#### A Few Words about This Issue . . .

The publication of this issue marks a new beginning for our newsletter. You will note that its name is now American Horticulturist news. This change is prompted, in part, by a feeling among many readers that "News & Views" did not adequately describe the subject matter of the newsletter. A more important consideration, however, was our desire to begin accepting advertising in this publication. By designating this newsletter American Horticulturist news, we were able to "piggyback" on the permit we have with the post office which allows us to accept advertising in our magazine. Our newsletter has now become, in effect, an edition of the magazine.

Because we hope to draw more and more advertisers to this format, we soon will be able to increase the number of pages of the newsletter. providing you with more information about what is going on in the gardening world. All in all, we are excited about the change, and we hope you will be too.

In this issue you also will find a book order insert. All of these titles have been approved by our editorial committee; some have been reviewed by Gil Daniels in past issues of the magazine. The discount prices are enticing, and we hope you will want to consider many of the titles for your own library or as Christmas gifts for gardening friends.

Be sure to send us your order promptly to ensure Christmas delivery and to take advantage of these low prices. Prices will go up for almost all titles on January 1, 1981.

Memberships in the Society make excellent Christmas gifts for gardening friends. If you would like your recipient to receive the December issue of American Horticulturist, please send us your gift order by the first week in November.



#### **River Farm Notes**

Hallelujah, the rains have come! This has been a difficult summer for most of our country, and River Farm was no exception. As this column is being written, we are getting our first rain in almost two months. As if this drought were not enough, for much of that same period both of our wells (our only source of water) were almost completely inoperative due to equipment malfunctions. Makeshift efforts and a lot of work did allow us sufficient water for drinking and for irrigating our primary plantings, but many of our secondary plantings suffered greatly. The most visible damage can be seen in our perennial borders, but there is also noticeable damage to the trees and shrubs, the lawns and our ideas garden.

The perennial borders lack their usual late summer color, and if it were not for the spider plants (Cleome spinosa) and several other hardy varieties, these beds would be very drab indeed. We simply did not have enough water to satisfy the thirsty coleus, geraniums, marigolds,

impatiens, etc. However, fall crocus is beginning to pop up everywhere. and the chrysanthemums and wind flowers are on the verge of blooming, so all is not lost.

Many of our trees and shrubs, especially those that usually herald the coming of cooler temperatures with fantastic displays of color, are this year prematurely browning and dropping their leaves. Among our favorites here at River Farm are the red maples (Acer rubrum), the mockernut hickories (Carya tomentosa), the fringe trees (Chionanthus virginicus), the flowering dogwoods (Cornus florida), the Washington hawthorns (Crataegus phaenopyrum), the ginkgos (Ginkgo biloba), the tulip poplars (Liriodendron tulipifera), the sassafras (Sassafras albidum) and the winged euonymus (Euonymus alata), but their usual extraordinary color is not to be seen this year. Should the rains continue we may still have a fine display, but it is doubtful that it will compare to years gone by

For the last two months our lawns have given the appearance of desert sands; even the weeds had given up, or so we thought until today. Several hours of rain already have shown results. We can see the greening, and we can almost hear the growing. It's a glorious experience.

We had hoped, by this time, to have our ideas garden absolutely brimming with color. Unfortunately, our lack of water made it necessary to keep a portion of our beds unplanted. The ideas garden dahlias have been exquisite, however, and the source of many compliments from our visitors. Also, the All-America Selections vegetable garden has produced guite well, and our iris plantings are healthy and ready for spring. But what could have been, what should have been, will have to wait until next year.

There is much to be thankful for, however. Our roses and, as already mentioned, our dahlias, give us wonderful color. As one visitor commented recently, they are themselves well worth a trip to River Farm. Our drought has been broken, our losses

have not been high, and we are now planting for spring and a new year. Next year will be extraordinary. There will be no droughts and no broken water pumps; there will, instead, be a River Farm bathed in glorious color from early spring to late fall. Of this we are confident, so make plans now for a 1981 visit.

#### 1981 Seed Program Preview

Before we know it, spring will be upon us, so we feel this is quite an appropriate time to make mention of our annual free seed program. Each year we offer a list of seed from which our members may select those varieties they wish to grow in their own homes or back yards.

There will be several changes from previous programs, however, all due to your efforts. If you will recall, last year we solicited your help in evaluating the varieties that we offered; we also asked for ideas and suggestions to help us improve our seed program. Your input has helped us in both areas.

#### AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST

**VOLUME 59-NUMBER 6** 

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Member of Society of National Association Publications Our 1981 program will feature a larger, more diverse selection of seed than was offered last year. It will also commence at an earlier date so that seed will be in your hands in ample time for spring planting or transplanting. Thanks to your help, our 1981 seed program should be very exciting.

Remember, this is a free service that we provide for you. Our only goal in this project is to promote horticulture, so when our selection sheets reach you this winter, take advantage of this program and experience the joy of growing plants from seed. Even if you don't have room for any more plants, perhaps a friend or relative does. Be sure to join us in the fun, and look for our seed mailing packet after the first of the year.

## Put These Dates on Your Calendar . . .

The Society is sponsoring several tours and other events which you should keep in mind when planning vacations and short excursions dur-

ing the coming year.

Two horticultural tours of special note are our upcoming trips to Baja California and the British Isles. Participants will depart from San Diego March 29, 1981 for their tour of **Baja and the Copper Canyon**, which is said to dwarf our own famed Grand Canyon. The return is scheduled for April 12.

Later in the spring (May 21 - June 2, 1981), members who sign up for our garden cruise are in for a special treat. While experiencing first-class travel the way only a luxury cruise ship can manage (in this case, the MTS Argonaut), participants will tour gardens and other points of interest in the Island World of Great Britain, including England, Scotland, Wales, Scilly, Mull, Iona and Orkney.

In July, AHS will recapture spring during our **Denver Symposium**. Members are invited to enjoy the beauty of a Rocky Mountain alpine spring with the Denver Botanical Garden as our official host. One event already planned is an all-day trip to lovely Estes Park and the Trailbridge Road, with dinner and entertainment at the Lazy B Ranch. Mark the dates July 14-18, 1981 on your calendar and plan to join us.

One final day for members in the

Washington area to remember: Wednesday, December 17, 1980. On this day River Farm will be sponsoring its annual **Christmas Open House**. Plan to join us for refreshments and a tour from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

## AHS Announces Awards for 1980

At the 35th Annual Congress in St. Louis in September, the American Horticultural Society presented awards to six individuals who have furthered the cause of horticulture in this country and who the Society wished to recognize for their efforts. Among the recipients is Dr. Mildred Mathias, who received horticulture's most prestigious annual honor, The Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal.



