Help to maintain ALL the work of the Association

The Horticultural Library,
with its collection of books, magazines, pictures, bulletins, and pressed flowers.

The Green Thumb,
with its help for COLORADO gardeners and information on new and improved horticultural plants and practices.

Horticulture House,
with its informational and educational services; its giving of help to gardeners by phone, mail and in person; its public meetings on all gardening, forestry and horticultural subjects; and its furnishing of speakers and writers for many organizations and periodicals.

Preservation of the Beauty of the State,
through roadside parks, protection of the existing vegetation and planting of additional trees along our highways; establishment of state parks; setting aside of botanical reserves and establishment of arboreta.

The Promotion of Conservation,
the better management of forests, grazing and agricultural lands and better city forestry practices in the state.

Encouragement of Better Horticultural Education,
for commercial men, students, children and home owners; and the development of an appreciation for the beauties of Nature in the state through nature leaders’ institutes, nature trips and helps to juvenile organizations.

YOU receive pleasure and profit from your membership. Will you tell your friends of the benefits that THEY may also receive?

This is YOUR organization

IN THIS ISSUE:
Starting Plants for Early Bloom
Preparation of the Rose Bed
Sweet Peas
A Hint for Seed Sowers
APRIL SCHEDULE

April 1, Friday, 7:45 p.m. at Horticulture House. "Native Plants for Landscape Use in Colorado", by Andrew Larson.

April 2 & 3, Saturday and Sunday. Call Mrs. Anna Timm, Pe. 5565 for details of proposed snowshoe trip to James Fekk. Details cheerfully given.

April 7, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. at Horticulture House. Rose Society.

April 8, Friday, 7:45 p.m. at Horticulture House. Kodachromes of Dinosaur National Monument by T. V. Cummins of U. S. Geological Survey. This is the location of one of our proposed botanical trips for next summer.

April 15, Friday, 7:45 p.m. at Horticulture House. "Plants for Indoors and Outdoors" by Mrs. L. B. Shelby.

April 20, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. at Horticulture House. Commercial Men's meeting.

April 22, Friday, 7:45 p.m. at Horticulture House. Kodachromes of Wild Flowers Blooming in April, by Selma Grout Bussell.

April 24, Sunday, Meet at Horticulture House 9:00 A.M. Wild Flower Trip to The Silver Cedar Botanical Reserve along the Beaver Brook Trail led by George W. Kelly.


May 1, Sunday, 8:00 A.M. Wild Flower Trip to American City and Apex. Register several days in advance so that transportation can be arranged.

PROPOSED SUMMER TRIPS

We are now arranging for several trips into the wild country where we may collect plants for our herbarium and enjoy the primitive beauty. Some of these will be rather extensive, some will be rather strenuous. Dates and places may be shifted to accommodate participants. Call us for particulars if you are interested.

May 28 to June 5. It is planned to explore and collect in the little known Paradox Valley. On this same trip we hope to take a ride on the famous "galloping goose" to Dolores. Other side trips may be arranged by some of the party.

June 25 to 27. A short trip is proposed into the western slope of the Gore Range. This is beautiful wild country.

July 1 to 10. During this week a climb of Mt. Elbert is planned followed by a short backpack trip in the vicinity.

July 11 to 12. A short overnight backpack is planned into the vicinity of Crater Mountain.

July 16 to 24. This will be one of the big trips of the season. The destination will be the wild and beautiful Yampa and Lodore canyons in the northwest corner of the state.

CARNAWON AWARD

At the National Carnation Show held in the Denver Auditorium recently Mr. William Hoyne of the Broadmoor Greenhouse, Colorado Springs, was awarded the Dorner Memorial Medal for the finest hybrid. This beautiful red carnation which was named for Mr. Spencer Penrose received 93 points, the highest in over one hundred entries. We congratulate Mr. Hoyne on this achievement.
Follow Cherry Creek
to
GREEN BOWERS NURSERY
All Your Garden Needs
At One Convenient Location
Corner of Colorado Boulevard at Exposition

Evergreens
Trees and Shrubs
Insecticides and Sprays
Annuals and Perennials
Tools and Implements
Vines and Roses
Hoses and Fertilizers

An Acre Under Shade

The accompanying pictures show better than many words that ROAD-SIDE STANDS NEED NOT BE UGLY. These pictures are of the little sales house built by Mark and Claire Norton for their gardens at LaPorte, Colorado. This building adds beauty to the roadside rather than detracting from it. Such a well designed place is not only an ornament to the roadside but should be good business for the owner. Let us hope that many others follow this outstanding example.
STARTING PLANTS FOR EARLY BLOOM

By L. J. Holland

T is getting time of year to start thinking—and doing—something about starting those plants that are going to be needed for the early border. Also, there are certain plants that require longer season than can be had by anting in the open ground. In this latter category are included such favorites as: Aster, Scarlet Sage, Flowing Tobacco (Nicotiana), Petunia, geranium, Lantana, Nierembergia (Sunflower), Verbena, Lobelia and orenia (Wishbone Flower).

If sufficient room is available an electrically heated hot-bed is the ideal medium for starting plants of any kind, but where this is impractical here are several other methods that are quite satisfactory. Perhaps it would be proper to discuss all these methods more fully.

A hot-bed is essentially a frame or atomless box with some form of atom heat and covered with a close fitting pane of glass. Although the atom must fit snugly to retain all the heat possible, any side must be free to be raised for ventilation when necessary, the side opposite the wind direction is the one always raised to prevent drafts. The size of the frame itself will largely be governed by the use of the heating unit, if electricity is used, but the length and width could be so that the flats (if used) take up all the space.

The flats themselves are generally about 4 inches deep and constructed of light materials, commonly wood. Holes in the bottom of the flat should be provided for adequate drainage, and the bottom covered with broken rocks, coarse gravel or vermiculite to a depth of one inch. Finish filling the flats with a mixture of one half top-soil, one-fourth sand and one-fourth leaf mold. For those who do not wish to mix their own, good potting soil is very desirable and may be obtained at many greenhouses.

