The Green Thumb

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CONTENTS

November Schedule .................................................. 5
Evaluating the Phloxes—Fall 1951 by Helen Fowler .......... 6
Do You Have a Dee-Zee Garden, by M. Walter Pesman ...... 8
Plant Pals ................................................................. 10
Facts About Organic Gardening, by L. H. McDaniels ....... 14
Wild and Cultivated Gardens in the Pacific Northwest, by Joan Parry .................................................. 17
Some Edible Weeds, by V. O. Graham ......................... 20
Garden Tools, by George W. Kelly ................................ 22
Dimorphotheca, by Mrs. Paul L. Hastings .................... 23
List of Plants for Striking Effects .............................. 24
List of the Best Trees for All Purposes ......................... 25
Helen Fowler Library .................................................. 26
Gardens of Colorado, by M. Walter Pesman ................... 27
Plant Auction Donors for 1951 .................................... 28
New Members in October 1951 ..................................... 29
Arborists, Toot Your Own Horn, by Dr. Ray R. Hirt ....... 30
What Caused the Winterkill Last Year? ........................ 32
November Gardening .................................................. 34

Picture on Front Cover by Bruce Korjage and Back Cover by Chas. I. Ott

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THE COLORADO FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE ASSOCIATION
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HELPS you—One more bill off your mind at Xmas time and the New Year. A gift membership is greatly appreciated by those receiving them, not only at Xmas time, but for the entire year. Surely you can cross off one or more from your Xmas list with a membership to The Colorado Forestry & Horticulture Association, which includes 12 issues of "The Green Thumb!"

HELP US—AND YOURSELF!

Another year is almost here—Those of you, whose memberships are due January 1st, will help us in our bookkeeping by sending in your renewals anytime now. Also, gift memberships can be handled more efficiently. We will hold up gift memberships, so they arrive a few days before Xmas, with your card or ours enclosed. All that are received now and before January 1st, save us much time and money that can be put to good use in our many activities.

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SUN DRIED CANADIAN

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

This is good fall country. Leader, Anna Timm.
Nov. 15, Thurs., 8 p.m. at Horticulture House. Mr. Waugh of the Fish and Wildlife Service will show a new colored movie produced by Encyclopedia Britannica entitled "The Living Earth."

Nov. 18, Sun. Leave Horticulture House 8 a.m. for tour of Pinyon Grove Area above Fort Collins, site of proposed state park. Leader, George W. Kelly.
EVALUATING THE PHLOXES—FALL 1951

NOWHERE in America is it possible to grow better Phlox than right here in Colorado; this because of our relatively cool nights and our ability to water when the plants need moisture. Phlox is always the first to suffer from dry weather. For them to do their best, soil is always of first importance—it should be deep, well drained and rich in humus. Gardeners in this area seem to be giving special attention to soil preparation. Before the war we used tons of peat moss, obtained near Carter’s Lake at Pine Cliff, Colorado, but now we are grateful for any kind of decayed vegetable matter.

Phlox likes rather a neutral soil with a pH of 6 or 7. We must remember that soils in this Denver area have not been covered for centuries with forests as in the east, so that the decayed roots of trees and their fallen leaves have never helped to enrich our soils. Have I told you of this old Italian gardener who raises vegetables on a 5-acre tract near Denver? He told me that he had been adding 30 to 40 loads of manure to the acre for the last forty years and he earnestly added that he believed within the next two or three years he would have the soil in pretty good shape.

If there are any Phlox failures, it is sometimes due to bad drainage in a clay soil, but not always; good drainage alone is not sufficient; it is necessary to lighten the soil above the drainage to allow the moisture to escape. Clay soil, cold and wet as it is in winter, bakes hard and cracks in summer heat, consequently allowing the heat to get down into the roots and killing them by over-evaporation. If the soil is poor, it is always easy to add top-dressing or to feed a week stimulant of manure water; soot, made by soaking it in a tied-up bag in water is also valuable for this purpose. Soot seems to enrich the color more than any other tonic.

By right selection Phlox may make the border gay from early May to far into late fall. The creeping kind (P. subulata) comes first and should always be planted for its bright effect with Tulips, the hardy Alyssum, Arabis, Iberis (hardy candytuft), the Violas and the old fashioned Bleeding Heart. These first moss pinks come in rose, white, lavender, pink and red; the pink VIVID might be said to lead them all. There are also in this class EMERALD CUSHION and P. satacea camla—this latter is pure pink, about eight inches tall, does not creep as do the other creeping kinds, but always stays neat and tidy; by cutting back about half the length of the stems after blooming, it is likely to produce a good crop of flowers again in the autumn. This is perhaps the very finest of the early, low Phloxes. Should you plant the P. subulatas in the fall in a heavy soil, you are most likely not to find them in the spring; they prefer full sun, sandy loam and fairly dry soil.

In early May, Phlox divaricata is in full bloom too; it would not be May without this lovely lavender splashed all over the garden—along walks, the edge of borders, and in the rock garden.

The smooth Phlox suffruticosa comes into flower a little before the main group and continues on with it. Miss Lingard is the best of these, in fact it is considered the best early white phlox known. Last year it bloomed from late May until late September, with large heads of white flowers with faint pink shading in the center. You better not try too much of Miss Verboom until you see what it does. Snowdon is a good white also of this class. None of these will grow in a heavy clay soil, but will last some longer if grown here in Colorado in a little shade,—not too much such as ferns need.

We come now to the large paniculata group. Snowcap, white, has a truss, measuring as much as twelve inches across; it is a Colorado origination, as you perhaps know and I have an idea that some of the later originations, is Snowcap and no other.