Dr. Mildred Mathias

Dan Cheathan

Dr. Mathias, Emeritus Professor of Botany, University of California at Los Angeles, is the Executive Director of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta. As Director, she developed the AABGA

#### Errata

An error appeared in the September issue of News and Views. In the article headed "Deaths Attributed to Plant Fatalities Misleading," we perpetuated an error made by the Society of American Florists in their publication. A poisonous plant was incorrectly identified as gypsum weed. The correct common name of this plant is jimson weed, botanically known as Datura stramonium.

North American Diploma in Horticulture.

Presently, she is advisor to the UCLA Extension Office in developing educational programs of horticultural significance. Of special note has been her work on study programs that will lead to certificates in gardening and horticulture, beginning this fall.

Dr. Mathias has published for over 51 years. Among her works is Checklist of Woody Ornamental Plants of California, which is a major reference work in the nursery trade there. She has had 173 works catalogued and is the recipient of at least 15 special awards, among them, the Los Angeles Times Woman of Achievement Award and the Botanical Society of America Merit Award. Dr. Mathias has traveled all over the world on plant collecting trips. She is considered one of two or three of the world's leading experts on the family Umbelliferae. She also has made major botanical contributions to pharmacological research on native medicines and poisons from tropical forest regions of Africa and South America. She has been further honored by having three plants and/or new genera named for her. UCLA's botanical garden is also named in her honor.



Dr. Calvin Lamborn

Dr. Calvin Lamborn of Twin Falls, Idaho is the recipient of the Society's coveted G. B. Gunlogson Medal, awarded for the creative use of new technology to make home gardening more productive and enjoyable. Its sponsor is Mr. G. B. Gunlogson of Racine, Wisconsin.

The medal was awarded this year

to Dr. Lamborn in recognition of his development of the 'Sugar Snap' pea, the most important breakthrough in vegetable breeding in many years.

Dr. Lamborn produced the 'Sugar Snap' pea after noting a chance, one-in-a-million mutation of the garden pea in test plants at the Gallatin Valley Seed Company where he worked. Its pod walls were twice as thick as those of regular peas. He crossed this mutation with good quality, edible snow peas and the 'Sugar Snap' was the result. People Magazine noted in an article last year that the pea has been called "nothing short of sensational" by James Beard.

#### Citations Also Awarded

There are seven citations which may be given by the American Horticultural Society to an individual, firm or institution which has accomplished the unusual without being accorded proper recognition. These accomplishments must be of national significance. It is important to note that no category is filled if it is deemed there is no qualified applicant.

The categories for the citations are: scientific, commercial, professional, amateur, teaching, landscape architecture and horticultural writing. Three citations were awarded this year in the categories of amateur, scientific and teaching.

The Amateur Citation is awarded to non-professionals who have made significant contributions to horticulture.

Mrs. Bowman Elder, chosen to receive the Amateur Citation, is a founding member of the Indianapolis Garden Club. She was awarded the club's first medal of merit for good horticultural practices and ability as a teacher in 1961. She was the recipient of the Zone 10 Garden Club of America Horticultural Award in 1972 for "recognition of her outstanding achievement in the cultivation of orchids, preservation of native wildflowers and devoted service to her fellow members." She was instrumental in saving the greenhouses at the Indianapolis Museum of Art and having them reopened to function as a teaching tool. She was also instrumental in having the museum grounds designated as the Eli Lilly Botanical Gardens, where a permanent collection of orchids was established



The Scientific Citation is presented to an individual who has given, through research, something to horticulture that is immeasurably im-

portant and different.

Mr. Orlando S. Pride, to whom the Society presented its Scientific Citation, was the recipient of the Gold Medal of the American Rhododendron Society for his pioneering work as a plant breeder and for the production of a race of super-hardy evergreen azalea hybrids. He was also the recipient of the highest award of the American Holly Society for his work in producing the Grace Ilex opaca intraspecific cultivars. These are universally acknowledged to be the hardiest American hollies in commerce. In addition, he was named 'Penn State Man of the Year' for his achievements as a plant breeder, landscape architect and efforts to provide, through his nursery, rare plants of quality for the eastern United States.



For his teaching abilities and the influence he has had on the lives of his students, the Society awarded its

Teaching Citation to Robert
H. Rucker, Pro-

fessor Emeritus of Texas A&M University. While with Texas A&M, Dr. Rucker was coach of the university's award-winning intercollegiate flower judging team for 1975 and 1978. Dr. Rucker was also recently honored by the University and its friends upon his retirement with the establishment of a horticultural scholarship in his name.

A registered landscape architect, Dr. Rucker created master plans for nine colleges and universities in the United States including Baylor University. He is also a director of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. and has the distinction of being its longest serving board member. He was the recipient of the Council's Presidential Citation and is a life member of the National Coun-

# TOURS

Upcoming offerings sponsored by The American Horticultural Society

#### Baja, California and Copper Canyon

—includes "the most dramatic train ride in the Western Hemisphere" through Mexico and an area filled with gorges so huge they can swallow four Grand Canyons! Until several years ago this area was inaccessible except by horseback.

March 29-April 12, 1981

#### Garden Cruise of the British Isles on M.T.S. Argonaut

—including stops in England, Scotland, Wales, Scilly, Mull, Iona and Orkney with optional earlier departure to visit London and the famed Chelsea Flower Show.

May 21-June 2, 1981

To request additional details or to make reservations for any of these horticultural explorations, write to Dorothy Sowerby, Tour Coordinator, American Horticultural Society, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

Our 1981 Symposium is scheduled for July 14-18 in Denver, Colorado. Please mark these dates on your calendar and make plans to join other members of the Society in a tour of the Mile-High City and the surrounding Rockies, with special emphasis on alpine gardening and cold-hardy plants. Accommodations will be at the world-famous Brown Palace Hotel.

cil as well as the Texas and Oklahoma State Organizations.



The Meritorious Service Award may be given annually to a member or friend of the Society in order to recognize publicly outstanding and exemplary

service on the part of an individual in support of the Society's programs, services or activities.

It was given this year to the internationally-known independent rose breeder and horticultural consultant. I. Benjamin Williams. Since 1953 he has been active in the American Rose Society as both a director and a consulting rosarian, and in 1975 he produced the All-America Award-Winning Floribunda 'Rose Parade'. In 1968, one of his new hybrid seedlings won the silver medal at the Bagatelle Concours International Rose Trials in Paris and a Certificate of Merit in Rome. He has been very active in organizing new rose societies and in establishing public rose gardens, such as the Rose Gardens at Winterthur. Brookside Botanic Gardens and River Farm, the home of the American Horticultural Society.

