

# BULLETIN

of the

## AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY



Miniatures—Magnificent in the Garden and unsurpassed for decorative purposes. This beautiful composition by Georgena Humble utilizes Glow of Dawn, Straight Cactus together with Chris, red tipped yellow incurved cactus and Arbor Vitae evergreen foliage arranged in a copper container.

Photo: Albert Humble

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Issue of May, 1940 . . . . Second Quarter

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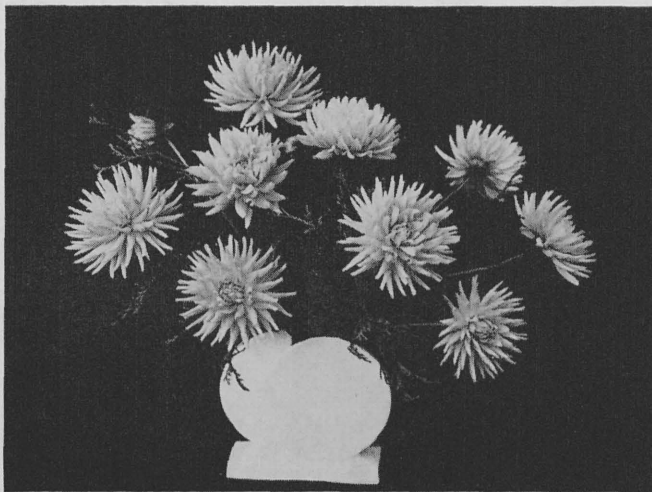
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Subscription Rates \$2.00 per year in advance. Please send all subscriptions and dues to the Secretary, C. Louis Alling, 251 Court Street, West Haven, Conn. Receipts will be promptly sent.

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Quarter Page ...	12.00	Double Page ...	75.00

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#### SPECIAL DISCOUNTS ON YEARLY CONTRACTS

If four consecutive advertisements are contracted for **in advance**, a discount of 10% is allowed, providing bills for space are honored when due.

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# GARDENS ON PARADE—World's Fair to be Scene of 1940 A. D. S. Show

26th Annual Exhibition September 21st-22nd-23rd Offers Many Novel Features

The beautiful setting of the Gardens on Parade at the New York World's Fair will offer members of the A. D. S. an opportunity to show their garden aristocrats in 1940.

It will be a three day Show, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Each day will see new classes staged, so that exhibitors who are not able to show the first or second days can bring their flowers on Sunday and try for prizes.

All exhibitors may bring in their Dahlias and other flowers without World's Fair tickets and stage them by entering at the Fowler Street gate. A. D. S. membership cards will be honored as admission at the Gardens on Parade, but regular World's Fair admission tickets must be purchased by visitors at the Flower Show.

Exhibitors may bring in their flowers by truck or automobile, entering between 1:00 A. M. and 9:30 A. M. at the Fowler Street gate but exhibitors must remove trucks by way of same gate (Fowler Street) by 10:30 A. M. on any one of three days of Show when exhibiting. However parking facilities for trucks and cars will be provided near the "Gardens on Parade."

The exhibition will open to the public at 1:00 P. M. on first day, September 21st, and at 10:00 A. M. on Saturday and Sunday.

All exhibits must be staged by 11:00 A. M. on each day. Judging will begin promptly at 11:15 A. M. each day.

We ask that you study carefully the rules of the Show for more definite information, and if you will read the classes now with an eye to growing the types and colors which you will exhibit it will give you a chance at the valuable sweepstake prizes.

The innovation in the seedling classes this year, we believe will eliminate much of the objections to awards for the new varieties. Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal Certificates will be awarded in each of three major Dahlia classifications, large or exhibition, medium or commercial, small or diminutive.

Actually, these new novelties will not only be in competition with the others on the tables but with existing varieties of same type and color now in commerce. Standard A. D. S. score cards will be used by judges in determining the winners.

Another change in A. D. S. prize awards is for the Derrill Hart medals. This award will be made on basis of merit for the Dahlia which scores the highest at the four official A. D. S. trial grounds. If a variety wins a certificate at one trial ground that first year's score will count the second year if and when the variety also scores highest (combined 4 garden score) at the other three trial gardens.

This procedure takes this award out of Show competition this year but a plan will perhaps be devised in years to come, so that Derrill Hart medal winners may compete with each other in future A. D. S. Shows.

Many other innovations in the classes may be noted in the schedule. It is believed that not only will this be the finest exhibition ever staged by the A. D. S., but will be seen by more Dahlia and flower enthusiasts than any other previous Show of the twenty-six years of the A. D. S.

The scene of the Show was visited by hundreds of thousands of horticulturists last season. The Show will be held in the Horticultural Hall within the Gardens on Parade. There will be some ornamental displays of Dahlias growing in tubs outside in the gardens.

We know that members of the American Dahlia Society will be anxious to see this Twenty-Sixth Annual Show, and attendance from practically every state in the Union is expected.

Every Dahlia grower is welcome and we promise you an exhibition worthy of your participation and attendance.

May we suggest that you make your plans now to take your vacation, or part of it on September 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 1940, and plan to grow some Dahlias for the classes listed in the Show schedule, which you will receive. If you do not get one with this issue of the BULLETIN write Secretary C. Louis Alling, 251 Court Street, West Haven, Connecticut.

## "Gardens on Parade"

### New York World's Fair—1940

This delightful horticultural exhibition is offered by Hortus, Inc., the operating organization, which is a non-profit membership group. Many changes and improvements are being incorporated in the display for 1940. Last summer, more than three-quarters of a million people visited it. It is one of the most ambitious attempts ever made to promote the love of flowers and gardening. The gardens are the embodiment of a long cherished dream of Mrs. Harold Irving Pratt, who is President of the venture. William A. Rodman is its Secretary-General Manager. The gardens will present throughout the season what amounts to a living horticulture calendar, ranging from the time of early spring bulb plantings to the September and October Dahlia displays.

Admissions to the Gardens is 25 cents. But, as stated before on this page, the A. D. S. membership card will be all the admission you will need at the Gardens for the Dahlia Show. But it will be necessary for visitors to buy Fair admission tickets. A catalogue of 80 pages describing the Gardens and its planting is available at 10 cents each. If you wish one of these before visiting the Gardens send 10 cents to Hortus, Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, N. Y.



## GARDEN CLUB SECTION

Amateurs who are members of Garden Clubs, Horticultural or any Plant Societies are cordially invited to exhibit their Dahlias and other garden flowers in the Garden Club Section of the American Dahlia Society's Twenty-Sixth Annual Flower Show. More than this, we welcome your friends who so qualify as exhibitors to show with you in this part of the biggest Eastern District Dahlia display. This year your flowers will be viewed by many spectators visiting Gardens on Parade at the New York World's Fair where the exhibit is being held. You will be given an opportunity to show your skill in growing fine blooms and your ability in arranging them artistically.

Our schedule includes classes for Dahlias from the minutest pompons to the largest decorative blooms, with a sprinkling of your other garden favorites, and compositions from the simplicity of miniature arrangements to the most spectacular color combinations.

In this section, it is our aim to show many ways for using Dahlias as cut flowers, in corsages, old-fashioned bouquets, compositions for the home or before a large audience, and to employ subtle color schemes in their use for any purpose. And to this end you will probably agree that the Dahlia leads most other garden flowers because of its varied form, size, color and floriferous abundance over a long season. Each year in this part of the Show we notice a growing keen interest in the types of Dahlias so varied as to appeal to a large majority who eagerly seek information about their culture and those most suitable to fit the needs of any average garden. Then, too, the enthusiasm about their uses as cut flowers for decorative purposes is evidenced by the large numbers of visitors who study the arrangement classes and comment over the value of such compositions for application to their purposes. Furthermore, it is well demonstrated at our Shows that this glorious flower not only gleams richness of color, perfection of form and beauty, but meets the ever demanding need for flowers that last, which has been proven with properly handled Dahlias that keep as well as most any cut flowers.

There is still ample time to plant your Dahlias in preparation to planning your exhibits at our Show this fall. You will enjoy showing your garden beauties with us for a competent group of experienced Garden Club women will be ready to assist exhibitors in placing their entries. These committee members have been selected from Long Island, New York State, New Jersey, Connecticut and other parts for their ability in staging and handling flower shows, and this year we shall look forward to seeing you win some of the fine prizes chosen for the blue ribbon winners.

*Georgena Humble,  
Chairman, Garden Club Section.*

## The Seventh Annual Mid West Show and the Ninth Annual Show of the Dahlia Society of Kentucky

By W. B. Dietz, Show Chairman

We hope to see you all in Louisville, September 21st and 22nd, at which time the Seventh Annual Mid West Show will be held at the Kentucky Hotel. The Show schedule is at press at present and all affiliated societies will receive same early in May, and all those interested in the Mid West Show may secure a copy by writing the Secretary, Mrs. W. F. Kleinjohn, 726 Barrett Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky.

