

BULLETIN

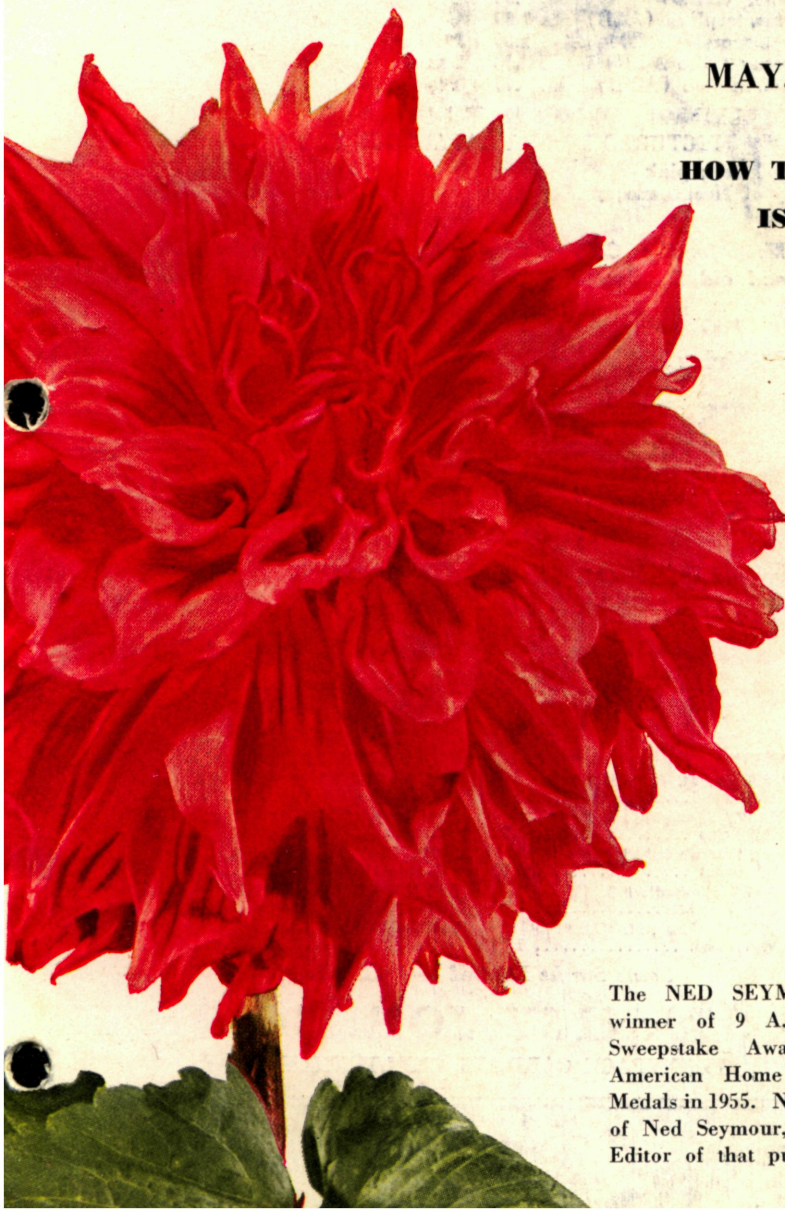
of the

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

MAY, 1955

**HOW TO DO IT
ISSUE**

Published
Quarterly—
Second
Quarter



The NED SEYMOUR Dahlia—
winner of 9 A.D.S. Seedling
Sweepstake Awards and 10
American Home Achievement
Medals in 1955. Named in honor
of Ned Seymour, Horticultural
Editor of that publication.

CREAM OF THE CROP AWARD WINNERS FOR 1955

As listed by Dr. Cook in the February A.D.S. Bulletin.

Please check the bulletin for descriptions.

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Pride of Holland (A-St C)	1.00	The Real Glory (A-ID)	1.00
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Victory Maid (B to A-IC)	1.00	St. Therese (B-St C)75
William Evans (A-IC)	2.00	The Cardinal (A-SC)	1.50
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F. H. Archer (B-FD)50	Orfeo (B-IC)	1.00
Croydon Masterpiece (A-ID)	2.00	Giant of Baarn (A-IC)	2.50
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See Description of Above Introductions, Page 18, February Bulletin

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BULLETIN

of the American Dahlia Society

Contents for May 1955

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* * *

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Membership dues in the American Dahlia Society, \$4.00 per year, of which \$3.00 is for the annual subscription to the Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society, published quarterly.

Send subscriptions to the American Dahlia Society, 12 Warren Street, New York, N. Y., or to the Treasurer of the Society, Henry A. Olsen, 45 Clement Avenue, Elmont, New York.

Editor - - - - - LYNN B. DUDLEY
25 Irving Place, New Rochelle, N. Y.

(See list of Associate Editors on another page)

The Challenge in Growing Big Dahlias

By Leo L. Pollak, Associate Editor

In these days, when there is a continuous flow of new varieties of dahlias coming on the market a person is often in a quandary as to what dahlias to grow.

This is particularly true in the case of the larger or "A" dahlias. Some people are prone to criticize size alone in the large blooms, but, if a person is looking for the supreme challenge in what he produces, it can only be found in the larger blooms. In the "B", "BB" or miniature types the natural habit of the plant will take care of the size or form of the blooms. However, in the "A" size types the question of feeding, disbudding, protecting from the hot sun, length of stems, and timing, are all important factors that must be considered if top grade flowers are to be available for the show tables.

The question the average grower is faced with every Spring, when he is preparing for the growing season is: What varieties shall I grow to assure a good crop and ones that will win in competition? When a new and interesting large variety comes on the market most everybody will want to try it out to see what it will do for him or her, but by and large, the bulk of the plantings will consist of the known and tried varieties that have done well for the grower in the past.

Of course, if a full appraisal is to be made, selections should be taken from the various types as well as the standard color classifications, but the average small grower seldom has the facilities for handling and taking care of the large number of plants that would be required to compete in all classes in his local show.

In the "A" types there are four different form classes and fourteen different recognized color divisions, so a total of fifty-six plants would have to be grown if a person limited himself to one of a kind. This as a general rule, will not give the most satisfactory results, since there is no assurance that every planting will come through, and consequently multiple planting is generally followed and the number of plants to look after is increased. This holds good for the "B", "BB", Miniatures, Pom Pons, so if a person is ambitious enough to aim at show sweepstakes, the task is a very great one and literally hundreds of plants would have to be accounted for.

In view of this fact, many people confine their efforts only to color classification, instead of both type and color.

Herewith are listed a number of standard "A" type dahlias that generally assure a person of a fair chance of success in almost any show. It will be noted that many of those enumerated are of the older varieties and most of these are available at a reasonable price. If procured from a reliable dealer or grower a person should end up with a satisfactory season.

I Would Pick the Following:

FIRST SELECTION—"A" SIZE

Yellow—*Pride of Parkersburg*, S.C.
 Orange—*Prairie Fire*, S.C.
 Red—*Mary Elizabeth*, I.D.
 Flame—*Arthur Godfrey*, F.D.
 Autumn—*Kirsten Flagstad*, F.D.
 Dark Red—*Mrs. Hester Pape*, I.D.
 Variegated—*Dixie Wine Dot*, I.D.
 Bicolor—*Jane Lausche*, S.C.
 Purple—*Kemp's Purple Triumph*, I. D.
 Light Blend—*Five Star General*, F.D.
 Pink—*Kelvin*, I.D.
 White—*Madonna*, I.D.
 Lavender—*Powder Puff*, I.D.

SECOND SELECTION—"A" SIZE

Yellow—*New Look*, S.C.
 Orange—*Patricia Spollen*, C.
 Red—*Maffie*, S.C.
 Autumn—*Axford Triumph*, I.D.
 Dark Red—*Black Monarch*, S.C.
 Variegated—*Figaro*, S.C.
 Bicolor—*Cornell*, I.D.
 Dark Blend—*Julie Kletch*, F.D.
 Purple—*The Volunteer*, S.C.
 Light Blend—*Arab Queen*, S.C.
 Pink—*Pink Flamingo*, C.
 White—*Graf Folke Bernadotte*, S.C.
 Lavender—*Ruth Alampi*, S.C.

Each of the varieties given above has stood the test of time, is from fair to a good root producer. They do not require too much nursing to get good results. It goes without saying that the plants must be fed, disbudded and sprayed to protect against insects and parasites. Some of these varieties should be shaded to protect them from the hot sun, and in some cases only the side shoots should be allowed to produce to be assured of a good stem length.

A reminder list could be prepared for "B", "BB", and Miniature types but as stated above, the real thrill comes in getting top quality "A" flowers.



Illustration courtesy American Home Magazine

Stanley Johnson and Ned Seymour Congratulate Each Other at the 1955 A.D.S. Show

At the American Dahlia Society Show in New York, 1954's top Achievement Medal-winning flower is gratefully regarded by (left) Stanley Johnson, of Pennypack Gardens, Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, who originated it (and also 13 other dahlias that won 24 of the Medals in ten years), and AMERICAN HOME's horticultural editor after whom he graciously named it.

The above illustration, with the paragraph above appeared in the April issue of the American Home Magazine. Also on same page was the 4-color reproduction of "Ned Seymour" the top winning dahlia, of the 1955 season, which is shown on our cover. We are indebted to this magazine and to Mr. Seymour for the use of these plates. We also acknowledge, gratefully the permission of Jack Roach who took the color photograph.

Incidentally, the keeping quality of the variety was proved by the fact that the blooms which posed for Mr. Roach's portrait, after traveling by car from Philadelphia to New York, were taken on the seat of Roach's car to his home in Caldwell, N. J. and photographed the next day. Mr. Roach said "the blooms rode home on the front seat with us and every one turned around to stare at them." One man pulled up beside our car

and yelled, 'Is that thing real? What is it?' When we told him, he let out a long whistle, shook his head and exclaimed, 'Ho-o-ly Mo-ly!'

We are privileged to quote the following facts from Mr. Seymour's article in the April issue of the American Home relative to this and other 1955 dahlia winners of this coveted medal.

This has been my nineteenth year of handling the AMERICAN HOME Achievement Medals and, in some ways, the most interesting and exciting of them all. For one thing, it saw a new flower—the day-lily—added to those (dahlia, gladiolus, iris, and peony) that have heretofore completed for the trophy. It was marked by a gracious and unprecedented gesture when the widow of the late Lou Geyer, who originated one of the Medal-winning

(Continued on following page)

American Home Winners, 1955

(Continued from preceding page)

gladiolus but did not live to see it triumph, named the variety Geysers Glory and donated the entire stock of its bulbs to the Waterloo (Ia.) Gladiolus Society, of which both he and she were members, the income therefrom to be used to promote the gladiolus cause. She, too, died shortly thereafter, so that variety will perpetuate the memory of both. At times, the year resembled a horse race as first one and then the other of two leading contenders for the most Medals won surged ahead. And when, finally, Stanley Johnson's massive, orange-red, Informal Decorative dahlia tied the all-time record by winning ten of the Medals.

Mr. Johnson honored this magazine (and dumbfounded its horticultural editor) by naming it after him—"Ned Seymour." Thus the honor won by the originator was equalled, if not exceeded, by that conferred upon the flower's namesake—for simply carrying out his administrative assignment and greatly enjoying the task into the bargain. The runner-up, with eight Medals won, was George L. Baker's peach-colored Semi-cactus dahlia, Surprise. It is interesting to note that Mr. Johnson is "high man" for the past 11 years, with 34 Medals won with 14 different dahlias. Following him come Byron R. Kadel, also of Pennsylvania, with 17 Medals won by 14 gladiolus varieties in 10 years; Wm. Wolbert (16 Medals, 8 dahlias in 8 years); E. R. Phillips (11 Medals, 7 dahlias, 7-years); and Comstock Dahlia Gardens of California (12 Medals, 7 dahlias, 6 years), all of whom won in 1954. James E. Marsh, of Illinois, who shares the 10-Medal record (having won them in 1950 with his dahlia, Pirate Treasure) had won 24 Medals with 5 varieties in 5 years prior to 1954.

Here we should note that a shadow was cast on last year's record by the death in August of Lou Sarett, whose dahlia, Madonna, in 1949, set the then record by winning nine Medals.

And now for the medal winners of 1954, the data being given in this order: Variety name; description; originator (who received Medal); exhibitor, if someone else (in parentheses); show(s) where Medal was won.

11 Medal Winning Dahlias

Size key: A—large (over 8" in diameter); B—medium (4" to 8"); BB is sometimes applied to 4" to 6" varieties; M—miniature (under 4").

BOBBY—Ball type; A; buff shade. John

Schroeder, Toledo, O. Dahlia Society of Toledo, Sept. 11-12.

DR. BORLEY—Incurved cactus; A; lilac purple (RHC 31). Pete Harder, Lafayette, Calif. San Leandro (Calif.) Dahlia Society, Aug. 28-29.

DUET—Formal decorative; B; bi-color, red-tipped white. Fred H. Scott, Pittsburgh, Pa. 2 Medals: East Liverpool, O. and Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Societies.

FIRST LADY—Formal decorative; B; Dresden yellow (RHC 64); broad petals fold back around stem. Comstock Dahlia Gardens, San Diego, Calif. 4 Medals: Ingelwood, Orange Co., San Diego Co., and California Dahlia Societies.

LADY META—Formal decorative; A; yellow-gold. Roy H. Koch, Detroit, Mich. Michigan Dahlia Association.

LESCHAR—Incurved cactus; A; salmon-pink, yellow center. Charles Julin, Tacoma, Wash. Washington State Dahlia Society, Sept. 11-12.

MARVELOUS—Straight cactus; B; rose-line pink. Em Delbrugge, Martins Ferry, O. (exh. F. E. Miner, Gaithersburg, Md.) Virginia Dahlia Society.

