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The Green Thumb

Vol. 10 JANUARY, 1953 No. 1

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THE COLORADO FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE ASSOCIATION
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1355 Bannock Street • Denver 4, Colorado • TAbor 3410
JANUARY

Endlessly stretches the snow
The sun stays low
The pinched airs flow
Through shivering tree-heads bare,
Scant windy birds are in air
And the lead-blue film is everywhere;
The deeps of the woods lie near
The footless ways are clear
Sconced in the sleep of the year.

It is now that the four winds meet
’Tis now that the world’s in my feet,—
Call of my heart, be fleet be fleet!

The snow!

—By LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY,
From My Great Oak Tree by Permission.

SCHEDULE

JANUARY


January 11, Sunday. Apex and American City snowshoe trip.

January 14, Wednesday, 8 P. M. Organic Gardening Club meets at Horticulture House.

January 18, Sunday. Loveland Pass Ski Area. Snowshoe trip up trail that leads off to the right from the upper tow.

January 21, Wednesday, 8:00 P. M., in the Auditorium of the Evans School, 11th and Acoma. The Charm of the Desert, story and color slides of “four corners country,” presented by Louis and Grace Binderup, Bill Baudenbush, and George and Sue Kelly.

January 25, Sunday. Snowshoe trip in Winter Park ski area.

January 28, Wednesday, 8:00 P. M. Meeting at Horticulture House for commercial landscape men and others interested in lawns, to talk about methods of making better lawns. Herbert Gundell, chairman.

ATTENTION, FLOWER ARRANGERS

The St. Luke’s Hospital Flower Care Group has asked us to tell you about their activities. The group is making an appeal for new members and volunteers who would be interested in working from 9:30 until 2:00 daily (except Sundays) taking care of the patients’ flowers. They water the plants and take care of the cut flowers. The uniforms are cherry-red pinafores and white blouses, costing $3.25, and the dues are $2.00 a year.

When the new wing of the hospital is opened, there will be openings in the gift shop, snack bar, library, surgical dressing division, and in the hospitality cart group.

Here is a chance for you to combine your hobbies with your desire to help people.

If you are interested, call Mr. F. W. Dyer, 1315 Vine Street, E. 3687, for details.

“My good man,” asked Tolstoy of a peasant whom he found plowing in the field, “if you were to die tomorrow, what would you do today?” The peasant wiped a grimy hand across his forehead and answered, “I would plow.” Such is the quiet assurance that comes to those who work in the soil.—H. F.
PLAN IN JANUARY FOR PLEASURE IN JUNE

Since we are in a period of change—in garden design as in almost everything else—how are we going to find our way? Will pictures help? Pictures of modern gardens?

With that idea in mind I have once again looked at photos of hyper-modern gardens, both of Europe and of America. As a result the following observations crop up:

1. Cutting up a garden with odd diagonal lines may just make it look queer. Some people may call it modern but that is not the same thing as queer; make no mistake about that.

2. Adding a timberline tree stump or some weird ungainly statue with unusual proportions does not make a garden. It may be interesting or fascinating the first time you see it, but how about living with it, day after day?

3. A screen fence in the right spot gives a feeling of coziness; in the wrong spot it may irk you for its interference.

4. Plant boxes (call them "planters" to sound up-to-date) can be ideal for furnishing just the proper line in the right place; they may also be a regular cemetery of plants that lack drainage, water and room to grow.

5. After all is said and done, these pictures give one a sense of relief in getting away from the stereotyped. Some of these new ideas point the way to a sensible solution of garden living.

Now then, after this semi-negative approach, let us see what we can learn from the modern trend and what we can apply in our own garden.

The proper design for a modern garden is not a superficial pattern that can be applied to any home ground with minor variations. Rather is it a natural development that grows out of our way of life?

A garden is more than a pretty picture that we look at from our living room window. Yes, it should be that also, but a lot more. As our mode of living has changed, as our ideas about nature have changed, so must our garden change.

Above all, we must see to it that our garden fits our way of life. That holds for the general pattern, it holds for detailed use, even to the point of considering the time of day. Let me explain.

Perhaps as we wake up and have our breakfast we want a pretty picture to look at, carefully designed to be framed by bedroom window and breakfast nook outline.

Some working couples may not require too much from their garden during week days until five o'clock in the evening. Then they are apt to want a nice quiet place to sit and relax: cool in summer-time, pleasant in fall, protected in winter. That spot (or spots) may have an "out-view" to the mountains, or merely a pleasant look at a flower border, a wall fountain, a bird bath.

