from every corner of the world, many particularly attractive ones from the little known portions of China.

Among these are Aconitum Wilsoni, with stately spikes of soft blue flowers in late summer, and Artemesia Lactiflora, with feathery plumes of fragrant white at the same season. Nothing could be more beautiful than the lovely fall anemones from Japan, while the long spurred columbines from the celebrated English garden of Mrs. Scott-Elliott make the old-fashioned types look very ordinary indeed. The more expensive and newer irises are mostly originated by French and English growers, and are remarkable alike for their size and brilliant coloring.

Finest Novelties Raised.

Mr. Crissey makes a special effort to grow the finest novelties to be had from Europe, and offers several plants that are to be had from no other American source.

Originally the Crissey Gardens specialized in gladioli, and many beautiful "glads" still grow there, but there is a tendency now to emphasize rock plants, and these find a market all over the United States. The rock gardens are particularly worth seeing in the spring. Laid out in narrow beds, they give the impression of a handsome tapestry thrown upon the ground, with splashes of varying greens and brilliant color. The location of the gardens in the very foothills of Mount Hood gives an ideal setting for the rock plants.

Just a little later, say about Decoration Day, the irises are a picture. First the German irises in various colors, then the Spanish, Dutch and English, and last of all the Siberian and Japanese. Few gardeners realize the very long blooming season possible by using these various irises, all of them

beautiful, many excellent as cut flowers.

Grower Impressed By Flowers.

Perhaps a brief mention of a few plants which particularly impressed the writer this past summer, may be of interest. The perennial purple viola, almost obscuring its foliage with flowers like violets for six solid months; the Fairy Wallflower, with bloom of brilliant orange; all through the summer; a wonderful blue pentstemon collected near the snow line of our own Mount Hood and acknowledged one of the handsomest of all native flowers; the new orange Gum called "Lady Strathenden"; Linum perenne, or "the blue sky flower," with dainty azure flowers seeming to float on slenderest of stems; a rich deep red Helenium, dominating the garden in August and September; charming double Pyrethrum, or "Persian Daisies," said to last two weeks as cut flowers; Salvia Farinacea, with spikes of old-blue flowers borne in profusion through the fall months; a new strain of Iceland poppies with flowers twice the size of any previously known.

While some wholesaling is done, the bulk of the business is retail, and aside from that with Portland customers, is by mail. Mr. Crissey's second largest order the past season was from New York.

The new road being constructed on the Dodge Park hill will leave the Crissey Gardens on a short private road, but as the fields of flowers will be even more conspicuous from the new road than they were from the old, flower enthusiasts will continue to find their way there in increasing numbers. The scenic surroundings are already famous, with views of both the Sandy and Bull Run rivers and their canyons.

FLOWER GROWING GIVES PLEASURE AND PROFIT

The Suhr Flower Farm, comprising four acres and located a mile east of the Twelve-mile corner, is destined to become one of the noted flower show places of the Base Line highway. When Mr. and Mrs. J. Suhr started in the flower business a few years ago, they combined business with pleasure, for unless the raising of flowers and shrubs is a pleasure, success is not so likely to attend the efforts put forth.

The year before last the Suhr farm raised many thousands of bulbs, but the demand for them was so great they were sold out long before spring and they immediately decided to enlarge the stock to meet the demand. They have imported many choice flower seeds for the 1926 season and otherwise expanded their business. They are just completing a five-room modern residence and plans are now under way for the erection in the near future of a new glass structure with up-to-date heating plant which will furnish heat for both home and greenhouse. The greenhouse will be used for propagating shrubs, roses on their own roots, and bedding plants.

The Suhrs now have an attractive greenhouse and sales stand on the Base Line road, but the one to be built will be much larger and will serve a different and broader purpose. They make a specialty of gladioli, flowering shrubs and vines, perennial flowers, berry plants and rhubarb roots.

Miss W.—The next sentence George. George W.—Where's it at? Miss W.—What was that George? George W.—Where is it situated at? —Harry Bjur.

WOMAN FLORIST SUCCEEDS AT DAHLIA CULTURE

By EDITH TOZIER WEATHERED. Among the interesting and profitable industries of Gresham is the Tuckerhill Dahlia Farm, owned and cultivated by Vera Wolverson Tucker.

This sightly farm was purchased by Dr. George F. Tucker for a country home, and the doctor, like many other prominent business men of Portland, would drive in and out each day. The doctor however, lived to enjoy his country estate but a few years; on his passing his widow was at a loss, for a few months, as to the future of this home, as she too, enjoyed the country life, the location and the home like people with which Gresham is surrounded.

Mrs. Tucker had gardens of beautiful flowers just being cultivated for pleasure and artistic setting for which so many of the Gresham homes are noted. Many people had admired her dahlias. Then the idea came to her as well as on suggestion of friends—why not keep the farm, still enjoy the out of doors—by commercializing the dahlia. Thus began an industry in the community that has long since passed the experimental stage.

Mrs. Tucker began exhibiting at fairs, both county and state, and her exhibits yearly rank with those of the very best in the country. In talking with her relatives of her exhibits, she remarked, "Not alone am I extremely appreciative of the high rewards received, but in my conversations with cultured and refined people with whom I come in contact, I realize more and more the vocation of a florist is classed along with painting, music, architecture and all other of the fine arts, and I do not know but the florist has many advantages over the other arts, for it is within the reach of the lowly, for they, as well as the rich, can have an abundant wealth of flowers. They can know and understand flower with an unlimited knowledge."

