

SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
Spartanburg, South Carolina

GARDENETTES

February 1960

Fellow-Gardeners:

Those of our membership who were absent at our last meeting certainly did miss a real treat. George A. Spader, the genial Executive Secretary of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, paid us a visit on his way through South Carolina visiting the various Clubs in the South. George had been sitting in with the members of the Asheville Club in preparing for the coming National Convention to be held there June 21-24. George was very enthusiastic about the plans which the Asheville Club had in the making for the comfort, fellowship, interest and instruction for representatives of the Clubs from over the nation. You can't describe Craggy Gardens, Biltmore Estate, the Gardens of Asheville and the wonderful scenery of Western North Carolina. We are hoping that every member of this Club will arrange to attend all or part of this convention.

Just to meet your National officers and the members of other Clubs engaged in the same garden projects as you are will make you a better club member and a better gardener.

George talked to us of many interesting things, of the National work, of the Regions, work of the clubs he had visited, the awards for unselfish service. Thanks, George, for leaving some of your enthusiastic spirit with us. Hope you had luck in Greer, Florence and Columbia.

Accompanying George were Dr. Lucius M. Cline, National Director, Cecil Morris, Past National Director and present President of the State Camellia Society, and several other members of our sister club in Greenville.

Following George's fine talk we were shown wonderful pictures of how to have a good lawn. J. P. Carlton was responsible for this.

Our next meeting will be held next Monday, February 22nd, at 7:30 P.M., at the usual place. Our program chairman has prepared a good program - Flowering Shrubs and Trees - so, come and enjoy the fellowship and instruction.

If you haven't paid your 1960 dues please send me a check and save me the cost of a statement. We want to register in time so we will not miss any issues of the Gardener, and the News Letter. We have selected for our subject in this issue "Consider the Daylilies", an article by Naomi Ingalls, in the March issue of the "Popular Gardening Magazine".

CONSIDER THE DAYLILIES

Daylilies are tough--as everyone knows. They bloom almost anywhere and survive in lean soil and under general neglect. But, just give them good treatment, plenty of room, improved soil, adequate food and water and watch the result! You will be amazed at their sturdy growth and the richness and abundance of bloom.

Daylilies add radiance and charm to your garden. By selecting varieties carefully, you can have a succession of daylily blooms from spring to frost. Many varieties even bloom twice. Some yellow, orange, and red varieties are deliciously fragrant, although red varieties have less scent in some kinds of climates.

There are varied daylily forms: triangular, like Golden Triangle and Colonel Joe; tarry, like Star of the North and Star of Gold; trumpet form, like fragrant Ophir and Mission Bells; lily types like Peach Brocade; cup-shaped types, like Belle of Georgia; and varieties with flat blossoms and recurved petals like Nina Winegar and Shirley Wild.

Some daylilies have a definite, though delicate, band or halo, like Halo and Dauntless; and there are varieties with "eyes" or spots, like Mikado and Linda. Some modern daylilies have attractive ruffling or crimping of petal edges, and some flowers have petals that are creped.

Daylilies are versatile as well as beautiful. You can plant them next to ponds and pools, use them to form a lovely contrast in front of dark shrubbery, grow them beside a fence or wall, or use them as an accent at the corner of a house, in a lawn, or in your perennial border.

Some gardeners like to set another perennial of some kind next to daylilies in a row of plants, so there will be rich, cool contrasts and an abundance of flowers throughout the season. We use white and blue peach-leaved bellflowers, many varieties of phlox--especially Miss Lingard and Mary Louise--Shasta daisies, peonies, liatris, and michaelmas daisies.

Have you every tried rooting the little plantlets that sit upon the bloom stalks? They are more plentiful if the season is a moist one, and it is an inexpensive way to increase your stock. Just fill a can with vermiculite, insert the carefully cut offset, place it in a sunless window, and keep it moist. When the plantlet is rooted, you can move it to the garden and mulch it with lawn clippings or excelsior to retain soil moisture. When I want to root lots of these bonus plants, I find it is practical to fashion a box 36 inches long, 15 inches deep, 10 inches wide, with stakes at each end and a cover made from an old plastic tablecloth. I fill the box with vermiculite, insert the little plantlets, water well, and watch carefully to see that the vermiculite never dries out. I mulch these plantlets with pine needles the first winter.

The soil for your own daylily plants, as well as for purchased plants, can be improved by applying potash. Also, add some bonemeal and vermiculite and in spring dig in a sprinkling of a good balanced fertilizer around the plants.

For a sandy soil, add compost and well-decayed cow manure with a small amount of bonemeal. Mix into heavy clay soils, compost, sand, and peatmoss, so that they cannot pack solidly around the roots of the plants. Use well-decayed cow manure, too, if you can get some. Daylilies can be planted at almost anytime during the growing season.

Sometimes hemerocallis do need spraying or dusting, but I have never found either disease or insects on my plants.

My favorite daylilies are the ones that bloom over a long period of time: Ophir, Mission Bells, Mrs. Hugh Johnson, Painted Lady, Athlone, Naranya, Devon Cream, Persian Princess, and Ruby Supreme.

If you are fond of pink, and who isn't? -- there are many pink daylilies of various shades. The older Sweetbriar is still good. Pink Prelude and Pink Dream are my favorites. Quite new are Tootie and the lovely lavender-pink Pink Orchid. The winner of one of the latest Hemerocallis Popularity Polls is the enchanting rose-pink Evelyn Claar.

The newer daylilies I like are Shirley Wild, a spider type with narrow petals tenches long; Bright Charm, a rose-red with a green throat edged yellow; Golden Wonder; Ecstatic, a melon-toned beauty with a currant-red band.

Lower in price and very popular are the following lovely varieties: Tiger Eye, Crimson Glory, Cradle Song, Colonial Dame, Colonel Joe, Cathedral Towers, Cellini (an amaryllis form in canary yellow), Carved Ivory, Gay Troubadour (a bicolor), Hyperion, and Fulva Rosea.

There are, of course, many more fine hemerocallis, and the colors are out of this world. You'll have to see them to believe their sparkling splendor. When you do, you'll agree day-lilies are the perennial supreme.

Looking forward to chatting with you under

"THE GRAPEVINE"

SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
Spartanburg, South Carolina

GARDENETTES

March 1960

Fellow Gardeners:

Br-r-r! Br-r-r! I have just stuck my nose out of my winter hibernating cellar, expecting to see spring on the horizon, and I beheld snow, snow and more snow, so I went back to sleep again. The weatherman says this is the worst March on record. You reckon that old groundhog knows what he is talking about? I am glad George Spader did not visit the "Sunny South" last week. We never could have convinced him that we live in the Sunny South.

We have just received "The Gardener", Spring issue of the official publication of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, and it was wonderful; full of meat that one can digest during the late winter evenings. It should be read from "kiver to kiver". May I call your attention to just a few that are "musts": President Felzer's letter, "Let's Help Save the Dunes", "Let's Head for Asheville in June," "Plastic Greenhouses", "Have You Told Him So?", "Letters to the Gardener", "Spade's Dirt", etc., etc., etc.

We had one of the best meetings on February 24th in some time. The attendance was especially good. Please send in the membership applications which you accepted for a new member last meeting; also, have you mailed to the Secretary your dues for 1960? They are now due.

In the December-January issue I gave you an article on Camellias and Azaleas. The February issue carried an article on Daylilies. This month I bring you an article on roses by Charles P. Dawson, of Louisville, Kentucky, which I hope will be helpful to our rose growers:

FROM THE GROUND UP
By Charles P. Dawson
Louisville, Ky.

At this time of year many people wonder when, how, and if to prune their rose plants. Lack of confidence in their knowledge and ability actually prevents many from doing any pruning and others from doing enough pruning. Most of us realize after last year's experience of trimming nearly every plant to the ground that the rose plant is not the poorest in the world, that even when butchered it will make a good comeback although some of the early bloom will be sacrificed. There was much less blackspot and red spider last spring in the plants trimmed to ground level than those that were cut higher. This should settle some of the old arguments about low and high trimming. On the other hand the flowers available for spring shows were very limited on those cut to the ground. Many Rosarians tell us plants trimmed to two or three eyes in spring will catch up with those trimmed two feet tall by mid or late summer, but my plants frozen to three or four eyes in one bed (not winter protected) never did catch up. I want blooms all year around not just for a fall show.

