



# HOME & GARDENS



## Keys to Summer Colors Provided by Annual Plants

For color that makes a summer garden glow, you have only to plant annuals, those simplest of all things to grow. There is no substitute in the garden world for the masses of bright bloom which they produce.

As border plants, they serve to fill in around shrubs and perennials, keeping the color parade relatively constant.

You have tall annuals such as larkspur and the giant marigolds for the rear of the border, medium height annuals such as stock and snapdragons for the middle of the border and low growing annuals for the front — petunias, dwarf marigolds, ageratum, alyssum, annual phlox, to name but a few.

Out of the border and in beds of their own, annuals create gaudy islands of color and are easily approached for cutting.

Zinnias are especially suited for growing in their own plots of ground, but so are stocks, snapdragons, salvia, asters and most of the other flowers which serve so well for cutting.

Lower growing varieties—petunias, phlox, and dwarf marigolds again, plus violas—are massed strictly for their show and are seldom cut for arrangements.

A third use of annuals is for edgings along paths and to mark the front line of a foundation planting.

For this alyssum, ageratum and dwarf marigolds are first choices, but the perennial fibrous begonia, which many gardeners treat as an annual bedding plant, is also good.

Still another purpose served by annuals is to grace raised beds and containers in which other materials are planted.

Petunias planted in a raised bed and allowed to spill over the side as they are wont to do, make for colorful displays in patio areas.

Lobelia may be handled the same, cascading its veil of tiny blue flowers most appealingly over the edge of

a wall or planter box. You see it, to, in hanging baskets, in conjunction with tuberous begonias or ivy geraniums, or simply in a basket by itself.

The California Assn. of Nurserymen suggests one more possible use for annuals and that is as a simple ground cover in parkways or other spots that need a new look.

Two annuals are specially good for this—alyssum and portulaca the slow spreading Moss Rose. You can start them by simply scattering the seed over the prepared ground to be covered, or from flat-grown seedlings. All the above annuals are offered in flats this time of year for easy transplanting to the garden.

With annuals, as with all plants, take a few extra moments and study your soil. Is it loose and workable?

Does it seem to have a good amount of organic material in it, or is it primarily sand?

Is it well drained? Such an analysis can be made by the most inexperienced gardener in a matter of minutes, yet how often are those questions overlooked.

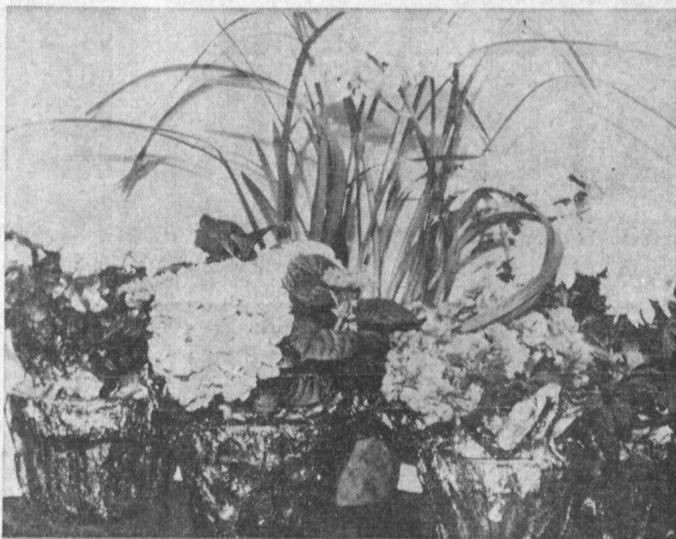
For annuals, turn the soil to a depth of a foot (or more, if you are energetic), working in steer manure and other humus building material.

Humus is the magic material that bulks up sandy soils and loosens clay or adobe soils.

Where compaction has existed, you can insure that the newly worked soil will stay in shape by adding peat moss or a chemical soil conditioner and vermiculite.

This takes but a little extra effort—and remember that the exercise is god for you.

And how wonderful the dividends which that little extra effort pays. Your annuals—any plants—will thrive as they never have before. Your return in color and in flowers for cutting will be doubled, tripled, or even better.



