To preserve the natural beauty of Colorado; to protect the forests; to encourage proper maintenance and additional planting of trees, shrubs and gardens; to make available correct information regarding forestry, horticultural practices and plants best suited to the climate; and to coordinate the knowledge and experience of foresters, horticulturists and gardeners for their mutual benefit.

The Green Thumb
Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association
Organized in 1884

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COME AND SEE US
The most complete stock.
Visitors are always welcome.

SWINGLE TREE SURGERY COMPANY
620 So. Dahlia
FR 7-8123

JUNE
Vol. 17
No. 5

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SWINGLE TREE SURGERY COMPANY
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June 1960

Close up of European elm scale that does serious damage to our American elm trees.

This is the season to apply summer sprays to control scale insects.

ILIFF GARDEN NURSERY
Shade, fruit, and ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, hardy vines, small fruits, and evergreens container grown.

40,000 perennial plants in containers. Over 400 varieties, including specimen plants and ground covers.

New Plants — Harvest Giant Mums, all colors; Olympic, Mid-Century, Texas, Harmony, Golden Chalice, and Yenidoka Hybrid Lilies; New Petunias; Spun Gold Marigolds; Basket and Hill Parade Snap, Bougainvilleas.

SK 6-5656

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The Garden Guide, Pat Gallavan, KRMA-TV Channel 6, Thursday at 9 p.m.

The Green Thumb Program — Every Saturday morning on KLZ at 10:15 a.m.

Fun with Flowers — A lecture and demonstration, followed by the making of arrangements. Each person brings containers, mechanics, and materials. The workshops are open to everyone. They will be held each month at the following times and places:

Workshop I — Botanic Gardens House, 909 York Street. 9:30 a.m., the third Wednesday of each month.
Workshop II — Lakeside Denver Dry Goods, 44th and Harlan, 10 a.m., the first Friday of each month.
Workshop III — Arapahoe County Fair Grounds, Littleton, 9:30 a.m., the third Tuesday of each month.

Floral Art Courses — Opportunity School. Every Thursday, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m., 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m. There is no charge except for materials.

BOTANIC GARDENS HOUSE MEETINGS
909 York Street
June 1 — Botany Club, 7:30 p.m.
June 3 — Civic Garden Club, 11 a.m.
June 6 — Sunburn and Blisters Garden Club, 9 a.m.
June 7 — Mountain View Garden Club, 10 a.m.

Green Thumb Editorial Committee, 2 p.m.
June 8 — Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs, Executive Board, 10 a.m.
Organic Gardeners, 8 p.m.
June 9 — Lakes O’Bow Mar Garden Club, 9:30 a.m.
Denver Rose Society, 7:30 p.m.
June 10 — Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association Finance Committee, 10:30 a.m.
Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association Board Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
June 13 — Judges’ Council, 10 a.m.
June 14 — Martindale Garden Club, 12:30 p.m.
Evergreen Garden Club, 7:30 p.m.
June 15 — Fun with Flowers Workshop, 9:30 a.m.
June 20 — Green Thumb Garden Club, 11:30 a.m.
June 23 — Civic Garden Club, 1 p.m.
June 27 — Golden Gardeners, 12:30 p.m.

July 5 — South Denver Garden Club, 1 p.m.
Green Thumb Editorial Committee, 2 p.m.
July 6 — Botany Club, 7:30 p.m.
July 8 — Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association Finance Committee, 10:30 a.m.
Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association Board Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

FLOWER SHOWS
June 17 — Sunshine Seeders Garden Club, open flower show, Arapahoe County Fair Grounds, Floral Hall, Littleton, from 2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

A similar garden featuring night lighting will be on our garden tours and will be open in the evenings for your viewing pleasure.
kinds of equipment for outdoor living.) Screens, fences, and many types of roofing, extend the outdoor living period in this area many weeks, and well placed accessories add color and beauty the entire year.

Patio, fences, walls, pergolas, rocks, elevated flower beds, any and all are features used. Each garden, of course, being planned around the needs and wishes of the owner. Many gardens are planned for the future. They are first designed for the young family. With a few changes they accommodate the teen-age group and by further modification provide a garden for the owner's later years.

Garden lighting has become an art. Correctly installed electrical equipment will add many hours to your garden enjoyment.

There are many different types of gardens, Japanese, Country, gardens with specialized plantings of roses, begonias or unusual plants, and rock gardens with native plant material.

This year we looked at gardens with all of these ideas in mind, and we have found many beautiful and interesting gardens. We have planned two days of tours featuring night lighting in the evening.

Reserve the dates July 13 and 14. Come and enjoy with us the beauty and livability of these Gardens--Designed for Outdoor Living.

GARDENS TO BE SHOWN
LOOK AND LEARN GARDEN TOURS JULY 13, 14

<table>
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<tr>
<td>DR. AND MRS. D. ATKINS</td>
<td>4605 Montview Boulevard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR. AND MRS. JOHN S. BOUSLOG</td>
<td>6210 East 17th Avenue</td>
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<td>MR. AND MRS. ERNEST C. GRAHAM</td>
<td>1200 South Shoshone</td>
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<td>MRS. ALFRED WATTS GRANT</td>
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<td>MR. AND MRS. T. W. HENRITZE</td>
<td>2423 East Exposition</td>
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<td>DR. AND MRS. REED JOHNSON</td>
<td>1601 South Windemere Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR. AND MRS. J. V. PETERSEN</td>
<td>909 Ridge Road</td>
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<td>MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR G. RIPPEY</td>
<td>2525 East Exposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR. AND MRS. N. L. SHERE</td>
<td>456 Cherry</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR. AND MRS. RICHARD SIMON</td>
<td>2 Viking Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>MR. AND MRS. CHARLES WILMORE</td>
<td>575 South Harrison Lane</td>
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“For gardens, the contents ought not well to be under thirty acres of ground, and to be divided into three parts; a green in the entrance, a heath, or desert, in the going forth, and the main garden in the midst, besides alleys on both sides.”—Francis Bacon

Landscape Contractor L. D. “LEW” HAMMER Tel. WE 5-5938

National Convention and Rose Show Of the American Rose Society
BY DABNEY OTIS COLLINS

Rose gardeners from all over America will converge on Denver June 16-19, when the Denver Rose Society will be host to the American Rose Society National Convention and Rose Show. The convention will be held in the Brown Palace West on June 16 and 17. The show will be held in the Denver U. S. National Bank Building, June 18 and 19.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 15, in the Brown Palace West, and continues through the next two days. Every reader of the Green Thumb is invited to register for the three-day program. Your registration fee of $4 entitles you to hear America's foremost authorities on roses. It also entitles you to a free Western buffet luncheon on Thursday, June 16, in the Brown Palace West.

