

THE GARDENER'S CORNER

The Answers to Your Gardening Questions
by Bob

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

When is the best time to plant roses?

BOB'S ANSWER:

Autumn and spring are both rose planting times. Young or tender plants do best if planted in the spring, but for the hardy plants any time in the fall after the middle of September is fine.

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Royal Oak

DOWN TO EARTH

Snow Better Than Ice From Gardener's View

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

This would be an appropriate date to run a poll on whether or not you prefer a winter with lots of ice as we experienced last winter or whether you prefer the excessive snow which we experienced this winter. This is a sure fact: you will have less winter kill with your plants this season.

The day to complain is when the weather is above freezing and we have sun with lots of wind. This type of day makes the plants unhappy. According to the amount of snow we have had we should have a very good water table which is important conservation for those Birmingham suburbanites who depend on a well.

When you buy petunias this year you will be wise to ask for the varieties which form a mound instead of spreading over into the lawn. One of the best I have seen this year is Cherry Tart. It is the result of hybridization and is called a F1 variety. It has medium-sized flowers, grows in a mound pattern, the color is a rose-pink with white variegations. The flowers are double.

Mrs. Burlingame

THE SAME NURSERYMAN, George W. Park, has another outstanding introduction: the candelabra petunia. It is a small flowering wax begonia, terrific for three-quarters shade. It can be secured in both white and rose color. This plant has had its heredity mixed up with gene research. Its outstanding feature is the powder puff formed in the middle of the flower by the prominent yellow hair formed by the stamens and anthers.

Both of these annuals could be planted around May first, place a light weight plastic over the top of the concentrated bed area, let some ventilation in and have your own greenhouse. You will save plenty of money if you start many of your plants this way.

The 29th of July last year I went to Chicago to see the new introductions of the seedsmen, Ball and Vaughan. It was a special showing for growers and garden writers. Alton, we all agreed that the pink heather sweet alyssum was a "wash out."

At Vaughan's, the Dianthus dwarf chinensis which was scarlet red really rang the bell. It was a

beautiful annual which could be used in a front border. The twin-like phlox were outstanding as a low first border. They came in many colors with a white border around the floret.

THE DAHLBORG DAISY would be excellent for a rock garden as it grows six inches high and has hundreds of yellow flowers about ¾ inches in diameter. The outstanding geranium I saw was Springtime which was pink and had the best show of flower quantity. The Chinese Forget Me Not, Cynoglossum Firmament was 15 inches high and loaded with blue clusters, a good complement for any bouquet. Dryers of flowers

would have a field day with this flower.

I saw a yellow mum there called Harvest Giant. It was introduced by a Michigan hybridizer which will grow right in your own garden and with its sturdy stems and huge yellow flowers be a competitor for a Michigan Football stadium flower.

VISITED HUBERT Fisher in Hinsdale who is the national president of the Daylily (Hemerocallis) Society and his giant moon daylily was the best sample I saw in his acre. The lily named Diamond Dust was light yellow and outstanding in its large size.

Annually he hybridizes new varieties and patents them for commercial use and this was what he said: "Refinements and refinements, and often you end up with weak stock." As a consumer we can bypass the weak stock and pick out those which have stood the test of a few seasons.

BY THE WAY, if you own a swimming pool or have pressure put on you by the fish of your family, be sure and secure the soft cover book: "Swimming Pools," published by Sunset. It will clear up lots of maintenance angles and selection problems for you.

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Fellows To Know Their Business

Forty-eight Sloan fellows from the School of Industrial Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology spent last week in Washington getting first-hand pointers on government and business from top officials. In May they will go to Europe for two weeks for off-the-record conferences with leaders in France, England, Belgium and Germany.

Among them are Howard H. Kahn, 3870 S. Millersway, Bloomfield township, and Peter C. Darin, Jr., 24687 Gleneyrie road, Southfield.

The two trips were arranged, according to Dean Howard Johnson, to sharpen the understanding of national and world problems that the Sloan fellows have gained in their studies at M.I.T.

The Sloan fellows are carefully selected young executives who are attending M.I.T.'s School of Industrial Management for a full year of intensive study.

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