Those not having hot-beds may set the flats, bulb-pans, or whatever are used, in a sunny window, covering with a pane of glass to prevent excessive evaporation. When moisture appears on the underside of glass, it should be lifted for ventilation. Wipe off excess moisture before replacing glass.

Generally speaking, seeds should be planted to a depth of three times their thickness, but tiny seeds, such as Begonia, Petunia, Ageratum, Nicotiana and Swan River Daisy, should be firmly pressed into the soil without further covering. A tin can, (an evaporated milk can is excellent), rolled lengthwise and across each end does an excellent job of firming the soil without packing it and a uniform pressure can be easily maintained. A newspaper laid on the soil will prevent excessive evaporation and thus assure better germination. This, of course, must be removed as soon as the tiny seedlings appear.

Lupines and Sweet Peas should be planted in plant bands, so that their long tap-roots are not disturbed in transplanting. You can get two weeks earlier bloom by handling these plants in this manner.

Pansies started now will bloom this summer and continue to bloom until snow falls, if given a spot protected from the afternoon sun. It is not unusual to have plenty of blossoms well past Thanksgiving when handled in this manner. If trimmed back and lifted and placed in a cold-frame or given a good covering of straw they will winter nicely and start blooming again early in the Spring. It is also possible to do this with Snap-dragons with like results. The little extra effort required is far more than repaid in a longer and better blooming season, when compared to starting plants bought in baskets.

Cabbage, Tomato, Eggplant and Pepper are easily grown at home by the above method, but the few that the average gardener requires are perhaps best bought from a reliable dealer. But for flowering plants, there is nothing like the satisfaction of growing your own, and at a fraction of the cost of buying the blooming size plants. Also you have the added factor of having plants just when you want them to spot in those ragged places in the perennial border or bulb plot.

Nothing shows one who his friends are, like prosperity and ripe fruit. I had a good friend in the country, whom I almost never visited except in cherry time. By your fruits ye shall know them. — Chas. Dudley Warner, My Summer in a Garden.

HAVE YOU SEEN PRINSEPIA?

M. WALTER PESMAN

It is not very often a brand-new tree or shrub is found to be quite hardy in this Rocky Mountain region. If, besides, this new find is a worth while addition to our garden,—then it is time we arrange for a press agent.

Prinsepia smensis, (and the poor thing has not been baptized with any other name than Cherry Prinsepia), has been growing in the Denver City Nursery, at Iliff and South Logan, for a couple of years and seems to be quite hardy. It has not even frozen back in this pronounced cold spell,—as far as we can tell.

Now for its virtues. Perhaps usefulness should be mentioned first. This shrub, being a close relative of cherries and plums, bears a purple, juicy, cherry-like, fruit, from one half to three quarters of an inch in diameter. It has a pleasant acid taste.

The interesting thing is, that in the Arnold Arboretum, at Cambridge, Mass. these cherries have been produced only sparingly. But in Denver, last summer, a pretty decent crop was realized in the City Nursery. Evidently Prinsepia likes this climate.

Unlike most members of this cherry tribe, where pink and white blossoms prevail, Prinsepia has yellow flowers, bright yellow, over half inch across; they appear together with the leaves, that is, quite early in spring. As many as four flowers may come out in a cluster: a pleasant sight.

It is also different in having thorns, small slender thorns, not enough to be repulsive, just to make it more interesting. (Isn't attraction added, if we are kept at a distance?)

All in all then, we are glad to welcome Prinsepia as a newcomer.
PREPARATION OF THE ROSE BED

By A. E. Albera

A. Meilland, the father of the hybridizer who produced Peace, after many experiments chose to follow the same cultural methods.

Jean Nicolas, who studied rose culture all over the world concurs; that is, deep trenching and 1/3 organic matter.

It will be noted all the older French authorities used cow manure with apparently excellent results. Incidentally, the use of so-called peat moss as a soil conditioner is of relatively recent origin and was probably not available to them at that time.

Further, in regard to the quantity and quality of the organic matter that should be incorporated in the soil, some very interesting experiments were carried on by Professor Chadwick (Ohio) as recently as 1943. Ten beds were prepared in silt loam soil. One bed contained no organic matter whatsoever. Another contained 1/3 rotted manure. Other beds contained peat moss in degrees varying from 1/4 to 1/2. The results were based on plant growth and bloom production. While peat is said to contain no nutritive value the beds containing this element in the proportion of about 1/3 were generally superior to the other beds. The tests also showed the results from plantings in soil containing an over abundance of humus were no better than those planted in beds with no humus.

Another factor that should be remembered in making up a rose soil is the difficult problem of handling the very important element, phosphorus. It is well known phosphorus is hard to feed from above and that it stubbornly stays pretty much where it is put. It is also a botanical fact that roots will seek out phosphorous in the soil and will actually travel in the direction of a deposit. It therefore seems logical that a liberal supply of phosphorous should be incorporated in the soil when the bed is made up, especially deep down.

Bonemeal, as a source of phosphorous has been praised and cursed by various authorities. Note the following from Nicolas:

“European rose growers agree that bonemeal is useless for roses, as it takes a number of years before its contents of phosphoric acid can be released in sufficient quantity to do any good. Furthermore, the high pH of bonemeal (10.2) may be toxic to soils of an already alkaline reaction. Superphosphate is the logical source of phosphoric acid because it is immediately available.”

In contradiction: Smith (1941) reported that tests conducted in Virginia indicated that bonemeal gave comparable, but no better, results than superphosphate.

After reading and digesting the wisdom of the authorities for a good many years I have arrived at a composite that I choose to use in making up a rose bed. Briefly, the following is my formula:

I dig 1/2 feet and break the bottom.

I prefer Canadian peat because of its acid reaction, because I believe it to be superior to rotted manure, and because it can be used with safety from the bottom of the bed clear to the top.

Because roses seem to be able to tolerate a large quantity of phosphorous I use both bonemeal and superphosphate, one for an immediate source and the other for a longer lasting supply. I have never had bad results from an over-dose of phosphorous.

If I should have compost on hand that I was sure was in an advanced stage of nitrification, I would use it, and cut down on the amount of peat moss.

Beds, even though tamped, will settle a great deal and therefore should be made up as far in advance as possible. Also, if manure is used the aging process will cut down the danger of infection or injury to newly formed fibrous roots.