This is the first time that the American Rose Society National Convention and Rose Show has been held in Denver. As host, the Denver Rose Society, in cooperation with national headquarters, has prepared a program that measures up in every respect to the high standard of excellence of this national event. Never before have the home gardeners of metropolitan Denver had the opportunity to learn about the rose from such a galaxy of distinguished speakers.

Among the speakers will be our own George Kelly, founder and first editor of the Green Thumb, who will tell how to grow "Roses in the Sunshine..."
A fine photographer as well as a gifted speaker, Mr. Keflys color slides of roses and rose gardens will delight you.

You will hear the world-famed hybridizer, Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, of Germain's, tell how you can profit from the secrets of commercial growers; Dr. David L. Armstrong, of Armstrong Nurseries, and Fred Edmonds, Jr., of the noted River Ranch Nursery in Oregon, Dr. A. C. Hildreth, director of the Denver Botanic Gardens Foundation, will speak on "Developing New Roses for the Mountain States," which sounds like a most interesting subject.

If you like old-fashioned roses—and a good many of us do—be sure to hear Dorothy Stemler, of Will Tillotson's Roses, tell about damask, moss, hybrid musk, chestnut, rugosa, Bourbon and hybrid perpetual roses. Her color photographs are so beautiful that they are called "rose portraits".

Highlights of the program is the hour-and-a-half demonstration of making rose arrangements by Cliff Mann of the internationally known Cliff Mann Floral School, in Denver. About 1500 roses will be used in this demonstration by Mr. Mann, assisted by members of his staff. His course of training in floral design is recommended by leading florists throughout America and in many foreign countries. Don't miss this one! Begins at 10:30 Friday morning, June 17. Learn how you can make rose arrangements that beautify your home—and add joy to living.

The rose show opens to the public at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and closes at 5 p.m. On Sunday it is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Erwin A. Andersen is convention chairman. Clinton B. Strickler is chairman of the rose show committee. He is assisted by Mr. and Mrs. George W. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Myron E. Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard G. Stuart, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray E. Turnure.

Open only to members of the American Rose Society are these national trophies: the Nicholson Bowl, entry for which consists of seven different varieties of hybrid tea roses; the J. Horace McFarland Trophy, entry for which consists of six different varieties of hybrid tea roses; the A. Eugene Pfister Trophy for the best grandiflora; the Nora Katherman Trophy for the best arrangement. Members of the Denver Rose Society who are ARS members are eligible to compete for these national trophies.

Also open to Denver Rose Society members— and only to them—are trophies for the best group of three hybrid teas, best floribunda, grandiflora, climber, single rose, miniature Peace, and best single hybrid tea which is Queen of Show. The Albera Sweepstakes Bowl will be awarded to the greatest number of blue ribbons won in the specimen classes.

In addition, ARS certificates will be awarded to Denver Rose Society members as follows: Gold Medal Certificates for Queen of Show and best floribunda. Silver Medal Certificates for second best hybrid tea and floribunda. Bronze Medal Certificates for third best hybrid tea and floribunda.

Only members of the American Rose Society residing in the Rocky Mountain District are eligible to compete for the J. Horace McFarland Rocky Mountain District Trophy.

It is estimated that show entries will total about 1000. Those competing only for the national trophies will come from California, the Northwest, the Midwest, the Southwest and the East. Other entries will come from Utah, Colorado Springs, and other parts of the Rocky Mountain District. The Queen of Show will be a queen, indeed!

No one may enter roses in the show unless he is a member of either the American Rose Society (competing only for ARS awards) or of the Denver Rose Society. Those wishing information on the Denver Rose Society may contact the membership chairman, Pat Gallavan, distinguished editor of the Green Thumb.
CLIMBING ROSES

By Alice Quinn

Home Garden Club of Denver, Inc.

No rose, except certain tropical species that climb by hooked thorns, are truly climbing in habit. That is, no rose is a climber in the same sense as ivy or a morning glory. In their natural state some cling to branches of supporting trees and shrubs by their thorns and prickles. Those generally designated as “climbers” are really varieties of vigorous growth that will easily accept attachment to any support. The stronger growing varieties can be used on trellises, porches, patios, fences, or be tied to posts or pillars, and they may even be used as hedges. There are some twining varieties which creep over the ground making mats or carpets and they are useful to prevent erosion or cover waste places; however, we do not see these generally in this area, probably because our slopes and waste places are too dry.

Climbers are, primarily, once-blooming, in June or July, but there are some sorts that bloom recurrently. Blaze is a continuous blooming Paul's Scarlet Climber, and New Dawn is a recurrently blooming sport of Dr. Van Fleet. In general climbers are of easy culture—they are hardy and require no winter protection here. The term “hardiness” however, is always relative when discussing plants which are intended to grow over a territory as vast as that of North America. Hardy climbers may be expected to endure, without damage, the severest winters in those districts where peaches can be grown. Where the climate is colder they require protection in varying degrees, often the shelter of a wall or windbreak is sufficient. I understand that in the East it is necessary in most sections to hill up the roses for winter protection. There is a distinction between Hardy Climbers and Tender Climbers. Most of the Hardy Climbers quickly reach maturity and almost all will bloom the second year after planting. On the other hand, Tender Climbing roses frequently require much longer to become established and produce their best flowers on wood three or four years, or even more, old. The direct result of this is that Hardy Climbers may be enjoyed in regions where an occasional severe winter will cut them to the ground because after one season's growth they will renew themselves and be ready to produce a full crop of flowers. On the other hand the Tender Climber will require several years before it restores itself sufficiently to bloom well. For this reason the Hardy Climbing roses are grown almost everywhere in the continental United States, and perhaps Alaska since it was warmer in Alaska in February this year than in Denver.

Climbers are of great importance in our gardens since they adapt themselves to various areas, and a nice thing about them is that they give a great color display in a little space. Even a clothesline post may be adorned.

There are, in general, two types of Hardy Climbers, based on two Oriental wild roses—Rosa multiflora and Rosa wichuraiana. Many of the earlier types of multiflora roses have disappeared because of the stiffness and awkwardness of the plants which made them difficult to train. These were the Rambler roses with stems thirty feet or more long and flowers generally small, borne in large clusters for several weeks in June or July. The original Rosa wichuraiana is an extremely vigorous trailing species, excessively twining, with shiny green foliage and single white blooms. Because of the more plant character of their stems and the better resistance of their foliage to disease and also because it was easier to breed them in varied colors and larger blooms the Hybrid wichuraiana rapidly supplanted the Hybrid multiflora. There are three distinct groups—the trailers, similar to the original, with small flowers in clusters; the vigorous erect climbing varieties with small flowers in clusters; and the more recent and most important group including the tall-growing, large flowered varieties, many of which have blooms almost equal to the Hybrid Teas in quality. Their only fault is that as the size of the blooms increases the hardiness of the plants tends to decrease—this is particularly true of the yellow varieties.

