Spring finds us all busy in our gardens—planting, transplanting, making plans, and tidying up. What better time for AHS to start a new “how-to” column designed to help you make the most of your garden? Turn to page four to read our “Gardener’s Check List.”
“How-to” Hints for May Gardeners

Grow Your Own “Great Pumpkin”

Gardeners who have an interest in pumpkins specifically—and competition in general—should this month begin sowing the seeds that could lead them to produce the world’s largest pumpkin. “Great pumpkin” growers may enter their gigantic squash in this year’s World Pumpkin Weigh-Off, and win not only fame and glory, but also substantially large cash prizes. The Weigh-Off is sponsored by the World Pumpkin Confederation, headquartered in Collins, New York, and will take place in October of this year in nine locations around the world. Last year, Bob Gancarz, grower of the gargantuan winning entry, which weighed in at a whopping 671 pounds, received a total of $4,000 in prizes.

Now that you have all the inspiration and incentive you need, here are a few practical tips from Wayne Hackney, Eastern States Champion Pumpkin Grower, and Peter’s Professional Plant Food:

Begin at the beginning; choose seed with the best genetic potential. The World Pumpkin Confederation has one cultivar available that has proved itself, ‘Dill’s Atlantic Giant’. Start seeds indoors in peat pots filled with sterile potting soil, and keep temperatures at around 80 to 85°F.

Plant seeds one-half inch deep with the pointed end of the seed facing down. A grow light placed six inches away from the seedlings will produce sturdy plants in about 10 days.

Fertilize potted seedlings within the first three weeks of emergence. Fertilizers with high levels of phosphorous, such as a 15-30-15 blend, will help promote healthy root growth. For starting seedlings, use one teaspoon fertilizer per gallon of water at each watering; once in the garden, plants can utilize one to 1½ tablespoons per gallon of water on a weekly basis.

When the third leaf starts to appear, the plants are ready to go outside. Before transplanting, be sure your soil is suitable. Sandy loam with a pH of 6.5 is ideal, but any soil can be conditioned with large amounts of compost, peat moss, and compacted cow manure (not fresh manure—it will burn the plants).

Loosen the soil in a 20-foot circle, to a depth of one foot, before planting. It is helpful to fence the garden with burlap, plastic, or plywood in order to break the wind. You may wish to install an electric fence if animals are a problem.

Pumpkins need plenty of water, but they can make their water last a long time. A deep soaking once every five days, after which water penetrates at least one foot into the soil, is usually enough.

Some special tips for prize-winning pumpkins include making sure the plant is growing in full sunlight, spacing plants 16 to 20 feet apart, picking all pumpkins that develop on the vine except one you have singled out when it reaches the size of a soccer ball, and cutting off roots that grow on the bottom of the vine near the pumpkin (left untrimmed, the roots create a tension that may split the vine as the pumpkin grows).

Further tips on combating pests and diseases may be gleaned from your local Cooperative Extension Agent or directly from the World Pumpkin Confederation, 14050 Gowanda State Road, Collins, NY 14054. And, if after all your hard work your pumpkin appears to be a prizewinner, write to the World Pumpkin Confederation at the above address for further information on entering the World Pumpkin Weigh-Off.
Don’t Prune Oaks May through June

According to D.W. French, a research pathologist for the University of Minnesota’s Agricultural Experiment Station, oak trees should not be pruned during May and June in order to avoid the spread of oak wilt, a devastating fungal disease.

Last year, French reported that “studies during the last 27 years show overland spread of oak wilt by insects occurs only in trees wounded during May and June, specifically from May 15 to June 15.” According to French, fresh wounds are required for overland spread of oak wilt, but if the wounds are immediately painted with a non-toxic tree wound dressing, infection will not occur.

“Although it’s highly unlikely that trees would be inoculated by insects in months other than May and June, we recommend that dressing be used whenever oaks are pruned,” French added.

Oak wilt can also spread from infected oaks to healthy oaks via common root systems at any time during the active season. For more information on this insidious disease, which kills thousands of oak trees annually in Minnesota alone, send a check for $1.50, payable to the University of Minnesota, to Distribution Center, Oak Wilt Information, 3 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, 1420 Eckles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.
with an anti-transpirant. The anti-transpirant should be applied as directed, just before moving day. To avoid root damage, root prune several months before you plan to transplant. Simply spade around the shrub's drip line, making sure the roots are cleanly cut. This procedure will help promote the growth of inner, fibrous roots, which increase nutrient uptake and form a more manageable "ball." Be sure to prune one-third to one-half of the shrub's branches, in order to balance the decreased rate of nutrient and water uptake due to root pruning. When you move the plant, dig about four inches beyond the dripline, where you did your root pruning. This way, you can be sure you've included the new roots the plant has developed. After transplanting, water generously throughout the summer. Apply an anti-transpirant again in two or so months, if needed.