The Phlox genus is purely American but hybridization has been done chiefly in Europe, which has happened with many more of our plants. Too bad, but foreign trademarks mean something special to many gardeners. There are more whites but the above has been chosen because of their friendly bloom, clear coloring and because they are husky here in Colorado. Mrs. Jenkins is some taller and later. We still plant Von Lassburg for the back of the border and for its large truss and strong stems.

In the salmon-pinks we find the largest number of the good hardy phloxes. First, E. I. Farrington, then Enchantress, Daily Sketch, Pantheon and many more. I have yet to find a salmon not attractive and not hardy in this region, except George Stipp—it doesn’t seem to go through the winter. I am sorry to write, too that Elizabeth Campbell is too tender for this climate, for it is one whose color has never been equalled. Lillian is somewhat like it with a little larger flower.

Bridesmaid, Europa, and Count Zeppelin are the choice in the calicos. Columbia is a light pink and often called the continuous bloomer. Now we come to the choice of the Phlox experts—Mrs. Milly Van Hoboken. Color pink, with a slight and delicate mauve suffusion, the earliest to come into flowering and the last to go out. It is in full bloom today (September 5) and full of big, fat buds. None of the so-called “blues” are
very blue. They are more lavender and purple. Colonial, Silverton, Aida are planted. Ethel Pritchard is better in the house than out. Caroline Van-デンburg is the most attractive of the lavender shades. If one might dip a brush into violet and mauve paint and give a swish to its favorite white, he might get something close to the lovely tones of the earlier P. divaricata. All the lavenders, however, gain by the inclusion of lights and shades, created by close association with other plants in white, light blue or pale yellow.

Phlox has everything in this Rocky Mountain Empire, and transplanting may be done at any time, even in full bloom, if taken up with a good ball of soil, kept shaded after planting and given plenty of water. The mixed border has always been the place to use it. Of course it must be a definite part of a whole scheme, and must not clash with associate plants. In very few cases would a border of a single color, such as is often advocated, be desirable. Have you not experienced a feeling of flatness and monotony, in a room decorated in a single color, without any relief? It is lifeless and dull. Certainly the aim of any definite color scheme should be simply a suggestion achieved by the emphasis of a certain color, rather than the exclusion of all other colors.

**PREPARE YOUR SOIL FIRST**

If you have just built or bought a new home and it has cost you more than you anticipated, don’t make the mistake of neglecting the proper preparation of a new lawn because of the expense. If you do not plan to have it done professionally, there are some precautions you can take to insure a good lawn in the years to come.

The best investment toward a good, easy-to-keep lawn is a well-prepared soil. This may mean carefully removing plaster, rubbish and poor subsoil and replacing it with good top soil. It may mean adding humus in the form of manure, peat or leafmold. No-surface applications of fertilizer later will take the place of this initial preparation. When you are preparing a lawn around a home just completed, be on the lookout for pieces of board, cement chunks, or other material just under the surface. These if not removed, will cause your grass to become brown quickly.

Prepare a good soil for your lawn and gardens at the outset. It will save you time and money later and you'll have a beautiful yard of which you will be proud.

**DO YOU HAVE A DEE-ZEE GARDEN?**

DEE-ZEE Gardens depend on Dahlias and Zinnias to hide their defects in design. If yours is one, watch it after these colorful flowers are gone. A garden with good lines is pleasing even without color. If you are in doubt, photograph it in black and white. A good garden looks beautiful even in mid-winter with snow replacing flowers.

**WATER IN HOME GARDENS**

A dry climate invites garden pools. Can’t you bring back to your memory a cozy nook where a refreshing bit of water gives life to an otherwise uninteresting garden spot?

The Spanish used the secret in their patios, the Babylonians in their long ponds, even the early Egyptians had pleasant pools in their vineyards.

Colorado's gardens depend on irrigation; isn’t it surprising we have done so little to make full use of the esthetic quality of the water that feeds our plants? We need more reflecting pools, more lilyponds, more fountains, more running water to liven up our outdoor living rooms.

M. WALTER Pesman.
There are few more lovely associations than the yellow flax (Linum flavum) and Campanula carpatica both in blue and white in the sun in a well-drained soil.

And the Columbines, the most enchanting of flowers. Plant white ones with Anchusa myosotidiflora, pink ones among the spikes of lavender Camassia and our own C. coerulea with ferns and bloodroot. I am sure Columbines like shade and acid soils.

—Helen Fowler.

To make your plantings a little more interesting, try some combinations of different plant material. Here are a few good ones that I have observed:

Cutleaf-weeping Birch with Red Dogwood. Make a group planting using one Birch and two Dogwoods. This gives good winter effect with the red bark of the Dogwood and white bark of the Birch.

Dolgo flowering crab with Blue Mist Spirea. This combination is good when the Dolgo is in fruit with bright orange seed-pods.

There are so many really fine floribunda or polyantha roses on the market now that you may use your choice of color. If possible, give this planting an east exposure. This makes a rich colorful group planting.

Pinyon Pine with Betty Prior rose (F. x intermedia) Betty resembles a flowering Dogwood somewhat and grows tall with single pink blooms.

Rosa rubrifolia planted in front of a white fence or a white building is a fine thing with its reddish foliage and orange seed-pods.
A rose bed of the two single roses, Dainty Bess and Whitewings. Use two thirds of one color and one third of the other color, your choice.

Pacific Hybrid Delphinium in the blue shades “Summer Skies” series planted with Regal Lilies make a nice combination. The pastel shades of “Guinivere” series of Delphas are good with the good long blooming white phlox “Colorado Snowcap.” Try white Delphas with the good pink phlox “Lillian.” Any pink phlox is good with Shasta Daisies.

The late blooming lilac Villosa looks well planted with pink peonies, Sarah Bernhardt or Mons Jules Elie to name two good pinks.

Mahonia Aquifolium, Oregon Grape looks mighty fine with Pfitzers or any spreading type evergreen. Be sure to allow at least four feet between plants.

