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Corona clippers and pruning tools are manufactured by craftsmen who have spent their lives making superior hand cutting tools. They are scientifically designed, and manufactured of finest materials to do an easier, better cutting job.

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MARCH IS THE TIME TO SEE YOUR NURSERYMAN

To make arrangements for your spring needs. He now has time to give you when he is not rushed as he will be next month. If you have plans to be made, a garden to do over or just a tree to plant, he can take more time now to do you a better service. Those who wait until the busy rush starts in April often times cannot get what they want as many items are still very scarce and the nurserymen are so busy in getting out their orders they have taken earlier, they just do not have the time to do you and them justice. Please do it now!

MARCH IS NOT THE TIME TO PLANT ROSES

You have all to lose and nothing to gain by planting roses in March. Don’t be fooled by misleading advertising to plant roses during March. We often have subzero weather during March and that is very bad on newly-planted roses. Nearly every March we have cold, dry winds. That is also very bad on a newly-planted rose. April is the best time to plant them.

It is a very good idea to ORDER your roses in March for April delivery to insure your getting the varieties you want but for your own safety, do not plant before April.

Also, it is a good idea to know the origin of your roses. Pacific Coast grown plants are recognized as the best.

COLORADO NURSERYMEN’S ASSOCIATION

See the February Issue of the GREEN THUMB for List of Members

MARCH SCHEDULE


Mar. 12. Sun. Mt. Morrison Exploration trip. Leave Horticulture House 8:30 a.m. Walking 3 miles and 1000 feet elevation. There should be some flowers showing up as well as grand views.


Mar. 17. Fri. 7:45 p.m. Horticulture House. "More Than A Dam Site", Kodachromes and talk by Mr. and Mrs. Whitney A. Bradley. See further description of this event on page 29.


Mar. 24. Fri. 7:45 p.m. Europe in 1948. Kodachromes and talk by Dr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Crisp. Horticulture House.

It’s a trip Dr. and Mrs. Crisp will be taking us on, when they entertain us with their fascinating series of Kodachrome pictures taken as they drove through almost all of Europe two summers ago. We’ll get quite a way from Denver and our lovely Colorado, for they’ll take us from the golden ruins and sunny gardens of Italy, through the contrasts of Spain, Switzerland and France, with side trips to misty England and other countries, until we reach the somber forests and dancing waterfalls of the northern countries.

For all who have visited Europe, this will be a trip among friendly and familiar places, and those of us who are still looking forward to such a jaunt will find that we’ll have many new names to add to our list headed—"That’s a place I’ve just got to see."


Apr. 2. Sun. Roxborough Park or vicinity. Leave Horticulture House 8:30 a.m. Easy wanderings among the rocks to see the early birds, trees and flowers.

Apr. 9. Sun. Breakfast hike to some good lookout in the foothills. Leave Horticulture House 7:30 a.m.

**MARCH MAGIC**
Arrangement on front cover by Mrs. Earl Davis

The branches and buds of the maple trees are especially beautiful this time of year. They are combined with the branches and cones of the Colorado Blue Spruce. All are held in place with a pin holder and placed on a green metal tray.

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**DIRECTORS**
Term Expiring in January, 1951

Georgy A. Carlson, Part Sug., S. R. DeBoer, Landscape Architect
Fred R. Johnson, Assistant Regional Fr. Director, U. S. Forest Service

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**TREES FOR DENVER**
With Their Good and Bad Qualities

I—indicates useful for planting in irrigated areas. M—Mountains. P—Plains. It—Irrigated area with some protection.

Line of ten dashes under each name indicate our comparative rating of each tree. For instance Yellow Buckeye rates 70% advantages to 30% disadvantages, and Sugar Maple 50-50.

**MOST USEFUL LARGE TREES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aesculus hippocastanum, <strong>COMMON HORSECHESTNUT</strong></td>
<td>Beautiful. Permanent. Hard to transplant. Slow growing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer saccharum, <strong>SUGAR MAPLE</strong></td>
<td>Nice clean tree. Medium rate of growth. Sensitive to alkaline soils. Subject to chlorosis. Shallow roots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer platanoides, <strong>NORWAY MAPLE</strong></td>
<td>Beautiful at all seasons. Permanent. Subject to sunscald when young. Slow growing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celtis occidentalis, <strong>COMMON HACKBERRY</strong></td>
<td>Young trees sometimes kill back and larger trees sunburn. Drops pods and withered leaves.</td>
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**HERBARIUM:** Mrs. E. R. Kalmbach, Chairman; Mrs. Edward Bahn, Mrs. G. R. Porcada, Mrs. Calvin Fisher.
Advantages

Gymnocladus dioicus, KENTUCKY COFFEETREE—IP

Nice shaped tree. Hardy and pest-free.

Juglans nigra, EASTERN BLACK WALNUT—IP


Populus acuminata, SMOOTHBARK POPLAR—IMP

Neat and clean. Rather upright in growth. Hardy.

Populus sargentii, WESTERN BROADLEAF COTTONWOOD—IMP

Very hardy and pest free. Grows in difficult places.

Quercus falcata, RED OAK—It

Long-lived, sturdy tree. Good fall color.

Quercus macrocarpa, BUR OAK—IP

A bold sturdy tree. Tolerates our alkaline soil better.

Quercus robur, ENGLISH OAK—It

Good form and sturdy.

Tilia americana, AMERICAN LINDEN—IP

Beautiful, symmetrical shape. Medium-fast growth.

Tilia europea, EUROPEAN LINDEN—It

Usually more symmetrical and dense than American.

Disadvantages

Slow growing. Hard to transplant.

Deep rooted, slow growing and hard to transplant.

Rapid and rank growing.

Needs plenty of room and water to grow well.

Slow growing and hard to transplant. Subject to chlorosis.

No fall color. Slow-growing and difficult to transplant.

Slow growing and particular as to soil.

With age becomes ragged and full of galls. Harbors bugs.

Difficult to establish.

A little more difficult to establish.

A little more difficult to grow than common soft maple.

Subject to beetle and drought damage.

Subject to beetle and drought damage.
**Betula pendula**, Cl. CUTLEAF WEEPING BIRCH—IP

- A most beautiful tree, with white bark and light effect.
- Subject to beetle damage. Hard to transplant.

**Fraxinus americana**, WHITE ASH—IP

- Sturdy, hardy tree. Drought resistant.
- Slow growing and sometimes of irregular shape.

**Juglans cinerea**, BUTTERNUT—It

- Good tree when established.
- Very difficult to grow.

**Larix sp.**, LARCH—It

- Beautiful, light effect, especially in spring.
- Hard to get established. (A deciduous conifer)

**Morus alba tatarica** and rubra, RUSSIAN AND RED MULBERRY—IP

- Attractive foliage and fruit. Fruit edible.
- Often partly winterkills. Fruit may become a nuisance.