His exemplary service to River Farm is evidenced by the fact that he has donated almost 500 rose bushes to the Society and has been its consulting rosarian for many years. Over the past two years, he has been instrumental in designing and establishing three rose gardens and replanting one when it was destroyed by a 1979 storm. In 1980 he was instrumental in having the rose garden at River Farm made an official All-America Selections display garden.

#### Don't Move Without Us

A reminder: please let us know at least four weeks in advance if you will be moving or changing your name. We need this lead time to keep your publications coming without interruption. When sending in a change of address or name, please peel off a current mailing label, or copy the row of numbers as well as your old address onto a card and send them along with your new address. These numbers help us identify

you on our computer files.

Members should note that we have discontinued the practice of issuing new membership cards for each renewal payment and for each change of address. Cards are being mailed out to new members only, so please hold onto the cards you have. They are good as long as your name remains on our membership files, regardless of whether or not your address has changed. If you need a replacement card for one that has been lost, please write to Judy Canady at the Society.

#### **PSDC** News

The Plant Sciences Data Center's newest publication, The Aluminum Plant Label Catalog, is still available. We are happy to report that we received an enthusiastic response from members who read our initial announcement in the September newsletter. This catalog offers over 2,400 permanent aluminum plant labels from a comprehensive library of plant labels provided by PSDC in the past two years. All plant label categories-from plants, roses and bonsai, to greenhouse, nature trail and 1D tags-can be found easily in the catalog by referring to the scientific plant name and common plant name indices. Plant label styles are illustrated for each section of the catalog; they include labels with borders, text and illustrations. Cost and ordering instructions are included in each catalog. The Aluminum Plant Label Catalog may be ordered from the Plant Sciences Data Center for \$4.00, including postage and handling.

PSDC continues to offer other services to the horticultural community, two of which are a membership/subscription service for organizations and societies and the continually expanding Garden Record System for collections of plants in various display gardens.

PSDC's membership/subscription service is a good investment for societies and organizations who wish to install computerized membership files that will generate continually updated membership listings, renewal reminders and labels. Our system can economize on the time and expense of the membership system you may currently employ. We will be happy to provide further information and

cost estimates to interested groups.

The Plant Sciences Data Center also maintains one of the largest and most unusual databanks of living plant resources in gardens and arboreta throughout North America. The Garden Record System is used by botanic gardens and arboreta who wish to record their collections in an internationally accessible scientific documentation system. Gardens interested in obtaining information about establishing a record system or integrating their system with the Garden Record System are encouraged to consult with PSDC.

Please address all correspondence about catalog orders and other services to The Plant Sciences Data Center of the American Horticultural Society, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

## Four New Members to Join Board of Directors

At the Annual Meeting during our recent St. Louis Congress, the Society elected four new members to the Board of Directors. Four incumbents were also reelected.

The new members of the board are Dr. Gerald Barad, R.J. Hutton, Julia W. Rappaport and Mrs. Harry J. Van de Kamp. Incumbents reelected to an additional term were J. Lyle Bayless, Jr., Mrs. Benjamin P. Bole, Jr., Everett Conklin and Mrs. William Wallace Mein, Jr.

Dr. Barad is from Flemington, New Jersey. Although a doctor of medicine, he has maintained a lifelong interest in botanical studies. His special plant interest is the cactus. In 1955

he was active in the founding of the New York Cactus and Succulent Society and was elected as its first president. He is a member in the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study.

R.J. Hutton, of West Grove, Pennsylvania, is President of the Conard-Pyle Company, growers of Star Roses.® A past president of All-America Rose Selections, Inc., he is currently Chairman of the Nursery Marketing Council of the American Association of Nurserymen and is President of the National Association of Plant Patent Owners.

Julia W. Rappaport, from Santa Ana, California, holds a doctorate in education from the University of Southern California. She presently teaches science education in the

#### New All-America Award Winners Announced

The All-America selections for 1981 have been announced, and three new plant varieties, an impatiens, a celosia and a sweet pepper, have



'Blitz' Hybrid

come up with Bronze-Medal honors. 'Blitz', a dwarf, orange-scarlet hybrid impatiens, is the first impatiens to win an All-America medal in the 48-year history of the award. Its brightly colored flowers average 2 to 2½ inches in diameter, have good substance and stand up well against both sun fading and rain damage. The plants, which begin flowering when still quite small, reach a height of 10 to 12 inches at maturity. Their bronzy-green foliage contrasts beautifully against the blossoms. 'Blitz' does well in full sun in

humid climates but will prefer light shade when sunlight and heat are intense. The developer recommends that plants be fed only moderately in order to avoid stimulating excessive growth



'Gypsy' Hybrid

'Gypsy', a sweet, yellow, TMV-resistant hybrid pepper, is a very early, heavily-bearing plant excellent for salads and cooked dishes. The fruit is two- to three-lobed and averages three to four inches in length at maturity. It is wedge shaped, slightly curved and tapers to a blunt end. 'Gypsy's' flesh is sweet with no bitterness and is medium thick and crispy. The fruit is greenish-yellow at early maturity and, when ripe, the peppers are orange-red. The plants are compact, have medium-green foliage and average 18 to 20 inches in height and

14 to 18 inches in spread. Plants in warm, humid climates are somewhat larger. Its exceptional performance in even short season areas where standard peppers are often shy producers will make it a popular selection.



'Apricot Brandy

'Apricot Brandy' is a dwarf plume celosia with an exquisite, apricotorange plume. The plant is an excellent choice for display beds since it is both uniform and symmetrical. At maturity, this variety reaches a height of from 16 to 18 inches and a spread of about 20 inches. The compact plants are resistant to stem rot and damage from wind and rain. Individual plumes, which even fade attractively as they age, are uniform in size and shape and are borne well above the bright-green foliage.

state university system; in 1971 she developed a study program on botany for mentally gifted 6th graders. Ms. Rappaport is a member of the Herb Society of Southern California.

Mrs. Harry J. Van de Kamp, from Pasadena, California, is an active supporter of Descanso Garden, one of three botanical gardens in Los Angeles County. As the garden's building fund chairman, she was responsible for raising over one million dollars for a new education and exhibition building. For her efforts, she was awarded a scroll from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors In addition to her gardening interests, she has been active in community cultural arts programs and was one of the founders of the Pasadena Music Council.

#### New AARS Winners for 1981 Announced

Three new hybrid roses have been selected as the 1981 All-America Rose Selections award winners.

Bing Crosby' is a hybrid tea selected for its consistently fine performance and abundant flowers. Spring flowers are a brilliant medium-ripe persimmon-orange with a slight fluorescent glow. In the fall the flowers turn a deeper color, a pleasant reddish-orange. The blooms are almost always borne on long, straight, single stems, and the heavy petal substance gives each blossom a long life both on the plant and when cut. 'Bing Crosby', which shows above-average disease resistance, is an attractive plant that reaches a height of about five feet, is well branched and compact. The foliage is large leafed, bright green, heavy and waxy.