**BLOOMS ARE SYMBOLIC** of Easter in of beauty will grace many homes on this Easter Day. Azaleas, lilies, mums, and other blooms

## Things to See in Southland

The April 20 and 21 6th Annual Morongo Valley Wildflower Show, and the April 20 and 28 Carlsbad Spring Holidays top the list of things to see in the Southland this week. Here is the schedule of activities in the areas for the period of April 14 through April 20, as compiled by the Automobile Club of Southern California.

**Avalon:** The Avalon Buccaneer Ball will be held April 19 through 21. This is one of the leading celebrations of the year on Santa Catalina Island. It serves as the kick-off for the annual first sailing of the big white excursion steamer, SS Catalina, between Avalon and the mainland. Many yachtsmen and their families will participate.

**Carlsbad:** Carlsbad Spring Holidays will be held April 20 through 28. A flower show, open daily, and a parade on the 27th featuring miniature flower floats along streets decorated with overflowing flower carts highlight this event.

**Coronado:** The Coronado Annual Flower Show will be held April 20 and 21 in Spreckles Park.

**Death Valley:** The World's Lowest Golf Tournament will be held April 18 through 20. This is the Fred Harvey Invitational, played on the course of the Furnace Creek resort.

**La Jolla:** The 27th Annual La Jolla Garden Tour will be held April 20. Some of the most beautiful and interesting home gardens in the La Jolla area are thrown open for public tour. La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club presents handsome and unusual table settings.

**Lakewood:** The Lakewood Pan American Festival will be held April 15 through 21. A parade will be held on the 21st.

**The Los Angeles County Museum** is featuring "California Wildflowers in Art and Bloom" through April 28. A display of wildflowers plus 60 water colors of native flowers by Sidney Armer, Jane Pinheiro and Ethelynde Smith.

**Morongo Valley:** The 6th Annual Morongo Valley Wildflower Show will be held April 20 and 21. Residents gather in wildflowers from the surrounding scenic desert and a national parks naturalist identifies them. A six-year-old girl and an eight-year-old boy will be crowned queen and king.

**National City:** Miss Maytime Majorette Contest will be held April 20. Majorettes from all over California vie in this contest to pick California's most talented and beautiful majorette and two princesses to lead the annual Maytime Band Review.

**Riverside:** The Riverside Community Flower Show will be held April 20 and 21. San Clemente: The 12th Annual Flower Show will be

## Ray Watt Signs Contract To Build Home Show Home

Contract for construction of the 1963 Home Show Balance Power Home has been signed by Southland gas company officials and R. A. Watt Construction Co., one of the developers of the huge Marble Estate here in Torrance.

The home, to be called The Diamond Head, will be the largest in Home Show history, and is being constructed by The Watt organization for the fourth time in five years.

Sponsored by Southern California and Southern Counties Gas Companies and their two-company Natural Gas Bureau, The Diamond Head will be featured in prime exhibit space at the 1963 Home Show at Sports Arena June 12-13, according to T. F. McGowan, Natural

Gas Bureau manager.

To contain nearly 2550 square feet of tri-level living space, including four bedrooms, three baths and extra large family, living and rumpus rooms, the model home will carry an oriental theme throughout. It was designed as the perfect answer for large families with teenage children, McGowan said.

To be completed by Watt in early June, the model home will set the trend for homes like it at five new Balanced Power projects being undertaken by Watts, McGowan indicated. They include Mesa Palos Verdes in Palos Verdes; Palo del Amo in Torrance; Montebello Ridgeview in Montebello; Orange Estridge in Orange, and Harbor Estates Seaview in San Clemente.



**LOCAL GAS COMPANY** officials and representatives of R. A. Watt Construction Co. gathered to sign the contract for construction of the 1963 Home Show Balanced Power model home. Left to right are Carl Kraatz, executive vice-president, Home Show; F. N. Seitz, Southern Counties Gas Co. senior vice-president; R. A. Watts; T. F. McGowan, Natural Gas Bureau manager, and F. K. Murray, general staff supervisor of residential sales, Southern California Gas Co.

## Flower Tips Offered

Mrs. Velma Bush, better known around the South Bay Area as "Miss Daisy," will assist you in completing eight different artificial flower arrangements.