MISS MOLLIE—Semi-cactus; M; deep blend. J. A. Eddins, Richmond, Va. Williamsburg (Va.) Dahlia Society.

NED SEYMOUR—Large (14 in.) informal decorative; Orange Flame, or Oriental-red. Stanley Johnson, Cheltenham, Pa. 10 Medals: A.D.S. (New York), Baltimore, Camden, Greater Philadelphia, Long Island, National Capital, New Jersey, and North Jersey Dahlia Societies; Irvington (N. J.) Garden Club and Burholme (Pa.) Hort. Society.

SOUTHERN BEAUTY—BB or florist type; blend, purple and white. Norman G. La Motte, Hapeville, Ga. Dahlia Soc'y of Georgia (Atlanta).

SURPRISE—Semi-cactus; A; peach color ("blend, pink and cream"). George L. Baker, Moline, Ill. 8 Medals: Badger State, Central States, Greater St. Louis, Southern States, Tri-City, and Wisconsin Dahlia Societies (exh. at last, J. E. Marsh, Chicago); also Midwest Dahlia Conference (Cincinnati), and Southtown (Chicago) Dahlia Club (exh. F. L. Trauth, Chicago).

You are certainly turning out SOME Bulletins, Lynn, and are going to make it hard for yourself eventually, to always go one better as you have been doing — also, to make it possible for succeeding Editors (all of whom are still in kindergarten grades, I hope) to approximate your work and that of Gordon Waaser before you. Edward B. Lloyd.

DR. WILDON HAS INTERESTING DAHLIA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

February 19 — Michigan State College

Editors Note: When we received the program for this very interesting Dahlia Day at Michigan State College, we wrote Dr. C. E. Wildon and asked if we could have the papers read at the meeting for publication in THE BULLETIN. He said, "yes" and sent copies of some of them by return mail and promised the other two later.

We are very proud, therefore to present to our members herewith the following very timely articles on Dahlia Culture:

"Dahlia Stunt," by Dr. C. E. Wildon.

"Dahlia Diseases," by Ray Nelson.

"Insect Control for Dahlias," by Gordon E. Guyer.

"Plant Parasitic Nematodes," by Professor John Knierim.

"Control of Virus Carrying Insects," by Dr. Ray Hutson.

At the beginning of the 1955 dahlia season, just when the A.D.S. is proposing to inaugurate research projects on various phases of dahlia culture, we feel that these articles will be both helpful and educational to our members. The two other articles "Visible Evidence of a Virus Disease, by Dr. J. W. Hooker, and "Will Inspection and Roguing Control the Virus Diseases?" by C. A. Boyer will be published in a latter issue. L.B.D.

Dahlia Stunt

**Dr. C. E. Wildon,
Horticultural Department,
Michigan State College**

The term "dahlia stunt" properly is used to describe any abnormal dwarfed appearance of a dahlia plant. There appears to be considerable confusion among dahlia growers as to what dahlia stunt really is. Some understand the term as referring to a plant infected by a virus. As a matter of fact, however, stunt is a check in growth or otherwise described as a plant exhibiting a less than normal rate of growth. It *may* be caused by a virus of course, but stunt may also be the result of any of a number of things. Among the causes of dwarfing (or stunt) are various aspects of the environment. These include temperature, moisture, soil and light.

The dahlia is a native of a mild climate with a fairly uniform temperature the year round. However, the year is divided into a dry season and a wet season. In the so-called wet season, precipitation consists of a heavy daily shower. These daily showers may be very

heavy, but the rainfall quickly drains away because of the very porous nature of the soil. During the wet season plants of all kinds grow vigorously, but as soon as the dry season begins the soil becomes dry very quickly and herbaceous plants quickly dry up.

Checks in Growth

When the dahlia is grown in another climate it naturally reflects differences of environment in its growth. In our northern states excessively high temperatures especially during early summer cause wilting of young plants. This is followed by a hardening of the tissues and a check in growth. The check may be so severe as to cause desiccation of some of the foliage. Often the plants do not recover from the check and remain stunted throughout the season. Insufficient soil moisture has much the same effect as high temperature. Often high temperatures and dryness occur at the same time. The result is stunted plants that may be mistakenly identified as virus infected. During the summer months, the intensity of sunlight reaches well over 8,000 foot candles. This is much more

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Dahlia Stunt

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than the plants require and perhaps may actually have a dwarfing effect on the plants. At any rate experienced growers find that by shading the dahlia plant it grows much taller and produces larger flowers.

Types of Soils

Soil has a considerable effect on the growth of dahlias. The dahlia is a vigorous growing, succulent and leafy plant. Not only does it require large amounts of moisture to attain maximum growth, but it also requires an abundant supply of soil oxygen. These requirements are to be met by a coarse-particled well aerated, well drained soil having a liberal content of organic material. A fine-particled soil is less desirable, not only because the above conditions are not met, but also because it offers resistance to root development and spread.

Unbalanced Feeding

Nutritional disturbance may also cause a check in growth and the check may be severe enough to be noted as a stunt. Excesses of given elements may cause stunting. Sometimes chlorides in excessive amounts will cause a retarded growth. Excess of potassium or unbalance of nitrogen to potash will cause a decelerated rate of growth in height. More than a trace of cobalt in the soil is toxic, the first symptom being a slower rate of growth. Likewise, deficiencies of essential elements may cause dwarfing, or stoppage of growth. This often is accompanied by other symptoms such as chlorosis, morphological change such as form of leaf, non-appearance of abscission of flowers and necrosis.

Insect Damage

Certain insects feeding on the plants may cause stunting. Leaf hoppers may appear in numbers sufficient to cause a drying of portions of the leaf. This is commonly referred to as hopper burn. It is commonly accompanied by a stunting of the plant and may easily be mistaken for dahlia mosaic. Tarnished plant bug feeds on the young terminal shoots causing deformation of growth and flowers, often accompanied by dwarfing. Other insects such as aphids, mites, etc., may appear in such numbers as to cause a stunted growth. Root-knot nemas will similarly cause a stunted growth.

Effects of Disease

Pathogens and virus diseases that interrupt normal physiological functions of the plant result in a check and subsequent

stunted appearance. Crown gall normally results in a stunting of the plant. Mildew and other diseases similarly subtract moisture and nutrients from normal growth and may cause stunt. Virus diseases commonly cause dwarfing of growth. Different varieties exhibit differences in symptoms. This may be due to a resistance to the spread of the disease or may be due to other physiological differences. It is certain that not all varieties are similarly affected by attacks of virus diseases. Some varieties may show little external evidence of the disease. This is common in the case of virus diseases in other plants and is to be expected in dahlias. Lily mosaic is common in Tiger lily, but seldom, if ever, shows a notable symptom. Spotted wilt similarly is not observed by a symptom on a Calla, but the plant commonly carries the disease.

It is often difficult to determine from external symptoms what causes stunt in plants. Climatic variations, edaphic aspects, insect or disease attacks under certain conditions or in certain varieties may show similar symptoms and even the expert may be puzzled or uncertain as to the exact cause of stunt.

Plant Parasitic Nematodes

**Professor John Knierim,
Department of Entomology,
Michigan State College**

The problem of crops being affected by plant parasitic nematodes is not a new one, but it is only in recent years that the economic importance of these plant parasitic forms have become fully realized.

Nematodes are tiny whitish worm-like organisms that live in the soil and feed on plant roots. They range in size from 1/64 to 1/25 of an inch and smaller in length. They are motile and swim through the moisture in the soil. They damage plants by sucking out the contents of the plant cells. Extensive feeding results in a greatly restricted system of mal-formed roots which are not efficient in transporting water and nutrients from the soil. Yellowed leaves, mal-formation of roots or stem, stunting, wilting, or a general unthrifty appearance may be due to nematodes.

They may be transported in potting soil, on roots or transplants, on nursery stock, by cultivating equipment, water drainage, etc. Crop rotation has given relatively good control of nematodes on field crops. Fumigation practices are being used more extensively each year to control these pests.

Dahlia Virus Symptoms

By J. Ralph Berry, Associate Editor

Our editor has asked the writer to cover this subject as part of the general symposium on dahlia culture appearing in this issue. This may be regarded just as a sub-heading under the general heading of "Dahlia Diseases." Looking for help from some authoritative source, I was surprised to find that in this country nothing of this nature has been published since Dr. Philip Brierley's article, "Dahlia Mosaic, and its Relation to Stunt" in July, 1933. A.D.S. Bulletin and his report, "STUDIES ON MOSAIC AND RELATED DISEASES OF DAHLIA" in 1933, which was published in pamphlet form by the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research. In 1953, twenty years later, the British Dahlia Growers' Association published THE IMPROVEMENT OF DAHLIA STOCKS, a report of extended research by the plant pathologist, Dr. John Grainger.

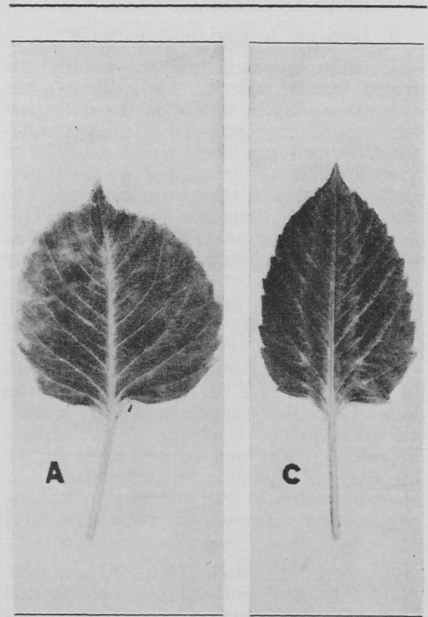
The symptoms of the two diseases most prevalent in this country, mosaic and ring-spot, are described in both publications and, as might be expected, are essentially in agreement. Both emphasize the importance of *immediate* roguing of infected plants as soon as disease is recognized. Experimenting in 1945, Dr. Grainger planted fifteen healthy plants around one infected with dahlia mosaic. At the end of the season, twelve had contracted the disease. Most of us are aware of the necessity of roguing and would faithfully follow this practice were it not for two things. The first is our reluctance to discard a plant, possibly a valuable one; the second is our inability to recognize clearly the characteristic symptoms.

With the fondness akin to that of a parent for a sick child, a goodly number of us will nurse along a plant even when it is loudly calling "Unclean." If the retention in our garden of this obvious invalid happens to be challenged by a visiting dahlia fan, the answer is ready, "Yes, I'm watching that plant!"

This reluctance to pull up a diseased plant by no means accounts for all the questionable plants in our gardens. It is hardly likely a grower would knowingly send a diseased seedling plant to someone for trial and yet we find E. J. Wind commenting on those sent him as follows: "More dahlias fail to make the grade because of disease than for lack of quality." Even the plant pathologists remark on the difficulties encountered in diagnosing the dahlia diseases. We must

make an attempt however, and so below we are giving a review of Dr. Brierley's findings on the symptoms.

(Continued on following page)



Two variations in the Dahlia Mosaic Pattern.

Illustration courtesy Boyce-Thompson Institute

Dahlia Virus Symptoms

(Continued from preceding page)

Mosaic Virus

1. Vein banding. Yellowish or light green bands along the leaf veins. These bands will vary in both form and width according to the variety. This is the most characteristic symptom. (See Ill. A.)

2. Shadowy chlorotic lines paralleling the mid-rib of the leaf. A common symptom. (See Ill. C.)

3. "Stunt." This will vary all the way from an unsightly, dwarf, bushy plant to one where just a slight shortening of the flower stem can be detected with very little dwarfing of the plant.

4. Distortion of leaves. When this is present, the leaves will have a twisted and distorted appearance. Sometimes there is a blistering effect.

5. Chlorotic blotches. These are irregularly distributed around the leaf with no set pattern.

Ring-Spot Virus

1. Irregular concentric yellowish rings.
2. Irregular zigzag markings.
3. Intricate hieroglyphic patterns.

Usually ring-spot is more readily detected than mosaic. In both diseases the symptoms may be absent in the early and late stages of growth. Dr. Grainger notes that "... it has been found possible to free a plant of ring-spot by inducing rapid growth and taking tip cuttings. The virus-infected tissue was outgrown." This is an interesting observation — one that seems to offer a promising new field for experimentation.

The symptoms of persons infected with polio virus vary all the way from the one who experiences only temporary indisposition to the unfortunate victim doomed to spend the rest of his life in an iron lung. Does this suggest a similarly wide variation in the virulence of the disease in dahlia plants and consequently in the intensity of symptom manifestations, as an explanation of our difficulty in making an accurate diagnosis in many cases?

A recent dispatch from Flemington, N. J., to the Philadelphia papers said in part: "Dr. Frederick J. Knocke, director of orthopedics of the Hunterdon Medical Center, will also be associate medical director, effective April 1." Congratulations to Fred from all in the A.D.S.

Electric Lights Revive Dahlias

By C. E. Faust,
Associate Editor

The poets would have you believe there's no such thing as a frustrated flower fanatic. They sing of the peace of mind that comes from working in the garden.

They do not describe the torture of the average man who is working during the daylight hour and watch the digging hour disappear. The problem is how to stay happy and keep the dahlia from being the master. It is simple. Install light in your garden and when daylight disappears, switch on lights. My gardens are flood lighted and for many years I have done most of my dahlia work at night.

Growers who start off with a bang in May, droop in hot July. He finds that the dahlia likes the sun better than the master. Try night planting, it is cool and all dahlia operations can be performed, such as: planting, spraying, tying, disbudding and watering.

We, in the South, like to plant in the month of May so as to get plants well established before hot, dry weather sets in. Our experience, especially in the last two years, plants set out late in the season, do not grow vigorously and one that survives will be late bloomer and probably no bloom for show times. Plant early and plant good varieties and get ready to exhibit blooms in your show.

