



# THE TORRANCE HERALD HOME AND GARDEN

## Lovely Begonia Receives Praise

Any person who has witnessed the display of Tuberous Begonias in bloom at Capitola, California will bear witness to the fact that here is nature at her finest. The work of the flower growers in Capitola and others around the world has ex-



TUBEROUS BEGONIA

tended the color range of this plant and also given us many new and strikingly different petal arrangements and flower form.

Although these plants are now available in the form of bulbs, started bulbs and seedling plants, let us at this time consider the seedling plant because of its lower cost and therefore greater acceptability by you, the planter.

The plants of seedling Tuberous Begonias are now available at a reasonable figure at your local garden center. These plants were produced from seeds so microscopic that they are hardly visible to the naked eye. From seeds planted last November and December the plants you now find were produced.

Begonias are very brittle and caution should be taken in planting. They should be planted in soil that is enriched with peat moss and leaf mold. Begonias are a fairly hardy plant if planted in areas where Camellias or other shade loving plants thrive. Few pests, except snails, attack them. Be sure and scatter a small poison around the plants. Keep the soil moist and fertilize with an all element mixture. A light sprinkling of soil sulfur periodically around the plants will help maintain an acid condition in the soil which these plants desire.

This writer has grown and sold many plants. However, each time that this plant is seen in bloom, he stops in awe. Try some in your garden and you too will come under their spell.

### Steps in, Takes Steps, Then Steps Out Again

Ladies scouties are the object of a thief operating in a neighborhood of south Torrance, according to Detective Capt. Ernest Ashton.

A recent case is that of Mrs. Ralph Williams, 3415 W. 255th St., who said that 14 pairs were stolen Wednesday night from her residence. Nothing else was taken.

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## Some New Insecticides Highly Toxic, Can Poison Through Skin

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D., Los Angeles Co. Health Officer

Some of the newer insecticides now on the market, belonging to the family of organic phosphates, are so toxic to man that even a little spilled on the skin may result in acute illness or death, and cases of poisoning by these lethal substances are reported with disturbing and increasing frequency.

If proper safeguards are used when spraying field crops, trees, or gardens, the insecticides are harmless. When precautions are disregarded, or should the chemicals be used indoors, the penalty is swift and severe.

The organic phosphate type insecticides, or pesticides as they are sometimes called, seem to have chemical names that make sense only to the people engaged in their discovery or production.

O. Odiethyl O-p-nitrophenyl thiophosphate is not exactly a name that lingers in the mind, but fortunately it is also known by the more recognizable name of Parathion. Others equally awkward on the tongue are marketed under such abbreviated names as HEPT, TEPP, and EPN.

Since it is required by law that all ingredients in any insecticide be published on the label attached to the container, the presence of these deadly poisons may be quickly detected by the appearance of the word "phosphate." If found on the label any place at all, it is recommended that the written precautions for using the spray or powder be followed to the letter.

Although it is easy to make people understand that organic phosphate chemicals may enter the body when inhaled or swallowed, it is more difficult to impress upon them that the poison may also be absorbed through the skin.

One 2-year-old boy recently lost his life by making mud pies with liquid from a discarded bottle of TEPP. His four-year-old sister recovered, only because the bottle was found and the poison identified quickly enough to permit the life-saving administration of the proper antidote.

When actually using these organic phosphates as dust or liquid sprays, great care should be taken whether the method used be by aircraft, or by mechanical or hand spray. Workers engaged in the handling of these poisons on a large scale are informed on safety measures and provided with special clothing. Family gardeners should take similar precautions.

However, sprays and dusts may drift in the wind and be swallowed or inhaled by individuals or animals in the nearby vicinity. Care is definitely needed when they are used.

Symptoms of organic phosphate poisoning include dizziness, headache, nausea, and vomiting, excessive perspiration, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, blurred vision, and twitching of the muscles. These may appear while the spraying is being done or within 24 hours after exposure. Emergency medical treatment should be obtained at once and continued for at least 24 to 48 hours. Not always are bodily reac-

## Plant Lawn in Sandy Loam Soil For Hardy, Cool Green Carpet

Suggest planting a lawn and most people immediately remark about the difficulties, but the California Association of Nurserymen has assured gardeners that if all the lawn-planting steps are followed carefully, success will be assured and without difficulties.