On display at the YWCA are several of the designs which you can learn.

Classes will be limited to 20. Call soon for your reservation. Your creation would make a perfect gift for Mother's Day, birthday, and many special occasions.

This class will be offered Thursday afternoons and Thursday evenings, starting April 18. Call the YWCA at FA 0-2255 for registration and additional information and fees as the class will be limited in enrollment.

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held April 20 and 21.

**San Fernando:** The San Fernando Valley Rodeo will be held April 20 and 21. Most of the national championship cowboys will be on hand for this rodeo. Cowboys will compete in such events as Gramma bull riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, team roping and bareback riding.

**San Diego:** Tournament of Wheels will be held April 13 at the organ pavilion in Balboa Park. Hundreds of children will decorate their bikes, trikes, wagons, scooters and pets for a parade.

## A GOOD CALENDAR FOR LAWN CARE

A neat, green, lawn, free of weeds and brown spots, is the joy of a summer garden. And if you would enshrine a treat, the time to start working toward it is now.

Ask a member of the California Assn. of Nurserymen what the secret of a good summer lawn is and he'll tell you, without a doubt, that it's setting up a simple program of lawn care. A little attention will go a long way toward keeping your lawn green if you give that attention on a regular schedule.

The single most important factor involved is proper watering. Watering has special significance in California because of our long season of drought which stretches from late spring to fall. Only through water penetration can the nutrients which keep a lawn healthy reach the roots and be absorbed.

Often water penetration is hindered by a compacted soil, but just as often it is the gardener who stalls the process by failing to water frequently or adequately enough. Compacted soil can be improved by coring or spiking.

Ask your nurseryman about this. But proper watering can only be guaranteed by you.

Never water by hand unless you are prepared to stand holding a hose for more time than most of us

have. Get a good sprinkler and learn to use it properly. Experts claim that each sprinkling should penetrate to a depth of six inches, and it takes about an inch of surface water to accomplish this.

You can check this by placing cans here and there on the lawn and seeing how long it takes your sprinkler to fill them to one inch.

Weeds are the bane of summer lawns and they also thrive on water. You can easily knock them out in a hurry, however, with one or another of the weed killers available in C.A.N. nurseries.

Start your weed control program now and you'll have little trouble from them in summer. Crab Grass is immune to the standard broad-leaf weed killers, so ask your nurseryman about special treatment for it.

It can be easily controlled when you start early enough to control it.

Theories on lawn feeding have undergone a complete cycle of change in the past decade or so.

It was once thought that three or four heavy feedings a year were best for a lawn. Recent practice has indicated, however, that light monthly applications will keep a more even rate of growth and insure more regular color and beauty.

Most lawn food manufacturers allow for this new approach in their printed in-

structions on fertilizer packages. If you're in doubt about the amount of fertilizer to use, however, be sure to consult a nurseryman.

Starting sometime in spring and seen through the summer are occasional brown spots in the lawn.

When compaction and inadequate water have been ruled out as causes for this phenomenon, the culprits usually a fat little grub called the sod webworm, which later hatches into a small, light colored moth.

Presence of these moths is a good indication that trouble could be imminent, but there's no need for worry since several good controls are on the market and all are easily applied. Your nurseryman can recommend once.

As for mowing, the essential here is a sharp mower. Never hack away at your lawn with dull mower blades since you only succeed in making a mess of things. Have your mower sharpened at least once a year and preferably twice.

For summer mowing the cutting blades are set higher than they are in winter. Short cropping a summer lawn leads to sunburn and a setback in the lawn's surge of growth. When you have the mower sharpened, have the blades set to cut high.

The rule here, as with the other steps of lawn care in spring and summer, is to mow frequently enough to make it easy on yourself.

## Bulbs Light Up a Garden with Colors

The nicest things that happen to a garden in summer come from bulbs. Begonias, cannas, dahlias and gladiolus are candidates for bloom during the warm months, and by planting them now, you can enjoy them in summer.

The most exotic is the tuberous begonia. Tender beauties, begonias look as though they belong in a greenhouse. However, they thrive in shaded borders or beds and in pots, so they can be moved where color is needed.