**Platanus occidentalis**, SYCAMORE—It

- Clean tree with interesting bark and fruit.
- Subject to chlorosis and other diseases.

**Populus alba**, Cl. BOLLEANA POPLAR—IP

- Narrow upright growth, clean appearance.
- Smooth green bark.
- Rank feeder and shallow roots. Subject to several serious pests.

**Populus alba**, SILVER POPLAR—MP

- Quick growing, drought resistant. Makes a large tree.
- Rank feeder. Often sends up suckers in the lawn.

**Populus andrewsi**, ANDREWS POPLAR—M

- Neater than common cottonwood.
- Is still a poplar.

**Populus angustifolia**, NARROWLEAF POPLAR—M

- Chiefly valuable for high altitudes where other trees will not grow.
- Has most of the faults of all poplars.

**Populus deltoides** and *Missouriensis*, BALSAM POPLAR—M

- Smaller size than cottonwood.
- Chiefly for high altitude use.

**Populus canadensis** eugeni, CAROLINA POPLAR—MP

- Grows fast. Easy to propagate and transplant.
- Soon becomes overgrown. Subject to storm and insect damage.

**Populus nigra**, LOMBARDY POPLAR—IP

- Attractive, narrow, upright shape. Very useful.
- Rank feeder. Subject to attacks of canker and scale.

**Populus simoni**, CHINESE POPLAR—I

- Upright shape but broader than Bolleana or Lombardy.
- Still has most faults common to poplars.

---

**Prunus serotina**, BLACK CHERRY—It

- Large, clean tree with attractive flowers and fruit.
- Bark subject to sunscald. Difficult root system to transplant.

**Quercus alba**, WHITE OAK—It

- Beautiful, sturdy tree.
- Slow and difficult to grow in our soil.

**Quercus cocinea**, SCARLET OAK—It

- Beautiful, especially in fall color.
- Prefers a more acid soil than that usually found in Colorado.

**Quercus palustris**, PIN OAK—It

- Beautiful shape and fall color.
- Dislikes our alkaline soil. Hard to transplant.

**Salix**, WILLOWS—IMP

- Some, especially the golden weeping, are beautiful trees when in the proper situation.
- All rank feeders and must have water and lots of room. Short lived and easily broken. Clog sewers.

**Ulmus**, ELMS—P

- Interesting habit of growth. Tolerates drought and alkali.
- Subject to Dutch Elm disease and Scolytus beetle damage as well as the other pests of elms.

**Ulmus pumila**, SIBERIAN ELM—MP

- Nice shape, quick growing and easy to plant. Grows well under dry conditions.
- Short lived and easily broken in storms. Shallow roots.

---

**Acer campestre**, HEDGE MAPLE—It

- Beautiful, small tree.
- A little hard to transplant.

**Aesculus glabra**, OHIO BUCKEYE—It

- Beautiful, symmetrical shape. Attractive flowers, fruit and leaves.
- Deep rooted and hard to transplant. Slow growing.

**Ailanthus altissima**, TREEOFHEAVEN AILANTHUS—IP

- Will grow under difficult city conditions of smoke and poor soil. Attractive foliage and fruit.
- Suckers from the roots. Diagreeable odor. Weedy habit of growth.

**Crataegus coloradensis**, COLORADO HAWTHORN—IM

- A small tree attractive in flower and fruit.
- Slow growing. Difficult to transplant. Irregular shape.

**Crataegus crusgalli**, COCKSPUR HAWTHORN—I

- Distinctive, low, round-headed shape. Fruit hangs on late.
- Low headed and slow growing. Difficult to transplant.
Advantages

Crataegus mollis, DOWNY HAWTHORN—1

Crataegus phaenopyrum, WASHINGTON HAWTHORN—1

Elaeagnus angustifolia, RUSSIANOLIVE—IMP

Koelreuteria paniculata, PANICLED GOLDENRAIN TREE—It

Malus sp., HOPA CRABAPPLE—IMP

Malus purpurea, ELEY CRABAPPLE—IMP

Malus ioensis, PRAIRIE CRABAPPLE—1

Malus ioensis, C. BECHTEL CRABAPPLE—IP

Malus sp., REDSILVER CRABAPPLE—I

Prunus cerasus, SOUR CHERRIES—1

Sorbus americana, MOUNTAINASH—1

Sorbus aucuparia, EUROPEAN MOUNTAINASH—1

Sorbus hybridra, OAKLEAF MOUNTAINASH—1

Attractive orange fruit. Oak-like leaf. | Not as hardy or attractive as the European.

Disadvantages

Small tree of attractive shape. Good flowers and fruit. | Slow growing and difficult to transplant.

Attractive shape. Bright red fruits hang on late. | Slow growing and hard to transplant.


Beautiful flowers and interesting persistent fruit. Tolerates alkaline soil. | Slow growing and often kills part way back.

White flowers and bright red fruits, good to eat or see. Blight resistant. | Slow growing and may be damaged by boys gathering fruit.

Rose-red flowers. Fruit very small. Resistant to blight. | Slow growing.

Rose-red bloom. | Spreading habit of growth.

Light pink flowers and small green fruit. Petals drop clean. | Flowers not as large or numerous as Bechtel's.

Covered in spring with large, double pink flowers. No fruit. | Petals hang on after fading. Subject to fireblight.

Rose-red flowers. Leaves green above and silvery-red beneath. | Slow growing.

Of good shape, flower and fruit. | Subject to vandalism when on street.

Beautiful orange fruits. | Subject to sunscald and blight.

Erect habit of growth. Attractive orange fruits in fall. Few serious pests. | Bark of lower trunk subject to sunscald when young. Sometimes has fireblight.

Advantages

Syringa Japonica, JAPANESE TREE LILAC—IP

Crataegus cordata, LITTLE LEAF LINDEN—It

Crataegus ioensis, CL. PAUL'S SCARLET THORN—It

Crataegus oxyacantha, CHINESE HAWTHORN—It

Crataegus oxycantha and monogyna, ENGLISH HAWTHORNS—It

Sorbus aucuparia, EUROPEAN MOUNTAINASH—1

Sorbus hybridra, OAKLEAF MOUNTAINASH—1

Attractive orange fruit. Oak-like leaf. | Not as hardy or attractive as the European.

Disadvantages

Clean, neat habit of growth. Attractive white flowers. Hardy and few pests. | Slow growing and must be trimmed in tree form.

A clean looking tree with dense, symmetrical growth. | Subject to sunscald when young. Slow growing.

