# News Edition

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# **Honoring Horticulture's Stars**



John L. Creech, has won AHS's highest award for 1989.

## The Liberty Hyde Bailey Award

Some 80 percent of the woody plants now gracing American gardens originated in Japan, estimates John L. Creech. Yet, he laments, most of the plant explorers who brought them here are unknown to the average gardener and are even being forgotten by the horticultural community. Creech himself, however, will not go unsung this year. For his explorations, which have helped to transform the American landscape, he will receive the American Horticultural Society's highest honor, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal. The winner of the Bailey medal must exemplify not mere

hose of us who love the world of plants can express it any number of ways: in careers as plant hunters in exotic lands, garden columnists, or designers; as volunteers who teach inner city children how to raise tomatoes from seed; as facilitators who pull together funds for a botanical garden that thousands can enjoy; as nursery professionals who keep old cultivars alive and support research on new ones.

One of the American Horticultural Society's most joyful tasks is honoring those whose extraordinary love of horticulture and gardening, and energy and creativity in its behalf, has enriched all our lives. The 1989 AHS awards will be presented July 29 at the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

achievement, but both service and a pioneering spirit in the cause of horticulture.

Creech, who appropriately resides on Legendary Lane in Hendersonville, North Carolina, is a former director of the National Arboretum and a worldwide plant explorer for the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Formerly on the faculties of the universities of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maryland, he technically ended his career with a short stint in 1986-87 as interim director of the Western North Carolina Arboretum, a 430-acre regional arboretum that was just being developed in Bent Creek Experimental Forest near Asheville.

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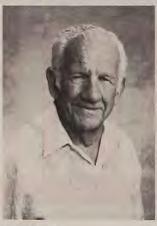
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Joseph Harris



Susan Chambliss Irvine



Ralph W. Bachman

Yet much like Liberty Hyde Bailey himself, Creech's dedication did not end with his retirement. As a member of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, he has helped develop germ plasm storage banks for conserving the genetic resources for U. S. ornamental and crop plants. This fall, he and other international board members signed an agreement to help China launch a similar effort.

Born in a farm community in Rhode Island, he received his bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Rhode Island in 1941. During World War II, as a prisoner of war in a German camp in Poland, he grew greenhouse vegetables to augment his fellow prisoners' diets, for which he was later decorated. He received his master's in horticulture from the University of Massachusetts in 1947, then took a job with the USDA's Office of Plant Exploration. During his explorations of Japan, Nepal, the Soviet Union, and Taiwan he collected native ornamental trees and shrubs whose genetic material has helped strengthen plants in the United States. His plant introductions have included the 'Bradford' ornamental pear, the 'Whitespire' birch, Osmanthus 'Gulftide', Euonymus 'Longwood', Juniperus 'Emerald Sea', Aucuba japonica var. borealis, Lagerstroemia fauriei, and Camellia lutchuensis.

He was director of the National Arboretum from 1973-1980, during which time he helped establish the National Herb Garden and negotiate the presentation of the National Bonsai Collection from Japan during the bicentennial. He was president of the American Horticultural Society in 1954-56.

## The G. B. Gunlogson Award

Joseph Harris says he majored in economics at Princeton University because his alma mater was not "with it" on horticultural matters. After he earned his degree and Phi Beta Kappa key there, and "learned to be highly skeptical of economic predictions," he felt he was still poorly informed about farming and growing things. He returned to the seed company that his grandfather Joseph Harris had founded in 1879 near Rochester, New York, "where some patient associates showed me how to work a hoe and other basics."

Harris quickly grasped "the basics" and during the course of his career helped make substantially improved plants more widely available to home gardeners. AHS's Gunlogson award recognizes technological contributions to home gardening.

After World War II, he expanded Harris Seed's plant breeding of both vegetables and flowers, and worked closely with institutions such as Cornell University to learn the best techniques for producing new cultivars. The Harris company was a pioneer in hybrids of cabbage, carrots, melons, and squash, and also developed new hybrids of petunias, snapdragons, geraniums, marigolds, and impatiens. During his years as its president, from 1949 to 1981, Harris' knowledgeable sales staff strove to provide the home gardener with better varieties and methods of growing vegetables and flowers. In 1967, he served as president of the American Seed Trade Association. He has also been active in All-America Selections, the American Seed Research Foundation, and the New York Seed Improvement Cooperative at Cornell.

## The Catherine H. Sweeney Award

Susan Chambliss Irvine grew up loving the outdoors, and was taught by her parents, John A. and Margaret Sizer Chambliss, that people are responsible for taking care of the world by helping to build and recreate. When the community began to encroach on their home on Lookout Mountain, outside Chattanooga, Tennessee, John Chambliss began buying property at the base of the

mountain, which would become the 300-acre Reflection Riding Arboretum and Wildflower Preserve.

When Chambliss died in 1972, he arranged for income that he hoped would maintain the Riding. (The word "riding" is an English concept denoting an inviting pleasure path.) But legal complexities threatened the continued existence of Reflection Riding, and Susan Irvine took on the task of preserving her parents' gift for the next 15 years. The Sweeney award acknowledges such extraordinary and dedicated efforts in horticulture.

First, she supported the Junior League of Chattanooga in establishing a regional environmental education center adjacent to the park, which as a result now serves 10,000 annually as an outdoor classroom and living laboratory. More recently, she called for a master plan for the preservation and development of the land; helped to enlarge the board and hire a professional horticulturist; broadened fund-raising, education, and public relations activities; and strengthened the relationship with the education center. Says Irvine: "It is a source of great joy to me today to see the wonder and pleasure of the thousands of children who visit and study here now; the walkers and runners who come to exercise while being refreshed by the peace and beauty; the elderly and handicapped persons being driven slowly through in cars; and the many other families and individuals who come for all the reasons that draw people to a beautiful place."

## The Frances Jones Poetker Award

When Ralph W. Bachman visited Europe in the 1960s, he was shocked to observe that every European country had a much higher ratio of flowers per capita than the United States. Deciding that something had to be done in this country to bring more flowers to more people, he opened the first European Flower Market in a Minneapolis food market in 1968. It was an instant success that has been widely copied in similar high-traffic areas around the country. "Flowers and people," he reasons, "are a natural combination." Bachman is the 1989 winner of the Poetker award for contributions to the appreciation of creative floral designs.

