



THE TORRANCE HERALD HOME AND GARDEN

GARDENER'S CHECKLIST

1. Sow these seeds in the open ground: Alyssum, Virginia stock, baby blue eyes, scabiosa, godetia, calendula, clarkia, scarlet flax, and linaria.
2. All gladioli should be lifted by this time. Store in shallow trays. Dust the bulbs with lindane or DDT to kill the thrips.
3. Plant spring flowering bulbs, such as tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, and ranunculus.
4. Plant regular or spring flowering sweetpeas now.
5. Alyssum, Virginia Stock, anagallis, nemophila, and red flax make good ground covers when the seed is sown over bulb plantings.

Lead Taken From Plant

A series of thefts at the Pacific Smelting Co., 2219 Western Ave., the latest coming Friday afternoon, were reported to police by M. D. Schwartz, general manager of the company. Schwartz said in the police

report that 50 lead ingots were taken from the plant Friday. He also said that 96 of the soft lead pieces had been stolen since the beginning of October. Total value of the stolen lead was estimated at \$900.

Each of the ingots weigh 50 pounds. Torrance detectives currently are investigating the round of thefts.

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Heather Provides Winter Color, Evergreen Foliage for Gardens

What is commonly called Heather by gardeners is really a grouping of three separate families—the Heath (Erica), Heather (Calluna) and Irish Heath (Daboecia)—but regardless with which of the three you are gardening, says the California Association of Nurserymen, you'll find Heathers will provide winter color and evergreen foliage that goes through interesting seasonal color changes.

In the Heath (Erica) family the species E. mediterranea and E. darleyensis provide wonderful winter colors amidst their shiny green, needle-like leaves. The mediterranea grows from four to seven feet high, bearing blue-pink flowers from January to April. One of the more popular Heathers, the darleyensis spreads four feet wide and two feet high with rosy-purple bells from November to May. E. canaliculata features in fall and winter dark pink to rosy-purple flowers and leaves that are dark green above and white underneath on its six foot frame. This is possibly the most widely planted of all Heathers and because of its blooming habits is known as the Christmas Heather.

Bell-Like Blossoms
All these Heathers bloom in bell-like blossoms. E. cruenta is another member of this family but its flowers are tubular. They are blood-red, blooming in the Fall and winter on spikes set on the three foot shrub. The Ericas generally require a soil that is slightly acid, peaty and loose with perfect drainage. The Calluna family is not widely grown throughout the state. The species C. vulgaris or Scotch Heather has several varieties which are rather low-growing with small, scale-like leaves, some bearing flowers. Irish Heath (Daboecia Canta-

brica) grows low also, one and a half to three feet, with wider leaves than the other Heathers—bright green above, gray underneath, interspersed with pale purple flowers from May to November. A variety alba bears pure white blossoms. Give Irish Heath a rich, moist, peaty soil.

The most general characteristic of all these Heathers is that they are much the better for regular pruning. As for use in California gardens—they can play all the roles any evergreen shrub does... the low spreading types make good bank and hillside covers, the taller ones make fine hedges and screens. You can stagger plant the various species so as to have continuous colorful blooms the year 'round.

Look into the planting possibilities of these three shrubs—the Heath, the Heather and the Irish Heath—Heather, as they are generally known, and get your nurseryman's suggestions on them. You'll find these evergreens a welcome addition to your garden.

WHITTINGTON NOW AIR RESERVE CADET

William Whittington, 1230 Hickory Ave. has been accepted and is now a cadet in the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University of Southern California. It was announced yesterday by Lt. Col. James K. Briggs, professor of air science at SC. Whittington is a sophomore major in engineering at the university. After his tour of duty with the Air Force, he plans a career in civil engineering. He will receive a commission as a second lieutenant on graduation and will be required to serve three years on active duty with the Air Force.

Garden Chatter

By LORING BIGELOW

There are few plants that will give you as much fall and early winter color in your garden as the Chrysanthemum. As well as being very colorful, they are perennial, and grow along with a minimum of care.