Trimming

The proper time to trim hybrid teas, grandifloras and floribundas is when the new growth is one half to one inch long; at this time I think it best to begin by trimming off all brushy, twiggy growth. Trim this growth very close to the main stem so it will heal over, if a short nub of half inch or so is left it usually dies later leaving an opening for stem borers. After this brush is removed examine plant for winter damage. Cut below any brown or dead spots on the stem or below soft brown lesions caused by winter damage, as these spots usually continue to grow until they have girdled the stem four or five weeks later. Since some plants are not strong enough to trim off all damaged stems I suggest leaving the best and later when some of

the stems die they can be trimmed. While green and growing they are manufacturing plant food and helping to promote better growth on the plant. There is always some wood to remove or trim all summer long. My idea is to remove all branches crossing each other and as much as possible from the center of the plant so light and air can reach the middle, thus preventing some of the damaging blackspot and red spider mite nests. If plants are too thick in the center, foliage dries slowly and blackspot spores have an excellent chance to start multiplying. Every bit of last year's foliage should be removed and taken away from the garden.

A good plant should have three, four or even five stems standing after trimming is finished, but do not discard plants having less. We always look forward to new, heavy bottom breaks or stems coming out from the crown and a single stem plant, although it may not have as many blooms in the spring it may by late summer have several good stems for next year's plant. Trim spindly and weak plants lower, leaving only three or four eyes above the ground; there will be less brush and more light at the bottom and perhaps more heavy new stems will come out of the crown. If trimmed high they always seem the very first to get red spider mite and blackspot infection because of the usually small, weak and thick growth produced. I prefer whenever possible to trim all healthy and strong plants at least 2 1/4 inches above the ground. Plants of PEACE, CRIMSON GLORY, PEACEPORT, GAIL BORDER, etc., prefer an even higher cut.

Clear Up

The most important cleanup of the whole year should be undertaken after pruning is completed. Remove every piece of old, trimmed off stem, every leaf and bit of weed and grass. Remember, mites and blackspot survive the winter on green stems and weeds, so get rid of them. Give your plants a new start.

After you have cleaned up the beds get that sprayer out and clean up the plants. If you had red spider mite last fall you will have them this spring in the same places, so give your plants a thorough spraying with a miticide. If the new growth is less than one inch long it is safe to use the miticide 20% stronger than when in foliage; thus one can spray on a dose which even old grandpas of the mite family cannot survive. A week later spray again but use a good fungicide such as Phaltan and cover every inch of stem and bed with the spray. If we start with a good cleanup it will certainly be much easier to keep the garden clean all year.

You may think I write too much about red spider mite control but they are really hard to eliminate once the plant has become grown and full of foliage. Do more checking of your plants this summer, for each year this insect is becoming more of a problem.

Fertilizer

Ten days or two weeks after the pruning is completed apply the first fertilizer. For those who do not have a soil analysis made I suggest the use of a one-pound coffee canful of complete fertilizer to each 15 plants (approximately one ounce per plant). If the bed is mulched work the fertilizer into the mulch; if not, scratch the material not more than one inch deep into the topsoil. Good roses may be grown if this same fertilizer is used three more times during the growing season at the rate of one coffee canful for each 20 plants. The application periods should be spaced out evenly, the last application made about five weeks before the first heavy frost is expected.

There is little value in applying foliar fertilizers until the first buds appear on your plants; the new foliage is so small and slick that most of the foliar fertilizer will run off. The foliage never reaches mature size on new growth until the bud appears.

Now I have saved this bit of information until the last, you MUST remember it. Every year many plants are severely weakened or ruined by borers. These pests enter into a cut stem or broken bark burrowing and eating their way down through the stem to the base. Some gardens

nave never had one; others have been ruined by them. The best way to prevent borers is to paint the ends of every pruned stem. Orange shellac, pine tar, or a paste of DDT or lindane will do the job. Some use regular tree paint but this material sometimes causes a little burning and dieback. Use only enough material to cover the raw end of the cut stems. Much of the danger from the borer is eliminated later in the year when plants are being sprayed with insecticides.

Let me know what other articles you would like to have.

Our next meeting will be Monday evening, March 28th, 7:30, at the First Federal Savings and Loan Building, North Church Street. The Program Committee has arranged another good program.

Here is a good suggestion for April - Visit your neighbor's garden and see what he is doing.

After the snow clears I will be seeing you March 28th under

THE GRAPEVINE

SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
Spartanburg, South Carolina

GARDENETTES

April 1960

Fellow Gardeners:

Well, what do you know, when spring decided to come it wasted no time! In fact, it must have picked up some of summer's early breezes. The thermometer has hovered around the 80's for the past week. Those two frosts the first weekend hurt the new growth on roses, but outside of that things are making up for lost time. It is turning into a beautiful spring.

"W. O. " and his Beautification Committee ought to feel mighty proud. Their work is paying dividends all over the city. Every member of the Men's Garden Club should take pride in the wonderful improvement to the barren corners of our streets and the forlorn look of our parks. Morgan Square was a sight for sore eyes during the past ten days. General Morgan will never gaze on a more delightful picture than he did Easter Morning, no matter where they move him. The Square must have known this would be its last opportunity because as soon as the tulips are through blooming it becomes just another parking area. It will pay you to visit all of the beauty spots of the city during these spring weeks. Follow the flower trails through the city. Have you noticed the hanging baskets on Main Street? The frost did not seem to hurt them that Sunday night before Easter.

Here is a timely article from our National representative and Chairman of the Membership Committee, L. M. Cline, Jr., M.D., Greenville, South Carolina:

"We all know that our small annual dues to MGCA of \$1.50 does not cover MGCA expenses. It is through the help of sustaining memberships that we are kept in the black. A sustaining membership is not obligatory. It is a good-will gesture by those who can afford \$5 and are interested in the work of MGCA. If you can conveniently do so, please send your check for \$5 to MGCA, c/o Mr. George Spader, Morrisville, New York. Your membership card and lapel membership button will be sent by return mail."

Read the April newsletter just received and see how many clubs Secretary George Spader visited on his winter trip through the so-called "Sunny south". That man is another "Paul Bunyan". This is just one phase of the services that all clubs received from the MGCA - "All for one and one for all".

The Secretary would like to call to remembrance that we have nine committees, and each member of the club is a member of one of them. Yet we seem to do very little with making them active. This is not written in criticism of any member or any committee, but only about four out of the nine committees are operating effectively. We realize that most of our members are busy businessmen, especially the chairman. He was selected because he was a busy man. Maybe he is too busy, so why not help him. You are just as responsible for the work of your committee as your chairman, so if he is too busy at the present time, get in and help him. We are once more listing the committees for your information should you have forgotten which committee you are a member of.

What about door prizes and other means to entice the brethren out? What about additional memberships? There is plenty of good timber all around us. The club has just received 25 Certificates of Honor to present business and industry for improving their grounds. We have a committee to select candidates for this honor. Drive around

and select some of these places and recommend their names for consideration. I may be mistaken, but I think that if all of our committees were working the Club would not only walk, but would "run".

We had a fine program last meeting. Those of you who were absent missed a treat. Al Blackmore gave us many pointers on starting cuttings, and had the flats full of his own cuttings to illustrate his subject.

Sometime ago you asked me to write the Asheville Club, the Host Club for the 1960 Convention to be held in Asheville on June 21 through 24, 1960, and ask them about daily fees for the membership nearby that could not stay through the entire convention.

Mr. E. C. Moore, Secretary of the Committee in charge of arrangements, has sent me the following price schedule, advising that the Spartanburg Club has been extended host club privileges, as we reside in commuting distance, so the "On-to-Asheville Convention" committee can now get busy and sign up the membership. Every member of this Club should arrange to attend one day or more. Those expecting to spend the night, see the George Vanderbilt or the Battery Park Hotels, or any of the other wonderful hotels or motels in and around Asheville.