Some Plants Which Are Likely to Tolerate Alkaline Conditions In Colorado

**TREES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Siberian (Chinese) Elm</th>
<th>Russian Olive (gray leaves)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honeylocust (slow)</td>
<td>Poplars</td>
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**TALL SHRUBS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Siberian Pea shrub</th>
<th>Privet*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamarisk</td>
<td>Lilac, Persian and Common</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bush Honeysuckle*</td>
<td>Rose Acacia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russian Olive</td>
<td>Buckthorn</td>
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<td>Sumac*</td>
<td>Skunkbush Sumac</td>
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<td>Peking</td>
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<td>Cotoneaster*</td>
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**LOW SHRUBS**

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<th>Leadplant</th>
<th>Spireas*</th>
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<td>Indigo bush</td>
<td>Currants*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snowberry*</td>
<td>Matrimony Vine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coralberry*</td>
<td>Dwarf Pea Shrub</td>
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**FOR HEDGES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Russian Olive</th>
<th>Bush Honeysuckles</th>
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<tr>
<td>Siberian Elm</td>
<td>Cotoneaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lilies</td>
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**PERENNIALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achillea</th>
<th>Helianthus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Boltonia and Fall</td>
<td>Hemerocallis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asters</td>
<td>Iris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Painted Daisies</td>
<td>Liatris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shasta Daisies</td>
<td>Blue Flax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chrysanthemums</td>
<td>Nepeta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delphiniums</td>
<td>Veronica</td>
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**ANNUALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zinnias</th>
<th>Sweet Alyssum</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marigolds</td>
<td>Bachelor's-Buttons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calendulas</td>
<td>Four O'Clock</td>
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<td>Petunias</td>
<td>Nasturtium</td>
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<td>Cosmos</td>
<td>Poppies</td>
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<td>Cleome</td>
<td>Sunflowers</td>
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*Indicates also tolerant of shade.
I SHALL never forget the thrill I experienced when I first began to appreciate fine gardening and to see that a well arranged garden is one which is beautiful, interesting and useful.

My early attempts at gardening must have been somewhat comparable to the cowboy who, when asked to play the piano said, "Well, I never save but I'll try." I had plenty of confidence but I did not know what constituted a good garden. I was essentially a horticulturist, who knew plants and how to grow them, but I did not have the faintest idea how to put them together in a pleasing design. I had the paints, the brushes and the canvas, but I couldn't paint the picture.

However, a short college course in landscape architecture changed my whole conception of a garden. This started me off on a fairly extensive study of the subject and I took advantage of every opportunity to visit well designed gardens. Now instead of placing the emphasis on the horticultural side I think of design as the most important phase.

I have learned to stand back and look away from the individual plants so I can see the beautiful pictures. These views are best when seen from the doors and windows of the dwelling, the porch or terrace, the garden house or seat or any other important point in the garden.

These pictures must have sequence, unity and balance. The greatest center of interest should be the focal point with the other subordinate things leading from one to another up to this climax. The many things are then seen together as a whole. Balance is produced by an exact symmetrical arrangement or by an equality of interest on each side.

The best lawns which I have seen adjoin the living rooms of the house and have an open center. They then serve as a foreground to the picture beyond.

I used to think a great variety was desirable but now I know a great number of plants create confusion and unrest. The best gardens have a predominance of one kind of foliage with enough contrast in color and texture to avoid monotony.

Straight lines seem to be better borders for small places for they emphasize long dimensions and thus create an illusion of space. In larger areas such as parks, curved lines may be used because a long straight line would become tiresome.

Points of interest in gardens are features such as, arbors, tea houses, pools, rock gardens, bird baths, gate-ways or specimen trees and shrub or flower groups. Too many features have a tendency to cause confusion and none of them arrest the attention or stand out as unusual. It seems better to have too few than too many.

Generally the interesting points are best placed in a recess of foliage or at the end of the axis or line of vision and they should always have a proper background and framing. Some may be partly or wholly hidden from the main view so that they give an incentive to walk into the garden and investigate further.

The well planned gardens which I have visited have all the unsightly places screened off and full advantage is taken of any interesting distant view. These views are carefully framed by trees and shrubs.

The better garden designers say that the front yard should not contain any feature which might take the interest away from the dwelling. Trees are best placed to the side and a little in front of the house to frame the architecture, while shrubs are placed to mark the boundary and to soften the angles and make the transition between the house and the yard.

Above all things, it has been impressed upon me that to be useful a garden must have seclusion. The yard should be enclosed by a wall, a hedge, a tall shrub border, a lattice or a vine covered fence. Unless it has this privacy it defeats the purpose for which a garden is intended. If there is enough shade and comfortable resting places to enjoy oneself and to entertain friend an atmosphere of relaxation and peace is...
reated. The open lawn may be used for games and in larger places, areas are sometimes set aside for play rounds and contain such facilities as tennis court, swimming pool and bowling green. In our own garden we use an outdoor fireplace a great deal for picnics and parties.

Landscape artists say that walks are useful and attractive but great care should be used in placing them so they will not cut the pictures in two and they must always lead to something of interest. They are used extensively in formal gardens to create a pattern. I have seen many walks placed between the lawn and flower beds. They then lead by an interesting part of the garden and also keep the grass from growing into the beds.

Plants, lawns, features and walks, make up the garden, but it is only when these are placed in an artistic design that the result is satisfactory.

do not want to suggest that all gardeners become landscape architects, but I do believe any gardener will get more enjoyment out of his own and other gardens if he will pay more attention to that combination of design and horticulture which makes landscape an art. He will then know what is meant by fine gardening.

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Garden Wisdom from The Ancients

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.—Gen. viii, 22.

The noisome weeds that with profit suck the soil's fertility from wholesome flowers.—K. Richard II; III, ii, 52.

Rich soils are often to be weeded.—Francis Bacon.

