



# THE TORRANCE HERALD HOME AND GARDEN

## Popular Summer Annual Has Quick Coloring Habit

The California Bedding Plant Advisory Board suggests the use of bedding plants for quick color. At this season of the year, we find many of the warm weather plants becoming available in the nurseries. Most of these plants will be in flower in a matter of weeks after planting and seem to fit into the class of quick-flowering plants.

One of the most popular of the summer annuals requires a little more time to develop and then when the first bud is nicely developed, good gardening practice requires that we pinch out the bud to make the plant branch out. This plant is the most popular of the summer annuals for cut flower use and is also a top favorite for garden color, zinnia by name, vigorous by growth and glorious in color, zinnias are deserving of the high popularity they enjoy.

ground plants. A pastel mixture is available in the giant strains that is not too hard to work in to a general garden pattern.

Many plants are culturally suited to blend with zinnias. It is in the choosing of color blends that particular care must be taken as the neutral colors



ZINNIA

are particularly recommended in order to prevent an open chain in the flower border.

**Giants A Favorite**  
Top favorite in the zinnia family is the giant double strain. Two varieties — the dahlia type and the California Giants are offered here with the dahlia flowered type more generally planted. It is full double with the petals almost four inches deep and sometimes six inches in diameter. The California Giants are also huge in size with looser petals.

Many odd varieties are available such as: Peppermint Stick, which is marked by stripings of red and yellow; Fantasy, with medium sized flowers that are finely twisted and curled; Persian Carpet, which are miniature in warm rich red, orange and yellow shades. Also there are the Pom-Pom and Tom Thumb dwarfs, in bright solid colors and the giant pastel mixture in soft light colors.

All of the zinnia family are easy to care for, but watering must not be neglected at any time. Watering should be deep irrigation rather than light sprinkling. This procedure is important for two reasons. First, the roots should be caused to go deep for their water in order to give the plants good anchorage as zinnias are by nature lightly rooted. Second, the chief enemy of zinnias is mildew. This plant disease is aided and abetted by overhead sprinkling.

Like Horatio Alger who rose from ordinary backgrounds to a life of great fortune, the common ordinary garden petunia has risen in the flower family from ordinary blooms to elegant forms and colors, that today make it a highly prized summer and fall flower throughout California gardens.

## Begonia Fills Ticket for Top Summer Foliage

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS are the largest and showiest of shade-loving, mid-summer flowers. Handsome foliage on plants 1 1/2 to 2 feet high, makes a striking setting for the succession of 3 to 6 inch flowers that vary in form from singles not unlike hollyhocks to great camellia or rose-like doubles. There are trailers too, ideal for window boxes, with showers of smaller blossoms in clusters.

**CAMELLIA FLOWERED.** Most popular with fully double flowers like waxy camellias. Colors include red, orange, rose pink, white and yellow. Some Picotee doubles are offered, these have a deeper colored edge to lighter petals.

**FOR HANGING BASKETS.** Use Lloyd types which are naturally pendant and produce cascades of lovely flowers. Large selections are now on display at many nurseries in the area. Start tubers in late May or June, in moist peat moss, just setting them into the peat. When they sprout and start root growth they should be set in pots or beds of soil composed of peat, sand and loam in equal parts.

Frequent watering, especially light spraying of the foliage makes for better growth. Set out in shady garden beds, porch or window boxes, sinking pots to rims. After foliage matures in early autumn, store in pots or remove and pack in peat moss. Even when not in flower the lush green of the foliage makes them very attractive. Flowers waxy, delicate and clear colored.

**Treasure Island**  
A room divider which contains amazingly compact storage drawers and shelves on one side and a drop-leaf table on the other is the latest gimmick to give the tiny apartment or home its own separate dining nook. Made of softwoods, these dividers can be designed with great flexibility to fit almost any requirement. Blonde west coast hemlock is particularly popular.

**LIKE A TOP HAT**  
Nail a two-by-four along the top of your red cedar fence to prevent the wood's weathering, thus adding longer life. This little touch will also impart a finished look to your fence or fence section, whether it be of louvered, combed stake, board and board or basketweave design.

## Garden Petunia No Longer In Common Bloomer Class

Like Horatio Alger who rose from ordinary backgrounds to a life of great fortune, the common ordinary garden petunia has risen in the flower family from ordinary blooms to elegant forms and colors, that today make it a highly prized summer and fall flower throughout California gardens.

After years of hybridizing the petunia, nurserymen and growers have developed advantages of great form and color variety to add to the established advantages of the petunia, its drought resistance, love of sun and ability to get along on a minimum of ferti-



SINGLE PETUNIA

lizer. You can begin gardening with petunias now by sowing seeds and transplanting them when they are large enough, or beginning right off with seedlings available at nurseries. If you work with petunia seeds, mix them with fine sand and sprinkle them over the surface of a soil mix in pans or flats, cover with a glass and keep warm. Make sure the flat or pan has good drainage and to water, immerse the container in a water-filled pan. When the top of the soil is moist, remove. This one watering may be enough for the germination, but if it isn't try to avoid water-

ing from overhead since the seeds are easily dislodged this way.

Once petunia seedlings are large enough and the frost period is over you may set them out in your garden and lawn borders, or in pots and containers, too. Plant in loose, porous soil in a sunny area. Water occasionally, a deep thorough watering. Set the plants nine inches to a foot apart. Container-grown petunias require careful watering and regular light fertilizing for abundant blooms.

For bushy growth on your petunia plants, pinch and remove faded flowers, recommends the California Association of Nurserymen.

New for 1955 in the petunia family are the Crown Jewels which can be obtained as a blend of five distinct colors or separately too. Other new varieties are Flame, orange scarlet, fringed in form and very free flowering, and White Mound, a white fringed variety that grows in a mound shape.

Among the new hybrid petunias are Comanche and Tango, single reds; Ballerina, a single salmon; Crusader, pink and white; and Silver Metal, salmon pink.

Other varieties of the petunia come in dwarf form and giant single which are smooth edged and deeply lobed. Also, there are giant ruffled forms, in a wide range of colors, ruffled and fluted often, and doubles, carnation-like in form in pinks, purple and white.

## New Dwellings Have More Room

Houses are getting larger, says the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Two-thirds of all homes started in the first quarter of last year had three bedrooms or more, the bureau reports, and the average floor area of 1,140 square feet was five per cent larger than houses built in 1951.

Durable and popular frame construction was used in 82 per cent of the one-family houses started throughout the country, and variations by regions ran from 76 per cent in the south to 89 per cent in the northwest, the survey shows.

Of the new houses with frame construction, 38 per cent used wood siding, like the popular siding patterns of fir, hemlock and red cedar. Only 40 per cent of new five-or-more family apartments had more than one bedroom, the survey points out, and even in this category frame construction accounted for 45 per cent of the total apartment dwelling units started.

## Wooden Undershirt

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