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Bring to Horticulture House Please
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For the Famous
"Antiques and Horribles"
Auction

Auctioneer: John Swingle
Date: Saturday, May 19th
Time: 11 A.M. till dark
Place: Horticulture House,
1355 Bannock (in rear)

Refreshments: Sandwiches and Coca-Cola
sold by Campfire Girls

FUN BARGAINS

Members and Non-Members, All Invited
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Drawing on front cover was made especially for this issue by Phil Hayward.

THE COLORADO FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE ASSOCIATION
1355 Bannock Street • Denver, Colorado • TAbor 3410
May 3. Thursday evening, 8 p.m., Horticulture House. "Busyman's Garden." Busyman could be almost any one of us these days, and who wouldn't like to know how to have a happy garden with a minimum of effort. M. Walter Pesman will come to Horticulture House on Thursday, May 3, at eight p.m. to tell us how to achieve that happy situation. He will have suggestions for things we can do now, and things we can plan for the future to insure our gardens against becoming more work than relaxation.


May 17. Thursday evening at Horticulture House. "Birds in the Garden" by Ona Scudder.


July 14-23. Backpack trip into wilderness areas above Ashcroft. Heavy equipment sent in by horse. Camp in a different spot each night. Anna Timm, Leader. Call her, PE 5565, for further details.

BIRDS IN THE GARDEN

The birds are here again and what good gardener wouldn't like to get better acquainted with these "grace notes" of the garden? They really are as much a part of our garden as the flowers and other plants which give us so much pleasure. So we know all of you will enjoy the program planned for Thursday evening, May 17th, at Horticulture House, when Mrs. E. W. Scudder of Georgetown will share with us some of the experiences she has had with bird friends in her garden. Her bird friends are many and from her we may learn how to know and enjoy those which visit us. The program begins at 8 o'clock.

ERNE SHUBERT.
Maytime brings lilac time across the length and breadth of Colorado. For the lilac is the one universal plant found wherever gardens are made in the State.

Riding horseback along a little used track out on the Eastern Colorado plains many years ago, I came upon an abandoned homestead. And there beside the debris which once was a dwelling stood a great rounded bush of common lilac bloomed in a thrilling and magnificent display. Up in the rocks of the Bull’s Head which stands guard over 9,000 foot high Silver Plume, an old, old lilac grows. For wherever went a woman in the early days of our settlement—to the farms, to the mines, to the towns—there went a slip of a lilac bush.

No less strongly have we gardeners of later days felt about the fragrant, beautiful lilac. Every year hundreds of new bushes are set out, and more than one town aspires to the title of “Lilac City of Colorado”. But what a list of varieties, of species, of outstanding hybrids we now have from which to choose, with more and more promised on every hand.

No two gardeners will agree exactly on the “best” lilacs. In the first place, tastes vary in color, in type of floret, in the way these florets are carried in their panicles. You may not like my favorites, and again I might never want to plant yours. And one that does beautifully for you in Denver, in Colorado Springs, in Grand Junction, might not thrive at all in our garden up in the northern part of the State.

The shyest bloomer in our garden is the old-fashioned lilac. Just which of the many possible forms of Syringa vulgaris this may be, I do not know. Only once in the past eight years has the very large bush east of the house put on a show. Its white variety does a better job, giving us some bloom every year.

Never, never has that old hybrid Charles X failed, and even when its high topped crown was bowed to the ground with late May snows, it shook its head, and though a little brownining was noted on its pinky-mauve petals, it again held aloft its magnificent bouquet. Here is a thoroughly reliable lilac that should be even more widely planted than it is to date.

The origin of this early hybrid is shrouded in mystery. It seems to have been offered first in a catalog of 1831-32 as Charley dix, and 1839-40 as Lilas Charles X. In habit Charles X approaches a small tree at maturity. Young specimens bloom as precociously as the French Hybrids, but with age the bouquets are held high, and nearly bare trunks show several feet above the ground. It is remarkably free from scale, not becoming infested from a nearby Vulgaris that supported an ample colony.

Another old-time hybrid we see a lot of in Colorado gardens, likely arrived there under the name of the Persian lilac. Most of our so-called Persians are really S. chinensis, or as this plant is sometimes listed, S. rothmbergeri. It showed up long ago in the Botanic Garden at Rouen, France, and is considered a natural hybrid between S. persica and S. vulgaris. Whether or not we would like the true S. persica (which after all has proved to be native to China and not Persia!) as well, or if it would make the show it does in Idaho Springs each spring, is open to debate.

Where garden room is limited, the old common lilac or even its white variety does not have a place. Both sucker in a big way, and are susceptible to scale and leaf miner. The suckers that form about the feet of Charles X will probably rule out this fine lilac in many gardens. Here only should go the finest of the French Hybrids with their well-behaved characters, their gorgeous flowers, their production of bloom so quickly after planting, and their relative freedom from disease and insect pests.

And here it is that few gardeners agree on the “best”. In The Green Thumb survey of December, 1944 (Vol. 1, No. 7) one of our personal favorites polled few votes and received a comparatively low rating. This is Pres Grevy, a semi-double hazy blush-lilac with a lot of fragrant beauty and a faithful producer with us. It is an old hybrid introduced by the Lemoines in 1886, but for its type and color it is hard to surpass. We’ve liked it better in our garden than the single blue Pres. Lincoln.

Lucie Balte, another old introduction and a true pink, waited until last year to show us her true loveliness. She is never a profuse bloomer and sulked for several years in our garden. In the way of a dark reddish purple the highly rated Marechal Foch has not lived up to its reputation with us, but the still darker Ludwig Spaeth has been completely satisfying. Last summer was the first since it came into our garden seven years ago that it failed to bloom heavily and that was undoubtedly due to the fall luring its bloom buds out of season.

Lilac-pink Katherine Havemeyer has a delightful color, but we do not like so well her crowded clusters. Leon Gambetta has a similar floret in a much more symmetrical and beautiful arrangement. Vestale is always about tops in the white hybrids, even when a young bush, but it does not attain the sheer beauty of the double white Edith Cavel, one on our list to
buy this season. Alice Eastwood is another listed by us for 1951 purchase, if only for the name it commemorates, though catalog descriptions of it do sound enticing. Deep colored Monge is a third yet to be acquired, but long admired.

S. villosa and S. josikaea are two species lilacs grown infrequently in Colorado, both of which are hardy and bloom after the main French Hybrid season is finished. Under the name Syringa Prestoniae comes a group of Villosa Hybrids developed in Canada that are hardy and free-flowering, carrying something of the grace of their other parent, S. reflexa. Another good cross of this parentage is the Skinner Hybrid, Hiawatha. The bush is symmetrical vase form, makes rather a slow growth, and the waxy flowers are a deep rose. Few people not familiar with the foliage of S. villosa recognize this as a lilac in our garden. The later blooming season of these hybrids offers some protection from late spring frost damage.

