

American Horticulturist



Malak

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.

American Horticulturist

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Bob Gancarz and his brother Ed, shown here with Bob's record-setting 671-pound pumpkin, dominated the World Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Collins, New York.

Plant seeds one-half inch deep with the pointed end of the seed facing down. A grow light placed six inches 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 14034. 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.

Planting and Transplanting Shrubs

It's that time of year again, when gardeners spring into action and joyously begin to implement the plans that have been circulating in their winter-weary heads for months. The weather has finally stabilized; it's planting time. In order to ensure that the shrubs they put in the ground will also stabilize, gardeners should follow a few simple steps during the transition time between the nursery and the home planting site.

Two of the most serious problems encountered at this time are overexposure to the sun, and excessive moisture loss. If shrubs are bought at an indoor garden center, or at a nursery where plants are kept in semi-shade, they should not be moved into direct sunlight immediately. Rather, they should be left potted or balled and burlapped, and placed in a shady, protected spot. Gradually move them into the sun over a period of a week or two. If you notice that new plants look wilted or sick after a move, it may be due to moisture loss. They are actually losing more moisture through their foliage than they can absorb through their roots. There are a number of things one can do to combat this problem: give the shrub a thorough soaking up until about 24 hours before planting, provide protection from strong winds, and apply

an anti-transpirant to the foliage and stems. (Anti-transpirants form a coating to reduce the amount of moisture loss from the foliage and stems, thus preventing or reducing desiccation, which in its turn can cause wilting, shock, and even death.) These steps should help the plant recover from the stress due to the move.

When preparing to plant the shrub, carefully remove it from its container. If its roots have begun to wind in circles (a response to being cramped in the container), gently unroll them with your hands before placing the shrub in the ground. Or, if there are no major feeder roots, gently loosen the outer two inches of fibrous roots with your hands or a dull knife. This will reduce compacting of soil around the roots, release feeder or fibrous roots, and promote healthy, outward growth. Continue to water your shrub two or three times a week until fall. Apply an anti-transpirant every two months or so, if necessary.

If you're planning to move established shrubs, the main threats to life and limb are loss of moisture and root damage. Again, the water shortage problem may be due to the shrub losing more water through transpiration than it can absorb through its roots. The remedies are similar to those for newly acquired plants: faithfully water, this time several weeks before the actual move, and treat the foliage and stems

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.

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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.

Gardener's Check List

The following are some general tips from AHS horticulturists that will help you organize your thoughts and spruce up your garden this spring. This column will appear periodically in the months to come, so keep an eye out for it!

- If you have ever had problems finding your spring-flowering bulbs late in the season, or you have accidentally damaged them when planting other plants directly over those bulbs that have defoliated, you may appreciate this advice: Label your bulbs now, before they can't be found. Labeling can help you locate where items are in dormant seasons, and makes locating new plants and bulbs a cinch.

- Staking tall plants early in the season will help reduce fungal infections, promote good growth patterns, improve the plant's evapotranspiration rate, and can increase photosynthesis. Evapotranspiration is important for maintaining the water balance in the plant; the rate of evapotranspiration determines the rate of water uptake through the roots, which in turn affects the plant's turgidity (rigidity).

- Think about items in your yard and garden that will be going to seed early in the season and take the opportunity to get a headstart in donating seed for next year's AHS Seed Program. Because seeds mature at different rates, be sure not to collect too soon. As a general rule, most seed is mature when its protective covering dries and begins to split open. The earlier AHS horticulturists know what types of seed have been donated, the more time they will have to plan a good program for you.

- Now that summer is drawing near and you have admired many different spring-flowering bulbs in other gardens, don't forget which flowers caught your eye. Take a moment to make a note on your garden pad, or in your *AHS Garden Diary*, to order these bulbs for your garden. Plan to



plant them this fall for new and exciting appeal next spring.