SOUTH WIND
by Burton O. Longyear
A wind from the southland came one day
At the close of a winter long
And cleared the snow from the fields away
While it sang me a treetop song.
From tropical islands and rustling fronds
I have come over billowing seas
To linger awhile among shadowy ponds
And sway the gray moss on the trees.
Through the valleys I've loitered with birds and bees
On my way to the far northland,
Where I'll wake up the buds on the waiting trees
With the touch of an unseen hand.
In the aisles of the forest I'll stir the dead leaves
To set all the wild flowers free,
Then I'll sing in the boughs where the hangbird
Weaves her nest in the old elm tree.

_Mertensia coriacea_

Boykinia janesi

TWO CHOICE PLANTS

A talk given by Mrs. K. N. Marriage at the recent Rocky Mountain Horticultural Conference.

Our program lists this period as discussion of “New and Unusual Plants for the Rocky Mountains.” I've taken the liberty of changing the preposition “for” to “from.” While there are many plants from other places which we in the Rocky Mountain region could use—and don’t—there are probably many more plants, natives of the Rocky Mountains, available for gardens of all the north temperate zone both in the eastern and western hemispheres not yet known or certainly not widely known to horticulture.

Two that I found “on the hill at the back of the house” little known yet, are top notch rock garden plants.

Boykinia janesi won an award in that Grand National of shows, the Chelsea Show in London, in pre-war days and was pictured in color in several of the leading gardening magazines of England soon afterwards. This grows on many of our mountains but is most lavishly distributed on Pikes Peak, “the hill at the back of the house,” filling 6-foot vertical rock crevices and spilling out into lakes of clear rose pink. Worth growing for its frilly pleated foliage if it never had a flower.

_Mertensia coriacea_, plentiful too on Pikes Peak from timberline to the top, is the best behaved of its family in the Rock Garden. Its blue-green foliage together with its wide-eyed way of looking up (instead of hanging its head like most of its sisters) are points in its favor. Then while it enjoys a poor gravel soil, overfeeding doesn’t make it coarse, lush or too buxom. This Mertensia won the award last May for the best rock garden plant in the annual show of the Scottish Rock Garden Society. We hear much about the beauty of English gardens but the Scottish gardeners are the most discriminating of any. Both of these plants grow well at 5000 to 6000 feet in well-drained peaty soil in a north exposure.

Both may be raised from seed—with patience—but Boykinia takes its own time about getting ready to bloom. It seems to say “I’m here for permanence, why hurry?”
NEW AND UNUSUAL PLANTS

By Wm. Lucking

From a talk given at the Rocky Mountain Horticultural Conference in Denver, February 7, 1949.

WHEN it comes to plants, new and unusual plants, I have been way from the nursery trade for four or five years. After being a nurseryman with Mr. Roberts for 17 years, then took a notion to go outside for years, and have been away from these newer and unusual plants. Some of them I still can recollect, if I have we frost out of the crevices of my rains, and the one plant which I think is unusual and not growing too extensively is the Eremurus, or the oxtail Lily. I have had extensive experience with this. Mr. Roberts and I was told they came from the Himalayan Mountains at a prohibitive price. I understand that they are now available, and can be bought cheaply. They are unusual plants in several ways: They are the first things that pop out of the ground in the spring; they are large plants, and or less for a large garden, and require well-drained soil; they pop up pretty nearly as soon as the frost off the ground, once in a while the rest will get them but, they will and considerable frost, and almost ways we get blooms. The foliage of these, when they are fully developed, looks like that of the Century plant—white, long, with large broad leaves. They grow very rapidly and oom the first part of May if weather conditions are right. When fully marred they grow to about 8 feet high with a flower itself from 3 to 4 feet long. They come in pink and white, and now they have developed a hybrid. I only grew the pink and white is the reason that I was growing them for cut flower purposes. As a cut flower they were used more or less for advertising purposes only in the florist trade. You will see them in the windows sometimes...I don’t know whether you recognize it or not...they display it early in the spring in large groups. In a display they take on a very artistic curling effect. They will drop their heads around when they are cut. They are cut absolutely straight, but, after cutting they form a beautiful curving effect. The pink one is robustus and the white one is the Himalayas. The white one is my favorite because I think it is just about as glossy as can be. So much for the Foxtail Lilies; but, I would like to see them grown more. After they are through blooming, they die down and you can clean off this foliage and plant annuals over them. Their life is...well, they just have no life span. They just go on and on and you have to dig them up every five or six years, for when they make a new set of roots, this new set of roots form on top of the old and work themselves up. They have an enormous root. We have had considerable discussion on plants of the shrubbery group. I will confine myself to more or less perennials and if we have time enough, I will bring in some shrubs. One plant I like for crevices in rock gardens, in walks, and steps is the Arenaria montana. It is a very dainty plant, grows in more or less moss form, blooms early in the spring, and later in the fall, will make a regular mossy coverage. It doesn’t like full sun. The full sun will burn it, and winter sun will burn it, so it would be a good idea to give it partial shade.

Another plant which I think is outstanding is Euphorbia palustris, or Japanese Spurge. These are among the first plants to pop out in the spring, and as they develop, their bloom is right from the time they start to come from the ground. They grow on until about 18 inches high at full growth. The flowers are yellow with a long period of about six weeks. The feature about this plant is that it has good foliage, and in the fall it is one of the few perennials from which you can get color.

One of my favorites for the rock garden is the Helianthemum. It comes in colors all the way from white, pink, yellow, apricot, mahogany and also comes in single and double forms. It requires a real sunny location, and well-drained soil. It is nearly an evergreen plant; but, a good idea is, in the spring, to cut it clear back. It doesn’t like transplanting; it is hard to transplant. Young plants usually are grown from cuttings handled in pots and replanted. You can’t divide them as they form a solid root.

Another plant which was brought out at another meeting, and which I think is an outstanding plant, is Veronica incana. This plant has gray foliage and grows close to the earth with a little rosette. It shoots up a very straight spike with flowers of an amethyst blue color. After the flowers have gone, you clean them off and still enjoy the foliage. It is a very, very nice plant, if you like this gray foliage.