Saturdays and Sundays present an entirely different need. We may want to do active gardening, take a sunbath, entertain our friends in the garden. Oh, yes, and there is the wash that needs to be hung out!

Am I forgetting the children? Heaven forbid! Where is that tree for them to climb, their swings and bars, their place to romp?

The problem now becomes: how to translate all these wants into reality in our garden? Whether you like it or not, there is no getting away from the need of a plan, either on paper or in your head, if it is roomy enough and systematic enough to hold it.

To begin with then, we can indicate in black and white where those important views are, where the clotheslines go without monopolizing the entire area, where the compost pile can be hidden, where the sandbox can be seen from the kitchen window, where the logical place is for peonies, roses, flower border.

If you don't like to look at your neighbor's washing from where you love to sit, a small screen close in will do as much or more as a tall solid fence on the property line.

Suggest you want cool shade in...
summer and caressing sunrays in winter—apply the lesson taught by the stone sundial in Mountain View Park. A flat plane at a very definite angle, extending south, traps the sun in winter, gives shade from it in summer. Quite simple. A well-placed tree does it less simply.

Again, if your garden is a monotonous flat surface, there are planting boxes, retaining walls, screen fences, hedges, seats.

Water can be introduced at small cost as pools, wall fountains, cascades, jets, sprays. Be sure to have it audible.

Plastic and glass are now possibilities in a modern garden: use your ingenuity and you may develop something unique.

Rock gardens and dry walls are not "old-fashioned" and therefore taboo. Neither are gazing globes and pergolas, if placed right and designed right.

And so—

We are coming back to the same place from which we started: garden design is not a question of "what" but of "where." Modern, or traditional, good taste is orderliness, and orderliness means putting the right thing in the right place.

HISTORY OF GARDEN ART

M. Walter Pesman is going to teach a course showing how our present gardens are related to those of the past, what features are borrowed from each age, and how they originated. The evolution of garden art is traced from the primitive to the modern, giving attention to the Renaissance, Japanese, Persian, and many other styles. Illustrated with lantern slides. This will be a non-credit course offered by Colorado University. Classes will begin January 7, 1953, and will meet from 7:30 to 9:10 each Wednesday night through March 11th. The fee will be $10.

HORTICULTURAL HAND LOTION

By Helen Fowler

Tragacanth ............. 2 dr.
Boric Acid .............. 4 dr.
Glycerin .............. 4 fl. oz.
Alcohol .............. 4 fl. oz.
Water .............. 24 fl. oz.

Dissolve acid in the water, with heat, add the tragacanth, and macerate with frequent stirring until uniformly mixed; strain through muslin, add glycerin, alcohol, color and perfume.

II. GOOD GARDENS ARE SCREENED

One of the first things you will notice that most good gardens have in common is that they are screened from outside and conflicting views. Only when a degree of privacy is obtained will you begin to get real enjoyment from your pleasure garden area.

This screening may be obtained by clipped deciduous shrubs and trees, or by year round effective evergreens.
Sometimes the most effective border is of split cedar covered with vines, or a combination of fence and assorted shrubs and evergreens as in the I. F. Downer garden. Or sometimes it may be entirely plant material as in the John Gates garden.

A plain brick wall may give the seclusion necessary, as in the garden of Mr. John G. Kerr, or it may be elaborately designed and colored, as in the Lou Appeldorn garden.
The beautiful Ella Weckbaugh garden could never be as effective without this appropriate screen planting. This may be a large estate, but the same principle applies to a small place, as in the Harry Hanks garden in Englewood.

III. HOW ABOUT SOME PLANNING??

There are thousands of new homes like these in the Denver area and they all need carefully planned landscaping to give them the necessary individuality. Sure, some of them, as built, do have differently colored roofs or shutters, but the thought-out placing of trees, shrubs, flowers, and garden furnishings will make each a home to fit the character and preferences of the family living there.
IV. PLAN YOUR GARDEN TO SUIT YOUR FAMILY

After you have planned the rather obvious and necessary features of your "front" yard and your service areas, then the remainder of your grounds can be laid out to accommodate the hobbies and preferences of each member of your family. Maybe you will want a...
V. LANDSCAPE PLANS FOR FRONT YARDS

The three plans reproduced on the preceding pages were prepared by S. R. DeBoer, Landscape Architect, for the use of the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association. We have selected these three plans as typical of the problem of suitably landscaping a front yard and will explain the reason for some of the materials selected and for their arrangement.