Tolerant of temperature extremes also is the race of Dillitata Hybrids developed by Mr. F. L. Skinner of Manitoba, though they bloom with or even ahead of the French Hybrids. These are crosses between the common S. vulgaris and the decorative Korean species, S. oblata var. dillitata. Assinippi is one to be highly recommended, especially for Northern Colorado and mountain town gardens. It is one of the earliest to bloom, highly fragrant and very dark in coloring. Excel, a pleasing mauve-pink borne in large panicles, overlaps the French Hybrid season. Dark hued Pocahontas is yet another we have seen in a robust, vigorous bush, but have not grown.

No lilac is hard to grow as far as soil is concerned, if it is well drained, but "wet feet" all resent. Cultivation to keep down weeds and an annual winter top dressing of the soil with manure insures finer blooms. Their water requirements are about average with other shrubs used in the border.

Hybrid lilacs should be purchased on their own roots, grown from cuttings, layers or suckers. To produce plants quickly for sale, growers bud the desired variety onto stock of common lilac and privet. To give satisfaction such a plant should be planted deep and protected for several winters until the grafted lilac has had opportunity to form its own roots. We have known cases where that lovely French Hybrid has in a few years "reverted" to the old S. vulgaris, and some where wind has very effectively separated bush from roots at the ground level.

Fall planting is preferable to spring planting for lilacs in Colorado. By mid-October the wood is ripened and food stored away in the roots toward spring activities. The plant is in the best condition of the year for the shock attendant on any uprooting and shifting about, and we can usually count on good transplanting weather until mid-November. If roots are adequate, little or no pruning will be required. Of course, when falls are
PRIMROSES
MYRTLE ROSE DAVIS

If you are looking for satisfactory plants to grow in the shady part of your garden, try primroses. They are easy to grow providing they are given partial shade, a little winter protection, a good supply of water during their growing season and are never allowed to dry out completely. They respond to a light, rich soil with plenty of humus but they will grow in almost any good garden soil. They come in a wide range of colors and have a long period of bloom. If several species are grown, they will produce a colorful display during the spring and early summer and often again in the fall. They make excellent cut flowers for the small or low arrangement and retain their freshness for several days.

Primroses multiply rapidly and the clumps may be divided anytime after their blooming period is passed. September is probably the best time to make divisions when the weather is not so hot and dry. An excellent way to obtain new varieties and colors is to plant the fresh seed in August or September. (Seed may also be planted in the spring but old seeds do not germinate as well as the fresh seeds.) The first winter the little seedlings need protection either in a cold frame or under an inverted jar or flower pot. Excelsior is a very good winter protection for it does not pack down too closely and smother the tiny seedlings. They must never be allowed to dry out and frost may heave them out of the soil for their roots are very shallow when they are very young.

Although Bailey lists some two hundred and there are over three hundred known species of primroses, probably the best known and most popular is Primula polyantha. Its name indicates, it has many flowers on a stem, and any good sized plant will produce several stems. It comes in a wide range of colors white, red, pink, lavender, peach, apricot, salmon, rose, lilac, yellow and many two-toned and bi-color variations. It also comes more rarely in blue shades.

Another species which more often produces blue shades is the Acaulescens Primula or English Primrose (cowslip is P. veris and oxlip is P. elatior which are rarely seen in American gardens). It is very similar to the polyantha except each blossom is on its own separate stem and the stems are shorter. It is an early and prolific bloomer. Sometimes the plants are almost completely covered with either clear blue, pink, rose, lavender, white, red or purple blossoms. Each blossom is about the size of a half dollar. If these plants are covered with a plastic hot cap during the winter they will bloom under the snow during January, February and March.

An exceedingly hardy primula second only to polyantha in popularity is the Auricula primula. It enjoys an alkaline soil and is at home in the rock garden for it comes from the mountain heights where snow and rock are its chosen habitat. It also has a wide color range and will bloom from April until June. Its flower clusters arise from neat rosettes of thick gray-green leathery leaves.

There are many other species and hybrids available for garden culture some of which are, Japonica which comes in all shades of pink; Florindae, an enormous fragrant yellow blossomed giant from Tibet which blooms in mid-summer; Sieboldi, with lovely soft crinkly foliage and fine fringed flowers; Bulleyana hybrids with whorles of yellow buff and apricot blossoms, and many others too numerous to mention and probably not very hardy in our dry climate. There are many tender species which are grown in green-houses and used by florist for pot culture.

The most striking primrose which grows in our mountains is Primula Parryi or Parry’s primrose. It grows with its roots in the cold streams of the sub-alpine and lower alpine regions. It is almost tall and bears dense clusters of brilliant rose-purple flowers. It is almost impossible to grow in lower elevations for we can not supply the cool running water that its roots enjoy in its native habitat. We should not dig it up and try to bring it home for it will not live in our hot dry alkaline soil. The same is true of the dainty little fairy primrose of the alpine regions. We should enjoy them in their native home and raise the cultivated kinds in our gardens.

While primroses may never become so popular in this country as they are in the cool moist climate of England, yet, for anyone who can provide the conditions, they are well worth growing.
SPRING BEAUTY FROM BULBS

L. J. HOLLAND

Since most of our earlier flowers are from bulbous type plants, it might be well to become better acquainted with this large, diversified group of plants that have endeared themselves to gardeners everywhere; not alone for their beauty, but also for their adaptability and ease of handling under average garden conditions. Some are at their best in the perennial border, giving us blossoms before the herbaceous perennials have reached their blooming stage; some seem to have been developed by Mother Nature just for rock-gardens, while others are at their best under shrubs and trees.

To the botanically inclined, there is a very distinct difference between bulbs and corms. A bulb is an encased leaf-bud, or a flower-bud, or often both, surrounded by fleshy layers or scales. Some common examples of true bulbs are Lily, Tulip and Onion. Some, Tulip and Hyacinth, for instance, have the fleshy layers wrapped tightly around them. These are known as “tunicated bulbs” because the outer layer forms a coat, or tunic; others, Lily is a good example, have the layers in the form of overlapping scales. Corms, on the other hand, are not built up from layers, but are solid throughout. Crocus and Gladiolus are two quite common cormaceous plants.

There are two other factors that tend to differentiate the two groups that are of far more importance to the gardener than above mentioned. First, a bulb may live for years as a single unit or may increase by splitting itself up, but a corm produces flowers only one year, then the old corn withers and dies and a new corn is produced, usually atop the old one. The second factor is that the bud in a true bulb was formed while the foliage was maturing the previous season. Therefore, bulbs should receive as much attention after flowering as before. This condition does not exist with corms; here the bud, or embryo plant, is not formed until growth actually starts in the spring. The attention that these receive during their early growth largely determines the final results, it being presupposed that high quality stock was used in the first place. It is very necessary with bulbs, and highly desirable with corms, that the foliage be not removed until it has yellowed and withered of its own accord, so that as much vitality as possible be stored in the new corn or bulb.

