



HUSBANDS COME IN HANDY when fences are needed about flower plots. Louella Kucera, who lives at 3951 Summers Lane in the midst of one of the loveliest gardens in the south suburban area, sought help of husband Charles in building this attractive pole fence around her flowers. Mrs. Kucera, who is an iris fancier with over 200 varieties, is shown in perennial garden. Fence is stained a soft red that blends well with all blooms. She is trying out tree peonies. —Photo by Ellis



THE FRAGRANCE of thyme delights the visitor to this rock garden at the home of Mrs. Glenn Ferguson, 1010 Lakeshore Drive. The herb caresses the texture of the native rocks at the base of the mound where pansies, variegated dwarf iris, creeping phlox, primroses and tulips riot around a low boxwood. The bird bath with pink pedestal and basin, the latter with sky blue lining, must surely bring a wandering robin to dip his bill in clear water. None but one who loves the soil can create beauty such as this.

Clippings From Lawns Make Good Fertilizer

Those lush clippings you've been mowing off your lawn can help you grow better flowers and garden crops next year if you throw them on a compost pile now, advises R. Ralph Clark, extension horticulturist at Oregon State College.

Garden and landscape plants thrive in soil containing lots of organic material, Clark explains. The organic matter helps hold moisture and plant food in the soil, and makes it easier for plant roots to develop naturally. In city or suburban gardens where large quantities of manure are difficult to obtain, a compost pile can supply much of this needed organic material.

Grass clippings, leaves, weeds,

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and even vegetable parings and fruit peels will all break down into valuable organic matter when properly composted. To make a compost pile, you first spread a five or six-inch layer of clippings and other material on the ground, add a thin layer of manure or throw on a few handfuls of high-nitrogen fertilizer, and then cover with one or two inches of soil, Clark says. Continue to build up additional layers over a period of time until the pile is about three feet high, ending with a layer of soil.

BIG BLOW

DU QUOIN, Ill. (UP)—When Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Gordon lost their home in a tornado, all they found left were four shoes, each needing a mate. Four weeks later, one of their canceled checks was mailed to them. It was found 65 miles away at Cisme.

Wool Support Is Announced

"It apparently is not generally known that the United States Department of Agriculture has announced a 1958 mohair support program," said R. A. Ward, general manager of Pacific Wool Growers. The mohair support price for the 1958 marketing year, April 1, 1958 to March 31, 1959 will be 70 cents a pound. This reflects 75 per cent of current mohair parity. Mohair prices at present are far below the 70 cents support price ranging from 35 cents in Oregon to 46 cents in Texas. When this happens the government support program goes into effect as the national average price could easily fall far below the support price of 70 cents.

If mohair payments are required they will be made as a percentage of each grower's cash return for mohair, similar to the method employed for determining incentive payments on horn wool. The percentage will be that necessary to raise the national cross country average price received by all growers up to 70 cents per pound. The United States Department of Agriculture suggests growers should do the best job possible in marketing as they will get a larger support payment because of the percentage method of determining payments. "Because of depressed mohair prices, Pacific Wool Growers is making available 40 cents a pound advances on mohair to provide operating expenses during the current dull period," said Ward.

More than 3,000,000 American families own a parakeet.

Over the GARDEN GATE

By RUTH KING

Pearl Buck, author of many works on China, mentions the tree peony frequently in her descriptions of the old, old gardens of yesteryear when empresses with jeweled fingernails and fragile jade fans commanded royal gardeners to cultivate this shrub, native to that land.

Here, those of us, sans gardeners, don garden gloves, and plant where and what we will. One such gal is Louella Kucera, out Summers Lane way, who dotes on trying out new additions to her garden.

One day this week, she pointed out to us, four small tree peonies she is coaxing to maturity. Unlike the herbaceous peony, its woody branches stay alive and year after year the additional growth adds to the size of the plant until it reaches the height and spread of three to four feet and bears from 25 to 100 gorgeous blooms. They are very hardy and seldom lost.

Since the early 1800's when tree peonies were imported to Japan and later came to this country by way of Europe, hybridizers have created over a hundred varieties.

Mrs. K. tells us that these handsome additions to the flower border need well-drained soil and a spot where sun warms the ground most of the day. No barnyard fertilizer, please, but a bit of steamed bone meal or a commercial booster, low in nitrogen but high in phosphoric acid and potash will be welcome. A protective mulch helps during the winter in our cold climate.

To be safe, plant small plants two to three years old in the fall, because it takes about a year for the tree peony to take kindly to change and send out buds.

There are three different types of the tree peony, says Mrs. K. Japanese, large, broad-petaled flowers with a central cushion of golden anthers and with narrower foliage than the European varieties, European, with large double flowers similar to the double herbaceous type, and Lutea hybrids, a cross between the Lutea and the old Chinese tree peony. Color of these hybrids ranges from pure yellow to yellow and red combinations.

You'll love the Manoyama, a lovely semi-double bluish pink, Shintechi with thick, satiny petals, Tama Fuyo, an exquisite bluish pink double, that will pull the strings round your heart with its beauty, Yae Zakura, a cherry pink, Shin Kagura, an intense double rose, huge as your two cupped hands, and Sakura Jishi, with a fluff of irregular petals. We may live in the Klamath

A LOST KEY

DOVER, Tenn. (UP)—Ray McCracken couldn't find his car key so he walked to a garage to have one made. He had to wait; the mechanic was busy fixing a flat on another man's car. What caused the flat? The key McCracken lost.

country, and thrones of the Ming dynasty with gold leaf trim, may never have been seen by our ancestors, but plant a few tree peonies, and when they bloom, close your eyes, take a deep breath, fan your brow gently with a hollyhock leaf and let your thoughts stop for a while in a quiet, high-walled garden where the wisteria vines and the tree peonies of old China send up their fragrances to a summer sky.

Happy Gardening!

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