Less Useful Small Trees

Alnus glutinosa, EUROPEAN ALDER—It

Catalpa bignonioides, UMBRELLA CATALPA—It

Catalpa ovata, CHINESE CATALPA—1

Catalpa speciosa, DOTTED CHERRIES—It

Cercis canadensis, EASTERN REDBUD—It

Cercis texana, BURR CHERRY—It

Cercis occidentalis, WASHINGTON CORK CHERRY—It

Catalpa ovata, BURLINGTON—It

Crataegus speciosa, BURR CHERRY—It

Carya sp., HICKORY—It

Very interesting and sturdy. | Difficult to start. Needs well drained soil.

Beautiful and interesting tree. | Very few have survived in Colorado.

Small, formal shape. | European. 

Carpinus betulus, EUROPEAN HORNBEAM—It

Lesser scale tree and fruit than Western Catalpas. | Slow growing and subject to some winter-kill. Unknown by many.

Cercis canadensis, EASTERN REDBUD—It

Very early pink flowers. | Partly winter-tender.

Cercis occidentalis, WASHINGTON CORK CHERRY—It

Cladrastus lutea, AMERICAN YELLOWWOOD—It

Smooth bark. Interesting flowers and fruit. | Requires some protection to become established.

Crataegus oxycantha and monogyna, ENGLISH HAWTHORNS—It

Crataegus oxyacantha, CHINESE HAWTHORN—It

Crataegus punctata, DOTTED HAWTHORN—1

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Catalpa ovata, CHINESE CATALPA—1

Catalpa speciosa, DOTTED CHERRIES—It

Cercis canadensis, EASTERN REDBUD—It

Very interesting and sturdy. | Difficult to start here.

Catalpa bignonioides, UMBRELLA CATALPA—It

Small, formal shape. | Often winterkills here.

Catalpa ovata, CHINESE CATALPA—1

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### Acer glabrum and tataricum, R. M. AND TARTARIAN MAPLES—IM

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#### THE GREEN THUMB

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PLANTING AND CARE OF BUFFALO GRASS LAWNS

GEORGE M. FISHER
Consulting Forester, Salina, Kansas

BUFFALO grass is a highly desirable grass for lawns in the heavier soils of the Eastern Great Plains region of Colorado, where the lawns are in a sunny location and not watered too heavily. It forms a firm sod and requires relatively little care.

Improved strains of Buffalo grass and advanced methods of harvesting and processing have recently been developed. The outcome has been that the making of lawns by seeding with treated seed has largely replaced the sodding with vegetative material. A good Buffalo grass lawn can now be established in shorter time and at much less expense by planting new, treated seed.

Buffalo grass does not like the shade and should not be planted on shaded sites or under old, established trees. Also, any competition with weeds that tend to shade the grass should be removed by mowing. With new landscaping operations, tree shade is not too much of a factor, as it takes a good many years' growth of a young tree to create sufficient shade to effect Buffalo grass.

Buffalo grass should be planted on a firm seed bed, free from weeds and with the soil well prepared. One-half inch is the optimum depth for planting this seed, and if planted any deeper, failure is almost sure to result. Where the area is sufficiently large to permit machine operations, drilling with an ordinary wheat drill is the quickest method of planting. For home lawns, however, this is not ordinarily feasible, and they must be seeded by broadcasting or by sowing in rows.

Sowing by rows is the fastest method of obtaining complete turf closure, usually in one season, and provides the best weed control. Spacing of 6 to 12 inches between rows is used in the row method, and obviously, the closer the rows, the sooner the grass will make a complete cover. In row seeding, the seed should be spaced about one-half inch apart in the rows, and the rows covered with one-half inch of soil.

By any method used, the amount of seed required for lawn building should run between 1 and 2 pounds per 1,000 square feet of area seeded. Broadcasting will require the heaviest seeding rate, and closer spacing of the rows by the row method will likewise increase the amounts of seed needed.

The planting season for Buffalo grass extends from April 15 to June 15. With lawns where water is available to insure good germination, the seeding period may be extended to as late as July 15. The optimum time for seeding well-prepared lawn areas with watering facilities, is between May 15 to June 15, which will provide for cultivation sufficiently far ahead to take off one or two crops of weeds before planting the grass.

Lawn plantings will spread much faster if weeds are controlled. Broadcast plantings will need to be clipped lightly three or four times during the first growing season to reduce shading from excessive weed growth and to eliminate competition for moisture. In row plantings, where it is possible to control weeds by hand weeding, it is best not to clip the grass during the establishment season.

As new plantings require some watering the first year if complete closure of the turf is to be had, there will, of course, be more weeds than where the seed bed is left unwatered. Excessive watering will usually be found detrimental, except where needed in the establishment stage, as it tends to encourage the growth of weeds.

Buffalo grass lawns are ready for use whenever the grass has formed a good turf, and they will withstand fairly heavy usage. While Buffalo grass requires considerably less mowing than bluegrass, it should be clipped occasionally to produce an even, smooth-appearing turf and to discourage competition from weeds. After the first year, Buffalo grass lawns may be clipped to a height of 1½ to 2 inches. Lawns which receive some watering will require somewhat closer and more frequent mowing.

WHAT ARE YOUR TREES WORTH?

From National Arborist Association, Wooster, Ohio

The twenty-inch shade tree on your lawn may be worth $1,000 or more. If it should die and you were to remove it and plant another of similar size, the cost would be much more than $1,000.

Shade trees contribute many things to man's welfare and happiness which make them valuable. First of all, they provide shade from the intense heat of the sun. They shade our homes and lawns. They shade our streets, sidewalks, picnic areas and playgrounds. Trees reduce the glare from streets, sidewalks and buildings. They muffle noise and act as windbreaks. There are only a few of the physical comforts trees provide.

Trees also add to man's mental health and well-being. There is a kind of peace and resfulness to be found where men and trees live together. Shade trees are an inspiration for people to do better work and live better lives. They are morale builders.

Slum areas do not exist where there are fine shade trees.

All too often we think nothing of the value of our friendly trees until a catastrophe, such as wind, lightning, insects or disease strikes them. Then we suddenly realize that shade trees are valuable assets to our community. They are deserving of the best care we can give them in order that we may enjoy them to the fullest and preserve them for future generations.

What Is Alpinism?

"Is alpinism then synonymous with the life in the open? To make camp among wild cliffs or at the edge of a lonely tarn, to crouch with a few companions round a fire and gaze at the undulating flame, while in the distance the torrent rolls with muffled roar, all this costs its peculiar magic spell. Undeniably part of the pleasure of alpinism consists of liberty, adventure, and primitive living, all that stirs man's deepest instincts. This explains the superiority of a climb from camp over one which starts from a comfortable hut, and the advantage of the latter over one that starts from a hotel. A smooth rock face is better than a trail, and a trail better than a carriage road." From, "Notes on the Psychology of Mountaineering" by J. Federico Fino, in APPALACHIA for Dec. '49.