His education in gardening and marketing began early, with his family's truck gardening business outside Minneapolis. His grandfather, Henry Bachman Sr., started the business in 1885, growing vegetables under glass so they would be available out of season. In 1927, Bachman's, Inc., made the switch from vegetables to flowers, and during Ralph Bachman's school years, he apprenticed in almost every aspect of the







**Eugene Rothert** 



Lynden B. Miller

floral trade—gardening, truck driving, office work, floral designing, and marketing. After he returned from World War II, he helped establish the first branch store in Edina, Minnesota. In 1949 he was made president of the company, and in 1971 was named chairman of the board.

During the 1950s he played a part in opening the first Dayton-Bachman Flower Show, which has become an annual event that is open free to the public. He has also served on many industry and community boards, including serving as president of Minneapolis Allied Florists, the Minnesota State Florists' Association, and Florists' Transworld Delivery (FTD), the multimillion-dollar, flowers-by-wire organization. He also served on the board of directors of the Society of American Florists, and along with other members of its Research and Development Committee, helped form a Florists' Marketing Council. He also assisted in developing plans to ensure financial support for the Ornamental Plants Section of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1975, he built an extensive garden near his lake home in northern Michigan, which he has opened to the public for 12 years.

## **Communications Award**

When Bob Thomson took over as host of the Public Broadcasting System's "The Victory Garden," he had some gigantic shoes to fill. His predecessor, James Underwood Crockett, an author and accomplished gardener, was practically a legend in horticultural circles. But Thomson has now established himself as an authority in his own right: for 10 years, he has been sharing gardening expertise, offering timely tips and a look at horticultural history through tours of important American gardens.

Prior to becoming a media personality, Thomson established a small gardening emporium in Danvers, Massachusetts, 17 miles north of Boston, in 1958. Then he began providing advice and information on garden-related subjects on Boston radio stations and developed a number of "how-to" brochures on gardening before he was invited by Boston's public television station, WGBH, to head the "Victory Garden" team. Thomson makes some 100 speaking appearances throughout the nation each year, is a director of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and serves on the board of directors of the National Gardening Association. He is author of *The New Victory Garden*, a 1987 book that focuses on vegetable gardening, and is featured on the 1986 *The Victory Garden Vegetable Video*.

## **Horticultural Therapy Award**

Since the Chicago Botanic Garden's horticultural therapy program was started in 1977, it has contracted to set up yearround horticultural programs at more than 60 organizations and facilities that serve the mentally or physically disabled and older adult populations in the Chicago area. Eugene Rothert, the garden's manager of urban horticulture since 1982, was largely responsible for moving the program off of the garden grounds and into the surrounding community. Those in the field say he has helped to make horticultural therapy almost a household word, not only in the Chicago area but throughout the nation. His program serves as a primary source of horticultural therapy information in the Midwest.

Rothert came to the program as a horticultural therapist in 1978, and in 1980 began expanding outreach efforts as a means of perpetuating horticultural training. Ninety percent of the programs initiated since 1980 are still active. Rothert has served as a consultant to other individuals and organizations in the design and creation of barrier-free gardens and horticultural therapy programs, including those at the Denver Botanic Garden's Morrison Horticultural Center; the Cox Arboretum in Dayton, Ohio; and the

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. He has written four books on horticultural therapy for various populations, which have been distributed throughout the United States and to 20 foreign countries.

The therapy program is only one aspect of Rothert's job. He has given hundreds of lectures and demonstrations through its Plantmobile and community garden programs, and has answered thousands of queries through its information service. He has served the American Horticultural Therapy Association in many capacities and is currently a member of its board of directors and its development division director. That association has honored him with its John Walker Community Service and Publications awards.

## **Landscape Design Award**

When she began to restore the remarkable Conservatory Garden in Central Park in 1982, Lynden B. Miller was a studio artist with a deep interest in gardening. Now the director of the garden, Miller sees the transition as a natural one. "What is a garden," she asks, "but a collage?" A student of gardens with one of her own in Sharon, Connecticut, she spent two years studying botany and horticulture at England's Chelsea-Westminster College, during which time she visited at least two gardens a week and photographed them.

Her work on the Conservatory Garden transformed the course of her life. Turning down private commissions, she now defines herself as a "Public Garden Designer," and is being honored by AHS for this commitment of her talent. Her recent work also includes the much-acclaimed 4,000 square feet of formal perennial beds around the pool in Central Park Zoo and the garden design for the Bryant Park Restoration Corporation, behind New York's 42nd Street Library.

Miller has lectured widely on horticulture and art, and her writing has been published in such magazines as the journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, American Nurseryman, and American Horticulturist, and a recent book, The American Gardener, edited by Allen Lacy.

The six-acre Conservatory Garden was first opened to the public in 1937 but had become severely neglected, particularly during New York City's fiscal crisis of the 1960s and 1970s. Major restoration work began in the fall of 1982 when the Rockefeller Center donated funds to help the newly established, nonprofit Central Park Conservancy, which was to restore the park in tandem with the Park Department.

Among her many awards, the one closest to her heart was her 1982 award from the







Jane Campbell Symmes



Gordon Bailey Jr.

East Harlem Community Board, on which she serves, for enhancing life in El Barrio. "People who live in big cities need plants," she says. "They respond to a garden."

## **Urban Beautification Award (Individual)**

The Washington, D.C., landscape design firm of Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden has been credited with radically changing the look of the American garden to an informal, almost windblown look dominated by ornamental grasses and low-maintenance perennials. And the man they credit with giving them the big break that got them on their way is David M. Lilly, vice president for finance and operations at the University of Minnesota until he retired last June.

The winter of 1977 killed many of the yews and magnolias on the grounds of the Federal Reserve Board in downtown Washington. Lilly, one of the governors of the board, was chairing a fine arts commission charged with choosing landscape architects to repair the damage. A gardener himself, Lilly had become bored with the formal, unchanging look of most public gardens, and was impressed with van Sweden's own garden in Georgetown. Lilly had to argue with other commissioners, who saw the look as too informal for such an august institution. Lilly's instinct proved sound: once completed, the wide appeal of the design launched a near-revolution in landscaping.