There are several commercially available anti-transpirants on the market, including Wilt-Pruf, Cloud Cover, Vapor Gard, and Winter Shield. They may be purchased from your local nursery or garden center.

Erratum

The article "Vireya Rhododendrons," which appeared in the December 1986 issue of American Horticulturist, contained some misinformation that we would like to clear up. The article mentions that after a series of disasters, San Francisco's Strybing Arboretum "surrendered to fate" and gave up trying to perpetuate its vireya stock. However, Sally Heumann, a Director of the Strybing Arboretum Society, set the record straight. According to Heumann, the vireya collection was rejuvenated and now contains over 100 specimens growing outdoors. The arboretum is continuing its efforts to rebuild the collection by creating new display gardens. Readers in the San Francisco area may be interested to know that potted vireyas will be available for purchase this year at the arboretum's annual plant sale on May 1st and 2nd. The Strybing Arboretum is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
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s you may well imagine, the River Farm gardens are glorious during the months of May and June. Roses, the perennial borders, and the oxeye daisies in the wildflower meadow are absolutely gorgeous in May. June brings magnificent displays of daylilies and lilies. If you have the opportunity to visit us during this time, please do, and enjoy the beauty and serenity of spring and early summer at River Farm.

You might want to take the time to make a note on your calendars about the following AHS activities. Unless otherwise indicated, all events will be held at the AHS headquarters, River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, Virginia, which is just off the George Washington Memorial Parkway, at the Arcturus/East Boulevard Drive Exit, midway between Old Town Alexandria and Mount Vernon. Telephone: (703) 768-5700.

AHS 42nd Annual Meeting, May 12-16, Omni Park Central Hotel, 870 Seventh Avenue at 56th Street, New York City. This year’s meeting program includes behind-the-scenes tours of the New York Botanical and the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens; special visits to horticultural showplaces, innovative community gardens, exciting indoor plantings, and private gardens; lectures; and a session on Central Park and the Olmsted legacy. Two optional day-long tours will include visits to Planting Fields Arboretum, Old Westbury Gardens, Wave Hill, the PepsiCo Sculpture Garden, and to Pocantico Hills, the magnificent Rockefeller estate, which is rarely opened to the public.

Spring Festival at River Farm, May 31, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. This annual spring event continues to grow more exciting each year. The National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs’ District II Flower Show will be held during the festival. Numerous plant societies will stage exhibits, and experts will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Also, water gardening demonstrations will be held, many different types of plants (some quite unusual) will be offered for sale along with gardening books and gardening items. arts and crafts will be available, and refreshments may be purchased and enjoyed as you wander around our beautiful grounds overlooking the Potomac. The entrance fee will be $2 for AHS members, and $3 for non-members. Children under 12 will be admitted free.

Daylily/Lily Day, June 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This will be the third year for this popular event. Our daylily display of over 100 cultivars represents a joint effort of the American Horticultural Society and the American Hemerocallis Society. Our lily collection has over 150 lilies, which are planted and tended by AHS and the North American Lily Society. Both daylily and lily experts will be present to answer questions. The entrance fee will be $1 for AHS mem-

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Any of these activities, please write or call me at the Society.
—Sharon Barnes, Public Relations Director

Last Chance to Order Color Chart

Due to an overwhelming interest on the part of our readers in the Royal Horticultural Society's Colour Chart, which was mentioned in the January 1987 News Edition of American Horticulturist, the American Horticultural Society will be purchasing a bulk order of charts and offering them for sale. If you have an interest in obtaining a chart, but haven't written to us yet, please do so now—and hurry; they're going like hotcakes! The charts are available to American Horticultural Society members for $40 per chart, plus $3.50 for postage and handling. (The non-member price is $45 per chart, plus $3.50 postage and handling.) When ordering, send your payment to the American Horticultural Society, Colour Chart, P.O. Box 0105, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121. Please include your name, address (including city, state, and zip code), the price per chart, the total number of charts you are ordering, and the amount of money enclosed. (Virginia residents, please add 4.5% sales tax.) Allow 10 to 12 weeks for delivery.

1988 Awards Nominations Sought

Members are once again invited to recommend candidates for the Society's annual awards, to be presented next year at the 1988 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, April 13-16. The Awards Committee will meet in September to nominate individuals and organizations for the Society's various awards, and welcomes suggestions from the general membership.

The Liberty Hyde Bailey Award is the highest honor the Society can bestow on an individual. To qualify for this award, an individual must reside on the North American continent and must have made significant contributions in at least three of the following areas of horticultural activity: teaching, research, writing, plant exploration, administration, art, business, and leadership.

The G.B. Gunlogson Award is given to an organization or individual whose creative use of home gardening has benefited people-plant relationships and the future of plants in American life. The Catherine H. Sweeney Award is given in recognition of extraordinary and dedicated efforts in the field of horticulture.