The Show schedule consists of five sections: Novice Class, Small Amateur, 150 hills or less; Large Amateur, 150 to 300 hills; Commercial and Estate Growers and Open to All. There are approximately 235 classes in which to enter Dahlias: \$210 in cash prizes in the entries of six, twelve, fifteen and twenty-five blooms. In addition there will be Gold and Silver Cups, Silver, Gold and Bronze Medals, and other special awards. *Courier-Journal* special award gold ribbons will be awarded to other outstanding exhibits. The response and coöperation of the affiliated societies indicates that this will be the greatest Mid West Show ever held in addition of the fine support of the Dahlia Society of Georgia, Dahlia Society of Alabama and other societies in the mid west location. Dahlias will be gladly received by air mail and will be properly cared for and set up.

The Dahlia Society of Kentucky has been laboring for the past two years to make preparations for this Show. The Show will be held at the Kentucky Hotel which is within one block of the business section of Louisville, and has been donated for this occasion without any cost. This Mid West Show will be open to the public without an admission charge.

Mr. Roy (Tucky) White, will be in charge of the judges and has secured some of the outstanding Dahlia authorities in the country.

There will be two undisseminated classes. One for the American Home Achievement Medal and one from 4 to 8 inches, which will compete for the Dahlia Society of Kentucky trophy which will be considered the outstanding undisseminated Dahlia in the Mid West Show of 1940. Both entries will consist of three blooms.

There will be a sporting entry at \$1.00 per entry for the largest and most outstanding bloom, the winner will be awarded all entry fees, after which this bloom will be eligible to compete for the largest and most perfect bloom in the entire Show.

Whether you come from the east, north, west or south, all roads lead to the Gateway of the South, Louisville, and we assure you, you will receive that Kentucky hospitality, known the world over.

26th ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW of the AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY  
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR SEPTEMBER 20th, 21st and 22nd

# INFORMATION PLEASE

By Prof. C. Merrill Brown      Department of Chemistry, University of Buffalo

Batter up! How welcome that cry sounds to the Dahlia grower. He knows that it is the beginning of another baseball season and that it means also the beginning of another Dahlia season. The previous year is now history and all thoughts are concentrated on the one just ahead, with resolutions to make this the best one ever.

There is considerable similarity between baseball and Dahlias. Each one of us is the manager of our particular assortment of varieties. Upon us will depend their success or failure during the coming season. Some of us are sandlot managers, some bush leaguers, some Class A, and a few might be called major leaguers. We always have hold overs from the year before and we always have new recruits that have been highly recommended to us for trial (at our expense), or we may even have scouted them ourselves. Some of our "rookies" are high priced but the average run of them may be obtained at a reasonable figure. It all depends in which classification we find ourselves. But no matter which league we are in it is always these new ones that arouse our greatest interest each year. We want to measure them up by their performance and then either sign them up to a long contract or release them completely.

For twenty years I have been the "manager" of one of these Dahlia teams. Starting from scratch with a two dollar collection, the roster has gradually increased in number and quality until it might now be said that I

own a "chain system," but it is operated entirely on the home grounds. One section of the garden contains those varieties of real major league caliber. They are only twenty-four in number but they are the ones which clean up the Shows year after year. Occasionally a new comer takes its place among them which means that one of the old guard has to be relegated to a lower classification. But the turn over is not great. Another portion of the garden might be called Class A. Not quite big leaguers but good just the same. On occasions they turn in a mighty fine performance. They frequently add balance to an all star collection. Then there are the "rookies" all by themselves where they can strive to outdo one another, yet not too far away from the top-notchers, in order that their performances may be compared with those of established merit. There is also a sandlot patch where the seedlings are grown but they do not warrant any consideration in this article.

To "manage" such a system necessitates a lot of hard work and a certain degree of knowledge. The hard work is just good exercise that keeps the waist line down to normal, or reduces it if it should have happened to get extended during the winter. Knowledge comes with study and experience and this will determine what kind of a "team" you will have. A good book on Dahlia culture, such as those written by W. H. Waite or J. Louis Roberts, will do much to give one a proper start. Visits to other Dahlia fans who grow them better than you do often pays good dividends. I have yet to find a Dahliaite who won't tell you willingly, if not eagerly, just what he does and how he does it. Write the commercial grower from whom you buy your stock. Tell him your troubles. No one will refuse to try to help you. Remember, the more successful you are, the better it is going to be for him. Finally, don't be afraid to try a few things yourself. We learn by doing. Sometimes the experience is costly (as I once learned when I packed all my new varieties in a large lard tin, covered them with peat moss and then put the lid on tight; shot the works in four weeks), but more often it is to our advantage. Just don't make the same mistake twice.

Always keep in mind that you are dealing with a very temperamental plant. Opera and movie stars don't begin to compare with Dahlias for temperament. Even good old reliables, such as *Jane Cowl* and *Jean Trimbee*, sometimes act up badly. It is this very fact which makes Dahlia culture so interesting. If we knew that they would all come along without any particular attention, we would soon lose interest. But a well grown plot of Dahlias is a horticultural achievement in which we all take extreme pleasure in producing. We all get a big kick out of the exclamations of amazement when the visitors come around in the fall. When they say anyone can grow Dahlias, you know it isn't true. Rome wasn't built in a day. It takes years of experience and plenty of hard work to have them good, year after year. But it *can* be done.



CALIFORNIA IDOL, showing blooms on long stems above the foliage, due to proper disbudding.



Your editor has suggested that the results of asking questions over a period of twenty years be summarized and passed along for what they are worth in the hope that someone may be benefited from them. But remember, I do not pose as a specialist. Dahlias with me are a hobby which I carry over the entire year. But you shall be the judge as to the value of the suggestions. If you should find something that will help you grow better Dahlias, then this effort will not have been in vain. Well, here they are:

1. The season really begins with the arrival of the catalogs. Do your ordering early to get a good selection. Also extra value, for the dealers have been looking forward eagerly for this time to arrive and the early bird creates the best impression. When your shipment arrives, treat as under divisions or plants.

2. Take the clumps out of storage about six weeks before planting time and place in damp peat moss or ashes to start up the eyes. Then divide *after* the eyes have appeared. Take a good portion of the old crown with the division. Never plant the old root. After the division has been removed, dampen with a sponge and write the name of the variety on the root with an indelible pencil. Your clump will be all labelled for you in the fall when you dig. Keep the divisions cool and moist, but not wet.

3. Dig your garden early and *dig deep*. Use a tiling spade and go down the full fifteen inches. A little extra push doesn't do any harm. How can your Dahlias go places if the roots can't spread themselves, down as well as out? Give the spaded ground a good dressing of bonemeal. You can't overdo it. Bonemeal never burns and stays around until it is used up by the plant. Have your soil tested for acidity. A pH of 6.2 to 6.4 grows good Dahlias. If the soil is too alkaline (lime) the supply of magnesium, manganese, iron and phosphorus will be cut off.

4. Stake out the bed before you plant. A minimum of three by four feet for single plants and four by four and a half feet for double planting. Cypress stakes are light, strong and water resistant. They will cost more at first but will be found cheaper in the end. Give them a coat of green paint. Be sure the Dahlia planting has plenty of air (circulation), drainage and sunlight. Avoid planting close to trees, hedges and buildings.

5. Be good to your Dahlias when you plant. If you use the "Scotch" method of planting, i. e., two to a stake, plant on the east and west sides and use the same variety for the two holes. This will assure a more even growth and there will be less tendency for one variety to smother the other. Dig your holes a foot square by seven inches deep. Throw into each hole a good double handful (about a quart) of peat moss, a handful of bonemeal and a small handful of horn shavings (Roberts), if available. Then kneel down and mix them all thoroughly with the dirt in the hole. Plant your root right on top of this mixture with the eye up and about two inches away from the stake. Cover with two or three inches of dirt, firm well, and let nature take its course. *Never water roots immediately after planting.* Wait until they show something. You know the chance you take when you go on a "blind" date. Why take the same chance by planting a root without an eye showing?



Miss Carol Brown, youngest daughter of Prof. Brown, proudly displays Dad's seedling red cactus.

6. If troubled with cut worms, put a paper collar over the eye, press into the ground enough to hold in place and let the plant come up through the collar. Make the collar out of 5 x 8 inch cardboard cut lengthwise. Bend into a circle and fasten the ends with a pair of paper clips. They won't have to be removed as they will be covered up later after the hole is filled in and then will rot away.

7. If you set green plants—and this is by far the more economical way to buy the new ones—unpack as soon as possible after arrival, place in three inch pots, give them a good drink and set in the shade for a few days to freshen up a bit. Before setting in the garden, prepare the hole the same as for the roots. Set out the plants late in the afternoon, in the evening or on a cloudy day. Soak the dirt in the pot for fifteen to thirty minutes in a pail of water. Then pinch off the lower pair of leaves and tap out the plant. Keep the stem of the plant between the second and third fingers on the left hand and pancake the soft earth with the right hand (Kemp). This spreads the roots and you are more likely to get a good robust clump of roots in the fall rather than one that is all tied up in a knot. Plant six inches deep, put on the paper collar and shade for a few days with a peach basket or with shingles stuck at an angle in the ground, leaving the north side open.

