

### Garden Notes

By  
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Editor's note: This is one of a series of articles on gardening subjects, prepared for The Mail Tribune by the Jackson county agent for horticulture. They will be carried weekly during the gardening season.

The blossoming period of most plants can be extended over a much longer period if the blossoms are removed as soon as they wilt. It is technically untrue that a plant lives merely to produce seed. On the other hand the physiology of many of our flowering plants is such that if they are allowed to produce seed they lose their vigor and the blossoming season is shortened.

There is a very good reason for this. The seeds of a plant are very rich in carbohydrates and proteins. In the case of our common grain crops a pound of the grain will contain about three times as much carbohydrates and proteins as a pound of the straw.

While it may seem that the seed represents only a small part of the plant, actually the seed is quite heavy for its size whereas the bulky stem is very light. When we leave the seed pods on, the seeds act more or less as storage reservoirs, and any excess plant food that is made will be stored in the seeds rather than being used to produce new plant growth. Best results will naturally follow the removal of these seed pods as soon as the flowers wilt. At that time there is practically no seed development, so virtually all of the plant's energy can be directed toward making new growth and new flowers.

Another point in favor of removing these seed heads is that a number of our plants reseed themselves rather readily, and they develop into somewhat of a pest if allowed a free hand. This would be particularly true of the popples, including the oriental poppy. These plants are frequently looked upon as weeds, and if allowed to freely seed themselves they can quickly over run a garden.

These seed heads should not only be picked, but they should be destroyed and not placed in the compost heap. Proper composting will destroy most seeds, but most of us just stack up our

### MSTS Playing Big Part in Supplying U.S. Armed Forces

Washington—(AP)—The Military Sea Transportation Service is supplying and supporting our armed forces overseas with everything from doughnuts to doughboys.

This little-known organization is doing a big but unheralded job in maintaining a bridge of ships to supply this country's world-wide military operations. MSTS has expanded its operations from serving the services to transporting families, war brides and displaced persons. Those additional "lifts" have supplemented the basic cargo, troop, and petroleum support given constantly to the armed forces in Europe, Asia, North Africa and to any other base where this country maintains a good-sized complement.

Unique in Navy  
MSTS was "born" officially in August, 1949, with the purpose of consolidating all sea transportation facilities.

Unique in the Navy because of its organizational set-up, MSTS has its own comptroller, legal, supply and medical divisions. It is responsible for its own records and statistics and the preparation of its budgets. Under its unusual accounting system, MSTS operates on a cost accounting basis with its three main shipping services—Army, Navy, Air Force—or any other government agency that contracts for shipment of cargo, passengers or petroleum. Those agencies are billed for their proportionate share of the cost.

Headquarters for MSTS is in Washington. Major subordinate commands are in New York, San Francisco, Tokyo and London. More than 25 smaller offices are maintained at such ports as Kodiak, Alaska, the Canal Zone,

compost in a pile and keep adding to it, which makes it very difficult to allow the pile to heat clear through, and it is the heating action which kills the seed.

Bremerhaven, Germany, and Pusan, Korea.

MSTS is more than three times the size of the largest U.S. private shipping concern.

Only two per cent of the 29,000 MSTS personnel—military and civilian—work in the Washington headquarters. About 83 per cent are employed aboard ships.

A summary of MSTS operations in all parts of the world for 1951 show that a total of 2,138,355 passengers, 24,211,539 tons of cargo and 14,532,323 long tons of petroleum products were transported.

Some Tasks Unusual  
Some MSTS ships have received assignments of unusual character. Among those are the transportation of "mosquito fish" to Guam to combat the mosquito menace; 5,000 mules to Turkey; water to relieve a drought in the Virgin Islands and the Freedom Bell to Germany.

The service is proud of the performance of its Meredith Victory during the Hungnam retreat from North Korea in December, 1950. Built to accommodate only 12 passengers, the ship crowded aboard 14,000 Korean refugees fleeing from the Communists, a world's record in "passenger" transportation.

The captain navigated his ship with its mass of humanity into the open seas and to the safety of Pusan harbor in South Korea.

The immensity of the task is appreciated when it is realized that it would be equivalent to moving the population of Emporia, Kan., from Baltimore to Jacksonville, Fla., through the open seas, in winter weather, in a ship 450 feet long and 87 feet wide.

June is the most popular month for weddings in North America largely because the Romans considered it the most propitious season, especially around the time of the June full moon.

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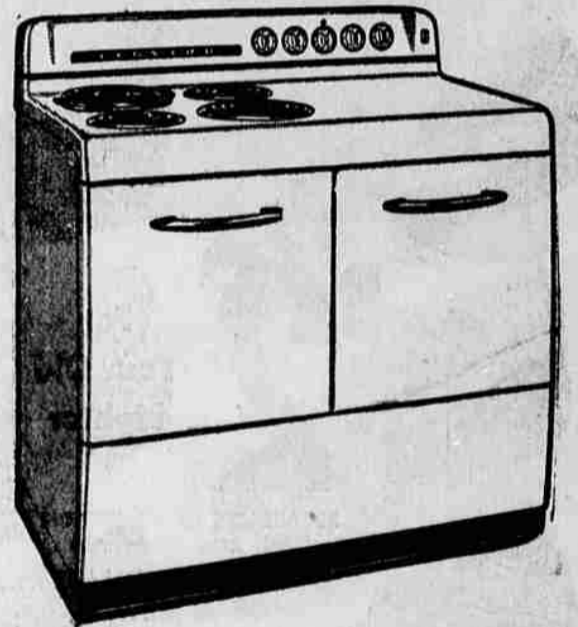


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