- Use tree protectors (metal or plastic cylinders, or tape) at the base of your young trees to protect them against weed-eater and lawn mower damage. Make sure the protectors allow enough space for the tree to grow—one-half to three-quarters of an inch of play is usually sufficient.

- When touring public gardens and arboreta, look for new and exciting combinations of contrasting foliage, and notice unique color schemes. Take these ideas and incorporate them into your own garden. Map out a color scheme for your garden and make a color chart for each month of the year. This will enable you to keep accurate track of the kaleidoscope of colors as your garden changes from one range of colors to another.

- Early detection of pest problems not only helps your plant's performance, it can also minimize your use of pesticides. Pests like bagworms, beetles, and caterpillars can be controlled by hand picking. For information on the application of chemical pesticides in your immediate area, contact your local Agricultural Extension Agent. —AHS Horticulturists



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AHS What's Happening

As 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 ex-



The River Farm grounds staff has been hard at work this spring regrading and reseeding the Ballroom Yard lawn and improving the borders and adjacent Shade Garden.

perts 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-

bers, \$2 for non-members. Children under 12 will be admitted free.

If you have any questions or would like more information about

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.

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Gardener's Dateline

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)478-5878.

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)388-7601 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)325-4510.

May 9-10

Herb & Perennial Weekend

Wrenwood Nursery, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. Information: Wrenwood, Route 4, Box 361, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

May 11-15

Mexican Society for Horticultural Science Congress

Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico. Information: Dr. José L. Barrera, Univ. de Guanajuato, Escuela de Agronomía 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 22121, (703)768-5700.

May 14-16

Symposium: "The Garden: Rooms Outside"

Raleigh, North Carolina. Information: Daniel Ellison, Mordecai Square Historical Society, Inc., 1 Mimosa Street, Raleigh, NC 27604, (919)834-4844.



May 17-20

American Rose Society Spring Convention

Charlotte, North Carolina. Information: Charlotte ARS Convention, c/o Mrs. Ruth Klutz, 1833 Graybark Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28205, (704)536-1088.

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 SW 1P 2PE England.

May 21-23

Landscape Design Course

College of Design, Iowa State University Campus, Ames, Iowa. Co-sponsored by The Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, Inc., the Department of Landscape Architecture and Community Planning, and the Iowa Cooperative Extension Service. Information: Mrs. Charles Packer, 2125 West Main Street Rd., Marshalltown, IA 50158, (515)752-5041.

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

US National Arboretum. Registration deadline: May 15th. Information: A Cele-

bration of Heritage Roses, US National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002, (202)475-4857.

May 27-31

Conference: "Interaction 87"

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. Registration: \$125; \$140 after March 15th. Information: Geri Barnes, UBC Botanical Garden, 6501 NW Marine Drive, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6T 1W5, (604)228-3928.

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 269-0601.

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, \$3; non-members, \$2. Information: Sharon Barnes, The American Horticultural Society, PO Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121, (703)768-5700.

June 6

Lectures: 19th-Century Horticulture

Roseland Cottage, On the Common, Woodstock, Connecticut. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration: \$20. Information: Charlene Perkins Brown, Woodstock Common, PO Box 1846, Woodstock, CT 06281, (203)928-4074.

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"

Horticultural Society of New York. Time: 7 p.m. Admission: \$5. Information: Lawrence Lee, The Horticultural Society of New York, 128 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019, (212)757-0915.

June 12-14

The American Peony Society Annual Meeting

Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio. Information: The American Peony Society, 250 Interlachen Rd., Hopkins, MN 55343, (612)938-4706.

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 237-4924.

June 19-21
Conference: "More Than Nine Lives"

Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, Miller Hall, World Forestry Center, Portland, Oregon. Information: Connie Hanni, 33530 SE Bluff Rd., Boring, OR 97009, (503)663-9201.

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"

Pacific Northwest District of the American Rose Society, Sheraton Hotel, downtown Tacoma, Washington. Information: Mary Rae Mattix, Public Relations Committee, 120 North Barner Drive, Centralia, WA 98531, (206)594-1260.