For the semi-shaded area plant a clump birch with a couple of variegated dogwood at the base. Lay in a few moss covered native rocks with Seiboldi sedum sprawling over the rocks.

Another good deal for the shady corner would be Lady Fern, Maidenhair Fern, Jack-in-the-Pulpit and Bleeding Heart. Make sure the soil is put in condition with plenty of leafmold, peatmoss and well decomposed manure before planting.

Artemisia Southernwood, Silverking makes a good background planting for a low growing perennial either pink, blue or yellow.

Local Nurseries carry all the above mentioned material in stock. It can be dug fresh for you and the plants be in your garden before having a chance to dry out.

—CLAIR ROBINSON.

“PLANT PAL” NOTES
CLAIRE NORTON

“Parrot Tulip Fantasy along the borders of a bed of lupine, under a spreading old elm tree, with evergreens and a split sapling fence for background.”

“A choice spring picture of pink hyacinths, pale lilac tulips and white narcissuses over a drift of white and rich purple violas, all planted in front of swaying masses of columbine and peony foliage and backed by Spirea Vanhouettei.”

“Porcelain blue hyacinths surrounding a small, quiet formal pool, lined with blue tile, the bed edged with yellow alyssum and forget-me-nots.”

“A shaded garden corner where bleeding heart blooms with Phlox divaricata and early anemones.”

“The focus of interest in a small city back yard garden is a malus below which a blue vase, the loveliest, softest blue, rests. In the background, tall white tulips against the dark green of shrubbery.”

“A tableau of tall red tulips beside an entry way, where their slender graceful stems and the flames of their vase-like flowers silhouetted against the white of the stucco welcomes one with a cheery “How-do-you-do’”

“Stiff little grape hyacinths marching along a border edge behind brown stones—a thrilling color note.”

“A Persian lilac opening against a background of a giant silver juniper.”

“A shaded garden corner where bleeding heart blooms with Phlox divaricata and early anemones.”

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Facts About Organic Gardening

By L. H. MacDaniels

Reprinted by permission from the Cornell Plantations

On my desk are a number of pamphlets on organic gardening. These have come from various sources in England, New Zealand and the United States. One of them had printed in bold black letters on the cover, "Will there be a second black death?" The inference is that the plague and black death during the Middle Ages were caused by depleted soils and that unless we now begin to practice organic gardening, we are headed for another such plague. This is surprising since the facts are that "black death" is the bubonic plague and this is a virus disease that is spread by fleas which are carried by rats. There is no direct relationship between this disease or its spread with anything in the soil either organic or inorganic.

Another pamphlet has on the cover, "Are chemical fertilizers ruining our soil and our health?" The text of the pamphlet plainly infers that the physical ills of modern man, including colds, bad teeth, heart trouble, gall stones, ulcers, arthritis, rheumatism, and cancer are related to the use of chemical fertilizers. There is a statement: "Modern man is apparently getting sicker and sicker with each generation." The facts are that in America where fertilizers are being used in increasing amounts man's life span has been increased about 20 years in a generation as established by reliable vital statistics.

A third pamphlet is entitled "Compost Making." It advocates using a mixture of seven ingredients, including yarrow, stinging nettle, dandelion, chamomile, valerian, oakbark, and honey. A suspension of the ground leaves of these herbs added to a compost pile "activate" it and give it exceptional properties. It doesn't take much honey. Just rub one drop into one dram of sugar milk until the honey is completely absorbed. Just why the paw of a newt and the wing of a bat are not added is not explained. The facts are that decomposition of organic matter to form that can be used by plants is brought about by bacteria and, as discussed later, the growth of these bacteria and the rapidity of decay can be aided by supplying the right conditions of moisture and nutrients for bacterial growth. There is nothing occult about this process and the drop of honey and other hocus pocus is not necessary.

Within these pamphlets is a hodgepodge of truths, half-truths, propaganda, and to be charitable, complete disregard of known facts. We learn that organic gardeners consider themselves a cult and some at least subscribe to a mystic philosophy known as anthroposophy. Spreading the principles of this cult is apparently pursued with considerable energy and enthusiasm.

Half-truths

A half-truth comes in when it is either stated or implied that the use of composted materials without using chemical fertilizers is enough to build up the organic matter in soils over any large area or to solve the problems of nutrition of crops under present conditions. Over the wide area of the earth's surface where food is produced in quantity there is no possibility of accumulating enough plant refuse to compost in piles and thus increase the organic matter in the soil. In many countries the soil is becoming impoverished and unproductive because of depletion of organic matter. Much of our present agricultural practice is aimed at building organic matter in the soil by the use of cover crops, particularly legumes, and by the rotation of crops in the fields.

Truths

The truth in organic gardening is basic and important. Agronomists agree that organic matter in the soil is indeed an indispensable or at least a very valuable ingredient. It improves soil tilth through granulation of the soil particles, increases water holding capacity and through its decay releases nitrogen and other nutrients. Carbon dioxide from decaying materials helps bring minerals into solution and so makes them available to plants. These are only a few of the primary and secondary benefits of organic matter in soil.

It is also true that productive soils do contain many microorganisms of one kind or another that contribute to the fertility of the soil either directly or indirectly. Soils also may contain destructive diseases and pests. Insofar as the organic gardeners emphasize the value of organic matter and give valid information supported by proved facts about the true nature of the soil, their influence is all to the good. There is no question that many of the soils of America and in other parts of the world to an even greater degree have become impoverished and unproductive because of depletion of organic matter. Much of our present agricultural practice is aimed at building organic matter in the soil by the use of cover crops, particularly legumes, and by the rotation of crops in the fields.

Where the soils are high in organic matter and thus high in fertility plants are thrifty and vigorous. The point is that such vigorous growth is not due to the nature of the chemical elements involved but rather to the presence of organic matter in the soil as
compared with soils which are low in organic matter.