The Society's other awards are bestowed on individuals, firms, or institutions that have accomplished something unusual and of national importance in one of the following ten areas of horticulture: scientific, commercial, professional, teaching, landscape architecture, horticultural writing, horticultural therapy, local horticulture (in the Annual Meeting host city), meritorious service, and urban beautification.

If you would like to suggest nominations for any of these categories, please forward the name(s) of your nominee(s) and pertinent biographical information to the Awards Committee Chairman, in care of the Society, no later than July 31st.

Board Nominations

Suggestions of nominees for the Society's Board of Directors, to be elected during the 1988 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia (April 13-16), will be accepted until Sept. 1, 1987.

Members are encouraged to submit names to the Nominating Committee, which was appointed by AHS President Everitt Miller. Suggestions should be accompanied by résumés detailing the candidate's horticultural and/or professional interests, and should be addressed to the Nominating Committee in care of the Society.
May 1-3
Landon Azalea Garden Festival
6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, Maryland. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: $4. Information: Pam Murdock, Landon Azalea Garden Festival, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, MD 20816, (301)229-9326.

May 2
Wilmington Garden Day
Greater Wilmington area, Wilmington, Delaware. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: $12. Information: Mrs. Virginia Hunter, 604 Mt. Lebanon Rd., Wilmington DE 19803, (302)476-5878.

May 2-3
Wildflower, Plant, & Seed Sale
The Brandywine River Museum, US Rt. 1, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. Hours: 9-30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information: The Brandywine Conservancy, PO Box 141, Chadds Ford, PA 19317, (215)388-7001 or 459-1900.

May 6-7
Plant Sale
Graham Visitors' Center, Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle, Washington. Hours: Wednesday, 12 noon to 7 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Information: Arboretum Foundation, U. of W., XD-10, Seattle, WA 98195, (206)254-5410.

May 9-10
Herb & Perennial Weekend

May 11-15
Mexican Society for Horticultural Science Congress
Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico. Information: Dr. José L. Barreira, Univ. de Guanajuato, Escuela de Agronomia y Zootecnia, Apartado Postal 311, Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico.

May 12-16
AHS Annual Meeting
New York, New York. Information: Elizabeth Smith, AHS, PO Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22212, (703)768-5700.

May 14-16
Symposium: "The Garden: Rooms Outside"

May 17-20
American Rose Society Spring Convention

May 20-22
Chelsea Flower Show
Chelsea, England. Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (RHS Members' private view: May 19th, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) Information: The Royal Horticultural Society, Box 313, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE, Vincent.

May 21-23
Landscape Design Course

May 23
Horticulture Exposition
Roseland Cottage, Route 169, On the Common, Woodstock, Connecticut. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults, $2.50; Senior Citizens and Children under 12, $1.25; Children under five, free. Information: Charlene Perkins Brown, Woodstock Common, PO Box 1846, Woodstock, CT 06281, (203)928-4074.

May 23
Baltimore Herb Festival
Leakin Park, off Rt. 70, Baltimore, Maryland. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: $2. Information: Baltimore Herb Festival, 2301 Pickwick Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207, (301)448-0406.

May 27
A Celebration of Heritage Roses for Use & Delight

May 27-31
Conference: "Interaction 87"

May 28
Garden Celebration
William Paca House and Garden, Annapolis, Maryland. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: $20. Information: Elaine Reed, Factotum, William Paca Garden, 1 Martin St., Annapolis, MD 21401, (301)267-6656 or 268-0601.

May 31
AHS Spring Festival at River Farm
River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, Virginia. Hours: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Members, $5; non-members, $2. Information: Sharon Barnes, The American Horticultural Society, PO Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22212, (703)768-5700.

June 6
Lectures: 19th-Century Horticulture

June 6
Secret Garden Tour
Newport, Rhode Island. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: $8 in advance; $10 the day of the tour. Information: Benefactors of the Arts, 33 Washington St., Newport, RI 02840, (401)847-0514.

June 11
Lecture: "Growing Roses in the City"

June 12-14
The American Peony Society Annual Meeting
June 13
Plant Sale
New England Wild Flower Society, Inc., Hemenway Road, Framingham, Massachusetts. Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Information: Barbara F. Pryor, Publicity Coordinator, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Rd., Framingham, MA 01701, (617)877-7630 or 257-4924.

June 19-21
Conference: “More Than Nine Lives”

June 20-28
Rose Festival
Boerner Botanical Gardens, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Information: Nell Schneider, Friends of the Boerner Botanical Gardens, 5879 South 92nd St., Hales Corners, WI 53130, (414)529-1870.