Mrs. Tucker has made a success of growing dahlias for more than one reason: first, she enjoys the work, secondly, she has a pleasing personality for dealing with the public. She has shown what many other women might do when left alone. She has a double reciprocity, she is doing for herself, as well as making more beautiful gardens in the homes of others.

Mrs. Tucker has often stated that the soil of this district is especially adapted for bulb raising and believes there are greater future possibilities for floral acreage.

Mrs. Tucker is indeed an authority on dahlia culture, having gone into its study with a determination to know and understand every phase of producing this particular flower. "There are over 8,000 varieties and experiments still going on. The dahlia has fittingly been named the king of annuals. There is no flower growing which has as many different forms, shades and colors, or which give as handsome returns for the amount of time and labor expended as the Dahlia," remarked Mrs. Tucker, "for the work and watch while you wait" is one of the essentials leading to final bud and blossom."

Oregon has become internationally known as a dahlia growing state, and it certainly deserves this recognition, for those who are making dahlia culture a business are giving their very best efforts.

Local Artist Displays Paintings. A display of oil paintings done by Mrs. M. E. Patterson of Gresham in the window of the Cecil Metzger Grocery, has been attracting attention all week. The paintings are said by those who are critics to be exceptionally well executed and the subjects portrayed true to life and nature. Mrs. Patterson, who has passed her 70th birthday, has been praised by many for the quality and artistry of her work.

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A Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

FARM GROWS 60 ACRES OF FINEST ROSE STOCK

Several important improvements have been made during the past year at the Mountain View Floral Company, four miles east of Gresham in the Cedar district. There the enterprising managers of the farm, Otto Griessel and Jacob Feser, have planted about 60 acres to roses, besides they have perennials, shrubs, evergreens and many varieties of plants and flowers for beautifying the home and lawn, approximately 600 varieties in all.

They have now inaugurated the Skinner overhead irrigation system on their farm, about 20 acres being covered by this modern method of sprinkling. A large storage pump, centrally located, supplies the basis for the system, and from this pump radiate overhead pipes which are provided with nozzles that force the water out upon the land in a gentle sprinkle, not unlike a regular summer shower. This method is much better than the unnatural way of forcing water through irrigation ditches. The pipes are movable and whenever necessary can be shifted to new positions to supply moisture to other parts of the field.

A new greenhouse, 25 x 125 feet in size, is now in process of erection. In this a number of interesting experiments with new varieties of roses is to be tried out, also different ideas in the matter of propagation of evergreens. Plans are also under way to erect a new salesroom by next spring.

Shipments of bushes at the rose farm are going forward briskly. A carload was sent the past week to New Jersey and other carload lots will follow. From five to six cars of bushes are shipped each season from the nursery stock of this thriving floral firm.

The managers of this industry are enthusiastic over the culture of flowers, and roses in particular. They foresee a bright future for those who are interested enough in this branch of floriculture to work hard to bring about desired results.

GRESHAM GREENHOUSES CATER TO LARGE TRADE

Six years ago T. Bjornstad purchased three acres of land from the Winch estate south of Hogan station, together with a greenhouse on the place enclosed by 20,000 square feet of glass, with the idea of going into the flower industry. By patience and much hard work he has succeeded in building up a thriving business in his chosen profession.

The Gresham Greenhouses handled during the season just closing 8,000 rose bushes, 1,000 calla lilies and from 10,000 to 15,000 potted plants. Mr. Bjornstad has been catering to the wholesale trade only, but he has found there is a growing demand for retail trade in this territory, so he is gradually adding that as a feature of his development.

Mrs. Bjornstad is kept busy looking after household affairs, including the care of the four little embryonic florists who are expected to help expand the business of their father later on.

Greenhouse Venture Successful.

A year ago Mrs. M. E. Williams had a little greenhouse 16 x 40 built at the rear of her residence on South Roberts avenue, and grew in it nearly 900 chrysanthemums, which found ready local sale. The work was entirely new, to her, and on account of inadequate heating facilities some loss was suffered during the cold spell of early December. This year, with more complete arrangements, and with the experience of the previous season as an asset, Mrs. Williams again stocked her greenhouse, this time with 800 chrysanthemums and one bin of carnations. The sales this year have been phenomenal and all the chrysanthemums were gone before Thanksgiving. The carnations have proved equally popular and have had a good sale. Two hundred and fifty Darwin tulips have been planted for the early spring trade and plans are being made for the planting of at least 1000 chrysanthemums for another year, with many added varieties. Tentative plans are being made for the enlargement of the glassed space.

Little Elsie, refusing to let her small sister even touch her newly acquired toys, was reprimanded by her mother. Consequently she was sent up stairs to ask God's forgiveness, but returned in a surprisingly short time. "Did you do what I told you, Elsie?" inquired her mother. "Yes," replied the little girl, "and he said, 'Great Scott, Elsie, I've known lots worse girls 'an you.'"

—G. J. M. '29.

Geo. W. (in Algebra)—"Where is that at?"
Teacher—"Say that over again."
Geo. W.—"Where is that at?"
Teacher—"Say it correctly."
Geo. W.—"Where is that situated at?"

Not in Nature.
City Bred (pointing to haystack)—"What kind of a house is that?"
Country Bred—"That ain't a house, that's hay."
City Bred—"Say! You can't fool me, hay doesn't grow in a lump like that!"
—Belle Hop.

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PEONIES are rightly called "regal," huge balls of beauty and fragrance.
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