Logic

Probably the most disturbing part of the whole organic gardening movement is that it encourages its advocates to go back to the Middle Ages in their thinking about their problems. Mankind has made great progress through the use of the scientific method in solving its problems and in discarding that of the cult and of the mystic philosophy, at least insofar as it deals with the natural sciences. To deliberately ignore known facts and substitute for them "somebody said or thought they saw" is distinctly a step backward in our attitude toward what constitutes truth. The mystery that is built up around the compost pile is making the whole matter unnecessarily complex.

Home gardeners everywhere should be encouraged to save plant materials and vegetable refuse, if they have a convenient place to do it. Building a compost pile is straightforward procedure in which any kind of vegetable matter is used. Basically what happens in the compost pile is the rapid decomposition of the plant materials by bacteria which produce decay. In order to make sure that these bacteria are present, it may be advisable to scatter a few shovelfuls of soil over the compost pile as it is being built. Sods are particularly valuable. To assure the decay organisms adequate nitrogen and other elements for their growth, the addition of chemical fertilizers on each layer is recommended.

Summary

To sum up: we are indebted to the organic gardeners for emphasizing to the gardening public the importance of organic matter in the soil and for pointing out the practicability of composting vegetable refuse in small areas on the home place. This we can accept with appreciation. On the other hand, encouraging people to believe that their own diseases can be cured by growing foods on organically fertilized soils as against using chemical fertilizers or encouraging people to refrain from using a sensible means of insect and disease control is a distinct disservice. Further, it must be realized that apart from the small garden where refuse can be saved and brought in, the compost pile is wholly inadequate to maintain economically the organic matter in the soil. Perhaps the worst feature of the whole organic gardening movement is that it substitutes the hocus pocus of the cult for sound scientific evidence which in the long-run is the only proved basis for solving our problems.

Excerpts from a Letter
by Chas J. Ott

(Chas. Ott is in Alaska and sends some impressions of the country)

"I got to Fairbanks two weeks ago. The Forest Service wanted men to fight a bad forest fire south of here in the Big Delta country so I signed on right away. It was hell for a while—if only the careless camper or smoker who was the cause of the fire could have seen and experienced what his carelessness caused, maybe there would be fewer fires. We finally got it under control thanks to a timely rain a few days ago. The fire had burned over 25 square miles of timber and muskeg.

"It is appalling to see all the burned over country wherever there are roads. It is especially bad in Canada along the Alcan Highway. They sure must be trying to burn up that whole country. Pretty soon they will be able to call that highway the 'Black Highway' for it will go through a country of blackened and charred snags and stumps."

Notes on the
WILD AND CULTIVATED GARDENS
IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

JOAN PARRY

In one of last year’s issues The Green Thumb had as back cover an announcement of William C. Douglas’ book Men and Mountains. No one, neither the experienced mountaineer nor the flower lover familiar with an alpine or a forest flora, can fail after reading that book to have his imagination lured by the Cascade Mountains of the Pacific Northwest. It is, moreover, country that casts a spell over its own people. You can detect their own close identity with the country around them by their speech, by their way of living, and by what they grow in their gardens.

To the people of western Washington Mount Rainier is more than a mountain: to the country man and the city dweller alike it is the presiding genius, the timeless personality to whom they refer with affection as The Mountain. And for the people of western Oregon, Mount Hood has the same significance. As the mountains have a direct influence on their thought, so has the plant material of the forested foothills, of the valleys and the high places, a direct influence on their gardens.

It is well known that the Pacific Northwest possesses one of the most
favorable gardening climates of America. It is, perhaps, less well known that there is an abundance of shrubs and wild flowers of great garden value. But the gardeners in the Northwest—and they are many—are conscious of both these advantages, and nowhere have I seen such appreciation and skillful use of native plant material as in the gardens of Portland northward to Seattle.

You cannot fail to notice instantly that these gardeners are fully conscious not only of the reliability of their own native material, but also of the fact that alien plants introduced from a country with similar climatic conditions will settle down and live harmoniously as friend and not as stranger. And, while they rely on native material for their garden fundamentals, they blend in with them for contrast and variety foreign plants with similar requirements. Asiatic bamboo neighbors the mountain laurel of eastern North America; the wild syringa succeeds the lilac; primulas and polyanthus enjoy the same shade and filtered sunlight as the ferns and trilliums of the western forest.

It is impossible to name more than a few of the native flowering plants that are found in Northwest Pacific gardens. First there is the immensity of Mount Rainier itself, rising almost from sea level to a height of 14,408 feet and covering at base a hundred square miles. You would find in the forested regions of the lower elevations, in the Canadian zone that lies between 3,000 and 5,000 feet, in the Hudsonian zone and the Arctic-alpine zone, some 700 species of flowering plants, very similar to those you would find if you travelled northward from Puget Sound to within the Arctic Circle. And Mount Rainier is but one mountain. You would find many of the flowers throughout the Cascade Range and the Olympics of the Olympic Peninsula.

Among the greater glories of Oregon are many native iris, two of the most widespread are the blue flag iris that carpets the Oregon valleys in spring and Iris Douglasiana that possesses more colors than the rainbow and abounds throughout the coastal region of southern Oregon and Northern California. And in this same coastal region acres and acres of land are covered with the large pink-flowered California Rose Bay, Rhododendron californicum, and with the western azalea, R. occidentale that bears a mass of fragrant creamy white to pink flowers. No hybrid to my mind has surpassed either of these in loneliness or profusion.

You might well wonder what flowers among this galaxy of bloom the gardeners of Oregon and Washington would bring within their gardens. Speaking very broadly of Portland as the representative center of Oregon gardens, and of Seattle as the center of Washington, I would say that both Portland and Seattle gardeners use three evergreen shrubs as the basic semi-permanent garden structure: salal, Gaultheria shallon; the Oregon grape, Mahonia aquifolium and the evergreen huckleberry, Vaccinium ovatum.