Rose breeders have, for a long time, striven to produce Hardy Everblooming Climbers. There are as yet no established varieties that will bloom continuously all over the United States, as many will not endure a Northern Winter. In this area they seem to fail more to be everblooming than in hardiness.

Climbing Teas, Climbing Hybrid Teas and Climbing Hybrid Perpetuals and Climbing Polyanthas, except for the climbing habit retain the general character of their respective types. Because of their larger growth they are frequently less prolific in bloom and are much harder to protect in winter where it is necessary to do so.

Since the climbers are usually set out “for good” they should be chosen wisely. Is your rose to adorn a post, a trellis, garden arch, or fence? If so, the eight to ten foot climbers are for you. In selecting climbers, first consider where they are to grow; then the period of bloom—some of the one-time bloomers go on for as long as six weeks. If you’d rather have less at one time but often, chose the ones called “everblooming”.

Climbers should be planted about the same as Hybrid Teas—in a hole at least two feet square and deep. Any good garden soil, well drained, is satisfactory. They should receive sun for at least half of the day. If you must plant close to a hedge or shrubs, growers suggest that you cut off their lower leaves and lower branches. This will enable the climbers to reach the top of the hedge or shrubs more easily.

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Pruning is not too difficult, but yearly attention is required to keep the plants in bounds. Timing is always the same—and so are the thorns to scratch you. In early spring remove any winter-killed or diseased wood. Then prune right after bloom to encourage the next crop on repeaters or to help train and keep a plant in bounds. Prune any time for some growth that is too rampant for the location or purpose. Suckers, that is growth arising from the root stock and below the bud or knob of the union, should be promptly removed. Usually sucker growth has foliage noticeably different in color, shininess or texture, but seven leaflets are not a certain indication of a sucker. Climbers trained horizontally on a fence will give more bloom than if allowed to grow upright as they put out more laterals along the stem. On those climbers that require several years to produce good flowering framework prune lightly at first and cut first flowers with very short stems. Train rather than cut a young plant. Some varieties produce only a few big basal canes from which arise many flower- laterals. These require only a little cutting out of crowded canes or very old ones that have ceased to bloom well. On once-flowering large bloomed climbers cut back the flowering stem after blooming to two or three leaf buds. On the large flowering repeaters, remove the end of each flowering lateral after blooming, but leave three or four leaf buds. On very vigorous varieties cut back new basal canes one-third to one-half at the end of the growing season to encourage more blooming laterals next year. Actually one probably will have to work out his own pruning depending on the growth and space allotted to the rose. Blais and Paul's Scarlet require less pruning than American Beauty and Silver Moon.

Climbers can be trained on a brick wall without defacing the brick by using the "Wayward Vine Supports" which are pliable wires fastened to a cement base which is glued on to the brick. These can be obtained at seed stores, at a cost of about five cents each.

With the arrival of spring's warm temperatures this little gray, black and white bird is trim and slender. Cold winter temperatures make Mr. Chickadee fluff out his feathers and appear quite plump. Most of us know his easily identified, "chick-a-dee-dee". Now, listen for his spring song. It includes a two- noted "fee-bee" or often three-noted "fee-bee-e". A favorite nesting place is a small cavity in an old cottonwood. Those of us who have winter feeding trays or stations know what a favorite sunflower seeds are of this bird. We were inquiring of Mr. Donald Thatcher, of the Colorado Bird Club, what becomes of "our" chickadees during the summer. He suggests we keep sunflower seed out the year 'round to insure these gay, active little birds in our gardens. Perhaps it would be good to plant some sun flowers. The chickadees are great acrobats, peering under the leaves, swinging head down on a limb. They are never still.

Pauline Roberts Steele

MATHILL NURSERIES
Better Built Trees — Landscaping with Personality

5825 W. 16th Avenue
BELmont 7-0445
DISPARAGING remarks are sometimes heard about the trees in the older sections of our city. The trees are disrupting the sidewalks, or are dying of disease (due to neglect in care). Utility companies are having heavy expenditures for line clearance work and for repair to power lines damaged by wind-shorn branches and storm-felled trees. The line clearance work always destroys the shape of the tree. In other words, these trees reaching their prime are interfering with the ways of modern living. A change in the style of tree planting may be necessary.

The trees, cottonwoods, boxelders, soft maples, elms were planted because they were easily grown and tolerant of the less than ideal conditions of growth. They grew rapidly and in a few years their large heads of foliage produced the much desired shade. The leaves acted as filters of dust caused by traffic on unpaved streets and sidewalk paths. During warm weather the transpiration of moisture from the leaves had a cooling effect. The shade cast by their canopies reduced the temperature in homes and some forms made effective wind breaks. Trees also act as barriers against noise.

In this modern era pavements have somewhat reduced the amount of dust but not the noise. Air conditioned homes can replace the cool shade. Since walking is becoming negligible, sidewalks are disappearing. Trees, however, are still beautiful and desirable and necessary for pleasant living.

These "inherited" trees desirable in the past are now too costly to maintain. Overgrown and too closely spaced, they are becoming an expensive nuisance on many of the city streets. As utility installations keep pace with the rapid advance toward modern living, there is the constant conflict of the large trees with the power lines. Naked wood poles supporting canopies of interlacing power lines continue to increase in number.

To solve this problem in the newer residential sections of the city the use of smaller-maturing species are recommended. By planting small trees with fastigiate and columnar form, some of the difficulties mentioned can be overcome. Outstanding among the improved forms are Norway maple, *Acer platanoides* Cl. (erectum); American linden, *Tilia americana* (fastigata); American elm, *Ulmus americana* ascendens; mountain ash, *Sorbus alnifolia*, and little leaf linden, *Tilia cordata*.

Other satisfactory street trees are hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*; green ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* lanceolata; thornless honey locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos* inermis; Kentucky coffee tree, *Gymnocladus dioicus*, and sycamore, *Platanus acerifolia*.

A practical and comprehensive street-tree program based on the experience of almost a century should be formulated and maintained consistent with the development of modern residential areas. A wider choice of trees is now available both functional and ornamental. With special care in planting, watering, fertilizing and trimming these more desirable trees can be made to grow.

Trees are a necessity for the comfort and beauty of the modern home. Photo courtesy American Association of Nurserymen.
yellow coloring. Inconspicuous but very sweet scented flowers appear in the latter part of June. Not a fast grower, its ability to withstand adverse city conditions as well as extreme cold make it a very usable tree. A fine specimen stands near the northeast corner of the Capitol Building. Another one is growing west of the old library building on the Civic Center.