PLAN V

Plan V features "Floribunda Roses." It is arranged to ornament a small home of average size and location. The two trees used are both of comparatively small size so that they will not become overgrown soon. The especially attractive feature of the Mountaingrain is its bright orange berries held on the tree throughout fall and winter. The Russianolive is especially appropriate in this western country because it will grow in rather alkaline soil and the gray foliage just fits in this climate. Contrasting with the green and gray foliage of the trees is the red leaves of the Newport Plum. This will become a rather tall shrub or small tree with age. The two Tamarisk Junipers will carry this colored foliage effect over winter for they hold their dark green color well throughout the year. They are naturally mound-shaped and slow growing, especially adapted to the location shown. The Snowball and Lilac shown next balance well in size but give a variation in character and blooming time. The June blooming Snowball with its round white heads of bloom was a familiar sight in all old gardens, while the French hybrid Lilac variety Monge is of a rich reddish purple color, and usually blooms gloriously through May. The two mockorange shrubs by the front entrance are the dwarf kind which will give the charm — fragrance, if you wish — of this old-fashioned shrub and yet stay in scale with the rest of the planting.

Phlox, Mums, Petunias, and a variety of shade plants give a succession of bloom all season. The Woodbine on the house, unfortunately, is about the only clinging vine which will grow on the south of a building here. On the north side the more refined Boston or English Ivy might be grown. Floribunda roses, which abound in various sizes and colors, and are usually much freer flowering and more hardy than tea roses, will bloom May through September, if given reasonable care, and will help give the needed character to the planting.

PLAN VI

This plan is of a more formal design, featuring straight lines, emphasized by "Hedges." It will probably require more maintenance than the preceding plan, but will give a neat, finished appearance for those willing to give a little extra care to their landscape plantings.

Again we have two trees to give some appropriate shade and frame the house. They are placed where they do not obstruct the view either looking in or looking out. The Hopa Crabapple will furnish very attractive rose-red blooms in spring, will have a rather neat shape all season and will never become very large. The American Linden suggested will, in time, become large but it is one of our neatest trees, and once established, will continue to become more and more beautiful with age. The large background of screen shrubs include seven French Hybrid Lilacs arranged in a formal row where they are needed most. The other large shrubs are a Beauty Bush and a Wayfaring Bush. The latter is one of our best large shrubs because of its attractive leaves, bloom and fruit. The leaves are thick, gray and deeply ridged, and they furnish a beautiful background for the flat head of small white flowers and the ensuing berries which ripen in concentric circles from green through yellow, red and black. The small shrubs are the two low Japanese Barberries and 40 Floribunda roses.

This plan will have added winter effect from the use of the familiar upright Juniper and the four Tamarisk Junipers. Phlox, Mums, Zinnias and Tulips carry the color needed throughout the season. The hedge is designed to be kept trimmed low, and so is made of the adaptable, slow-growing Lodense Privet. This shrub holds its foliage until Christmas time, and stands shearing very well.

The interesting entrance of flagstone is in keeping with the slightly formal tone of the whole planting.

PLAN VII

This plan features the "Birdbath." It is slightly more elaborate than the others, but it is not overdone. As with the last plan the walk is designed to leave a pleasant unbroken area and yet be convenient to use. This plan demonstrates that we may have more features of interest in our front yards.

Again two trees are called for. There is little choice in the case of a fifty foot lot, for more would be too many and less would leave something to be desired. The Linden and Mountain ash we have commented on. The Pagoda Tree is not so well known, is difficult to establish, but makes a rather nice and unusual small tree. It generally grows in a spreading umbrella shape, and in the summer has clusters of small yellow pea-like flowers followed by interesting little pods.

Here the winter effect is carried out with the use of one upright Cana-
ROSE NOTES
By Vella Hood Conrad

The rose is the world's favorite flower. Many of you have asked me for a list of my ten favorites. You could ask ten individual rose growers the same question and get ten different answers.

"Modern Roses No. 3" lists by name over 5000 roses. You'd think you could find any rose you could possibly want, fulfilling all the requirements. Our preferences in roses are as individual as we are. You may want roses for size; another wants color, others want fragrance and particular habits of growth. Each year many new roses appear. Thousands of dollars are spent hybridizing and trying for the perfect rose.

The American Rose Society fairly and impartially lists and rates roses after they have been tested over different sections of the country. Under their rating system a score of 10 would be a perfect rose. A rose must have many qualities to earn its rating. A rose above 9 is "outstanding," and above 8 is "excellent." For a beginner, I would recommend that you make your choice of colors and choose the roses, suitable to this climate, with the higher ratings. Failure is often discouraging to beginners, and that is why I say this. Later you can, and no doubt will be trying many of the roses-taking good and bad in your stride and enjoying every bit of the work you are doing.