8. *Start spraying as soon as anything shows above the ground.* Spray green plants within a few days after setting. Spray in the *evening* after the bugs have come home to roost for the night. Hit the *bottoms* as well as the tops of the leaves. Evergreen, Red Arrow or Hitox are all good. Personally, I prefer the latter as it is effective.

(Continued on following page)



Note Wooden  
Labels readily  
discernible—  
Dahlia  
FLASH.

#### Information Please—Cont. from p. 7

tive against red spider as well as leaf hoppers. Spray at least once a week, whether you see any bugs or not. A clean tooth never decays. *Prevention is better than cure.* Keep off the bugs and the worst of your troubles are over. To me, spraying is the most important duty to perform if you want good Dahlias. Have a set time to do it each week. If you prefer to dust, apply in the *morning* while the dew is still on the plants. Colloidal sulfur with 3% rotonone is very efficient (Wind). Dust after each rain. Dusting is more effective in keeping off tarnish plant bugs than is spraying.

9. Cultivate every week and after each rain. A four tined hoe with the tines about five inches long is excellent for this purpose. A wheel cultivator does an excellent job in the beginning but should not be used after the middle of July. As the plants get taller, the cultivation should get shallower. Don't cultivate after the middle of August. Just keep a dust mulch on the bed by going over it occasionally with a rake.

10. Use binder's twine for tying. Raffia is satisfactory if you don't run into heavy winds. Better be safe than sorry as I was one year. Tie to the *stake* first and then to the plant. Carry a pair of scissors with you for cutting the twine and there will be less danger of damage to the plant. Tie again after every foot of growth.

11. If you like low growing plants, pinch out the tops after three to four sets of leaves have developed above the *level* of the ground. Fill in the holes and rub off all leaves below ground level. Let four to six laterals develop. For taller plants pinch out after the plant has attained a greater height. But why use a step ladder to look at your blooms? If the leaves set too close together on the stems, learn to remove a few in order to give the

laterals a better spacing. This *must* be done with varieties like *Watchung Giant*. Don't strip off the lower leaves after your plant grows up. They provide excellent shade for the root.

12. The nourishment you gave the plant in the beginning will carry it well for the first six weeks or so of growth. Then you can give it a little more by applying a handful of balanced commercial fertilizer to each plant. Scatter at least six inches away from the stalk. Make the plant reach out for it and thus develop a better root system (Wind). Cultivate the plant food well into the soil after applying. If the ground is dry, give the plants a good soaking, but not with the sun shining on them. Wait until sundown. In another month, repeat the treatment again but don't fertilize after the first of September unless you are after show blooms and do not care how well the roots are going to keep over the coming winter. Keep your plants growing and you will not have to worry about stunt. Don't give your plant indigestion with a large dose of fertilizer and then starve it for the rest of the year. How would you like that treatment?

13. If the season is dry, water when necessary. You will find that the deep digging, the peat moss you put in the hole at the time of planting and frequent cultivation will do much to conserve the water supply. But if the leaves droop badly in the middle of the day give the plants a good soaking. Set the hose or the sprinkler in place after sundown and let it run in one place for an hour or more, then move it along. Get the water down at least eight inches, otherwise you will get the feed roots up with subsequent damage to the plant. Don't let your plants suffer from lack of water after the buds show color.

14. Make a chart of your planting as small labels do get lost. Label your varieties so others may see what they are. Personally, I prefer wooden labels made out of  $\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  inch cedar. Give the wood a coat of flat white paint and then stencil on the name, drop letter fashion, with ordinary lampblack. A coat of waterproof varnish after the latter has dried will give you a label that is good for years of service. (See illustration.) Force the label into the ground in front of the plant and then your visitors won't pack down the soil trying to see what the name of some particular variety is. Neither will they break off the branches getting in and out of the bed. Of course, this doesn't take care of that group who must *touch* the flowers to be sure that they are real. There isn't anything you can do about that. When you have a printed label you don't have to have an interpreter present to decipher your handwriting.

15. If you want your flowers to show off to advantage the plants must be disbudded at the proper time. Most Dahlias set clusters of three buds just like peonies. Usually the center bud is the strongest and the two side buds should be removed. Decapitate the side buds with a sharp knife rather than trust to breaking them off. But *don't be too hasty with the disbudding*. Sometimes the center bud has been stung by some insect and will fail to mature properly. Be sure that it is going to come before removing the other two. This may be the only flower that the lateral will produce, so don't lose it. Of course, if the center bud blasts use one of the side buds. With some varieties, such as *Hunt's Velvet Wonder*,



much better stems may be obtained by using a side bud even if the center bud is good. After you have disbudded pinch out some of the small laterals which have started to grow from the leaf nodes on the stem. Start with those nearest the bud and work down. Don't remove them all but leave at least one pair of good ones to develop for the second crop of flowers. The amount of pinching back you do will determine the length of stem you can cut with the bloom. Be your own guide but get your flowers *above* the foliage. (See illustration.)

16. Don't be stingy with your blooms. Spread them around where they will do the most good. Sick friends, your Church, the hospitals will all appreciate them and they will bring joy and wonderment to all those who see them. Take some down to the office. Be proud of your results.

17. And then, when Mr. Jack Frost writes *finis* to the season, don't be in a hurry to get the clumps into the cellar. Don't cut off the stalks until you are ready to dig. And *don't dig for at least two weeks* after the plants have been cut down by a *black frost* (N. J. State Agricultural Bulletin). This allows the roots to ripen or mature and they will keep better over the winter. Better let the clumps stay in the ground until you are afraid that they will freeze (Viers). I start getting mine out around the first of November. Dig on a cool, cloudy day rather than in bright sunshine. The roots won't dry out as much. Cut off the stalks to the ground level just before digging. Use pruning shears or a saw to cut them down. Dig carefully so as not to damage the necks of the roots. Start digging a foot from the stalk and first dig *away* from the clump, a good spade depth all the way around. Then you can reverse the shovel and loosen up the dirt a second spade depth all the way around. Then get your shovel under and pry gently on different sides until the clump is loose. A long handle shovel is excellent for this purpose. Personally, I clean off all the dirt with the hose before storing. After digging, the stem should again be trimmed so as to get rid of all *hollow* wood. Leave a longer stem on the clumps grown from green plants as the eyes for the next year are frequently higher on the stem with these than they are with the clumps grown from roots. Label the clumps with an indelible pencil as before mentioned. Select a good plump root for the purpose.

18. Carry to the storage space, turn upside down on newspapers on the floor and allow to drain for a few days. If the stalk is large, it is better to split the clump at least once and scrape out the soft green center with a knife in order to give the crown a better chance to dry out. Some recommend packing the roots, stem down, in paper lined bushel baskets and covering the basket with an old bag during this curing period.

19. Examine your clumps every week or ten days after the storage period has begun for signs of stem rot. If found, trim it out and set the clumps where they can get more air for a few days in order to dry up the stem. A mixture of half hydrated lime and half powdered sulfur applied to the crowns will aid the drying up process. But don't use too much.

20. When your clumps have dried out sufficiently (December 1st), store in a cool dark place in paper lined wooden boxes, preferably next to the floor but raised off

the floor on half inch sticks to give a little circulation around the box. A box 3 x 3 x 4 feet will hold a lot of clumps. Line the bottom and the sides, but not the lid, with several thicknesses of newspaper. Pack in the clumps as closely as possible. Lay newspapers over the top of the clumps and put down the lid *loosely*. The roots will continue to sweat and there *must* be some circulation of air, otherwise the clumps will rot badly. Keep the temperature of the storage space as near 40° F. as possible and the humidity high. It will pay to get a Humiguide. Keep the indicator up to 70, or better. If the air gets too dry, throw some water on the floor. Plan to examine the clumps around Christmas and again near the first of February for stem rot. If they dry out too much, dampen the newspaper layer with water for a few days to restore the moisture. If they start to mold, raise the lid on the box, remove the papers and let the clumps air out for a few days. Better to be too cautious rather than overconfident. If the roots are in good condition by the first of February they will usually stay that way until it is time to bring them out for the next season.

21. Don't forget to try a few seedlings each year. Every real Dahlia enthusiast has some seedlings tucked away some place. Sow the seeds around the middle of April, transplant to three inch pots when they have three sets of leaves and set out after all danger of frost is past. You will get a big kick out of these.

22. Also, don't forget the "graveyard." This is the place where a few surplus roots have been planted rather close together, i. e., about a foot apart each way, where one can go to get a replacement for the main beds in case something has happened to one of the regulars. If none are needed they can all be discarded later on in the season. Take the dirt and all when you transplant these. You will be an exceptional Dahlia grower if you find that you don't need a few replacements by the first of July.

23. Plan to take in some of the Shows. Take your friends with you. Make it a point to meet the commercial grower from whom you buy your stock. The better acquainted you get with him the more pleased you will be with the way he fills your orders. It is at the Shows that you find the real Dahlia enthusiasm, the real Dahlia "bugs" and see for yourself which varieties are really worth while.

There, my story is told. I don't know how far I have stuck my neck out. If you don't agree with me, that is the great American privilege. There is much I do not know about Dahlias and I'm still asking questions. Each year shows some improvement. If I live long enough I may know all the answers and have the 100% Dahlia performance we all strive to get. But I doubt if I will be spared that many years. Of course, suggestions are always in order and welcome and those that sound good will be given a trial.