Sycamore, buttonwood, plane tree, Platanus acerifolia, 50 feet or more, a stately tree with tall trunk and loose, broad head and mottled green and white limbs. The tree sheds its bark in sheets from the smaller branches, exposing pale, smooth under bark. It is recognizable by its mottled appearance in winter and in summer. Leaves are large, palmately lobed turning yellow to brown in autumn and papery. The name buttonwood comes from the fruits which are swinging, many-seeded balls, hanging all winter. Sycamores are growing on each side of Crony Lane in City Park south of the museum, also on the Marion Street parkway.

Two trees furnishing light shade are the honey locust and the larch. The Moraine locust is a variety of honey locust that is thornless and podless. Ideal for street planting, for accent, for stately effect. The feathery compound leaves admit filtered sunlight, permitting maintenance of a lawn in its shade. Flat topped contour harmonizes well with contemporary architecture.

The larch or tamarack, Larix spp., 50 feet. Tall pyramidal tree. Bears small cones with concave, plain scales. Needle-like leaves are deciduous. Well developed trees may be seen on 7th Avenue Parkway.

Two hardy trees are Ailanthus and green ash. Tree of heaven, Ailanthus altissima, 50 feet, a luxuriant tree with long compound leaves resembling the sumac. Only pistillate types should be planted as the staminate flowers ex-hale a disagreeable odor. Short lived tree but replaces itself readily. Well adapted to city planting. A fruiting tree in late summer, looks like a great hydrangea.

Green ash, Fraxinus pennsylvania lanceolate, 60 feet or more, handsome round topped tree, compound leaves. Seeds winged and shaped like darts, borne profusely. Withstands drought and is tolerant of climatic extremes.

Port-a-planters were introduced this year by the makers of Jack Pot peat moss pots for the gardener who starts his own seeds and seedlings. These attractive polystyrene trays are designed to hold 12 1¾ inch Jack Pots. The planter is sturdy, light weight, and comes in 2 styles, with or without an attached drainage saucer. Their design insures good drainage and facilitates removal of pots from tray without damage to plant or pot.

THE WILDERNESS BILL

DURING the last few years the so-called Wilderness Bill, now before Congress, has been given wide publicity. Many viewpoints have been expressed in the Press and elsewhere both for and against this measure. It has been stated that if this bill is passed the development of the country, particularly the West, would be choked. On the other hand, according to some, without the Wilderness Bill there soon would be no areas in the country that had not been invaded for commercial purposes. Such exaggerated statements point to a need to examine closely what this bill is designed to accomplish.

At the present time we still have large natural wild areas in the United States. Many of these areas are federal, and owned and managed in parks, forests, refuges or other kinds of reservations. Some 48 national parks or monuments have areas large enough to be called wilderness. Some 80 areas within the national forests have been designated by the Forest Service as wild or primitive areas. In all, there are about 163 areas of wilderness in Federal ownership. Colorado has 11 such areas in the national forests embracing a half a million acres.

To date there are no laws of Congress which protect these areas of wilderness. Even in the national parks pressure for roads and tourist developments threaten to destroy them. The Forest Service and Department of Agriculture deserve the thanks of wilderness enthusiasts for their establishment and maintenance of wilderness areas in the national forests. But it should be realized that such areas could be abolished or reduced by a future Secretary of Agriculture. There is constant pressure on the Forest Service to open areas, now roadless and in primitive condition for commercial exploitation of one form or another. For example, if a contract was given to cut the beetle-killed trees in the Flat Tops region of Colorado, it would be very difficult to avoid destruction of parts of the fine Flat Tops primitive area.

Decisions involving the fate of these primitive areas should be made by the people of the United States, through their representatives in Congress and such is the purpose of the Wilderness Bill. As Senator Humphrey, who introduced the original Wilderness Bill into the Senate in 1956, says, “The Wilderness Bill, in brief, is a measure designed to make sure that parts of America may remain unspoiled in their own natural way, untrampled by man and unmarred by machinery.”

The Wilderness Bill would protect the areas designated as wilderness from adverse administrative decisions which at present can be made without widespread public knowledge. Under the bill, it is required that Congress be notified of any proposed change in the status of a wilderness area by the officials having jurisdiction over the lands involved.

Thus, a national wilderness preservation system would be established. Here for the first time in the history of this country, the preservation of natural primitive areas for the enjoyment of present and future generations is proposed as an enduring policy of Congress. The Wilderness Bill should receive the support of all who desire that some parts of America be left in their natural condition.

—F. A. CAJORI

A cleaner America is up to you.
HAS PHLOX LOST POPULARITY?

BY M. WALTER PESMAN

There is a very choice garden in the Park Hill region of Denver that depends on three perennials mostly, for continuous bloom. They are iris, phlox and chrysanthemum. The garden is attractive whenever you see it. It belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ewalt and is located at 2354 Elm Street.

Personally I can’t see how anybody could design a good colorful garden without perennial phlox. And yet,—a charming lady asked me in all good faith: “Don’t you think phlox is a bit out of style now?”

Well, changing styles without any better reason than change, always did bring out the worst side in my nature. To have it happen to phlox,—if it has?—that would be a calamity, wouldn’t it now? We must not let it happen!

Let us begin with early spring. Think of doing without the brilliant pinkish-red ground cover of Phlox subulata, “Vivid” the stand-by variety. Subulata means awl-like: it refers to the pretty, moss-like foliage, almost evergreen. Give it full sun and it will cheer you every April and May. Moss Pink is the common name.

There are some newer varieties, such as Admiration and Alexander’s Surprise; there are even blue and white kinds.

However, in blues and whites you may prefer the slightly taller Phlox divaricata, P. divaricata laphami, and Phlox ovata (red). They are all good, and quite hardy, again blooming in May.

Annual Phlox grows up to over a foot tall, Phlox drummondi: it is a native of Texas, with all the Texas hardiness. I always think of it as one of the three “dependables”: petunia, verbena, annual phlox. Any flower border is enriched by masses of its white, pink or lavender trusses. Full sun is best.

All this is introduction to the Hardy Garden Phlox, that we depend on in the Perennial or Mixed Border in midsummer. Phlox paniculata is the botanical name that indicates the parent plant. By this time it has been crossed and improved, so that many varieties are really hybrids. A group name of these halfbreeds and mixed-breeds are often put together under the name Phlox decussata.

Most of us are less interested in this breeding process, fascinating as the details are. What we want to know is what the best varieties are, and what colors we can get.

Let us begin with the whites. After all, this color helps us out of such difficult combinations, as scarlet with crimson-red for instance. Separate the offenders by a long drift of white phlox and they’ll stop swearing at each other.

It always works!

An old-timer that is still very good is a product from D. M. Andrews, our grand pioneer horticulturist in Boulder. Among the many mementoes he left us is Snowcap, a free-bloomer, not too tall, always dependable. It may find a competitor in the future in a production from Germany, called Snowball, with large trusses and pure white bloom. White Admiral is particularly good because it keeps coming through July and August, from side branches.

