



DOUBLE DAHLIA . . . Mrs. Iva Jean Manning, 1733 W. 236th St., displays double growth on dahlia stem. Dahlia bloomed on both sides of bud Monday, leaving complete sphere of blooming flower. Mrs. Manning is comparing unusual flower, left, with regular blooming dahlia.

GARDENER'S CHECKLIST

1. Plan for a winter vegetable garden—the fall rains will help it on its way. Plant cabbage, cauliflower, beets, turnips and garden peas.
2. Perennial plants clumps that are crowded should be lifted, divided and re-set.
3. Good winter color selections are stock, calendulas, baby primroses, violas, and pansies.
4. Now's a good time to set in that new lawn. Get the seedbed prepared and sowed before the fall rains come.
5. Bright color and soft fragrance is provided by the winter-flowering sweet pea. Plant it now.

Primrose Gives Great Variety

There's a variety of the primula or primrose from nearly all the lands of the earth and there's a variety of the perennial primrose to suit every California gardener.

If you're a collector, if you're a casual gardener, if you're a beginner—there's a Primrose just suited for your gardening talents.

The most widely planted primrose is the English . . . which will grow in all but desert conditions. Primula vulgaris features single flowers of white, yellow, red, purple, or blue set amidst crinkled leaves. The juliae hybrids are crosses between the miniature Caucasian species and the English. Rosettes of leaves surround flowers in shades of red, yellow, blue, and pure white.

The polyantha primrose is often thought of as the typical primrose. These carry flowers in clusters on stiff stems above rosettes of green basal leaves. Both the vulgaris and polyantha primroses need division every other year. Lift the clump, wash the divisions, cut back roots to four inches and plant at once. Work in rich humus in the upper soil and apply a mulch of the same material after planting.

Other varieties of primroses include the warm climate primroses from southern China. The three species in this group are obovata, sinensis, and malacoides commonly called fairy primrose and treated as an annual. These are good pot subjects. The Alpine types of primroses are at their best in rock garden situations. The many species of this type come from the Pyrenees and mountains of southeastern Europe, the Himalayas, and Siberia.

Ground Covers Can Do More for Your Garden Than Cover Areas

Defined as "low growing plants with a sprawling habit of growth used to hide unsightly areas in the garden and lawn" ground covers can be employed by the clever gardener to do a lot more than that.

You need not wait until you have some unsightly areas in your garden to plant these various obliging plants, advises the California Association of Nurserymen. You can use them to add texture contrast in border gardens—in parkways and patios tastefully combined with crushed gravel, flagstone or redwood shippings. Use ground covers as lawn substitutes, for areas of heavy traffic where grass would require more maintenance, covering difficult-to-care-for banks and slopes—or just because you want to.

Strawberries Popular

Probably, one of the most appealing of the ground covers is the ornamental strawberry . . . because of its fruit. There are several types of strawberry ground covers: The wild strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*); Indian or mock strawberry (*Duchesnea indica*); but the queen of them all is the hybrid ornamental strawberry No. 25 which features glossy foliage, numerous white flowers and very tasty fruits, better than the fruit of other strawberry ground covers although they are very effective ground covers nevertheless. The hybrid also has a high drought tolerance, requires no food and has few soil preferences. Now, what more could you ask? Use the strawberries on a sunny bank, in an area of occasional traffic or a lawn substitute.

Well established favorite in the ground cover field is the dwarf rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis prostratus*), praised over and over for its dark green foliage, lavender flowers and the aroma of its leaves. Contrary to its herb cousin it grows lower and is available in varieties with bright green and gray-green leaves. Takes full sun, good drainage and not-too-rich soil.

An excellent lawn substitute that will take light traffic, dichondra or lawn leaf (*Dichondra Carolinensis*) is particular neither to soil nor to sun or shade. It is a matted perennial that spreads by underground runners with small round green flowers with yellow centers and it needs mowing or shearing in its old age. It is very effective when grown between stepping stones.

Consider the many planting possibilities of ground covers. Dichondra requires next time you stop to see your nurseryman and have him show you a few of the varieties available. The thymes (*Thymus*) are a well-some other lawn substitutes come addition to your garden!



IT'S FAIR TIME AGAIN . . . Official notice to the Torrance area youngsters that it is about time for the annual Los Angeles County Fair was given here yesterday when the pony teams pulling a carriage and a new fire wagon paraded throughout the city passing out souvenirs and brochures on the world's biggest county fair. The fair will open in Pomona on Sept. 16 and remain open through Oct. 2. Torrance Accordionettes will be featured on Sept. 20, officials have reported. New features of the fair will include a new Japanese village brought directly from Japan, and a new Mexican village. Playgrounds for children include new battleship, submarine, and steam engine.

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