Mr. Veirs has told you in a previous issue the Best Fifty Dahlias for the Show Table. I have indicated how I would grow them if I had them. I hope that Dr. Preas, Edward O'Keefe, H. H. Robens, George Currie, or some other expert who really blows them up, may now be induced to write an article on how to grow them so that they *will* win.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE USE OF ROOT-INDUCING SUBSTANCES AS AN AID IN PROPAGATING DAHLIAS

Henry Kirkpatrick, Jr.

Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Inc., Yonkers, New York

A report entitled "Root-Inducing Substances as an Aid in Propagating Dahlias" appeared in the August, 1939, issue of the American Dahlia Society BULLETIN. Considerable interest was shown in this report by Dahlia growers and since publication numerous questions have arisen which were not discussed in the article. Further experimental work has been done and this report summarizes the results of those experiments. Emphasis will be placed on important factors influencing the rooting of Dahlia cuttings which should not be overlooked when root-inducing substances are used in practice.

Cuttings may be obtained from new shoots arising from the storage roots in the spring or from mature plants in the fall. In obtaining cuttings from the storage roots the general method followed is to place tubers after the storage period in moist peat moss in a warm greenhouse (60° to 70° F.). The tubers should be buried in the peat moss about four or five inches deep. As the new shoots grow from the storage organs they become etiolated (whitened) before they reach the surface. Cuttings can be taken when the new shoots are an inch or more above the surface of the peat moss. The cut should be made in the etiolated stem portion, care being taken to make the cut above the two lowermost buds on the shoot. New shoots will arise readily over a period of two to three months from the buds left on the stem, supplying plenty of cutting material. No new shoots will arise from the storage roots; only stem tissue can produce shoots.

Cuttings taken from mature plants grown outside will prove more difficult to root than the above mentioned type if not selected carefully. Soft, succulent tips, three to four inches long, cut through active growing stem tissue, will respond well to root-inducing substances. But tips which have completed growth and have become hardened respond poorly to these substances, requiring a long period to root and giving a low percentage of rooting. Axillary shoots, arising from buds along the stem, supply good cutting material. By removing the growing tip of a shoot these axillary buds can be forced to grow. Cuttings rooted from mature plants in the fall should not be carried over the winter in a warm greenhouse. After the cuttings are potted and have become established, they should be held in a cool greenhouse, just above freezing, until spring, when they can be planted outside. The short day in fall and winter causes formation of tubers when the plants are in an active growing condition, and unless extra light can be supplied the plants to cause normal top growth, the cuttings should be held back as much as possible.

After the cuttings have been removed from the plants or tubers, the basal leaves should be removed to facilitate dipping. The large terminal leaflets should be trimmed to reduce leaf surface and prevent excessive wilting. The basal cut should be made directly below a node. Prepared cuttings should be held with the bases in water

until ready for treatment and planting. Either the solution soaking method, which consists of immersing the basal ends of the cuttings in a solution of the substance for a given time period, or the powder dip method, work very satisfactorily. Indolebutyric acid has proven to be the most effective substance to date for root induction on Dahlia cuttings and may be obtained commercially under the trade names of Hormodin "A" or Hormodin Powders. The powders are recommended because of simplicity of application. Directions accompanying these products explain the methods of treatment. If the grower has on hand Hormodin "A" solution, the basal ends of the cuttings may be dipped directly into this preparation before planting in the rooting medium. This dip method is not mentioned in the directions, but has induced good rooting on some varieties tested. It is not preferable, however, to the Hormodin Powder method.

Reports of treatment of Dahlia cuttings with Hormodin "A" and Hormodin Powders indicate that the growers are well satisfied with the results. However, in a few instances, injury has been reported. Dahlia varieties vary in their concentration requirements of the root-inducing substance. One variety may be sensitive and respond to a weak concentration—another variety, more difficult to root, may require a strong concentration of the substance. Varieties responding to a weak concentration would probably be injured by a strong concentration. That is why one concentration will not be equally effective for all varieties. Hormodin Powder No. 2 is recommended in the directions for Dahlia cuttings, but on many varieties this No. 2 powder would be too strong. No injury would be caused by Hormodin Powder No. 1, although on some varieties treatment with this weaker strength would not cause a great increase in rooting. Therefore, the grower who has varieties which are difficult to root, would be wise in testing the three Hormodin powders on these particular varieties. Another method which was found helpful in rooting difficult Dahlia varieties in the course of our tests at the Boyce Thompson Institute was retreatment. If treated cuttings showed no signs of rooting after two weeks in the bench and the cuttings were not injured, another treatment proved helpful. This retreatment is usually not necessary when a sufficiently strong treatment is given at first, but to minimize the chances of injury from too strong an initial treatment, retreatment is the safest method. If, under some conditions Hormodin Powder No. 1 should cause any injury, cuttings could be dipped dry instead of moistened as the directions indicate. Dipping dry would decrease considerably the activity of the No. 1 powder.

Another important point is the temperature factor in the propagating house or bench. Air temperatures lower than 60° F., when no provision has been made for bottom heat, lessens the activity of the substances considerably.

(Continued on page 19)



# A Plan to Make the Derrill W. Hart Medal An Outstanding National Dahlia Award

It is a known fact that the Dykes Award has done much to stimulate interest in Iris. It seems to me the Derrill W. Hart Memorial Medal offers to the Dahlia World an even greater opportunity if awarded under the following plan:

1. That the American Dahlia Society, through the BULLETIN, and all other possible mediums, urge that growers of undissemminated Dahlias send their new Dahlias to at least three of the official Trial Grounds, one of which must be Storrs.

2. All Trial Grounds scores are to be sent to the Trial Grounds' Committee of the A. D. S. where those Dahlias which have been sent to at least three of the Official Trial Grounds shall have each score accredited to it. The Dahlia whose average score is the highest in Large (over 8"), Medium (4" to 8"), or Small (under 4") Classification, provided the average score is 84 or higher, shall receive the Derrill W. Hart Gold Memorial Medal. Second highest score, provided it is 83 or higher, in each of the three size Classifications shall receive the Derrill W. Hart Silver Memorial Medal. Third highest score, provided it is 82 or higher, in each of the three size Classifications shall receive the Derrill W. Hart Bronze Memorial Medal.

The score of a Dahlia sent to ONE Official Trial Grounds may be held over for one year and computed with scores from two other Official Trial Grounds to contend for the Hart Memorial Medals, provided it remains undissemminated. Should a Dahlia be sent to all four Official Trial Grounds all four scores must be computed for the average score, not the three highest. Holding a score over will make it easier for the amateur who does not know just how good his seedling is and sends it to a Trial Grounds to find out. Should this Dahlia come through exceptionally good and the entrant wish to try for the Derrill W. Hart Memorial Medal, he may send it to two other Official Trial Grounds for this purpose and hold his score from the previous year.

3. The Secretary or Editor shall cause to have published in the November BULLETIN the winners of the Medals in the three Classifications, with their average scores.

4. Winners of awards are obligated to specify in all advertising the size Classification and type of medal won. Failure to adhere to this rule will debar the offender from future competition for this award.

The merit of this plan lies in its peculiar adaptability to the Dahlia. Our country is so large and has such a variety of climate, that a Dahlia scoring enough to secure the Hart Award must of necessity be of great value. In fact, such an award would be of even more value than the Dykes Award to the Iris grower, as we are fortunate in having four Official Trial Grounds while their award is made from records of individual growers.

The Trial Grounds' Committee of the A. D. S. shall work in conjunction with the Trial Grounds' Committee

of the four Official Trial Grounds towards the standardization of fertilizing, pruning, disbudding and general culture, location and growing conditions to be considered.

At present one of the ways in which an outstanding Dahlia can be brought before the general public is through winning various awards in the Shows throughout the country. In these Shows, selected specimens are shown in competition, possibly grown under ideal conditions or possibly under cloth, and with enough foliage to give a fair idea of the plant growth. Various medals and awards are won, and the honor rolls are tabulated largely through such winnings.

In our proposed plan we are taking a step in a new direction. We shall give to the public Dahlias, which in different localities with varied climate, have, through their sheer merit, under standard growing rules, shown their outstanding worth.

This plan will not in any way conflict with the present Trial Grounds set-up. The individual Trial Grounds will continue to certify Dahlias as before. This plan will augment and increase the service of the Trial Grounds and add to their total entries. It would add to the popularity of the Trial Grounds. This plan will not conflict with any present Futurity List or Honor Rolls. Bear in mind, this plan is specifically for Dahlias growing in Official Trial Grounds and is a reward for the Dahlias which have the merit to score well in various parts of the country. Growers of seedlings should realize the importance of coöperating and participating in such an award, as it will mean much to guide the buying public to Dahlias that are reliable and satisfactory in normal culture.

*This plan was adopted at a meeting of the A. D. S. Executive Committee March 15, 1940.* We feel this plan is the answer to the demand from the Dahlia enthusiast that additional methods be employed to aid him in his buying choice, and that it is a definite forward step towards the advancement of the Dahlia.