An early bloomer, on the other hand, is Miss Lingard, really a different species (Phlox suffruticosa). It starts in June.

Old timers in white, still good and still available, are Mrs. Jenkins, Mary Louise, Mia Ruys. World Peace is large, pure white; Mother of Pearl has a bluish tint as the name indicates. Then there are whites with crimson eye, Prime Minister and Count Zepelin. For bold effects solid colors are best.

Pink phloxes are always effective, and not too difficult to harmonize. Columbia, a few years ago, made headlines in flower catalogs; it is still an excellent pink. Oldtimers are Rynstroom, Elizabeth Arden, Jutes San deau, all good. In spite of its name Mrs. Milly van Hoboken is still a favorite.

Dresden China, Border Queen, Lillian and Miss Verboom are described as pink or rose. Daily Sketch grows almost too tall at times: 3½ ft. but in a large border it furnishes a good splash of deep pink, partly due to its deeper pink eye.

A number of phlox that used to be called pink are now described as salmon or salmon pink. Sir John Falstaff leads them all: large flower trusses, robust, vigorous with sturdy stems; we all fell for Sir John when he was first introduced a few years ago.

In the salmons don’t forget Elizabeth Campbell, Rheinlander, Enchantress, Spithart Harlequin, and Glamour the 1960 all-America winner. The reason we are giving so many of them is that different nurseries might carry different varieties, and there is not too much choice between them I feel.

The next two groups are usually lumped as “red”, and yet they may not harmonize too well. On the one hand are the crimson or blood-reds, such as Lea Schlager, Charles Curtis, Africa, Hauptman Kohl (3-ft), Von Hochberg, and Augusta.

Leaning toward the orange and scarlet are the “Orange of Orange and Prince George, Feuerbrand and Flash belong in this scarlet...
group. 'Tenor' is "rose red with scarlet" and is particularly good because it is apt to bloom twice, early and late.

And here are the blues and lilacs:

**BLUE**

- **LILAC**
- **LILAC TIME**
- **LAVENDER BEAUTY**
- **LAVENDER CLOUD**

Together with the whites they are handy to separate the recalcitrant reds, that are apt to quarrel in their color combinations. In your planning use them as fillers for that purpose.

Well, there we are. It is a big list and may be somewhat confusing to a beginner. The fact is that any of the varieties mentioned are sure to give pleasure if planted in masses (or drifts, as we prefer: long and narrow strips).

Troubles? Yes, there are some in this climate. The main advice we can give is to "keep them clean." That means, particularly, clean from red spider and mildew, our dry-weather troubles.

For red spider malathion and isofox are indicated; be sure to spray upward from below,—that is where the red spiders love to hide; underneath the leaves. Even an occasional washing from below with the hose might do some good.

Mildew control means sulphur in any form: dust, spray, or in combination with other sprays. It is apt to show up later in the season, when we have lost interest and when we might have become careless.

Here are a few hints from a recent catalog. Plant phlox in full sun if possible, setting plants ten inches apart. Divide every third year to keep big flowers. Never let plants go to seed. Never water overhead, always keep blooms and foliage dry, letting hose run slowly on the ground.

Oh yes, I almost forgot. Has your border been neglected so that the only phlox left is the "poor relative" a sickly purple? It often has happened: "the poor we always have with us". In this case charity is not a virtue. Be hard-boiled and throw them away, so that the better new varieties will have a chance.

Come to think of it, that is not a bad bit of general advice for all those seedy perennials in the border, is it? All it takes is being "hard-boiled" about weedy, seedy things!

Lawns, roses, trees, shrubs, and other garden plants need extra feeding this Spring.

The severe winter, with heavy snow and below-normal temperatures, has left most plants in poor condition to start their normal Spring growth. Soil has been water-logged... many of the nutrients have been washed away by surface run-off or have leached down into the subsoil.

These conditions are now widespread at the very time when plants need an abundance of food if they are to achieve normal, vigorous growth. When trees and plants first leaf out, growing new foliage, fruits, and flowers, a constant supply of food is essential for best results.

According to Thos. P. Reilly, RA-PID-GRO Corporation, one of the most effective methods of applying the necessary food to plants is by foliar feeding. Science has proven that plants will absorb soluble nutrients, not only through the leaves but also through blooms, branches, stems, as well as the roots. A fine mist spray of high-quality liquid plant food, applied every week to ten days, will give the plants the help they need to overcome the ravages of winter.

Entrance to U. S. Exhibit at the Rotterdam Floriade. Photo courtesy American Horticultural Society.

After seeing Denver's exciting Garden Show in April (you did, didn't you?), — imagine a horticultural exhibit that covers almost one hundred acres and that lasts six months!

This is the first time that the United States has gone into international competition to show its horticultural achievements, the first time the American Horticultural Society is participating outside the country, namely in Holland, (Rotterdam).

The American exhibit overlooks the entire Floriade (that is what the Show is called) on one side and the wide, peaceful Maas river on the other side.

Instead of our tall fountain the feature is a 416-foot tower, called the Euromast; it contains three restaurants, the top one being "The Crow's Nest". You can see from it the exhibition grounds, Rotterdam, and the countryside around.

An eighteenth century mansion, furnished with genuine antiques, invites you for a visit, for a stroll around its vast formal gardens and for a boat ride on its lake.

The garden of Clusius, famed 16th century botanist of Holland, is reproduced according to the original, with high brick wall, narrow flagstone paths, and rare plants and herbs.

Laboratories showing the details of research in horticulture are shown in full operation. The miracle of sunlight is exhibited.

Suppose you want to bid on a bouquet or a plant to take home: you sit down in the auction hall with a push-button in front of you. In the middle a large clock shows a hand going around, pointing to a series of prices. As soon as it reaches the price you want to pay, you push the electric button, your number flashes on the board and you have become the owner. Not a word is spoken in this Aalsmeer auction.

As the season progresses there will be special displays of flowers as they come into their own: daffodils, roses, rhododendrons, gladioli, dahlias, chrysanthemums.

Wild flowers from all over the world have been collected and are grouped by continent. A replica of Sir Winston Churchill's famous rose garden is another feature.

By this time you may be as eager to fly to the Floriade and to Holland as I am.

Floriade, the Olympiad of international flowers, will feature All-America Selections of flowers and vegetables, the 1960 Rocket series of huge, fat snapdragons, the new three-inch marigold Spun Gold, the new salmon pink phlox Glamour, twenty new glamorous petunias, masses of All-American mums.
The Denver Botanic Gardens have received an unusual and much appreciated gift. Last fall the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects graciously offered their services in designing the landscape plantings for the Herbaceous Unit on York Street.

