Gardens and Gardening In Northern British Columbia

BLUE AND ORANGE DAISIES

"Daisy" is a common term applied to almost anything in the way of a bloom with star-shaped petals flowers about a solid centre. It is the type form of the largest order of flowering plants, botanically speaking, the compositae, so called because each individual flower or "daisy" is in reality a composite arrangement of a great many small flowers in the head. Daisies of various forms are among the most graceful and decorative of all the garden flowers and always popular for cutting.

South Africa has given us some fine daisy types and others are on the way. We have two South African daisies fairly common in grades now, rejoicing in the botanical names of arctotis or blue-eyed African daisy, and dimorphoteca, or orange African daisy.

The arctotis is a gray-leaved annual producing an abundance of snowy white daisies with a blue centre and blue stains on the reverse of white petals. The dimorphotheca type tone is a burnt orange of glistening quality that has moved some gardeners to call them "patent leather" daisies. The dimorphothecas, however, also have white forms and a variety of tones ranging from cream to the typical rich burnt orange. They delight in the hottest place in the garden, seeming to prefer a rather dry situation and bloom very freely. They are handsome cutting material except for one drawback—they must have their sleep. So each evening the plant closes its eye and they are useless for evening effects.

Dimorphotheca Eklonis is a new white type of larger growth than the orange and a very fine cutting plant. It is an enlarged arctotis in effect. The brilliantly colored venidiums which have created a furor in England and are on their way to us, are really dimorphotheca, according to some botanists.

You cannot do better than to plant these daisies for a brilliant display in some hot sunny spot in your garden where other annuals don't do so well.

IMPROVING THE PEA CROP

Selecting the best variety of peas to grow in the home garden is approaching an arithmetical crisis. If two varieties of peas of equal quality produce the same number of pods but one variety produces one more pea to a pod than the other, the answer to the problem is obvious. This is the claim made for some of the newer varieties of peas. They are claimed to be improvements on older sorts of known top-notch quality because they average one pea to a pod more than the older sorts. One of these is Laxton's Progress, a pea of English origin. Its predecessor was Laxtonian, famous as producing the same huge pods as the brush peas, Gradus, on dwarf vines and of the highest quality. Now comes Laxton's Progress claimed as being as fine a quality as Laxtonian but giving one more pea to the pod. In picking a mess of peas the extra pea to a pod would mean one or two more servings from one variety than the other.

This is the time to sow the main crop of peas. The dwarf peas have quite run away with the brush peas that used to be the mainstay of the older days because they are much less trouble to grow in that no supports need be given them. The dwarfest such as the new "Eight Weeks," grow only 8 to 10 inches. The older American Wonder is a foot in length and Laxtonian is about 18 inches. The taller of the dwarf class are benefitted by a length of 18-inch chicken wire to take them off the ground.

Do not sow peas so thickly that they touch in the rows. The old style of pea sowing always showered in the seed thickly. You will get no more peas in the same space from this thick sowing than if you space the seeds at least an inch apart and you can get many more peas from a pod but because the seed will go much farther if given the proper distance apart in the seed row. Sow in double rows with two inches between the peas in the row.

To get a maximum pea crop it is an excellent plan to sow a balanced commercial fertilizer in the rows when the peas are sown. The pea delights in a light, cool soil with plenty of moisture. The advent of hot weather marks the end of the pea crop. Sow peas at once.

Success in gardening depends more than anything else upon cultivation. This means destroying all plants which come in the garden except the ones which you have planted there.

Plants which come where they are not wanted are called weeds. A weed may be a very good thing in the right place, but when it is in the wrong place we must get rid of it. The reason is that the roots of the weed down in the soil take food which is needed for our garden plants.

If our plants find the soil in which they grow to be free from roots of other plants, they grow rapidly: their baby roots develop, and with larger roots they get more food and grow the faster. But if the soil is crowded with the roots of other little plants (the weeds) none of them get enough, their growth is slowed up, and stunted plants result. It is like the trough at which the little pigs feed. If there is not room for all of them, only the very strongest get enough to eat; and there are a great many runts, instead of even, healthy growth.

So we must see that the plants which we want to grow in our garden have all the food there is to divide among themselves, and that none of it is wasted by being taken by up weeds. We can kill weeds by pulling them up or by hoeing them up. We must always kill them when they are small. One stroke of the hoe will kill dozens of tiny weeds; but if we put off cultivating the garden until the weeds have grown large, then it will be much harder to kill them; and, in the meanwhile, they will have robbed our own plants of much precious food.

S. G. Webb, formerly a member of the staff of the Prince Rupert Daily News has recently joined the service of one of the large advertising agencies in London, England, where he now resides.

THIS YEAR'S PETUNIA MODELS

Petunias are one of the newest and one of the oldest flowers in the garden, oldest in popularity and common use, and newest in the wonderful range of colorings and fringing and frilling that the modern strains offer us. Double petunias, favorite old-time house plants, always reliable bloomers during the winter months, to be set out over summer and then taken in again, have lost some of their vogue in favor of the single types. But they remain one of the finest of summer bedding plants.

The small flowered petunias with their myriads of bloom, the much planted Rosy Morn being typical, give more bloom for the effort devoted to their culture than any other annual in the garden. It isn't much more than necessary to sow the seed to be sure of petunias. The Rosy Morn years ago was preceded by Countess of Ellsmere, a small flowered rosy petunia with a white throat. Then came Rosy Morn with a better style of growth, more compact than the long sprawling stems of the Countess and now we have Rose of Heaven, a little deeper rose and better liked by some than Rosy Morn, but not even threatening the popularity of the former.

Baby blue, sky blue, and rich purple blues in this same type, give wonderful material for color effects in summer.