'Marina' is a floribunda with non-fading coral-orange blooms intensified by both red and gold tones. The flowers are borne in great profusion and are larger than blooms ordinarily found on florabundas. The plant has an attractive growth habit, reaching a height of about five feet, and is well branched and compact. The foliage is large leafed and bright green. In the test gardens 'Marina' has demonstrated an above-average resistance to disease.

'White Lightnin' is a very bushy grandiflora with pure white, ruffled flowers sometimes edged with a light-

pink blush. The long, pointed buds are produced in abundance throughout the growing season and the blooms are of good substance. This rose is blessed with an intense citrus fragrance, unusual in white roses. The plants of 'White Lightnin' are upright and bushy with their many canes clothed in an abundance of glossy, deep-green foliage. The bushes do not attain the height usually associated with grandifloras, but the medium flower size and clustered blooms are definitely grandiflora characteristics. This plant is the first white grandiflora to ever have won an All-America Award in the 41-year history of AARS.

#### **Gather Ye Rosebuds**

The last rosebuds of autumn are the most precious of all because they may be saved for Christmas blooming, advises the American Rose Society in the October issue of *The American Rose*. English gardeners have long practiced a reliable method of keeping rosebuds in an excellent state of preservation long after the first hard frost of winter.

The buds may be picked any time before frost, the later the better, but before picking buds, prepare a box or pan of wet sand about eight inches deep in which to store the buds until blooming. Select only fully developed buds, that is, rosebuds that already show some color stripes between the folded petals. Use a sharp knife to cut the stems, making sure that each cut is long and slanting. Put the rose cuttings in the wet sand with the stems covered almost up to the bud. Then store your box or pan in a cool, dark place. An unheated basement will serve very well, but an old-fashioned cellar with earth walls is better. Be sure to keep the sand wet at all times.

In the winter when you want rose blossoms for special occasions, take the required number of buds out of the sand, make another slanted cut on the stem above the old one and immediately plunge the stem into very hot water (just below the boiling point). Allow the opening buds to remain in this water until it cools.

Many gardeners are able to keep their autumn roses until the middle of February by following this simple method of preservation. In areas where killing frosts come late and rosebuds may be picked in November, it is possible to preserve some of them for Valentine's Day.

#### **AHS Board Members Honored**



Clarence E. Lewis, a former American Horticultural Society board member and Professor Emeritus of Michigan State University, has been awarded

the 1980 Scott Garden and Horticulture Award. This award is given annually to a nationally prominent horticulturist for his or her outstanding contributions toward creating wider public interest in the art and science of gardening. Professor Lewis is the 27th recipient of the award.

Professor Lewis has been widely recognized for his excellence in teaching and contributions toward promoting the appreciation and use of superior landscape plants among his students, nurserymen, landscape architects and the public. As a lecturer his talks are well known for the superior slides he uses to illustrate horticultural subjects. Throughout his career Professor Lewis has written over 500 articles and contributed over 1,800 photographs to national horticultural publications and newspapers.



Everett Conklin, a current AHS Board Member, has been inducted into two Halls of Fame within an elevenmonth period. On Saturday, July 26th of this

year, he was awarded the highest honor in the world of flowers—induction into the Floricultural Hall of Fame. In September 1979 he was awarded membership in the National Foliage Hall of Fame, the highest award in the field of tropical plants and trees. Conklin was given his floricultural award "in grateful recognition of his outstanding contributions to the establishment, advancement and improvement of floriculture in

America." In addition to his book, A Guide to Interior Planting, which is considered an authoritative work by most architects, landscape architects and interior designers, Conklin has authored over 200 articles, is well known as a guest speaker, and as a pioneer flower show producer and interior landscaper.



Dr. Henry M. Cathey, immediate Past President of the American Horticultural Society, has been appointed as the first holder of the D.C. Kip-

linger Chair in Floriculture and as Visiting Professor of Horticulture at The Ohio State University for the academic year 1980/1981.

Dr. Cathey is well known for his research on the effects of light, temperature and growth regulators on the growth of ornamental plants at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florist and Nursery Crops Laboratory. He is also highly regarded

for his lectures and remarkably colorful slide presentations.

The D.C. Kiplinger Chair in Floriculture is unusual in that it has been financed almost exclusively by donations from growers, students, alumni and other interested groups in Ohio.

#### International Horticultural Congress Announced for 1982

Scientists engaged in horticultural research are invited to attend the 21st Congress of the International Society for Horticultural Science August 29 to September 4, 1982 in Hamburg, Germany. The focus of the Congress will be "Horticulture in the Industrial Society," emphasizing aspects such as horticulture near centers of high population density, intensive production, interaction with other branches of the economy and efforts made towards creating and maintaining a sound environment.

For more information on the Congress, contact: Congress Secretariat, 21st International Horticultural Congress, Hamburg Messe Und, Congress GMBH, Congress-Organization, Post-

fach 30, 23 60, D-2000 Hamburg 36, Fed. Rep. of Germany.

## New Source of Nitrogen for Plants

The September/October, 1980 issue of *The Gardener*, published by The Men's Garden Club of America, reports the discovery of a new, innovative use for a classic household product. Unflavored gelatine can be an excellent source of nitrogen for nourishing house plants. According to research findings released by Knox Gelatine, Inc., when given to plants on a regular basis, Knox Unflavored Gelatine will make plants greener, fuller and healthier.

To apply, dissolve an envelope of unflavored gelatine in one cup of hot tap water and then add three cups of cold water. Use this mixture once a month as part of your normal watering/feeding schedule. The gelatine gradually releases nitrogen into the potting medium and thus functions as a time-release source of the nutrient, making it more difficult to damage house plants by over application.

## AMERICAN LORTICULTURIST



How does your garden grow? American Horticulturist is not only filled with beautiful pictures, but also with helpful gardening information which you will want to refer back to time and time again.

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## **ALENDAR**



#### **NOVEMBER 1**

Camellia Society of Potomac Valley Fall Camellia Show U.S. National Arboretum Washington, D.C.