This national society is an old organization, founded in 1899. However, the Rocky Mountain Chapter, which embraces Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, was installed only last year. This Chapter superseded a local group known as the Rocky Mountain Association of Landscape Architects, organized three years earlier.

Five prominent Denver members of the Rocky Mountain Chapter pooled their talents and donated their time in designing these plantings. They are Miss Julia Jane Silverstein, President of the Chapter, Mr. Gerald F. Kessler, Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Andrew Larson, Mrs. Frances White Novitt, and Mr. M. Walter Pesman. For the final drafting of the planting plans the services of Mr. Ed Wallace and Mrs. Frances White Novitt were employed.

The plans have now been completed and accepted by the executive Committee of the Denver Botanic Gardens. Planting is already in progress. It probably will be two or more years before the work is completed, as some of the plant species specified in the plans are not common in the American nursery trade, and may have to be propagated or imported.

Plant materials included in these designs are mostly woody species — trees, shrubs, vines and ground covers. One section of the planting is devoted to European plants, another to native American plants and still another to mixed European, Asiatic and American species. Plants native to the Western Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains are liberally used, especially those that can be grown with little or no irrigation.

These plantings will provide the proper landscape setting for the herbaceous materials — the annuals and perennials, which are to be the chief feature of this unit of the Gardens. Of course, the main collections of trees and large shrubs will continue to be maintained and developed in the arboretum part of the Denver Botanic Gardens. This is the 100-acre tract on the east side of City Park.

To these landscape architects who have so generously given of their time to this project, the Denver Botanic Gardens extend our sincerest thanks. Their work will stand as a splendid example of landscape architecture designed for human use and enjoyment. It is hoped that it will encourage people in our Plains-Rocky Mountain area to make greater use of professional landscape architects' services. This would be a most important step toward making our part of the country a more beautiful and more desirable place in which to live.

—Dr. A. C. Hildreth
Gardening With Colorado Wildings II

By Ruth Ashton Nelson

Native Rock Garden Plants

Our Colorado mountains offer numerous examples of natural rock gardens. One has only to explore the foothill slopes, the deep shaded canyons or the fell fields at timberline to find beautiful combinations of plants with rocks. Each type of habitat has its own assortment of residents and there are very few species of plants which are happy in all situations. Two exceptions which are practically ubiquitous are stonecrop and harebell. They are found from the foothills to the high peaks. They are easy to transplant and will thrive in dry, gravelly soil.

On limestone or shale-chip covered slopes at the edge of the foothills we find several species in the Sunflower Family, Easter Daisies (Townsendia) and Erigerons, of the early flowering, tufted, short-stemmed type with white or lavender blossoms, will do well transplanted to dry corners. Actinias (now called by the botanists Hymenoxys) compact, silvery plants with golden-daisy-like heads are lovely in a sunny rockery. Also several of the Eriogonums which include the Golden Buckwheat and Sulphur Flower are good. Some of these are quite dwarf and make nearly evergreen mats. There are other kinds which you can find if you explore these areas and a still greater variety on the gravelly sides of many dry foothills.

In the canyons we find mosses, ferns and delicate shade-lovers such as some of the saxifrages and cumbines. At high altitudes are the choicest gems of neat compact miniatures, Fairy Primrose, Alpine Columbine, Mertensias and Kings Crown. When these high alpines are brought to the garden they should be given cool, shaded spots, if possible where the ground will stay frozen and snow covered all winter. In my Colorado Springs garden Fairy Primrose has persisted for seven years planted on the north of the house where it blooms regularly in April.

It is worth while to experiment with any which appeal to you, always bearing in mind a fundamental principle of conservation which is to dig only where there will be an adequate supply left and only when you are reasonably sure that you can be successful in growing the plants which you collect.

In the following paragraphs I will describe briefly a few species which I have found very desirable and easy to work with. One secret of success with Rocky Mountain native plants is to give them slightly more moisture than they would receive in their normal habitats but much less than we ordinarily give our lawns and gardens. This makes it difficult to combine them with cultivated varieties. It also makes them valuable for those hard to water spots. I believe that the Penstemons are the best of the wildings for use under ordinary garden conditions.

For the rock garden, I put first of all, the creeping penstemons, P. crandalli, P. tescricoides and P. lineroides coloradensis with its various forms. These are low growing, spreading, and almost evergreen. They will fill the crevices between rocks, trail over banks, bloom freely for two or three weeks in May or early June, and remain neat the year around. The first two are real creepers with flowers along their stems. Crandall's Penstemon has some good true blue forms with bright green foliage; "tescricoides" has gray foliage with flowers tending towards lavender; "coloradensis" spreads, has narrow reddish green leaves and is very floriferous with short, erect racemes of blue or lavender blossoms. It seeds and germinates freely in the garden. All three occasionally have pink forms and white ones are to be expected. They all are frequently found growing among sagebrush or other shrubs.

Another very desirable species is the low growing P. virgins, sometimes called "Dwarf Penstemon". This is the one which covers hillsides with a sheet of misty blue in May or June in the Castle Rock area, in Ute Pass along Highway 24, and in many other regions. It forms perennial clumps with erect flower stems 6 to 10 inches tall. At close range the blossoms are really blue. Its leaves are shiny and almost evergreen. To keep it happy it should be divided and replanted every third year. Penstemon laricifolius var. exilifolius with somewhat similar growth habit to P. virgins but smaller and daintier throughout with very narrow leaves and creamy white flowers is abundant on the Laramie plains. I have had it blooming in the garden for several years but have not yet propagated it successfully. Most species of Penstemon are very easy to transplant and easily increased in the garden by division when growth starts in the spring.

Besides the penstemons there are a few other "tried and true" rock garden subjects. Double bladderpod (Physaria) is one of the best. It makes perennially handsome compact rosettes of silvery foliage and in May adds dainty yellow blossoms followed by interesting, inflated seed pods. Its close relative, the single bladderpod (Lesquerella) is almost equally attractive in its early rosette stage but becomes stringy after flowering. Several species of low growing Phlox are worth having. The easiest to transplant is P. glabra, a very low moss-like cushion with small white flowers. There are other handsomer and more difficult ones.

Among the sunflower relatives, besides those mentioned earlier, are two which I find very satisfactory. Kathleen Marriage recommended both of these years ago. First is "blackfoot" (Melampodium), a white-flowered branching plant eight to ten inches tall with the habit of falling gracefully over the rocks around it, which blooms continuously from May to October. Crasina (a native Zinnia) is similar with bright yellow blooms. These plants are found on the high plains and along the foothills of southern Colorado.

There are several members of the
Since it is fun to learn the names of the flowers that we enjoy, a copy of M. Walter Pesman's "Meet the Natives" should be taken along. The pages describing the species prominent to the plains region have margins colored to indicate the flower-color groups, so it is easy to find that a certain plant with slender stems and blue flowers nodding in the breeze is a flax plant, for example.