Around this trinity of evergreens, all of them inhabitants of the lower forested regions, they build their plant material upwards to the azaleas and rhododendrons, the dogwood and hawthorn and crabapple, and downwards to the ground cover such as Kinnikinnick and paspethra.

In the woodland type of garden that Portland favors rather than...
Seattle, you will often meet other forest natives such as bleeding heart, Dicentra formosa; the red blooming currant, Ribes sanguineum; the Pacific trillium, Trillium ovatum; the wild lily-of-the-valley, Maianthemum dilatatum; starry Solomon plume, Smilacina stellata; and the wood anemone, Anemone deltoidea. All these, together with such ferns as sword fern, deer and lady fern, and the American maidenhair I have seen in gardens that are home to primula and polyanthus and auricula.

As a very broad generalization I would say that Portland gardeners favor above all, apart from roses, the iris and primulas, and the azaleas and rhododendrons. Among these last it is the native R. californicum and R. occidentale that have pride of place.

In a sense Seattle gardeners seem more under the influence of the mountains; you will see outcroppings of rock a central feature of many gardens, and rock slopes rather than green terraces for sidewalk boundaries. These are planted mostly with prostrate juniper and yew and other low growing plants and shrubs, and almost unfailingly you will see some heather.

I do not know whether the wide use of heather was first inspired by some gardener who discovered it does remarkably well here, or whether the so-called red and white heathers, Phyllodoce empetriformis and Cassiope Mertensiana, that cover countless acres of mountain slope with a carpet of bloom in mid-August, are the cause. But it is widely and most effectively used in small and large gardens.

By all these I shall remember the gardens of the Pacific Northwest, and above all for the depth and variety of natural green that creates the perfect backdrop for the cultivated annuals and perennials. These range through the pale shades rather than the more brilliant, for the delicate colors do not burn out and fade in this northern climate as they would do further south.

Blue and mauve to palest lavender, rosy-pink and shell pink through to white; these were the colors and half-shades repeated over and over again by annual and perennial delphinium and phlox, by snapdragon, petunia and stock. These pale colors harmonized to perfection with a landscape that has both the blue of sky and water and the soft grey mists of the mountains, and a natural flora that is predominately white and green.

SOME EDIBLE WEEDS

V. O. GRAHAM

Reprinted from “Friends of our Native Landscape”

A FEW edible weeds are found growing on every vacant city lot. It is like hundreds of others if not already taken over by some junior baseball tournament. This chart should assist in finding some of these vegetable miscreants, a surprising number of which could find a place on the dining-room table.

Dandelion (1) is an all too familiar herb used as “greens”, and its flowers for “dandelion wine”. Shepherd’s purse (2) so called because of the purse-shaped seed pods. Their mustard flavor takes rank among tasty herbs. Orchard-grass (3) is a forage plant. Climbing False Buckwheat (4), a relative of buckwheat, is a weed that is edible, but this climber will bear further culinary study. Lamb’s quarters (5) sometimes called “goose-foot” from the shapes of its leaves, is also among the housewife’s cuisine, raw or cooked. Burdock (6) when young is of pleasant flavor becoming bitter with age. But its burs make it an offensive nuisance. Wild, or prickly lettuce (7) is as succulent as garden variety. With the dandelion, lamb’s quarters and prickly lettuce may be included curled, or sour-dock (8), in a pot of “greens”. Wild, or cow-parsnip (9), is a member of the carrot family. Its edibility is question-able even to cattle. One species was dedicated to Hercules according to Pliny, and was thought to have medicinal value. It is a plant known everywhere as a pernicious weed. Vacant lots, fence rows, woodland margins and old fields are habits of many other so-called weeds. Some one has said “A weed is a useful plant growing out of place.” At any rate the chemicals and vitamins stored up in pestiferous weeds go far to replenish the needs of all animal life when hunger and necessity meet.

Instead of telling people that their blue spruces are “weeds” when they are overgrown, why not tell them to save them until December and give them to their churches or to the City of Denver for Christmas trees? Huh? That’s what I plan to do with that little beauty of mine out front when it starts to push the house over about the year 1966.

DAISY HASTINGS.

This bit of information came from one of our readers. The Gypsy Moth was accidentally released in the New England States, some 60 years ago. At that time it could have been completely wiped out for an expenditure of only $100! In the past sixty years, over 100 million dollars have been spent to fight this pest.
GARDEN TOOLS

A WORKMAN is known by his useful tools. It is especially true in gardening.

For the average home gardener, the list of gardening tools is small but these few necessary items should be of good quality and appropriate for the work required of them. The essential list would include hand clippers, sprayer, hedge trimmer, edger, lawn mower, rake, cultivator, and shovel. As interest in gardening grows, many additional tools and gadgets can be accumulated.

It is well to have a special place to keep these tools, where they may always be found when wanted and still be protected from the weather. Most gardeners find a special rack in the garage or back porch can easily be arranged. For satisfying workmanship, the tools should be kept in good condition, oiled, sharpened, or adjusted as necessary. Incidentally, this is a good job for stormy days when outdoor work can not be done.

Many good gardeners make a practice of carrying a light pair of clippers in their pockets while they are in the garden so that they may always be able to clip a loping stem here, cut off a dead seed head there, or train a new tree. This seems to be the one indispensable garden tool which is a symbol of gardening just as are the scissors to a seamstress or hammer to a carpenter.

Perhaps the next most useful tool is a hoe or cultivator to combat the weeds and break the surface crust on soil after watering. Each gardener will develop a preference for a particular kind of tool to fit his needs.

Other gardening tools include a trowel of some kind which is very powerful spray equipment of commercial tree men.