Tubers, are short congested, underground stems stored with food from which new sprouts come (a few are sometimes called “bulbs”). They are governed by practically the same growing conditions as corms. Dahlias and potatoes are good examples of tubers. Some rhizomatous plants, such as the Bearded Iris, form the flower bud the previous season in the manner of bulbs.

The terms “Spring Bulb” and “Fall Bulb” are used by most dealers to indicate the time that they should be planted. Generally speaking, fall bulbs are hardy and may remain in the ground indefinitely, while spring bulbs must be lifted each fall and stored in a frost-free place, as one would care for Gladiolus.

In view of the fact that the title of this article indicates that it deals with bulbs alone, and yet probably over half of the subjects mentioned are either corms or tubers, let me say that, like most gardeners, my classification of bulbs is ordinarily as flexible as Joe Stalin’s conscience.

All bulbs are at their best in a rich sandy loam of good tilth, but it is not always possible to have such condition and existing soil must be made as nearly ideal as is practical. Heavy clay or “adobe” soils may be made friable by thoroughly spading in some sort of humus. Leafmold is my first choice as a humus, but good compost is every bit as good. Well rotted...
manure containing plenty of straw is also excellent, but be sure it is well rotted, because fresh manures release acids that injure the bulbs and make them susceptible to disease.

A rule of thumb for planting is to place the top of the bulb three times as deep as the greatest diameter of the bulb. Of course, in light soils the bulb may be planted deeper than in heavy soil, and it is well to do so. Since good drainage is absolutely essential, the holes for the bulbs should be deep enough in heavy soils that a few inches of sand can be placed in the bottom of the hole. Under such conditions it is best to place scaled bulbs slightly on their sides, so that moisture does not collect between the scales.

Two of the better known bulbs are Lily and Tulip, and since Lilies were quite ably discussed in a recent issue of The Green Thumb it will not be necessary to say more. Tulips are so well known that it seems there is little left to be said. By far the most common group of tulips are those known as Darwin's, available in almost every color from white to almost black. Next in numbers are the Cottage Tulips. Although this group as a whole does not have the long stems and wide color range of the Darwins, it is especially desirable for its early bloom. The individual flowers are longer and have more pointed petals than the typical Darwin and are a “must” in any tulip planting.

The least known of the “Big Three” is the Breeder group, wherein is found art shades and blending of colors not found in other tulips. Parrot, Double Early, Double Late and Rembrandt are other varieties that are well worth better acquaintance.

Daffodils, a name loosely applied to all Narcissus, are another well known group of bulbs. There are varieties with long trumpets, short trumpets, doubles and multi-flowered types, all valuable for the border or naturalizing. They cut well.

Hyacinth, in my opinion, is one of the more difficult bulbs for the amateur to grow to a state of perfection. Our strong sunlight and drying winds of Spring seem not to be to their liking. Planting near a house in semi-shade helps a lot. Some gardeners advocate covering the planting with about three inches of litter or strawy manure. This is fine, providing the covering is not applied until after the ground is well frozen and not removed too early in the spring. It is an extremely rare case that Hyacinths increase from the bulbs under ordinary garden conditions. About three or four years seems to be the useful life of a bulb, they should then be dug up and replaced.

Crown Imperial, (Fritillaria imperialis), is not as well known as I think it should be. This is a bold plant, desirable as an accent to the lower growing bulbs, as it attains a height of about three feet. The foliage is mostly clustered at the ground level, the flowers are bell-shaped, and form a cluster at the top of a naked stem and are in turn surmounted by a whorl of smaller leaves. Crown Imperials require deep planting in the richest of soil.

Others of this genus are: Cheesed Lily (F. melaeagris) and F. recurva, are low growing with solitary flowers. The latter is red outside, the inside yellow spotted with red, the former is usually reddish purple checkeder with a brighter color. Both do best in semi-shade and a rather dry situation and good drainage is absolutely essential. Height about one foot.

Crocus are famed in song and story as a harbinger of Spring, but there are species even earlier than the Dutch Crocus commonly grown. C. imperati is the first to bloom, and is buff outside and rich violet inside. C. siberi, a delicate blue, and C. susianus, (Cloth of Gold) follow in short order. Then, too, all crocus do not bloom in the spring; C. sativus, C. speciosus and C. zonatus are autumn-flowering types.

Calochortus, better known as Butterfly Tulips or Mariposa Lilies, are among the most beautiful of spring bulbs. Two or three are natives of Colorado and one (C. nutallii) is the State-flower of Utah, although the most beautiful are C. luteus, C. vesta and C. venustus. While all species are reliably hardy as far as cold is concerned, they do not stand alternate thawing and freezing, so should be well mulched after the ground is frozen. Incidentally they are cornaceous plants.

Dutch and Spanish Iris are often injured by our dry winters, but a heavy mulch of leaves often brings them through in good style. They are well worth the trouble.

Gladiolus is probably grown to a greater extent in this locality than
any of plants mentioned in this article, some plantings cover several acres in the vicinity of Denver. However, it is not a spring flower and really should have an article devoted to it entirely. Why doesn't some grower write one?

A close cousin to Gladiolus is the Mexican Shell flower (or Tigridia, to use its botanical name), which vies with the Glad as to beauty and ease of handling. Like the Glad they bloom in summer and require the same culture, except a little more moisture is needed.

Glory of the Snow (Chionodoxa), Snowflake (Leucojum), Grape Hyacinth (Muscari) and Squill (Scilla) are all excellent subjects for the rockery as well as edging the perennial border. Chionodoxa and Scilla come in shades of blue, rose and white. Muscari is blue or white, and there is a plumed variety, M. plumosus, that blooms later. Snowflake, true to its name, is always white.

Snowdrops (Galanthus), Winter Aconite (Eranthis) and Lily of the Valley will stand more shade than most of the others. The last two are not bulbs, but are of the tuberous group. Eranthis, with its bright golden flowers above glossy green foliage, is hard to grow due to the fact that too often the tubers are badly dried when received. Tubers from a reliable grower and planted immediately upon receipt give good results. They bloom about two weeks ahead of the crocus and are at their best under trees, where few plants thrive. Practically all of the lesser bulbs do well under deciduous trees, providing the tree roots are not too near the surface that they rob the bulbs of food and moisture. The bulbs have had their day before the tree has foliage enough to offer too much shade.

A few points to remember: All hardy bulbs should be planted early enough that root growth starts before the ground freezes.

A light covering of compost or well rotted manure over the bulbs in late fall allows the nutrients to leach down with the moisture from the snow. Most of the lesser bulbs should remain undisturbed for years, but Tulips and Crown Imperials should be lifted at least every third year and replanted, as both form numerous bulbs and do not tolerate too much crowding.

A poor bulb under ideal conditions or a good bulb under poor conditions cannot produce a good flower. If the winter is dry, like this past winter, watering the bulb planting a few times will prove advantageous.

Bulbs, like other plants, will not thrive without proper care, although a minimum amount is required. Above all, do not cut back the foliage before it is mature. If the withering foliage is objectionable, plan so that it is hidden by annuals or perennials.

