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Simple Garden Seed Enticing Promise Of Spring To Many Amateur Growers

Washington—As a harbinger of spring, the ground hog, robin and first crocus each has its advocates. But to many people there's no more enticing promise of spring than simple garden seed.

Since dreary January, gardeners have been thumbing through their seed catalogues where, as one helplessly addicted reader admits, "all melons are monster, all asters are giant, all petunias double-fringed." The magic of the dreambooks dissolves all memory of past failures. And hope for this year's gardens rises

like sap in the trees.

For their 1956 gardens, an estimated 30,000,000 Americans will buy flower seeds and about half as many vegetable seeds. Seed sales have never been better. One large mail order company alone puts out as many as 1,500 varieties.

Another company, which sells through racks in stores, offers 1,100. One of its most loyal customers, an elderly lady who trades at a Philadelphia department store, arrives with her chauffeur each spring and buys one packet of every single variety.

Vegetables. Beware!

Not all buyers are so easily persuaded. Most are especially wary of new vegetables. One catalogue once devoted a whole page in praise of a newly developed vegetable called tampa. A Chinese import, it resembled spinach but withstood heat and didn't collect sand. Now, a decade later, tampa is relegated to a back-page mention and good old sandy spinach holds down its traditional place in the book.

Even yellow sweet corn had to be given away at first. People wouldn't buy anything that looked like "horse corn." Broccoli also had a hard time catching on. Since 1940, however, its sales have tripled. Such success augurs well for purple cauliflower, an old vegetable now being revived. It turns green when cooked and tastes like broccoli.

Nationwide, the best seller continues to be the radish, followed in order by lettuce, beets and cucumbers. Gardeners' tastes vary enough according to tradition and geography, however, that one company sends its seeds to stores in special assortments. Northern states get such quick-growers as carrots, beets, lettuce and radishes. The S (South) assortment, features

white radishes, collards, okra, turnips and mustard greens.

Calls for the S assortment have recently been increasing in the north. In fact, the only assortment for which demand remains stolidly predictable in the E—New England. Except in Boston, where the I.V. (Italian) special cuts across geographic lines, New Englanders can still be counted on to want their pole beans, early corn and winter squash.

Zinnias are No. 1.

In flowers, tastes are more universal. Zinnias are the favorites; petunias, nasturtiums and sweet peas, the runners-up.

Petunias produce seeds so minute that some of the more expensive hybrid varieties are worth many times over their weight in gold. One ounce, containing more than 275,000 seeds, wholesales at \$350.

To enlarge tiny seeds — to make them easier to plant and to eliminate thinning and transplanting — growers nowadays often coat them with clay, mixed with fertilizers and pesticides. One West Coast grower even dyes the clay-coat the color of the prospective flower.

Oak Grove School

Band to Hold Concert

The annual Oak Grove school spring concert will be held at 8 p.m., May 17, on the front lawn of the school grounds. In case of inclement weather the concert will be in the gymnasium.

The 31 member band is under the direction of Elmer Ayres. The public is invited to attend the concert.

SHOULD BE EXCUSED

Knoxville, Tenn. — (U.P.)—Sam Marshall, 41, told police he rammied a parked car with his auto because he "was closely observing a nice-looking girl with a beautiful set of legs, clad in shorts."

Knights of Columbus Schedule State Meet In Medford This Week

Luke E. Hart, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus of New Haven, Conn., will give the principal address at the opening session of the 48th annual state convention of the Knights of Columbus here Friday, May 18.

Registration for the three-day convention will start at 9 a.m. Friday under the direction of Edward J. Bell, state secretary from Stayton for delegates, and Frank DeSouza, Medford, for visitors.

The fourth degree biennial meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. Friday, with the opening convention ceremony starting at 2 p.m. with the call to order by James Halford, district deputy. Welcoming addresses will be by Jack Batzer, grand knight of Medford's Rogue River council, and Mayor Earl Miller.

Friday Session

The Friday afternoon session will include committee appointments, reports of state officers and communications.

The convention banquet will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday in St. Mary's school gymnasium.

Speaker for the banquet will be Dan Hay, state public relations, Portland, who will speak on "More Light and Less Heat in All Things."

Also on the banquet program are the Rev. Nicholas J. Deis, pastor of the Sacred Heart church, who will give the welcome address; Michael R. Hine, state deputy; and the Rev. Edmund J. Murnane, state chaplain.

Business sessions will resume at 10 a.m. Sunday, when new business will be discussed, and officers and delegates will be elected. A site for the next state convention also will be selected.

Entertainment Scheduled

Entertainment for wives of convention delegates and visitors includes a trip to Jacksonville Museum starting at 11 a.m. Sunday. A ladies social will be held between 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday at the Rogue Valley Country club.

Other evening entertainment for convention delegates and visitors includes a social hour between 6 and 7:30 p.m. Friday in

Sixes Youth Drowns On Walk With Dog

Sixes, Ore. — (U.P.) — David Reutertrons, eight-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Reutertrons of Sixes, drowned in the Sixes river near his home here Monday evening.

The boy had gone for a walk with his dog. About 15 minutes after his departure the mother saw the dog returning to the home alone.

Searchers found the body about a mile downstream shortly later.

CASE DISMISSED

Madison, Wis. — (U.P.) — Charges against Dexter J. Weise, 24, for illegally having a siren on his motorcycle were dismissed Tuesday when he explained he was just doing his imitation of a siren. He proved his case with a courtroom demonstration.

The Pioneer room of the Jackson hotel, and a crab buffet dinner at 8 p.m. Friday in the St. Mary's school gymnasium. A mixer social will be held in the Jackson hotel between 10 p.m. and midnight Friday.

Convention business sessions will be held at Carpenter's hall, 123 1/2 West Main st.

IKE PLAYS GOLF
Washington — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower played golf Tuesday at the Burning Tree Club.



For detailed information, see or phone

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