June 21-25
International Symposium on Genetic Manipulation of Woody Plants
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Information: James W. Hanover, Department of Forestry, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

June 25-27
Convention: “Roses Around the World”

June 25-28
North American Lily Society Show & Symposium

June 27
Daylily/Lily Day
River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, Virginia. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Members, $2; nonmembers, $1. Information: Sharon Barnes, American Horticultural Society, PO Box 1105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121, (703)528-8773.

July 1-4
American Gloxinia & Gesneriad Society Annual Convention
The Landmark at Metairie, New Orleans, Louisiana. Information: George Waguespack, Registrar, AGGS Annual Convention, 334 Halsey Dr., Harahan, LA 70123.
A wind chime sculpture has been added to the Missouri Botanical Garden's Scented Garden for the Blind. The bell sculpture was made possible by a gift from Mrs. E. F. Zimmerman. Alan Godlewski, the Garden's director of horticulture, is also pictured.

The Missouri Botanical Garden recently added a wind chime bell sculpture to its Scented Garden for the Blind. The sculpture consists of several bronze bells designed by artist Paolo Soleri and a free-form supporting structure that was a collaborative effort between sculptors William C. Severson and Vernon Desmond Gross.

Both the scented garden and the bell sculpture were made possible through gifts from Mrs. E. F. Zimmerman of St. Louis. The Scented Garden was completed in 1983 and is designed especially for the visually impaired. Plants with strong fragrances and interesting textures are in abundance, creating a strong sensory stimulus that is further enhanced by a shell fountain, and now by the bell sculpture.

The growth and development of gardens like this one reflect both a burgeoning interest in the use of horticulture as therapy, and the increasing creativity of horticultural therapists. Such enthusiasm is inspiring! If you would like further information on this particular scented garden, write the Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166. For information on how to start or further develop your own horticultural therapy program, write the National Council for Therapy and Rehabilitation through Horticulture, 9220 Wightman Road, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.
Resources

This year, the month of March marked the centennial of the passage of the Hatch Act, which established the system of state agricultural experiment stations that serve different regions of the country. Experiment Stations fall under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and are linked to land-grant universities in various states. They were created as research facilities, to gather information on, among other things, the hows and whys of plant growth; new cultivars; and disease, insect and weed control. Specialized branch experiment stations and substations exist in some states, in order to provide more exact information to people living in the area served.

The Cooperative Extension Service, which relies on the experiment stations for much of its information, is a little-known but longstanding resource available to gardeners. Established by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, the service operates under the jurisdiction of the USDA, and is a joint effort on the part of that agency, the county government, and a land-grant college or university. Extension Agents distribute fact sheets, circulars, and bulletins containing valuable and current horticultural information. Extension programs also provide such services as soil testing, soil analysis, diagnosis of plant problems, and plant identification. The telephone number and address for your local Agricultural Extension Agent may usually be found under the city or county government listing in your telephone book. He or she will be listed as “Agricultural Agent” or under “Extension Service.” If a local agent does not have enough information to answer your inquiry, he or she is supported by the resources of the land-grant college or university, and the USDA in general. So, “let your fingers do the walking,” and take advantage of a valuable resource!
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- **Garden Center Management: A Basic Guide.** We at AHS have received many letters in recent months indicating a growing interest in starting nursery and garden center businesses. This 39-page, spiral-bound publication is designed for entrepreneurs with such an interest. Twenty subject areas, covering the basic facts needed to start or continue operating a garden center, are addressed in one- to four-page chapters. Chapters include "History, Nature and Distribution of the Industry," "Selecting a Site," "Advertising," "Computer Usage," "Sources," and "Shipping." References are listed at the end of each chapter for readers who want in-depth information on the subject, and a list of information sources is included at the end of the manual. (This manual is actually a condensed version of Garden Center Management: A Teaching Manual, a 498-page mimeographed book used in teaching garden center management to college students.) Copies of the condensed manual may be obtained by sending a check for $5, payable to the University of Delaware, to Delaware Cooperative Extension, Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19717. Copies of the teaching manual may be purchased from the same address for $20.

- **Healthy Harvest—A Directory of Sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture Organizations 1985.** This directory, edited by Susan J. Sanzone, lists over 300 organizations dedicated to "preserving and expanding resource-enhancing, spiritually fulfilling, and economically feasible food production and distribution." It includes addresses, and in some cases descriptions, of agriculture and horticulture training institutions, research institutes, development programs, political organizations, appropriate technology institutes, and sustainable agriculture design groups. Information is arranged in various convenient forms, ranging from an alphabetical listing of organizations to both a subject index and a geographical index. Potomac Valley Press, publishers of this directory, plan to update it periodically in order to expand its scope and make it as inclusive as possible. To order this book, send $6.95 per copy (including postage and handling) payable to "Healthy Harvest," to Potomac Valley Press, 1424 16th Street N.W., Suite 105, Washington, D.C. 20036.