Spiraea filipendula (meadow sweet). We have had considerable discussion on plants of the shrubbery group. I will confine myself to more or less perennials and if we have time enough, I will bring in some shrubs. Another plant which was brought out at another meeting, and which I think is an outstanding plant, is Veronica incana. This plant has gray foliage and grows close to the earth with a little rosette. It shoots up a very straight spike with flowers of an amethyst blue color. After the flowers have gone, you clean them off and still enjoy the foliage. It is a very, very nice plant, if you like this gray foliage.

Dr. Hildreth mentioned that the U. S. Plant Bureau is collecting and getting new plants in from all over the world. While working at Roberts’ Nursery, each spring we would get a big list of plants and we would shut our eyes and point our finger down and that was the plant we would probably order.
HAVE you ever enjoyed your morning coffee watching a Downy Woodpecker working energetically on limb of a mountain maple tree while Red-breasted Nuthatch, hanging upside down, pecked sedately at a chunk of suet? Or, observed a dozen Chickadees taking turns darting in and out of a feeder filled with sunflower seeds at paying little attention to the inky Juncos eating from a pan of fixed grain? The coffee is ever so much better but the delay to one's household duties is disastrous! Night me, more often than not, finds one performing such mundane tasks as axing the kitchen floor or cleaning silver.

If you don't like birds and little animals, don't move to the mountains, store an old house, and put in large windows. If you do, first thing you vow, you will be sitting quietly for yours—and forcing your friends to do likewise—watching the antics of the little folks. Time was when I piddled into my work, getting everything finished on schedule. Not any more; not since moving to Georgetown up in Clear Creek County. Now I sit for hours waiting for a red-shafted Flicker to put in his appearance for breakfast, or a Long-eared Jay to shyly get his slice of feed to store away. If they are a little late, I think of a myriad of things I might have done to displease them.

Food conservation means little to your feathered friends. They seem to have their favorite feeders as well food, and we soon know if something is not to their liking. Off the feeder it goes! The Snow Birds or ncos—Pink-sided, Shufeldt and slate-colored—scratch for their living when the snow is deep, flock to mixed grain feeders. The saucy Chickadees—Mountain and Long-tailed Hicadees are the little fellows with black caps and bibs—prefer sunflower seeds and suet but are not adverse to a repast of peanut butter on bread and fruit cake.

Early last Spring an enthusiastic friend recommended a certain mixture of grain. My husband, with the attitude of "nothing is too good for our birds," promptly came home with a supply. Imagine our surprise when later in the season a bumper crop of radishes and mustard sprang up on the lawn. It was too fancy for the birds but the chipmunks and Say's ground squirrels found the greens most palatable. They would sit up, holding the top of a mustard plant in their front paws, and nibble away at the bright yellow blossoms. Much to our disgust, nasturtiums and pansies were also among their favorites. "Squeaky," the littlest chipmunk played hide-and-seek all Summer long with the Johnny jump-ups.

When the supply of sunflower seeds is exhausted, the Chickadees hop in and out of the feeder, scolding sharply, until something is done about it. When I am patient, they will gingerly take the seeds from my hand and when my husband replenishes the suet containers, they watch him curiously, chattering gaily while they flutter around his head. They dart down, grab a sunflower seed, and away they go to sit on a limb and crack it with their sharp little bills. Never still a minute. Their call of "chick-a-dee-dee" is as cheerful as the brightest of Summer flowers.

Each evening at dusk a Shufeldt Junco delights in sitting for a long period in the middle of a feeder which is tucked back in a rock wall. Some of the Chickadees will only eat from the top of a feeder. Particular, aren't they? Last Summer a Pink-sided Junco brought her fluffy babies down, established them on the grass under a feeder, and promptly busied herself scratching out grain for them. After a sumptuous meal, they received their first lesson at the bath, accompanied by a young Towhee.

"Scratchy" is a name we have given all the Green-tailed Towhees— we never can tell them apart. These rufous-headed birds, with the white neckties, never become intimate with the other boarders, but from the day of their arrival in Spring, seem to "take over." Announcing themselves with a soft "mew-mew," they go directly to the feeders, forcing the other occupants to leave. For the last two Summers a feud has existed between the Towhees and Black-headed Grosbeaks. Finally, during nesting season, the hungry female Grosbeak stood her ground and refused to budge from the feeder when "Scratchy" arrived. Such a commotion! The Towhee was indignant; he flew up on the terrace, fluffed out his feathers, pacing and "mewing," until the Grosbeak returned to her nest. Neither do they like the neighborly little chipmunks and ground squirrels but dart at them.
A verdant gray squirrel often scoots down the old rock wall, built many years ago by the narrow-gauge railroad, and joins "the family" for a meal. He spent most of Thanksgiving Day stuffing himself on suet and mountain maple seeds, chattering loudly at the Jays who resented the intrusion.

Another winter boarder is "Bunny," a rabbit, who hops cautiously to the back door for some carrot shavings or preferably a chocolate cookie. If any bread crumbs or grain have been left on the walk, he shares it with the birds, never failing to face the road in constant watch for Rusty, the pooh next door, whose chief delight is chasing rabbits and chippmunks.

Late winter arrivals are the busy Red-breasted Nuthatches. About the middle of February, they can be seen at the suet containers. We call them the "topsy-turvy" family, for they seem as comfortable standing on their heads as right side up. "Round and round up and down the tree they go in search of food. Full of curiosity, they are apt to come close enough to peer in your face if you stand very quietly. It is a thrill to see one of these tiny mites perched next a large bird.

The most recent addition to our sanctuary is a group of Tree Sparrows. Easily identified from other sparrows by their red-brown caps and black breast spots, they are welcome visitors. They are quite at home with the Juncos and Chickadees, and at first were content with picking up any loose grain on the snow but have now learned the easy way of life and are the last ones at the feeders at night.

Birds attract birds and once feeders are established, one may be sure of guests. Often in migration, birds stray from the flock. Last winter an Arctic Towhee arrived during a blizzard and stayed with us almost six months. How we wished he had brought his mate; we would have cut the rent in half! Three Fox Sparrows stayed a week and a Rock Wren called on us several times. All of us can have the pleasure of making friends with birds. They are such grateful creatures, very little trouble, and always return their "party" calls. One soon absorbs their cheerfulness and gaiety and it is such fun to watch their antics. Just clear off a place in the snow where grain and crumbs can be scattered; but, better still, make or buy a grain feeder. Either put suet in a wire container or tie it securely to the limb of a tree. They will soon find it. However, once feeders are established, they should be kept filled because the birds grow to depend upon the food and will often starve should the supply become exhausted.