We wonder if Derrill W. Hart would not have been the first one to advocate this forward step were he present with us.

Warren W. Maytrott.

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## Was It Grown Under Cloth or Outdoors?

Much comment has been heard and many requests asking how the bloom of *Director Carl Dahl*, largest flower at 1939 New York Show, was grown (size 15 x 10).

Dr. Bruce Preas grew this flower outdoors. He also had some good ones under cloth but not as large or perfect. This season he plans to grow both outdoors and under cloth.

# Trial Grounds Reports

## Mid West Trial Gardens

Fewer, but better entries seemed to be the rule in the Mid West Trial Gardens at East Lansing, Michigan, for 1939. There were ninety-two entries coming from various sections of the country.

Weather conditions for the season as a whole were average. Insect pests were less troublesome than has been the case in some years. About the same amount of disease appeared as usual, although confined mostly to virus diseases. Some entries were diseased when planted and as the season progressed, it was easy to see where disease had spread from such entries to surrounding plants.

These virus diseases seem to have become increasingly prevalent in recent years. All growers sending entries to the trial grounds should exercise the greatest care in selection of disease free stock for trial. No plant having either mosaic or ringspot can make the showing inherent within the variety when it is placed on trial. Disappointments in score of Dahlias sometimes can be avoided if the stock sent is disease free. Differences in performance of varieties in various trial grounds is probably in many cases due to disease infection.

A marked improvement in the quality of entries was noted. This is probably due to originators selection. It seems probable that originators are tending to send only such entries as appear to have definitely good characters with good chances of scoring high. This of course has been reflected in the scores of the entries in the 1939 trials. Relatively few of the entries scored under 80 points, while a larger percentage than usual scored 85 points or more. The trial grounds facilities are now complete and it is possible to take care of an unlimited number of entries. Soil depth averages two feet throughout the entire area, devoted to Dahlias. This depth of good soil has been obtained by gradually filling in the area over the past five years.

Field Day September 2, 1939, was well attended, but it was a little early to see the Dahlias at their best. It is to be hoped that field day next year can be arranged for a later date.

Evan P. Roberts of Chicago, graduate student in floriculture, was again in charge of details of culture.

The following were the Official Judges for the year: Victor L. Steckle, Lansing; Barton W. Elliott, Grand Haven; O. W. Slocum, Ionia; A. H. Emmons, Battle Creek; F. C. Wolfe, Athens J. Louis Roberts, Chicago. Several others took training in judging during the season.

## 1939 Certificate Winners

Stake No. 2. ARACOMA, Informal decorative. Score 85 E. Entered by J. D. Engle, 107-28th Street, Huntington, West Virginia. Chance seedling. Color pomegranate purple. Flowering habit fair. Date of first bloom August 10th. Stem 6-12 inches; straight, thick, curved to bowed; flowers half facing. Habit of growth erect. Branching tall. Not disease resistant. Diameter of flower 6-9  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches, depth 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 inches. Height of plant 5 feet. Spread 3-3  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Substance fair.

Stake No. 3. LADY ALICE, Ball. Score 85 C. Entered by Charles H. Jones, Field Street, Naugatuck, Connecticut. Chance seedling. Color amaranth pink becoming paler. Flowering habit fair to good. First bloom August 5th. Stem 4-8  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches; straight, strong, stiff; flowers half facing to facing. Habit of growth tall, erect branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 inches, depth 2-3 inches. Height of plant 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ -6 feet, spread 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 feet. Substance good. Remarks: Very good cut flower.

Stake No. 6. MABEL ROBERTS, Ball. Score 85 S. Entered by Arthur Roberts, 447 Meriden Road, Waterbury, Connecticut. Seed parent Mrs. George LeBoutellier. Color carmine. Flowering habit very good. Date of first bloom July 25th. Stem 2-8 inches, strong, wiry, dark; flowers facing. Habit of growth dwarf, bushy, erect branching. Health excellent. Diameter of flower 2-3  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches; depth 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ -2  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Height of plant 3-3  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Spread 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ -3  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Substance very good. Remarks: Stems can be cut much longer than length indicated.

Stake No. 7. AUTUMN PINK, Semi-cactus to Informal Decorative. Score 85 E. Entered by Benjamin W. Hertel, 1532 Hall Street, S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan. Chance seedling. Basic color light yellow-green, lightly suffused light mallow-purple. General appearance smoky autumn. Flowering habit fair. Date of first bloom August 15th. Stem 7  $\frac{1}{4}$ -13 inches, straight, strong, thick; flowers half-facing. Habit of growth dwarf, erect branching, bushy. Health good. Diameter of flower 7-11  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches; depth 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ -8 inches. Height of plant 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 feet. Spread 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ -3  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Substance very good. Remarks: Requires disbudding and pruning.

Stake No. 16. SEEDLING 10-35, Miniature Formal Decorative. Score 85 S. Entered by Badetty Bros., Huntington, New York. Chance seedling. Color greenish yellow entirely suffused light peach-red. General color appearance light bronze. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom July 15th. Stem 4-6 inches, thin, wiry; flower facing to almost erect. Habit of growth branching, erect. Health—one plant stunted. Diameter of flower 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ -2  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Depth 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ -1  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Height of plant 4-5 feet, spread 3 feet. Substance very good.

Stake No. 19. MARION BRANDIS, Semi-cactus to Cactus. Score 85 C. Entered by Walter S. Brandis, 1501 Hollywood Avenue, Evansville, Indiana. Chance seedling. Basic color greenish-yellow lightly suffused mallow-pink. General color effect light autumn. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom September 1st. Stem 5-8 inches; thin, wiry; flowers facing. Habit of growth tall and bushy. Health good. Diameter of flower 3-7 inches, depth 2-4 inches. Height of plants 5-5  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet, spread 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 20. RED CLOUD, Informal Decorative, sometimes Semi-cactus. Score 85.5 E. Entered by A. H. Emmons, Battle Creek, Michigan. See parent—chance. Color Tyrian rose blanching to aster purple. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom August 5th. Stem 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 inches, strong, thick; flower facing to nearly erect. Habit of growth tall, erect branching. Health excellent. Diameter of flower 6-9 inches; depth 3-5 inches. Height of plants 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Spread 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Substance very good.

Stake No. 23. MARY TAYLOR, Incurved Cactus. Score 85 C. 85 E. Entered by S. E. Taylor, R. 3, Box 200 Morgantown, West Virginia. Seed parent Golden Standard. Color greenish yellow lightly suffused mallow pink. Flowering habit very good. Date of first bloom August 2nd. Stem 5-8  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches; straight, slightly curved; flowers half facing to erect. Habit of growth tall, branching. Health excellent. Diameter of flower 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ -7 inches; depth 2-4 inches. Height of plants 5 feet; spread 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Substance excellent.

Stake No. 24. CHAS. F. HOSER, Formal Decorative. Score 85 C. 80 E. Entered by Pioneer City Dahlia Gardens, Marietta, Ohio. Chance seedling. Color pale greenish-yellow to light greenish-yellow, suffused mallow-pink. Flowering habit excellent. Date of first bloom July 28th. Stem 4-11 inches, straight to somewhat crooked, stiff, dark; flowers facing. Habit of growth tall, bushy, vigorous. Health excellent. Diameter of flower 4-8 inches; depth 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ -4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Height of plants 6 feet; spread 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 feet. Substance good. Remarks: Much like Jersey Beauty in type and habit.



Stake No. 28. A. G. GOODACRE, Formal Decorative. Score 85.5 E. Entered by Dixie Dahlia Gardens, A. Hendricks, Clio, Michigan. Originator C. H. Goodacre, Pomona, California. Seed parent Golden Goblin. Color light greenish-yellow, tips of petals typically white. Flowering habit excellent. Date of first bloom July 29th. Stem 4½-12 inches, straight to slightly bowed, green; flowers facing to half facing. Habit of growth dense, bushy, branching. Health excellent. Diameter of flower 6½-10 inches; depth 3-5 inches. Height of plant 4 feet, spread 4 feet. Substance very good. Remarks: Very fine exhibition.

Stake No. 29. FRED PAYNE, Incurved Cactus. Score 85 E. Entered by Harry Mellott, Buckeye Dahlia Gardens, 4703 Lewis Avenue, Toledo, Ohio. Chance seedling. Color greenish-yellow to light greenish-yellow, becoming lighter. Flowers habit good. First bloom August 20th. Stem 4½-10 inches, straight to slightly curved, thin to wiry; flower facing. Habit of growth erect, branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 4-5¾ inches; depth 2-3½ inches. Height 5 feet, spread 3-3½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 30. PENN STAR, Formal Decorative. Score 85 E. Entered by Marion Brezler, Penn, Pennsylvania. Chance seedling. Color sulfur yellow blanching, overcast aster purple except at tips of floret. Flowering habit fair. Date of first bloom August 1st. Stem 3-5 inches, straight, strong; flowers facing to half facing. Habit of growth bushy, branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 4-6¾ inches, depth 2½-3 inches. Height of plants 3 feet; spread 3 feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 35. CHAUTAUQUA DAWN, Informal Decorative becoming Cactus. Score 85 E. Entered by Chautauqua Dahlia Fields, Mayville, New York. Chance seedling. Color—basic color light greenish-yellow overcast mallow-pink, old florets becoming moreso, center of bloom showing more yellow. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom September 1st. Stem 4-8 inches, thick, slightly curved, dark; flowers facing to half facing. Habit of growth tall and bushy, branching. Health very good. Diameter of flower 6-8½ inches; depth 3-4 inches. Height of plants 5-5½ feet, spread 4 feet. Substance very good. Remarks: Very fine artistic flower.