Peace—a yellow blend introduced in 1946—has become world famous, and is so outstanding that it is usually in a class alone at shows. It outgrows and outperforms any rose in my garden. The large buds unfold into large flowers that have measured seven inches across, and I have had as many as 35 buds and blooms on one bush. The color is yellow, tinged with pink. It changes from day to day, and no two Peace roses are ever alike. The foliage is good and the plant hardy, but it is not fragrant.

Crimson Glory—red—9.5. A dark red, very velvety and wonderfully fragrant. The bush is vigorous but spreading.


Etoile de Hollande—red—8.9. Fragrant velvety crimson bloom, many people consider it the finest red rose. An old one, but tried and tested.

Nocturne—red—8.3. New Yorker—red—8.2. Both of these are good red roses. Heart's Desire—red—7.5 and Mirandy—red—7.5 are both lovely roses in my garden. I like Heart's Desire for its bud and Mirandy for fragrance. Mirandy, blues in our intense sun and Heart's Desire has a tendency toward a weak neck.

Tallyho—light red—8.3—always draws attention, and I saw many beautiful specimens this summer past.

In the yellow roses, Eclipse leads with an 8.5 rating. It has a beautiful bud. Yellow roses are the most disappointing of all to me in this area. But since it is a favorite color, I keep trying them. Lowell Thomas—7.3 and Madame Pierre DuPont 7.8 are both worthy of a place in my garden.

Dainty Bess—pink—8.7. A single rose, but the best true pink.

Picture—8.4, Show Girl—8.2, and First Love—8.0. All three of these are good pink roses. K. T. Marshall with a lower rating of 7.6 has been outstanding in my garden. The blends by rating are Peace 9.4, Mme. Henri Guillot 8.9, Good News 8.4, Mrs. Sam McGreely 8.3, President Hoover 8.2 and Butters Gold 8.1. To this list I could add Countess Vandal, 8.0, and about five others that are below the 8.0 rating but do exceptionally well here.

Peddles wites—white—8.0. Rex Anderson—white—7.1. Both are a creamy white and usually exhibition roses. White roses are the most difficult to breed. Frau Karl Druschki, a white hybrid "perpetual," is worthy of its space. It is not overblooming as hybrid teas are, but so lovely when it does bloom that you feel well rewarded.

Whitney

Jan., 1953

THE NEW 1953 ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS

Royal Carpet alaysum and Comanche petunia win the only awards and recommendations of All-America Selections for 1953 introduction.

With a silver and bronze medal award, respectively, these are the outstanding new flowers of the year. Along with dozens of other bright prospects from around the world they have been thoroughly tested and compared with closest similar kinds during the past two years of trials. Leading flower judges have grown and compared the new entries with the best varieties in commerce. There are eighteen of these All-America flower trial grounds, representing all climatic zones and geographic sections of the United States and southern Canada.

Royal Carpet alaysum is the first new variety in the alaysum family for a dozen years, since Violet Gem was introduced as a distinct improve ment over Lilac Gem. The white colored variety of this same six-inch height is Little Gem.

Royal Carpet is the color of the richest, deepest Violet Gem and flattened out to only two inches tall by ten or twelve inches across. Covered almost completely with a sheet of violet or royal purple bloom, it seems to have no foliage. It makes a richer and more attractive blanket of refreshing color. Carpet of Snow is the white flowered counterpart.

Use this alaysum in sunny positions for ground cover, lowest edging, in rock gardens and walls. It certainly creates attention and admiration, and it is about the easiest seed to grow.

Comanche petunia is absolutely true to type and color, the reddest and richest petunia so far created. Since petunias are the most widely and popular and satisfactory planted flowers of them all, Comanche has added significance and value. It is always in bloom, from early spring until killing frosts, and may be carried over the winter in the lower south or indoors.

Deeper and richer scarlet red than Fire Chief, the only other red petunia, it also has somewhat larger flowers and many more of them. Comanche plants are larger, bushier and stronger. They stand erect over a long blooming season, making a striking bedding display. Cutflowers are long lasting and very useful for arrangements.