FOR MAY WORK

When early bulbs such as Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths are through blooming, their place can be taken by summer flowers. Lift the bulbs carefully and replant them in an odd corner of the garden where they can die down naturally. They will then be fit to flower next season. If preferred, Daffodils may be left undisturbed, as can Snowdrops, Crocuses, Scillas and Grape Hyacinths. Unless the ground was manured the previous autumn it should receive a dressing of well-rotted fertilizer now, but this should be well forked in before any planting is done. Remember, well-rotted manure is dry and crumbly and not wet and "steamy", as it is when it comes direct from the stables.
MOSSES

HELEN MARSH ZEINER

In the botanical sense, the word “moss” is restricted to a specific group of plants; but in common usage almost any finely divided minute green plant is called a moss. For example, reindeer moss and deer moss (old man’s beard, tree moss) are both lichens. The “moss” with which Long-fellow’s murmuring pines and hemlocks were bearded was a lichen. Spanish Moss is a flowering plant of the pineapple family. “Moss” on the shady side of a tree is an alga.

The true mosses are so much alike that a general description will serve for the whole group. If we separate a single plant from the mat in which mosses usually grow, we will find at the base fine hairlike structures which anchor the plant in place. These are called rhizoids, and are much simpler in structure than a true root. Next we find a leafy shoot whose true beauty is best appreciated if viewed through a hand lens. The leafy shoot may be surmounted by a long slender stalk ending in a capsule. The capsules are useful in identification for they are easy to see and are characteristic of the species. In the life cycle of the moss plant, the capsule plays an important part in reproduction.

Within the capsule are formed many extremely small spores. A capsule structure, the calyptra, covers the end of the capsule. Sooner or later the calyptra falls off, and when the spores are mature they escape through an opening in the end of the capsule and may be carried long distances by the wind. A spore which alights in a suitable place germinates and grows into a much-branched green filament, the protonema. This may spread into a considerable mass. Then buds arise on the protonema, and each bud develops into a green leafy moss plant. The spreading of the protonema accounts for the masses of individual moss plants which form the familiar mats of moss.

After a period of development, male and female sexual organs (antheridia and archegonia) are produced at the tip of the leafy shoot. Sometimes both antheridia and archegonia are formed on a single plant; sometimes a plant produces one or the other. A sperm produced by an antheridium unites with an egg produced by an archegonium, and from this union develop the stalk and capsule. Within the capsule spores are formed, and the life cycle is ready to begin again.

In addition to this somewhat complicated method of reproduction, the mosses develop vegetatively with a great deal of success. The ability of the protonema to spread into a mat several inches across before forming leafy plants has already been mentioned. Old leafy plants, especially if injured, may develop protonema and continue the spread of the moss. Leafy plants also produce runners and offshoots and sometimes special buds which become separated from the parent plant and develop into new plants.

Mosses, like lichens, are important soil builders. They generally follow lichens into a bare area, establishing themselves in the substrate prepared by the lichens. We often find mosses and lichens growing together on rocks, but we should remember the lichens are the pioneers and lichens growing on bare rock have established themselves. We think of mosses as inhabitants of moist places; but this is not always true, as for example, the moss growing with lichens on a rock where it receives moisture for active growth only at certain seasons of the year. The mosses are really very widespread in their distribution, and almost all climates and almost all habitats have their characteristic species.

One of the most important of all mosses is the famous sphagnum moss, which is found growing in bogs and other moist places. Sphagnum is one of the primary components of peat, with which every gardener is familiar. Extensive deposits of peat which have become compacted are a source of fuel in some parts of the world. Over very long periods of time such compacted peat deposits may be converted to coal.

The leaves of sphagnum contain large dead cells intermingled with small green cells. These large dead cells absorb and retain moisture, and it is largely because of them that sphagnum has such important absorptive powers. Because it can absorb and retain moisture, it is used for packing plants for shipment and is sometimes used as a medium in which to germinate seeds or to grow certain types of plants.

The absorptive qualities of sphagnum plus some antiseptic qualities have made it important over the years for use in surgical dressings. Even as recently as World War I sphagnum was used in this way; but it has now been replaced by more efficient materials.

From time to time most of us have gathered mosses to use in dish gardens or flower arrangements, a harmless practice if we use discretion in taking mosses. We should conserve mosses and lichens growing on bare rock, never denuding an area. Mosses should be conserved along with our more conspicuous flowering plants.

If we remember the importance of mosses and lichens in building soil so that larger plants may take root, we will treat them with respect. Let us enjoy the delicate beauties of the mosses and lichens, but let us not forget the role they play in nature’s scheme of things.

Anemones are fine subjects for the rock garden but should be chosen according to the soil. A few must have moist conditions and should be planted at the foot of the rock garden or where running water forms pools.
WE believe that everyone should have a garden with flowers and trees and lawns. Some have gotten the idea that these things are only for those living in the parts of the state which are more favored horticulturally. The pictures on pages 20-23 show that there are attractive landscape plantings all over the state—on the plains, in the mountains and in the irrigated areas.

It is true that gardening here is different, and we must learn to recognize these differences and work with them, but there is nowhere in the state where people choose to live that some nice plants will not grow. In the higher altitude towns many of the familiar plants of the lowlands will not survive, but at the same time many plants which give just a mediocre show lower down will make a grand display in the cooler weather found at high altitudes.

The plains offer difficulties in the way of lack of water, hot summers, cold winters, high wind and alkaline soils, yet, even in the most difficult situation, many nice things can be grown if they are selected for their tolerance of these conditions and cultural practices are adopted to make them more happy.

The twin problems all over the state are to select the plants which are best adapted to the particular conditions and then learn how to modify the conditions to fit the requirements of the plants. We must learn to water more thoroughly, to mulch so that we conserve what water we have. We must learn to add humus to our soil to improve its physical structure and help counteract the generally alkaline condition. We must learn how to shade or protect from the wind some of the nicer, but more difficult, things, until they become established. We must plan for the future by selecting the nicer, slower-growing things instead of only planting the quick-growing, weedy things.

Gardeners of Colorado should not attempt to duplicate the grand displays of Azaleas, Flowering Dogwoods, Japanese Cherries or Magnolias of other, older areas; but develop all the many fine things that can be grown here. If, at high altitudes, it appears that nothing but Spruce and Thimbleberries and Sweet Peas will grow well, then plant a lot of them and of the best varieties possible. If only Lilacs and Chinese Elm and Ponderosa pine will grow well, a grand display can be had with them if they are carefully planned. Colorado may be famous, not just for one flower or tree, but for dozens of them, as will grow best in various altitudes and situations.

This association would like to be helpful to every community in the state, or the whole Rocky Mountain Area. We would appreciate pictures and stories of good gardens or plantings anywhere over the area—plantings which might give other gardeners an idea that they could carry out in their community. Restrictions of time and finances make it difficult to travel over the area as much as we would like, but all our good friends through the region may help by sending their stories and pictures.

