

# Cockscomb Types Add Garden Beauty

One of the easiest plants to grow in anybody's garden is pig weed. Too easy! But while pig weed is the ugly duckling of the amaranthus family, there is another member of the same family that is so beautiful you could hardly believe the two were related. This beauty is the varied and colorful cockscomb.

Cockscomb comes in two broad types. One is the crested head that looks like a tremendous rooster's comb from which the flower gets its name. The other is a feathery, plumed type that resembles an ostrich feather. Both kinds are as easy to grow as the despised pig weed, so if you have wished for a flower that grows like a weed and is at the same time surpassingly beautiful, here it is.

The crested types come in dwarf,

intermediate and tall forms, with the favorite varieties being dwarf empress, with dark red flowers, dwarf kardinal, with orange scarlet flowers, and the 1955 All-America winner of intermediate height

torador, with pure scarlet flowers.

Recent developments in the plumed form have brought this type to a new peak of popularity. The best representative of celosia plumosa (the botanical name for plumed cockscomb) is a gay mixture of colors called pampas plume. Plants grow about 30 inches tall and bear a large number of branches, each tipped with a gorgeous, feathery plume. The color range is wide and includes colors unattainable in most flowers.

Besides the familiar gold, deep red, scarlet and yellow there are exotic shades of henna, copper, carmine and bronze. A selection out of this pampas plume mixture with wonderful golden color is golden fleece, and like the pampas plume flowers this one is perfect for big, bold bouquets.

All cockscomb love hot weather and lots of sunshine, the hotter the better, so if you feel a sizzling summer coming on, don't fail to meet the heat with pampas plume or some other cockscomb.

You'll find that endurance in hot weather is only one of their virtues, for diseases and bugs leave cockscomb strictly untouched. It's a relief for any gardener to find a flower that ignores pests and doesn't have to be pampered.

While these flowers thrive in heat they do enjoy plenty of moisture and in the case of the plumed type lots of fertility as well, so for most spectacular results arrange to irrigate the plants during dry spells, and of course always irrigate when you fertilize.

## QUIZZING THE GARDENER

Q—Leafhoppers have infected our asters with yellows. What treatment should be given to control this pest?

A—Dr. A. W. Dimock, in "The Gardener's ABC of Pest and Disease," says that only positive control is to grow in cheesecloth enclosure. Frequent spraying or dusting with DDT or lindane to kill leafhoppers gives some control. Prompt removal of infected plants reduces spread. Yellows is serious only in seasons when leafhoppers are bad. Starting in early summer, spray or dust every seven to 10 days.

Q—Should phlox be cut back each year?

A—Summer blooming tall phlox should be cut down to the ground each autumn after the first frost. Creeping phlox of the kind that blooms in spring may be cut or sheared back lightly immediately after flowering.

Q—Is it too late to take poinsettia cuttings from plants summering in the garden?

A—Not if you can closely approximate greenhouse conditions in your home. Take five seven-inch-long tip cuttings now, pot them in sand, or a mixture of sand and vermiculite. When rooted shift them to 3-inch pots with a rich soil. Do not overwater but keep uniformly moist. Poinsettias can not stand a sharp drop in temperature. Sixty degrees at night is best, hence the advantages of a greenhouse.

Q—What is green manure, and how is it used?

A—Any growing plant, which is plowed under, instead of being harvested, is known as a green manure. This practice of adding humus to the soil was well known to the Chinese, Greeks and Romans two or three thousand years ago.

Q—Please suggest a small growing maple suitable to a city garden.

A—Acer ginnale, the amur maple, a graceful little tree, not exceeding 20 feet in height and with good foliage turning scarlet in autumn. Another small tree is acer tatarica, tatarian maple, a round-headed tree up to 20 feet.

## GI Bill Students At OSC Counted

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Some 10,050 World War II veterans attended Oregon State College under the original GI bill of rights that expired in July for almost all World War II servicemen, a college tabulation reveals.

At present, only three World War II veterans still have study time eligibility left under the federal bill, the tabulation shows. They come under a special provision for veterans who enlisted or re-enlisted between October 1945 and October 1946.

The peak veteran enrollment at OSC was in 1946-47 when 4895 students were studying under GI bill benefits. Two of every three students on the OSC campus were returned servicemen that year.

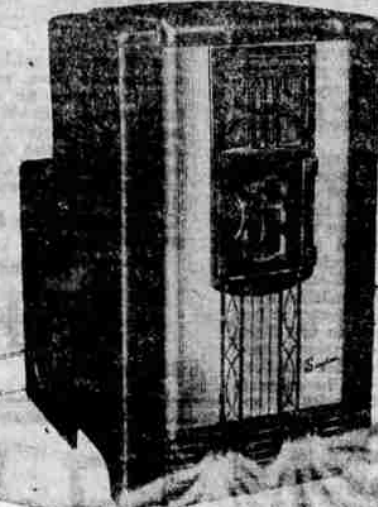
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