#### **NOVEMBER 7-9**

Gourd Display Belden Village Canton, Ohio

#### **NOVEMBER 8-9**

"Orchids and All That Jazz" New Orleans Hyatt Regency "Poydras Mall"

1250 Loyola Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana For Information write: Richard Lutri 1919 South Carrollton Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118 Or call: (504) 886-2196

#### **NOVEMBER 13-16**

National Chrysanthemum Society 37th Annual Show and Meeting Phoenix, Arizona

#### **NOVEMBER 19-23**

American Camellia Society Fall Meeting Charleston, South Carolina

#### **NOVEMBER 20-21**

Conference on Rural Producer Cooperatives Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service University of Massachusetts Amherst, Massachusetts For more information write: Cooperatives 104 Hasbrouck Building University of Massachusetts Amherst, Massachusetts 01003 Or call: (413) 549-4970 ext. 133

#### **NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 1**

Heritage Christmas Flower Show Cape Cod Horticultural Study Group Round Barn Sandwich, Massachusetts For information call: (617) 888-3300

#### **DECEMBER 6-7**

Fairchild Tropical Garden Ramble Horticultural and Gardening Fair Fairchild Tropical Garden 10901 Old Cutler Road Miami, Florida 33156

#### **DECEMBER 17**

AHS Christmas Open House 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. American Horticultural Society River Farm Alexandria, Virginia For information call: (703) 768-5700

If your horticultural club or association is planning an event that may be of interest to our national audience, please send us information concerning the nature of the meeting, the dates, times and location at least three months prior to the time the meeting will take place. We will be happy to include it in our Calendar unless space limitations prevent us from doing

#### Two New Plants Listed as Endangered

Two rare Texas plants threatened by the possible destruction of their native habitats have been proposed by the Service for listing as Endangered species (F.R. 6/18/80).

Spiranthes parksii, the Navasota ladies' tresses, is possibly North America's rarest orchid. The plant was first collected in 1945 but later thought extinct until it was rediscovered in 1978. Subsequent searches resulted in the location of a second population of the orchid in Brazos County, Texas. By 1979 only nine plants could be located at both sites.

Due to its limited occurrence and extraordinary distinctiveness, the species is extremely vulnerable to extinction due to habitat destruction and collecting. One of the two known populations occurs adjacent to an urban area where land development is inevitable. The other population is located on ranch land which is now used for deer hunting. (Any change in land management practices at this second site could destroy the few remaining individuals.)

Callirhoe scabriuscula, the Texas poppy-mallow, is confined to a small area of deep, sandy soil that has been blown from alluvial deposits along the Colorado River. This member of the mallow family is an erect perennial herb bearing wine-purple petals in an open cup. It averages from two to four feet in height. Because of the plant's erect habit, grazing and associated trampling have seriously reduced plant populations in some areas. These problems also have caused a marked reduction in plant vigor among the remaining individuals. Cultivation, rural development and road construction also have reduced the size and range of remaining populations, all of which occur on private land where they are vulnerable to habitat alteration and collection. Sand mining poses an imminent threat to all existing populations within their habitat in only one Texas county.

The Service has determined that the designation of Critical Habitat is not prudent at this time. Publication of descriptive maps outlining such habitats would make both of these rare plants even more vulnerable to collection.—Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, July 1980



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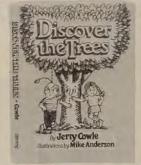
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## Alternative for Petroleum-Based Fertilizer Developed

A high school student from Fairview Park, Ohio, Elisabeth Bryenton, has developed an algal innoculant which will provide plants with as much nitrogen as do the synthetic petroleum-based fertilizers so widely used today. Bryenton, now a sophomore at Princeton University, developed her algal fertilizer as her high school science project.

In addition to winning the grand award at the 1979 International Science and Engineering Fair, Bryenton has received recognition from the Army, Air Force, Department of Agriculture and General Motors. The morning after her high school graduation she was awakened by a phone call from the Pentagon inviting her to a luncheon in Washington with the Secretary of the Army and possibly President Carter. A number of governments besides our own have expressed interest in her development. Scientific curiosity and a desire to correct the tremendous waste of energy involved in production of synthetic fertilizers directed Bryenton toward her field of research

The inoculant is made of several strains of blue and blue-green algae that have the ability to fix free nitrogen from the air, which is 78 percent nitrogen, and soil in much the same way as do bacteria working in symbiosis with leguminous plants, thus eliminating the need for large quantities of inorganic nitrate fertilizers.

Bryenton's inoculant can be grown in solar heated vats or in waste hot water such as that produced by nuclear power plants. Virtually no additional energy will be required to manufacture it. While Bryenton has applied for a patent for her product, she continues work on refining the mix and solving some of the details of production and distribution. Commercial manufacture and distribution remains a few years off.

The inoculant is a concentrated mixture of several types of algae, some of which occur naturally in soil and others which will survive in soil but occur commonly in water. These algae make nitrogen available in two ways. Some absorb nitrites, which are not usable by most plants, and excrete nitrates, a plant usable form of nitrogen, as a normal part of their life cycle. Other algae in the mixture

have life cycles as short as 24 hours and make nitrogen available as they die and decompose.

When the inoculant is available commercially it will probably be distributed in a liquid concentrate form. The user will dilute it with water and

apply it directly to the soil. It stores well and can be kept in plastic jars. The cost of Bryenton's fertilizer should be less than commercial fertilizer currently available, since the production process is much cheaper. — Gardens For All, News, Autumn'80

#### Lawn Weeds: Problems or Only Symptom?

Before routinely spraying your lawn this autumn for weeds you expect to see appear in the spring, remember that they may be only a symptom of your lawn problem and not the problem itself. R. C. Newman, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin, has compiled a list of common lawn weeds and the environmental conditions under which they occur. In his report, summarized by the Wooster, Ohio Area Extension Service in the August issue of O.S.U. Area Nursery and Garden Newsletter, Newman points out that many species of weeds, for example dandelions and quackgrass, occur under such a wide variety of conditions that no inferences can be drawn about their presence. However, the plants listed below occur so frequently in the conditions described that their presence may give clues to overall lawn problems.