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THE GREEN THUMB

OUR LITTERED HIGHWAYS

Excerpts from a letter by Edna Wolfe in “The Garden Path”

THIS summer it was my privilege to travel through the western part of the United States. Good automobiles and fine broad, smooth highways make travel safe, comfortable and an inspiring experience. We saw cars from every state, as well as Canada, Hawaii and Mexico. It is estimated that 25,000,000 persons register thru the National Parks annually.

But marring this beautiful scenery and the expensive highways is litter, debris of all kinds discarded by touring motorists - cans, bottles, old tires, clothing, paper and wrappings—and Kleenex-Kleenex-Kleenex! a veritable rash of facial tissue which clings to the grass and weeds along the highways.

Many times we saw lunch boxes of partially eaten food, together with wrappings, hurled out of passing cars. In the states where there is little rainfall, the highways were more littered as there it requires longer for the discarded materials to disintegrate in the dry areas. Moreover, no highway maintenance crews could possibly keep up with the constant deposit of litter day after day.

At numerous roadside parks there was garbage, paper, bottles on the ground sufficient to make the place an undesirable one in which to eat lunch and rest.

How thoughtless of tourists to leave a trail of litter behind them! Travelers are guests of the states where they go to enjoy beautiful scenery. It is neither fair nor well mannered to deface the beauty of nature in such fashion, and to spoil the outlook for others who follow.

Then we returned to Ohio—and found more littered highways!!! I began to wonder—could not we garden club members do something about this menace?

* * * Sure, everyone can help to correct this situation by teaching, preaching and example!—Ed.

Prizes For Writers

And Photographers

The publications committee has decided to offer several prizes for suitable material to use in coming Green Thumbs. Individuals, clubs or organizations may compete. There will be two classes; Denver and vicinity (10 miles), and anywhere in Colorado or the Rocky Mountain area outside of Denver. Two first prizes of $50.00 each will be awarded and two second prizes of $15.00.

Material submitted should be sufficient to fill approximately half an ordinary issue of the Green Thumb, and will be judged for its quality, quantity and appropriateness. All entries must be in by May 1, 1950; material submitted must be in by Dec. 1, 1950 and awards will be made during December 1950. At least five must submit material in each class to compete.

The purpose of this contest is to obtain good garden stories and pictures from all over the state and region, so that the influence of the Association might have a wider effect. All those desiring to compete may get copies of more detailed rules and suggestions for suitable material from the editor. Don’t worry about not being able to write; if you have anything worth telling others about in your community, just get some good pictures of it, tell us all the facts about it, and we may be able to make a good story of it. Enter now.

Where Does Your $2.00 Go?

Inspired by the cards in the street cars we asked our treasurer, Dick Osborne, to show us how our $2.00 membership was used. Here is his report:

Printing, mailing, postage on the Green Thumb (Receipts for advertising deducted) ..........$1.94
Maintenance of Horticulture House, Water, light, phone etc. ................................. 19
Clerical help at Horticultural House ................................................................. 1.16
Total ............................................$3.29

This does not include salaries for editor and horticulturist, which do not come out of the membership fund, but is supplied by other friends of the association; nor does it include money spent for books or library help, which is in another separate fund supplied by gifts. If these were added it would make the amount spent for each member very close to $5.00.

How do we do it? Only by gifts and higher class memberships.

It is very obvious that we should raise the minimum membership to at least $3.00 next year and encourage more people to take out the $5.00 memberships which are the truly “Sustaining” memberships.
IN selecting and growing Ground Covers for Colorado and nearby States we must turn our backs on most of the general information and recommendations offered on the subject for climatic reasons.

English Ivy, Pachysandra and their peers look either sick or sorry or both in our brilliant winter sunshine; so do most of the Euonymus creepers. All of them may be grown in permanent shade where altitude is suitable and a winter snow blanket may be expected.

Our centers of population in Colorado where the greatest number of people are making gardens and need suitable ornamental plants are from 5000 to 7000 feet elevation and are on the eastern slope where snow is intermittent and winter sunshine strong and bright. There are as many climates as there are sides to the house. North exposures ask for plants with just the opposite requirements of those in South exposures. Now we’re getting to the point at last. There are two evergreen ground covers, both hardy as Pike’s Peak, both well-behaved enough for the best associates and surprisingly both will be happy in either sunshine or shade.

The first is Berberis (Mahonia) repens, Colorado Holly, a native, found wild from 6,000 to 10,000 feet altitude, in widely varying conditions, on sunny dry gravel banks and in deep leafmold on shady north slopes. It resembles somewhat Mahonia aquifolium, Oregon Hollygrape, but its leaves are not usually glossy nor does it grow to more than about one foot in height, but the hidden part is its secret. In good soil its roots travel underground and send up new tops at intervals until it makes literally a ground cover. Incidentally its yellow flowers in early spring are welcome, if a bit puddin-y looking, and its blue berries are most decorative if the birds don’t get them first.

The second of our pair is the well known Vinca Minor. (How ever did it get the name Myrtle slapped on to it? There is little resemblance between the two.) This also grows well in either sun or shade. Its finer texture and lower stature make it suitable for smaller areas than is Berberis repens. Young plants are better looking than old (aren’t we all?). One way to keep it looking fresh and young is to clip all the tops off at ground level in spring and give it a dressing of peatmoss-manure mixture.

The degree of success with both of these depends on how well we prepare the ground for them. Both do better on well drained soil—gravel or chiprock below their roots. They respond heartily to a soil in which a generous amount of compost, or of peatmoss and rotted manure, is mixed.
TRANSPANTING TRICKS

The extracts below are from talks given at the Rocky Mountain Horticultural Conference, February 7, 1970

BARE-ROOT EVERGREENS

R. U. WILLIAMS

For successful transplanting of evergreens it is important that healthy vigorous stock be used. Such stock should have been grown on suitable soil, should have had sufficient and regular irrigation, and should have been kept free from insects and diseases. It is also essential that the plant have a compact root system. This is induced by transplanting within the nursery at intervals of three or four years. A move should not be attempted until after two seasons of growth after transplanting.

On the theory that an evergreen root would live and function if kept moist even though disturbed, we attempted bare root planting on a small scale five years ago by transplanting five Scotch Pine six to ten feet in height within the nursery area. All five lived and have grown well since.

We were encouraged to attempt bare root planting away from the nursery. During the past three seasons we have used this method in transplanting all larger grades. The losses have been about one third less than B&B. The advantage to both customer and nurseryman is considerable. Less help is required in the nursery and much time is saved in preparing the plant for moving. In the planting, labor is saved and no heavy transplanting equipment is needed.

In digging, the attempt is made to get all roots within a reasonable limit of space.