We hardly ever think to stir the soil of our bulb beds; do this with a mulcher (hand cultivator) soon as shoots show above ground. Handle carefully so as not to snip off these shoots.
There Are Gardens and Gardeners All Over the State

In every corner of the state there can be found good gardens and good gardeners that make them. These folks, as is natural with gardeners, have not thought that “their gardens” were good enough to show to others, so as we have travelled over the state we have snapped a few pictures, shown here, of those that appealed to us.

Above is shown the town of Silverton set ting surrounded by one vast garden, which we hope they appreciate and will preserve. Photo by Chas. J. Ott.
"DEEP in the heart of a rose is the joy, the pathos, the greatness of the human race." This is the statement of R. C. Allen of the American Rose Society in his introduction to the "Romance of the Rose" by Josephine Craven Chandler. We are indebted to this author as well as to Mrs. Frederick Love Keays, author of "Old Roses," for much of the information used in this paper.

We are prone to consider the rose a modern flower, yet the rose is older than history, older than any known civilization. It is one of the oldest of vegetable forms. We find its imprint—leaf, stock and flower—still preserved in stone where it pressed against prehistoric slime.

The rose is found in legend, story, music, art, literature, even in architecture. The Greeks esteemed the rose; Sappho, the woman poet of Greece, named it "The Queen of Flowers." She wrote about 600 B.C. Heroditus, the father of history wrote 500 years before the birth of Christ of the Flower of a Hundred Leaves in the garden of King Midas.

It has been estimated that during the time of King Solomon there were 300,000 roses in the hanging gardens of Babylon. Traders and crusaders brought roses from Asia to Europe during the middle ages, and from there they spread throughout the world.

As early as 4 B.C. roses were raised in the earliest hot houses. This was in Rome, the city given over to voluptuous excesses. For every honorable occasion, the palace floors and even the streets were covered with rose petals. Roses alone used at a Nero feast cost $160,000. Roses came into their own all over Italy. The traveller today sees the imprint of the early widespread growth of the popularity of roses. The Romans hung a rose over every important conference table, indicating that the group was not to be disturbed; hence, the term, "sub-rosa", which has become synonymous with a secret meeting. Our grandmothers used roses as a motif around the chandelier moulding on the ceilings. It might have a symbolism in regard to the "conferences" held under them.

The Turks never let a rose lie on the ground; it was considered sacred. Egypt was slower to adopt the rose, but during Cleopatra's time it came to supplant the lotus, the national flower. When Mark Antony visited Cleopatra, it is said he walked knee deep through rose petals.

The early Christians used the rose in their symbolism. The five petaled rose signified the five wounds of Christ; the white roses was significant of the virginity of the Mother of Christ.

The French loved the rose before England fell under its spell, but England did come to praise and prize the rose. In monasteries gardens, it was grown for its culinary and medicinal properties. It became the ecclesiastical emblem of perfection, note the Golden Rose of Rome, the blessing of the Pope on Rose Sunday, its use in the architecture of the Rose Window and in sculpture as an art motif. Winchester Cathedral has maintained a rose garden since the
9th century. It also had its secular uses. Elizabeth of England demanded as rent in one instance "One red rose to be delivered on the 24th of June each year." This has become traditional. In America in 1731, 5,000 acres of land were granted to William Penn, the rent being one red rose on the 24th of June each year. After the twelfth century, the rose became England's emblem of heraldic devices, four types being used, with its own significance.

Mrs. Keays listed five roses as those typical of "Old Roses," and quaintly classifies them by their scent. She says, "The old-timey perfume of the centifolia, the dusky sweetness of the Damask, the refreshing sweetness of the China roses, the gracious sweetness of tea roses, the woody pungency of the moss rose, the scent of winter apples in the foliage of the sweetbriar, all these are scents of old roses, yet how various."

Persia used the damask rose for perfume. Oriental attar of roses was the only perfume known till recently. Rose oil was used in medicine and for embalming. Far Eastern cookie recipes as well as early English call for Rose Water. In Persia, roses grow in groves which furnish homes for the nightingales. In the evening the rose exudes its sweet fragrance and the nightingale pours forth its wondrous song.

Oscar Wilde gives us the story of the nightingale that fell in love with a rose, a white rose. Each evening the nightingale sang to the rose and each evening the rose exhaled its fragrance on the air and opened its petals wider in response to the touching lyric. At length one evening, as all roses must, the rose began to wilt. The nightingale sang its most impassioned song and in beating its wings near the rose he pierced his breast against a thorn. The rose became fresher and crimson with the bird's blood as he sang his love song. The nightingale finished his song to fall lifeless at the feet of the revived flower.

The centifolia, the hundred leaf rose, was brought to France from Asia by a Crusader. He was somewhat a saint and somewhat a rogue. He went in search of the Holy Grail, which he failed to recover, but he brought back the centifolia, the red, red rose with its heart afame. Through all the succeeding years it has been a source of revenue as the base of perfume.

The cabbage rose was brought to England by Dr. Linacre, physician to Henry the VIII before 1560. I was about to tell you that this rose was the inspiration for the song, "The Last Rose of Summer." Moore wrote the poem. However, another author asserts that Old Blush furnished Moore with the inspiration. At any rate, we have the song and Old Blush has an honor which no rose can take from her. It was brought from China in the Clipper ships along with other treasure. It alone of all roses bloomed twice each year. It was the most sturdy of the progenitors of the roses which resulted in perpetual bloom in our gardens.

The beginning of the 19th century saw the entrance of Josephine, later to become Empress of France as the wife of Napoleon, and the development of the rose as a modern flower. Josephine inveigled Napoleon to purchase for her a huge estate on the outskirts of Paris. There she abandoned herself to her love for the rose. She began the process of hybridization; in 1800 there were but a scant hundred varieties; in 1802 there were 250 on her estate. In a few years there were hundreds. We owe a debt to Josephine who used her passing love for Napoleon to procure the means, even after his love for her had waned, to produce varieties of roses beyond our comprehension.

George Washington is credited with having grown a hybrid rose at Mt. Vernon; he named the rose, Martha Washington. He permitted it to be grown and sold thus providing a basis for rose history in America more than five generations ago. We can appreciate the ambition of a rose when it will "send its roots three feet to get its feet into rich clay; when it will throw its swinging branches out to hook into the soil so that it may bring its youngsters into the world hitched to home; or send its suckers into the soil ever so far to break into new plants, hanging on to mother—nature tells a vastly interesting story in the protective habits of Old Roses."

I trust no one will complain if I add a line to a bit by Charles Kingsley.

Is not old wine wholesomest, old pippins toothsomest,
Old wood burns brightest, old linens wash whitest.
Old soldiers, sweethearts are surest,
Old lovers are soundest. (Charles Kingsley)

And memories of old roses are fondest. (Morse)
TYPES OF ROSES

By Mrs. E. J. Maynard

Everyone knows a rose. It is the queen of all flowers and has long been a universal favorite. It blooms as beautifully for the lowly home gardens as it does for the wealthy estate owner. Roses can be enjoyed in a garden or cut and brought indoors. Roses are favorites for bringing messages of love or sympathy.

