

# SOME FLOWERS FIT WELL INTO MODERN THEME

Many California homes today are designed along modern lines of architecture. To complete the style of design, gardens can be planted with tropical palms, bamboos and grasses that fit well into a modern atmosphere.

Two bamboo grasses especially suitable for a modern garden are the variety Golden Goddess and the Dwarf Bamboo (Sasa pygmaea) varieties. The Goddess is very picturesque with slender yellow canes and well feathered golden stems. The Dwarf grows to 10 inches in a feathery, delicate manner.

### Evergreen

Pampas Grass (Cortaderia Selloana) is classified as an evergreen shrub but it is really a giant ornamental grass. It grows with saw-toothed grassy leaves accentuated by one to three foot high plumes of white or pink.

Another ornamental grass suitable for modern gardens is the Pennisetum villosum or Feather Grass. A native of Abyssinia, it grows with long narrow leaves and spikes headed by long, feathery bristles.

Two small plants that make handsome modern plantings are the Dwarf Umbrella plant (Cyperus alternifolius) and the Dwarf Paper-reed (Cyperus papyrus nanum). The Umbrella plant grows two feet tall, topped with umbrella-like heads. The Dwarf Paper-reed puts out attractive yellow-green tassels at the end of each stem.

### Another Plant

Another Paper-reed plant, the Egyptian Paper-reed (Cyperus papyrus) reaches six feet. Its stems are headed with feathery foliage and the leaves are stalk-like and dark green.

Ferns and Succulents fit well into a modern setting. The Tasmanian Tree Fern (Dicksonia antarctica), an attractive plant and the hardest of the tree ferns, grows to considerable height and will take sun on the coast. It can also be container-grown. In Succulents, the Agave attenuata makes a handsome small planting and may grow to 15 feet with greenish yellow flowers.

If you're planning a modern garden you'll find your local nurseryman a great help for he can give you authoritative advice on the correct varieties and species of grasses, bamboos, palms, succulents or whatever plants you choose to make up your modern garden.

### Ground Cover

As good a friend of the gardener as any is the ground cover. It performs a multitude of tasks in the garden and yard, weeds under shrubs and trees, filling in for grass, reducing adding color and preventing erosion on a hillside. Many low-growing, spreading plants are available at your local nursery.



CITRUS CUTIE... Mollie Baldwin, of Sacramento, a California State Fair model, smiles up from display of Southern California oranges. She demonstrates how people and products from all over the Golden State will get together Aug. 29-Sept. 9 to exhibit at annual fair.

# Fuchsias Ideal As 'Many-Climate' Flower, But They Require Shade

Today, enthusiasm for cultivating the fuchsia rivals that of the rose. For this ornamental shrub can be successfully grown in varying types of climates throughout the state.

The Fuchsia, named for Leonard Fuchs who was the first to begin botanical terminology, is native to Central and South America, Mexico, the West Indies and New Zealand. These countries possess the climatic conditions that best suit the Fuchsia—humidity, partial shade, moisture and a great deal of food. But recent hybridizing has developed varieties that will thrive even in the hot, dry climates of the California interior valleys, if properly shaded.

No matter where you garden—hot valleys or the ideal coastal fog belt—the Fuchsia should be grown in shade. If the climate of your locale is dry, you can easily create the damp growing conditions that the Fuchsia likes, according to the California Association of Nurserymen. Container cultivation is excellent for Fuchsias; they can be hung in shady places on your porch, lanai, patio or terrace. Upright varieties are readily grown in tubs on the patio floor.

**First Step**  
The first step in growing Fuchsias in containers is to select the trailing varieties which, of course, are best suited for hanging baskets, portable planter boxes and tubs. The list of trailing varieties is a long one, but some of the outstanding names are Anna, magenta and carmine with free-flowering, huge double blooms; Marinka with bright red, profuse single blooms; and Aurora Superba in orange. A variety that has proven fine for the hot, dry

### FOREST YIELD

Forests of the U.S. yielded about 37 billion feet of lumber in 1950 to establish a record the past 20 years.

## Garden Chatter

This is the story of the "mighty mite" that lives happily on the leaves of many of your plants and may be there in uncountable numbers without your knowledge.

Take a walk into the garden with me, and I will point them out. Before leaving the house though, find a magnifying glass and take it with you.

Let's visit any one of the following plants: citrus trees of any type, pyracantha, peaches, apples, or even strawberries. Do you see dull green leaves or a silvery look to the leaf itself? Take a look with the glass and see if you can see some very tiny "spider-like" creatures about one fourth the size of the period at the end of this sentence. I am almost certain that you will, and in very large numbers too.

These insects are mites. They may be in several colors ranging from green, to green with spots, or most commonly red. They resemble spiders in miniature at first glance, and they do lay eggs within a webby substance, but they are not true spiders. These mites will suck the juices from the tissues of leaves, and when there are hundreds and thousands, and yes, millions on a particular plant, the leaves will lose their green appearance, and may drop off entirely.