Your nursery and garden supply dealer has his selection for you all in bloom and ready to plant at this time. Although small plants were available during the spring and early summer, now you can set the blooming ones into your garden. Another good reason why it is a good idea to make selections at this time, is the fact that you may observe them in bloom and pick out the shades and types that interest you most.

Whenever we think of the Chrysanthemum, it is in terms of the large exhibition varieties, but there are many other interesting types and some of them will no doubt fit into your planting. By selecting your varieties carefully, you may also extend your blooming period over a long season.

Anemone flowering varieties are very interesting in that they have large, high neatly formed discs or cushion flowers and regularly arranged ray petals of various lengths. For the most part these types should be budded after a plant is developed in order to obtain more perfect flowers. Color ranges include bronze, pink, red, white, and yellow.

Hardy garden types are most effective in your garden when grown low with as much spreading foliage as possible. You can obtain this easily by pinching off the centers of all laterals three or four times during the growing season. This will also prevent the plants from toppling over, and they are wonderful profuse bloomers and also come in an endless array of colors.

The Northland Daisy types are also worth while. Low growing, very hardy, glossy dark green foliage, they make an excellent border plant. The flowers are daisy like, and usually limited in color to white, yellow and pink.

Where a mass color effect is desired but not the daisy like flower, the cushion and dwarf mums are used. They are most effective in border plantings, rock gardens, potted plants, or anywhere that a low bushy habit of growth is desired.

The Spoon types have long petals, with a distinct spoon or cup shape at the ends. Excellent where an accent plant is needed or a type just a little fancier. Spider types are similar, but the petals are usually longer and without the characteristic "spoon."

English types are the elite of outdoor mums. They are valuable because they bloom earlier and when properly fed and disbudded will produce flowers from five to six inches across. The color range is very wide, and the shape may be best described as a ball.

Other types worthy of your consideration for something just a little different include the cascade types which may be chosen to hang downward, like over a wall; the button or miniature, with tiny flowers by the hundreds; the pompon, which forms a neatly small perfect ball; the single varieties which resemble and are in fact large daisies.

Chrysanthemums should be planted in as much sun as possible and sufficient room should be allowed between plants for their spread. During the growing season, they should receive sufficient moisture to keep them growing thriftily, and abundant plant food as well.

Pests like the mums too, and a sharp look out should be kept for aphids, and worms or caterpillars, but with this attention you can reward yourself with an extremely colorful display at this time of the year.

HUMAN FAILURES
Safety authorities claim 80 per cent of shop and occupational accidents involve the factor of human failure.

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The Nurseryman's Viewpoint

By DICK OEHLMAN

CAMELLIA JAPONICA

In most opinions the camellia is the entire royal family of all evergreen shrubs and should be planted in every garden where conditions permit. It is a native of Asia, belonging to the Tea family.

They have long been prized for their handsome glossy-green leaves and snowy single, semi-double and double flowers of white and shades of pink and red, and many variegated colors.

The plant, bushy or upright and loose or compact, is a slow-growing shrub which may attain a height of 40 feet and a width of 15 to 25 feet over a long period of time.

The camellia is a semi-shade loving plant and should be protected from full sun. The north or east side of a house or garden or under trees is satisfactory when protection is given from hot mid-day sun. Care should be taken when the plant is not closer than 3 feet to a wall or surface where it would be affected by reflected heat, also care should be taken in planting under trees that such trees are of a variety that will allow filtered sunlight through and do not have heavy near surface roots to cause too much interference. In all cases be sure that the planting is not close to the trunk of the tree.

Camellias like a well drained soil, slightly on the acid side, and a cool, moist condition for their roots. In lighter soils the hole should be at least 2x2x2' and for larger plants, two times as large as the root ball. The soil mixture should be equal parts of soil, leaf mold, and moistened peat moss, or equal parts of soil and leaf mold or soil and moistened peat moss mixed thoroughly.