Unlike deciduous plants, rootlets do not form at the cut ends of the larger roots of evergreens. Thus, we are dependent on preserving the network of small rootlets. The roots are exposed to the air during a minimum of time by using a crew of three to six men in the digging of one plant. As the roots are exposed they are sprayed with water. Two or three panels of burlap are left soaking in a barrel of water nearby to be used for wrapping the roots and the entire top of the tree. The tree may be then carried for a considerable time.

In planting, the hole should have been made ready by the time the stock arrives. As soon as the roots are spread out they are sprayed and as the soil is slowly added, water floods the hole.

We used Dowax last season with no noticeable difference in results other than that those trees that did not take hold retained a green color into the summer.

The after care of plantings is a very important consideration to assure success. The new owner should be cautioned against excessive use of water as well as its neglect.

The evergreen should be guyed as soon as planted as it will be unable to hold its position against spring winds. Attach wires to a ring of rubber hosing placed about the stem of the tree.

We have not lost a spruce by using this method of transplanting.

Although we were able to plant the Scotch Pines successfully within the nursery, we have not had success in planting pines since. We have had fewer losses in moving upright growing Junipers. The losses sustained, we believe, were due to attempting the transplanting of trees that had stood too long without transplanting, planting in extremely poor soil, or from faulty after care; more likely overwatering. We have successfully moved a number of Pfitzers measuring six feet in diameter.

A much greater experience than ours alone is needed before a fast set of rules can be laid down. I hope that each of you will attempt this method. Then, through pooling our observations, we may be able to establish working methods for good success in this much easier and cheaper method of handling evergreens.

OAKS

By ARTHUR BRAUN

I will, as best I can, explain the method I use in transplanting Oaks. I think that this method is practical because it is much cheaper than baling and burlapping and certainly much cheaper than shipping in B&B oaks from nurseries that are several hundred miles distant. I also feel that this method is successful because I averaged about 85% to 90% "take". In 1947, I planted 40 Red Oak and all lived the first season and to the best of my knowledge, are still alive and growing.

It goes without saying that the first step should be a hole that is large enough to accommodate all the roots—in fact the edge of the hole should clear the farthest spread of the roots by about 4 to 6 inches.

On the bottom of the hole, spread a three inch layer of Canadian or European peat moss. Place the tree in proper position on this layer of peat; then completely cover all of the roots with pure peat. Now fill the remainder of the hole with top soil. After the hole has been filled level, water by inserting hose from faucet as deeply into the peat as possible and permitting water to run at a moderate force until the peat and soil have settled.

It seems that the success of this way of transplanting lies in keeping the roots encased in pure peat moss without mixing any soil with it whatsoever. The peat moss stimulates the formation of new fibrous feeding roots quickly and this point after all, is the important goal in transplanting difficult subjects like Oak. A final but important suggestion is that the peat moss should never be allowed to become dry at any time during the first growing season and water should be applied thoroughly and deeply not less than once a week—often when the weather is exceptionally dry and hot.
HACKBERRY

George F. Kroh

The hackberry reminds one somewhat of the Missouri mule. Both are sure-footed, hardy, and display a lot of stamina when on the move, but sometimes when you undertake to transplant either one into a new situation, both a mule and a hackberry have been known to balk. I do not say that they all do, but some reactors can give you a bad time unless you have learned to be patient.

It is obvious to me that a hackberry tree's first concern is to get its root system in order; top growth comes second. And that root system is vigorous to such an extent that the feeder roots travel further from the tree than we realize. Consequently, unless a hackberry has been root pruned or transplanted within a certain time, rather naked but sturdy roots without many small feeders will be encountered within the usual or normal range for digging a tree.

In nursery practice we have had fair success if the trees are root pruned about every third year. During the first three years a nice presentable tree can be grown to 6-8 or 8-10 foot range. This is the most economical size to grow, and the most economical size range for the planter to buy. Assuming that the trees are root pruned at this stage to grow on to larger size, the ensuing year's top growth is checked, but a new set of feeder roots develops in the area near the tree. During the second and third year of this second phase, these new roots develop rapidly and if not again root pruned before the tree reaches a 2 1/2 inch caliper, this second set of roots can also have become coarse enough to make the tree sluggish when transplanted.

In the case of moving larger specimens, it would seem very desirable to trench around the tree a year or so in advance, at a radius in which it is practical to move the tree. Here again the object is to sever the majority of the coarse roots so that feeder roots will be simulated to support the tree the first season after transplanting.

It is thought by some that fall planting may have at least equal virtue with early spring planting.

Retarding of moisture loss from the branches by means of spiral wrapping the trunk and main branches, or coating the bark with Dowax or plastic formula will possibly show benefit by actual comparison. Judicious pruning is a long recognized ritual in connection with transplanting; also to minimize moisture requirements from the roots while the tree is starting.

Occasionally one will witness "suspended animation" in a hackberry, without a leaf in sight for weeks, but the cambium bark on the trunk and limbs staying green and moist. If the bark remains in good shape do not give up, because such trees have been known to break into foliage when good and ready, sometimes as late as the following spring. It is a temptation to water-log the soil to make the tree start. I do not feel this is a good practice. Instead, treat the tree just as though it were growing. That way you, instead of the hackberry, may win the war of nerves.

I would suggest that the homeowner will have a better break with younger lighter caliper trees than with trees of heavier caliper. If 2 1/2 to 4 inch trees must be considered, and the nursery has them two or three times root pruned, please bear with him because he has quite a bit more invested in his product than if he just planted a small whip and did nothing more to it.

HAWTHORTS

Wm. H. Lucking

I do not know of any "tricks" in transplanting Hawthorns, but I believe that if you would use all the precautions suggested by these other men for transplanting oak, birch or hackberry that they could usually be moved with safety.

If handled in small sizes they can be transplanted readily, but they have a difficult root system with few fiber roots which makes them hard to move in large sizes. For transplanting bare root I have tried root-pruning them in the nursery, but their recovery from this operation was very slow, so I have taken to balling and burlapping them. This has taken a lot of extra work, but if the soil is at all heavy, it will take almost as much work to dig bare-root, when sufficient root system is preserved.

Nurserymen have found that they could not get a fair price for the bare root plants, but the balled specimens looked as though they had greater value, and so would bring prices sufficient to cover the extra cost of handling.

The hawthorns are, of course, subject to the damaging cedar-hawthorn rust, but we should not condemn them entirely for this, for it can be largely controlled by the proper treatment. They include many species and are one of our finest group of ornamental plants.