Comanche is a first generation hybrid, true, uniform and with extra hybrid vigor for beds, pots or boxes.
SOME JANUARY ACTIVITIES FOR GARDENERS

By Morris L. Shubert

Although midwinter doesn't seem like a good time to think about gardening in Colorado, there are many things that people who are interested in gardens should be doing. Let's list a few:

1. Keep in practice by growing exhibit-quality house plants.
2. Towards the end of January, start geranium cuttings for bedding plants which will be ready in bloom at June planting.
3. Inspect tender bulbs, corms, and roots that are stored for spring planting to be sure that they are at the right temperature and moisture for good keeping.
4. Study the new seed catalogues and make orders for any seed needed in spring planting.
5. Work on your garden plans for the coming season and make lists of plants needed from your nurseryman, and get your orders in early.
6. Make a regular routine of studying and reviewing the basic principles of gardening, so that you will better understand each activity.

There are many other things that should be done, such as check the garden equipment, clean and oil working parts, but I would like to further emphasize the importance of item 6 listed above.

Many of us get to thinking that our experience and study through the years provides us with all of the training we need, and that there is no call for a planned program of study. But when we stop to consider all of the basic principles, objectives, and techniques involved in gardening, and when we read of the new discoveries that are of such great importance to us, it becomes apparent that we have to study in order to keep up to date.

Let's look over the fundamental principles upon which good plant culture is based to see whether or not we understand each of them as thoroughly as we should.

The Basic Principles of Horticulture:

1. Plant growth and development— the structure and physiology of plants from the practical standpoint.
3. Planting and transplanting methods— getting plants into the site where they are to grow.
4. Training— an often-neglected activity, especially important in the care of woody perennials.
5. Pruning— the removal of parts in the right amount and in the right manner.
6. Soil management— proper care and improvement of soils.
7. Plant and environment relationships— effects and controls.
8. Pest and disease control.
9. Garden design.
11. Harvest of products— flowers, fruits, vegetables, etc.

Anyone who is convinced that he has a thorough knowledge of each of these important principles is either a real expert, or he is fooling himself. But assuming that some of us feel we can profit by a little more study along some of these lines, let's see where we can get further information during this month of January. We can make more use of the excellent Helen Fowler Library in Horticulture House, or we can try other libraries in the vicinity. There are whole books covering each of the principles outlined above. We can compile information in a classified scrapbook, filing clippings under headings such as those listed. Here we have to be cautious not to rely upon newspaper and magazine articles that do not apply to our climate. We can arrange group meetings with people especially trained in these fields. We can enroll in adult education classes at several of our colleges and universities.

But let's each make better use of our "winter gardening" times and cultivate a few new ideas, and perhaps even weed out a few old ones.

A course in "Plant Culture for Home Gardeners" will be taught by Dr. Morris Shubert in connection with Denver University's Community College. The course will begin on January 7, 1953, and will last through the winter and spring quarters. It is open to all interested people. If you are interested in taking it for credit, two hours per quarter, the fee is $22 per quarter; but for non-credit students the fee is $15 per quarter. The class will meet on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M. in the Business Administration building, room 265, on the Civic Center Campus. Those who wish to register for the non-credit basis need not go through the formal registration procedure but may register at the first meeting of the class on January 7.

I feel oppressed when I think about the void that surrounds many people when the rattlety-bang of home and job is not hammering at them. Maybe we are each of us surrounded by such a void, but the fortunate ones have been able to toss cables and bridges out to other people, and to events and mountains, rivers and paque flowers. For them the void is a precious house to be defended sometimes by drawing up the bridges.

Joy Coombs in Iceland.

---

ANNUAL MEETING

Attention!

Members of the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association:

OUR ANNUAL DINNER-MEETING
will be held on
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29th

THE PLACE— The American Association of University Women Clubhouse at 1400 Josephine Street.

THE TIME— 6:30 P.M.

THE TICKETS— Now on sale at Horticulture House; $2.50, including tax and tip. Get yours early.

You'll Have a Good Time, Good Dinner, Good Company!
BRYOBIA PRAETIOSA—THE RED INVASION
By Herbert Gundell

ONE of the smallest, but most annoying garden and home pests to cross our path each year is the clover mite. Harmless as it is, it causes more consternation and bad dreams to homeowners than most other insects and spiders.

The clover mite really is not an insect. It has eight legs and is therefore classified as a spider. It feeds during the summer and fall on almost any green forage and was given the name clover mite because it is most often found in mixed lawns feeding on clover leaves. One should not, however, try to eliminate all clover plants in the lawn to get rid of clover mites, because they will then feed on grass or any other weed in the lawn.

The clover mite is generally regarded as a freak with respect to control and eradication. It has a hard cutaneous layer on the outside of its body, which makes it resistant to most contact poisons that can be used safely in the home. It also has sucking mouth parts which makes it difficult to control with stomach poisons.

The chemical industry has been working diligently, and without much success, to find a chemical that could be safely used in the home and would have a sufficiently long lasting effect to fight this pest.