The red spider mite, to give an interesting example, is extremely prolific in warm weather, and all mites in general should be carefully watched and controlled at this time. A thorough saturating of the upper as well as the lower sides of the leaves of plants at this time with a malathion spray available from your nursery and garden supply dealer will aid greatly in controlling them. Repeated applications will be necessary to do a thorough job.

To get back to our friends (?) the red spider mite, we should keep the following statistical information in the back of our minds, because in a way they are almost unbelievable and may be the main reason that your plants look rather dry and defoliated in the late summer.

It has been established in the laboratory that one female red spider mite produces 20 mites or young, every 30 days when the average temperature is 60 degrees F. 13,000 mites every 30 days when the averages reach the 70's, and—hold on to your hats—13,000,000 every 30 days if the average temperature is 80 degrees.

If you found a leaf with 30 or 40 females on it, think of the population that can be built up during the next 30 days, multiply that by the approximate number of leaves you might believe to be on your plant, and the number of plants in your garden—you'd better get busy!

# Water Thoroughly But Less Frequently During Summer

The California Assn. of Nurserymen has some expert advice for you about the kind of summer watering habits you should develop.

Well-meaning but uninformed gardeners do more serious damage to gardens every summer in the name of watering them than in any other garden task!

Most gardeners do not realize that for watering to do any good it must penetrate to the depths of the plants' roots and for it to do this, watering takes a long time. Many gardeners believe that to wet the surface of the soil is to give the plants enough moisture, but, except for the few surface-rooted

# Ivy Geraniums Good As Ground Cover, Hardy

An illustrious member of the Geranium family is the Ivy Geranium for this hardy perennial functions well as a green ground cover or as an outdoor container plant.

Pelargonium peltatum is the Ivy Geranium's botanical name, and it derives its popular name from its bright green leaves which resemble those of the ivy vine. Clusters of single and double white, pink, rose, red and lavender flowers bloom profusely on the plant. These flowers are often attractively spotted in contrasting colors.

The trailing habit of the Ivy Geranium makes it ideal for ground cover in sloping areas or along parking strips in the milder areas of California. But, it is just as attractive when planted in hanging baskets, window boxes, or other type of container.

Like its cousins, the Common and Scented Geraniums, the Ivy Geranium thrives in the foggy coastal belt of the State, says the California Association of Nurserymen. It will do well, however, in almost any other part of the state. To keep the balance between foliage and flower plant in well drained soil, fertilizer and water moderately, avoiding excessive dryness. Excessive watering and feeding causes Ivy Geraniums to leaf profusely but lessens the number of blossoms for good plant form.

If you choose to grow the Ivy Geranium in a container, a good potting mixture is three parts garden soil, one part leaf mold or peat moss, and one part coarse sand.

# Daisies Always Are Dependable Summer Blooms

Always one of the more attractive and dependable summer flowers for the garden and cut bouquets, the Daisy now has some improved varieties to increase its popularity.

Four of the new varieties added to the Shasta Daisy group are Snow Queen, which has five-inch flowers, and blooms from early Spring thru mid-December in mild climates; Melissa, with semi-pioider blooms three inches wide; Jersey Cream, with double, four-inch flowers; and T. E. Killen, whose anemone-type blooms are six inches across. The latter three Shastas bloom in May.

There are several more new Shasta Daisies (Chrysanthemum maximum) in forms to suit almost every gardener's taste. All of them are hardy growers in all areas of the state. Shastas should have full sun and rich, deeply broken soil, the California Assn. of Nurserymen recommends. Remove dead blooms to encourage new flowers and a yearly division of the clumps will control the Shasta's spreading habit. Insects and diseases seldom bother this Daisy.

The Michaelmas Daisy or Hardy Aster offers colorful blooms. A hardy grower, the Michaelmas species and varieties bloom in late summer and

fall, adding color to the garden when most other perennials are dying. Set the Michaelmas in sun and stake the tall varieties and divide clumps yearly.

Certainly not to be forgotten are the Transvaal (Gerbera jamesonii) and Marguerite (Chrysanthemum frutescens) Daisies.

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## GARDENER'S CHECKLIST

- Both Fuchsias and Tuberous Begonias benefit from frequent light feedings.
- Most lawns are benefited by a midsummer application of fertilizer. Remember, well fertilized lawns take less water.
- It will soon be time to plant winter flowering Sweet Peas from seed. A fertile seed bed-will pay off in blossoms. Start preparations now.
- Crab Grass in lawns can be killed by certain new chemicals without permanent damage to the lawn.
- If large flowers are desired, disbud Chrysanthemum plants, leaving only the terminal flower bud on each branch.

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