Before accepting the presidential appointment to the Federal Reserve Board in 1976, Lilly had been chief executive of The Toro Company for 23 years. He had joined the landscape equipment company in 1945 as vice president and general manager. In 1959 he was named president, and in 1968 he became board chairman. He has also served as dean of the School of Management of the University of Minnesota; as trustee and chairman of Carleton College; on the visiting committee to

Harvard's Graduate School of Education; as chairman of the board of overseers of the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth; as trustee of the St. Paul Academy for 17 years, including seven years as secretary and eight as vice president; and as a member of the national governing board of Common Cause.

## **Urban Beautification Award (Institution)**

In 1971, a group of four volunteers began cleaning the broken glass and rusted metal from a three-acre plot near the center of Pasadena, California, that was being used as a dump by surrounding buildings. A fire had destroyed the shrubs and lone tree that once stood there. The group, armed with some money from local garden clubs and hopeful of creating a safe, parklike area, began planting the lot with native California trees and shrubs. If successful, the fledgling Earthside Nature Center would use the land to introduce nearby school children to plants that grew naturally on nearby mountains and hillsides; if money and help gave out, the native plants would survive on their own.

School children raked woodchips. The Pasadena Rotary Club financed a small kiosk, which provided the only shade for the first five years. Fences came from the Flood Control District. A plumber who served on the board offered advice about irrigation. Other help came from scouts, the U.S. Forestry Department, local builders, Sears, the county nature center, landscape nurseries, architectural students, parents, friends, and the adjacent Girls Club of Pasadena.

Today, the alders, oaks, sycamores, and redwoods are 40 feet tall. Large, berry-covered shrubs draw birds, and wildflowers attract butterflies and dragonflies. A pond serves as a home for frogs. Minor maintenance and replanting is done by volunteers, and a yearly open house party brings new friends and contributors. "We

thought it might take 50 years to look like something," recall center volunteers of those first days. "It only took 10. A miracle."

## Commercial Award (Individual)

Jane Campbell Symmes, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, is appreciated by her fellow Southeast gardeners for her continued championing of high quality cultivars that are outstanding in that area, but that have gone out of fashion and are no longer widely available in the trade. Symmes developed an interest in historic houses and gardens while earning her degree in art history at Agnes Scott College. She and her late husband, John Cleves Symmes, founded Cedar Lane Farm, a wholesale nursery in Madison, Georgia.

She served on the first board of trustees of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. As a board member of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, she conceived the 1983 exhibition, "John Abbot in Georgia: The Vision of a Naturalist Artist (1751-ca.1840)." She was named Outstanding Nursery Person in 1982 by the Georgia Nursery Association and has lectured frequently on the restoration of historic houses and gardens.

## **Commercial Award (Institution)**

The four generations of Baileys who have run Bailey Nurseries, Inc., of St. Paul, Minnesota, have recognized that a successful plant business is not an isolated phenomenon, and have contributed generously toward research and education. Partly as a result, a consistent supply of quality, hardy plants is more widely available to northern gardeners.

The nursery was founded in 1907 by J. V. Bailey. Today, his son Gordon acts as chairman of the board, Gordon's sons Gordon Jr. and Rodney are president and secretary, and several of their sons are active in management and production. In its

early years, the business was a combination of fruit and vegetable growing, retail nursery business and landscaping, mail order, and wholesale. In 1957, Bailey Nurseries began concentrating all its efforts on wholesale growing, and in 1977, started an additional growing operation in Oregon that represents 40 percent of its business. Its sales are to retail garden centers, landscapers, landscape contractors, wholesalers, rewholesalers, mail order nurseries, and orchardists throughout the northern half of the United States.

The Bailey's have long had a close relationship with the University of Minnesota. Gordon Sr. endowed a chair in its horticulture department, and the company donated both funds and time toward its landscape arboretum. They have also established horticulture scholarships, both for graduating high school students and others already in college. Their contributions to the industry include not only the cold-tolerant plants that the university's research helps produce, but also improved digging equipment and storage systems for plants. Gordon Bailey Jr. has been active in trade associations, including a new Garden Council, formed by bringing together the Planting Council and Nursery Marketing Council. The new council will promote gardening in America through such activities as National Gardening Month in April.

## **Teaching Award**

The 1989 AHS Teaching Award goes to Brother Edward E. Zamierowski of Dayton, Ohio, for his dedication in bringing his horticultural expertise into the central city there through the University of Dayton's office of Strategies for Responsible Development (SRD).

In 1974, Brother Zamierowski, along with other members of the Marianist order at the



Brother Edward E. Zamierowski



Eleanor (Juty) Pillsbury



Frederick McGourty

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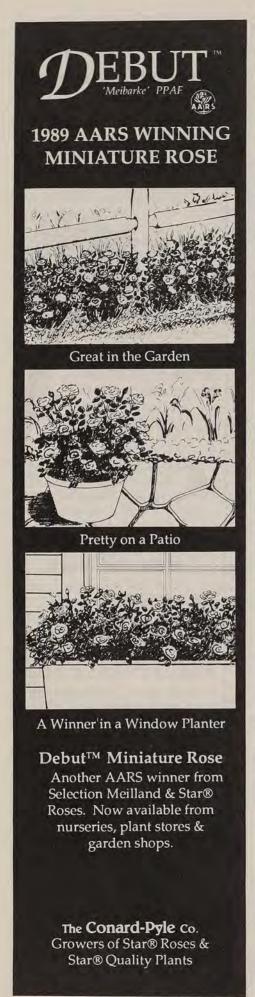
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university, set up development projects in five small villages in Niger, West Africa, that included soil improvement and food production. In 1979, they handed the project over to their field staff and decided to apply their experience closer to home, in low-income Dayton neighborhoods where there were hundreds of vacant lots. Zamierowski's efforts with the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition turned into a year-round, self-sustaining food-producing facility, the Edgemont Solar Garden.

The project was able to lease two and a quarter acres of land from the city for 20 years for only one dollar. The site now has 90 garden plots and three solar greenhouses. The project's long-term goals are to serve local residents as a food and educational resource, to be a focal point for community cooperation, and to become financially self-sufficient. The staff consists almost entirely of volunteers, who earn two pounds of vegetables for every hour they work. The greenhouses make possible not only year-round food production, but also the sale of such cash crops as poinsettias and Easter lilies. In 1985, SRD's establishment of a neighborhood development group led to the formation of a network of community gardens. The city-wide "Grow With Your Neighbors Program," based at the Wegerzyn Horticultural Center in Dayton, today supports 11 gardens in lowincome neighborhoods with only two fulltime staff members.