DAFFY DILLS
by Len Shoemaker

My mother called them daffy dills
In days of long ago,
When down the garden path with her
Each spring I'd often go.
She loved them dearly and, of course,
I learned to love them too,
Because they added charm to chores
That she and I must do.
And as they brightly smiled at me,
Something they seemed to say:
"God sends you from His bounteous store
Sweet peace and joy, today.
Enjoy His love as here expressed
In you, your garden friends,
And we, in turn, will fill your days
With cheer until life ends."
Long years have passed—in memory
My heart quite often fills
With thoughts of boyhood days when she
Raised golden daffodils.

GREEN THUMBS
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Newman

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Newman who live at 7732 Newman St. grow all kinds of plants. Some they grow to sell but a lot more they grow just for fun. Mrs. Newman says, "John can't resist a new or unusual plant if he sees it in a catalogue. He must have at least one." They have a great variety of exotics and tender plants which they keep in a small greenhouse.

Mr. Newman hybridizes a good many irises each year but keeps only a few which show promise of being very choice. It takes five years to develop a new iris. Through the years Mr. Newman has developed quite a few seedlings which he identifies by number since giving a new iris a name requires considerable detail.

Mr. Newman is looking forward to the time of his retirement from the Public School system when he can devote all his time to his garden, hybridizing and experimenting with new plants.

Mrs. Newman is Mr. Newman's helper in all his projects. She not only knows how to grow flowers but she knows how to handle them after they are grown and picked. She has a great deal of ability and know-how in making of corsages and flower arrangements.

Who loves a garden loves a greenhouse too.—Cowper, The Task.

The ads carried in the Green Thumb are for your convenience—when you buy, mention the Green Thumb to our advertisers.
“FAR AWAY PLACES” ARE SOUNDING OFF

By Anna Timm

“From the moment the first grubby lavender—grey parsley begins to push above its winter quarters near-hand and far-a-way trails begin calling. They will continue to call while the mountains change from the deep silent white to a blaze of new and old leaf bud and blossom colors, ten back again to snow and the lence of winter. To the average listener a call to adventure and exploration in the mountains brings a resume of all the hair raising, unlovely horrors they have ever read or heard of actually experienced! What an appalling waste of time and energy!

Far-a-way places in the mountains and foothills are so filled with a very special beauty and gentleness that there is no room for needless apprehension. Spend these precious moments in adequate preparedness prior to the start of a happy sojourn into high places. You will realize that herein lies the practical, sane answer to the problem of camping and mountain climbing. Following is a quotation from an article by George W. Selly, editor of "The Green Thumb," which is found on the July page of the 1949 calendar. It briefly summarizes ways and means of knowing mountain climbing and camping and traces the vital need of preparedness first, last and always:

“Our Untameable Mountains”

“These same mountains can be easily dangerous for those who go to them unprepared. To the uninitiated the mountain climber takes great risks but the experienced mountaineer only ackles those things which he understands and is prepared for. A thorough utilization of his own abilities and strength, proper clothes and equipment and a knowledge of fundamental safety precautions is always necessary. Let us hope there will always be preserved some of the primitive places where we can go to renew our health and strength.”

Because he is looking to the spiritual joy of association he passed by the more material item, food. A word regarding that commonplace “equipment” may be useful. Begin your food preparedness by washing and scouring all cooking and serving vessels at home where there is an abundance of hot water and clean towels. Wash, scrape and trim fresh fruits and vegetables, put in paper or cotton sacks or lid tight jars before leaving home. Keep cooking equipment covered with lids until time to use them. Plates, cups and flatware will travel nicely inside larger vessels. Never leave kettles or frying pans open while in process of cooking on an open camp fire. Do not take a chance on little dark "things" that will fall into open brew. You may be mistaken. It may not be "clean dirt."

Use onions, strong spices as well as heavy fats sparingly at high altitude. A good vegetable oil for frying and shortening is easier to live with, clumbs better too! For a dinner easy to reheat on camp fire the first meal and good for next should you be lucky enough to have any left, try Lentil Brew:

One 16 oz. pkg. of lentils will make 2 quarts, at least.
4 or 5 lb. ham shanke
1 cup cut-up celery stalks or pinch celery seed
1 small onion added last hour

Boil ham and lentils in 2 quarts water over a slow heat three hours.
Cook desired amount of carrots separately in salted water.
Put into glass jars with fitted lids and add when brew is reheated.
Just before you announce, "Soup's on," add 1 tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice and 1 tablespoon chopped parsley.

Raw vegetables in salad or dill pickles sliced, fresh or canned fruit, cookies and jam or previously prepared jello are a good dessert for such a dinner.

Of course the lentil brew may be cooked in camp very successfully over a very low camp fire.

Happy camping! We'll be seeing you on far-a-way trails! —A. T.

Outline of a Program for Tree Care In Colorado

Care in planting: Select fresh, healthy nursery stock. Dig large holes. Plant properly. Be sure soil is good. Water in thoroughly. Cut back top. Stake or shade as necessary.

Careful maintenance: Thorough watering and cultivation. Fertilizing when needed. Controlling insect pests and diseases. Trimming for shape and prevention of storm and decay damage.

Considering and combating, so far as possible, unnatural and unfavorable cultivated conditions: Lack of sufficient water from rain, snow, or irrigation. Lack of birds, destroying the "balance of nature" to control pests. Large plantings of one variety, making conditions favorable for the rapid spread of insects and diseases. Isolated trees, lacking the protection of the forest, from storms. Dry air and hot sun in Colorado which imported trees do not like. Freezing and thawing, and extreme warm and cold spells in spring. Smoky, dusty, and gas-filled air. "Contractors' soil," full of lime, plaster, bricks and subsoil. Change of level, fills and cuts. Hard-packed soils from traffic. Leakage from underground gas pipes. Damage from rubbing wires and careless linemen. Injuries from nails, wires, lawnmowers, autos, and pocket knives. Lack of natural leaf-mould to retain and conserve water, and to supply needed food when decayed.