To begin with, lay a good foundation for your lawn by cleaning up and grading the lawn area, say nurserymen. If the top soil is good you may start right away removing debris and grading to fit the contour of the whole yard. Grade away from the house so that excess water will run to the street. However, if the quality of the top soil is not just what it should be you must first concentrate on it. Lawns grow best in sandy loam, and loam soils for loams are fertile, hold moisture well and drain well in addition to pulverizing easily. Clay and silt loams, mucks and peat do not make good lawn soils and should be replaced if they make up the top soil. Your nurseryman can help you in analyzing your soil and suggesting the best methods to make it suitable for lawn planting.

**Rake, Roll and Fertilize**  
After you have cleaned the lawn area spade the soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches breaking up clumps and removing rocks and sticks, etc. Then rake and roll the entire area with a roller which you may obtain from the nursery. Work commercial fertilizer and peat moss into the surface of the soil—the fertilizer serves as food for the young grass and the moss helps to retain moisture and keeps the surface soil from drying and baking. Roll and rake again to assure a smooth surface.

Now if you plan on a sprinkler system is the time to set one in. Some lawn authorities recommend that the seed bed be watered now and allowed to settle naturally for several weeks. This step, they say, reveals low spots in the contour of the lawn area and also allows weeds to come up so that they can be removed.

If the "settling" step is omitted, the next step is to plant or broadcast the seed. In selecting the seed get the advice of the nurseryman in your area. You will undoubtedly find that he, as most nurserymen do, will recommend a lawn seed mixture adapted to the conditions of the area. There are several reasons why. A mixture will assure you a uniformly green lawn with no occasional let down due to the season. The mixture of

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grasses means that there will be a succession of growing periods of lawn—one vigorously growing grass at all times to cushion and protect the others not in season.

**Mixture for Hardy Turf**  
Furthermore, say advocates of lawn seed mixture, a nice looking and harder turf will be yours with a mixture, for it will be adaptable to a wider variety of conditions than a single grass. Finally, the mixture, following the principle of cross-breeding and hybridizing, will bring out the best in the various types of grasses, minimizing the failings and enhancing the good qualities of each type of grass.

There are several methods of broadcasting the seed: scatter one-half of the seed in one direction evenly over the whole lawn area and then sow the balance in the opposite direction. Or, divide the area into four equal parts, using string to make the divisions, and divide the seed into five portions applying one portion in each part and the fifth in areas where the seed is thin or missing. A third way is to use a spreader, which you can obtain from the nursery. Divide the seed into four parts and spread a mixture of the seed and fine

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## NTCIA Dance Set Friday

Bob Chavez and his orchestra, "The Southlanders," will play for the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. dance to be held at the Western Club Friday, according to Mrs. Charles Leichtweiss.

Mrs. Norma Prange, of 2701 W. 168th St., NTCIA candidate for Community Fair queen, will be present at the dance.

All new residents were urged by Muri Reeves, NTCIA president, to attend the affair. Tickets, which cost \$1.25, will be available at the door. Dancing will start at 9 p.m. at the club, located at 15516 S. Western Ave.

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## National Rose Week to Be Celebrated June 6 to 13

National Rose Week will be celebrated from June 6 to 13 this year, according to an announcement by Sidney B. Hutton, president of All-America Rose Selections.

Observance of Rose Week began last year. Its purpose is to attract public attention to public gardens throughout the country at the time when they reach the height of their beauty.

"The United States probably has more outstanding gardens created and maintained for public enjoyment than any country in the world," Mr. Hutton said. "The combined efforts of forward-looking public officials and interested citizens have given everyone the chance to see and enjoy natural beauty in the midst of great cities in spite of atoms, communism and the other pressures of the 20th Century, mankind can still enjoy Nature's greatest delight, the rose."

Hutton said that during last year's first National Rose week, the governors of 28 states issued official proclamations in observance of the occasion. "In view of the nationwide interest generated by the congressional resolution to make the rose our national flower, we believe that more people will flock to public rose gardens this year than ever," he said. "The rare beauty that comes each June is something none of us should miss."

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