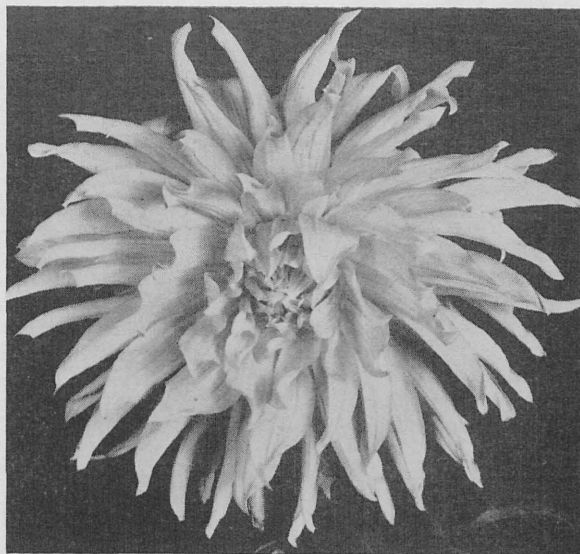
Stake No. 37. EVA MAE, Formal Decorative. Score 85 C. Entered by F. C. Wolfe, Athens, Michigan. Originator L. R. Shepherd, 637 Connecticut Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia. Chance seedling. Basic color sulfur yellow becoming lighter, lightly tinted mallow-pink. Flowering habit very good. First bloom September 1st. Stem 4½-12 inches, erect, strong, dark, straight; flower half facing to facing. Habit of growth bushy, branching, dense. Health good. Diameter of flower 4½-7½ inches; depth 3-5 inches. Height of plants 4½ feet; spread 3½-4 feet. Substance very good.

Stake No. 38. CAROLINA MAID, Informal Decorative. Score 86 E. Entered by H. H. Robens, 41 Hall Avenue, Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Basic color lemon-yellow becoming generally suffused with Tyrian-pink to lighter. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom September 5th. Stem 11-14 inches, strong, stiff, thick, somewhat crooked; flower facing to erect. Health excellent. Diameter of flowers 8½-10 inches; depth 4½-6 inches. Height of plants 5 feet; spread 4 feet. Substance excellent.

Stake No. 43. NANCY ANN MITCHELL, Incurved Cactus. Score 86 E, 85 C. Entered by Rushmohr Dahlia Gardens, H. Dewey Mohr, 38 Vincent Street, Rockville Centre, L. I., N. Y. Basic color sulfur yellow entirely overcast with scarlet. General color appearance is scarlet. Flowering habit good, abundant. Date of first bloom August 20th. Stem 6-8 inches, straight, some a little crooked, dark, wiry; flower half facing to erect, occasionally facing. Habit of growth erect, bushy, branching. Health very good. Diameter of flower 4¾-7 inches; depth 2-4 inches. Height of plants 4½ feet; spread 3½ feet. Substance excellent. Remarks: Fine formed Cactus Dahlia.

Stake No. 44. DEEP PURPLE, Formal Decorative to Informal Decorative. Score 85 E. Entered by Stephenson Dahlia Gardens, 2318 Hill Street, Santa Monica, California. Basic color light greenish yellow entirely overcast with Dahlia purple. Flowering habit fair. First bloom September 5th. Stem 6-9 inches, strong, sturdy, thick, straight—sometimes slightly bowed; flowers erect to half facing. Habit of growth dwarf, branching. Diameter of flower 7½-10 inches; depth 4-6 inches. Height of plants 2½ feet; spread 2½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 49. DOROTHY MAE HERTEL, Formal Decorative. Score 87 E. Entered by Benjamin W.



CHAUTAUQUA DAWN—yellow overcast mallow pink Informal Decorative. Score 85E. Introducer, Chautauqua Dahlia Fields, Mayville, N. Y.

Hertel, 1539 Hall Street, S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan. Chance seedling. Basic color pale greenish yellow to sulfur yellow, suffused Tyrian pink, blanching on the outside. General color appearance dusky rose-pink autumn. Flowering habit very good. Date of first bloom September 1st. Stem 9-14 inches, strong, thick, straight, dark; flowers erect to half facing. Habit of growth bushy, branching. Health excellent. Diameter of flower 7½-10 inches; depth 4-7 inches. Height of plants 3½ feet; spread 3½ feet. Substance excellent. Remarks: Outstanding exhibition.

Stake No. 64. DOCTOR WONG, Informal Decorative to Semi-Cactus. Score 85 E. Entered by J. Louis Roberts, 12147 Harvard Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Seed parent LeBoutellier. Basic color Baryta yellow overcast rose-red fading at tips of florets to light mallow purple or lighter. General color effect rose-red with orange-pink highlights and fading above. Flowering habit good. First bloom September 1st. Stem 8-9 inches, straight, erect; flowers erect to facing. Habit of growth erect, branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 7-9½ inches; depth 3-5 inches. Height of plants 3 feet; spread 3 feet. Substance good. Remarks: An artistic and interesting flower of good formation.

Stake No. 65. BOY SCOUT, Formal Decorative. Score 85 E. Entered by Dr. Herbert L. Dozier, Cambridge, Maryland. Seed parent Jane Cowl. Basic color greenish yellow to lighter, with light tinting of peach-red. General effect light autumn. Flowering habit good. First bloom August 30th. Stem 12-14 inches, erect, straight; flower facing. Habit of growth tall, branching. Health very good. Diameter of flowers 6-9 inches; depth 3-5 inches. Height of plants 6½ feet; spread 4 feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 72. SEEDLING I-A, Informal Decorative. Score 85.3 E. Entered by O. W. Slocum, Ionia, Michigan. Seed parent Son of Satan. Basic color pale greenish yellow showing at the base, quickly fading above and entirely overcast light mallow purple to lighter. Flowering habit fair. First bloom September 5th. Stem 12-15 inches, straight, strong; flowers facing. Habit of growth erect, branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 4-6 inches; depth 2-3 inches. Height of plants 4 feet. Spread 2½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 73. SEEDLING 10-A, Formal Decorative. Score 85 E, 82 C. Entered by O. W. Slocum, Ionia, Michigan. Seed parent Son of Satan. Color, base of florets light greenish-yellow blanching to sulfur yellow and almost white, sometimes with faint suggestion or

(Continued on following page)

## Trial Grounds Report—Cont. from p. 13

blush of very pale amaranth pink. General effect is white. Date of first bloom August 25th. Stem 6-8 inches, strong; flowers facing. Habit of growth dwarf, bushy. Health good. Diameter of flowers 4-6½ inches; depth 2-3 inches. Height of plants 3 feet; spread 3½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 74. PRIDE OF NORFOLK, Informal Decorative to Formal Decorative. Score 87 E. Entered by O. W. Slocum, Ionia, Michigan. Originator C. B. Ambrase, Norfolk, Virginia. Seed parent Son of Satan. Almost white suffused mallow-pink. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom August 30th. Stem 8-14 inches, strong, stiff, straight, thick; flowers facing. Habit of growth bushy, strong. Health good. Diameter of flower 9-12 inches; depth 5¼-6¼ inches. Height of plants 3½ feet; spread 3½ feet. Substance good. Remarks: Very fine exhibition.

Stake No. 77. RED RUFFLES, Informal Decorative. Score 85 E. Entered by Forest View Gardens, Glenn R. Hawkins, Route 3, Winfield Road, Fairmont, West Virginia. See parent Margrace. Basic color pale lemon-yellow to pinard yellow, overcast or suffused scarlet. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom August 25th. Stem 4-6 inches, erect, dark, straight; flowers erect to facing. Habit of growth bushy, spreading. Diameter of flowers 6-9 inches; depth 3-6 inches. Height 4 feet; spread 4½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 78. HAMPTON ROADS, Informal Decorative. Score 85 E. 81.5 C. Entered by Forest View Gardens, Route 3, Winfield Road, Fairmont, West Virginia. Seed parent Margrace. Color light greenish yellow overcast spectrum red. General effect scarlet. Flowering habit fair. Date of first bloom September 16th. Stem 6-8 inches, straight, strong; flowers facing. Health good. Diameter of flowers 7½ inches; depth 3 inches. Height of plants 4½ feet; spread 3½ feet. Substance good. Very fine flower.