## **Annual Meeting Horticultural Award**

This award, which recognizes a contribution to the improvement or excellence of horticulture in the host city for the Society's Annual Meeting, goes this year to Eleanor Jerusha Lawler Pillsbury. The widow of John Sargent Pillsbury Sr. of the Pillsbury milling and baking company and known as Juty Pillsbury to her friends, she has been a driving force in a number of civic endeavors, including the symphony, historical society, and numerous charities. Now a centenarian, she has been active in both the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club in Minnesota and in the Garden Club of America.

In 1956, when local gardeners found available land they thought would be ideal for an arboretum but despaired of being able to buy it, Juty Pillsbury took over the fundraising effort that led to the purchase of the first 160 acres of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. She was later a member of its executive committee. In 1983, she received the Regent's Medal from the University of Minnesota, recognizing her for making the arboretum possible. In 1987, on her 100th birthday, she continued her support of the arboretum with a large bequest that will be

used for an exhibition garden of shade trees for urban areas, which has been named in her honor.

## **Writing Award**

In spite of Frederick McGourty's achievements as a writer of books and magazine articles, he says the role he esteems most highly is that of home gardener. At their Hillside Gardens in Norfolk, Connecticut, he and his wife Mary Ann specialize in uncommon perennials, and their display garden has some 20 perennial borders, some of which are featured in his most recent book, *The Perennial Gardener*. With Pamela Harper, he co-authored *Perennials: How to Select, Grow and Enjoy*.

His articles have appeared in most of the major gardening magazines, including American Horticulturist, as well as in The New York Times, Esquire, and Yankee. For 15 years, he served as editor of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook series, writing many of its articles and the "Letter from the Garden" column that appeared in each. He currently writes the "Gardener at Large" column for Flower and Garden.

In 1978 he was the first recipient of AHS's Gunlogson Medal. In 1984, he was the first to receive the Distinguished Educator in Plant Studies from the New York Botanical Garden, and in 1985, he received the prestigious Thomas Roland Medal, awarded by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for exceptional skill in horticulture. He is a fellow of the Garden Writers Association of America, has served as president of the Connecticut Horticultural Society and of the New York Hortus Club, a small group of dedicated horticulturists who meet monthly to discuss the state of the art. He is a member of the planning committee for the Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium.

## Loosestrife Alert

AHS is not filling orders for seed #82 in its January catalog, Lythrum salicaria or purple loosestrife. The wildflower species, introduced to the United States from Europe, is invasive to the extent that it outcompetes and displaces native vegetation, thus destroying the habitats of other wildlife. One pound of its seed contains four million seeds, which can lay dormant for many years. Growers have developed cultivars, such as 'Morden's Pink,' which appear to be, if not sterile, much less invasive.

# **AHS Bulletin Board**

## **A Group of Winners!**

Dr. Thomas G. (Tommy) Amason has been a gardener almost as long as he can remember. His father, an agronomist, propagated camellias as a hobby, and in sixth grade, Tommy tackled his first major propagation project by grafting a pecan scion onto a hickory tree. "We had pecans the first year. It was a 20-foot tree, and I can still remember standing on a ladder to pick them."



The Amason family on one of their public garden visits.

Amason, of Birmingham, Alabama, was the winner of AHS's recent membership recruitment contest and as a result, he and his wife Yates joined other members on a society-sponsored trip to the Leeward Islands in mid-January.

Amason has been on another AHS trip, to the Virgin Islands in 1986, and thought it was going to be "a once in a lifetime experience" until he won the contest. On that first trip, he not only saw incredible displays of plants and got a "sneak preview" of what Rockefeller family members planned for their spring garden on that exotic island, but had the chance to mingle with other gardeners with a variety of expertise. "Not all of them were botanists or horticulturists, but most of them knew more than I did and it was a great chance to learn from them."

Amason is a pediatrician and a faculty member of the University of Alabama Medical School, but is so well-known locally as a gardener that the Junior League calls him "the plant doctor." That worries him a little, he said. "I hope people won't start thinking that I specialize in treating vegetables." He and his family, which also includes daughter Caroline and son Bert, live only a few blocks from the Birmingham

Botanical Society headquarters, and try to make a garden visit part of every trip. It was on such a trip to Washington 12 years ago that he first came to River Farm and joined AHS. "The trips can get me in trouble, as when we visited Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello and I decided to start a rose garden at my home on Rockyledge Road." He described himself as a "catalog publisher's dream come true" because he dabbles in almost everything. including water lilies, annuals, perennials, bulbs, and the roses, which succeeded in spite of the rocky terrain. Southern Living magazine recently came by to photograph his container garden, which features hibiscuses.

"It's probably trite to say, but gardening is my therapy. My wife says she never worries about the bills, because it keeps me home."

Other winners in our contest:

Second prize: A member who wishes to remain anonymous won a Lutyens Bench, donated by Paul Hawken of Smith & Hawken, Mill Valley, California. The winner is donating the bench to AHS's River Farm.

Third prize: William Wainwright, Visalia, California, won a \$125 gift certificate, donated by Andre Viette Farm and Nursery, Fishersville, Virginia.

Fourth prize: Lana Almstedt, Fullerton, California, won a hand-carved teak squirrel hose guard, donated by Mrs. McGregor's Garden Shop, Arlington, Virginia.

Fifth prizes: Yasmine Green of Long Beach, New Jersey, won a \$50 gift certificate from Andre Viette Farm and Nursery; Karen A. B. Jagoda of Washington, D.C., won a \$50 gift certificate from American Plant Food, of Washington, D.C.; and Mrs. James H. Scott Jr., of Charlottesville, Virginia, won a one-hour consultation by Nancy Watkins Denig of Oehme, van Sweden & Associates, Inc., landscape designers of Washington.

**Sixth prize:** Robert A. Feldmesser of Lambertville, New Jersey, won a gardening book donated by Johnson's Flower and Garden Center of Washington.

Don't forget to plan ahead for the AHS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis/St. Paul July 26-29.



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## **Hear about Roses, IPM**

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, Benjamin F. Homes of the Potomac Rose Society will lecture on "Growing Roses—The National Flower," at AHS's River Farm.

On Saturday, April 8, also at 3 p.m., Theresa Morris, horticulturist at Albemarle Farm in Charlottesville, Virginia, will come to River Farm to speak on the topic of integrated pest management (IPM).