Men had a monopoly on dahlia culture for many years but now the medium sizes and the miniatures that blend themselves so well for arrangements belong to the fairer sex which is now encroaching on man's flower and more real competition is in store for the male sex (more power to the fair sex).

The first gardener was Adam and his descendants today have a bond of fellowship throughout the land, making where a helping hand is willing. All sorts of hobbies draw men together but none more naturally and few so wholesome as gardening. It put them in partnership with nature and gives them a hand in business of creating beauty.

Your garden may be small or an imposing estate but it is the spirit of the person behind it and it is this that draws all gardeners into a common bond of friendship.

Support your garden club, get active in your garden, support your local show by bringing your blooms to your show. Make your community a better place in which to live, your dividends will be great.

Dahlia Diseases

(Continuing Dr. Wildon's Dahlia Program)

Dahlia Diseases

By Ray Nelson
Department of Botany and
Plant Pathology
Michigan State College

Dahlias are attacked by diseases which are comparable in variety to those observed in other ornamental plants, especially in those plants which are propagated by vegetative methods. Although dahlias can be grown from seed the hybrid, cultivated varieties can not be increased by this method and are propagated by cuttings or by divisions of the tuberous roots. As would be expected these methods are ideal for the perpetuation and increase of virus diseases since cuttings or divisions from infected plants usually contain the viruses that are in the tissues of the diseased plant. Because of this the virus diseases have attained greater importance with the more intensive and extensive culture of the dahlia.

Mildew

Except under very favorable climatic and cultural conditions the fungus and bacterial diseases of dahlia have not been of very marked economic importance. Occasionally they do occur in isolated plantings and they may increase in a planting if the grower is neglectful in the application of eradivative protective measures. A conspicuous and common fungus diseases of dahlia, powdery mildew, is present in most plantings during the latter part of the growing season and is probably the most cosmopolitan disease observed on this plant. It is easily identified by the white, powdery mold on the surface of the leaves and can be controlled by spraying with Karathane, 4 oz. to 100 gallons of water or with wettable sulphur. Other diseases appear more sporadically and those most likely to be seen are discussed briefly.

Virus Diseases

MOSAIC

(Marmor dahliae)

Dahlias are susceptible to several virus diseases in the mosaic group but these are not always distinguishable by plant and leaf symptoms because of diverse varietal reactions. Common dahlia mosaic is seen in many varieties as pale-green bands of tissue along the midribs and

larger secondary veins in the leaves. The lighter colored areas are yellow and easily seen or pale-green and not readily distinguishable. The younger leaves are curled downward or otherwise distorted, crinkled or savoyed and mosaic plants show various degrees of dwarfing from severe stunting to slight suppression of growth. In the field, infected plants are shorter than those that are virus-free and "stunt" is sometimes an expression of extreme susceptibility to the common mosaic disease. Dwarfing accompanied by vein banding and crinkling of the leaves are the most consistent symptoms which distinguish a mosaic plant in the field. Tolerant varieties display less pronounced symptoms and require closer inspection for detecting infection. Resistant varieties may show no easily distinguishable symptoms of mosaic.

Another form of dahlia mosaic is characterized by a mild vein banding with no regular expression in young leaves and no distortion of the leaf surface. In susceptible varieties dwarfing is less pronounced than in severe mosaic and in tolerant and resistant varieties the mild vein banding may escape casual inspection.

Cucumber mosaic has been observed in and isolated from dahlias in which it commonly causes a mild or diffuse type of mottling with no vein mosaic and little or no leaf distortion. Severe mottling symptoms were noted in some varieties in 1954 with stunting and some leaf crinkling but no typical vein banding. A mild color break occurs in some varieties. Typical mosaic mottling in dahlia could be a varietal reaction to cucumber mosaic virus. In general, cucumber mosaic is believed to cause little damage to dahlias and at least some of the miniature varieties and perhaps others are highly resistant to it. It is more prevalent in England than in eastern and midwestern United States.

RING SPOT

(Lethum australiense, spotted wilt virus; perhaps others)

More prevalent and usually less damaging to dahlia than severe mosaic in Michigan plantings. At least two forms occur, yellow ring spot and regular ring spot, both characterized by chlorotic ring and oakleaf patterns in the older leaves

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Dahlia Diseases

(Continued from preceding page)

with or without noticeable stunting. Mosaic symptoms are best seen in the young leaves, ring symptoms in older leaves and this characteristic is considered constant for these virus diseases of dahlia. More than one virus may occur in a dahlia plant and they may or may not be separable by present tested methods.

The virus nature of ring spot has been questioned by some growers. It has, however, been transmitted to healthy plants by grafting, proof of its infectious nature. Insect vectors have not yet been identified though field spread has been noted and insect activity suspected. Vegetative propagation accounts for rapid increase in planting stocks. Ring spot is definitely injurious to dahlias and is transmitted through tubers and through cuttings. In some tolerant varieties the disease may persist in a chronic phase and appear to be stabilized and non-injurious but with the severity of symptoms varying from season to season. Plants showing ring spot symptoms are definitely inferior to healthy ones and should not be propagated or sold but destroyed.

Where the percentage of mosaic or ring spot plants is high, roguing may be less effective than selection and propagation of symptomless plants in an isolation plot maintained for multiplying disease-free stock. Selection, propagation, isolation and insect control in such a stock of elite plants can eventually lead to the virtual elimination of virus diseases from commercial lines now carrying excessive amounts of these diseases.

Fungus Diseases

WILT

(*Verticillium dahlias*;
Fusarium sp.)

These diseases are characterized by a gradual wilting of the leaves from the top downward and eventual death of the plant. The two types are not readily distinguished in the field. Both cause a dark green or brown discoloration of the vascular bundles in the roots and stem. They can be identified by slicing the tubers at the stem end where the discolored bundles are visible in the tubers and in the stem. The casual fungi survive in the tubers, stems and soil.

Wilting plants should be removed and destroyed and tubers from such plants should not be used for increase. Since the pathogens survive in the soil contin-

uous culture on sites where these wilts develop is likely to be followed by increased incidence of disease. In small plantings complete removal of diseased roots and tubers and a fall drench of the soil with 1-50 formaldehyde might be effective in eradicating the pathogen from very restricted areas of infestation. This is not a practicable control in commercial plantations where larger areas are affected.

STEM ROTTS

(*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*;
Rhizoctonia solani)

The stem rots are caused by soil-borne fungi which attack the plant near the soil line. They form cankers on the stem which eventually girdle it and finally result in the sudden wilting and death of the plant. A white mold develops on the stem of plants attacked by *Sclerotinia* and black sclerotia are formed on the surface and within the hollow stem. These are absent in the *Rhizoctonia* disease and instead of a fluffy white mold the brown, cankered area is covered with a web-like coating of brown, fungus, threads. Both diseases are favored by heavy and wet soils and may attack cuttings in the propagating bench if the plants are crowded and the soil is excessively wet.

Use well drained soils for planting sites, avoid crowding the plants and the use of heavy mulches against the stem. Remove and destroy diseased plants to prevent formation of sclerotia and to check spread to adjacent plants. Soil sterilization will prevent damage in the propagating bench.

GRAY MOLD DISEASE

(*Botrytis cinerea*)

This is a disease that occurs under wet, cool conditions and affects the buds, leaves, flowers and tender shoots, causing a soft rot. The affected parts soon become covered with a gray mass of spores from which the name of the disease is derived. Various types of bud blast and distortion develop during prolonged periods of wet and cool weather and the fungus grows rapidly over fallen and fading petals and spreads from there to tender shoots and flowers.

The removal and destruction of faded flowers and spraying with Zineb or Parzate, 1 oz. to $\frac{3}{4}$ gallons of water, when the disease threatens are helpful control measures. Repeated spray applications may be needed in wet weather to keep the buds and tender shoots protected.

LEAF SPOTS

(*Alternaria*, *Cercospora*
and other fungi)

Various leaf spotting fungi attack dahlia under favorable conditions and may cause considerable injury in some seasons. Usually the older leaves show the spotting but it may appear also on the more recently developed leaves. Wet seasons and prolonged wetness of the foliage from watering and irrigation favor the development of leaf diseases. Cultural practices to hasten drying of the leaf surfaces, such as wide spacing of the plants and avoidance of evening irrigating, will help to keep the leaf diseases in check. Weekly or more frequent spraying with Bordeaux mixture or Zineb when conditions favor development of leaf diseases are recommended protective measures. Deep plowing to cover all plant debris is a good sanitary practice.

Bacterial Diseases

CROWN GALL

(*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*)

In this disease galls or tumors occur on the roots, tubers or crown of the plant. One large mass of gall tissue may form at the crown or smaller tumors develop on the tubers and roots. Affected plants are usually dwarfed and the shoots may be more spindly than those from healthy plants. The disease develops most readily and extensively in wet areas and such sites should be avoided. Removal and destruction of all galled plants at digging time is indicated. Affected tubers should not be left in or on the soil. Two to three year rotations should be practiced and grain crops are recommended in the rotation.

BACTERIAL WILT

(*Bacterium solanacearum*)

Mostly a southern disease but observed on planting stocks in Michigan from Southern sources. The plants wilt gradually and in appearance are similar to those affected with *Verticillium* or *Fusarium* wilt. The vascular bundles are darkened and when the stem is cut a yellow bacterial ooze comes from the softened, disintegrating vascular bundles. A wet, soft condition of the stem near the soil line and the yellow bacterial ooze distinguish this wilt from the others.

The bacteria carry over in the tubers and affected plants should be dug out and destroyed.

Diseases Caused By Nematodes

ROOT KNOT

(*Heterodera marioni*:
Meloidogyne)

So far the root knot disease has not been found commonly in Michigan but is important in southern states. Occasional diseased plants have been observed in Michigan. The disease is caused by a microscopically small worm which penetrates the roots and stimulates the formation of small galls, mostly on the fibrous roots. The galls are small in comparison with those caused by crown gall. Diseased plants are dwarfed but otherwise show no other symptoms comparable to those affected with the virus diseases.

Destruction of diseased roots, rotation with non-susceptible crops and soil fumigation with nematocides are control measures that have proved effective in other crops and should be equally effective when needed for root knot control in dahlias. Spot fumigation can be effective in eradicating small infested areas but early diagnosis is essential if this is to be successful.

Insect Control for Dahlias

By Gordon E. Guyer,
Michigan State College

The correct identification and successful control of insects infesting dahlias is imperative for the growing of vigorous plants. Insects attack dahlias in the following ways:

1. Feed on the roots and underground stems of the plant.
2. Larvae bore into the stems.
3. Suck the sap from the leaves causing necrotic areas to appear around the feeding punctures and leaf margin. Some of the species of this group are important vectors of dahlia diseases.

Wireworms and white grubs are the primary pests associated with the underground parts of the plant. These larvae prefer to feed on the small feeder roots which are so necessary for the production of healthy plants. Cultural control measures such as the proper manipulation of the crop rotation is very helpful in preventing damage from these insects. Both of these pests are especially prevalent in heavily sodded areas. Dahlias should not be planted directly in soil which has had sod plowed down. Sy-

(Continued on following page)

Insect Control for Dahlias

(Continued from preceding page)

stematic harrowing and discing of the planting beds will help control soil insects. Very satisfactory control is also possible with the application of either chlordane or dieldrin.

Both the larvae of the common stalk borer and the European corn borer will sometimes be found burrowing in the stems of dahlias. These insects are difficult to control since any control must take place before the larvae enter the stem. Sometimes it is possible to carefully slit open the stem and remove the larvae. For chemical control of these insects the material must come in contact with the larvae before they enter the plant.

The sucking insects are the most serious insect pests of dahlias. The leafhoppers are especially important for they not only cause serious damage to plants from their feeding but are also important vectors of plant pathogens. For successful control of the sucking insects a contact insecticide must be used and the material must come in direct contact with the insect.

An insect control program for dahlias should be planned previous to planting and should contain the following provisions:

1. Cultural practices such as rotation and insect free borders surrounding the plantings.
2. Soil treatment previous to planting for control of soil infesting insects.
3. DDT or a similar material applied when the plants are four to six inches high for leafhopper and borer control. These same materials should be applied at 10 day intervals during the growing season.
4. It would be advisable to include a material such as malathion in the leafhopper sprays or rotate with applications of DDT and malathion to prevent a mite and aphid build-up. Mites are especially serious late in the growing season and during hot, dry periods.

Control of Virus Carrying Insects

Dr. Ray Hutson,

**Department of Entomology,
Michigan State College**

Leafhoppers, aphids and possibly thrips carry virus diseases. The best protection against virus carrying insects is a sched-

uled spray program carrying materials effective against leafhoppers and aphids faithfully and regularly applied. This is so because it takes only a few virus carrying insects to spread disease.

In other words, disease control by killing the insect carriers is a more difficult chore than insect control from the standpoint of preventing insect damage alone. The chief difficulty arises from the fact that in direct injury by leafhoppers and aphids many insects are present and visible. I repeat that a very few viruliferous leafhoppers and aphids can cause a lot of trouble.

You Don't Have To Do As I Do

**By John Metzger,
Associate Editor**

My dahlia clumps are all divided. Some of them are poor, some good. I never plant a tuber which is shrivelled. I pick out firm, small to medium sized ones. I feel a large tuber feeds the growing plant and sacrifices new roots.

The tubers I expect to plant are nicely labeled and then I plant them in flats with peat moss. This is done about the middle of April. By May 30, when I plant, I find the tubers have sent a mass of roots through the moss. When planting, I try not to disturb these fine roots, planting the tuber and peat moss as a unit.