It is not practical to try to list all of the species we might find, but the abridged list below includes many of the choice kinds to look for:

**Plants whose flowers are some shade of red:**

- Leatherleaf loco
- Lambert's red loco
- Peavine (wild sweet pea)
- Prairie clover
- Cowboy's delight
- Orchid beardtongue
- Bush morning glory
- Shady four o'clock

**Plants whose flowers are white or nearly white:**

- Mariposa
- False loco
- Stout leafy loco (ill-smelling)
- White larkspur
- White balsamroot
- Pungent gilia
- Plains evening primrose
- Soapweed, or Yucca
- Prickly poppy
- Low daisy

**Plants whose flowers are some shade of blue or bluish-purple:**

- Spiderwort
- Blue-eyed grass
- Poisonweed (larkspur)
- Woolly loco
- Purple vetch
- Rusty lupine
- Silvery lupine
- Flox
- Light-blue beardtongue (Color variant of Orchid beardtongue)

**Plants whose flowers are yellow to orange:**

- Prince's plume
- Plains wallflower
- Puccoon
- Golden evening primrose
- Butter-and-eggs
- False dandelion
- Cutleaf gaillardia
- Goatsbeard
- Narrowleaf sunflower
- Cowpenflower
- Hawksbeard

This abbreviated check list is meant to be just a starter. Let's each take the list and a copy of Meet the Natives on our June plains trip and see how many species we can find in bloom. It will be appreciated if everyone will send in a description of their trips and copies of the lists they made.

We haven't forgotten those who sent in their lists of late-summer flowers. There was a very nice response and we are waiting until next issue to give a report on the results at a time when those flowers, and perhaps others will be in bloom again. So watch the next Green Thumb for more on wild flower excursions.

Remember to enjoy the flowers, photograph them, and even make a collection, if they are to be pressed and saved, but let us not harvest them and be guilty of eradicating any of the beauty of the plains.

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**In Our Library**


A beautifully illustrated book of Japanese garden design showing gardens of the past pictured side by side with the gardens of modern Japanese homes. It is sure to prove of great value to the professional landscape architect and to the green-thumbed home-owner, whether he is designing an entire new garden or only seeking an illusion of spaciousness and rightness in a tiny courtyard or corner.

Here too are set forth the rule-of-thumb practices of the actual garden-makers and, for their historic interest, the esoteric principles elaborated by scholars and critics.

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**Gardens Are for People,** Thomas D. Church. Reinhold, 1955.

This attractive and interesting book well illustrates the principles in such expressions as "the integration of house and garden", "indoor-outdoor living", and "the relation of shelter to land." This the author has shown by illustrations of gardens and grounds which he has designed for many people. Included are sections on the terrace, wood decks, beach gardens, remodeling, swimming pools, and garden details such as steps, fences, paving, seats, curbs and playgrounds.
“LIFE WITHOUT PHLOX IS AN ERROR”  
By Chris Moritz  
Rocky Mtn. Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects

KARL FÖRSTER, a German perennial breeder, once said, “life without phlox is an error”, meaning that without the full experience of plant life in its complexity people are missing an essential part of their lives.

Specialization of our age denies most people the satisfaction of completing a job from the beginning to the end. In your garden you still can have that experience which is so essential to every living being. By watching the life of plants in your garden through the seasons you find new developments every day. There plants sprout, grow, bloom, fruit and grow dormant in endless variations of form and color.

In our technical age the need for recreation in natural surroundings is great. Our cities are increasing in size. That means people are getting farther and farther away from nature. Yet they do need contact with nature to recreate their minds, to let them rest from all the confusion and nervous tension around them.

At the same time more and more leisure time is made available by shorter working hours, longer vacations and a higher standard of living in general. What are we doing with our leisure time? Do we use it wisely? There are millions of American citizens every weekend spending hours driving in heavy traffic in order to get some outdoor recreation. By the time they return to their homes they are very often just as nervous and tired as they were before from the strain of long travel. Yet these people could have had better recreation in a well-tended garden at home. The faster our population multiplies, the larger our cities grow, the greater the importance of the garden for family recreation.

Old people make up a constantly increasing percentage of our population. For these retired people, it is important to have some interest and activity other than the past memories. It should be a constructive activity so they feel they are not useless. Cultivating a garden may well prove to be the answer.

Working in a garden is very healthful for both body and mind. Most of us do not get enough exercise in our daily jobs. Gardening will provide you with sufficient exercise so the body stays fit. For people with strenuous jobs that create nervousness and that are tiresome, working outside in the garden with soil and plants is relaxing.

There is a tendency to invest increasing amounts of money in the family home. Such a big investment should be kept up and maintained carefully. One of the best ways to keep up and raise property value is by landscaping the site carefully. The investment you make in a good landscaping job, in trees, shrubs and perennials develops and grows before your eyes and will give your home pleasant surroundings and a higher value.

Cultivating a garden, helping to create something beautiful, “life with phlox” may do another important thing for us and our country: giving us and our fellow men a greater concern about conservation of natural resources. How much longer is recreation going to be possible in unspoiled nature? The countryside is being plowed up at an increasing pace. The speed at which we are destroying our scenic natural resources is growing constantly. But we do not seem to care! Instead of protecting and preserving existing natural resources we destroy them wherever a new subdivision is constructed, wherever a new highway is built, wherever a new industrial site is developed. How often can we watch this: first all vegetation is destroyed, then topsoil is plowed under and packed solid with big equipment, finally erosion problems arise, streams are polluted and trash accumulates. We create a sick landscape and expect people to live in it and stay healthy. Our surroundings influence us psychologically more than we generally realize. Only in more orderly, more restful and more beautiful surroundings can better human beings develop. The big task is still ahead of us: to teach and practice better conservation methods and to make our cities and our countryside more livable.

Lifetime markers answer the need of gardeners for an attractive, permanent method of identifying plants and shrubs. The markers, made of heavy durable plastic, come in 11 sizes and add a functional interest to both indoor and outdoor gardens. A soft lead pencil is all that is needed to make notations which won’t blur or disappear. The markers are guaranteed weatherproof; will not rot, curl, rust or mildew, and can be reused for many years.

Letters to the Editor—

EDITOR:  
In the excellent article on “The Colorado Blue Spruce” in the April Green Thumb, Dr. Beidleman gives me credit for discovering the largest blue spruce reported in the American Forestry Association’s record. Credit for this mammoth blue spruce belongs to Ranger Ben Heilman and Supervisor Theodore Krueger, both now deceased. While on an inspection trip on the Gunnison National Forest some thirty years ago or more, Mr. Krueger told me about this tree and took me to it. It is located in back country in the western part of this Forest. We photographed the tree and later it was reported to the American Forestry Association, giving credit to Krueger and Heilman. In the meantime, I suppose, the Forest Service filed a copy of Krueger’s report giving location, size, etc., has been lost and I have been given credit for the tree, much to my embarrassment.