The root should be moist at the time of planting, and if the root system appears to be crowded, the outer roots may be slightly loosened with fingers. The plant should then be placed in the hole with the root ball about one inch higher than the surrounding soil surface, and the mixed soil should be placed around and tamped firmly when the planting is finished, water slowly and thoroughly.

Proper watering of the camellia is very important. A plant in light soil will need more water than one in a heavy soil; and a plant in the shade will require less water than the one in the semi-shade; and a plant protected from the wind will require less water than one which is not protected. Therefore, no exact rule can be laid down. The guiding principle is that a camellia should never be allowed to dry out completely, and the soil should be kept moist but not so wet as to cause a waterlogged condition.

When watering soak the ground thoroughly and do not water again until the plant shows need for water by the fact that portions of soil around the plant have begun to dry out or have done so.

Bud dropping sometimes causes a considerable loss of flowers and perhaps the chief reason for this is dryness at the roots, particularly after the buds have set. In pots or tubs the soil and roots are very likely to become compacted in to a hard ball which gets dry in the center. When this occurs the

New Circus Rose Given Top Honors

The sole All-America winner for 1955 is the multi-colored Floribunda, Circus introduced by Armstrong Nurseries of Ontario, Calif., a member of the California Association of Nurserymen.

Besides being so singly honored in this country, Circus was awarded the Gold Medal for 1955 at Geneva, Switzerland, and won the Gold Medal of the National Rose Society of Great Britain (1955).

Circus, as its name perhaps implies to rose fanciers and laymen alike, displays constantly changing colors—just as a circus of wild animals and trapeze performers provides constant changes in entertainment. Circus's bud is red and bright yellow opening to orange or apricot tones or pale gold with a tinge of apple blossom pink.

Before it has finished its bloom it often turns back to a bright red for a finishing flourish. This new Floribunda features unusually fine form in both buds and open blooms. Its flowers are long-lasting and excellent for cutting. As a plant Circus is vigorous and well-foliated. It reaches a medium low height, making it a natural choice for hedges, borders or for use in colorful mass planting.

Circus is being grown for distribution in 1955 and 1956 by the largest rose growers in the nation and Europe and California nurserymen will be able to provide gardeners with this new rose beauty for planting throughout the state.

Container should be completely immersed in water for a few hours so that the soil will be well soaked throughout.

Spraying the foliage during hot summer and fall months is very beneficial, but avoid doing this during the heat of the day or when flower buds are opening.

An acid fertilizer should be used for the best results, the amount of fertilizer to use depends to a great extent on the type and richness of the soil, the size of the plants and where they are in the ground or in containers. When using a commercial fertilizer, never use more than prescribed on the container.

Camellias are not subject to attack by many pests and diseases, and ordinary measures can generally be used to combat them. For more information contact your local nurseryman.

Growing camellias in pots and rewood boxes, is becoming very popular and is ideally suited for those who do not have sufficient or proper ground space. This assures good drainage, and makes watering and fertilizing easier and is more flexible in that plants can be moved to any location desired.

Equal parts of turfy loam and peat, with a liberal dash of sharp sand, makes a good potting mixture.

Camellias do not require frequent repotting and should never be over-potted. When repotting is called for, the best time to do it is immediately after flowering, because when the Camellia is in bloom it is dormant and can be handled with out much danger of loss.

The Camellia Sasanqua Here is a species of plants whose relatives are so proud and domineering they have nearly obliterated from the garden this most beautiful plant. Had the sasanqua been known as such they would have become one of the most popular varieties in the garden. It seems strange that so many people who are looking for something new for the garden have to be almost pushed into the merits of the sasanqua. Now it is known as sasanqua camellia.

The sasanqua flowers are not large, formal nor used as a corsage flower. It is far superior to the japonica in this respect—it has a light mild fragrance, it is hardier, heavier bloomer and blooms earlier. Its uses are wider than the japonica.

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