It has been said it is better to plant a twenty-five cent tuber in a ten dollar hole than a ten dollar tuber in a poorly prepared hole. So, dig deeply, pulverize your soil, if heavy, add sand or humus.

I save all fallen leaves in the fall so that I have about six inches matted on my ground by spring. This is plowed in deeply about April 15.

My stakes are all set out in rows three feet wide and spaced about three feet. When staking and planting I use long boards to walk on so as not to trample down the soil. Walking on wet soil is a good way to run it.

Never hurry your planting, take your time, because a poor start means no blue ribbons at the show table and, believe it or not, we all like to come out on top.

Of course, all the above is old stuff to you, so why not give this article to your amateur friend along with a couple of tubers?

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Fertilizers and Insecticides

By C. Merrill Brown, Associate Editor

Fertilizers and insecticides are two of the factors which determine the success or failure of the dahlia season. In the case of fertilizers, one has to decide before planting time, to what extent he expects to push his plant to bring them into bloom. And, at the same time, hope to have stock which will carry over the winter for another season's planting. The old adage "You can't have your cake and eat it, too" applies very well to dahlias. You can't push them to the limit for the sake of extra large blooms and expect the stock to winter well.

Fertilizers and Organic Matter

We have made it a practice to keep away from nitrogen other than what is found in the humus used prior to spading, or tilling with the exception of what is added to take care of the peatmoss added to the hill at planting time. A satisfactory procedure seems to be to first apply a generous amount of organic matter, such as rotted cow manure or compost, over the dahlia bed; to broadcast 20% superphosphate at the rate of 5 pounds per 100 square feet and potash (we prefer the sulfate to the chloride) at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet prior to spading.

At planting time, after the stakes are driven and the holes dug, we add a generous handful of bonemeal to the bottom of the hill as well as a double handful of peatmoss. The holes are approximately 12 x 12 inches. Here add a little (teaspoonful) nitrogen in the form of ammonium sulfate or nitrate to take care of the peatmoss. Mix the contents of the hill thoroughly to a depth of 3-4 inches and plant the root on top of this mixture. We fill the hole completely to the surface level and wait for the sprout to come through.

A supplementary feeding of bonemeal (two-three handfuls) may be applied around August 1st and cultivated in. This feeding should be applied to an area approximately a foot away from the stake. Around the 1st of September the bonemeal treatment should be repeated, using a little more a little further away from the stakes (18-24 inches) so as to catch the feeder roots. No danger of burning the tips with bonemeal. And no use in applying any fertilizer if water is

not available to carry it to the roots of the growing plants.

Insect Control

To keep the plants growing they must be kept clean. Insects of any kind known to be harmful to dahlias must be eliminated completely or at least kept under control. The treatment calls for either a spray or a dust at regular intervals. Prevention is always better than cure in this case. Leaf hoppers, thrips, earwigs, tarnish plant bugs, red spider and aphids seem to be the chief enemies of the dahlia above ground. DDT does a good job on all but the red spider and the aphids. It also kills the lady bug which normally keeps red spider under control. So another substance is needed to take care of the spider mites and the aphids.

Many insecticides are now offered for the control of red spider. The HETP (tetraphosphates) preparations did a very effective job. Then came the dangerous *parathion* followed by *malathion* which is much less toxic to humans than *parathion* yet just as effective for spider mites. *Aramite* is more effective than *malathion* but might burn. *Ovatran* is considered both better and safer than *malathion*. (We have not tried either of these latter two). These substances may be obtained in wettable form and are compatible with a 50% wettable DDT powder. By following the directions on the package and spraying at weekly to 10-day intervals, starting as soon as one has 6 inches of plant growth, the insects should be under control at all times.

We find dusting easier than spraying and just as effective. Combinations of DDT and *parathion* are on the market (Niagara Sprayer and Chemical Co.). We made our own DDT-malathion mixture by buying 50 pounds of 4% malathion dust and mixing in 4 pounds of 50% wettable DDT. Poof! And you have your bugs under control. Weekly applications when the air is still does the job.

If you are troubled with wireworms, cutworms, sow bugs or other root eating worms as well as earwigs, 10% *dieldrin* at the rate of approximately 5 ounces to 400 square feet should rid you of these troubles.

If you don't keep after them, the bugs will win out.

Growing and Showing for Sweepstakes

By Frederick J. Knocke, M.D., Associate Editor

Growing for "Sweepstakes" in a large show involves planning and preparation throughout the year. Selecting the proper varieties, timing, and setting up at the show are particularly important. Details of general culture will not be considered in this article, as these are being covered elsewhere and have been reported before. (See A.D.S. BULLETIN, March 1953, p. 10: "How to Win on the Show Table.")

Plan Ahead

Mid-winter is the time to plan the garden. Available varieties are checked against the probable schedule, and the best one or two varieties are selected for each class. An intimate and wide knowledge of dahlias as they grow locally is necessary in making these selections. No one person can know and grow all existing varieties; however, visiting shows and gardens, and comparing notes with other growers all help. Dr. Cook's "Cream of the Crop" selections are a great help in planning for sweepstakes.

The number of plants grown for each class will depend on the space, stock, and time for culture which are available. It is usually best to grow three or four plants of an "A" size variety to be sure of having one specimen bloom in prime condition at show time. It three matched blooms of a "B" variety are required, 4 to 6 plants are usually needed. For 5 matched blooms of poms and miniatures, even more plants had best be grown.

Timing

Timing is especially important in growing for sweepstakes. The plants must be in bloom for show time. With proper care it is possible to have 90% of the canes in bloom within a few days of the show. The schedule for timing varies with the variety, but, in general, for a middle or late September show, the large decoratives are cut back during the period of the 10th to 20th of July. Cactus varieties and mediums are usually topped a week later. The final timing is given four weeks before show. A bud about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter is selected for the large varieties. Cactus and medium decoratives should have buds a little less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter at this time. Medium cactus varieties may be timed and disbudded 3 weeks before show, at which time a bud

about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter is usually correct. By selecting buds of slightly different size on each variety, some flowers will be in prime condition on the day of the show; some a little earlier; some a little later.

Getting Them to the Show

Cutting, transporting, and staging large numbers of flowers also presents problems. To get up to 500 medium and large flowers cut in time, cutting is started very early the day before the show—several hours before sunrise. By using about a ton of ice, a garage can be converted into a temporary large refrigerator. All extra foliage is removed from the flower stems. The stems are cut under water, and placed in deep containers to "harden" or "condition" for a least 4 or 5 hours prior to packing.

Enough large flower boxes about 5 feet by 20 inches by 9 inches have been prepared the week before; planning to pack four to six "A" size blooms to the box, and 10 to 15 mediums. The boxes are lined with waxed florist's paper beforehand, and plenty of crumpled waxed paper is ready in the boxes to cushion the flower heads, so that packing, once started, is not slowed by these details.

A large truck to transport the boxes to the show is a big help; a necessity if coming a long distance. Otherwise traveling back and forth cuts into the time required for setting up.

It is important to have time to set up without rushing. Therefore it is best to come in with the flowers as early as the show committee permits, even if this means staying up all night. This is the time when a great deal of help is required; family, friends, and neighbors are all recruited. Blooms are removed from the boxes, stems cut under water and flowers placed in containers as quickly as possible on arrival at the show. Once this is done, flowers may be entered in their classes at more leisure.

The more exhibitors show for sweepstakes, the better our shows will be. Let's go out for these sweepstakes awards.

We ask all members to please mention this BULLETIN when writing to or ordering from our advertisers.

DISBUDDING AND TIMING

DAHLIAS FOR THE SHOW

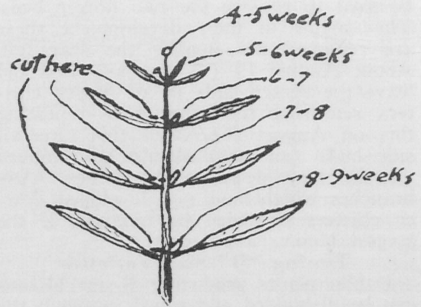
By Henry C. Parker, Associate Editor

Dahlia growers in the Washington area have perfected a method of disbudding and timing by means of which they have been able on occasion to bring to a given show an average of more than one show bloom per plant grown. Last year, owing to unseasonably hot weather those who followed the method found their gardens at their peak about one week before the show, but, of course, a week early is better than a week late. I will attempt to give my suggestions for "making" the A.D.S. Show in New York, September 20 and 21, with A-size blooms.

Planting should be completed before June 15th. The plants should be topped (pinched back) as soon as they have developed 3 pair of leaves. This will cause at least 6 branches to develop and in the case of A-size dahlias all but the four best should be removed. The branches left should be symmetrically positioned about the main stalk.

To Start Disbudding "A" Dahlias

Most varieties of dahlias produce clusters of flower buds in which one is a leaf bud while the other two are flower buds (see the accompanying sketch). The center flower bud will produce the largest bloom, hence this is the one which should be selected to produce the show bloom. If the side buds are removed when the center bud is barely large enough to be distinguished the latter will produce a show bloom within from about 4 to 5 weeks. If the leaf bud is left and the other two removed this bud will usually produce a pair of leaves and then a second flower cluster, the center bud of which will bloom within about 5 to 6 weeks. If this would still be too early for the show, the leaf bud in this second flower cluster can be left and the other two removed, in which case a third flower cluster will be formed, the center bud of which will bloom within about 6 to 7 weeks. It is also possible, of course, to cut a branch off just above a pair of leaves and to remove one of the side buds at this point, while leaving the other to develop a continuation of the removed branch. This secondary branch will eventually produce a flower cluster the center bud of which will bloom



Dr. Parker's Timing Method is Shown Above by Weeks Before the Show.

after a delay of several weeks as indicated roughly by the figures on the sketch. An off-set in the branch will be produced where the secondary branch joins the main branch.

Timing Schedule Varies per Variety

For the New York show, if flower clusters should develop before July 15 (9½ weeks before show time) I would cut one branch just above its lowest pair of leaves and another just above the fourth pair of leaves down from the top, leaving one side bud to develop at each of these points. In the flower clusters at the tops of the other two branches, I would remove the two flower buds and leave the leaf bud, with the intention of obtaining a show bloom from the second or third flower cluster eventually to develop on these branches. In the case of plants developing flower clusters July 22 to 29, I would cut one branch off just above the fourth and another just above the third pair of leaves down from the top, leaving one side bud at each of these points and removing all but the leaf buds in the flower clusters of the other two branches. About August 5 (6½ weeks before the show) I would cut one branch just above the second pair of leaves from the top, leaving one of the side buds at this point and would leave leaf buds only in the flower clusters of the other branches. About August 12 (5½ weeks)

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Disbudding and Timing Dahlias

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I would leave leaf buds only in all of the flower clusters. At this time, the top pair of leaves on the branches should be separated carefully to see if flower clusters are present. If so, a tooth pick could be used to remove the two flower buds. The earlier in their development these are removed the smaller the scar left. About August 19 (4½ weeks) I would leave the center buds in all flower clusters removing the other two—repeating this on August 26. About this time all side buds (suckers) should be removed all the way down the branches. Any branches which have not developed flower clusters can also be removed if the largest blooms are desired.

Timing "B" Size Varieties

Dahlia plants producing B-size blooms can be disbudded and timed in much the same fashion, but in the case of these 6 or 8 branches can be left to develop blooms. It is believed that growers can readily modify the above directions for the timing of B-size dahlias if due consideration is taken of the fact that blooms of B-size dahlias develop approximately 3 days sooner than A-size blooms. Those growers whose gardens are shady will find that the shade increases the time required for flower buds to develop into blooms by approximately 3 days.

Advertiser in BULLETIN writes us April 4th: "I did quite well with my first introduction. I have about sold out of roots and as I did not offer plants, I can't give you an advertisement for May. Nothing to sell." That sounds like a success story.

—DAHLIAS—

If you want to enjoy the ravishing beauty of a garden full of Autumn's greatest flower, plan now to plant some of the world's best dahlias. We have them, and at reasonable prices. We believe these collections will prove satisfactory and give you much pleasure.

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The Importance of Cultivation and Irrigation to Produce Better Blooms

By Dr. H. C. Rike,
 Associate Editor

As soon as a dahlia is planted, the primary aim is to keep the plant growing. To do this requires proper cultivation and watering which are of equal importance with preparation of soil and selection of good stock. Once a plant or root is started, continuous growth should be the aim. This does not mean fast growth. If a plant is forced too fast, soft growth is the result and, if the weather is hot and dry, hardening will probably take place. Then, no amount of persuasion will produce normal growth.

Cultivation is very important for normal growth. It helps prevent too rapid evaporation, allows air to penetrate the soil and keeps down the weeds. Cultivation should be often, at least once and preferably twice a week. The garden should be cultivated as soon after a rain or watering as possible. Never allow the soil to become hard and dry around the plant. If this happens the wind may blow the plant, causing a small (may even be microscopic) bruise just below or at the soil level, and a fungus or bacteria action may be set up. Then, an otherwise healthy plant will rot off at the ground level.

For the first few weeks, cultivation should be fairly deep but after the plant reaches a height of 18 to 24 inches should not be deeper than one or two inches. About two weeks before the buds form, the small feed roots are just below the surface of the ground. Then all cultivation should be discontinued and a mulch applied.

Of equal importance to cultivation is that the dahlia receive sufficient water. One should remember several facts: (1) the dahlia is a gross drinker (2) should not be allowed to have "wet feet" (this will not happen if drainage is good); (3) food reaches the plant roots only in liquid form; (4) the larger the plant, the more water required and (5) one thorough watering is worth more than many light sprinklings. Wetting the top inch or so of soil causes the feed roots to come to the surface where they are damaged by the sun and wind.

In hot, dry weather, watering should be done at least every three days and sufficient water applied to penetrate at least five inches. After buds begin to form and especially the week prior to

the show, daily watering is very helpful. A bloom may be brought to maturity 3 to 5 days earlier by daily soakings.