Some good nurserymen claim that hawthorns will "break" new roots and leaves if the tops are frequently sprinkled with water after they are transplanted. Without doubt the system used by Mr. Braun for oaks or Mr. Williams for evergreens would also help in successfully transplanting hawthorn—Editor.
NATIVE ASPEN

HENRY GESTEFIELD

I was able to study aspen reproduction while for seventeen years I was owner of a nursery and landscape service at the highest altitude of any commercial nursery in America. I have transplanted and shipped many aspen with excellent results. Many others have tried but very few have succeeded. Why?

First of all we must realize that their natural reproduction is different from other trees—that their root structure is different, with a habit of suckering from shallow-rooted mother leads or underground runners. This sucker-producing runner can be traced from tree to tree hundreds of feet, new tree sprouts coming up all along.

To successfully transplant trees 10-12 feet high and 2-3 inches in diameter, one must first pre-cut all roots leading to and from the tree with a sharp spade, then dig a trench around about a foot deep, leaving two foot root stumps exposed for as short a time as possible. Tip or tilt tree enough to enable you to make incisions on under side of stub root, then make a smooth undercut outward for future root development. Straighten tree again, pack good dirt or sand around it water thoroughly, put six inches of mulch on top and tie tree with figure 8 ties to surrounding trees. All this should be done when leaves are turning golden in autumn. Move tree next spring, or any other spring, without ball of dirt, but be sure to keep roots wet until planted. Don’t cut back until several years later, if you must. Bring some mountain soil and leaf-mold along for use in planting said aspen by your bedroom window. (I had one in Alamosa by my window).

A good nurseryman can dig a thousand or two, 4-8 foot high, as lining out stock, but must keep them from being bruised and must keep the roots wet until they can be heeled in in a V trench. The roots should be covered with alkali-free sand, 3-4 inches deep, with the trees leaning to the south. Just before trenching or heel ing in all roots must be freshly outward undercut and sharp incisions made on underside with sharp ice-pick or knife, as it is there that the new roots will form. Soil covering roots must be kept wet, also tops should be sprinkled before freeze-up.

When buds begin to burst in early spring, set young aspen in nursery row, 3 feet apart, plant not too deep and water frequently. Next year you may send trees anywhere with safety.

This procedure of transplanting mountain-grown trees and shrubs will apply to Scrub Oak, Mountain Maple, Birch, Alder and many other native woody plants. Try it. It’s fun.

My ambition is that when I grow old (I’m only 63 now) I can start an aspen nursery west of Denver somewhere. Will I have fun?

ROSES IN POTS

FRANK RICHARD

Nurserymen who still cling to the old fashioned bare root method of handling roses are all-too-familiar with the disappointments, losses, complaints attending this business in Colorado—factors that led us four years ago to discontinue the bare root rose nursery west of Denver some years ago. The decision was, I might add, literally forced on us by customers who for six years previously had been offered a choice of bare root plants or planted and started plants; by 1945 ninety-five percent of them were demanding the started plants, would have nothing to do with bare root plants.

The advantages of planted roses are numerous, and so obvious, both to the nurseryman and to the amateur. First and foremost this modern method of handling roses enables both nurseryman and customer to be independent of Colorado’s spring weather, undoubtedly the world’s worst.

Properly done, it gets the roses started on time, a factor of prime importance. After nearly two decades of growing and handling roses we have acquired a few empirical opinions concerning them, one of which is that they must be in the ground before April 15. How often is this possible in Colorado with old fashioned bare root handling? There are exceptions to this rule of course, as with any of the rules of gardening. Lots of bare roses are still sold from all kinds of storages even into June but after April 15, no matter how good the rose and how good the storage, a rose out of soil and growing conditions loses vitality very rapidly.

The mere fact that a rose is standing in a Cloverset pot does not guarantee the thrilling performance that a good rose properly handled will always give. “Leftovers” posted up in late May will never amount to anything. The best roses are planted before April 15.

Empirical opinion No. 2: You must have roots before you have tops. To get roots before tops your roses must have from six to seven weeks of ample soil moisture (but never so much as to make it soggy), low soil temperature, low to medium air temperature and high humidity. Let me repeat, high humidity for a strong start.

Soil temperature is usually favorable in April but air temperature fluctuates too wildly for bare root roses planted in the open to do their best. Even in our “wettest months” (March and April) “kilo-dried” best describes our air the greater part of the time; warm dry winds puts a terrible burden on the rose’s will to grow. Some gardeners “hill up” newly planted roses outdoors but this does only part of a job.

By planting our roses in pots, under cover, we are able to complete the planting on time; then we have gone to considerable expense to provide proper growing conditions. We dug deep frames, excavating 4½ feet, with concrete walls extending 12 inches above ground, earth floor and tight-fitting wood covers. The planted roses go into these pits, pot to pot, each watered twice to insure soaking to the bottom of the pots, the covers go on and we let Nature take its course. And what a course! In there, safe from blizzard, hail, and howling “chinooks,” seven weeks finds the roses fairly bursting with fat new growth, pots filled with a vigorous and hungry root system and the plants are
ready to come out and take the toughest that Colorado climate has to offer. We like to keep them at least a week after they are brought out to the open, get them fed, adjusted to outdoor conditions and then they really “go to town” for anyone, expert rosarian or veriest novice. The late Ernest Hayeler used to say that “anyone who can bury a cat can plant these”.

I will add that it really is almost as simple as that but this brings up empirical opinion No. 3, and this is addressed especially to you amateurs: The “bud” (graft, or “knuckle”) must be just under the surface in your garden. This is emphatically true whether you plant bare root or out of pots. Sure, some will grow, after a fashion, a year or so, with the plant half buried or with the bud four inches aboveground. It seems to us one of the most wonderful things about roses is the amount of abuse it takes to kill them. If you want maximum production and longest life from your roses get that bud just under, definitely under, but not more than 1 in.

Final empirical opinion concerns rootstocks. We have tried them all, not once but repeatedly; watched many, many other trials and find that there are only two rootstocks for Colorado: “Ragged Robin” and “Shafter”. All you professional growers know these, most of you handle only roses on these stocks, and there isn’t time for details of various rootstock characteristics here. It is enough to say that all others, while good in certain other parts of this great country, are utterly worthless in Colorado.

This is just one more compelling reason for you to shut your eyes, and your purse, to the “special guaranteed by mail bargains”, no matter how beautiful the pretty pictures, and to buy from your nearby reputable plantsman.

BIRCH

GEORGE AMIDON

Recently in a farm publication, I ran across John Barrymore’s directions for fighting a woman. He says, “The right way to do it is with your hat, just grab it and run.”

The directions for planting a birch are not quite as simple but if they are followed can make the job just as successful.

I have found that the most favorable time to transplant a Birch is in the spring, between the time the buds start to swell and the leaves have reached one third of their ultimate size. This seems to be the time of year when all the forces of nature work together to produce rapid new growth. Showers of rain and snow combine forces with longer hours of sunshine to remove the last trace of frost from the ground. New roots start forth in a quest for food to send up to the expanding buds. This then is the time of year most advantageous for the successful transplanting of a Birch.