Stake No. 86. MELLINEE JACKSON, Lacinated Cactus to Semi-cactus. Score 85 C. Entered by F. V. R. Veirs & Sons, 718 Linwood Avenue, S. W., Canton, Ohio. Parentage Frau Ida Mansfield. Color green-yellow. Flowering habit good. First bloom August 30th. Stem 5-7 inches, straight. Habit of growth erect, branching. Health good. Diameter of flowers 4-5 inches; depth 2-3 inches. Height of plants 4 feet; spread 2½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 87. SEEDLING 6 S 7, Semi-cactus to Informal Decorative. Score 85 E. Entered by Oakleigh Gardens, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Originator Dr. H. W. Silvernale, Santa Monica, California. Chance seedling. Color mallow pink. Flowering habit good. First bloom September 15th. Stem 6-8 inches, strong, straight; flowers facing. Habit of growth erect, branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 7-8 inches; depth 2½-4 inches. Height of plants 4 feet; spread 3 feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 92. LITTLE BLACK SAMBO, Cactus. Score 85 C. Entered by Havalook Gardens, Fowlerville, Michigan. Originator Chester Kuhn, Detroit, Michigan. Color almost black, fading to blackish red-purple. Flowering habit fair. First bloom September 10th. Stem 6-8 inches, straight; flower facing. Habit of growth bushy. Health good. Diameter of flower 3-5 inches; depth 2-3 inches. Height of plants 3 feet; spread 3 feet. Substance good. Remarks: Late bloomer.

## Varieties Scoring 80 to 85 Points

Stake No. 1. SEEDLING 6 B R 2, Miniature Cactus. Score 81 S. Entered by Fred P. Webber, R. D. 2, Newport, Rhode Island. Greenish-yellow to lighter, becoming flushed with rose-pink.

Stake No. 4. OUR FAVORITE, Formal Decorative, almost ball. Score 83 C. Entered by Charles H. Jones, Field Street, Naugatuck, Connecticut. Color amaranth pink.

Stake No. 9. MISS LOUISE B. WISMAN, Formal Decorative. Score 83 C. Entered by F. Taylor Thompson, 1327 Potomac Avenue, S. E., Washington, District Columbia. Basic color sulfur yellow becoming almost white.

Stake No. 10. MISS BIRMINGHAM, Informal Decorative. Score 84 E. Entered by Dr. H. C. Rike, 1140 41st Street, Belview, Birmingham, Alabama. Seed parent Satan. Color carmine, becoming lighter, occasional streaks of white. Flowering habit fair. Date

of first bloom September 13th. Stem 6-16 inches, strong, thick, straight to slightly curved; flowers erect to half facing. Habit of growth tall, branching, spreading. Health good. Diameter of flower 6¼-10 inches; depth 3-6 inches. Height of plants 5 feet; spread 4½ feet. Substance very good.

Stake No. 11. ACE HIGH, Semi-cactus. Score 84 E. Entered by Old Trail Dahlia Gardens, 1305 Forsythe Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. Seed parent Milton J. Cross. Color greenish-yellow becoming somewhat lighter. Flowering habit fair. Date of first bloom August 20th. Stem 9-16 inches, stiff, strong, straight; flowers erect. Habit of growth bushy, branching. Health very good. Diameter of flowers 7-9 inches; depth 3½-5½ inches. Height of plants 4½ feet. Spread 2½-3 feet. Substance fair.

Stake No. 12. SEEDLING H 15-37, Miniature Formal Decorative. Score 81 S. Entered by Badetty Brothers, Huntington, New York. Color light greenish-yellow at base, becoming sulfur yellow to almost white.

Stake No. 13. MRS. JAMES ALBIN, Formal Decorative. Score 82 C, 82 E. Entered by Badetty Brothers, Huntington, New York. Originator Frank Gille, Deer Park, New York. Color greenish-yellow, becoming lighter.

Stake No. 14. SEEDLING #55-35, Miniature Formal Decorative. Score 84 C. Entered by Badetty Brothers, Huntington, New York. Color sulfur-yellow lightly suffused deep rose-pink. General appearance peach-red. Flowering habit good. First bloom July 15th. Stem 2¾-7 inches, thin, wiry, strong. Habit of growth dwarf, bushy. Health good. Diameter of flower 1½-2½ inches; depth 1-1¼ inches. Height of plants 3 feet; spread 2½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 17. AMIGO, Informal Decorative. Score 83½ E. Entered by Edward F. Nolte, 667 West Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, Missouri. Basic color sulfur yellow becoming almost white. Flowering habit excellent. First bloom August 20th. Stem 1¾-7 inches, curved to straight, thick; flowers facing to almost erect. Habit of growth branching; erect dense. Health good. Diameter of flowers 5½-10 inches; depth 2-½-5 inches. Height of plants 4½ feet; spread 3½ feet. Substance very good. Remarks: Score was cut because of very short stem.

Stake No. 18. THE PIONEER CITY, Informal Decorative. Score 83 E. Entered by Pioneer City Dahlia Gardens, Marietta, Ohio. General color description is bittersweet pink and white.

Stake No. 21. ROSEPOINT, Informal Decorative with long, curled twisted florets. Score 84 E. Entered by A. H. Emmons, Battle Creek, Michigan. Color sulfur yellow blanching, becoming lightly suffused pale amaranth pink. Flowering habit good. First bloom August 1st. Stem 6-8 inches, straight to slightly curved; flowers facing to part facing. Habit of growth erect, branching. Diameter of flowers 5¾-8 inches; depth 2½-4¾ inches. Height of plants 3½ feet; spread 1½ feet. Substance somewhat soft. Remarks: Should make a very fine exhibition flower grown under cloth.

Stake No. 25. SEEDLING 4, Semi-cactus. Score 83 C. 81 E. Entered by Dixie Dahlia Gardens, Clio, Michigan. Sulfur yellow blanching and becoming lightly suffused mallow-pink.

Stake No. 26. GLORY FOR ME, Informal Decorative. Score 83.8 E. Entered by Dixie Dahlia Gardens, Clio, Michigan. Greenish-yellow overcast scarlet. Flowering habit excellent. Date of first bloom August 30th. Stem 6½-12¼ inches, strong, dark; flowers facing to half facing. Habit of growth bushy, branching. Health excellent. Diameter of flower 6-8¾ inches; depth 3¼-5 inches. Height of plants 5 feet; spread 4-4½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 31. JULIA HAROLD, Cactus. Score 81 E. Entered by E. P. Hardesty, 1811 Newberg Road, Louisville, Kentucky. Color yellow.

Stake No. 32. SEEDLING 341, Formal Decorative. Score 83 E. Entered by Earle W. McNeil, 103 Palmer Avenue, Jackson, Michigan. Lemon-yellow lightly tinted with peach-red. General appearance autumn.

Stake No. 33. VAN V, Informal Decorative. Score 82 E. Entered by Earle W. McNeil. Color mallow-purple becoming lighter.

Stake No. 34. GOLDEN MOON, Semi-cactus. Score 81 E. Entered by Rocky River Dahlia Gardens, Rocky River, Ohio. Originator F. C. Wolfe, Athens, Michigan. Color greenish-yellow.

Stake No. 36. "P", Informal Decorative with curling of florets. Score 84 E. 83 C. Entered by Hillcrest Roseries, Hillcrest and 26th & Sts., Progress, Pennsylvania. Originators Roy Mickle, Thomas Reed. Seed



parent Jane Cowl. Color light mallow, suffused purple. Flowering habit excellent. First bloom September 1st. Stem 6-10½ inches, strong, straight, dark; flowers facing to half facing. Health very good. Diameter of flower 5-8 inches; depth 2¼-4½ inches. Height 4 feet; spread 4 feet. Substance very good.

Stake No. 39. PURPLE LADY, Semi-cactus. Score 84 E. Entered by H. H. Robens, Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Aster purple to amaranth purple. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom August 25th. Stem 3½-9 inches, strong, straight, dark; flowers facing. Habit of growth erect, branching, bushy. Diameter of flowers 5-8 inches; depth 2½-4 inches. Height of plants 5½ feet; spread 2½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 40. G-5, Formal Decorative. Score 80 C. Entered by Harley T. Peck, Golden Rule Dahlia Farm, Lebanon, Ohio. Basic color greenish yellow lightly suffused with mallow-pink.

Stake No. 42. G-10, Formal Decorative. Score 84 C. Entered by Harley T. Peck, Lebanon, Ohio. Seed parent Queen City. Color yellow. Flowering habit fair. First bloom August 3rd. Stem 4¼-10½ inches; straight, erect, thick, green, strong; flowers facing. Habit of growth thin, branching above, foliage heavy. Health good. Diameter of flowers 5-6 inches; depth 2½-3¼ inches. Height of plants 4 feet, spread 3 feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 46. PHILLIPS 5/36/5. Formal Decorative, Score 82 E. Entered by Ruschmohr Dahlia Gardens, Rockville Centre, L. I., N. Y. Color almost white.

Stake No. 50. BENEDICT #1, Formal Decorative to Informal Decorative. Score 83 E. Entered by Dahlia-del Nurseries, Vineland, New Jersey. Originator Robert Benedict, North Miami, Florida. Basic color lemon-yellow lightly suffused amaranth pink. General color effect autumn.

