

THE TORRANCE HERALD HOME AND GARDEN

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'Shrub In A Tub' Is Popular Form Of Container Planting

Along with the approach of summer comes the opportunity of trying new types of gardening. For this season, the California Association of Nurserymen suggests planting summer blooming shrubs in containers. Shrub gardening in containers can be conducted indoors or out with no end to the variety of opportunity open to you. Possibly the most popular form is the shrub planted in a tub but shrubs may also be inset in a terrace or patio floor, planted in raised beds, hanging baskets or against and spilling over walls.

The advantages of container gardening are many, particularly if your patio and garden is being used more and more frequently as a living area, therefore requiring greater paved space for chairs and benches. With less actual gardening space available, move your plants and shrubs into containers. Not only are they just as easily cared for in this form but you may also move them from place to place depending upon your space-needs. Keep your containers small enough to move easily.

Various Colors

Bright yellow, orange and pink, and a soft lavender are the bloom colors of the Lantana family which likes a place in the sun when container grown. This shrub will repair slight frost damage quickly and therefore is a good choice for mild winter areas.

Popular in all milder areas of California, the exotic Hibiscus is somewhat dormant in winter but comes back with a rush of bloom in Spring and continues to bloom in brilliant colors throughout the Summer and Fall. Against a wall, the Lavender Starflower (Grewia Caffra) can be easily controlled and it is excellent in windy and sunny exposures. Its foliage is grayish-green and the blooms lavender-blue with yellow centers.

Grows Upright

One of the more desirable deciduous shrubs that is grown throughout California, Beauty Bush (Kolkwitzia amabilis) grows in an upright and gracefully arching manner. In June trumpet-like flowers of pink appear followed by interesting brown bristly seed pods. Plant Beauty Bush in the sun although it will tolerate some shade.

An attractive shrub for Western gardens is the Mexican Orange (Choisya ternata). It has glossy green leaves of three leaflets each and forms a globular shrub. Clusters of fragrant white flowers bloom from early Spring through April and then intermittently through the summer. This shrub is outstanding as a container growth short hedge.

In all your selections for container grown summer shrubs, make sure your choices look natural in containers. Provide the proper soil for each shrub (generally two or three parts garden loam, one part coarse sand, and one part peat moss or leaf mold and one part cow manure, well rotted). Make sure the container will drain freely and water thoroughly when necessary, varying your watering schedule according to plants in question. Container grown plants need feeding often than garden bed plants. Nurserymen recommend a monthly application of balanced fertilizer during the active growing season.

Insecticides Make Control Of Pests Easy

Control of garden pests was difficult prior to World War II. However, the insecticides which have appeared on your nurseryman's shelf since that time have made control of most insects a simple matter.

So arm yourself, the California Association of Nurserymen warns, before your garden is attacked by these foes of floral beauty. Snails, slugs, earwigs and cutworms are now on the march.

To rid yourself of earwig trouble, first be sure you have no rubbish, boards, or paper stacked around in your yard and garden. This is where earwigs spend the daytime hours and gather for their night time meals of leaves, flowers and vegetables. Incidentally, because they will also eat paper and cloth they are not easily controlled. They sample many kinds of food and do not prefer one to the other. The best control is to dust or spray with chlordane and lindane or Malathion. Also you can place rolled up paper or sacks near the known feeding areas. Earwigs will retire to these in the daytime and you can pick the papers up and destroy those pests by burning.

For slugs and snails (indicated by slimy trails and tattered foliage) control either by hand, looking under rocks, leaves, boxes or on plants or lawn during the night when they're feeding, or by baits, such as Muel or pellets. You can also dust with arsenates.

Go after cutworms with baits or dusts of DDT, DDD and arsenates. Check over your garden now to make sure you haven't already been invaded. Bait new garden beds to prevent future trouble.

IRIS PLANT DISPLAY SET AT GARDENS

With members of the Southern California Iris Society in charge, the new Iris section of Los Angeles County's Descanso Gardens at La Canada will be dedicated Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m.

In charge of formalities will be Thomas Wilkes of Sunland, representing the group of Iris fanciers which collected and planted many of the 200 varieties of Iris to be found at Descanso. Featuring the ceremony will be an open forum on the subject of Iris, with a panel of experts ready to answer questions.

County Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Norman S. Johnson said the new Iris garden is but part of a continuing development plan of making Descanso Gardens a year-round floral attraction. The Iris section is located west of the rose gardens.

In furtherance of such a policy, the American Begonia Society on April 29 will break ground for the new Begonia planting section at Descanso, at 3 p.m. The event will be in the charge of Joe Taylor, of Redondo Beach, and Calvin Trowbridge, of Los Angeles, president and president-elect, respectively, of the American Begonia Society.

Lawn Needs Constant Attention

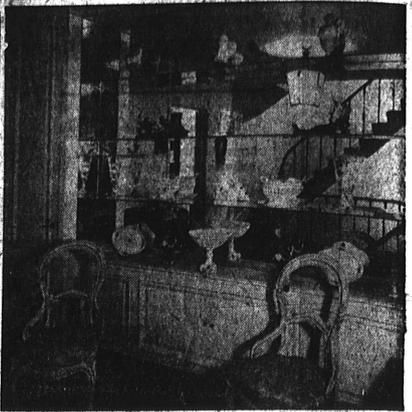
A smooth, green lawn, healthy and vigorous, is something that must be attended constantly. Spring days are a fine time to spruce up your lawn and prepare it for the long hot summer months ahead.

Irrigating is an extremely important part of lawn maintenance and the most beneficial method is to water slowly and thoroughly. Let the sprinklers run until the water begins to run off. Turn the water off for a while and then repeat the process again.

Proper mowing of your lawn will also affect its well being. In general, says the California Association of Nurserymen, young lawns should not be cut closer than 1 1/2 inches. In extremely dry weather leave the clippings on the lawn for they will dehydrate quickly and add to the organic matter in the soil.

Fertilize regularly with a nitrogenous fertilizer, applying just enough in a uniform manner when the grass leaves are dry. Water immediately afterward. You can apply fertilizers in liquid and dry forms or use the various mixtures in chemical and organic form.

A board foot is a unit of measurement represented by a board one foot long, one foot wide and one inch thick.



MIRRORED SHELF... Do you wonder how to best display choice bric-a-brac or heirloom glass and china? Here's an idea from a New York apartment, a mirror-backed shelf cabinet. The twin-ground plate glass in the mirror panels give clear, sharp reflections of the prized pieces and virtually "double" the interest for your friends.

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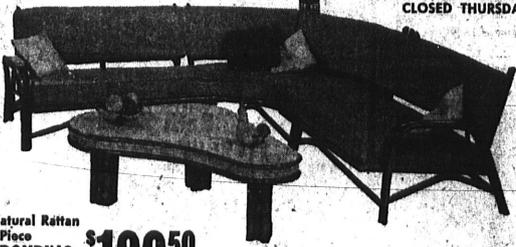
Tuberous Begonia Plants Now Available 20¢

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GARDENER'S CHECKLIST

1. Start those tuberous begonias now for that shady corner.
2. Warm weather vegetables such as cucumbers, squash, beans, corn, tomatoes, peppers and eggplant can now be planted.
3. All types of container-grown shrubbery and shade trees can now be planted.
4. A small garden plot devoted to strawberries will pay dividends. The average family needs about 50 plants.
5. Cyclamen should be used more as a bedding plant in part shade.

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On Sunday, April 29th, the Challenger Domeliner will leave Los Angeles at 4:30 PM Standard Time. (5:30 PM Daylight Saving Time.) This assures convenient morning arrival at Chicago's Union Station, and better connections with all featured trains.

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New EASTBOUND Schedule (Standard Time)

Lv Los Angeles	4:30 PM
Lv East Los Angeles	4:50 PM
Lv Pomona	5:20 PM
Lv Riverside	5:43 PM
Lv San Bernardino	6:08 PM
Lv Las Vegas	11:30 PM
Ar Salt Lake City	1:05 AM
Ar Omaha	3:30 AM
Ar Chicago (2nd Day)	11:00 AM

New WESTBOUND Schedule (Standard Time)

Lv Chicago	6:45 PM
Lv Omaha	8:10 AM
Lv Salt Lake City	7:30 PM
Lv Las Vegas	8:55 AM
Ar San Bernardino	7:00 AM
Ar Riverside	8:15 AM
Ar Pomona	8:35 AM
Ar East Los Angeles	9:10 AM
Ar Los Angeles (2nd Day)	9:30 AM

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