There are two controversial points regarding watering, (1) the time of day best suited for watering and (2) overhead vs. surface irrigation. It is the opinion of the writer that it makes no difference as to the time of day if sufficient water is used. However, if watering is done in late afternoon or evening, less water will be required. Overhead watering in the middle of the day certainly helps control the red spider. Also, it is the opinion of the writer that overhead watering is better than surface irrigation except for the week prior to the show. It appears to keep the plants greener, fresher and healthier.

One last point, after applying fertilizer, the soil should be well cultivated and thoroughly watered, immediately.

It is not too late to send your seedlings for trial to the A.D.S. Trial Grounds. See list of addresses to whom they should be sent, on page 34 of this issue.

Amateurs: Do It Yourself

By Ruth Berry,
Associate Editor

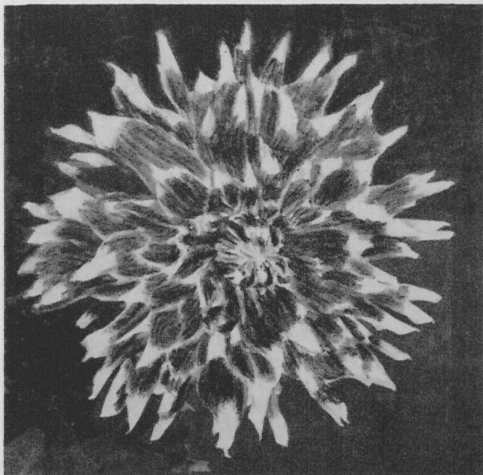
An immense amount of pleasure and a great sense of satisfaction can be derived from actually doing it yourself. The first step is to have a dahlia garden completely separated from any other dahlia bed. In our own plantings, a row of tomato plants has been used as the divider between "hers" and "his."

A light sprinkling of super-phosphate or 0-20-20 is broadcast over the entire garden before it is roto-tilled. After that, each gardener is on his own. A maximum of 100 dahlia plants is recommended. And two or more of a variety is preferred over 100 different varieties. If the space is limited, dahlias can be planted two to a stake (using the same variety for each side of the stake). Some varieties tend to grow too bushy for good culture in this manner, but one must cut the garment to the cloth. At any rate, with such a limited planting, planning is necessary to grow only the good varieties:

(Continued on following page)

Introducing TWO SURE WINNERS for 1955

Both of These on Flower Grower Honor Roll



Preas' Pride—Purple Sport, Jane Lausche

RUSCHMOHR Dahlia Gardens

PREAS' PRIDE

A most beautiful bicolor. A sport of popular Jane Lausche. Instead of lavender as in Jane Lausche, this sport is a deep orchid purple with white tips. Comes true, with deep purple and is white tipped 90 per cent of blooms. Won tri-color as best S.C. in the Long Island show. Size 10 to 11 inches by 7 to 8 inches. Bush 4 to 5 feet.

Roots \$15.00 net; Plants \$5.00 net

CRESTMONT BEAUTY

B—Straight Cactus, Pink

Here's one everybody likes. A seedling of the popular Sarett's Pink Flamingo. Color porcelain rose (pink) with shadings of buff and lemon yellow. Size 7½" x 3½". Stems 10". Won A.D.S. Sweepstakes, Long Island
Plants only \$3.50 net

NEED FILL-INS?

Send for our 25th Anniversary Catalogue, which includes some

Attractive Collections
at Reasonable Prices

38 Vincent Street
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK

Amateurs: *Do It Yourself*

(Continued from preceding page)

i. e., those that grow easily; are insect resistant; and floriferous. Every color and formation should be included. Of course, the individual preference should be considered if many of one color or type are desired.

I find that shallow planting works out very well if the dahlias are "hilled." By this I mean that as the dahlias are cultivated throughout the season, more and more soil is pulled up around the stalk. In the event some of the lower leaves wither, their removal makes the garden much more attractive.

No fertilizer need be given until the buds begin to form. The soluble fertilizers have worked very satisfactorily for me. When the buds show color, they may be covered with an old nylon stocking cut down the seam. This is much easier than putting up bushel baskets or formal coverings. The nylons will need to be adjusted from time to time. Large squares of cheesecloth are also suitable.

If the dahlias have been disbudded and disbranched, this small dahlia planting should produce many exhibition type blooms for the amateur and novice division of your show.

This and That—Out West

By Noel O. Scott,
Associate Editor

Horace Greeley's advice, "Go West, young man, go West" was not meant as a panacea for dahlia growers, I'm sure. Because dahlia growing "out West" — and especially in California, is no "bed of roses" — to say the least. True, we have certain minor advantages, which those of you east of the Father of Waters would give your right arm to count among your blessings.

Here in California we have made a habit of bragging about our many advantages; in the form of the "best climate," the "most beauty" in nature and women — with everything bathed in the "brightest" sunlight and the songs of the "happiest" mocking birds in the world to keep us awake at night.

But you can take it from me, all of these California "blessings" — when projected into the realm of dahlia growing adversities — are sure to continue their unrelenting course. The "largest" and the "most" are channeled into multiplicity of gardening problems.

For example, Southern California has the "mostest" red spiders because they thrive in the "dry heat" of our rainless dahlia-growing season.

In the northern part of the state we have the earwig; which within 24 hours can devastate a dahlia garden and still be hungry. I once watched it happening. Not even the corn-borer of the mid-West can travel or chew so fast!

I am familiar with the burrowing mole, in states toward the morning sun. His is a timid soul compared to the "sneak attack" methods of a California gopher. Have you ever experienced the "thrill" of watching a choice dahlia plant disappear into the earth before your very eyes? Have you ever tried to irrigate your garden, only to have the precious liquid disappear from the face of the earth? The water will pour into this underground cavern all day without filling it — its route and destination may never be known.

The mole's "run" can be easily traced, and you know "from whence he came and whither he goest." Not so with the "smartest" gopher, who burrows more deeply, but unerringly can follow a dahlia row; leaving only wilted, rootless plants to mark his course. Your choice dahlia roots have satisfied his sweet-tooth, and he is too smart to get himself entangled

DAHLIAS

Have you ordered all the
Roots and Plants you'll need?

Order as soon as possible.

Roots, Plants and Cuttings
of the BEST Varieties, Listed
in our Catalogue.

WRITE FOR
ONE TODAY

HAPPY CABIN
DAHLIA GARDENS

Box 415

Signal Mt., Tenn.

Why You Should Be a Member Of a Dahlia Society

By Mrs. Louise Kleinjohn, Associate Editor

What would a Dahlia Society be without members? By being a member of a Dahlia Society, you are not only helping the Society, but you are actually helping yourself.

I know that there are many people growing Dahlias who do not belong to a Dahlia Society. Of course, in their own way of thinking, they may grow good Dahlias, but do they really know the habits and characteristics of the Dahlia? Also proper feeding and treatment they need in order to grow them good enough for exhibition on the Show table?

By being a member of a Dahlia Society, one comes in contact with people who are authorities on the subject and give very helpful information that you, otherwise, would have no way of knowing, therefore, making you a better Dahlia grower and Dahlia lover than you were before.

Some people may say—how do I go about joining or knowing that a Dahlia Society is in my locality? If you are at all interested, you can watch the News Papers for announcements of Dahlia Shows, or you can inquire through some local Garden Club or through your Chamber of Commerce and I feel sure that you will secure the information you are looking for.

Being a member of a Dahlia Society offers many opportunities for the interested person or persons. It gives you the personal contact with people of the same interest, gives you a greater desire to become a better Dahlia Grower and helps one promote one of God's most beautiful flowers, which many of us love. It also gives you an opportunity to broaden the field in which you can show your Dahlias, other than your own Society and you also come in contact with people who you would otherwise, never meet.

Each year we create new interest within ourselves to grow bigger and better Dahlias than we did the year before. Some like the "A" type Dahlias, which are the great big ones and others like the "B" type, which are the six to eight inches in diameter, still others like the miniatures and pompons for decorations and arrangements. All of the above can be accomplished by being eager and willing to learn more about the Dahlia and being a member of a Dahlia Society, attending meetings, and soaking up all the

information passed along, and I feel sure you will be glad to say, "I belong to a Dahlia Society and wish that I had joined one long before." If you, as a Member knows of any one who is interested and will make a good member for your Society, contact them, help them along by giving them helpful information and invite them to attend one of your meetings. Show them that you are interested and they will, in time, have the same interest.

New York Show Dates — 1955

Tuesday and Wednesday
September 20-21 at Essex House

This and That—Out West

(Continued from preceding page)

with my "stupid" trapping efforts.

Then there is the matter of soils. "Back East" you people are blessed with an "acid" soil, upon which you use lime for best results. Our "advantage" is an "alkaline" soil, into which we must work quantities of soil sulfur, gypsum and other neutralizing materials in order to attain the proper Ph balance. Please, Good Lord, send me some "acid" soil!

I do not say we grow dahlias "easier" in California — I do not say we can grow them larger — but we shall continue to try! I can't say ours is the perfect climate—but I'll continue to grow dahlias here, because I can't find a better place to grow them.

BARGAIN SPECIAL

National Blue Ribbon Winners
One Root Each of

*Florence Chadwick—C., White
Maureen Connolly—F.D., Yellow
Cherie—I.D., Rhodamine Purple
Mars—I.D., Flame Red*

A \$20.00 value for \$15.00 net

Comstock Dahlia Gardens

5140—35th St. San Diego 16
CALIFORNIA

1955 British Awards at Wisely

The Journal of the Royal Horticulture Society for March reports that 16 new varieties received awards as varieties for garden decoration after trial at Wisely. The awards were made jointly by the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Dahlia Society. The report also states that a total of 182 "stocks of dahlias were grown at Wisely in 1954, of which 66 were grown for the first time."

The following varieties received awards:

CLASS III

Anemone—Flowered

Comet, flowers 4¼ inches diameter; ray florets near currant red, with dark red shading, disc florets still darker red. Plant 48 inches high; stems 16 inches. Introducer, Messrs. N. J. van Oosten, Den Haag, Holland.

CLASS VI-A

Giant Flowered Decorative

Viscount Bledsloe, flowers 11 inches in diameter, a velvety red between Signal and Orient red, plant 66 inches high; stems 20 inches. Introducer, J. Riding, 36 Alderman Hill, Hockley, Essex.

CLASS VI-C

Runwick, described in R.H.S. Journal 79, p. 144. Introducer, Owen Parrat, Boundstone Nursery, Farnum, Surrey.

House of Orange, flowers 6½ inches in diameter; inner and outer florets straw yellow overlaid Nasturtium Orange. Plant 42 inches high; stems 12 inches. Introducer, de Ruyter Bros., Oegstgeest, Holland.

Lillian Compton, flowers 7½ inches in diameter; outer florets straw yellow, heavily flushed Orange. Plant 57 inches high, bearing flower stems 18 inches long. Introducer Messrs. Brown & Such, Ltd., Maidenhead, Berkshire.

CLASS VI-D

Small-Flowered Decorative

Newby, described R.H.S. Journal 79, p. 145. Introducer Wm. Westwall & Sons, The Nurseries, Leigh, Lancaster.

Diane Egby, flowers 4½ inches diameter; outer florets white, inner ones cream. Plant 54 inches high, compact, bushy; flower stems 18 inches long. Introducer, Messrs. Brown & Such, Ltd.

Sandra Strange, flowers 4 inches in diameter; Mimosa yellow with outer half of florets splashed with scarlet. Plant 60 inches high; stems 20 inches. Introducer,

J. Strange, Esq., Greensward House, Hockley, Essex.

Towneley Class, flowers 5¼ inches diameter; white flushed Rose Purple. Plant 63 inches high; stems 15 inches long. Introducer, Messrs. Wm. Westwall and Sons.

CLASS IX-B

Large-Flowered Cactus

Sarah Simcock, flowers 9 inches diameter; outer florets Blood Red, flushed Solferino Purple. Plant 60 inches high with flower stems 15 inches. Introducer, J. H. Ferry, Esq., Cotswold, Pantmawr Rd., Whitchurch, Cardiff.

CLASS IX-C

Medium Flowered Cactus

Bacchus (Maarse), Aug. 19, 1954, described R.H.S. Journal 79, p. 145.

Doge, flowers 7¼ inches diameter; Cydamen Purple. Plant 54 inches high with flower stems 20 inches. Introduced, Messrs. D. Bruidegom, Baarn, Holland.

CLASS XI

Dwarf Bedding

Janet Minor, flower 4 inches diameter; Phlox Pink at ends of florets, Mimosa Yellow at base changing to Salmon Yellow to Pink. Plant 33 inches high. Introducers Messrs. Alex Lister & Son, Ltd., Barone Rd., Rothesay, Bute.

Rose Hall, flowers 4 inches, near fuschia pink; plant 33 inches. Introducer, as above. Flower 3¾ inches.

Rothesay Castle, outer florets Rhodamine Pink, inner florets cream flushed Rh. Pk. Bush 30 inches. Introducer, as above. Flower, 3¾ inches.

Rothesay Yellow, flower 3¾ inches; clear, bright, Primrose Yellow. Plant 30 inches. Introducer, same as above.

Editor's Note: We thank the R.H.S. Journal for the above information. They are at liberty to use the lists of awards as printed in our February BULLETIN. The exchange of such information between Societies helps to increase interest in dahlias in both countries.

Root losses were very large the past winter, according to our correspondents. Also there are complaints from several that some of the new, and top price, introductions are very slow to eye out. If you lost a lot of roots, due to drought and other causes, don't wait too long to order. Some varieties are out of stock.