Nurseriesmen and arborists have long been convinced of the desirability of root pruning. Large roots are covered by a waterproof coating of bark and consequently, without the aid of the small feeder roots, are unable to provide nourishment for the needs of the newly transplanted tree. Proper root pruning when the tree is small and followed at frequent intervals thereafter, will produce small feeder roots near the base of the tree so that when it is dug, balled and burlapped, ready to be transplanted to its permanent home, the ball of earth will contain a “Pickup and delivery service” of feeder roots that will tide the tree over until it has had time to develop new roots.

Any Birch one inch or more in caliper should be dug B&B. Around the ball the refill should contain a mixture of:

- 1/4 well rotted manure
- 1/4 sandy loam
- A lb. or so of bonemeal
- And 1/4 Peat Moss.

Peat Moss is very important because of its ability to absorb and retain moisture. Bacterial action on manure helps supply soluble plant food.

Slow acting bonemeal continues the feeding process after quicker acting fertilizers have been exhausted.

Sandy loam is conducive to rapid root development. It absorbs water readily and does not retard it long enough to prevent proper aeration.

In all varieties of trees every twig and branch has openings called lenticels. These are loosely arranged cells that allow the air to reach the cambium and with the leaves comprise the tree’s breathing system. They are extra prominent in Birches which may be one reason they are so hard to transplant. Wrapping the trunk of a newly transplanted Birch with burlap prevents rapid dehydration and is an added precaution well worth considering.

These extra precautions take time and material and consequently are somewhat costly. I believe the end justifies the means, however.

In informal discussions some experienced nurseriesmen maintained that they could move birch as safely bare root as balled if the precaution suggested by Mr. Williams in protecting the roots were taken.—Editor.

MORE THAN A DAM SITE

How would you like to live in Dinosaur National Monument? That is just what the Bradleys have done, and they are going to show us March 17 with the aid of Kodachrome, some of the hidden nooks and crannies known only to those who have learned the secrets of the lonely places. They are particularly well equipped to give us news of the activities in Dinosaur, for Mr. Bradley has been Ranger-Naturalist there for the past two summers, and Mrs. Bradley has been busy making plant collections from the area during the same time. Their interests cover the archeology and geology of the region, as well as its scenic beauties, and they won’t neglect the living plants and animals, either.

This strange weird magical land where both past and present are revealed to the adventurous heart in all their beauty, is in danger of being lost to us, perhaps forever, under the water and silt which will gather behind the Echo Park Dam, so let’s find out now what it is really like, from those who have been there, and perhaps we’ll agree that Dinosaur National Monument is, MORE THAN A DAM SITE.

See schedule on page 5.
THIRD ROCKY MOUNTAIN HORTICULTURAL CONFERENCE

All those who attended the recent sessions held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel felt well repaid for their time. The talks were informative, the pictures entertaining and the exhibits educational.

The commercial exhibitors also helped greatly to finance the conference, and we are greatly appreciative of this. A list of those participating follows. John Swingle and his committee worked hard and efficiently to line up these exhibitors.

Educational exhibits were arranged by Paul Morrow, Herbert Gundell and Edgar Warren. A list of them also follows.

The talks were varied in interest and any single session was worth the whole price of admission. Of course, Dr. Martin was a center of interest in his discussion of the Common Mold. W. R. Leslie, Superintendent of the Morden, Manitoba, Experiment Station brought a whole new list of plants which we could expect to grow here, and Dr. Hildreth from the Cheyenne Horticultural Field Station told us of some of the good unusual trees. Mr. Lease from Great Falls made two showings of his three-dimensional pictures, and all who saw them enjoyed them greatly.

Earl Sinnamon managed very efficiently the remarkable exhibition of sprayers and saws at City Park. Mrs. C. Walter Allen arranged details of the Annual Dinner assisted by Mrs. Garrey, who obtained and arranged the flowers. Dr. Alfred Bailey of the Denver Museum of Natural History showed a new film of New Mexico, The Land of Enchantment.

Lynette Heminway and her corps of efficient volunteer helpers deserve much credit for their efficient hand-ling of the many details of registration and finance which go to making a smooth running conference. Mrs. John Swingle spent many days handling the recording machine and transcribing the talks for publication.

If you attended this conference, will you please sit down right now, while your memory is fresh, and tell us what parts of the arrangements you liked best and also how to improve the program another year?

COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS

Carson Brothers; Orchardair Sprayers
Elcar Fence, All Kinds Fences
Rocky Mountain Seed Company; Pratt Insecticides, Hardie Sprayers and Rapid-Gro Fertilizers
Speedcraft Tool and Supply Company; Mall Saws
A. Plonkey Associates; McCulloch Saws
McCoy and Jensen; Fertilizers
Chemical Corporation of Colorado; Insecticides
Parker Company; Sprayers
Swift & Co., Fertilizers and Insecticides
Lawn-Rite Sales and Service; Metco Wave Sprinklers
Fred Ward; Hudson Cars
Leibfried Sales Company; Iron Age Sprayers
Colorado Toro Company; Lawn Mowers
Heller-Gro; Liquid Fertilizers
T. R. Collier; Friend Sprayers
Gene Snyder; Artificial Stone
Barteldes Seed Company; California Spray Chemicals
Swingle Tree Surgery; Sprays and Chemicals
Chas Day, Saws
EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS
Library, Horticulture House, Mrs. Kalmbach
Forestry, Denver City Forestry Department, George Stadler
School Grounds, Grounds Dept., Denver Public Schools, Paul Morrow
North High School, Denver Public Schools, Edgar Warren
Insects, Vaughan Aandahl
4-H Group, Denver County Agent, Herbert Gundell
Landscape Architecture, S. R. DeBoer
U. S. Forest Service, Don Bloch
Girdling Root, M. T. Slusher

DO YOU LOVE THE OUT-OF-DOORS?
Do you enjoy riding, hiking, or even snowshoeing out among the trees, rocks and wildflowers? Do you enjoy seeing the sun rise from the top of a rocky hill or do you enjoy strolling along a mountain trail at sunset?

Mrs. Timm and her committee are arranging outdoor trips to suit everyone's interests and abilities. These expeditions will not include strictly climbing trips, but each will emphasize some interesting thing in Nature—the botany, geology, ornithology of the country.

Full enjoyment of these trips will depend very much on proper preparation. Clothes should be suitable for the season, with warm clothes in winter and always a rain jacket in summer. Stout, comfortable shoes are always important. On one-day trips a pocket lunch is necessary, and overnight trips require a comfortable sleeping bag.