The larger flowered balcony types so admirable for window boxes are now grown by thousands, a fine type and a variant on the old-fashioned single petunia of grandmothers' gardens.

The giant types, while fewer flowered, are magnificent things and admirable to grow as pot plants on porches or in window boxes. They do not make the mass of color, but a bed of the huge blooms with their marvelous veinings, blotching, ruffling and fringing never fails to attract enthusiasm and admiration.

Sow petunia seed at once for summer bedding. Sow thinly and transplant the tiny seedlings as soon as they are large enough to be handled. If not transplanted, thin them to half an inch apart. Otherwise there will be too many weak-stemmed, spindly plants which will take a long time to recover if they ever give real satisfaction.

ROCK GARDEN ANNUALS

Rock gardening has assumed a position of such importance that consideration of annuals to maintain color during the summer months is a question of garden efficiency. For the most part, the glory of the rock garden has departed by the end of June. The great races of plants that require rock garden treatment for their best success are spring bloomers. By the judicious use of annuals

Section of Rock Garden Showing How Healthy Plants Creep Over Stones, Nearly Covering Them

of short and tufted growth color may be maintained during the entire season.

Care must be taken not to introduce too heavy growing annuals which might smother some of the rarer perennial subjects. Seed should be sown fairly late in the spring by merely scattering it on bare patches among the rock plants.

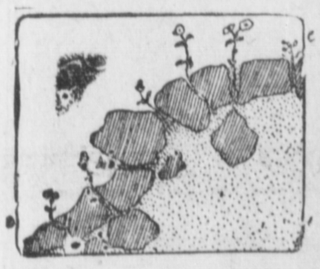
An importance of these tiny plants in popular esteem is the tiny rock cress, jonopsidum acaule, a three-inch miniature with lovely lilac flowers. It comes into bloom quickly and goes out quickly. A supply of seed to scatter every now and then will be useful. California has given us a number of bright little annuals for the rock garden and one of the prettiest and best known of these is baby blue eyes or emophila.

The old-fashioned portulaca or rose moss makes a surprisingly effective plant scattered between the stones in a walk, particularly if laid in crazy paving style. It is also useful on the hottest and dryest portions of the rock garden.

A little jewel is the leptosiphon giving a variety of bright coloring in size and growth in keeping with rock plants.

The violas raised from seed, especially those of the gracilis and cornuta types, will bloom late in the season from spring sown seed and may be used to produce fine color effects in the rock garden. Some of the dwarf phlox drummondi may be introduced to give a brilliant splash of color. Nierembergia gracilis is another excellent plant.

Sedums are rock garden standbys and the little annual sedum, S. caeruleum, with a wealth of blue bloom, is deserving of a choice place among the rock plants.



Poor Construction, Rocks Set Too Close Together, Crowding Roots and Preventing Moisture Reach-

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Scatter a handful of tobacco dust over the sprouting delphinium lumps in the garden to check the mite that causes the "blacks."

Order onion sets early. There is a big run on them when the season is in full blast

Start a compost heap this spring if you never did before. You won't give up the habit once you try it.

Scatter Shirley poppy seed over the tulip beds to be sure of a late display when the tulips fade. The poppies disguise the dying leaves of bulbs better than any other annual

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It is better to buy snapdragon plants if you neglected to get an early start with the seeds

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The earlier delphinium seeds are planted the better they will germinate.

Make friends with the birds. They add charm to the garden and destroy the insect pests.

PLANT for BEAUTY and UTILITY

Gardens for flowers as well as for vegetables! Seeds and plants must be bought with care to assure the perfect development of your "crops." Make sure that your months of labor on your gardens will not be in vain. Buy only the finest! They cost no more than inferior ones.

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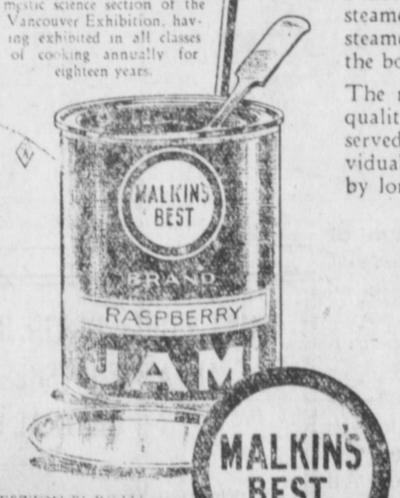

QUESTION BUREAU
Lena Mawdsley will answer all questions having to do with any phase of domestic science. Ask her to solve your cooking problems. Write to her care of The W. H. Malkin Company, Limited.

THE best way I know to test the quality of jams is by cooking as in steamed puddings. The consistency of a jam after this operation is indicative of its quality. So many families use jam only as a spread for bread. They judge quality by taste only.

I made a cooking test of Malkin's Best Strawberry Jam, Plum Jam and Orange Marmalade. A batter pudding with a strawberry jam centre steamed in a mold — an old fashioned plum jam roly-poly steamed in a cloth, and a marmalade pudding steamed in a mold, the marmalade being placed at the bottom of the mold.

The result in each test proved the outstanding quality of Malkin's Best Products because when served, each was unchanged by cooking. The individual flavors, however, seemed to be enhanced by long steaming.

Try this recipe for a tasty, light pudding.

Queen Pudding

½ pt. milk
1 oz. butter
2 tbsp. Malkin's Best strawberry jam
2 eggs
2 tbsp. bar sugar
½ tsp. Malkin's Best vanilla extract

METHOD
Boil the milk with the butter; add sugar to bread crumbs. Pour over the milk. Add yolks, well-beaten, and vanilla. Pour into a buttered dish. Bake 20 minutes. Spread the top with Malkin's Best strawberry jam. Beat up the whites to a stiff froth, pile on the top of the pudding, put back in the oven to set.

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