Nurserymen suggest sinking pots full of blooming tuberous begonias in the earth to fill in color-bare spots. Handled in this way, they can be removed and used on deck or terrace when you entertain.

Begonias are available for planting in three different ways. First as tubers, which may still be purchased, although supplies are dwindling in nurseries. Tubers should be planted in flats or peat moss, leaf mold and a little sand until tops sprout and develop leaves. When they are about three inches high, transplant them to the garden or to pots.

Second, tubers may be bought already started in containers for easy transplanting to your garden.

Third, you'll find begonias in seedling form. By April, supplies of begonia seedlings are available. They are cheaper this way, but not quite so flowery the first year. Late in bloom, they bloom longer into fall than those plants started from tubers.

Give tuberous begonias part shade. They fail to develop strong growth or bloom when planted in heavy shade. An acid, well-drained soil is best. Feeding with liquid fish at about three-week intervals is recommended.

Cannas, too, are wonderfully colored additions to a summer garden, being at their best in the warmest

areas of the state. You see good plantings of them in some gardens near the coast, however, proving that they do well in almost every section of California. Along the coast, plant them in full sun.

Cannas have many uses in the garden. Like the gladiolus, which they resemble at first glance, they can be used en masse in beds. Being tall, they are good subjects for the rear of a sunny border. Don't string them out in borders, but clump them together for best effect. Color selection is limited largely to pinks, reds, oranges and yellows, though a white form is available, too.

A bulb which really puts on a show from summer into fall is the dahlia. Available in many forms, from small pompons to platter-size giants, the dahlia produces until frost cuts it short. For general garden use, smaller dahlias are probably best, but every gardener owes himself at least a few of the tall, exhibition varieties.

Dahlia tubers should be planted about six inches deep; taller varieties should have stakes set beside the tubers when they are planted. Dwarf bedding dahlias are available in nursery flats and should be used just as you might use petunias or other annuals for masses of color in beds.

We mention gladiolus last only because we have mentioned them frequently before. Of all summer blooming bulbs, these are probably the most popular. As garden subjects, they provide brilliant splashes of color over a period of several months and have no equals as cut flowers for the house. Florists long ago discovered how popular they were in this respect.

There is nothing easier to grow than a gladiolus. Southern California gardeners set out glads as early as December. You can continue setting them out until June so that your garden can have glads in bloom for months on end. As one planting fades, another begins to bloom.

Give gladiolus sun or mostly sun. Plant them in clumps or double rows to reap the full harvest of color. Occasionally spray them to control thrips, and you will have the color display gardeners dream of.

### EASTER BREAKFAST

Dianas held their annual family Easter breakfast and egg hunt Sunday, April 6, at Redondo City Park. Chairman was Mrs. John Hansford of Torrance. Dianas are affiliated with the California Federation of Women's Clubs, Marina District, Junior Membership.

### Ideas for Living . . .

## A FAMILY IN FOCUS

Are you a handyman or handy homemaker who has been faced with an architectural, decorating, or gardening problem which you have liked?

Have your ideas for a better way of making do with what you have paid off in more comfortable or attractive living?

Have you tackled your problem with a great deal of thought, a barrel of elbow grease, and a dash of cash?

If you have had a house-and-garden experience along the do-it-yourself line and are willing to share results with our readers, The Press is interested in the achievements of you and your family.

Our Home and Garden Editor hopes to run an article each week telling in words and pictures of a local family who has made a home more liveable. If our editor chooses to focus on your family, our photographer will visit your home to take pictures of what you have done.

If you would like to share do-it-yourself achievements—large or small—write the Home and Garden Editor, The Press, 3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, and tell us about your experiences.

## Gardening Tips For April

Hanging baskets can be things of beauty in the summer garden. Try starting fuchsias and hanging tuberous begonias this month.

Roses are now available in containers at your nursery. Plant them now and you will enjoy the first big flush of bloom.

Snails and slugs thrive on newly planted bedding plants. They can be easily controlled, however, with bait or pellets or liquid spray.

If you like water in the garden, ask your nurseryman about various pools available.

Pelargoniums may be bought in bloom this month for instant color in the garden.



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