Don't forget, our next meeting is Monday, April 25, 1960, 7:30 P.M., at the First Federal Savings and Loan Building, North Church Street. THIS IS AUCTION NIGHT, and so be sure and bring several plants to be sold. Let's make it a big night.

If you haven't send in your annual dues, do so today, or better still, bring them with you Monday.

I will be seeing you under

THE GRAPEVINE

1960 Convention Registration Fees

Pre-Registration (Before June 1) - \$22.50
Regular Full Registration - \$25.00

Pro-Rated registration for single events may be made at prices indicated by members of nearby clubs granted host club privileges, and by families of registrants who desire to attend one or more of the events.

Tuesday afternoon	Trip to Craggy Gardens	\$ 1.75
Tuesday Evening	Dinner, Mountain Music, Square Dance	4.25
Wednesday Morning	Workshops	1.00
Wednesday Afternoon	Trip to Cherokee, Indian Villages, Nature Trail, and partial dress rehearsal of "Unto these Hills"	4.50
Thursday Morning	Workshops	1.00
Thursday Afternoon	Trip through Biltmore Estate and Power tool demonstration	3.00
Thursday Evening	Picnic and entertainment of Biltmore Estate grounds	2.00
Friday Afternoon	Garden Tours and/or Tea at Grove Park for women	1.50
Friday Evening	President's Reception - Battery Park	2.25
	Banquet	6.00
		<u>27.25</u>

Since the cost of most of these events is transportation or meals for which we will have to make definite contracts early in the week, we will need to have all partial registrations made by Tuesday noon, June 21. It is suggested that nearby clubs with host privileges appoint someone to handle pro-rata registrations for all club members for the entire week. These may either be mailed in or submitted by a delegate upon arrival in Asheville. The registration should include:

Name of member or guest
Events to be attended
Check to cover pro-rated costs.

COMMITTEES - 1960

On-to-Asheville Committee
and Regional Committee

Jack Lemmon, Chairman
Wm. M. Miller
Charles Lea
M. P. Nantz
J. M. Culcleasure

Supplies Committee

R. B. Hines, Chairman
Charles Lea
W. O. Ezell
M. L. Gibson

Project Sub-Committee -
Industrial Beautification

Tom Butler, Chairman
Karl Selden
J. P. Carlton
Wm. B. Littlejohn
Raymond G. Tessmer

Project- Sub-committee -
Duncan Park

R. E. Kimmell, Chairman
Toy Westbrook
J. H. Clarks
C. Kern Batson

Project Sub-Committee - Trails

John Cantrell, Chairman
James C. Creal
Dr. Wardlaw Hammond
D. H. Kennemur, Jr.

Membership Committee

Wm. M. Miller, Chairman
Wm. F. Mobley
Dewey Still
Wallace E. Howard
Wm. D. Coan
W. Hames Fowler

Membership- Sub-Committee -
Judges and Prizes

Robert Carlton, Chairman
C. Y. Brown
G. B. Smith
Arthur Willis
W. A. Wallace, M.D.
L. T. Lister
Robert L. Dargan
Paul E. Parks

Project Committee

W. O. Ezell, Chairman
Charles Lea
J. P. Carlton
John Cantrell
R. B. Hines
Toy Westbrook
Karl Selden

Program Committee

J. M. Culcleasure, Chairman
W. G. Gowan
Richard W. Thomas
W. P. Rich
Dr. David Stoltz
Claude A. Sherrill

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SPARTANBURG

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I, _____, being interested in gardening and in the purposes of the Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg, do hereby apply for membership in this Club.

(Applicant's Signature)

Business Connection _____

Home Address _____

Mail Address _____

SPONSOR: _____

ENDORSERS (Two members of the Club):

Date _____

Approved for Membership

_____ Ch'm. Membership Comm.

_____ Board of Directors.

Name _____

Home Address _____ Phone _____

Firm Name _____ Phone _____

Position Held _____

Business Address _____

Garden Interests:

Azaleas	Iris	Ornamental Shrubs
Camellias	Lilies	Shrubs
Roses	Annuals	Evergreens
Fruit Trees	Perennials	Propogation
Nut Trees	Vegetables	
Shade Trees	Vines	
Ornamental Trees	Chrysanthemums	
Lawn	Dahlia	
Jonquils	Gladiolus	
Hemerocallis	Tulips	
Berries	Peonies	
	Begonias	

Others:

Committee Willing to Serve On;

Membership	Projects
Attendance	Tours
Program	Contests
Flower Shows	<u>Other:</u>

1. What do you suggest can be done to make the club more interesting to the members?
2. Are you in favor of a club bulletin? Would you be willing to serve as a member of the publication committee?
3. What are your suggestions for programs?
4. What type of program do you prefer?
5. Do you have slides or know of any that could be shown?
6. List any names of good speakers and their addresses.
7. What horticultural subject do you wish discussed?
8. List names and addresses of prospective or interested people.

SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
Spartanburg, South Carolina

GARDENETTES

May 1960

Fellow Gardeners:

I happened to be in Hartford, Conn., last week for two days and enjoyed the beauties of another spring. Everything that had just stopped blooming in the Piedmont was in full bloom there.

Those of you who love Iris are enjoying their beauty at this time and the Rose lovers are busy watching the roses break out into bloom. Don't forget to spray or dust for black-spot, insects and mildew.

Remember to select the day you want to attend the National Convention in Asheville, June 20-25. Tuesday includes a trip to Craggy Gardens; Wednesday a trip to Cherokee Indian Village; Thursday to Biltmore Estate, and Friday garden tours in the City. We want to have this lined up ready at our next meeting. See April Gardenettes for complete information.

EXTENDING AZALEA FLOWERING SEASON

Now that June is here, how many azaleas do you have which are still in bloom? In too many cases the azalea season is only three to five weeks long. This is not the fault of the azaleas.

In the Low Country a few varieties of Indica and Kurume azaleas generally make up the whole plantings. True, gardeners there cannot have the wide range of kinds which we in the highlands can enjoy, but they can do far better than most of the present plantings would suggest.

Many of the Glenn Dale varieties will help extend the season dramatically. In really mild areas some of these even bloom in the late autumn and winter! This isn't true in colder areas. Then for later-than-average bloom the Macranthas, probably the Chugais (although I haven't seen them there) and some of the late blooming native kinds will give added weeks of color.

In the upper Piedmont and in the mountains we can have months of bloom. In the warmer areas of this region the early Glenn Dales and Indicas start things off. In much of the mountain area the Indicas are not hardy. Mid-season sorts from the Kurume, Kaempferi and Gable groups come next. The native *Rhododendron canescens*, *R. austrina* and *R. alabamense* come in here too. For later bloom we have the flame azalea, *R. bakeri*, *R. arborescens*, the Chugais and Macranthas. Even later, into August and after, the less than spectacular *R. serrulata* and the fine but rare, red-flowered *R. prunifolia* bring the season to a close. At Biltmore Gardens our azalea season generally starts in April (sometimes even in late March) and ends with the last *R. prunifolia* in September.

You too, can have more azalea bloom if you try. A long season is worth working for.

FADED BLOOMS

Faded blooms are unsightly, so many gardeners keep them cut. There are even better reasons for removing spent flowers.

When a flower fades it generally means that it has been fertilized and that seed production has begun. Now we don't, for the most part, desire seed from our plants, just flowers, lots of flowers. Yet when a plant channels its energy into seed production, flower production either stops or is sharply reduced.

In the case of roses, this means that fewer flowering canes will be produced later in the same season. With plants like azaleas, fewer buds will be produced during the summer for blooming during the next season.

So--if you want more bloom, keep all faded blooms cut.

Beyond this point is another almost as important. By cutting at the right place you can do much to improve the shape of the plant. When part of a stem is removed from a growing plant, the buds below the cut will become active and make new growth. If there are no buds present, in some cases "adventitious" buds are formed and send out new shoots.