## **Steele Symposium**

A weekend symposium on the work of Fletcher Steele, a landscape designer who took the field from 19th century Beaux Arts formalism to modern design, will be held in Rochester, New York, April 29-30. The symposium, being sponsored by AHS, the Memorial Art Gallery of Rochester, and Allyn's Creek Garden Club of that city, will help to launch an exhibition on Steele's work that will open in the Rochester gallery that same weekend. The Saturday session, which will include lunch, is \$50; the Sunday session is \$40.

## **Additional Seed Donors**

Two donors to our annual Seed Program were inadvertently omitted from the list that appeared in the catalog in our January News Edition. They are: Frosty Hollow Nursery, Langley, Washington; and Jeannine Hensley Risgin, Hanover, Massachusetts.

A number of members and friends donated seed too late to be included in that list. They are: Mrs. F.B. Bowen, Rockville, Maryland; Joy A. Kester, Sacramento, California; Plants by Lea, Hinsdale, Illinois; Mrs. Harlen E. Link, Jasper, Tennessee; Mrs. J.H. Millar, Tourrettes-Sur-Loup, France; North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill; Josephine B. Ruud, Pelican Rapids, Minnesota; Mrs. Douglas Watson, St. Helena, California; and Mrs. Barry L. Wulff, North Windham, Connecticut.

## Our Members Tell Us...

When I read your July News Edition my mouth watered over the beautiful description of plants I'd never heard of in "Versatile Ground Covers." I rushed to my plant books and catalogs only to find that none of the plants that were new to me would grow in the cold of New Hampshire.

It would save much disappointment if you would include hardiness zones in your articles.  $-Joyce\ Wiza$ 

Derry, New Hampshire

Ms. Wiza: We can understand your frustration. However, zone information itself is somewhat controversial, not available for all plants, and may vary among cultivars of a particular plant. We agree that we should strive to make clear whether or not a featured plant is hardy throughout the United States, and if not, provide general information on where it can be grown.

Slugs: Use "traction grit" (a very coarse sand used for icy sidewalks) around plants to be protected in a band about three to four inches wide. So far, this has worked well for me on seedlings.

Phlox mildew: Spray with mixture of one tablespoon baking soda to a quart of warm water. (I wonder if this would also work on lilacs and delphinium?) —Frances Yokana Princeton, New Jersey

Frances Yokana's letter was a response to a previous request for tips from members on how to control slugs and other pests. Our question for our next issue: Do you have a personal "recipe" for compost that seems to help speed the process? Share your ideas with other members by sending a note to: Editor, American Horticulturist News Edition, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308.

## **Board Nominees**

The American Horticultural Society is seeking suggestions from its members for nominees to its Board of Directors. Board members serve three-year terms. New members' terms will begin at the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis/St. Paul, July 26-29. Please provide the following information on the nominee and on yourself, so that we can contact you for more information:

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State	Zip
We must receive	this information by March 14, 1989
	oodhull, Chair, AHS Nominating
We must receive end to: Jean Verity Wo	this information by March 14, 1989

## Clip & Mail ---

# Gardener's Bookshelf

## Landscaping: A Five-Year Plan

The author takes the hand of new property owners just planning a first garden and walks them, in question-answer format, through all the phases of landscaping. Because he believes that successful landscaping involves seeing a property through all its seasons, he begins with a year of property assessment and planning, then advances through composting and plant selection and into garden structures and decorations. He addresses down-toearth concerns like where to put the dog, lists pros and cons of striving for a dream lawn, issues warnings about junk trees (he considers the pink mimosa the ultimate nuisance tree), and includes "do" and "don't" color photos. By Theodore James Jr. Photos by Harry Haralambou. Macmillan Publishing Co., New York. 1988. 258 pages. Publisher's price: hardcover, \$21.63. AHS member price: \$19.50.

## The New Age Herbalist

The shrinking of tropical rain forests has sparked fear that many medicinal plants growing south of the equator may become extinct. But our ancestors knew the practical value of many plants that still grow in our own backyards. This "new age" reference recounts those uses, and others that science is just uncovering. Whether you actually use rue to treat a nervous headache or clean your teeth with sage, or merely like to read things that make you say, "I didn't know that," this book is worth having just for the full-color photos that depict each plant so vividly you can almost smell and taste them. Edited by Richard Mabey. Photography by Philip Dowell. Macmillan



Publishing Co., New York. 1988. 288 pages. Publisher's prices: hardcover, \$31.25; softcover, \$16.95. AHS member prices: hardcover, \$28.15; softcover, \$15.25.

## Flower Drying With A Microwave

This is a little book with one message that should nevertheless be welcomed by anyone who has ever struggled to find the necessary room to dry flowers by conventional methods, then waited impatiently for weeks. Through her own experimentation, the author has found that many types of flowers can be dried in minutes using a standard microwave oven in combination with silica gel, and that the method often results in flowers lasting longer and retaining more color. The book includes a chart of some 200 flowers tested in the microwave, several full-color photos of suggested arrangements, plus other projects the reader can try. By Titia Joosten. Lark Books, Asheville, North Carolina. 1988. 72 pages. Publisher's price: softcover, \$8.95. AHS member price: \$6.90.

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# 1989 Travel/Study Trips for the AHS Gardener

## March 22-29, 1989 Pacific Coast Gardens

Travel along the scenic Pacific coastline from San Diego to San Francisco and visit over twenty gardens and nurseries including such famous sites as the Roman Gardens at the J. Paul Getty Museum; Lotusland, a forty-acre estate known for its cycad collection; and the Hearst Castle garden, five acres of formal gardens, fountains, statues, and rose gardens. Also included are outstanding private gardens.

Sterling Tours, 2707 Congress Street, Suite 1-H, San Diego, CA 92110 (800) 727-4359

## April 13-15, 1989 Historic Gardens of Fredericksburg

Travel back in time to restored Virginia estates and gardens. The original residents of homes on this tour include patriot George Mason; George Washington's mother Mary; Washington's only sister, Betty Lewis; and artist Gari Melchers. You'll also see 300-year-old Muskettoe Point and AHS's own River Farm.

Leonard Haertter Travel Company, 7922 Bonhomme Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105 (800) 942-6666.

