

All-American
Marigold To Be
Ready for Spring

By
EDNA KING MANDEVILLE
During the past few weeks I've been busy previewing the reports of leading seedsmen around the country, and I'm happy to say that 1958 flower gardeners have some really exciting days ahead of them. There are going to be plenty of new faces in the flower gardens this year—including many which are sure to become popular favorites.
At the very top of the list of new flowers I would place the 1958 All-America winner, Petite marigold. For those of you who may have wondered about it, the term "All-America Winner" denotes an honor that is understandably quite a bit different from All-America sports teams. Size, speed of growth, and other purely physical characteristics are of secondary importance in the selection of an All-America flower winner. The major consideration is in selecting a flower that grows readily all over America.

Flowers contending for the coveted title are tested on trial grounds located in every section of the country, and unless the flower grows well universally it is not an All-America. An almost equally important factor is the newness of the variety. It must be different in some important respects—a new color, new height, new shape—something that makes it truly a new variety.

And the Petite marigold certainly fulfills these requirements. It is a whole new strain of unusually dwarf French marigolds, growing only six inches high. Of course this makes them excellent for edging, low borders and small pots. Three new colors are available: Orange Petite, Gold Petite and Harmony Petite. The Harmony is especially beautiful, having a delightful solid gold crested center surrounded by a row of guard petals of a rich, deep mahogany. There is also a lovely Yellow Petite that was not ready in time for the All-America judges to consider. Though it is not strictly an All-America winner, it does add beauty to a mixture of the other three varieties and you'll find it included in some packets.

New Morning Glory
Next on my list of treats for 1958 is the Sunrise Serenade morning glory, a new variety introduced this year for the first time by Mandeville and King company. Unlike most varieties of morning glory, the flowers of the Sunrise Serenade are fully double. For some time there has been a lovely pink double morning glory called Rose Marie, but the new Sunrise Serenade includes pink, rose, red, lavender, purple and white. Although the flowers are not giant size (they measure about 2½"), they bloom so profusely that a mass of these vines sparkles just delightfully in the morning sunlight! Like all morning glories, they are easy to grow, especially if the seeds are placed in water for a few hours to soften their hard shells before planting.

Although Forest Fire Celosia was offered in a few places last year, 1958 is the first time that it is really being featured as it should. I understand that its trial run was most successful. The outstanding features of the Forest Fire celosia are the brilliance of its fiery red plumes (even redder than the popular Flame of Fire) and its lovely bronzy leaves that form a base for the flowers. Growing to a height of about two feet, Forest Fire provides a really attractive splash of color for your garden bed or border.

Maytime Petunia
In addition to the Petite marigold, the All-America judges picked another award winner this year—a lovely new petunia called Maytime. A clear, light salmon-pink color, the Maytime has giant flowers measuring from 3½" to 4" across. Since the variety is an F1 hybrid, it has plenty of vigor and will produce flowers in great abundance. I only wish that space would permit me to fully describe all of the new varieties that are being offered this year. Although the ones I've mentioned are the very best, I must at least list some of the others that strike me as being outstanding. These would include Wee Willie Sweet William, even tinier than the dwarf strain of this popular perennial, and such others as the Blue Lustre petunia, another large flowering F1 variety, Mandarin cosmos, and Miss Universe zinnia. And special attention should be called to Pink Satin, a sister flower of last year's All-America winner, Red Satin.

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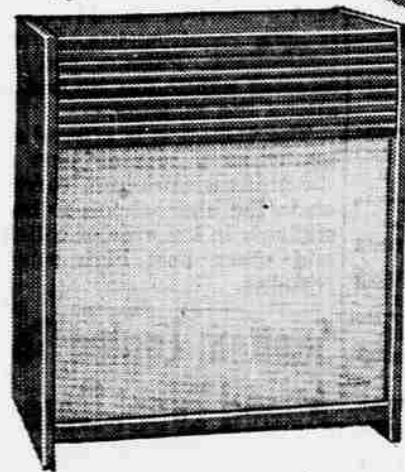
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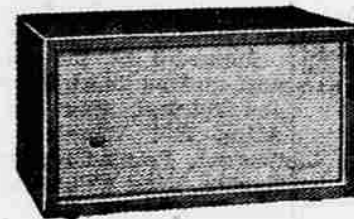
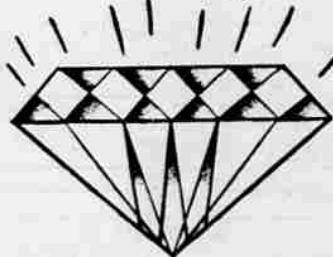


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