It is important, therefore, to cut at the right point. With roses, the cut is generally made just above the first or second leaf which has five, or three, leaflets. Generally, two buds will start growth, later producing two blooms where there was but one before. Make the cut square across the cane and about one quarter of an inch above the bud. A deeper cut can be made if the plant is getting too high and you want to keep it down. This is often the case with such varieties as "Sutter's Gold," "Buccaneer" or even "Queen Elizabeth."

With plants like azaleas, cut back to the point where new shoots will fill out the desired shape; low down if the plant is open and leggy, just below the flower head if the plant is compact. With these plants, cut at any point on the stem, for buds will form just below the cut, wherever it is made.

You will note that I have specified a cut in every case. Don't break or pick the blooms. A clean cut heals readily and is less apt to become diseased. You can place a cut precisely where you want it. Also, there is no chance that you will crush a bud from which you want later bloom.

There is one exception to cutting which readily comes to mind. This is with rhododendrons. Here, unless a deep, "shaping" cut is to be made, you simply, and carefully, snap the faded truss from the stem. This must be done carefully or you will injure the delicate new shoots which come from directly below the "snap-off point."

SHORT NOTES

When iris flowers fade it is time to divide and reset. Burn all diseased roots to keep the planting vigorous.

As early vegetables are harvested, clean out the area. Then make succession plantings of lettuce, beans, limas and corn. These should be planted in small amounts and often, so that they may be picked at the peak of their flavor and tenderness.

Stake all growing plants such as Delphinium, dahlias and lilies before they are brought down in a wind storm.

When peonies finish blooming, cut the faded flowers and fertilize so that the plants will gain strength for heavy bloom next year.

Don't forget to pinch the terminal growing point from dahlias, mums, zinnias and marigolds. This makes the plants branch freely and produce much more bloom. Two to three pinches are usually enough.

This is the last call for planting cannas, gladiolus, tuberose and dahlias. Late plantings should not be allowed to become dry.

(Copied from an article in Flower and Garden Magazine by Dr. Fred J. Nisbet, in the June issue. I thought it good enough to pass on to the membership.)

HANDLING TOMATOES IN THE HOME GARDEN

The tomato is one of our most important garden vegetables. It is prepared in a greater variety of ways than any other vegetable we know. With many home gardeners it is the most popular vegetable.

It was not always so popular. Known in French as "pomme d'amour" or love apple, it was regarded as poisonous. Indeed, it took time to regard other members of this family, the potato, peppers, eggplants as edible. They all belong to the Solanaceae, or nightshade family. Another relative, the dreaded belladonna, is grown for its poisonous drug, hyoscyamine. In fact, the tomato contains the alkaloid lycopersicon in green fruits, and potatoes have the alkaloid solanine in greened tubers. The alkaloid is destroyed in the processing when green tomatoes are used in pickling and for other purposes. Fortunately, people avoid using greened potato tubers.

The tomato, eggplant and pepper are all warm season vegetables. These plants are highly frost sensitive. In addition, tomato flowers fail to set fruit if temperatures stay below 55 degrees. Too high temperatures can also have a bad effect on fruit setting. Often gardeners notice poor fruit set when plants are first put out because of low night temperatures. This can be offset by using hot caps or by waiting to transplant until the weather is warmer. Fruit setting hormones are helpful in inducing these first blossoms to produce a crop of tomatoes. They are available in aerosol cans, or can be mixed with water and applied with a spray gun. In any event, put the hormone on the blossom clusters and not on the foliage.

Many tomato varieties are on the market today. Some of the new ones are hybrids and show great uniformity in growth, size, color, shape and other characteristics. In general, tomato varieties fit in two categories: (1) the staking or indeterminate varieties and (2) the non-staking, determinate or bush varieties.

Some of the varieties in the staking group include 'Earliana,' 'Stokesdale,' 'John Baer,' 'Marglobe,' and many others. Two well known bush varieties are 'Bounty' and 'Victor.' The last two are normally not staked and require no pruning; they spread over the ground much in the way that cucumbers and other vine crops will spread. The bush types are best adapted to short-season areas such as the northern Great Plains and New England.

The staking or indeterminate varieties are the most widely planted and respond best to staking and pruning.

These are some of the rewards often gained from staking and pruning:

Ripening earlier; and more early ripe fruit.

Because plants are spaced closer the yield per area is greater.

Diseases and insects are easier controlled.

The fruit is cleaner.

The fruit is easier to find and pick.

Disadvantages of staking and pruning are the higher amount of labor involved, a smaller total yield per plant, greater susceptibility to blossom-end rot disease, more chances of sunburn on fruit and more growth-cracked fruits.

Methods of pruning, staking and tying tomato plants vary. Plants are usually trained so that one vine or main stem is developed. Sometimes there is an advantage in training them to two or three main stems, but the single-stem method is most often used. If left unpruned, the plants produce a multiple-stemmed plant. Pruning simply involves removing the new shoots as they emerge that would make the plant multiple-stemmed.

New shoots develop at what are called the axils of the leaf; that is, at the base of the leaf. The new shoot looks like a new young tomato plant. It arises where the leaf joins the main stem. Plants should be checked every few days to eliminate these shoots. They are simply broken out with the fingers. It is better to break them out by hand than with a knife, for the knife might spread disease. The important thing is to recognize the difference between these new shoots and the blossom clusters. I have known new gardeners to remove unwittingly all their blossom clusters in the process of pruning their tomato plants.

Plants pruned to single stems should be provided with stout stakes (1/2 by one-inch) at the time the plants are set out. As needed, tie the single vine to the stakes. Use a soft string or cloth first making a loop around the stake and then another loop around the vine in securing the vine to the stake. Make the tie just below a leaf, and do not tie so tightly as to squeeze off the food and water supply through the stem. Pruning and tying have to be continued through the growing season as needed, to keep the plants in proper shape.

(copied from an article in Flower and Garden Magazine by Leonard A. Yager, of Montana State College, in the June issue.)

Next Monday, May 23rd is the time. The First Federal Savings and Loan Building is the place, and 7:30 P.M. is the hour. A good program has been arranged by a man you have never heard speak before on a subject that is of interest right now. Come one, come all.

Let's have fellowship under

THE GRAPEVINE

SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
Spartanburg, South Carolina

GARDENETTES

July 1960

Fellow Gardeners:

HOW WELL DO YOU GROW THE ROSE?

For Beginners: An introduction to rose planting and care

For Advanced Gardeners: A timely review on the culture of hybrid teas

By Morton Binder

Modern hybrid tea roses are beautiful flowers. Yet, take a dozen different varieties, give them identical care, and no two will perform exactly alike. Some will flower more generously than others; some stay on the low side, others reach to the sky; some have glossy leaves densely clothing the stems or canes, others appear more open no matter how you grow them. This diversity of plant growth, like flower size, color, and fragrance, is determined by their ancestry and breeding.

Most beginners buy roses on the basis of the illustration on the package or in the catalogues. Nor do they take into account that climate influences the vigor of all roses. Some do quite well inland, but less so along the coast because they are susceptible to mildew or balling of the buds. On the other hand, some varieties reach perfection only in the mild coastal sections, where their soft colors do not fade and their fragile petals do not burn.

To avoid disappointment in the general appearance of your rose bed, determined as much by the beauty of the plants as by the perfection of the flowers, choose varieties that have the All-America Rose Selections seal of approval attached to them. The seal tells you that, in the opinion of experienced rose judges in all regions of the country, the variety has beautiful flowers as well as an attractive growth habit. Gain experience with AARS roses first and then branch out and select varieties on a flower-picture basis. Better yet, bone up on the varieties that appeal to you in pictures by reading about them in magazines and rose books.

ROSE GRADES: The size of the plant you buy is important. A bare-root No. 1 grade plant is ideal, for it has three or more strong canes, measuring 18 inches or more in length. No. 2 grade roses cost less but have fewer, smaller, and shorter canes. If the variety is of vigorous parentage, it may in time produce a strong plant, but it is rare for any No. 2 rose of weak vintage to develop into an admirable specimen. Whichever grade you buy, be sure the canes are not withered or broken and the roots are not damaged. Reputable rose specialists stand behind the roses they sell. It's the fly-by-nights you must watch out for. Roses growing in containers are a good buy from a reputable firm. Beware of container-grown plants that look spindly and have yellowish leaves.