Let us first acquaint ourselves with favorite rose types. There are about a dozen types available for our American Gardens, in many species and varieties. To be sure, few of our gardens have the space to have all types, and all types are not adaptable everywhere in our United States.

There are four principal rose types which can be grown in our Colorado climate—the shrub, the bush, the climber and the tree rose. There are five distinct bud forms—the slender or tapering, the pointed, the ovoid, the urn-shaped and the globular; and there are also six flower forms—they are: single, semi-double, double, the full or cut, the corymb or clustered, and the button. Each bud form has been found to promote certain characteristics in the rose, and there are a great many varieties of rose with all the characteristics blended into one plant.

Climbers are in four groups, the large flowered, the small flowered in clusters, the semi-climber or pillar rose and the creeper or trailer rose. Among the large flowered we find New Dawn, June Morn and Summer Snow. The small flowered are the Ramblers and Dorothy Perkins. Then we have the Creeper or Trailer Rose, the Memorial Rose being a good example. The Climbing Hybrid Tea rose is in the experimental stage in this climate but the Climbing Peace bids to be a favorite.

The Tree Rose was developed by budding regular hybrid tea roses onto a tall understock. This rose needs the same care as the hybrid tea but needs unusually careful protection in winter, either boxing it in dirt or taking it up entirely and burying it deep. Tree Roses really involve a lot of work.

There are also the Miniature, Fairy or Baby roses and the Polyantha and Floribunda. The Polyantha is a small edition of the Floribunda Rose. The Miniature or Fairy Rose is a tiny rose. It is useful for edgings, to border sidewalks or rose beds. It can be used in pots or porch boxes and is free blooming over a long period. The Hybrid Tea Rose is the result of a cross between the Tea Rose and the old favorite Hybrid Perpetual. It is an everblooming or monthly rose and flourishes in gardens all over the country. It is vigorous in growth and spectacular in its range of colors. These roses are especially good for indoor arrangements. There are so many exciting kinds to choose from. They are noted for their long stems and pronounced fragrance. The Hybrid Perpetual Rose is a large bush rose that produces but one crop, usually in June or July. It grows twice the height of the other roses and is unusually vigorous. It is best grown alone and often produces large blooms.

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Types of Roses

By Mrs. Homer S. Hoisington

This is a most controversial subject. I was told that if I asked ten different people to give their opinion on the ten best roses for Denver, I would get a hundred different answers. As I didn’t want that many different answers, I didn’t ask ten other people. A little over 100 years ago, a new race of roses was born that completely eclipsed the other types of roses; one characteristic that had long been awaited was their ability to produce more than one crop of flowers a season. They have been superseded by the hybrid teas.

There are two ways to start growing roses. One is to buy a special offer of a dozen two year old field grown ever-blooming roses for $1.98. The other is to plant roses all around your home after reading a flowery article which paints a glowing picture of how a few plants can make your garden a bower of roses almost overnight. Either way, you are almost certain to be disillusioned before the first year is over. The bargain roses probably won’t measure up to expectations. Also roses won’t grow just anywhere in a garden. You must find the best location and arrange the plants to give the most pleasing effect.

When the American Rose Society decided to conduct a symposium of its experts, located in all parts of the United States to find out which roses the dozen highest ranking hybrid teas proved a well balanced assortment: Crimson Glory, deep red; Peace, pale to golden yellow tinted with pink; Charlotte Armstrong, carmine red to cerise; Etoile de Hollande, deep crimson; Mme. Henri Guillot, raspberry pink; Eclipse, clear yellow; Good News, coppery buff, tinted with shell pink; Mrs. Sam McGredy, scarlet and orange; Grande Duchesse Charlotte, begonia rose; Golden Dawn, good yellow; Contesse Vandal, salmon outside, copper and gold inside; Mme. Cochet-Cochet, mellow coppery pink. I have selected ten from a long list. There were so many good ones it was hard to leave any of them out.

Peace heads the list; as one expert said, it has good color and anyone can grow it. No rose of recent introduction has created such a sensation or has been awarded as many medals, certificates and prizes as Peace. The young French grower, Francis Meilland, named it Mme. A. Meilland in honor of his mother. The name was changed to Peace when it was introduced into this country in 1945 by the Conard-Pyle Co. How the rose became to be renamed is very interesting. Budwood was rushed out of France hours before the occupation and brought to the United States. It was grown as the French, Beauty as the English, and Peace as the German. It is a large, voluptuous rose, with low incurved petals, and it is highly disease resistant. In time this variety will be of great historical interest since it has been widely used by hybridizers. It is one

TEN BEST ROSES FOR DENVER

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The brilliancy of color is somewhat dimmed by hot weather. The clean heavy foliage is an added attraction. Taffeta is outstanding in its ability to produce long stemmed, perfectly formed buds in rich pink and salmon tones. Foliage is glossy green when fully developed but toned mahogany red when young. This rose was subjected to extensive testing before introduction, and reports from all sections of the country were most favorable. Taffeta is patented and was an All-America selection for 1948.

Tally Ho was the winner of 1949 All-America selection; the inside is pink, reverse rich crimson.

Show Girl is a good selection for a spectacular deep pink rose. The buds are huge, but artistic in spite of their size since they are long and tapered. The buds are slow to open, and when the weather is favorable, the expanded blooms are glorious and immense in size. Tall, straight stems, heavily textured petals, and long lasting qualities make this an ideal rose for cutting, exhibiting at shows, or garden display. It is hardy in northern gardens, which is true of most roses originating in California.

Snow Bird is one of the most prolific bedding roses. It is pure white, fragrant, and it has perfectly formed full petaled blooms often four inches across. I have given you the experts opinion on the ten best roses. Now, I should like to give you the opinion of an amateur: I am the amateur. I will give you Peace, Crimson Glory, President Hoover, Signora, Mme. Joseph Perraud, Edel, Condensa de Sastago, Forty-niner, Dame Edith Helen and Rose of Freedom.

Of the climbing roses the Paul Scarlet is the most popular. Of the floribunda species the Betty Pryor, Pinoccchio and Elsie Poulsen are good.
difference of opinion as to what is the best fertilizer to use.

Fertilize after the first bloomings is finished and again in August but not too late in the fall or the plants will send out new tender growth that will freeze.

It is a good thing to mulch your rose bed as this keeps the weeds from growing, the roots cool and damp. Leafmold, peat or grass clippings are generally used.

PROTECTING ROSES
By Mrs. Homer S. Hosington

For protecting roses in winter, it is well to use something that will form a light covering, such as threshed straw if it doesn’t contain grain. One good way is to make a board fence, so to speak, around each rose and fill in with peat moss or other light covering. Another and more widely used method is to mound up the roses and cover with straw, peat moss or leaves and place pine boughs over them to keep the covering from blowing away.