J. A. (Daddy) Kemp Died Saturday, March 26

(Daddy) J. A. Kemp passed away March 26 at the Masonic Home, Burlington, N. J., where he had resided for the past year and a half. He would have been 93 years old on July 6.

He was one of the oldest members of the A.D.S. and had served on its executive board for some 15 years during the 1920s and 1930s. He grew and introduced many famous dahlias such as *Monmouth Champion*, *Violet Wonder*, *Fort Monmouth*, *Daddy Kemp*, *Freckles*, *White Champion*, *Lidice* and many others. He also grew gladiolus, Jap Irises and blight-proof chestnut trees.

Daddy Kemp was strong in his convictions, often differing with his colleagues and contemporaries and did not hesitate to voice or write his opinions to any one. But he was liked and respected among his dahlia friends.

He lived and gardened most of his life at Little Silver, N. J. He issued a catalogue and was an advertiser in this publication for many years up till about 1945. In the early 1940s his new introductions were grown and exhibited by A. Swoboda, who retired from business in January this year, but who still grows dahlias. It was Mr. Swoboda who phoned the editor to announce the death of Daddy Kemp. They were close friends for many years. Each respected the abilities of the other; Kemp's to grow the seedlings; Swoboda's to grow them to the ultimate of perfection and win with them in the seedling classes. One of the characteristics of Daddy Kemp's strong feelings or hallucinations was his claim, in later years, that all of the judges teams at the A.D.S. Trial Grounds were in league against him and never gave his seedlings a proper score. Another, which he wrote in a letter to the editor, was there was a better display of dahlias in his garden than at any trial garden, yet A.D.S. people rarely came to visit and see it, which was their loss, not his.

In spite of this uppishness, he was a good plantsman and we all accepted his voiced criticisms with bowed heads and liked him just the same. His last visit to the A.D.S. Show, was two years ago, at the age of 90. He was a dahlia lover right to the end.

Funeral services were held March 29 from the Adams Memorial Home, on Upper Broad St., Red Bank, N. J. He was interred at Middleton, N. J.

Changed Your Address?

Each time the BULLETIN is published, our mailing department receives quite a number of returned copies, undelivered because of change of address. The society loses the original postage and must also pay the return postage.

Those who move usually have their first class mail forwarded. But the Post Office cannot forward 2nd class mail without additional postage. When a member does not get the BULLETIN, he often writes the A.D.S. a letter of complaint. Then to keep faith, the A.D.S. forwards a copy to the new address, which is the third lot of postage on that issue. Besides there is always some correspondence relative to the matter.

All of which can be avoided if our members will be thoughtful and send any change of address immediately to address below.

Another request to officers of affiliated societies. When a new secretary or other officer is elected and named recipient of the 6 copies of the BULLETIN, please forward name and address of that party immediately.

**All changes of address should go to:
HENRY OLSEN,
45 Clement Street, Elmont, L. I., N. Y.**



Golden Rule Dahlias

Established in 1924

New and standard exhibition varieties of all types. Send for our 31st Dahlia Book, ready now—write.

Golden Rule Dahlia Farm
Route 2-C Lebanon, Ohio

The AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY, Inc.

ORGANIZED MAY 10, 1915



"The Society is formed for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting the culture and development of the Dahlia; to establish a standard nomenclature; to test out new varieties and give them such recognition as they deserve; to study the diseases of the Dahlia and find remedies for same, and to disseminate information relating to this flower; to secure uniformity in awarding prizes at flower shows, and to give exhibitions when deemed advisable."

ANDREW J. MULCAHY, *President*
20 Marshal Ave., Floral Park, N. Y.

EDWARD B. LLOYD, *Secretary*
10 Crestmont Road, Montclair, N. J.

HENRY A. OLSEN, *Treasurer*
45 Clement Ave., Elmont, N. Y.

LYNN B. DUDLEY, *Editor, Bulletin*
25 Irving Pl., New Rochelle, N. Y.

Editorial

We thank the American Home Magazine and its horticultural editor, Ned Seymour, for permission to use the four color plates of Stanley Johnson's new dahlia *Ned Seymour* on our cover this issue.

This is the first four-color cover used on the BULLETIN since July, 1931. The variety used then was Herman Rindfleisch's *Alice Stellick*, a bicolor, red and white, which your editor was growing. At that time four-color photography was fairly new, and four color covers were a rarity. Fortunately, he had persuaded

both the photographer and plate maker to contribute their handiwork as an experimental proposition. Wm. Rathgeber was editor of the BULLETIN and he was very glad to accept the plates at no charge and use them as the BULLETIN's first full color cover.

Before the *Alice Stallick* cover appeared, that variety had been on the market several years and was then selling at \$3.00 per root. As a result of the new publicity given it by the cover, the price jumped to \$10.00 per root. Incidentally, this full color cover was one of the first, if indeed, not the first, four-color cover on any horticultural periodical in this country.

We hope that the BULLETIN will have more of these type of covers which portray the dahlia in almost its true colors. But the high cost of colored photography and reproduction plates will not let us indulge in them often.

It is possible that commercial growers or other horticultural publications may loan their color cuts to us for covers from time to time. We hope so, for it is the editor's opinion that they enhance the appearance of the BULLETIN. If using such illustrations also helps sell a particular variety, then the interest in the dahlia generally is advanced.

This is the "How to Do It" Dahlia Culture issue. Twelve of our Associate Editors have contributed articles covering the best techniques of planting, fertilization, disbudding, debranching, diseases, spraying, as well as timing and grooming for the shows. Other articles by experts in pathology and entomology help to make this BULLETIN one of the most practical and useful dahlia publications ever distributed. It is regretted that more advertisers did not use it, because we believe it will be kept and referred to by our members, for a long time. If you like this kind of editorial treatment for the Spring Planting Issue, won't you write the editor, please?

From The Mailbag Of Secretary Lloyd— Who Can Answer This?

Mrs. L. B. Spinning Route 4, Box 440, Chehalis, Washington writes for information concerning the dahlia STELLA — "is it worth keeping and working with, and is it a sport"? The worthy lady also requests, or I should say suggests, that colored pictures of

the winning varieties if printed in the Bulletin would be "lovely." With that, we could pass a unanimous vote — yes — but what about the size of the appropriation? Possibly I might suggest that she start a fund for that purpose. To get back to STELLA, I find no listing in Classification Lists going back some few years.

Associate Editors of the A.D.S. Bulletin

The following editors are doing a fine job of writing the kind of articles we believe our readers appreciate. If you have any suggestions as to future articles, write the editor and, or any of his associates listed below:

- J. Louis Roberts,
12147 Harvard Ave.,
Chicago 28, Illinois
- Dr. Ward Cook,
Little Falls Hospital
Little Falls, N. Y.
- Col. Richard T. Eddy,
Box B-9,
Encinitas, California
- Dr. Frederick J. Knocke,
P. O. Box 13,
Readington, New Jersey
- Henry C. Parker,
6142—30th St., N.W.,
Washington, D. C.
- John Metzger,
126 Allen St.,
Irvington, New Jersey
- Leo L. Pollak,
Hotel Delmonico, Room 3117,
Park Ave. and 58th St.,
New York, New York
- Mrs. Louise Kleinjohn,
726 Barret Ave.,
Louisville, Kentucky
- Conrad E. Faust,
3532 Piedmont Rd.,
Atlanta, Georgia
- Dr. C. H. Rike,
1146—41st St., Balview Heights,
Birmingham 8, Alabama
- Dr. C. E. Wildon,
823 Huntington Rd.,
East Lansing, Michigan
- Professor C. Merrill Brown,
102 Oakgrove Dr.,
Williamsville, New York
- Noel O. Scott,
1436 Stanley,
Glendale 6, California
- Ralph and Ruth Berry (Mr. & Mrs.),
2835 Wagar Rd.,
Cleveland 16, Ohio

Advice About Roots On Television March 5th

The Alampis, Phil and Ruth, gave the editor a hurry up call about how dahlia roots had kept during the past winter. We were sorry to have to report to them that many growers had told us that losses of roots, probably due in part to the dry season in 1954 were quite heavy.

They asked us for samples of dahlia clumps of various types: Those which had kept well; those with broken necks; due to careless digging or storage; and those which had dried up past the stage of usefulness. We had all kinds, so sent them to the Alampis and on Mar. 5, their Saturday television spot from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m., on WRCA-TV Ruth showed the exhibits and advised growers to check their stocks of roots and cut away any broken roots and injury from crown rot. Then the next step, so Ruth advised was "to carefully cut the clump apart, preserving the eyes on the crown, so that each division had enough root to supply sustenance to the dahlia as it grows, and that each division had one eye, or shoot to insure growth." Only "one eye per division is best" she said. These well known radio and television personalities grow dahlias and each season offer many cultural suggestions to dahlia growers.

Book Review THE DAHLIA GROWER'S TREASURY

A. T. Barnes (160 pp.)

Transatlantic Arts, Inc.

Hollywood-by-the-Sea, Fla. (\$3.75)

Half a century of Dahlia growing! It would be interesting to know how many Dahlia fans we, in America, have who can match this record of our English friend.

From the storage bin to the show table, he covers his cultural and related practices in detail. In general, they follow those observed by growers in his country and one cannot but note the wide variance from those followed here. This is explained in part by the different weather conditions in the two countries.

Of special interest to this reviewer is Mr. Barnes' description of varieties showing variations from the standard forms. Among these, he lists as "an entirely new break in form," the variety *Aster*, which has tightly quilled petals.

The book contains many interesting illustrations and the reader lays it down with the feeling he has been reading the words of one in complete mastery of his subject. J. Ralph Berry.

Dahlia Societies Across the Nation

CLOSING DATE, THE 10TH

Secretaries of Branch and Affiliate Societies are requested to mail their reports for publication in the Bulletin on the 10th of the month preceding publication. These closing dates are:

January 10 for February issue

April 10 for May issue

July 10 for August issue

October 10 for November issue

If copy does not reach the editor by these dates it is quite likely to be left until the following issue, and when that happens its news value is greatly lessened, if not entirely lost. And please keep it brief.



New Rochester Society Medal



New San Diego Society Medal

Two Societies Would Exchange Medals

In the February BULLETIN, two Dahlia societies announced the designing of new medals. These were the San Diego (Calif.) Society and the Rochester (N. Y.) Society. We are informed by Larry Sisk of the former and Bob Connal of the latter that both groups would like to enter into negotiations with other Societies for the exchanging of medals for awards at shows.

The A.D.S. is probably the largest distributor of dahlia award medals each fall. Its medal is available to all Branch and

Affiliated Societies. Several are awarded at its annual exhibition in New York. In addition, four are offered in the Supreme Awards of the Seedling Sweepstakes. It also awards its Derrill Hart Memorial medals each season. It is not unusual for 50 to 60 A.D.S. Medals to be offered each season to . . . "stimulate interest in and promote the culture and development of the dahlia."

The A.D.S. is glad therefore, to see a wider exchange and awarding of medals among other societies. A medal is not of great intrinsic value but it is a distinct measure of achievement in horticulture and can be exhibited with pride to friends and garden competitors.

Societies interested in exchange of medals with the two societies mentioned above write to : Larry Sisk, 3765 Tenth Ave., San Diego 3, Calif., and Robert Connal, 36 Duke St., Rochester 9, N. Y.

Mid-Atlantic Dahlia Conference

On March 12, so the Dahliagram of April, 1955 reports the delegates from the following societies. Met and drew up a constitution and by-laws for the Mid-Atlantic Dahlia Conference. They also decided that the National Dahlia Society will be the host show for 1955. The participating societies are: Baltimore Dahlia Society; National Capitol Dahlia Society; Suburban Dahlia Society; Virginia Dahlia Society; Williamsburg Dahlia Society.

Southern States Dahlia Association Show

If Spring comes, then Fall and the Southern States Dahlia Show will not be far behind, be the Good Lord willing, and the weather permitting.

The combined Southern States Dahlia Show will be in Chattanooga Tenn., at the Patten Hotel, located in the heart of the city, October 1 and 2.

Already the gardens have been planned, and plants are fast approaching setting out time, even tho we have had *The Record Cold Spell* for the last week in March, so that planting has had to be postponed, but it will not be long now until we can begin work in earnest. Keen interest and rivalry between the three states is working toward a most interesting show, with a number of new features being included.

Chattanooga Tenn., is one of the most interesting and historical cities in the South, and will afford a nice vacation spot, that can be included with your trip to The Southern States Dahlia Show, which is always an interesting one, and one that all visitors remember with pleasure. Plan to come.—Charles Watson, President Chattanooga Dahlia Society and Southern States Dahlia Association, Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Southern Association Plans For Judging School

We had the annual meeting on our Dahlia judging school, which we started last year, at Conrad Faust's home in Atlanta, Saturday night, April 2nd. The Dr. H. C. Rikes, Mrs. Maude Goodwin and Mrs. Vaughan from Birmingham, The Conrad Fausts, Dr. and Mrs. Stevens, Dave and Ruby Wells from Atlanta, and Charles Watson and Mrs. Etta Simmonds from Chattanooga.

We had a delightful dinner, and a good meeting with plans for the year being worked out, along with some old fashioned visiting and also some good discussions included. Will meet in Birmingham to make up the questions that will be used for examinations. Etta Simmonds, Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Dahlia Society of Ohio, Inc.

The Year 1955 marks the 25th Anniversary for The Dahlia Society of Ohio, Inc. The Society was organized here in Cleveland, Ohio in 1930. The members are very proud that our Society has

been active in the Dahlia World for 25 years. The officers and the various committee chairmen, plan to make this one of the years to be remembered by all.

A gift of dahlia roots will be presented to each new member that joins our Society this year, states Mr. Kavinsky, our membership chairman. Our program chairman, Mrs. Davies, has planned an interesting program for the coming year. This will include panel discussions, root sales, speakers, a picnic, and a Christmas party.