Plant	<b>Environmental Conditions</b>
Annual bluegrass (Poa annua)	Compacted wet soils and/or wet soils and moderate shade.
Knotweed (Polygonum aviculare) (Polygonum erectum) Pineapple weed (Matricaria matricarioides)	Compacted soil such as athletic fields. The three species often grow in association with one another. Knotweed starts to germinate 60 days before the last frosts in spring.
Ground ivy (Glechoma hederacea) Chickweeds (Stellaria media) (Cerastium vulgatum) Violets (Viola spp.)	These plants are highly shade tolerant and are frequently associated with shade too dense for any turf grass.
Kochia (Kochia scoparia)	The plant is highly salt tolerant and grows in dry areas on road edges where salt is used for winter ice control.
Rough bluegrass (Poa trivialis) Heal all (Prunella vulgaris) Horsetail (Equisetum arvense) Violets (Viola spp.)	Plants are associated with the combination of shade and moisture or wet shady areas.
Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) Redsorrel (Rumex acetosella) Pusseytoes (Antennaria plantaginifolia)	Plants are associated with very infertile and frequently dry soils such as worn out pasture land.
Prostrate spurge (Euphorbia supina)	The plant is associated with high soil temperatures and hot locations.
Sandbur (Cenchrus pauciflorus) Carpetweed (Mollugo verticillata) Silvery cinquefoil (Potentilla argentea) Mossy stonecrop (Sedum acre)	Infertile, dry and frequently acid soils.
Orange hawkweed (Hieracium aurantiacum Oxeye daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum)	Where the two plants grow in association with each other, soils are infertile and often very acid.
Hoary alyssum (Berteroa incana) Wormwood (Artemisia annua) Winged pigweed (Cycloloma atriplicifolium	Sandy, dry soils.
Yellow nutsedge (Cyperus esculentus)	Grows anywhere once established but more frequent in low, wet soils.
Moss	Indicates nothing, grows on all soils but is most frequently associated with shade and wet conditions.
Short-awn foxtail (Alopecurus aequalis)	Wet, waterlogged soils.

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#### **Leaf Spot Lookalikes**

Dracaenas, pleomeles and cordylines are commonly afflicted with leaf spots which can be caused by both fungi and nutritional disorders. The two most common causes of leaf spot on these plants are a fusarium fungus, Fusarium moniforme, and a phyllosticta leaf spot, Phyllosticta dracaenae. The leaf spots caused by these two organisms are often confused with the damage caused by a nutritional disorder that is due to excessive fluoride in water, potting media or fertilizers. Since diagnosis is the key to giving a plant proper treatment, the following symptoms, which appeared in an article reprinted by the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Missouri, should prove helpful. It should be noted. however, that leaf spots in general can be caused by a number of other problems, most notably, insects and improper watering.

As a general rule, the three types of leaf spot can be distinguished by where the spots first appear on the plant and secondly, by where they appear on the individual leaves. Fusarium leaf spot is characterized by formation of small vellow flecks on the youngest leaves, resulting after spores have washed into the whorl. As the infection develops. spots become reddish-brown and are frequently bordered by a yellow halo. Phyllosticta leaf spot occurs mainly on older leaves. These spots also are reddish-to tan-brown and have a yellow halo. As new growth matures, spots caused by both organisms coalesce on older leaves and can be confused with fluoride damage. Fluoride toxicity can appear almost anywhere on leaves. The first symptom of fluoride toxicity on Dracaena deremensis 'Warneckii' is a small.

light-brown oblong spot in the white band along the margin of the leaf. These spots can enlarge and eventually become necrotic. The symptoms in 'lanet Craig' are necrotic tips bordered by a yellow band, further confusing it with Fusarium leafspot. Chlorophytum, commonly known as the spider or airplane plant, develops spots on leaf margins when exposed to excessive fluoride. At this point it becomes obvious that the history of the problem is essential to an accurate diagnosis. If the symptoms do not clearly indicate which agent is the cause, the most reliable method of identification is isolation of fungi from affected tissue under laboratory conditions. When spots are caused by fluoride toxicity, no primary fungi will be cultured although secondary fungi may be found.

After the cause of the spots is determined, measures can be adopted to control the problem. Fusarium and phyllosticta leaf spots can be controlled through cultural practices such as removal of infected plants, propagating from disease-free plants and restricting overhead watering. If these practices do not control the disease, application of a fungicidal spray may be necessary. It should be noted that cultural practices and chemical sprays will not remove any existing damage, merely prevent the spread of the problem. Fluoride toxicity can be controlled in most cases by eliminating the source of the fluoride using one of three methods: first, by raising and maintaining the soil pH to 6.0 to 6.5. This makes the fluoride chemically unavailable to the plants. Second, by growing susceptible plants in fluoride-free potting medium. Perlite can be a source of fluoride and it should be washed if used. Third, by using low fluoride fertilizers.

## Relative susceptibility of certain plants to Fusarium, Phyllosticta or fluoride leaf spot and damage

Plant	Fluoride	Fusarium	Phyllosticta
Dracaena spp.	severe-slight	severe-slight	severe-slight
Dracaena marginata	slight	severe	no
Dracaena' Massangeana'	moderate	severe	?
Dracaena deremensis	severe	severe	?
Pleomele spp.	?	severe	no
Cordyline spp.	severe	severe slight	severe slight
Cordyline terminalis	severe	moderate	severe

## **European Brown Rot of Fruit Trees Found Here**

A European strain of the brown rot fungus of fruit trees has been found for the first time in an American orchard, according to USDA scientists.

A team led by research botanist Lekh R. Batra identified the European strain, *Monilinia fructigena*, from infected pear trees at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center here. The scientists became suspicious when the fruit showed disease symptoms slightly different from symptoms usually accompanying eastern American brown rot disease, a common malady of United States stone fruit orchards, and caused by *M. fructicola*.

The infected pear trees were destroyed. There is no evidence that the strain has spread.

Fruit scientists here say, however, that growers and researchers should be on the lookout for the new strain. While both strains create mold on infected twigs, blossoms and fruit, the mold caused by the European strain is yellowish-brown, whereas that of the American strain tends to be grayish.

There is no need for growers to take extra precautions at this time, say the scientists. Normal fungicide spraying, they say, will probably control both strains. If you suspect an infection of the new strain, contact your county extension agent immediately. Quarantine records show that *M. fructigena* has been intercepted many times on fruits entering the United States.—*Research News, Science and Education Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture* 

#### What is Nitrogen Drag?

In a reprint from the Ohio State University garden store newsletter, *Growing Points*, published by the University of California Cooperative Extension Services, defines the term nitrogen drag.

The California Service explains: "When decomposable organic matter is added to the soil either as an amendment or mulch, it becomes a food supply for microorganisms. To build their body protein, microorganisms require nitrogen which they get from soluble sources nearby. This puts an increasing population of microorganisms in direct competition with plant roots for available nitrogen. They out-compete the plant roots for nitrogen and that is why there is nitrogen drag; it is a nitrogen deficiency or starvation in plants. It

## Supermarket Tomatoes Can be Ripened at Home

Communication Resources Inc. of Franklin, Wisconsin advises us not to be disappointed by the pale-pink, hard tomatoes that appear in our supermarkets in the winter. While winter tomatoes are picked and shipped before they are ripe, they will fully ripen if treated properly and given the chance, the company asserts.