Relatively good results have been obtained with the use of sulphur dust applied to window sills, door sills, and places near the foundation of the home where the clover mites gain entrance.

Inside the home the mites can also be controlled to some extent with sulphur dust, and they can be picked up very easily with the vacuum cleaner. It has been noticed that clover mites will not often cross soil that is kept moist throughout the winter months. This should be worth trying, at any rate.

Remember also that clover mites do not feed in the winter time and are merely in search of a warm place to winter. They do not bite and are not poisonous.

SHADE TREE CONFERENCE IN DENVER
February 11-12-13, 1953

The Midwestern Chapter of the National Shade Tree Conference will hold its annual meeting in Denver this year. Its headquarters will be in the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

This is the first time that this conference has been held so far west and we feel proud to have them here and to be able to show them some of our trees and explain to them how our horticulture is different.

The bulk of the membership in this organization is in the lake states, but the Colorado members now number 45. Interest in this subject is rapidly increasing and we may learn much of modern approved practices for tree care from these men who have been taking care of trees for many years.

Arrangement can be made for any one interested in trees and their care to attend at least some of these sessions. Call Horticulture House for information.

The valuable and interesting program will include these speakers: Dr. A. C. Hildreth, Director of the Cheyenne Horticultural Field Station, who will speak on "Climatic Factors Affecting Shade Tree Growth in the Rocky Mountain Area;" Robert More, local authority on evergreens, telling of "Growing Evergreens in Colorado;" M. Walter Pesman, local landscape architect, on "Trees in Relation to Your Home;" Thomas L. Martin of Provo, Ut., on "Soil and the Microbe;" Dr. George M. List of Colorado A. & M. College on "Some Insect Pests of the Rocky Mountain Region;" Mrs. Temperance O. Guntill of Sudbury, Mass., on "The Family vs. Shade Trees;" and others.

Carl Fennor, City Forester of Lansing, Michigan, will also conduct a special session for parks and tree men.

GETTING THE MOST FROM CHRISTMAS PLANTS
By The Master Gardener

There is such a radical change in growing conditions when a Christmas gift plant is brought from the florist's to an average home that, unless you take the same pains, it is very difficult to keep it in good condition much after the New Year.

With care, however, the life of these plants can be extended for several weeks beyond the holidays.

Follow these tips for preserving your Christmas plants:

Cyclamen
Keep the plant in the coolest part of the home with a temperature of not over 60° at night. Use plenty of water during the period and never allow it to wilt. An even more desirable temperature for the cyclamen is a range of from 40 to 50° such as you may have in an enclosed porch.

Poinsettias
These require a warm and even temperature. Keep poinsettias well supplied with water but not continually soaked. Changes in temperatures, drafts or dryness will result in loss of foliage almost immediately. After the leaves fade, set the plants in the cellar until spring—when they can be cut back to 4 inches and set out in the garden. Although they will not bloom in the garden, they do produce attractive foliage and are a kind of curiosity.

Azaleas
The cooler they are kept in the home, the longer they last. They should have good light and plenty of water.

Jerusalem Cherries
Keep fairly cool, water moderately and set them in a window where they receive all sunlight possible.

Begonia
Prefers moist atmosphere, moderate watering and some sunlight each day.

Cineraria
Requires abundance of water: with a cool, humid atmosphere.

Calceolaria
These exotic plants are very short-lived under average home conditions. Keep them as cool as possible, on the dry side, and give them plenty of light.
GARDEN ON POSTAGE STAMPS
By Kathryn Kalmbach

Mildred Steele’s charming article in last month’s Green Thumb, “Postage Stamp Garden,” has inspired me to tell you about my garden on postage stamps.

In 1945 an article appeared in Gardeners’ Chronicle of America, entitled “Plants on Stamps.” This article, by Charles H. Curtis, Editor of England’s Gardeners’ Chronicle, suggested a hobby to me which has grown increasingly interesting with the years. Collecting plants on stamps is a fairly common hobby, but the writer claims, along with Mr. Curtis, the distinction of arranging her collection for botanical, as well as philatelic, interest. My stamps are arranged by plant families, rather than by geographical limits. Thus under Liliaceae, or Lily family, may be seen stamps from Egypt, Germany, Holland, Japan, Switzerland and the United States.

The picture accompanying this article shows a few stamps with plants belonging to the Buttercup family. Here our Colorado Columbine appears in the distinguished company of relatives from Austria, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Holland, New Zealand, and Switzerland. Anemone coronaria from Egypt is the “lily of the field” of Bible fame. Ranunculus lyallii from New Zealand is a rare and beautiful member of the family.