SOIL: Regardless of its ancestry, no rose can do well if it is grown in poor soil. Roses like heavy soils that do not dry out rapidly and are enriched with compost, manure, and acid peatmoss. Some varieties naturally flower more prolifically than others, but the quantity is also affected by the acidity of the soil. Ohio State University tests demonstrated that roses reach maximum bloom in a relatively acid soil -- 5.0 to 5.5 pH. And surprisingly enough, a slightly acid soil didn't give as good results as soil with a mildly alkaline reaction. Gardeners in the Southwest, where soils are often alkaline, have taken to spreading a handful of sulfur around the plants once or twice a year.

PLANTING: Any rose expert knows that you get more flowers from a dozen properly planted roses than from a hundred set out hit-and-miss. Planting holes must be at least 15 to 18 inches wide and 18 inches deep. The soil in the bottom of the hole and the soil removed from the hole (or brought in from another part of the garden to fill around the roots) must be enriched with compost and well-rotted or pulverized manure. Acid peatmoss must be mixed in too, enough so it makes up one quarter of the soil mixture.

The knob on the stem just above the roots indicates the point where the top growth was grafted (budded) to the roots. In cold parts of the country this bud-union, as it is called, is placed an inch or so below the surface of the soil. In warm areas, where top growth never becomes frozen, it is kept slightly above the ground level. Too deep planting can result in disappointment in years to come.

FERTILIZING: Roses are heavy feeders. The rotted manure you mix in at planting time will see your roses through until spring. Then, just before growth begins, a mulch of rotted manure should be applied if available. When the new growth is $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, sprinkle a nitrogen fertilizer around the plants and gently work it into the soil. Fertilize again when the flower buds begin to form, using a commercially available rose food or an all-purpose garden fertilizer.

WATERING: Naturally you will water the plants thoroughly during and immediately after planting, to firm the soil tight around the roots. During the growing season the soil should never become completely dry. How often you water depends on many factors, among them the ability of the soil to hold moisture, the humidity in the air, and whether you mulch your plants to conserve moisture. When the soil begins to show signs of drying, I water my roses in the morning until the soil is wet 18 inches deep. In my dry California garden this long overhead watering is more beneficial, I have found after years of experience, than soaking the plants by flooding the beds. Many gardeners prefer the latter method, which keeps the top growth dry, for moisture helps spread disease. Controversy rages over this point. You must experiment and draw your own conclusions.

PEST CONTROL: It is a rare garden in which roses remain free of disease and insects without a little help. If they are allowed to get hold, they sap the strength from the plants. Each spring immediately after you prune, apply a dormant spray. Then as the season advances use either a rose dust or spray as often as necessary to keep the bushes clean.

PRUNING: Pruning or lack of it affects the vigor of the rose. A westerner or southerner following an easterner's short-pruning method is committing rose suicide. Short pruning--cutting back the canes to within four or five buds above the ground--works fine in areas where much of the top growth is winter killed. In warmer climates such drastic pruning is disastrous, because with a prolonged growing season (months longer than in the North) the plants need as much top growth as possible in order to remain vigorous. But even in warm areas pruning is needed for it encourages new growth and it is only on new growth that flowers appear. I simply cut off all growth which is thinner than a lead pencil and any dead or diseased canes. If the plants begin to look top heavy--without leaves or branches at the base--I encourage new growth from the base by cutting off some of the very oldest canes way down close to the ground.

It's the varieties you choose and the way you care for them that spells success with roses. Pruning, spraying, watering, and proper planting all add up to good results. It takes longer to tell about each of these jobs than it does to do them. If you are a beginner gardener, the care of roses as outlined here may seem formidable--hardly worth the effort that appears to be involved. The truth is, they are as easy to grow as most other garden flowers.

(Morton Binder is a landscape architect and garden writer. He was formerly Associate Editor of Pacific Rose Society Magazine and an instructor in commercial floriculture at the Los Angeles Pierce College.)

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS ON RAISING DAYLILIES

By Ruth Peirce Merry

Set out daylily plants this summer and fall in a sunny or semishaded spot. Turn over the soil to the depth of a garden spade or fork and work in a liberal amount of compost or peatmoss. Ground limestone will sweeten the soil if it is very acid. Sprinkle a complete plant food over the soil and rake the planting area level. Delay planting in freshly dug soil until it has time to settle which usually takes about a week.

Make a large hole for each plant and spread its roots carefully. Cover the crown of the plant (point where leaves and roots are joined) with 1 to 2 inches of soil. Fill soil around the roots, firm it down, and soak well. Groups of three plants spaced 12 to 18 inches apart usually look best. Leave about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet between each group.

In the North mulch the plants after the ground freezes in fall. Hay, straw, or oak leaves may be used. In spring remove the mulch from the plants or if you wish, redistribute it between the plants to conserve moisture and help keep down weeds during the summer.

As soon as flower buds appear next spring, water the daylilies well each week. Fertilizer may be sprinkled around them and watered in. Thrips may damage flower buds, but are easily controlled by spraying with malathion and DDT. Rarely are daylilies troubled by insects or disease.

END

Last meeting was "Bring your problem night" and all of us got some of our problems settled. It is wonderful what experiences a dozen gardeners, who love to garden, have had. If you were not present you missed a real information program.

A report on the National Convention in Asheville was given. Four delegates with three wives attended the sessions on Thursday. At the picnic supper held on the Biltmore Estate, W. O. Ezell, was awarded the certificate of commendation for outstanding leadership in the beautification of the City of Spartanburg. The award was made by the National Chairman of the National Award Committee, Mr. Phil Conrath. Mr. Conrath spoke in high praise for the fine work which Mr. Ezell had performed, not only for Spartanburg but for every city in the United States. Mr. Ezell was then awarded the Bronze Medal, a local club award, the presentation being made by our Secretary, Charles Lea. All agreed that it was a great convention but sorry that so few members availed themselves of the opportunity of attending.

Our next meeting will be held Monday, July 25th, in the Civic Room of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association Building at 7:30 P.M. Both Mr. Ezell and James Culcleasure will be back from a European tour with information and pictures. Our program that night should be full and interesting.

September will be our picnic meeting month. Come out and let us plan a real hum-dinger.

Your Secretary suggests you read the July issue of the Readers Digest for information on what the large cities are doing in City Beautification. I saw the work in New York, and it had changed the entire atmosphere of downtown New York.

Come and cool off under

THE GRAPEVINE

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS - PEONIES

By Virginia Gaerste

Planting time for herbaceous peonies begins about the first of September and continues until the ground freezes in fall. Set the plants (root divisions) you buy from the peony specialists so the eyes (buds) at the top of the roots are about 2 inches below the soil surface. Allow a good 3 feet between plants, for most varieties measure 2 feet or more across when mature. Mulch your new plants with straw or hay after the soil freezes.

Spring and summer care begins with the removal of the winter mulch and the cultivation of the soil around the plants. As you cultivate, work in a handful or so of a complete commercial fertilizer and water it in. Large terminal flower buds soon appear at the ends of the branches. Little buds that form around a large one should be picked off to insure big flowers. Stake up the double-flowered varieties if their heavy blooms bend over. Pick off faded flowers to prevent seeds forming. They rob the plants of strength and look unsightly.

Be sure to cut off wilted stems and leaves if they appear, and spray with fermate, especially in wet weather, as a precaution against disease. Except in the most exposed locations, mulching is not necessary after the first year.

SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
Spartanburg, South Carolina

GARDENETTES

August 1960

Fellow Gardeners:

WHEN TO PLANT CAMELLIAS

By
Dr. Fred J. Nisbet

If you talk to several growers and check more than one reference work on when to plant camellias, you stand a first rate chance of being thoroughly confused. There are some who like spring planting, some who prefer fall. Then there are those who insist that winter is the correct time.

About the only area of general agreement is that summer planting is too risky because of excessive heat and drouth. When circumstances demand it, though, planting can be done even in the summer. Special care, however, is needed if such an operation is to be successful.