Tree surgery as a cure for damage or neglect: Necessity for knowing how a tree grows, how and where the sap flows, how wounds heal, peculiar climatic conditions in Colorado.

Reasons for filling a cavity: Seal openings to keep out water and stop further decay. Provide suitable surface for cambium to grow over. Prevent entrance of rot-fungi spores and insects.
THE GREEN THUMB

SWEET PEAS

An Old French Gardener’s Way of Growing Them

By HELEN FOWLER

Each year many of us have a rendezvous with the 17th of March the accepted date for planting sweet peas. The late spring this year as moved that date up a bit so get our seeds in as once if you have not ready done so.

One of the prime essentials in sweet pea culture is the choice of an open, sunny location with plenty of light and air. Any soil that is well prepared to grow vegetables will give fairly good results, but today we are looking about something more than fair results.

Somebody or other years ago told me of an old French gardener’s way of growing sweet peas. To start, the section of the rows is important. It must always be done but best results seem to come from running the rows north and south so the sun at me time of the day can reach both sides of the plants. The usual shallow trench is not dug but one as deep as 6 inches to 2 feet—the deeper the trench the taller the vines and the better the blooms. Deep preparation only promotes available fertility and increases the amount of area here food and moisture may be used and thus allows the plants to feed roots in all directions.

Soaking the seeds give better results; if planting is to be done on me Tuesday then soak the seeds on Monday morning to give them a head start.” This helps germination. The top soil must be well pulverized at the time the digging is done so is soil should be piled on top along the trench so that it can be used for ing back in as planting proceeds. If the manure can be obtained somewhere, get a few bushels for making liquid fertilizer.* Pour this into the trench until saturated. When not too wet but only moist, the seeds should be planted and covered to a depth of two inches with the soil that has been thrown up on the side. It should be well tilled and a seed planted every inch or so. It is a little tough from now on as the soil must be worked in around the peas by hand with the leaves only left uncovered. Every 2 inches of growth the same process is repeated until all the soil dug out of the trench has been put back—each time fresh manure must be added.

If this method of growing sweet peas is followed you will have four huge blossoms on many stems and far more stems with three blossoms than two. Before very long you will find it necessary to stand on tip-toe to snip the blossoms.

Now thinning out—after the plants have started to grow but before they begin to throw out shoots they should be thinned to stand not two inches apart, nor four, but six. Toward the end of the row try even nine inches. If you give each plant room to grow you will be amazed at its fast growth and its luxuriant color.

Soon as the tendrils appear on the plants small twigs should be put in the ground for support and to prevent possible wind injury. Wire netting makes an excellent support, as it looks well before the vines cover it. The soil should be mulched (stirred) frequently and if later in dry weather it is necessary to give waterings they should always be copious. The immediate removal of all faded flowers is most necessary in preserving a long period of bloom.

If you have trouble in securing stable manure try your dairy but if you cannot get it there nor any place else of course commercial fertilizer may be used with nothing like the same results—with better results however than by just digging the trench and planting in the ordinary way, or as one poor grower suggests, “sowing seeds need not be in a trench but on the top of the ground covered with but an inch or so of soil.”

WHY A MORTALITY GUARANTEE?

This question is logical, and definitely in the minds of all purchasers of nursery items, as well as the sellers.

A guarantee is a warranty that the sale of an item is all that it is represented to be; healthy, true to name, up to size specification, properly dug and prepared for delivery, with sufficient root system to reasonably support it, and of good symmetry. What else can a buyer expect or the seller offer? All of the above can be fulfilled, and yet the plant fails to survive. Why?

The answers to this are many and quite varied. Poor soil conditions, improper planting, over fertilization, non-cultivation, under or over-watering, improper placement, unseasonal planting, under or over-pruning; all summing up to proper care or culture. Where one, two, or possibly more of these conditions happen to a given plant, it is almost a surety the results add up to a sick plant, if not a dead one. But, what if most or practically all of these develop, as too frequently they do, (mostly through neglect or inexperience); then what happens? you guessed it—dead stock.

So much of this is beyond the control of the seller, once the stock is out of his hands, that reasonable consideration should be given the party from whom purchase was made, before making requests or demands relative to the mortality guarantee.

Practically all reliable nurseries do their utmost to see that the customer gets stock of the very best quality on delivery; consequently there should be a moral obligation on the part of the purchaser, to do his best in trying to see that the stock survives; and of consequence, the demands for mortality guarantee be lessened.

In case of loss, who can truthfully say where the fault lies—with the buyer or the seller? It is because of these uncertainties that a mortality guarantee enters into the sale.

Guarantees are also varied. A few sell without mortality guarantee of any kind; some assure purchasers they will replace free of charge, providing stock has had reasonable care: a very few give 100% mortality guarantee regardless of conditions, (but where these contracts are rendered, the price is usually warranted same); and yet others prefer to sell on the replace at half price basis, which, all things considered, seems to be the basis of the fairest guarantee, each being liable to the other.

—CY DONIA

We invite suggestions on this important problem. Someone pays for a guarantee; and it looks very much as though the careful gardeners were paying a higher-than-necessary price to make up for the ignorance or carelessness of others.

EDITOR
Think that one would be a dub
that may in springtime wear
the loveliest blossoms everywhere.

shrub that laughs at wind and
weather
and ties your house and lot together.
Those branches with their gracious span
ark comradeship with bird and man.

shrub that nestles by your wall
and yields gay berries in the fall.

parodies are crude, it's true,
it shrubs deserve a poem, too.

—ELIZABETH H. PESMAN

Who hopes that Joyce Kilmer would not mind.

GERANIUMS

are a specialty at "Northern Colorado's Garden Center"; bicolor and the very rare tricolor fancy-leaf geraniums, many varieties of the delightful old-fashioned, scented-leaf geraniums — geraniums aromatic of nutmeg, pine, lemon, spice, one even redolent of peppermint! Ivy-leaf geraniums in a dozen different brilliant pastels and, of course, Zonales, a score and more.