The Joshua tree (Liliaceae) on the U. S. stamp which commemorates the Fort Bliss centennial, and the Columbine on the Colorado Statehood stamp pictured, are but two from our own country which appear throughout my album under various plant families. To mention a few, there are several pages devoted to Pinaceae, Gramineae, Fagaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Magnoliaceae, Lauraceae, Papaveraceae, Rutaceae, Oleaceae, Acanthaceae, Solanaceae, Leguminosae, and Palmaceae.

Some of the plant families have been pictured on many stamps by many countries. Thus the grass family, Gramineae, which includes grains, sugar cane, rice, bamboo, corn, etc., is pictured on stamps by countries in both the new and old worlds. The palm, orchid, and composite family members are found on stamps around the world. Citrus fruits, bananas, pineapples, grapes, coffee, tea, cotton and rubber, have been pictured frequently.

But perhaps the greatest thrill to the collector is finding a plant stamp of a rare genus, or of a family of limited world distribution. A thrill to this collector was finding my favorite plant, cotton grass, pictured on a stamp from Belgium (see cut). A few rare representatives of the plant world in my collection are: the Api (pronounced “Ah-pay”) which is related to Taro, and is a member of Araceae; the beautiful Vellozia (Haemodoraceae); Protea on a South Africa stamp (Proteaceae); and Aristolochia from the Belgian Congo, related to our Dutchman’s pipe; Mahogany logs (Meliaceae) from Honduras; rare Ocha (Ochnaceae) the only genus in this family mentioned by Bailey; and the Red Lauau tree.
(Shorea negrosensis), a member of the Dipterocarpaceae.

Tracking down the plants found on stamps provides the amateur botanist with many hours of fun. A lovely stamp from Egypt pictured a flowering branch, and was issued to commemorate an International Congres on leprosy. Here Bailey’s Cyclopaedia of Horticulture failed me, but my Treasure of Botany, edited by John Lindley and Thomas Moore, and published in London in 1889, finally yielded the name Hydnocarpus of the family Pangiacceae. When the description of this plant told that the seeds yielded an oil used in the treatment of leprosy, it was quite apparent why it was chosen for this stamp.

If you like arm chair gardening,

ORCHIDS AS A HOBBY!

By Mrs. Judith King

WHETHER or not you have ever been interested in horticulture before, you will find the growing of orchids a delightful hobby . . . some say the ultimate hobby! . . . filled with pleasure, satisfaction and stimulating recreation. This is not only because of the unusual beauty of the flowers, the fascination of their myriad forms and breath-taking colors, but because orchids offer unsurpassed interest for observation and study, due to their highly specialized structures and remarkable adaptation to their environment and to the insect world. Orchid growing is a hobby that engages not only the mind, but equally occupies the hands, providing an absorbing activity which is healthful and truly recreative to mind and body.

Many who might easily take up orchid culture have deterred from the attempt because of the mistaken idea that their culture is difficult. While it is true that one must learn their requirements . . . as is true of any gardening pursuit or most hobbies . . . yet this is not difficult, as is evidenced by the thousands now enthusiastically growing orchids in every corner of the globe under conditions that vary from subtropical to the frigid climate of Alaska and Iceland.

Orchids, like other plants, need light, air, moisture, heat and food; they differ, however, from other plants in their quantitative demands of these elements.

We in the Rocky Mountain area must not conform to a system and set of rules compiled by growers in Florida, parts of California and other orchidaceaean localities of the world, but accept local conditions and supply the deficiencies as required. In other words, the grower must adapt himself to the whims and demands of the plants and not vice versa. Is this any different or more difficult than any other type of horticultural pursuit?

While orchid growing is generally thought of as a form of “greenhouse gardening,” it is not at all necessary for the beginning hobbyist to invest in expensive equipment. Much interest and satisfaction can be derived by growing orchids indoors in a glass case or “orchidarium” which can be built at home with little expenditure of money and effort. Such orcharia may be purchased at moderate cost. It is possible to grow many kinds of tropical orchids in a conservatory or a sun porch, or even in the window garden. Once a small greenhouse attached to the home or otherwise, affords better conditions for the successful growth of a much wider range of orchid varieties. The cost is small in comparison to the satisfaction received, and most hobbyists eventually build such a structure.

The beginning orchid hobbyist is offered an unlimited selection of plants from which to choose. The orchid family is large and varied, containing an estimated 15,000 different kinds in nature.