Registration must be made a couple of days in advance so that accommodations can be made for transportation. Expense will depend on distance travelled. Always inquire about the distance or difficulty of the trip and pick out those which fit your ability and interests. See the schedule on page 5 for list of trips in each month.

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Use the Library

The Helen Fowler Library at Horticulture House is fast becoming the most complete horticultural library in the western United States. As fast as new books are available they are secured and put on the shelves. Many out of print and valuable old books are also being installed. Helen Fowler has not only spent a great deal of her time reviewing and ordering these books but has interested a great many of her friends in participating in this good work, and has donated many books and much money herself. She is now writing book reviews and other interesting material to call your attention to the good things to be found in the library, which may be printed in each issue of the GREEN THUMB.

Anyone is invited to come in and use the library and members of the Association may take out books for limited times.

New Books Just Received at the Library

Bourne: Book of the Daffodil
Goldring: Book of the Lily
Jacob: Daffodils
Grove: Lilies
Lynch: Book of the Iris
Marshall: Consider the Lilies
Cameron Rogers: Tredden Glory, the Story of the California Poppy
I. B. Lucas: Dwarf Fruit Trees
J. L. Gibson: Carnations for Amateurs
Jacobsen: Cultivation of Succulents
Leeming: The Book of the Delphinium
Moncrief: Kew Gardens, London
Powell: The Chrysanthemum and How to Grow them
Patteson: Weekend Gardening
Rexford: Four Seasons in Your Garden
Egan: Making a garden of Perennials
Smith: Dry-Wall Gardens
Mima Nixon: Dutch Bulbs and Gardens
Richardson Wright: Gardener’s Tribute

Donors to Library for Months of January and February

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Helen Fowler looks at Dr. Yokum's PLANT GROWTH

What makes a good book? The author, of course. Its name first catches us, then the writer and finally the publisher. A worthy publisher never turns out a poor book—that is, hardly ever.

Could anything be duller than the title Dr. Yokum has chosen for his book—a book that is filled with first hand information which comes from a study of plants for many years. The author has taught biology at Ohio State, Penn. State, North Carolina College and is today in the thick of it at the George Washington University.

Few writers have observed gardening at so many different levels. Dr. Yokum is far from an amiable and obliging writer—you won’t argue much with him; when a plant needs mulching, you won’t use a hoe; preparing a compost will be easy and you are nudged pretty hard about the importance of right soil preparation for various types of plants. When he tells us to do something in the garden he explains why; he carries us far beyond the "Weeding and watering" stage. "Plants don’t just grow" he says and he continues to tell in a simple, easy way how the laws of nature and plant growth are related.

For those that have done little gardening PLANT GROWTH will serve as an admirable introduction—a little of the Burbank feeling may come to them, clearly knowing the why and wherefores. For the advanced gardener the book is filled with historical facts and many new theories.

The Table of Contents at the beginning will lead to the right chapter. There is a most helpful bibliographical reference at the end of each and too, this book has an index. There is a Glossary also at the finish—a sort of a one-page dictionary.

Shrubs and Vines for American Gardens

By DONALD WYMAN

To help in the selection of the better shrubs and vines, Dr. Wyman in his Shrubs and Vines for American Gardens, has carefully appraised some 3200 species and varieties, all cultivated today in the United States.

One of the most valuable lists however, is the one telling which plants NOT to grow. After many years of trial the author has culled over 1900 plants.

Dr. Donald Wyman has been the horticulturist at Harvard for the past thirteen years. He has collected his material and records from the planting of the world’s famous Arnold Arboretum as well as from many of the larger botanical gardens throughout the country. This is the most authoritative guide to Shrubs and Vines in the Library at Horticulture House.

American Trees

By RUSSELL LIMBACH

This is a beautifully illustrated book with 55 different kinds of trees, all to be found in the United States. Pictures of many of these same trees were shown at The Rocky Mountain Conference this year, ably discussed by Dr. A. C. Hildreth and Mr. Earl Sinnamon.

T. H. Everett, horticulturist of the New York Botanical Garden, has this to say in the introduction: "The book, with its authentic drawings, paintings and its informative text, will help to acquaint you with trees familiar in the American landscape. It will mean for you not only a widened knowledge of nature but perhaps the beginning of strong and lasting friendships with some of mankind’s oldest benefactors” —H. F.
MARCH GARDENING

No one can predict what the weather will be in March, but it is traditionally the time for wind, rain, snow and "bad" weather. This bad weather may give the soil much necessary moisture, which will be good. While it is disagreeable outside we are given a chance to catch up on all the little indoor chores, like ordering the seeds, planning the necessary remodelling and studying up on the new bug killers.

It may be that some nurseryman will get impatient and rush the season a little, sending the plants that you have ordered while it is unfit to plant them. If this happens, it is a good idea to open the packages so that the tops may get air but cover the roots with moist material so that they will not dry out. It is not a good practice to leave plants in water for long, but roses, for instance, may be covered completely with moist peat or sand a few days if they appear to be dried out when received. Often these things may be temporarily "heeled in" in a spot of unfrozen soil, at the south of the house.

About this time of year there is likely to be the old argument about whether sand or peat is better to loosen up heavy soil. Actually some of either or both will help. A little peat mixed into the soil twice a year for three years should make an easily worked soil out of very heavy clay. Better yet would be leafmold or manure which would furnish both chemical elements and improved physical condition. One caution is to avoid placing fresh manure near the roots of newly transplanted plants.

When planning additions or remodelling of grounds, it is well to consider the possibility of using some of the small fruits where there can be benefit from both their landscape effects and their fruit. Currants, Plums, Cherries and Crabapples are in this class.

Don't let the term "Design" scare you when used in connection with a landscape plan. This simply means good judgment in the arrangement of one part of a yard in relation to another. It is easy to understand that a consideration of Unity, Balance, Scale, Proportion, Repetition and such might make an attractive composition out of an otherwise mediocre one.

One of the great benefits of gardening is the annual renewal of faith that it gives us to see the new seeds sprout, the new leaves appear and flowers open. It adds greatly to our enjoyment if we do a little playing at least with propagation—by seeds, cuttings, grafts, buds or layers. Start a few tomato and zinnia plants in a box on the windowsill, experiment a little with making a few simple grafts and prepare some cuttings for setting out when it is warm. If you do not know how to do this, come in to Horticulture House and look at the process illustrated in some of the many books on propagation.

As you drive around the older sections of town notice the many mistakes made in planting unsuitable material, and learn to avoid these. You have probably learned over the years to identify the plants that you work with by their bloom. Now is a good time to notice the woody plants and learn to distinguish between them by their bark, twig color, buds, remains of last year's leaves and fruit, their general shape, and, as the transplanting begins, from their roots of varying habit and color.
March, 1950

The Green Thumb
COLORADO'S GARDEN MAGAZINE

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