ENEMIES OF THE ROSE
Insects and Diseases
By Mrs. Frank Smay

I feel that this is a very unpleasant subject. Insects, Diseases, Enemies—all these words are rather repulsive, and when I begin to think about the subject it makes me sort of want to back away from it. And, if I continue to think about it, it makes me feel just a little weary, remembering the many hours spent during the summer months in trying to control these things.

Some one has said, “It seems impossible that anything so beautiful as a rose could have enemies!” But, we who grow roses know that there is nothing imaginary about this, but it is a cold, stern fact, staring us in the face all the time, that roses do have enemies. And, if we want to grow roses and want to produce good roses (and every good rosarian wants to do that), then we had better fortify ourselves with a little knowledge along these lines in order to be able to combat these enemies.

Before I take up the different kinds of insects and diseases, I want to say this, and I feel that it is one of the most important, if not THE most important thing I am going to say: when you plan your rose bed and select your roses, BE SURE TO BUY GOOD STOCK! I feel that this cannot be over-emphasized, buy good stock from a reputable company that will stand back of everything that they claim for their roses. Then, with proper planting and culture, you will have gorgeous, healthy rose bushes. And a really healthy rose bush can go a long way toward defending itself against its enemies.

We find that insects work in three different ways on roses. First, the chewing insects eat the leaves and even the petals of the rose. Under this class we find rose slugs, caterpillars, and beetles. The treatment is a good dose of arsenate of lead in some form. This works very well for everything but the adult beetles. These had best be picked off by hand and dropped into a can containing kerosene.

To the second group belong the borers. These insects work into the canes of the rose bush through the exposed ends where we have pruned, or another type goes right through the bark and into the wood whether exposed or not. The treatment for borers is to cut off all infested wood and to protect open ends by pushing thumb tacks into open ends, or by using wax to prevent them from re-entering and starting their damaging work again.

The third group are the sucking insects—red spider, thrips, aphids, and scales. These draw, as it were, the very life blood from the plant, live on the sap of the plant, and, of course, rob it of its vitality. For red spider, thrips, and aphids, we find that spraying with nicotine sulphate (Black Leaf 40) is very effective, and since aphids appear in waves (and I might say in droves), the best way to handle them is to spray or dust every 24 hours for three successive days. You should then be rid of them for perhaps a month or more.

The treatment for scale is a little different. Remove all infested wood and spray thoroughly in early spring before new growth starts with an oil emulsion or lime sulfur.

As for rose disease, Blackspot, Mildew, and Brown Canker are the principal ones. Black Spot is by far the most serious enemy of the rose. It is highly important that we learn how to prevent it, for it cannot be cured. All the affected leaves should be picked off and burned. All leaves and twigs on the ground should be gathered up and burned. Treat the bushes thoroughly with sulfur in some form. Mildew is less serious than Black Spot, but is very unsightly. This is a fungous disease which covers the bush with a whitish, felt-soft substance. This should also be treated with sulfur. Brown Canker is a disease which affects the canes of the plant, and is very destructive in some sections. The treatment is to cut out the infected wood, give a dormant spray, possibly in December, of lime sulfur or, if it is in the growing season, use Bordeaux Mixture.

Some sprays which are very effective are objectionable because they stain the foliage and flowers so badly. These things should be remem-
The Board of Directors of the Colorado Forestry & Horticulture Association in memory of its late esteemed member, Allen S. Peck.

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The Message—We are going about managing our water wealth in a haphazard fashion. Multiple, competing agencies are spending billions on conflicting, piecemeal programs. Our laws look backward to old conditions, not toward future needs. Some uses enjoy a monopoly against other uses and needs which must be recognized and fitted into the inclusive water management we must have or suffer.

The Significance—Without question this is a book which will be the most discussed among all those about conservation. No citizen, gardener, forester, truck driver, financier can afford to miss the dynamic, sometimes shocking presentation of our water problems which this book gathers together and supplies in one volume. Nor can one disregard the basic, clearly defined suggestions of the author as to what must be done, by all of us, to secure the future in our water resources and their use.

The Author—Recognized as an outstanding leader in conservation of natural resources, Arthur Carhart is well known to most readers of THE GREEN THUMB. From 1919 to 1923 he was in charge of recreation planning in national forests of this region. For 8 years he was with McCrery, Colley & Carhart, landscape designers and city planners. In that period this firm designed grounds of many institutions and homes in this region and prepared the first comprehensive city plan for Denver. For 5 years Mr. Carhart directed the wildlife restoration program in Colorado. He is the author of 16 books and over 2500 articles, stories and serials published in national magazines. One recent project was editing CONSERVATION, PLEASE! for The Garden Club of America and the American Museum of Natural History.

WATER—OR YOUR LIFE should be required reading for all of us.

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WHEN we moved into the new home I promised myself to send a little report now and then under the heading above. Then the argument presented itself. It takes time for birds to become at home around a new place, there is nothing to write about yet. Now it has been a month, the bird baths are still unbathed in, the feeding table still untouched. But recently we put a load of manure over the bare ground which is to be lawn, then came a few inches of snow and this afternoon, as it seeped away, flocks of robins and pink-sided juncos appeared among the little pinons and fox-tail pines, carrying on their never ending search for food. The net result to us will be fewer weeds and insects in the garden later on.

Let me put in a plea to all neat and tidy gardeners, if you would have birds, don’t be too neat and tidy. The ground-inhabiting, seed-eating birds need a tangle of brush, some unpruned shrubbbery, even some last year’s weed-stalks, for shelter and to provide feeding areas. And if you would encourage nesting robins don’t fail to leave a little trickle of water in a mucky spot. You may have the opportunity to see Mrs. Robin selecting her nesting site, “trying it on for size” and comfort, turning and fitting herself into a crotch of an apple or maple tree, and then watch her mate, with muddy breasts, carrying the muck and sticks, and shaping with their bodies the substantial cup which will hold those charming blue eggs.

Perhaps it may be of interest to mention the few species already noted here, as a possible background for further observations. We hope our location just across a little-used road from Monument Valley Park gives us an advantage in the eyes of the birds. From our windows as we watch the crows and magpies we wonder just what problems they may present as they come “adjusted” to us. Long-crested jays and red-shafted flickers are conspicuous to the ear as well as the eye. Along the road and ditch banks in the tangled undergrowth, flocks of pink-sided juncos and white-crowned sparrows are about, beginning now, the middle of March, to be musical at sunrise time. Frequently a large flock of western evening grosbeaks comes to rest silhouetted in the tops of the tall cottonwoods. They sound very friendly, keeping up a constant conversation among themselves. And now and then a pair of downy woodpeckers can be seen feeding up and down some old dead stubs.