There seems to me to be no good reason for all the conflicting claims. Each season has advantages and disadvantages. It is up to you to determine which season best suits your desires and conditions.

Winter planting is not to be recommended for any but the mildest areas. True, the plants are not making growth. But the hazards of cold soil and cold winds more than offset this single plus factor.

With winter and summer out of the way for most of us, where do we stand on the debate of spring vs. fall?

In many areas where hardiness is questionable, spring is the safest season. Early planting, before growth starts, is best. But "canned plants" and those with a generous root ball can be handled later if the plants are given temporary shade and proper watering. Early set plants have the advantage of cool air and generally, good moisture conditions. They also have to put up with cold soil. Root action is slow and the period of establishment is somewhat prolonged.

Spring also has the advantage of fitting in with the annual surge of enthusiasm for planting. Offsetting this is the multiplicity of work that must be done at this time.

Now how about autumn? The work load is less at this time, the soil is warm and generally, at least at the higher elevations in our areas, the moisture in the soil is about at optimum levels. Time for the roots to become established, especially if an adequate mulch is applied, is long. Unless hardiness is questionable there are few disadvantages.

On the whole, then, fall planting has more advantages and fewer disadvantages than any other season. If you plan to plant this fall, get the holes dug now and prepare the soil you will use for backfill. This mix should have a few weeks to age before use.

The formulas for mixing a camellia soil are legion. Perhaps as good as any for a fairly heavy soil would be:

- 1 part good loam
- 1 part humus (compost, peat moss or equivalent)
- 1 part sharp sand

If your soil is less heavy, double the humus. If it is really light, triple humus will strike a good balance. For extremely heavy soils, double or triple the sand.

A five-inch potful of superphosphate can well be dug into the soil at the bottom of the hole. Then add a quart of "rhododendron-Camellia Special" fertilizer to each wheelbarrow load of soil or one four-inch potful of cottonseed meal to each bushel.

Line the hole with this mixture, then when planting time comes you will have most of the work done. After setting the plants, water well and shade them until they are well established.

SHORT NOTES

By

Dr. Fred J. Nisbet

Feed mums with a soluble fertilizer to ensure maximum bloom. If you have it, a 15-30-15 is indicated now, but a 20-20-20 or similar ratio will do nicely. Don't let the plants dry or that too will reduce the bloom.

As the weather becomes cooler and the autumn rains begin, step up your rose spray schedule again to the spring frequency. If you let blackspot get a foothold now it will cause you much trouble next year.

At lower elevations, where fall rains are likely to come considerably later, water all roses thoroughly whenever they are dry.

Finish planting daffodils, Madonna lilies, colchicums and sternbergias.

At higher elevations start planting evergreens now. Be sure that they have enough water until they are firmly established. In the Piedmont this work will begin next month.

Take cuttings of hollies, rhododendrons, arbor-vitae and false-cypresses from now through next month. Later cuttings usually give a lower percentage of rooting and may not become well rooted to survive the winter.

Start bringing in house plants that have summered out of doors.

PLANT ROSES THIS FALL!

By

C. Edward Scofield

Advantages of Fall Planting

Fall-planted roses make better plants and have more blooms the following spring and summer, than do spring-planted roses.

New fibrous roots develop on roses during the winter whenever the soil temperature is over 40 degrees. By spring, fall-planted bushes are well established with extra roots for a fast start.

The plants are in place, with soil well settled around the roots and plenty of moisture from rain and melting snow. Thus plants are ready to start vigorous growth as soon as spring comes.

Spring planting must often be delayed by muddy, cold, wet soil conditions. Valuable weeks of good growing weather may be lost if you wait to plant in spring.

Fall soil is warm and mellow, having stored heat all summer. Autumn planting conditions are usually ideal.

Most rose plants are dug by nurseries in the fall. These plants are better off spending the winter safely tucked into your garden than if they spend the winter in cold storage and then are spring-planted in your garden.

ALL-AMERICA CAMELLIAS
A Pair of Winners
From
FLOWER & GARDEN

For the first time, the All-America Camellia Selections, Inc., are announcing two winners. The camellias of 1961 will be 'King's Ransom' and 'Bonnie Marie,' both pink flowering varieties but of different shades, different forms, and different ancestry.

'King's Ransom' is a pale pink Camellia japonica. Its parentage is not known. It is a product of the Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, S. C., where camellias have been grown in profusion for more than 100 years.

Its blooms average $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches across and have a loose peony form. Growth is faster than for most camellias, and takes an upright form. Leaves are serrated. Both plant and flower have proved to be hardy, as camellias go, and will do equally well in shade or sun. The blooms bear a resemblance to the noted 'Debutante' variety, but it begins blooming about the time 'Debutante' finishes.

'Bonnie Marie' is the result of a cross of a selected hybrid (*C. saluenensis* x *cuspidata*) with the Camellia japonica. The handsome plants are bushy and upright, and like the other winner is rated very hardy. They have bloomed normally after exposure to temperatures of ten degrees above zero, but the AACS suggests giving some protection in areas where winter temperatures go that low or lower.

This second variety was developed in Aptos, Calif., by the James Rare Plant Nursery. In the San Francisco area it blooms from mid-November through April. Flowers are a delicate phlox pink and are borne over the entire plant. Individually they are four or five inches across, and have varying forms starting as semi-doubles in early blossoms and later showing blooms of the anemone form with many petaloids in the center. Flowers come at almost every leaf axil, starting to open from the tips of branches.

The AACS tests new camellias from anyone or anywhere in its extensive trials, and rates as winners only those meeting rigid requirements. There have been four previous varieties to be selected as AACS winners. Last year's variety was 'Sparkling Burgundy.'

We hope you are having a good summer and that we will all be ready to attend our ANNUAL PICNIC in September. The committee in charge is not saying much yet, but from their secretive manner it looks as if they are going to make this year's picnic the best ever, so please put the evening of Monday, September 26th, aside for fun and fellowship with your fellow gardeners and the families. Wouldn't it be great if every member of the Club and his family could be present? If that happened I believe that President Jack might consider running for President again. More news of the picnic in the September issue of Gardenettes.

NO MEETING this month. We had one of our best programs of the year in July. Mike Nantz gave us a fine talk on "Mums". He brought the plants with him and showed us how to grow them. Mike knows his "Mums" as he grows them very successfully. He would like for you to come out and see some of his blooms.

Did you see the picture of the City Beautification in the paper and the certificates of commendation given them by the Chairman of the Merchants Bureau Committee, Bob Richardson. The Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg should be proud of their record, as four out of the five recipients are members of our club and I expect the fifth one would be a member if she didn't happen to be a lady. The Club expresses their appreciation for the honor accorded the Committee. This year is on the way and we have bigger and better plans for the City Beautification.

Let us start the fall off to a good start -- meet me at Croft State Park Monday, September 26th, and bring a prospective member.

See you under

THE GRAPEVINE

SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
Spartanburg, South Carolina

GARDENETTES

September 1960

Fellow Gardeners:

The BIG DAY is just around the corner, - The Annual Family Picnic for the Men's Garden Club, - the time when all of us, the absentees and the regulars, can come together with the families and have fun and fellowship together one time in the year.

Dinner will be served promptly at 7 o'clock, and for our program colored pictures of European Parks and Gardens. Mr. W. O. Ezell has agreed to show some of his pictures taken in Europe this summer, also some local pictures in Spartanburg. They are well worth coming to see, even without dinner. So let's have the best attendance we have ever had. Put the date down on your calendar right now.

Be sure and mail the card you received through the mail advising of the number you will have present. This would be a good opportunity to invite a prospective member and his wife.

Fall season is now upon us. Arrange to be at the meetings throughout the fall. Only three more meetings this year. Surely you can make these. We are missing your presence and fellowship.

PORTULACA

Little Flower that Loves Heat

Portulaca, the catalogs call it, but our grandmothers had a much more graphic term for it, rose moss. It does grow like moss, and it flowers like a tiny single full blown rose. Grandmother planted it as regularly every spring as the new corn was seeded, and it filled her garden with sparkling, brilliant color even on the hottest, driest summer day. In fact, the hotter the weather, the more beautifully the rose moss bloomed.