Winter tomatoes are harvested at a mature green stage, that is, fullsized fruit that has turned from dark

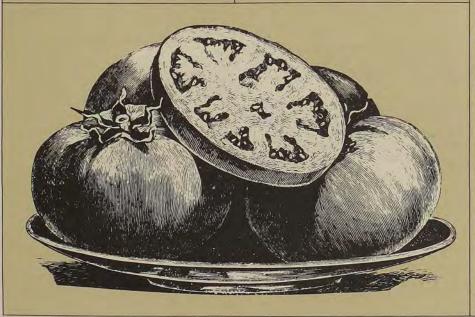
to light green. At this stage the fruit is as large as it will ever get and, in fact, has more Vitamin C than it would if allowed to ripen on the vine. Mature greens are only partially ripened before shipment because fully ripened fruit would arrive in northern markets as boxes of fresh tomato paste. The ripening process can easily be completed at home. Ripening temperatures ideally should be between 65°F and 70°F. Tomatoes redden very slowly below 65°, and below 50° they will go soft without ever turning red at all. This is why unripe fruit should never be placed

in your refrigerator. Humidity levels of 90 percent are ideal.

The easiest way to speed up the final ripening process is to place the fruit in a plastic ripening bowl or a bag that has a half dozen small holes in the sides and store it at the proper temperatures. Sunlight is really not necessary for proper color development.

A final note: Easterners should look for Florida or other domestically grown tomatoes in the produce section of their local market to be sure that the fruit conforms to strict EPA standards regarding pesticide residues. People out West and in the Midwest will probably have to choose between domestic tomatoes and those grown in Mexico. A 1979 report to the Congress by the General Accounting Office shows that 20 percent of the winter vegetables shipped in from Mexico contain residues from nearly 200 pesticides which are either banned in this country or for which no tolerances exist. Because of inadequacies in the FDA's testing procedures, the toxic fruits and vegetables are allowed to go on to markets in this country, so it is wise to ask your grocer where he gets his winter vegetables.

If you would like more information, you can write or phone the Florida Tomato Exchange, Box 29635, Orlando, FL 32814, (305) 894-3071.



persists until a balance is restored."

The California Service suggests four ways in which to combat this problem in your garden:

1. Add additional nitrogen to meet requirements by plants; 1.5-2.0 pounds of nitrogen per 100 pounds of organic matter.

2. Add only moderate amounts of quickly decomposable organic matter which will not cause N-drag.

3. Add only slowly decomposable (large chips) matter in thin layers to avoid rapid decomposition and N-drag.

4. Add only humus, organic matter that is resistant to further decomposition and which is not a readily available good source for microorganisms.

## Winter Survival of Roses with Microfoam

Microfoam, a new product introduced by DuPont for use as a protective packing material for fragile articles, has been successfully tested and used for protecting container-grown nursery plants during winter at various locations in the United States and at the Ottawa Research Station in Canada.

Drs. Calvin Chong and R.L. Desjardins of Agricultural Canada in Ottawa experimented with the product on a more limited basis using roses as the test plant. Roses were wrapped with three or four layers of one-quarter-inch microfoam and then covered with a clear polyethylene sheet. The base of each rose bush was mounded with soil and the outer polyethylene sheet was sprayed with a mixture of white latex paint and water to prevent overheating.

With the arrival of spring and the removal of the protective coverings, the "microfoam" roses appeared superior to those roses left untouched or only mounded. They were also greener in appearance. Growth of plants from this treatment was more vigorous in the spring and fewer plants died. Only 25 percent of the microfoam roses died, as compared with 58 percent of the untreated roses and 42 percent of the roses left uncovered but mounded at the base. Microfoam roses also produced earlier yields of flowers and produced more flowers per plant than nonwrapped rose bushes.



Microfoam is made from polypropylene resin, is waterproof, lightweight, flexible and is available in five-foot-wide rolls up to 200 feet long, depending on thickness.

#### Excessive Flowering in Trees May Be Danger Signal

According to the December newsletter of the Garden Centers of America, excessive flowering in trees can be a symptom of insect injury or other plant health problems. This information comes from Dr. T. D. Sydnor, an ornamental specialist for the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

The newsletter reports that "when a plant begins to flower heavily for several years, a thorough check should be made to determine if it is in need of assistance."

The problem may be borers. In

that case, look for swollen areas on the trunk or large branches. Take steps to control the borer problem but remember that spraying can be harmful at flowering time.

Diseases may also trigger excessive flowering. Cankers are one example, and they must be removed by pruning even if it means cutting off a major portion of the tree.

Environmental factors can cause excessive flowering, too. According to the report, they can range from "failure to remove plastic twine at the time of planting" or "hitting a tree with a lawn mower" to "destruction of the roots."

On the other hand, failure of a tree to flower on occasion is natural and is usually not an indication that the tree has suffered insect or environmental damage.

#### New Award of Garden Merit Announced

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has announced the establishment of a new award, the J. Franklin Styler Award of Garden Merit, the purpose of which is to promote the dissemination of ornamental plants with exceptional garden merit. All plants considered for the award must be hardy in the Mid-Atlantic States and "may be species or cultivars not widely used for ornamental purposes, new developments resulting from selection or breeding, or plants newly introduced to the area from other parts of the USA or from abroad." Any person or organization may submit a plant(s) for consideration. The award is given to the plant and not to the introducer.

In order to ensure adequate consideration and testing for all entries, the award will be given in two stages. The first, Certificate of Preliminary Commendation, will be awarded on the basis of photographs and written entries. The final awards will be made after a plant has been submitted for testing to determine its garden merit. In addition to the period of testing, conducted in botanical gardens, arboreta and private gardens in the Middle-Atlantic, the plant must be registered with the appropriate authority, and proof must be offered that an active program of propagation is under way so that the plant may be distributed. For more information on the award and application forms write: I. Franklin Styler Award. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106

#### **Timber Theft Increasing**

Rising prices for cedar shingles, lumber and firewood have fueled a growing hoard of timber rustlers operating on state and federal lands in the West and, on a smaller scale, in the East, Fortunately, the FBI has joined state and federal forest service officials as a new ally in the field, reports The American Forestry Association in its June issue of American Forests. Timber theft has become a multi-million dollar business each year. Investigators have developed some new techniques to track down the increasingly sophisticated rustlers including "fingerprinting" rustled trees. A tree's growth rings are as individual as human fingerprints. Slabs cut from the top of a stump can be used as fingerprints since the rings and telltale marks of the tools used to cut the tree can be matched to a specific log and used as a solid piece of evidence to convict the culprit. In addition, more traditional pieces of evidence such as footprints and trash left at the scene (beer cans, for instance, can be dusted for the more traditional types of fingerprints) are also being used.

#### Two New Publications Announced

Contributions are being sought for a new publication, Restoration and Management Notes, by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. The publication's first issue is planned for March 1981. It is intended "to encourage exchange of up-to-date information between ecologists, land managers, naturalists, landscape architects, administrators of conservation agencies and programs and others concerned about or responsible for ecologically sound approaches to the preservation and management of natural areas."