An occasional unrecognized call or flash of wings in the park trees is tantalizing to one still somewhat kept in by the process of “getting settled,” but one of the great comforts of this place is the realization that the park and the trees will stay and other birds will come.
COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB PLANS TREE PLANTING TRIP

The Colorado Mountain Club will sponsor an overnight and a Sunday trip to the Mammoth Burn Area above Rollinsville, June 16 and 17. Those interested in the overnight trip will leave by bus from the Library at Civic Center at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, June 16. Saturday night’s meal will be furnished, so bring your mess kit as well as overnight equipment. A hike is planned for Saturday afternoon. Those wishing to go to the area Sunday, June 17, will leave by bus from the library at 6:30 a.m. Coffee and beverages will be served at noon Sunday, but everyone should bring his own lunch. The forest Service will furnish tools for digging. A pair of work gloves would be handy. Busses are due back in Denver by 7:30 p.m. An earlier bus will come back for those who wish to leave sooner. Round trip bus fare will be about $1.50. For further particulars, contact the Colorado Mountain Club at Tabor 0677.

FOURTH ANNUAL NATURE LEADERS’ INSTITUTE

The Nature Leaders’ Institute will start off this year with a meeting at Evans School, 11th and Acoma, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 9. There will be many interesting exhibits and demonstrations of techniques used by various experts to make the teaching of Nature lore interesting.

Any one interested in learning new methods of interesting children in the beauties and wonders of Nature is welcome. There will be no charge. This series is sponsored by the Recreation and Leisuretime Division of the Denver Area Welfare Council and the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association.

GARLAND SPIREA

As the illustration shows, the Garland Spirea, Spiraea arguta, is a very beautiful shrub when it is in full bloom. It is also a shrub of nice shape and foliage when not in bloom.

It is of the early blooming spireas which come at the time of the flowering almonds and early prunus. It is one of the few flowering shrubs which should have a light shearing each year when the bloom has faded. If this is not done it may have a tendency to become bare, and straggly.

There is much confusion in the trade between this fine shrub and the old Thunberg spirea. This species is definitely superior, though S. thunbergi is one parent.

This spirea will stay lower than the Vanhouettei species, and its ability to stand shearing make it useful for places where a larger growing shrub would become too tall.

JOHNNY GRASS SEED

An engaging name—a still more engaging idea. The Izaak Walton League is putting it to work for a greener, better and more lasting outdoors. Here’s how Johnny will perform in Denver.

Thirty thousand of Denver’s young people—Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, 4H and Future Farmers club members will carry into the hills this spring and next fall about a quarter of a million packets of grass seed. This seed will be planted where man’s activities have disturbed the natural soil cover and opened the way to erosion, gullying, fouled streams, silted reservoirs and reduced production of forage crops for wildlife and domestic stock.

Seed will be planted and Colorado’s scene will be improved. More important, the seed of conservation science will be planted in the minds of our future leaders. We haven’t done too good a job of preserving our natural resource heritage. Given the opportunity, our young folks will do a lot better.

A ceremony will be held at Soda Lakes, May 5, in the afternoon, to start the Johnny Grass Seed project.
Although long known to garden authorities, the amazing soil-conditioning properties of Sphagnum Peat Moss are only now being generally recognized. It seems too good to be true that a product so low in cost can accomplish so much! Peat Moss improves the moisture-holding capacity of sandy soils; makes stiff clay soils light and friable; retains fertilizers longer; aerates the soil; protects tender plants against cold; and performs scores of other garden functions.

Be sure of genuine “SPHAGNUM” Peat Moss . . . insist on “Sun-Dried Canadian.” The high standards of Canadian peat producers ensure the peat arriving clean, soft, odorless and sterile . . . its full, natural vitality preserved by the sun-drying process. Wherever peat moss is used . . . and compared . . . the name “Sun-Dried Canadian” stands highest.

Canadian Peat Producers Association
1114 Vancouver Block, Vancouver, B. C., Canada

THE WORLD’S FINEST
SPHAGNUM PEAT MOSS

MAY GARDENING

If MAY conditions could continue all year everyone would be enthusiastic gardeners, for in May everything looks green and fresh, new buds are breaking into colors and the feel of spring is in the air. It is a shame to introduce any other note into the picture, but before the month is over we must come back to earth and begin the summer long fight to maintain our human supremacy over Nature by attempting to control the unwanted bugs and diseases and weeds. Enjoy all this new, fresh growth and the annual coming-into-life-again to the fullest before beginning the annual round of chores.

Transplanting of woody plants should be completed before the month is over unless you may get some dormant plants from a well regulated plant cellar or potted plants. Perennials may still be moved with some soil left around them and many of the tender annuals should not be set out until really settled weather in June. Lawns may be seeded any time this month.

The secret of pest free plants is largely in keeping them growing vigorously and in watching for the first sign of insects or disease and “nipping them in the bud.” Watch especially for the first sign of aphids on the Junipers, and now there are an increasing number of cases of aphids on Pine and Spruce. Aphids are easily killed with a contact spray, but you must get them when they first start and actually hit them to kill them. Ants running up plants will usually indicate the presence of aphids.

If the normal rains and late snows come this month the problem of watering does not become serious. There is more of a tendency to overwater this month and this practice can lead to trouble later. Learn to water when things become dry, at any time of the year, but learn that it is just as bad for a plant to water it when it does not need it as to let it get too dry. By learning to water more thoroly each time and less often the roots of all plants are forced down where they are able to tolerate more extremes of climate.

The application of fertilizer is still a mysterious process to many new gardeners. A really good soil with plenty of humus in it does not need frequent applications of fertilizer. It is true that plants may be grown without soil if given the proper mixture of chemicals, but it will be a long time before we are forced to a general practice of water culture and most gardens will still be grown in just good brown earth. The greatest mistake of new gardeners is to assume that if a little fertilizer is good a lot should be better. Many new gardens are burned up with excessive applications of highly soluble fertilizers. New plants, either seedlings or transplanted plants do not like rich fertilizer near their roots, but they do like a good soil full of humus. Fresh manure is fine when plowed under in preparation for later crops but peat or leafmold is safer to use around plants.

Where weeds are likely to become a pest (and where is the place that they do not) it will save much later work to get them as they come through. This does not necessitate deep cultivation, but getting at them promptly. Learn to use mulches more and deep cultivation less.

There will probably be an unusual amount of dead in shrubs, trees and especially roses this spring. It takes no rule of trimming to remove this dead wood at any time that it becomes apparent.

Do not damage the leaves of tulips, narcissus and other Dutch bulbs until they have completely dried up as it is only through these leaves that a new bulb for next year’s bloom is formed.
Remember?
Your Junk Is Our Joy

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Bring to Horticulture House Please
Or call us for pick-up service on or before May 15th

For the Famous

"Antiques and Horribles"
Auction

Auctioneer: John Swingle
Date: Saturday, May 19th
Time: 11 A.M. till dark
Place: Horticulture House,
1355 Bannock (in rear)
Refreshments: Sandwiches and Coca-Cola
sold by Campfire Girls

FUN BARGAINS

Members and Non-Members, All Invited