## May 9-25, 1989 The Gardens of Coastal Iberia, France, and Britain

Ports of call on this cruise from Lisbon, Portugal, to Folkstone, England, will include Guernsey, the Channel Islands, and New Haven. Experience a most unique program of sightseeing ashore that will include exceptional public and private gardens.

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## June 1-6, 1989 Seaside Gardens of New England

Tour members will visit historic homes and gardens and the secret gardens of Newport, as well as Blithewold Arboretum and other outstanding gardens of New England

Triple A Travel, Polo Center, 700 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI 02840 (401) 847-6393

## July 30-August 7, 1989 Gardens of the Canadian Rockies

Experience the natural wonders of the Canadian Rockies traveling through Calgary, Banff, Jasper, and Edmonton. Visit private homes and gardens; enjoy a varied itinerary that includes alpine picnics, river floats, lake excursions, evening cookouts, and private receptions.

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## August 1-21, 1989 USSR and the Caucasus

Highlights of this special tour to the Soviet Union will include the botanical gardens of Moscow, Kiev, and Leningrad, and alpine plants of the Teberda Nature Preserves on the northern slopes of the Caucasus. The tour will be led by Erastus Corning III, a specialist in travel to the USSR, and accompanied by a botanical expert familiar with its flora.

Corning Tours, Box 431, Albany, NY 12201 (518) 463-2160

# Regional Notes



▶ Elvin McDonald, director of special projects for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, says Northeast gardeners shouldn't be too hasty to remove winter mulches or to cut back plants that may or may not have been winter-killed. Do be ruthless about either reviving or getting rid of any plant that has been sickly for a long time.

Many Northeasterners, for aesthetic or ecological reasons, are plowing up their lawns and replacing them with mosses, edible landscaping, or meadows of selfsowing, self-reliant, interesting plants. Ornamental grasses may be the single mostplanted "new" plant in the Northeast this year, because they offer both visual delights and the sound of rustling grass. But McDonald warns that Japanese blood grass (Imperata cylindrica 'Rubra'), grown for its summer and fall red color, has some drawbacks: it can produce bothersome seedlings that revert to a plain green parent form.

Also of interest is heritage fruit, especially cultivars of apples and pears that are rarely available in supermarkets, and, in what seems a contradiction to the low-care, natural garden movement, such classical touches as trellises, latticework, tailored vines, arbors, pergolas, and pleached trees.

► Chip Tynan, horticulture answering service aide at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, advised against pruning roses until at least April 1, although new, bare-root roses can be planted in late March, as can perennials. There are other tasks to take on in March: prune grapes, fruit trees, dead wood on ornamental trees; plant seeds for cool weather vegetables; clean up the asparagus bed; start tomatoes and peppers indoors. Beans can go in the end of April; tomatoes, not till May 1. However, those who want to be the first in their neighborhood with a ripe tomato may want to try one of the Sub-

Arctic cultivars and the insulating tepees that capture solar heat.

You should not fertilize lawns in the spring, but if you use a pre-emergent crabgrass killer, now is the time. (Do not seed at the same time; wait eight to 10 weeks.) Evergreens, especially Austrian pines, should be checked for diplodia blight. Check new growth for brown spots as it begins to unfold; prune out any diseased shoots and dispose of them, and spray the tree with fungicide.

Another drought is always a possibility. Many homeowners are installing sprinkler systems for their lawns, presenting a risk of fungus problems from overwatering. To conserve water in beds, a number of manufacturers offer landscape fabric as a mulch substitute that keeps down weeds, lets in air and water, and will allegedly last 15 years or more, although it is too new to the market to know if that is the case.

► Lee Taylor, professor and extension specialist at Michigan State University, said that many gardeners in the far north err not by putting plants out too early but, rather, by being too cautious about that last potential frost. Seeds for more than half of home-grown vegetables-including onion, peas, parsley, lettuce, and spinach-can be planted sometime in April or even late March. Sweet corn will take a week or two to germinate, so it is safe to plant seeds of early cultivars in April. You can plant most herbs, and should start asparagus "as soon as you can," he said. The sooner hardy perennials go in, the better they will become established.

Those who start seedlings inside do sometimes get impatient, he said, and then have mature seedlings well before the last frost date. The rule for the area is that the chance of frost is 100 percent May 1 and declines 25 percent each week after.

Taylor advised every home gardener who

hasn't already done so to look into trickle irrigation. Kits make such systems relatively inexpensive to install, and a new type of screw attachment makes the job easier. A little bit of initial hassle pays off in less work and less water use later, whether in the perennial border, along a row of shrubs, or among vegetables.

► Southern California gardeners should remember that plants that do well in that area are drought-tolerant, said David Losgren, head of the plant information department and consulting horticulturist with the Los Angeles Arboretum. Root rot from overwatering is a frequent cause of plant problems; when gardeners see a plant declining, the tendency is to water even more. The arboretum has recently

## **Attend to Those Mums**

Gardeners always have to be thinking ahead. In the fall, most of them plant spring-blooming bulbs; in the spring, they need to remember their fall bloomers. Early spring is the best time for dividing most of them, including chrysanthemums. Mums need to be divided every year to keep the clumps that make up the shoots from becoming too crowded. If that happens, the result is sickly foliage and few flowers.

Pick the strongest-growing of last year's clumps and pull off individual shoots that have good root systems. Avoid the center shoots, which are likely to be harboring crown rot organisms. Additional stem cuttings can be taken in late spring, after about eight or 10 inches of new growth.

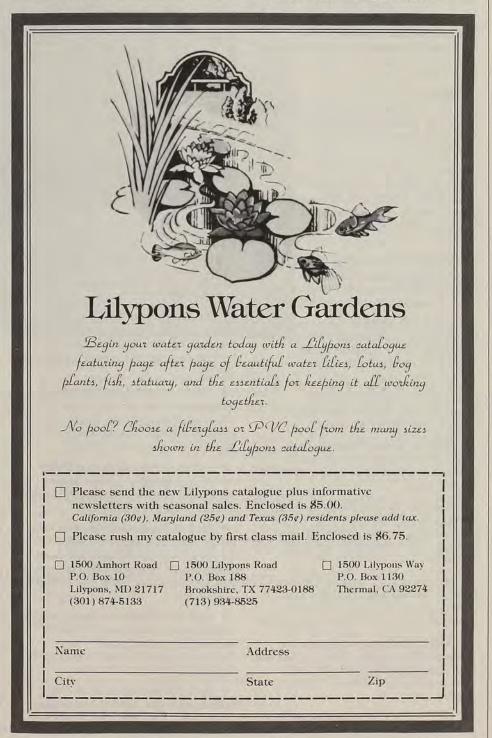
Plant in fertile, well-drained soil where the plant will get sun most of the day. Fill the hole with organic matter and a tablespoon of balanced fertilizer. Lowgrowing, bush mums can be two to two and one-half feet apart; taller ones should be about a foot apart.