April Special for Members of the Association: One Each of Ten Different Ivy-Leaf Geraniums, Strong 3-Inch Pot Grown Plants Correctly Labeled for Only $3.95

Mail orders will be shipped via express and charges reflected by the express company on delivery. Please add 33c for tax and packing on mail orders.

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—2-Year Plants True to Name—
Pruned, Ready for Planting

Carefully Selected Varieties

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SIMPSON SEED CO.

1525 Champa St.
Denver, Colorado

Phones: MA 2778 - CH 1817
APRIL GARDENING

APRIL is the in-between month. It’s not quite spring, but there is evidence that winter may be losing its grip at times. We need to keep in mind that these April showers (or snows, in Colorado) may be good for the May flowers. We should take advantage of all the good weather when the ground is dry enough and get our transplanting of trees, shrubs and perennials done, but should not assume, from a few warm days that summer is here. Many things may need a mulch around their roots or a shade for their top for several weeks yet.

Learn to water for a definite reason. Routine watering may, at times, be actually harmful. Check up the moisture condition of your grounds, and give everything a good soaking if you do not find sufficient moisture in the soil. Different kinds of soil and different locations may make a great deal of difference, even in the same yard. Watering frequently and shallow, watering when the soil is already sufficiently wet, or overwatering may do more harm than good. A sprinkling over the lawn does make it look good, but it is bad to encourage the roots of grass to seek all their strength from near the surface of the soil by unnecessary watering.

Some things must be transplanted early if they are to be moved, while almost anything that needs to be brought in may be moved now. Get your orders in now for the new things that you need. Try your local nurserymen first, for they can get your new plants to you in much better shape than where they must be shipped a long distance.

Even the best of lawns will occasionally need some patching and thickening up in the spring. This work can be done any time after the frost is out and before the hot weather of July. Work up some loose soil in the spots to be prepared, scatter on seed of the same kind as the existing lawn, rake very lightly, cover with a thin mulch of peat, manure or compost, and water as you would a new lawn for the next month. When seed is planted early it will not be as difficult to keep wet as in hot weather later, but it will be slower starting.

There is really not such a mystery about fertilizer. Chemical fertilizer, we know, is inclined to be quick acting and of short duration, but may be valuable when the plants are growing to give them necessary elements which may be deficient in the soil. Animal manure provides chemicals in a well-balanced amount which are gradually available, and it also supplies needed humus and mulch. The fresher it is the richer in chemicals it is, and the older it is the weaker, but safer, it is to handle. Leafmold, peat and compost would class with the older, well-rotted manure.

Most seedsmen indicate on the seed packet those seeds which may be planted before danger of frost is past, and those which will only germinate in warm soil. Since it is often risky to set out tender plants in Colorado until June, it is important to have seeds started indoors much before that time, so that there may be a longer season of bloom or fruit. Some slow-growing things may be started a couple of months before this time, but faster growing things such as Tomatoes or Zinnias may get large enough to be difficult to handle in six weeks. Sweet Peas may still be planted, even though St. Patrick’s day may have gone by. It is worth while to prepare the bed well if good
JO MATTER how carefully you prepare a flat of sterile soil and sand, or sphagnum moss, or the very excellent new medium, vermiculite, you may get into trouble if you follow germination tables too closely. I did. My first seed-flat was a shallow x, lined out for fourteen rows of different kinds of seeds, each carefully labelled. Set into warm water until the top showed moisture, then covered with newspapers and burlap, the flat then sat in a protected kitchen window where the temperature was probably 65 or 70 degrees. I had been most careful not to cover the rows too deeply.

Unfortunately, I had followed a reliable germination table which stated that the fourteen kinds of seed sowed would germinate in from one to five days. On the third day, one row showed the fine white marks of seed germinating at regular intervals. Uncovered, that row was green the next day and no others showed any signs of germinating. Consequently, I had to resort to a complex system of strip-gardening, narrow burlap pieces cut to shade rows where no sign of emergence appeared. By the end of two weeks, all seeds were sown, but the first plants were large enough to shade the late arrivals and be set out at any time that they are received, if they are hilled up with soil to keep them from drying out until the new growth starts.

If you have too many night crawlers in your lawn they may be discouraged by scattering arsenate of lead on the surface and washing in. Your seedsman will probably recommend about a pound of lead to a hundred square feet.

A HINT FOR SEED-SOWERS

BY MAUD McCORMICK

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For the well-being of your treasured trees—
Have them DAVEY-INSPECTED this spring

Do you know when your shade trees are beginning to fail?
Few people do. Unintentional neglect is the cause of most tree trouble. Too often tree men are not called until a valuable tree's life is endangered or the expense of saving it is many times the cost of simple tree care in the early stages. Regular tree inspection every spring is the most important phase of tree care.

An experienced Davey Man knows what to look for in an ailing tree. A common check for example, is to measure twig growth. He may call on the Davey laboratory for scientific analysis. For the Davey Man in the field is backed by the entire Davey organization, its laboratory and its continuing research.

It is so unnecessary to neglect trees, when it is so easy to have them inspected.

Call Littleton 263-W
COLORADO FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE ASSOCIATION

Help to maintain ALL the work of the Association

The Horticultural Library,

with its collection of books, magazines, pictures, bulletins, and pressed flowers.

The Green Thumb,

with its help for COLORADO gardeners and information on new and improved horticultural plants and practices.

Horticulture House,

with its informational and educational services; its giving of help to gardeners by phone, mail and in person; its public meetings on all gardening, forestry and horticultural subjects; and its furnishing of speakers and writers for many organizations and periodicals.

Reservation of the Beauty of the State,

through roadside parks, protection of the existing vegetation and planting of additional trees along our highways; establishment of state parks; setting aside of botanical reserves and establishment of arboretums.

Promotion of Conservation,

the better management of forests, grazing and agricultural lands and better city forestry practices in the state.

Encouragement of Better Horticultural Education,

for commercial men, students, children and home owners; and the development of an appreciation for the beauties of Nature in the state through nature leaders’ institutes, nature trips and helps to juvenile organizations.

YOU receive pleasure and profit from your membership. Will you tell your friends of the benefits that THEY may also receive?

This is YOUR organization

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Sweet Peas
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