By Catherine Hastings

Rose moss is of the purslane family. There are two species of portulaca which are commonly found in America. The first and most desirable of these is the rose moss, or *P. grandiflora*, which is grown for its extraordinary resistance to unfavorable conditions that often mean death to many other plants. The other portulaca is a common weed, *P. oleracea*, commonly called just "purslane", which has made itself obnoxious in some farming sections. Despite that fact, even this plant has been cultivated in the past as food, the young shoots being used for salads and the older growth for pickling. There is also a winter variety of purslane which has been grown for its value as a pot herb.

However, it was the rose moss which grandmother valued. Whenever her garden developed a spot so hot and dry that nothing else seemed to thrive, she filled it with rose moss. It is in just such a poor spot as this that portulaca grows to best advantage. Therefore it is ideal for rock gardens, for raised flower beds, for urns which seem too dry for other flowers, and for borders where the heat is relentless as it often is in the Midwest.

Rose moss needs little attention. Just plant it and let it grow. Perhaps its persistence is due to the fact that its trailing stems are fleshy and the leaves are unusually thick. The plant absorbs and holds moisture so that it can blossom even after it has been pulled from the ground.

The rose moss, a native of Brazil, is glittering but short-lived. It blooms only during the full heat of the sun and closes its petals at night. Flowers are both double and single, but the percentage of doubles will increase later in the season. Seed strains of the double flowering kind are available. Rose moss will reseed itself. If planted in light soil and given a little attention, it will generally self-sow for years. The flowers from self-seeding are usually single; however, it is so easy to raise from new seed that it is no trouble to replant each year, in case the plant does not self-sow.

Rose moss can be obtained in mixed colors or in different colors of yellow, scarlet, crimson, orange, or rose. It may be sown from the end of April until July. Wait until the ground is warm, for best results. Rose moss should be thinned at least to four inches apart after the seedlings develop four to six leaves. It will not take the moss long to fill the bed completely.

When planting, soak the bed through and through after pulverizing the soil thoroughly. Sprinkle the seeds on top of the soil and firm it lightly with a thin board. It is important to keep the bed moist during the period of germination, but do not wash the seeds away with too much water. Shading the bed with a newspaper or a piece of burlap during the germinating period will protect the tender shoots. After the seedlings appear, a light mulch will protect these young plants from the heat.

Curled among the rocks of a rock garden, rose moss is an entrancing bit of color every bit as brilliant as one of grandmother's own patch-work quilts. The base of an outdoor lamp post may be filled with rose moss quite effectively, and a border along a brick-paved driveway is very attractive, too. There are many flower and color combinations which may be worked out for rose moss. Scarlet portulaca bordering a bed of white petunias is an eye-catching bit of color. Another beautiful combination is scarlet verbena combined with white portulaca. In fact, the possible combinations are too numerous to name them all. Select colors as though you were going to paint a picture, plant the seeds confidently, and let nature do the rest. Rose moss will not fail you!

From July POPULAR GARDENING:

HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR DAYLILIES

Although they grow and flower beautifully in spite of adversity, daylilies deserve to be carefully planted and thoughtfully tended. Planting techniques are shown in the photographs below, and here are additional tips to help you get your daylilies off to a good start and keep them in top form at all times.

PLANTING TIME: Spring through fall -- everywhere.

LOCATION: They like full sun or at least half a day of sunlight. It is true that they usually thrive in dappled shade, but they are disappointing in dense shade cast by a building.

SOIL: Daylilies do equally well in clay or sandy soils as long as there is plenty of humus. But, they need good drainage, especially during the winter. Prior to planting, spread a 2-inch layer of compost or other organic material over the soil and dig it in at least the depth of a spade or garden fork.

FERTILIZER: Sprinkle a cupful of balanced fertilizer, like 5-10-5 or 4-12-4, over each square yard of planting area and mix it into the soil before planting. From then on little fertilizer is needed for the year. For good flower color never use a high-nitrogen fertilizer.

WATERING: Soak plants immediately after planting and continue to water every few days until new growth begins to appear. For maximum floral beauty make it a point to water

each week from the time flower stalks appear until the last flower has passed.

MULCHING: Grass clippings, straw, or other mulching materials can be spread between plants to conserve moisture and prevent weeds. It is not essential, however. With established plantings, a winter mulch is not necessary except for evergreen varieties, which in the North benefit from a covering of straw or excelsior after the first heavy freeze.

SPRAYING: Daylilies are rarely attacked by insects or disease. Flower thrips occasionally spoil margins of flowers and leaves. Weekly spraying with lindane, malathion, or dieldrin is a recommended control.

REPLANTING: Vigorous varieties can be lifted and divided every three or four years—an inexpensive way to increase the size of your daylily plantings. Less vigorous ones may be left in place much longer.

MISCELLANEOUS: For appearance' sake cut off and discard dry flower stems after they have finished blooming. Remove leaves each fall after they dry.

From July **POPULAR GARDENING:**

HOW TO PLANT AND CARE FOR IRIS

The truth is that tall bearded iris are very easy to grow and are almost foolproof. And the planting techniques for iris are quite similar to those for daylilies, although the iris are a little bit more exacting in their requirements.

PLANTING TIME: July, August, September--everywhere; and October, too, in the warmer parts of the country.

LOCATION: Tall bearded iris must have at least five hours of full sun each day. They will not thrive in the shade.

SOIL: Reasonable fertility, excellent drainage, and a soil with a slightly acid or neutral reaction (use your soil-test kit) are their preferences. Spread a 2-inch layer of compost or pulverized manure over the planting area and work it into the soil to the depth of a spade or garden fork. Rake in ground limestone if your soil is too acid, or ammonium sulphate if too alkaline. Drainage is important. Raise the bed above the surrounding ground level by adding 6 inches of soil to the planting bed before setting the iris out. This will ensure the runoff of water.

FERTILIZER: A cupful of bonemeal worked into the bottom of each planting hole will give the plants the food they need for the first year or so. Then after the plants have bloomed and again each spring, sprinkle a handful of complete plant food around, but not on, the rhizomes that show on the surface of the soil. Water fertilizer in. Too much fertilizer, which results in immature, sappy growth, is suspected to be the cause of soft rot in the rhizomes.

WATERING: New plants should be watered immediately after planting. Normal rainfall will usually take care of the water needs of established plants, except in the dry parts of the country. But during a prolonged drought, especially preceding the flowering season, soak the soil once a week with at least an inch of water. This will wet the soil 3 to 5 inches deep and give more lasting benefits than many light sprinklings.

MULCHING: No mulch is necessary except for the first winter when you may place straw or oak leaves, which do not pack into a soggy mass, over the young plants to prevent heaving out of the soil.

SPRAYING: Borers are a problem in some areas. Play it safe by spraying the leaves each spring, when they reach 6 inches in height, with DDT at seven- to ten-day intervals until flower spikes appear. Mix a fungicide like zineb or ferbam with the DDT as a safeguard against diseases.

REPLANTING: Lift, divide, and replant the rhizomes every three or four years to avoid crowding which causes sickly growth and poor quality flowers.

MISCELLANEOUS: Cut off flower stalks after flowering. If the leaves yellow in mid-summer, cut off the discolored parts. Gently pull off and destroy dried leaves each fall.

SHOULD I DUST OR SPRAY?

By

Dr. Fred J. Hisbet

A "Hardy Perennial" question in gardening circles is simply "Should I dust or should I spray my plants?" The only logical answer to this question is "It all depends."

It depends upon what you want to accomplish, how many plants you have, how tight your budget is and how much time and interest you give your plants.

If we take these factors one at a time, you can soon answer the question for yourself. After all, that is what you are after as any answer tailored for the "general gardening public" may not fit your situation at all.

First, what are you after? Do you want the finest possible protection for your plants, regardless of effort and other considerations? Some gardeners want such conditions on general principles. Others want them because they want to enter their blooms in competition and are satisfied with nothing less.

In such a case, spraying is your answer. Time after time, qualified research workers have proved that most nearly perfect control of troubles (note the precise wording which a scientist will demand) is to be gained through spraying rather than dusting.