June 25-28
North American Lily Society Show & Symposium

Portland, Oregon. Information: Dick Malpass, Pacific Northwest Lily Society, 10804 N.W. Ave., Vancouver, WA 98685, (206)573-6969.

June 27
Daylily/Lily Day

River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, Virginia. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Members, \$2; non-members, \$1. Information: Sharon Barnes, American Horticultural Society, PO Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121, (703)768-5700.

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.

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Sculpture Used as Sensory Stimulant



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 Paulo Soleri and a free-form supporting structure that was a collabo-

orative 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.

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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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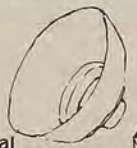
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AHS Travel Program

Emerald Gardens of Ireland (June 4-18). Come take a romantic journey to some of the lost relics of the Irish landscape as well as to the flourishing estates of today. We begin our tour in the Southwest, with its dramatic views of the sea and mountains, and continue to Dublin and County Wicklow, "The Garden of Ireland." Leader: Patrick Bowe, garden designer and expert on 19th- and 20th-century gardens. Cost (exclusive of air): \$4,143.

Lost and Found: Formal Gardens of England (June 17-July 2). Discover some of England's most fantastic formal gardens, including the grand Powis Castle, the leafy Melbourne Hall and the flowery enclosures of cozy Tudor manor houses. We will also tour Packwood House and view its topiary yew, as well as Sutton Hoo and its contemporary garden. Leader: Mac Griswold, garden writer and historian. Cost (exclusive of air): \$3,750.

Gardens of Burgundy and the Riviera (September 19-October 4). Take a week-long cruise of the canals of Burgundy and the Rhone Valley aboard the luxurious hotel barge *Janine*. Spend a second week exploring the gardens of the Riviera, dividing time between Cannes and Monaco. Leader: Richard Hutton, President of Concord-Pyle/Star Roses and the American Association of Nurserymen, as well as AHS Board Member. Cost (exclusive of air): \$3,875.

Kenya and East Africa (October 14-November 4). During our tour of this land of contrast, we will visit private gardens, arboreta, great tea estates, rain forests, mountains and moorlands. We will spend an equal amount of time viewing the vast array of East Africa's wildlife. Leader: Princess Therese Sapieha, expert on wildlife and horticulture. Cost (exclusive of air): \$3,975.

YES! Please send me more information on the tours I have checked below.

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- ☐ Burgundy and the Riviera
- ☐ Kenya and East Africa

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MAIL TO: Elizabeth Smith, AHS, PO Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

New Publications

• **Gardens of England and Wales.** Every horticulturist traveling in England and Wales should keep this guidebook, which is published annually by The National Gardens Scheme, tucked under his or her arm. Contained within it is information on nearly 2,000 gardens, including 1,750 privately owned gardens not normally open to the public. The gardens are listed by county, and the book provides a wealth of descriptive information, including directions to each garden, types of plants to be found, admission price, and dates of opening. Information on the Royal Gardens and the Royal Horticultural Society's Flower Shows in 1987 also is included. The book may be obtained by sending an international money order for \$7 to The National Gardens Scheme, 57 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0LR.

• **Houseplant Forum.** For those gardeners who enjoy bringing the out-of-doors into their home, this new houseplant newsletter will be an invaluable asset. The emphasis of the newsletter is on plants and techniques that can be used by the average hobbyist in the average—and often less than ideal—indoor gardening situation. Each 14-page issue will be illustrated with black-and-white line drawings and diagrams, and will contain regular articles on different plant groups, insects, and diseases, as well as a column where readers' questions are answered. Subscribers



will also have access to a seed bank, offering an easy way to obtain unusual houseplants at a good price. To subscribe, send a check or money order for \$7.50 (U.S. dollars in the United States; Canadian dollars in Canada) to Enterprises HortiCom enr., 1449 Ave. William, Sillery, Quebec, Canada G1S 4G5.

• **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 Manage-*

ment: 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.

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