To produce heavier bloom, you'll need to keep thinking ahead: Make a note in your gardening diary to begin pinching them back when they are six to eight inches tall. In the North, hardy garden mums and cushion mums that bloom early should be pinched again every two weeks until mid-July; late bloomers can be pinched until about August 1. Southern gardeners can continue pinching these mums well into August.

July 4 is a traditional date to stop pinching large-flowering exhibition mums. For these cultivars, chrysanthemum exhibitors use a much more complicated process known as disbudding, in which the outer buds are removed to force a few remaining central flowers to become larger. established a drought-tolerant demonstration garden, which they plan to saturate to a depth of 18 inches and then not water again for three weeks. The garden contains widely available native Western United States and Mediterranean plants, he said, "and no cactus. Not everybody is into cactus, and you can have a wide variety of plants without it."

Two relatively new pests are of great concern to that area: the Mediterannean white fly, which is partial to the rose, olive, and bean families, has become so numerous that white clouds of them can be seen from the freeway, and insecticides fail to make a lasting dent in the population. They do not pose a serious threat to regularly sprayed roses, but they are a danger to ash trees and to fruit trees in the central valley.

The long-horned eucalyptus borer, which has spread to six Southern California counties from Orange County in the past four years, is more easily thwarted. Gardeners are advised to water their eucalyptus trees deeply at least once a month. The trees protect themselves by drowning the borer larvae in sap, but are not able to do so if drought-stressed.



## Gardener's Dateline

- ► Through March 5. Cleveland Home & Flower Show. Convention Center. Information: Cleveland Home & Flower Show, The Mall Building, Suite 100, 118 St. Clair Ave., N.E., Cleveland, OH 44114, (216) 621-3145.
- ► March 1-5. Annual Flower Show. Civic Garden Centre, Don Mills, Ontario. Information: Garden Club of Toronto, 777 Lawrence Ave. East, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1P2, (416) 447-5218.
- ► March 1-May 31. Spring Visitor Blooming Season. Rhododendron Species Foundation. Information: P.O. Box 3798, Federal Way, WA 98063-3798, (206) 838-4646 in Seattle, (206)927-6960 in Tacoma.
- ► March 4-12. New York Flower Show. Pier 92 at 52nd Street and 12th Avenue, New York. Information: The Horticultural Society of New York, 128 West 58th St., New York, NY 10019, (212) 757-0915.
- ► March 4-12. New England Flower Show. Bayside Exposition Center, 200 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Information: Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 300 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02115, (617) 536-9280.
- ► March 5-12. Philadelphia Flower Show. Philadelphia Civic Center. Information: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 625-8250.
- ► March 8-12. Nashville Flower and Garden Show. Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Information: 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 208, Nashville, TN 37219, (615) 254-5296.
- ► March 10. Annual Garden Symposium. Gunston Hall outside Washington, D.C. Information: Mary Lee Allen, Gunston Hall, Lorton, Virginia 22709, (703) 550-9220.
- ► March 18. Spring Plant Sale. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Information: 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105, (805) 682-4726.
- ► March 18-19. Grand Public Opening Weekend. Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory. Information: Atlanta Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 77246, Atlanta, GA 30357, (404) 976-5859
- ► March 23 and 30. Festival of Houses Glorious Gardens Tour. Charleston, South Carolina. Information: Festival of Houses, 51 Meeting St., Charleston, SC 29401, (803) 722-3405
- ► April 1. Conference on Garden and Landscape Photography. Winterthur, Delaware. Information: Education Division, Winterthur Museum and Gardens, Winterthur, DE 19735, (302) 888-4600.
- April 1-2. Annual Spring Garden Show. New Orleans City Park Botanical Garden.



Opening March 18 in the Atlanta Botanical Garden is the 16,000 square-foot Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory, which boasts three distinct climatic zones and a 50-foot rotunda, above, with a 14-foot waterfall. Its collection includes carnivorous plants, rare palms, endangered ferns, bromeliads, and hundreds of orchids.

Information: Nannette Simmons or Severn Doughty, Louisiana Coperative Extension Service, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, No. 7 Bamboo Road, New Orleans, LA 70124, (504) 486-4054.

- ► April 1, 15, and May 6. Rhododendron Garden Open. Cecil and Molly Smith Garden, 5065 Ray Bell Road, St. Paul, Oregon. Information: Portland Chapter, American Rhododendron Society, (503) 771-8386.
- ► April 9-15. National Garden Week. Nationwide. Information: National Garden Bureau, 1311 Butterfield Rd., Suite 310, Downers Grove, IL 60515, (312) 963-6999.
- ▶ April 13. Garden America: Residential Design in the 20th Century. Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania. Information: Florence Genser, Director, Haverford College Arboretum, 370 Lancaster Ave., Haverford, PA 19041-1392, (215) 896-1101.
- ▶ April 15-18. Wildflower Week. Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center, Nashville. Information: Richard C. Page, Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, Forrest Park Dr., Nashville, TN 37205, (615) 356-3306.
- ► April 16. Menninger Sunbelt Tree Conference. Cypress Gardens, Winter Haven, Florida. Information: MSTC, P.O. Box 6524, Clearwater, FL 34618, (813) 446-3356.