So, I am writing this to set the record straight.

—Fred R. Johnson

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COMPOSTING

BY MRS. JOHN SCOTT
Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs

JUNE marriages are thought to be lucky. Some of us, of course, consider a wedding ceremony fortunate at any time. But the general supposition is that June nuptials are a relic of ancient superstition and mythology. "Prosperity to the man and happiness to the maid when married in June" was a proverb in Rome. Jupiter's wife, Juno, was the lifetime guardian of women, and also the patroness of happy weddings.

Most weddings are preceded by socials called showers. This gift gimmick came into flower in the gay nineties. Small (unbreakable?) presents for the prospective bride were placed in a Japanese parasol. The recipient was required to hold the parasol over her head, while the gifts rained from above. From this gesture showers were so called.

Floral designs usually carry out the shower theme. But for an unusual kitchen entry (or are these passe?) or garden shower, here's an idea submitted by Mr. Ed. F. Snipas in The Professional Gardener:

GARDENER:

"Do you carrot all for me?
My heart beets for you.
With your radish hair,
And your turnip nose,
You are a peach.
If you cantalope,
Let us marry.
Weed make a swell pear."

An arranger would probably use the carrots for spike material, radishes on skewers or picks for filler, and the turnips and beets in the focal area. All the foliage (weed and lettuce, too) is fine. Or combine the peaches, pears (lipstick or rouge will make these rosy) and cantaloupes for a fruitful centerpiece.

Other fruits and vegetables suitable for showers because of their symbolism: coconut, connoting endless summer; citron, signifying happiness; pear, representing the heart; pomegranate for fruitfulness; and the orange known as the celestial fruit. The tomato was the love apple of yesteryears. The pea serves the romantic, too. It's a Dutch derivative, once spelt py, and p. and p. and referred to a cloth.

And you thought marriage was just a bouquet of flowers? It is, decoratively speaking. Ervin S. Ferry, in his book, Symbolism in Flower Arrangement, says that sprigs were braided in bridal wreaths during the Middle Ages to bring good fortune. Among the ancient Greeks the hawthorn was the symbol of conjugal union. In Roman representations of the marriage of Cupid and Psyche, roses were strewn on the ground. Both the Greeks and the Romans celebrated weddings with verbenas. White orange blossoms have long been the emblem of purity.

But just as generation upon generation of gardeners have regarded the carnation as the flower of flowers, so the rosemary was the herb of herbs, writes Alice M. Coats in Flowers and Their Histories. Mrs. Coats continues: "Rosemary was essential for weddings, being carried or tied to the arms of both bridesmaids and groomsmen; sometimes it was gilded or dipped in scented water. The bride wore a garland of it, to signify that she carried to the new home loving memories of the old. A wedding in those days (1600) would hardly seem legal without it."

Today the choice of flowers depends on the person, place and purse. Some traditional white flowers for a bridal occasion: orchids, roses, lilacs-of-the valley, gladioli, dahlias, lilacs, narcissi, tulips, peonies, Japanese iris, lilies, sweet peas, snapdragons, chrysanthemums. Colorado carnations are a favorite. Then, there's gardenias and white anthuriums.

There are no pure white flowers. Gardenias and magnolias are probably the whitest. Yet, they, too, hold a trace of color, reflected in sunlight. White doesn't appear in the spectrum. Plantwise, white is the source and sum of all color.

Color is another choice, usually in the pastels, with pink (frilly, frothy, feminine) and blue (heavenly) the favorites. Green, yellow and lavender are the traditional Easter colors, which places them after the pink and blue for brides.

Some designers favor gossipy foliage (particularly the Evergreens) with white blossoms, others prefer gray.

Wildflowers are another preference. Where mass (baskets for churches or halls, for instance) is needed, consider Queen Ann's Lace. Keeps very well if cut before completely open. Condensation overnight with stems in cool water renews the flowerheads, but don't wet the blooms.

Weddings usually evolve around announcement parties, showers, luncheons, homes, churches and receptions. At many of these functions there will be standing, and floral arrangements should be made with that in mind. It is not necessary to make a large number of arrangements, but rather to make them large enough to be appreciated in a crowd and at some distance. Place them in conspicuous places. Always in the front hall, then on the mantel, a grand piano, or any focal spot where they can be seen. The type of flowers for personal adornment there's Styling Corsages with Garden Flowers, Drummond; Make Your Own Corsage, Aldridge; Corsage Craft, Noble & Reusch; and others. Flower Arrangements for Churches, Wilson; Themes in Flower Arrangement, Mulkins; Arranging Church Flowers, Jones; might give some altar aids. Book of Table Arrangements, Roberts; Flowers & Table Setting and Flowers in Glass, both by Berrall; Setting Your Table, Sprackling; The Complete Book of
June weddings share the spotlight with flower shows. And your Green Thumb would like to attend the latter in a variety of classes that could be worked out with any Flower Show committee. At the Arapahoe County Fair Association Show, June 17, put on by the Sunshine Seeders Federated Garden Club, the theme is Suburban Solariums. The Artistic Division features rooms of a house and Class 60 is called Magazine Marvels or a library, using a 1960 issue or issues of Green Thumb somewhere in the design—base, accessory, container, etc. Winner to receive an added special prize of a year's subscription to Green Thumb, courtesy, Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association. For further information on having the Green Thumb at your show, consult Pat Gallavan at 909 York St., Denver.

Question: Is there any harm in cutting the tops off tulips after they are through blooming?

Answer: The tops of tulips should not be cut off until they have turned yellow. As long as they are green and healthy, they are making food for the plant which will strengthen the bulb and insure good bloom the following year. Cutting off the green tops weakens the bulbs and results in loss of bloom. If the leaves are unattractive, they may often be tucked back of another plant, but they should not be cut off until they have yellowed.

Question: Can magnolias be grown in Denver?

Answer: Yes — with reservations. The species Magnolia soulangeana can be found growing in good condition in Denver in sheltered spots. However, one cannot count on having flowers every year. Magnolias need protection, and since they bloom very early, they are apt to be frosted. If you have a protected location and are willing to put up with the disappointment of bad years when the buds or blooms freeze, you will be rewarded with the good years when the blooms escape frost and last a normal span. If you like to take chances, a magnolia is worth trying; if you want the sure thing, stay away from magnolia.

Question: Can you tell me the name of the little blue-leaved grass sometimes used as a border plant?

Answer: You are probably referring to Festuca glauca, Blue Fescue, a low-growing bunch-type grass with very attractive silvery blue foliage. This plant is an easy plant to grow and makes an unusual border plant. It can be obtained from local nurseries, and should be used more in the home garden.
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