If, on the other hand, you can be satisfied with a reasonably good condition of your plants (better than 90 per cent control), so that the overall effect is good, you can save time and effort by dusting.

Where only a few plants are involved, dusting is very handy. A loaded dust gun can be picked up and a few dozen plants protected in the matter of minutes. With spraying it takes almost as long to mix a pint of spray as it does five gallons. Then too, sprayers must be cleaned after every use while a partly filled duster is just put on the shelf until it is needed again.

At the amateur level of gardening, spraying is cheaper than dusting. Where just a few plants are involved, however, the savings in dollars hardly justifies the added labor time. If your plantings are extensive the savings may be appreciable.

Whether you spray or dust it is important to cover both sides of all foliage. I feel that this is generally easier to do by spraying. Spraying is also more thorough under windy conditions. With well designed equipment, however, a good job can be done either way.

Dusting is fine for protecting a few plants quickly. Good control of many troubles is possible with modern dusts, either custom mixed (not an easy or a pleasant task) or with "multi-purpose" dusts.

Spraying is cheaper, especially where large numbers of plants are involved, gives better control and mixes are readily changed to fit any particular need. The "get-ready and cleaning up" time is irksome where small plantings are concerned. Also the physical work of carrying large amounts of liquids and keeping the tank pressure sufficiently high for fine "atomization" of the spray is not to be overlooked. Ladies, especially, should ponder this point, particularly where large plantings are involved.

My own solution to the problem, as I have fairly extensive plantings, no excess money and not much more time, is to compromise. I spray on a regular basis. Then when unexpected troubles show up or rains make necessary extra applications of protective materials, I dust to save time.

By going over the above, you should be able to come up with an equally satisfactory solution for your garden, tailored to your own needs.

Will be looking for you around the festive table, and under the

SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
Spartanburg, South Carolina

GARDENETTES

November 1960

Fellow Gardeners:

From the looks of my garden this week Winter is just around the corner. In fact, from the looks of the roses and other plants I have a feeling that he slipped into the garden last week and breathed his hoary breath around promiscuously. Well, that is the nemesis of all gardeners in the Piedmont Section!

We have real treat for you at the next meeting, Monday, November 28, 1960, at the First Federal Building & Loan Association Building. Dr. Wardlaw Hammond is going to tell us about Bulbs, a seasonal subject. Don't forget the day and time.

We will discuss that Important Message mentioned in the October issue of Gardenettes. We had a full program last meeting that we decided to postpone the decision until the November meeting. Please look up that issue, reread the message and come prepared to decide on future course. If you were not present last meeting you missed one of the most important meetings of the year. Your Committee had inspected about 50 places of businesses in and around the City and prepared awards of Honor and of Honorable Mention. These were awarded at that meeting, Over 30 of the representatives were present to receive them.

Much favorable comment has been received from this meeting, and the suggestion has been received that this recognition be made an annual affair, and a schedule of regular inspection with Judges be set up with prizes for the best grounds. Your presence at our November meeting will help us decide.

The following article from the December issue of Popular Gardening - "Sports" - Non-Conformists of the Plant World, by John James, should be interesting to you who propogate and are interested in Sports:

There is something new under the sun and it may be growing in your garden. It could be an entirely new rose that outperforms Peace, beans that are immune to blight, or a tree with fruit unlike any other tree on earth. This new plant may be entirely different or vary just slightly from others of its kind. But unless you recognize it and take steps to propagate it, it could be lost forever.

As a youngster I came upon a hillside of pink hepaticas. They flowered early each spring, sometimes thrusting their pink stars through the snow. But I did not know that I had discovered a special variety until later in life. When I finally went back to collect specimens of some of the few pink hepaticas in the world, both hillside and hepaticas were gone.

New plants, like the hepaticas I missed, often occur of their own accord, and they are appearing with increased frequency. They are either the result of cross-pollination or, what is more likely, of mutation. If caused by mutation, the new plants are known as sports or mutants--sports being the more commonly used term.

Sports are caused by a change that takes place in the cells of a plant. (We will get to what causes the change in a moment.) As you know, each plant cell contains a great number of diverse hereditary units called genes. These genes are linked together, like strings of tiny beads, into chains that are called chromosomes; and it is the interaction

of these genes that determines the composition and structure of every living thing.

Before a cell divides for growth, each of its genes duplicates itself exactly, and each chromosome thread becomes two--both structurally identical. Then when the cell divides, each of the two resulting cells has sets of chromosomes and genes exactly alike. In this way, a rose stays a rose, a maple tree a maple tree, and, for that matter, a man a man. Not only is the variety of rose, maple, or man kept the same, but also all parts of the individual. It is nature's way of preserving a species that has been created and found to be "good".

However, genes are subject to rare accidents called mutations. Something, somehow, upsets or changes them. A gene which may have been responsible for red flowers suddenly produces a pink one, or a gene which gave rise to leaves with entire margins may, instead, produce leaves with serrated edges. Take the Red Radiance rose. It is a crimson sport of Radiance and is different in color. The floribunda rose Summer Snow is a sport of Climbing Summer Snow. It is different in plant form. Thornless Beauty is a Better Times sport. It differs in being thornless. I am propagating a pink sport of a red floribunda rose, which also has increased fragrance and vigor.

Now for the things that cause the change in the gene that results in a sport. When radiation is absorbed by a gene, mutation occurs at a frequency proportional to the total amount of radiation received. In other words, atom bomb tests which give off radiation might conceivably cause an increase in mutant genes. Possibly, this may explain the recent increase of sports found in gardens. Plant breeders, of course, have produced sports by X-ray radiation for a number of years.

Besides radiation, it has long been known that some organic chemicals, like colchicine, also cause mutations. It is thought, in some circles, that the chemical composition of the soil can also cause mutations, or that the sting of a bee may upset the chemical balance, or that lightning and electrical charges may have some effect in causing genes to change.

Not all mutations result in new plants. Usually, it is only when the mutant cell is located within a bud that it gives rise to an entirely different flower or branch. Whatever the change, the change is hereditary, and seeds produced by such a sport can transmit the new characteristics. However, because it is surer, most sports are propagated by budding or grafting. Since each cell of the branch carries the mutation, a twig or leaf bud can be removed and grafted to another tree of the same species. It will then produce a branch with fruit or flowers identical with those of the sport.

Not all sports have desirable qualities. Some may be entirely worthless. But others, although not satisfactory in themselves, may have a valuable characteristic they can impart to other varieties through cross-pollination. For example, Aberdeen, a chance strawberry seedling, proved completely resistant to strawberry Red Stele disease. So, although it was not itself an acceptable commercial berry, it opened the way to the development, through cross-pollination, of varieties resistant to Red Stele, like Fairland, Pathfinder, Redcrop, Sparkle, Temple and others.

This brings us to the other way in which new plants arise--cross-pollination. Insects, animals, or wind may transfer pollen from one variety of flower to another, just as hybridizers do with a pollen brush. The Elberta peach is an example of the result of natural cross-pollination.

Generally, a cross occurs only between plants of the same species or genus. But occasionally--either naturally or artificially (man-induced)--a cross occurs between plants of different species or even closely allied genera and then an entirely new plant appears.

The offspring of the latter combination are known as bigeneric hybrids. The reason for mentioning them in a discussion of sports is that they are often as spectacular as sports and could be confused with them. I have succeeded in developing a bigeneric hybrid of an African violet (*Saintpaulia*) and Cape primrose (*Streptocarpus*) which I call *Strep-topaulia*.

Professional plant breeders, nurserymen, and commercial growers of flowers and vegetables are always on the lookout for new color breaks, new forms, or more vigorous and disease- or insect-resistant plants, whether sports or interspecific or bigeneric hybrids. So, when you work in your garden, be on the lookout. Your chance of finding a worthwhile new plant is not as slim as you may think. Even if you do not discover and perpetuate the greatest flower in the world, you will find that you will have enjoyed the search. And, if you do come up with a valuable new plant, you might find it quite profitable.

Meet me Monday evening, November 28th, under

THE GRAPEVINE