Notices, limited to 200 words, may deal with research, field projects. meetings, publications and other matters related to the management of plant and animal communities native



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America. The first issue deadline for contributions is December 31, 1980. For contributions or further information write: Dr. William Jordan, Editor, The University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI 53711.

A new international quarterly, Journal of Garden History, will be launched in early 1981. The journal will publish scholarly work with a main emphasis on the architectural history of garden design. Articles on other topics such as iconography, aesthetics, botany, horticulture and the conservation and restoration of historic gardens also will appear.

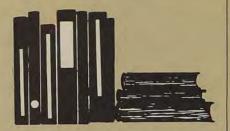
The editor, Professor John Dixon Hunt of Bedford College, University of London, will be pleased to receive either articles for consideration or suggestions for contributions. A substantial portion of the new journal will be devoted to book reviews. The subscription price for one year is \$70 in the United States. Address subscription inquiries to: Journal of Garden History, Taylor & Francis Ltd., Rankine Road, Basingstroke, Hants, RG24 OPR, UK. Editorial correspondence should be sent to the attention of the editor at The Holme, Bedford College, Regent's Park, London, NWI 4NS UK.

## Publications for Gardeners of the Future

While gardening books for adults are available by the barrel-full, teachers, parents and grandparents wishing to instill a love of gardening in a child may have difficulty finding the right book for a young gardener. Consider the following books and publications, compiled from lists published in The Green Scene, January 1980 and Gardens for All, News, Summer 1980, as perfect Christmas gift ideas for gardeners of the future. The books should be available through your local bookstore; the pamphlets are available for free or for a nominal fee from the sources indicated. Growing up Green. Alice Skelsey and Gloria Huckaby. Workman Publishing Co., New York. A softcover book of activities with explanations of Nature's ways, written for adults as a

The Pumpkin People. David and

guide to be used with children ages



Maggie Cavagnaro. Charles Scribners Sons, New York. A small hardcover book with beautiful color photos. Pumpkins, which are raised, carved into jack-o-lanterns and set afloat with candles, return to break up and slowly decompose on the shore. The underlying theme is life's cycle of birth, growth, death and rebirth. A Sierra Club Book. \$8.95.

The Reasons for Seasons: The Great Cosmic Megaglactic Trip without Moving from Your Chair. Linda Allison. Little, Brown, Boston. A book full of projects and ideas explaining the seasons that doesn't require elaborate props. Aimed at children 10-14. The book is illustrated with line drawings.

What's to Eat? U.S. Department of Agriculture. 144-page softcover book that tells the story of food with illustrations, quizes, craft ideas, jokes and recipes. For children ages 9-12. \$4.95. Write to U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The following publications were prepared by the Washington Elementary School, Berkeley, California. They were published by and are available from the Chevron Chemical Company, 575 Market Street, San Francisco. CA.

A Child's Garden. A teacher's workbook for the elementary grades, free to teachers. 50¢ to others. Quantity discounts available.

A Rural School Garden. 25¢.

All about Trees . . . for a More Livable Environment. Free to teachers. 50¢ to others.

Celebration of Life . . . Trees. Free. Growing Ideas Kit #1. For ages 6-12. \$1.00.

Ecological Super Posters (and teaching guide). Set of 6, \$3.00.

A is for Apple. Free.

Of course there are hundreds of other excellent publications available. Such classics as *The Carrot Seed,* Ruth Krauss, Harper & Row, New York, 1945; *Flower Children,* Elizabeth

Gordon, P.F. Volland, New York, 1910; and *The Secret Garden*, Frances Hodgson, Burnett, Dell, New York, 1971, would be excellent additions to any child's library. Remember, these are the gardeners of the future!

#### **Books to Send Away For**

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, in conjunction with the American Rock Garden Society, has issued a new publication, Handbook on Rock Cardening. The new handbook includes articles on preparation of the garden, rock gardening in the sun and shade. using bulbs in the garden, planning for bloom through the season and rock gardening with alpines. The handbook, a well illustrated softcover with 76 pages, is available by mail for \$1.95 plus 65¢ postage and handling. To order, write the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225.

The biography originally published by Cornell University Press in 1956 as Liberty Hyde Bailey, an informal biography, has been reprinted in soft-cover with a new subtitle, a pioneer educator in horticulture. The new edition is available for \$5.95 plus \$1.25 postage and \$.42 sales tax for New York State residents. Send orders to the DeWitt Historical Society, 116 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, NY 14850. Make checks payable to the historical society.

A new, free "how to" booklet is available that offers step by step guidelines on planning your own landscape design to suit your own family's needs. It briefly discusses developing a landscape plan, designing for function in regard to public, family and work areas, as well as landscape plants, considering their size at maturity and when to buy. The booklet also discusses a few newer plant varieties and their uses in the landscape. For your copy send a stamped, self-addressed, business-sized envelope to: Landscape Booklet, The Conard-Pyle Co., Rose Hill Road, West Grove, PA 19390.

The U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs has published an extremely useful, idea filled book, *People Power*, on what communities are doing to fight inflation. The 411-page book has sections on food, housing, energy and health and provides two types of in-

3 to 9, \$4.95

formation. First, People Power gives details on many existing groups, both local and federally created, which provide examples or offer practical assistance in community programs. Secondly the book provides information on organizing, funding and encouraging such groups. Single copies of the book are free. To order, write People Power, U.S. Consumer Information Center, Dept. 682-H, Pueblo, CO 83009.

#### The European Garden Flora— A Manual of Vascular Plants Cultivated in Europe

In spite of the considerable amount of taxonomic activity that has taken place in Europe during the last 30 years, the classification and identification of cultivated plants have received remarkably little attention. This neglect has resulted in confusion over nomenclature and identification within the horticultural trade and a proliferation of popular books on the subject, generally written by nontaxonomists, often inaccurate and containing misleading information. Most of the existing professional works in this field are out-of-date, incomplete or unobtainable. It is clear that there is a large gap to be filled in the literature on cultivated plant taxonomy and also a large potential market for such a work.

Several European botanists and taxonomists are working to do something about this situation. Under the guidance of a select editorial committee, work is now in progress on a nomenclaturally sound and up-to-date flora of plants commercially available or widely grown in Europe. It will include vascular plants cultivated in Europe, out-of-doors or under glass. The total number of species to be included in the Flora may exceed 10,000. Cultivars will not be formally included unless there is good reason in individual cases.

The first volume to be produced will contain Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Monocotyledons.

American botanists, taxonomists and horticulturists who would like more information about this work should write to Dr. J. C. M. Alexander in care of The European Garden Flora, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh EH35LR, Scotland, UK.

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