Out of this treasure chest the orchid grower can select plants to meet his fancy, his conditions and his pocketbook. The average price of good orchid hybrids comes well within the means of the moderate income hobbyist and there is a very large number of beautiful species which are quite inexpensive.

Mechanically minded persons will find that orchid growing can be a “gadget” hobby, with chance for ceaseless application of ingenuity in developing apparatus, equipment and techniques of their own. And for those who are adept with the sketch pad, paint brush or camera, there is no better subject than an orchid plant of their own in bloom.

Perhaps the most enriching aspect of all is the many interesting people with whom one forms friendships. Visiting with others who are growing orchids constitutes one of the pleasantest things connected with their culture.

The basic information on culture is readily obtained from the many books, periodicals and pamphlets now available. The American Orchid Society and more than forty affiliated societies are a constant source of advice. Particularly valuable in aiding the novice is the American Orchid Society Bulletin, published monthly with 64 to 72 fact-filled, illustrated pages, also The Orchid Digest magazine, a publication devoted to the fascinating culture of growing orchids.

Cypripedium americanum.
HELEN FOWLER
LIBRARY

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The Denver Orchard Society will meet at Horticulture House, 8:10 P.M., Thurs., Jan. 8. This will be the first meeting with the newly-elected officers. Anyone interested in orchid culture is welcome.
DO YOU KNOW THE CHARM OF THE DESERT

By Helen D. Stanley

Hugh and Anita Wheeler, better known as “Flowers by Maurice” out on East Colfax, departed from the conventional and recently did a completely charming and unusual window display which they happily called “Arizona Highways.”

Upon a map of Arizona formed with sand were placed a number of miniature gardens depicting a highway scene of some spot strangely familiar to anyone who has travelled across the Baby State. The gardens were in glazed terra-cotta pots of various sizes and were created in a three dimensional primitive with colorful and jagged rocks for mountain backgrounds, a tiny winding road definitely going somewhere interesting through the stately canyons and among the bristling cactus, all made to scale and set off with an Indian all of one inch tall plodding along toward the reservation or selling his wares by the roadside. Minute signs stuck on colored toothpicks pointed the way to The Little Grand Canyon or the Apache Reservation, all different and flavored with the fascination of one of the country’s loveliest of the 48.

The window was a refreshing sight for the wayfarer out East Colfax way.
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JANUARY GARDENING
MOST of our gardening activities this month will be indoors. We should check the house plants frequently for indications of the start of insect pests. Mealy bug on Coleus, Sultana and Cactus is common as is scale on the Ivy and Amaryllis. Also watch for thrip on the Amaryllis and Gloxinia, and for spidermites on many things. All of these pests can be largely controlled by regular washing of the leaves of these plants. Use warm soapy water and a soft rag, carefully holding each leaf in the hand while washing. Then rinse in clear water and dry carefully out of the sun.

A monthly LIGHT feeding of the house plants will allow them to grow and bloom longer and better. Some of the liquid fertilizers are well adapted to this use. Check the requirements of each plant for sunlight, heat, water and humidity in the air. Some plants like Christmas Cactus, Amaryllis and Gloxinia must have regular rest periods if they are to bloom the second time. Most of the Christmas plants had better be treated as temporary things—enjoyed to the fullest when they are in their prime and consigned to the alley when they are done.

While you are fidgeting around these stormy, cold days, look over the stored bulbs and check for excessive heat, cold, moisture or dryness. Dahlia bulbs are especially particular. Most bulbs prefer a temperature around 40 and an atmosphere neither very dry or wet.

After heavy snowfall check the evergreens for damage caused by snow sticking on them. In cold weather knock this snow off carefully, as the twigs are brittle when frozen and more damage may be done by knocking snow off than by leaving it on. Low evergreens under eaves may need some extra protection to prevent breakage from great masses of snow sliding off the roof.

When the ground is frozen but the sun is shining the good gardener may keep his thumb green by doing some of the necessary trimming of trees and shrubs. Fruit trees and grapes may be pruned now.

There are usually several weeks during winter when the sun is shining and the temperature suitable for many construction jobs. Flagstone walks, platforms, walls and special features may be constructed. Rock gardens, pools, fences and shelters can be designed and built.

The chief garden job, however, at this time of year is planning and studying. It is so much fun to read up on the life histories of some of the bugs that damaged the garden last summer, to learn more of the new insecticides, to read of the origin of some of our principles of landscape design, to study the correct spelling and pronunciation of plant names, to learn about the new roses and to investigate the possibilities of new garden machinery and tools.

If you are to have a good garden in June it should be visualized and planned in January.