Plans are underway to make our 25th Anniversary Dahlia Show, Higbee Auditorium on September 19th and 20th, one of the best the Society has ever had. A special section has been planned to include any dahlias that have "Silver" in their name in honor of our "Silver Anniversary." In addition, another section will be included to show 1955 introductions. We cordially invite all Societies and exhibitors to take part in or attend this great "Silver Anniversary Show." The Show Chairman is Mr. E. J. Wind

Arrangements for another Dahlia Show sponsored by The Dahlia Society of Ohio

(Continued on following page)

2 PERMANENT Garden Markers

*Just "Made to Order"
for Dahlia Growers*

PERMARKERS

Durable, thick plastic label, 2¾ by 1½ inches; gray-green or orange, with 14-inch non-corrosive steel support. Holds label at readable angle; always clean; ordinary lead pencil marking lasts for years or is easily erased. Label can be removed and tied to dahlia clump for storage.

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Durable gray-green moulded plastic label, 5-inches high; 2 inches square of writing space. Easy to read, easy to erase for re-use; always clean; will not turn in ground. Ideal for pots, flats and seedling plots.

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Nationwide Dahlia News

(Continued from preceding page)

to be held at beautiful Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio are now being made. Our Show there last year was a great success and created much interest in dahlias. The Show will be held in early September.

The members of The Dahlia Society of Ohio are looking forward to meeting their old Dahlia friends this year and are always anxious to make new ones. Make Cleveland one of your stops this year. A happy and successful Dahlia Year is wished to all. A.D.S. Cor. Howard F. Skorepa, 4305 Lucille Rd., South Euclid 21, Ohio.

Long Island Dahlia Society 10th Anniversary

A Tenth Anniversary is an event that shouldn't be passed over lightly, so, the Long Island Dahlia Society decided to scrap the idea of having a social at the regular April meeting and have a more elaborate celebration in the form of a 10th Anniversary Dinner. The dinner was held on April 23rd at the Elks Club in Hempstead. Many of the old-timers came out to reminisce on the "Good Old Days." Mr. Berzau, Chairman, arranged for speakers including Mr. Lynn Dudley, Dr. Ward Cook, Mr. Chris Rissmeyer and Mr. Otto Langhans, who spoke on the Trial Gardens, Publicity for dahlias and other subjects apropos to the growing of dahlias. Mr. Bert Pitt discoursed on the growth of the Society from 5 members in 1945 to 117 active members in 1955. A pleasant evening was enjoyed by all and everyone is looking forward to future anniversaries of our growing Society.

Plans are moving along for our annual Show to be held on September 17th at the Plattduetsche Park Hall in Franklin Square. Mr. James Lawless, Jr., Chairman, will be assisted by Mrs. Leonore Feyh, Arrangements Chairman.

The Society is considering a dahlia planting at the Queens Botanical Gardens on the site of the former World's Fairgrounds in Flushing. Members will plant dahlias donated by members of the Society.

It won't be long before work is started on the Trial Gardens at Farmingdale. The Gardens will be supervised by Mr. Bert Pitt who did such an outstanding job there last year. I. J. Wahl, Secretary, Lexington Street, Floral, N. Y.

Twenty-Second Mid-West Dahlia Conference

The Dahlia Society of Wisconsin is honored and happy to again be the host to the Mid-West Conference Show, featuring the celebration of our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, September 9, 10 and 11 1955 in Milwaukee.

We extend a cordial invitation to all members societies, friends as well as individual growers an opportunity to be with us and enjoy a few pleasant days of the warm hearted hospitality for which Milwaukee is known. Milwaukee is a great city on the shores of great Lake Michigan and has many attractions such as the Lake Shore Drive, beautiful parks, Washington Park Zoo, Mitchell Park Conservatory and Sunken Garden, Whitnall Park and its colorful array of flowers, dahlia gardens, museum, fine hotels and the Milwaukee County Stadium, the Home of the Milwaukee Braves.

Headquarters for the conference will be the Hotel Schroeder where visitors will find the best accommodations and adequate parking facilities. Reservations should be made directly to the hotel as early as possible. A registration table for the dahlia visitors will be in the lobby of the hotel. All visitors are urged to register promptly, beginning Friday, September 9, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Saturday, September 10, from 8 A.M. to 10 A.M. There will be no registration fee.

The show will be staged at the beautiful, spacious Conservatory in Mitchell Park, co-sponsored by the Milwaukee County Park Commission, which affords extensive space and a magnificent background of tropical plants, vines, palms — a perfect setting for a dahlia show. There is a large greenhouse adjacent to the conservatory with benches provided with containers filled with fresh, cold water, enabling exhibitors to make their set-ups without confusion. There are two entrances for the delivery of blooms, and a large parking area for exhibitors and visitors' cars. Maps showing routes to the conservatory and the Hotel Schroeder will be found on the registration table, or mailed, if request is made to secretary Ervin Makowski, 3705 S. Herman Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Visitors may bring their blooms Friday night and all set-ups are to be completed Saturday at 10 A.M.

There will be a conducted tour to the dahlia gardens by chartered bus, leaving the hotel at 1 P.M. Friday. This tour will also include a visit to beautiful Whitnall Park.

The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary party will be held at the Miller Brewing Company with entertainment and a tour through the plant Friday at 7:30 P.M.

The conservatory will be open to exhibitors at 6 A.M. and the judges will be served luncheon at 11 A.M. with judging to begin at 12 noon and completed by 2 P.M., at which time the doors will open to the public.

The Mid-West Dahlia Conference will be held at the Hotel Schroeder at 5 P.M. Saturday. Member societies should forward the names of their delegates to the secretary, Mrs. Louise Kleinjohn as early as possible.

The annual banquet will be held at 6:30 P.M. Saturday, at the Hotel Schroeder. A fine program of entertainment and fellowship is planned.

Blooms sent by express or air express should be addressed to the Mitchell Park Conservatory c/o the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin. Notice to the show chairman should be sent well in advance of shipment.

We are looking forward to having you with us and will assure you a grand time. Write for any information you desire and come and bring your blooms.

Charles F. Mosser, *President.*, 2612 Van Norman Ave., Cudahy, Wis.

Greater St. Louis

The regular meeting of the Greater St. Louis Dahlia and Chrysanthemum Society was held at 8 P. M., Friday, January 14, 1955, at the Cabanne Branch Library, Union and Cabanne Avenues.

At this meeting, the newly elected officers took over the duties of making future meetings interesting. At the December meeting, the following officers were elected: Chas. S. DuChesne, President; Wm. Avis, Vice-President; Wm. Knetzer, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. Bruno Faerber, Recording Secretary; Frank Walton, Financial Secretary; Bruno Faerber, Treasurer.

Members elected to Board of Directors: Three-Year Term: Paul Hale, Mr. Jamieson, Mr. Heideman. Two-Year Term: Dan O'Gorman, Jerry Ludwig.

It is again time to renew your subscription to the American Dahlia Society. *Above all, don't forget,* dues are now payable to Frank Walton, 6924 Oleatha Avenue or at our regular Monthly Meeting. Our Annual Fall Show — Sept. 24-25th, 1955. Chas. S. DuChesne.

Washington State Dahlia Society

The Washington State Dahlia Society will hold their 45th annual show in Tacoma, Saturday and Sunday, September 10th and 11th. Don Jefferson, our show chairman, is already making plans to make this the best show yet and considering all the enthusiasm shown among the growers here this show should surpass any dahlia show ever staged in the Pacific Northwest.

A new feature has been added to our show program, a Junior division for the boys and girls up to and including 15 years of age who take pride in growing and exhibiting their own dahlias.

A lot of interest in being shown here in growing dahlia seedlings and a large display is expected in the seedling division which is always of special interest at the shows.

Chas. Julin, *Cor. Secretary.*

The Burholme Horticultural Society

Our 35th annual fall show featuring dahlias will be held on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16th and 17th at the Jardel Recreation Center, Cottman Ave. and Pennway St., Phila., Pa. There will be approximately one hundred different classes including all kinds and varieties of dahlias. The awards will include the American Home Achievement Medal and the A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes Awards. There will be numerous prizes in all classes, consisting of cash awards, trophies, rosettes, medals and many merchandise awards.

A cordial invitation is extended to everyone to exhibit and visit the show which we confidently expect to be bigger and better than ever. Your show schedule can be obtained from the show chairman, Mr. William T. Blair, 7323 Whitaker Ave., Phila., Pa. or the corresponding secretary, Mr. Henry H. Johnson, 124 Ray St., Phila. 11, Pa.

Mr. Stanley Johnson, the well-known originator of many new species of dahlias, was again elected President. Assisting him are Mr. George H. Sivel, 1st Vice-President and Mr. Walter Strobel, 2nd Vice-President. The other officers are Mrs. Lydia Higginson, Treasurer, Mrs. Ella McCarthy, Recording Secretary, and Mr. Wm. T. Blair, Show Secretary.

Charles F. Hausmann, *Pub. Director.*
Shelmire Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

(Continued on following page)

Nationwide Dahlia News (Continued from preceding page)

Hagerstown Dahlia Society

Elected officers for its twenty-sixth year as follows: President, Mrs. Oscar Moser; First Vice President, Arthur Eberly; Second Vice President, Mrs. Mary Tosten; Secretary, H. K. Ramsburg, 57 Wayside Avenue, Hagerstown, Md.; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Wilbur Lewis; Treasurer, Charles W. Zahn; Executive Committee, Chairman, Walter Gibney and Dr. A. Gossard, Oscar Moser, A. H. Sherman, Mrs. Lester Grove, Mrs. Roy Polsgrove and Roy Polsgrove.

The dates for our annual Dahlia and Flower Show are Thursday and Friday, September 29 and 30. At the City Market Place. We are entering our twenty-sixth year as a Society, with more than 200 enthusiastic dahlia grower members. Our progress has been due mainly to the selection of our membership; our affiliation with the A.D.S. and the publicity received through the medium of this BULLETIN and the sponsoring of shows at Hagerstown that were of merit and a credit to the Dahlia fraternity. We expect to uphold our reputation of the past at our 1955 Show, to be held in September.

H. K. Ramsburg, *Secretary*,
87 Wayside Ave.,
Hagerstown, Md.

San Diego County, Calif.

The San Diego County Dahlia Society held their annual election of officers at the Bi-monthly meeting held November 22nd.

The following officers were elected to serve for the year of 1955. President, R. B. Williams; Vice President, L. C. Hegele; Treasurer, Mrs. W. F. Booker; Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Bishop; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. D. E. Hughes.

An Executive Board meeting was held January 20th, for the purpose of discussing the duties of the officers of the forthcoming year and appointing the committees for the Annual Dahlia Show.

The San Diego County Dahlia Society's regular meeting was held January 25th, at the Civic Center Cafe. An interesting program was presented by Vice President, L. C. Hegele, featuring Dahlia Society members and their flower hobby. Mrs. Bishop's informal discussion was applauded with enthusiasm for her expression of desire for all members to share their flowers with those less fortunate and unable to have beautiful

blooms of their own. Her practice of taking flowers to various rest homes and her many notes of appreciation from the residents were especially rewarding and gave the other members the desire to do better in the future.

The Sixth Annual Conference of the Southern California Dahlia Association was held February 12th and 13th, at Hotel Manor, San Diego, California. The afternoon session included a business meeting; flower arrangement discussion, applicable for Dahlia shows; and how to choose Seedlings worthy of sending to Trial Grounds; followed by a question and answer period. At 6:30 P. M., a Banquet followed at the San Diego Indoor Sports Club. A National Report on top winning show varieties and other pertinent discussions of the fertilizing and care of Dahlias. Out-of-town guests had breakfast Sunday, 9:30 A. M., at the Hotel Manor, through the courtesy of the San Diego County Dahlia Society. Mrs. Delbert E. Hughes, Cor. Secretary. 3663 Riviera Dr., San Diego 9, Calif.

Southtown Dahlia Club

The Southtown Dahlia Club will hold their eighteenth annual Dahlia Show on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, 1955, at the Hamilton Park Field House, 72nd Street and Normal Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

Officers of the club elected for 1955 are: President, Louis Dressler; First Vice President, Bernard Bergmann; Second Vice President, J. C. Moore, Jr.; Treasurer, Stanley Swanson; Secretary, Marie Dressler; Assistant Secretary, Dorothy Bergmann.

On Saturday, April 30, we held our annual party to raise money for show expenses.

Mrs. Louis Dressler, Sec'y., 8409 Calumet Ave., Chicago 19, Ill.

Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society

This year's show will be held on Sat., Sept. 24th and Sun., Sept. 25th again in the beautiful, spacious lobby of Phila's finest Radio and Television Center, WCAU — City Line and Monument Aves. Phila., Pa. The show will receive thousands of dollars worth of publicity via radio and television to encourage exhibitors and visitors in attending this outstanding Dahlia Show.

Prize schedule will include, cash awards, medals, trophies, rosettes and prize ribbons. Featured are the American Home

Achievement Medal and A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes Awards. Schedules available in early July. Get your copy by contacting the Secretary.

The officers for 1955 are:—President, George M. Boyle; Vice-President, N. Louis Comito; Treasurer, Fil. A. Alleva; Secretary, Walter Strobel; 10 Township Line Rd., Elkins Park 17, Pa.; Show Supt., Fred Moore.

The Annual banquet was held at the Falcon House, Llanerch, Pa., noted for its cuisine, on Feb. 16th and was well attended. Everyone enjoyed the color slides shown by Mr. Frank L. Diechler Jr. and narrated by Mrs. Elsie Diechler, Stanley Johnson A.D.S. Representative Cheltenham, Pa.

Get Seedling Sweepstake Entry Blanks From Dr. Ward Cook

Dr. Ward Cook, address, care of Little Falls Hospital, Little Falls, N. Y. is now the Chairman of the A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstake Awards.