- ► April 19-23. San Francisco Landscape Garden Show. Pier 3 at Fort Mason. Information: McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 221-1310.
- ► April 22. Texas Wildflower Day. Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas. Information: TWU Wildflower Day Committee, P.O. Box 22675, Denton, TX 76204, (817) 898-3326.
- ➤ April 22-30. Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Thirty-three communities throughout the state. Information: The Garden Club of Virginia, 12 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219, (804) 644-7776 or (804) 643-7141.
- ► April 22-23, 28-30, May 5-7. Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. Eight counties. Information: Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 1105A Providence Road, Towson, MD 21204, (301) 821-6933.
- ► April 28-30. Central Coast Garden Show. Monterey County Fairgrounds. Information: P.O. Box 78, Pebble Beach, CA 93953, (408) 372-6565.
- ► May 5-7. Floriade II Flower Show. Banning Residence Museum, Wilmington, California. Information: 401 East M St., Wilmington, CA 90748, (213) 548-7777.
- ► May 5-7. Annual Conference and Trade Show of the Hydroponic Society of America. Airport Holiday Inn, Tucson, Arizona. Information: Gene Brisbon, HSA Executive Director, P.O. Box 6067, Concord, CA 94524, (415) 682-4193.
- ▶ May 5-6. Annual Plant Sale. Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California. Information: Strybing Arboretum Society of Golden Gate Park, Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA 94122, (415) 661-1316.
- ► May 5-7. Annual Landon Azalea Garden Festival and Antiques Show. Bethesda, Maryland. Information: Landon Azalea Garden Festival, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817, (301) 320-3200.

## River Farm Spring Plant Sale on May 7

The American Horticultural Society's Spring Plant Sale will be held on Sunday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Society's River Farm headquarters south of Alexandria, Virginia. A special emphasis of this year's sale will be unusual, quality plants from area nurseries. Representatives of many plant societies will be on hand with plants and information.

# 43rd Williamsburg GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

## April 9-12, 1989

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Topping it all off will be an optional three-day post-Symposium trip, April 13-15, to private and public gardens on Virginia's Northern Neck arranged for the Symposium by the American Horticultural Society.

Speakers in order of appearance are:

Marlene Holwadel, Cincinnati, Ohio, Park Commission, "Cincinnati's Gardens: People Make the Difference"

Allen Lacy, Linwood, New Jersey, garden writer, "A Gardener's Winter Dream"



M. Kent Brinkley, Colonial Williamsburg landscape architect, and Marley Brown III, Colonial Williamsburg director of archaeological research, "Lessons from Colonial Williamsburg Gardens: Recreating the Shields Tavern Gardens" Polly Pierce, trustee and past president of the New England Wildflower Society, "Great American Gardens: Garden in the Woods"

David Leach, Madison, Ohio, plant hybridizer, "Tomorrow's Rhododendrons"

J.C. Raulston, director of the North Carolina

State Arboretum in Raleigh, "Gardens for the Forgotten Season"

Harold H. Cooke, Runnemede, New Jersey, flower arranger and florist, "Flower Arranging in the American Style"

Don Shadow, Winchester, Tennessee, nurseryman, "New and Unusual Plants for the Spring Garden"

Cherie Kluesing, Boston, Massachusetts, landscape architect, "The Changing Image of Sculpture in the Garden"

Russell Morash, creator and executive producer of the weekly PBS television program, Victory Garden, on the fascinating story of Victory Garden and its impact on American gardeners.

Other specialists are Henry Marc Cathey, of the U.S. National Arboretum, Carolyn Marsh Lindsay and Frank L. Robinson of the American Horticultural Society, lecturer and writer Frederick McGourty, and the Colonial Williamsburg Horticultural staff.

Think Spring! Come to Williamsburg for the lovely blossoms and an opportunity to gather helpful hints about all four seasons. For a registration folder, please mail this coupon, or call 1-804-220-7255.

Sponsored by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in conjunction with the American Horticultural Society.

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## Williamsburg Garden Symposium

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# Gardener's Q&A

I had a hibiscus plant outside during the summer and I just brought it in for the winter. It was flowering all summer long (and during the previous winter as well), but now it has stopped flowering. The foliage is healthy, but how can I get my plant to flower again?

-J.P., Locust, New Jersey

A: Hibiscus plants (Hibiscus rosaindoors and outdoors because of their long
period of blooming. Your plant is in good
condition; it just needs a rest from
flowering. These plants can bloom as long as
the weather is warm and they receive
enough sunlight, but eventually they
exhaust themselves and will need a rest.
Your plant has been putting a great deal of
energy towards blooming for almost two
years now; it will need a rest this winter.
Place it in a cool site and decrease the
watering for the next three to four months.

In late spring, increase the watering, temperature, and light and start fertilizing again. Your plant should resume normal growth and flowering. You may want to take it back outside as soon as the weather warms up in the spring.

This past fall, I noticed the vivid orange fruits on a neighbor's persimmon tree, and I was surprised to

discover that it is native to North America. Could you tell me more about this plant and its culture requirements for the landscape?

-M.B., Arlington, Virginia

The common persimmon, Diospyros virginiana, is native to North America and often grows wild along the road and in woods and fields. It can be found in the eastern United States from Connecticut to Florida, and as far west as Kansas, and can be grown in USDA Zones 4 to 9. It has a slender, oval crown and can grow up to 60 feet in height. A deciduous tree, its fall color is yellow and not particularly spectacular, but the fruits that appear after the leaves drop make it a stunning tree. The contrast of orange fruit against the dark bark or against an overcast winter sky creates a striking effect.

It is important to note that the tree is dioecious; there are male and female trees. Although it is not uncommon to find perfect flowers on the trees, you will need a male tree nearby for fruit production. These trees have relatively few pests and diseases; the only problem is picking up the fruit off the ground after they ripen and drop. Persimmon trees prefer full sun and moist, well-drained, sandy soil. There are cultivars and dwarf forms available from nurseries, some with red fall foliage, and some with larger fruit and fewer seeds.

I have a false cypress in my yard that has experienced a strange decline for two seasons in a row. In late summer, the inside leaves turn solid yellow, then brown, and then they either drop off or I remove them because they are dead. Otherwise, it is a healthy, vigorous plant that receives afternoon sun and supplemental watering during the heat of the summer. Do you have any suggestions?

-K.E., Alexandria, Virginia

False cypress plants (*Chamaecyparis* spp.) prefer full sun and a rich, moist, well-drained soil. It seems that your plant is receiving the right conditions. Although this is an evergreen plant, the individual leaves do die after a period of time. It is natural for a false cypress to experience this symptom at the end of summer, but it does help to give the plant adequate water during the summer. If the dieback starts at the tips of the plants, that is another problem altogether. This is phomopsis blight and the symptoms are similar: leaves turn yellow and then brown at the tips of the plants, but there is a gray band at the base of the stem where the site of infection occurs. This is caused by a fungus, so appropriate chemical sprays must be used.

> -Peggy Lytton Assistant Editor, Horticulture



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