For one who likes to personally do all trimming necessary, a good pruning saw and long pruner will be necessary.

Larger grounds may profitably use one of the many kinds of new tractors. As with so many other phases of gardening, there are no set rules on when and how to use gardening tools. Personal experience and the experiences of your neighbors are the best guides. You will also find the favorite tools of your gardening neighbors, along with the displays in your seed and garden supply stores, a good guide in selecting tools for your own garden. Finally, good tools will not make a good gardener, but they may help immensely.

PROPER DIET

Ortloff and Raymore in their “GARDEN MAINTENANCE” write that fertilizer, as we generally speak of it, has no place in the rock garden. Leaf-mold, peat moss or sifted material from the compost pile is usually the strongest diet that rock plants can handle.—H. F.

DIMORPHOTHECA

Dimorphotheca is too much of a mouthful for the lovely little African Daisy or Cape Marigold, but it is good to know its last name in case you can’t find it in your seed catalogs listed under either of its more familiar names.

These sturdy little annuals come in a glistening white, salmon, buff, creamy yellow, bright yellow and orange. The white ones look as though they been enameled and the colored ones look varnished.

They come into bloom quickly and bloom freely all summer, making a low spreading plant about a foot tall, with their flowers borne on wiry stems, just right for cutting.

With their gay colors they make an excellent massed effect in a border, or are good in a rock garden or as a foreground planting for shrubs or perennials.

MRS. PAUL L. HASTINGS.
PLANTS FOR STRIKING EFFECTS

The following list of plants used singly or in masses in appropriate places will add character and interest to any garden.

**FLOWERS**
- Prunus Triloba
- Austrian Copper Rose
- Chas. Joly Lilac
- Flowering Almond
- Korean Barberry
- Varnish Tree
- Hopa Crab
- Bechtel Crab
- Mallow Marvel
- Trumpet Vine
- Jackman Clematis
- Goldflame Honeysuckle
- Euonymus
- Mountain Ash
- Korean Barberry
- Dogra Crab
- Native Hawthorn
- Cockspur Thorn
- Late Honeysuckle
- Russian Olive
- Purple Plum
- Purple Barberry
- Ginnala Maple
- Euonymus stropurpurea
- Euonymus Alatus
- Korean Barberry
- Sumac
- Englemann Ivy
- Red and Yellow Twig
- Dogwood
- White Birch
- Bluestem Willow

**FRUIT**
- Catalpa
- Japanese Barberry
- Viburnum Lantana
- Bittersweet Vine
- Bush Honeysuckle
- Snowberry
- Coralberry

**SUMMER FOLIAGE**
- Leadplant
- Redleaf Rose
- Buffaloberry

**FALL COLOR**
- Haworths
- Spireas
- Viburnums
- Cotoneasters
- Roses
- Dwarf Ninebark

**WINTER COLOR**
- All Evergreens
- Meadow rose
- Wild Rose
- Hall’s Honeysuckle Vine

**BEST TREES FOR ALL PURPOSES**

Some of the best large shade or street trees, for irrigated areas.

- American Linden
- Silver Maple
- Common Hackberry
- Green Ash
- Bir Oak
- Kentucky Coffee Tree

**SMALLER SCALE TREES FOR IRRIGATED AREAS**

- Russian Olive
- European Mountain ash
- Buckeye
- Hopa Crab apple
- Littleleaf Linden
- Japanese Tree Lilac

**TREES FOR ALTITUDES OF 7,000 TO 9,000 FEET**

- Goldflame Honeysuckle
- Catalpa
- Kirsten Poulsen rose
- Narrowleaf Poplar
- Plains Poplar
- Balsam Poplar
- Smoothbark Poplar
- Quaking Aspen
- Box elder

**TREES FOR PLAINS AND ALKALINE CONDITIONS**

- Native Cottonwood
- Siberian Elm
- Honeylocust
- Hackberry

**FRUIT**

- Plains Poplar
- White Willow
- Bigtooth Aspen
- Common Hackberry
- Soft Maple
- Russian Willow
- Honeylocust

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Mrs. William C. Coors, 1 So. Downing.

Mrs. J. C. Johnston, 730 Marion

Mr. George and Mrs. (Virginia) Miyamoto, 4906 St. Paul

Mr. William (Bill) Grossman

THE ACONITES

There are two kinds of Monkshood, the blue and the yellow but the blue is the more beautiful. If you are a beginner, the best kinds are Fisheri, Nappellus and Wilsonii. Unless they are well protected, the tall varieties will need staking, for their stems are brittle.—H. F.

NEW EARTH CHARTER


We submit that without fair play to earth we cannot live physically; without fair play to neighbor, we cannot live socially; without fair play to better self, we cannot live individually.

We believe in the development of a fuller understanding of the true relationship between all forms of life in an endeavor to achieve a natural balance between minerals, vegetation, animals and mankind. Man being primarily dependent on the vegetation of the earth for both food and clothing. In order to get food, clothes and shelter to enable us to live our bodily life on this earth we must take care of the earth and, especially, not meddle wantonly with the natural circulation of water, which meddling has been the cause of great loss of soil all over the globe, and we must rightly return to earth the waste of whatever we take from the earth.

We submit that water must be a basic consideration in all our national and earth-wide forest programs; streams and rivers must be restored to their natural motion, and floods and droughts must be eliminated. Forests and woodlands are intimately linked with biological, social and spiritual well-being. The minimum tree cover for safety is one-third of total land area. Every catchment area should have at least this proportion of tree cover, made up of mixed species, including broad leaf trees.

We believe in the traditional ideal that our fields should be "fields of the woods", by which is meant landscape farming of every valley and plain, with woodlands in high places, shelter belts, orchards of mixed species and hedgerow trees everywhere.