Branch and Affiliated Societies should write him for agreements to be signed by one of their officers and returned to him, if they wish to participate in these awards at their 1955 Exhibitions. It is required that the class be correctly worded in the schedules, so that exhibitors will understand the rules of the competition. A change in the requirement about introduction of a winner has been made. Now a new variety, to win, must be introduced to the public within the TWO seasons following the winning. Before 1955, the requirement that the winner be introduced in the following season did not always prove to be feasible.

Last year 32 societies requested to be entered and 25 of them made ribbon awards to 39 varieties. In all, 80 ribbons were pinned on winners and four of the 39 varieties received the A.D.S. Gold Medal for the highest average score in three or more of the participating society shows.

These A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstake Awards are fast becoming one of the most coveted new variety awards in dahlia-dom. There is no charge for entry to Branch and Affiliated Societies, but the class must be correctly listed and reports of the judges sent promptly following the show to: Dr. Ward Cook, Care Little Falls Hospital, Little Falls, N. Y. He will also furnish entry blanks. Write for same before making up show schedules.

Michigan Dahlia Association

The Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society Show will host the Michigan Dahlia Association eighth annual show on Saturday and Sunday, September 17, and 18, 1955.

Place of Show: Carpenter's Hall, 22521 Grand River Ave., Detroit 19, Michigan.

Mrs. D. Millar, 15848 Pinchurst Ave., Detroit 38, Mich.

Southern Trial Garden Address Correction

There has been a change in the management operation of the Southern Trial Garden. We were not informed of this in time to make corrections in the list published on page 31 of the February issue.

All the work in connection with the garden is now in the hands of E. E. Montgomery and all requests for information, entry blanks, and all roots or plants for trial there should be sent to:

**E. E. Montgomery,
1017 South McDonough St.,
Decatur, Georgia**

Any member wishing to have his seedling grown judged and scored, in the South with object of receiving an A.D.S. Certificate of Merit (a score of 85 points or over) and to compete for highest Trial Ground Honors, the Derril Hart Medal, should get in touch with Mr. Montgomery at once.

The Derril Hart Medal is available each year to the variety in the four-size classifications, which obtains the highest average score in at least three A.D.S. Trial Gardens. This score can be accumulated over a two-year period.

For addresses of the four other Trial Gardens please refer to page 34, this 1955 BULLETIN.

Catalogues Received

Comstock's Dahlia Garden, 5146 35th Street, San Diego 16, California.

Clarksburg Dahlia and Floral Gardens Clarksburg, Ind.

Keck-Stephens Gardens, Ferndale, Bucks County, Pa.

White Dahlia Gardens, 6720 North Albina Ave., Portland 17, Oregon.

Matsuo Dahlia Gardens, No. 59 2-Chome, Kitamachi, Nerimaku, Tokyo, Japan.

Dahlia Show Dates Across the Nation

American Dahlia Society

Tues. and Wed., Sept. 21 and 22
Essex House, New York City

- August 20-21
Orange County Dahlia Society,
Santa Ana Y.M.C.A.,
Santa Ana, Calif.
- August 25-26
Kitsap County Dahlia Society,
Civic Center, Bremerton, Washington
- September 3
Commonwealth Club, Montclair, N. J.
- September 3-4
Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference,
Floral Hall, Forest Park,
Everett, Washington
- September 9-10-11
Midwest Dahlia Conference,
Mitchell Park Conservatory,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- September 10
North Jersey Dahlia Society,
National Guard Armory, Paterson, N. J.
- September 10
Irvington Garden Club, Irvington, N. J.
- September 10-11
Washington State Dahlia Society,
- September 10-11
Dahlia and Plant Specialists,
Cleveland Garden Center,
Cleveland, Ohio
- September 11
Southern Tier Dahlia Society,
Elmira, New York
- September 16-17
Burholme Horticultural Society,
Jardel Recreation Center,
Cheltenham, Pennsylvania
- September 16-17
Suburban Dahlia Club,
Franklin High School,
Reistertown, Md.
- September 17
Long Island Dahlia Society,
Plattduetsche Park Hall,
Franklin Square, L. I.
- September 17
North Bergen Dahlia Society,
Englewood, New Jersey
- September 17-18
East Liverpool Dahlia Society,
Memorial Auditorium,
East Liverpool, Ohio
- September 17-18
Indianapolis Dahlia Society
- September 17-18
Southern Michigan Society,
Carpenter's Hall, Detroit, Mich.
- September 17-18
Portland Dahlia Society,
Masonic Temple, Portland, Oregon
- September 18
Rochester Dahlia Society,
Rochester Museum, Rochester, N. Y.
- September 19-20
Dahlia Society of Ohio,
Higbee Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio
- September 20-21
American Dahlia Society,
Essex House,
160 Central Park, W., New York
- September 24-25
National Capitol Dahlia Society,
U. S. Botanic Garden,
Washington, D. S.
- September 24-25
Southern Dahlia Club,
Hamilton Park Field House,
Chicago, Ill.
- September 24-25
Greater St. Louis Dahlia and
Chrysanthemem Society
- September 24-25
Dahlia Society of Kentucky,
Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Ky.
- September 24-25
Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society,
Lobby, Station W.C.A.U.
- September 26-28
Virginia Dahlia Society,
Old Dominion Room,
Miller & Rhoads, Store,
Richmond, Virginia
- September 29-30
Hagerstown Dahlia Society,
City Market Place, Hagerstown, Md.
- October 1-2
Southern Conference, Host,
Dahlia Society of Tenn.
Patten Hotel, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- October 1-2
Williamsburg Dahlia Society,
Williamsburg Lodge,
Williamsburg, Va.
- October 8-9
Dahlia Society of Georgia,
Georgia State Fair, Atlanta

If your show is not listed above, please send information for August Bulletin by July 31.

Have heard that the Virginia Dahlia Society has a good Bulletin, "The Dahlia Patch." Wonder why this editor has not received a copy. How about it, President Alton Smith?

De-Bugging Made Easy

During the last ten to fifteen years there has been a keen race among the Insecticide people to see who could produce the latest and most deadly bug killers. It is not known today just how many are now on the market (U.S.D.A. claims over 36,000 registered) but as far back as 1946 there were then 953 different trade names of insecticides and plant sprays. Many of these sprays are so deadly they have caused a great deal of damage as in the case of August 7th, 1944, in the Sancelito district of California, where nearly 1,200 sheep were killed from the fumes of a poison spray drifting in from an olive grove being sprayed.

For a number of years the Writer was connected with a large Seed House and Garden Supply Store and naturally stocked the products the customers called for, but the vast array of sprays and insecticides offered was very confusing to the customer. Many gardeners became disgusted when buying several types of spray material for as many types of insects. Gradually *Carco-X* was introduced as the one spray for all garden problems — insecticide and fungicide combined. Never using any material ourselves that would endanger the lives of Humans or warm blooded animals we knew *Carco-X* would do for others what it was doing for us. We were more than delighted with the wonderful reports that came back. No wormy carrots or radishes, first in years, no root weevil in the strawberries or primroses. Flowers of all kinds were better, shrubs took on a brighter look, no leaf miners in holly or lilacs.

We have used and recommended *Carco-X* for many years and find it the only spray we need for all the trials that beset a Dahlia Grower. Our Dahlias are free from Flea Beetles, Wire Worms, and bugs in general. We have often been asked "How do you produce such fine solid roots?" A splendid booklet "De-bugging Made Easy" is available from the writer.

J. E. Hulin, *Port Orchard, Wash.*

When you answer advertisers in the Bulletin, even just asking for a catalogue, MENTION THE A.D.S. BULLETIN Please. That helps advertisers to know that it pays to advertise in this publication.

New York Show Dates — 1955
Tuesday and Wednesday
September 20-21 at Essex House

The schedules for the 1955 A.D.S. New York Show and the 1955 Classification Lists were mailed to all members on April 11th. Last year the schedule was printed as a part of the February issue of this BULLETIN. It was found that most exhibitors preferred to have schedules printed separately because they were more convenient to carry. Other reasons were: some felt that the schedule was not essentially national dahlia news, but rather of local or at least sectional interest; another important reason is that the cost to the A.D.S. is less when mailed separately with the new classification list.

Note to Commercial Growers. When your catalogue or list is printed for 1956, please list Active Memberships in the American Dahlia Society at the new rate of \$4.00 per year. The Society would appreciate it greatly if all commercial firms would ask their customers to join the Society when they order stock. For proper wording of this invitation to join, write to Treasurer Henry Olsen, 45 Clement Ave., Elmont, L. I., N. Y.

"The Judging of Dahlias"

A MANUAL

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1955

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 45 Clement Ave.
 ELMONT, L. I., N. Y.

Send Your Seedlings to the Trial Gardens

Not later than May 25 we suggest that you plan to send new varieties to the A.D.S. Trial Gardens listed below for 1955 testing. Send 3 plants or roots of each variety before June 1st. When sending them, also send an entry blank properly filled out and accompanying same with remittance of \$5.00 per variety as a fee. If the variety scores 85 points or more, average through the season, it is awarded an A.D.S. Trial Ground Certificate of Merit. The varieties scoring the highest in each of the four size classifications in at least three Trial Grounds over a period of not more than two years, are awarded the Derrill Hart Memorial Medal. Write to the Trial Gardens you select now for entry blanks.

The Trial Gardens for 1955, with mailing addresses will be as follows:

Eastern Trial Garden.

Prof. C. Rissmeyer, Long Island Agricultural & Technical Institute, Farmingdale, L. I., New York.

Mid-West Trial Garden.

Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan. Dr. C. E. Wildon, Director, 823 Huntington Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

Ohio Valley Trial Garden.

Ault Park, Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Robert Seibel, Director. Correspondence to Miss Alice Mattick, Secretary, 4223 Dane Street, Cincinnati 23, Ohio.

Southern Trial Garden.

Entries to E. E. Montgomery, 1017 S. McDonough St., Decatur, Ga.

Pacific Coast Trial Garden.

Lakeside Park, Oakland, California. Mr. R. E. Harter, Director, 2769 Danville Highway, Walnut Creek, Cal.

The A.D.S. Can Double Its Membership

If Every Member of This Society Will Secure Just One New Member in 1955, the A.D.S. Can Double Its Membership. With Such an Expansion, Several Essential Research Projects in Pathology and Entomology Can Be Undertaken. Won't You Please Try to Help by Asking Your Friends to Join NOW?

A.D.S. MEMBERSHIP BLANK

Use This Blank to Renew Your Membership
Or Help a Friend to Join

American Dahlia Society, Inc.
Henry A. Olsen, Treasurer,
45 Clement Ave., Elmont, N. Y.

Please (Renew) (Enter) my membership in the American Dahlia Society. Enclosed find (check) (money order) for \$4.00, of which \$3.00 is for the annual subscription to the Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society, published quarterly.

Name

Street No.

City State

Name and Address of a

Friend Who Might Join



What Type Dahlia is This?

Yes, the above is a dahlia. Note the bloom on the left. See the petaloids? How would you label it as to species?

Is it a *Dahlia spondyliifolia*; *Dahlia crocata*; *Dahlia superflua*; *Dahlia purpurea*; *Dahlia lilacina*; *Dahlia frustranea*; *Dahlia coccinea*; *Dahlia rosea*; *Dahlia Merchi*; or *Dahlia variabilis*; or what?

A mink lined bud vase will be awarded to the first person who identifies it.

—The Editor.

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Check the Fine Collection Offers
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The Garden Journal

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 PATRICIA ANN SNOW GIRL
 CATHERINE DOVE
 PINK SPANGLE

See February issue for prices and description or send for our catalog which includes Cultural Instructions.



CHEROKEE BEAUTY

DAHLIA POCKET EDITION

DAHLIADEL POCKET EDITION of the **HORTICULTURAL COLOUR CHART** contains 175 color blocks arranged in the spectrum order, primarily for the American Dahlia Society with a definite color range on each set of pages. Autumns have been added to make the color range more complete. It is a complete chart for other flowers with the addition of violets, and the omission of the greens and a few blues. Darker shades are in columns to the right with lighter tints to the left. Pages are covered with Cellophane and in a standard 6 3/4 x 3 3/4 binder. **Pocket Edition in Loose Leaf Binder, including 50 New Dahlia Record Sheets, \$15.00.**

CHEROKEE BEAUTY. Don't miss this Ricks-Dahlia del winning Introduction. Wonderful pink Formal Decorative. Unusual in color and size. Vigorous distinctive grower. Won 2 Trial Ground Certificates and on all Honor Rolls. Really outstanding.

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 Plants, \$5 net**

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 OF TEN**

MUMS

Spiders—**PEGGY ANN HOOVER**, light amaranth rose; **SONDRA GAIL**, beautiful bronze; *English-GOLD STANDARD*, rich lemon yellow; **TRIXIE**, terra cotta face, yellow reverse; *Spoons*—**GRAND CANYON**, light phlox purple; **ROSEMARY**, amaranth rose; *Decorative*—**GOV. DUFF**, lovely Spanish orange. **RED VELVET**, velvety crimson; *Pompons*—**PAM**, rose pink, gold center; **SUNAPE**, golden yellow.

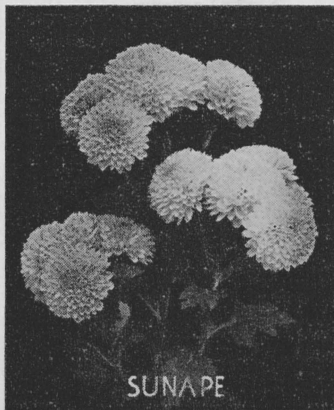
All early blooming varieties. One plant each of the ten above varieties or two rooted cuttings each, Post Paid, Special Handling, \$5.

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