GARDENS OF COLORADO

A garden-minded tourist going to England can get a handy and neat guide to the best gardens of Great Britain. It is a great help, even if many gardens are open only at certain days and hours, which may not work well with one's travel plans.

A number of years ago the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs got out a leaflet called "Gardens of Colorado, Cultivated and Wild". It was an attempt to list some of the worth while gardens of our state, not only in Denver, but in Arvada, Boulder, Carbondale, Colorado Springs and many others. It was a big help.

Now there are a great many more good gardens, but no list. Perhaps our members in various parts of this region could list some of the worth while gardens of our state, not only in Denver, but in Arvada, Boulder, Carbondale, Colorado Springs and many others. It was a big help.

Now there are a great many more good gardens, but no list. Perhaps our members in various parts of this region could be of service in this matter by reporting to Horticulture House what they think are the best gardens in Denver and in various towns.

Gardens listed the last few years for the St. Anne's tours come to mind, the Look and Learn Gardens are good material. Some of us have pictures of gardens in other towns, the Green Thumb has been running other pictures. Local landscape architects know of successful grounds they have produced or helped to produce. Garden clubs are familiar with attractive gardens of members. And so it goes.

Who will help? If a list of representative, good gardens is assembled in this manner, the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association might well publish a Colorado Garden Handbook, to be on sale in many places. It would be a self-liquidating expense to begin with, a source of income as the need became more evident.

And, incidentally, it would give the lie to a statement made in 1924 in "Beautiful Gardens in America": "While in Colorado gardens are increasing in number, this part of the country, as a rule, is not in its nature open to the cultivation of gardens".
NEW MEMBERS, OCTOBER, 1951

Miss Exie White, Colorado Woman's College, Denver 7
Dr. E. Plattner, 347 Glencoe, Denver
Mr. A. W. Stromberg, 2080 S. Franklin
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Libby, 4260 Carr, Wheatridge
Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Van Scoter, 4171 Everett, Wheatridge
Mr. Ralph Rippeth, 3900 S. Colorado Blvd., Englewood
Mr. C. Neil Norgren, 4990 Bow Mar Drive, Littleton
Mrs. T. R. Gillenwater, 250 Jersey, Denver
Mrs. William K. Buchan, 1234 Reed, Lakewood
Mrs. R. S. Belmonte, 2910 S. Dahlia, Denver
Mrs. Gilbert Golding, 3729 Lowell Blvd., Denver
Mrs. Harold Walschaeger, 4770 Pierce, Wheatridge
Mrs. M. V. Evans, 4733 Pierce, Wheatridge
Miss Grace Green, 1041 Cherokee, Denver
Miss Helen Massaro, 5523 Pierce, Wheatridge
Mrs. Myron Davis, 5523 W. 32nd Ave., Denver
Mrs. Mary Davis, 5520 Tennyson, Denver
Miss Inez M. Blethen, 2958 W. Denver Pl., Denver
Mr. Roy Tatum, 1045 Ohio Way, Denver
Ethel Briesemeister, 1346 E. 8th Ave. Denver
Mrs. William Weil, 2924 Forest, Denver
Mrs. Edward Leet, 2977 Forest, Denver
Weakland Brothers, 7172 W. 38th Ave., Wheatridge
Mrs. David K. Lord, 500 Gallup Rd., Littleton
Mr. Thomas N. Nelson, 21 Ivy Lane, Denver
Mrs. Burnham Hoyt, 3130 E. Espanation Ave., Denver 9
Mrs. Gladys H. Barker, 1475 Downing, Denver
Mr. Frank Adams, 1185 Grape, Denver
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ARBORISTS, TOOT YOUR OWN HORN

By Dr. Ray R. Hirt
New York State College of Forestry
(From Arborist’s News)

Less than a year ago I heard Norman Armstrong remark that no one could make a living any more, just doing tree work; he simply had to do additional things. I suspect that some exaggeration may have entered into Armstrong’s remark; nevertheless, there is a real point of concern in his statement.

In certain cities I have observed several developments that have introduced recently new competition for arborists. The competition itself is not the most serious result in my opinion, but rather the effect upon the attitude of the public toward the work of the arborist.

For years in our home city we have had a multitude of so-called arborists whose work has not been too intelligently conducted. That is probably a common situation elsewhere. A few of us have worked hard to inform the public about the need for experienced, trained workers to care for trees, and I think we have improved the situation slightly. We do have several companies operating in our city that are well qualified, and we take occasion to recommend them whenever possible.

Due to the extensive building program throughout the country and the abundance of dollars—cheap though they may be—plus a renewed interest in gardening and general landscaping, quite a number of plant sales companies have sprung up. Unfortunately a number do not stick to the sale of plants but encroach upon the field of arboriculture, the landscape architect, and other related arts and professions. The process is something like this.

A person buys some planting stock at wholesale and retails it at considerable profit from a stand. Because of such success, the next season he rents (or buys) a vacant lot, adds annuals, perennials, shrubs, small trees, fertilizers, topsoil, fungicides and insecticides, and he may have a profitable business for a season of about 8 months of the year. The following year, if he lasts that long, he hires a delivery truck, finally agrees to plant the live materials and probably suggests a planting plan. Now he is not only a retailer but a landscape artist as well—in his own opinion. Gradually he handles larger and larger shrubs and trees, adds new equipment and men. Since he plants trees he feels that he knows all about them. He proceeds to advise about them and eventually takes over their care. Almost overnight he has become a tree expert, too—or so the sign says at his place of business. And believe me he knows the value of advertising.

Almost invariably such workers do more harm than good to the practice of tree care, especially those who lack the foresight to employ an arborist on their staff of workers. But it is just such competition that many arborists have to meet, and at the same time build up the good will of clients who have had unhappy experiences with unscrupulous tree workers.

The public simply has not been educated to the point where they realize that expert tree care requires the practitioner to have a background of proper training and experience. Why is the public so poorly informed? And what can we do about it? As individuals, at least everyone of us can help to remedy the situation. One way, at least to some degree, is to stress membership in some arborist organization, carefully screen requests for membership, and let the public know about these organizations.

Perhaps I should not be concerned about this phase of the arborist’s life since I derive my living, such as it is, as a professor. But I happen to teach about diseases of trees in particular and woody plants in general. I know that where you are dealing with sick tissues, with sick plants, and with sick animals, a certain amount of experience, skill, understanding, and education is essential if their condition is to be improved through artificial means. I know that there is something of the artist in the individual who can visualize a beautiful landscape or beautiful vista, and who has the skill to plant, thin, prune, etc., to bring this about. I know that an untrained, inexperienced man moves a costly tree in the hope that it will survive, but you move it with an assurance that it will grow. If the public knew these things they would be more inclined to seek the services of the expert, not to hunt for a “bargain” in tree care.

It is up to you to blow your own horn!

THIS SIDE UP

Be sure to plant bulbs right-side-up; most spring-blooming kinds have a pointed top and a kind of ring at the bottom, where the roots were at pointed top and a kind of ring at the bottom, where the roots were at

LILY BALBS

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WHAT CAUSED THE WINTERKILL LAST YEAR?

We asked the opinion of the leading nurserymen in the area. They were practically unanimous in stating that they believed that the sudden drop in temperature on the night of Nov. 9, 1950 was the principal cause.

The condition of the plants at this time determined the extent of the damage. Climbing roses were the first to show damage, then as spring came along Chinese Elm, Spirea and Privet were conspicuous for dead wood. Later small fruit trees and cherries began to dry up and all summer larger apple trees died from the effects of this freeze. Many other plants showed some damage.

Most explain it by saying that those plants which were growing yet and had a full sap flow were damaged and those which were thoroughly ripened were not hurt. Newly transplanted woody plants generally escaped damage, for the transplanting had so stopped the sap flow that they were not frozen.

Strangely those plants which are generally considered "tender" did not have as much damage as usual, for our usual winterkill is caused by the hot sun and dry air rather than cold.

Those good gardeners who had held off the water a little previous to this freeze and had their plants thoroughly ripened up had the least damage. It is good practice any year to dry up and ripen things a little before time of frost and then soak thoroughly after the plants are dormant (have dropped their leaves.)
NOVEMBER GARDENING

WHILE the rush of gardening may be over for the season, and the time of harvest may be here, the good gardener always finds something worthwhile to do.

As all gardening begins with the soil, so now that the active growing season is over, we can first of all work towards improving our soil. Where the annual flowers or vegetables were, the soil can be spaded up, working in good amounts of manure, peat or compost. If the soil is especially alkaline, attention should be given to improving the drainage through the deep addition of humus. That spot of lawn that has always been inclined to become brown in hot weather might be dug up and the soil replaced or improved and made ready to seed next spring.

Next to soil, in importance to gardeners, is water. Those who develop an instinct for good soil and proper watering have gone a long ways towards acquiring a Green Thumb. The most important consideration now is to be sure that everything goes into the winter WET. Soak everything long enough that the moisture will get down to the farthest roots. With lawns this may be but six inches but large trees may have roots down six feet or more. In heavy soil this may require days of soaking. If the weather remains open and warm for several weeks after this soaking it may require another before freezing weather.

Good gardeners are learning to pay more attention to mulching and less to cultivation. This is Nature’s way and is especially important in fall when the leaves naturally fall and cover the ground. Mulching will help to keep the surface of the soil at a uniform moisture, temperature and texture. It will help to hold water and, as it decays, will furnish plant food.

Tender plants should be shaded or covered to prevent our hot winter sun and dry air from drying them out. Hill tender roses with soil to a height of about 6 inches. Do this as late as possible as roses hold their leaves quite late in the season. It is usually better to bring in soil for this purpose and take it out again in spring. Some benefit may be derived from partially shading climbing roses. Tender-barked trees like Mountain ash, Linden or Hard Maple should be wrapped for the first few winters. Evergreens like White Pine, White Fir and Arborvitae should be shaded with lath, burlap or some similar material. Many tender or borderline plants can be grown here if they are carefully mulched, watered and shaded.

Much trimming can be done now, for the leaves are off and it is easier to see what needs to be done. Trees may be given a complete going over, but don’t do any more than emergency work on the flowering shrubs, unless you are willing to forgo some of the next spring’s bloom. Dead wood can be taken out wherever found. Some do not like to cut Maple, Birch or Walnut when out of leaf as they are inclined to bleed excessively at this time.

The gardener’s theme for this month should probably be “Clean up”. Take out the dead perennial stems, rake up the excess leaves, hide the rubbish, give a final trim to the hedges and put things in order for winter.

During the summer round of watering and cultivating, spraying and weeding, there was little time for necessary repairs. Now is the time to fix that squeaky hinge, level up that flagstone and paint the fence. This is a good time to start work on that new platform, set of steps or little green house.

Many gardeners find much pleasure in making things attractive for the birds over winter. If you start this, keep it up, for birds learn to expect food and shelter when they have once found it. Suet in the trees, seed in a hanging feeder, and a corn shock for the ground birds will attract many interesting and beautiful kinds. What you do about the sparrows, magpies and squirrels is your problem.

Every good gardener is continually running into things that they wish they knew more about. How to identify the grasses, what constitutes good fertilizer, what the new varieties of ‘mums are, or why do leaves turn yellow. Now is the time to get a few books on subjects that especially interest you and study them. If a few other kindred souls can be collected to also study some subject of mutual interest it makes it more fun. The extension departments of the Universities offer good courses as requested, books may be borrowed from the library at Horticulture House and special courses may be arranged in your community or at Horticulture House. The more you know about gardening the more pleasure it is.