Stake No. 51. SEYFERT PINK, Semi-cactus. Score 83 C. Entered by Dahlia-del Nurseries, Vineland, N. J. Originator Arthur Seyfert, Bristol, Pennsylvania. Basic color sulfur yellow, base of floret inside much darker to lemon chrome, remainder of floret blanching with suffusion of Tyrian pink to lighter. General color appearance amaranth pink.

Stake No. 52. 119 M-7, Miniature Formal Decorative. Score 83 S. Entered by Dahlia-del Nurseries, Vineland, N. J. Light scarlet. Retrial recommended.

Stake No. 53. GRACE ANNA, Formal Decorative to Informal Decorative. Score 82.5 C. Entered by Warwick Gardens, New Carlisle, Indiana. Originator C. T. Borden, New Carlisle, Indiana. General color description mallow pink with pale yellow irregular splashing.

Stake No. 54. A. 7, Formal Decorative to Semi-cactus. Score 82 C. Entered by A. H. Rich, St. Paul, Minnesota. Pale Rosolane purple.

Stake No. 55. A. 41. Semi-cactus. Score 84 C. Entered by A. H. Rich, St. Paul, Minnesota. Mallow-pink. Flowering habit fair. First bloom September 5th. Stem 5-7 inches, erect and straight; flowers facing to erect. Diameter of flower 4-5 inches; depth 2-3 inches. Height of plants 3½ feet; spread 2 feet. Substance fair. Some open centers.

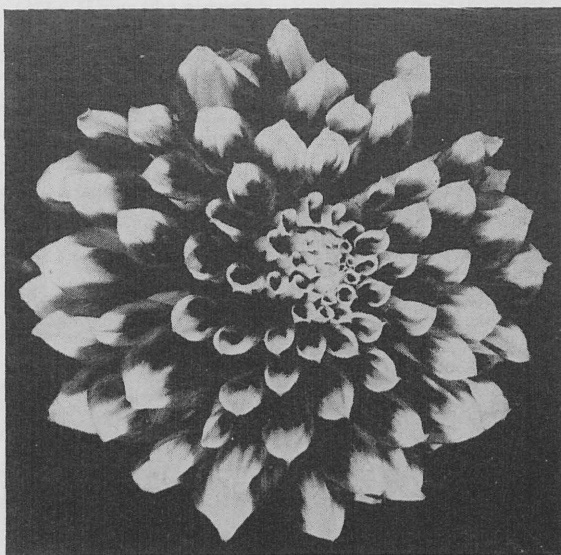
Stake No. 56. A. 53, Informal Decorative. Score 84 E. Entered by A. H. Rich, Box 5014, St. Paul, Minnesota. Basic color light greenish-yellow, showing at base of florets, blanching above and overcast mallow purple, blanching in older florets to mallow pink. Flowering habit good. First bloom September 3rd. Stem 5-12 inches, erect, strong, dark. Habit of growth erect, branching. Diameter of flowers 8-10 inches; depth 3-5 inches. Height of plants 5½ feet; spread 2½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 57. "B", Informal Decorative. Score 82 E. Entered by A. H. Rich, St. Paul, Minnesota. Color orange red.

Stake No. 58. E-16, Formal Decorative. Score 83 C. Entered by A. H. Rich, St. Paul, Minnesota. Greenish yellow, showing at base of florets, blanching above and entirely suffused Tyrian pink.

Stake No. 60. 426, Formal Decorative. Score 83 E. Entered by A. H. Rich, St. Paul, Minnesota. Suffused mallow purple, fading to mallow pink on older florets.

Stake No. 61. PRODUCER, Semi-cactus. Score 82 E. 81 C. Entered by Dr. Herbert L. Dozier, Cambridge, Maryland. Medium to light autumn.



PENN STAR—Formal Decorative, sulphur yellow blanching, overcast aster purple except at tips of floret. Originator, Marion Brezler, Penn, Pennsylvania.

Stake No. 62. 110, Semi-cactus. Score 82 C. 81 E. Entered by Curtis Dahlia Gardens, Ionia, Michigan. Basic color sulfur yellow blanching lightly tinted light mallow-purple.

Stake No. 63. SEEDLING 139, Formal Decorative to Informal Decorative. Score 83.4 C. Entered by Curtis Dahlia Gardens, Ionia, Michigan. Velvety pomegranate purple. Flowering habit good. Date of first flower August 24th. Stem 3-8 inches, straight, erect; flowers facing. Diameter of flowers 4-6½ inches; depth 2½-4 inches. Height of plants 4 feet; spread 3 feet. Substance good. Some open centers.

Stake No. 66. LOUISIANA LEGIONNAIRE, Lacinated semi-cactus. Score 84 E. Entered by Dr. Herbert L. Dozier, Cambridge, Maryland. Seed parent Aviatrix (Dozier). Color pale greenish yellow. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom September 1st. Stem 6-8 inches, straight, strong; flowers facing to erect. Diameter of flowers 5-7 inches; depth 2-4 inches. Height 3 feet; spread 3 feet. Substance good. Recommend retrial.

Stake No. 67. LOUISIANA SWEETHEART, Informal Decorative. Score 82.6 E. Entered by Dr. Herbert L. Dozier, Cambridge, Maryland. Color Bordeaux to lighter.

Stake No. 68. AVIATRIX, Informal Decorative. Score 83.2 E. Entered by Dr. Herbert L. Dozier, Cambridge, Maryland. Seed parent Amelia Earhart. Basic

color light greenish yellow very lightly tinted mallow-pink. Flowering habit good. First bloom September 3rd. Stem 7-14 inches, straight and erect. Habit of growth tall, branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 6-8 inches; depth 3-4 inches. Height of plants 5 feet; spread 3½ feet. Substance good but many open centers.

Stake No. 69. PEGGY D, Informal Decorative. Score 82.42 E. Entered by Dr. Herbert L. Dozier, Cambridge, Maryland. Basic color greenish yellow lightly suffused rose-red.

Stake No. 70. MICHIGAN CARDINAL, Formal Decorative. Score 82 C. Entered by C. N. Keiser Dahlia Gardens, Berrien Springs, Michigan. Scarlet-red.

Stake No. 79. ZEPHYR, Cactus. Score 85.8 C. Entered by Rocky River Dahlia Gardens, E. J. Wind, Rocky River, Ohio. Chance seedling. Basic color sul-

(Continued on following page)

## Trial Grounds Report—Cont. from p. 15

fur yellow to lighter, entirely overcast amaranth purple. General effect carmine. Flowering habit abundant. Date of first bloom August 30th. Stem 4-12 inches, straight, strong, dark. Habit of growth erect branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 5-6 inches; depth 2-2½ inches. Height of plants 4 feet; spread 4 feet. Substance excellent.

Stake No. 83. AUTUMN BEAUTY, Informal Decorative. Score 85 C. Entered by Rocky River Dahlia Gardens, Rocky River, Ohio. Originator, F. C. Wolfe, Athens, Michigan. Chance seedling. Basic color greenish yellow at base to sulfur yellow at tips, very light bluish light mallow-purple. General color effect light autumn. Flowering habit good. Date of first bloom July 26th. Stem 4-8 inches, straight, erect. Habit of growth bushy. Health good. Diameter of flower 6-8 inches; depth 3-4 inches. Height 4 feet; spread 3½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 85. PINK AMELIA, Lacinated Semi-cactus to Cactus. Score 85.2 E. Entered by A. T. Edison, Springhill Dahlia Farm, R. F. D. 2, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Parentage Amelia Earhart. Color, basic color greenish yellow to lighter, overcast light mallow-purple. General color description fine glowing pink. Flowering habit fair. First bloom September 1st. Stem 10-14 inches, straight, erect. Habit of growth erect, branching. Health good. Diameter of flowers 6-9 inches; depth 4½-6 inches. Height of plants 4½ feet; spread 4 feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 71. GIANT SUNBEAM, Informal Decorative. Score 83 E. Entered by Maplewood Dahlia Gardens, Puyallup, Washington. Originator Mrs. J. W. Lee, Tacoma, Washington. Greenish-yellow.

Stake No. 76. PERMANENT WAVE, Semi-cactus. Score 80 E. Entered by Edward C. Nauman, Flood Light Gardens, 635 23 Street, N. W., Canton, Ohio. General effect spectrum red to carmine.

Stake N. 80. MARY LYNN DUDLEY, Semi-cactus to Cactus. Score 84 E. Entered by Lynn B. Dudley, Tuckahoe, New York. Color Dubonet, overcast amaranth purple to darker. Flowering habit fair. First bloom September 1st. Stem 10-15 inches, straight, strong, thick; flowers erect and facing. Habit of growth erect, branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 6-9 inches; depth 4-5 inches. Height of plants 5 feet; spread 3½ feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 81. PURP, Miniature Formal Decorative to Miniature Ball. Score 83.5 S. Entered by Lynn B. Dudley, Tuckahoe, New York. Color aster purple fading to mallow purple. Flowering habit good. First bloom September 5th. Stem 6-8 inches, straight. Habit of growth dwarf, bushy. Health good. Diameter of flower 1½-2 inches; depth ¾ inch. Height of plant 2½ feet; spread 3 feet. Substance good.

Stake No. 82. SEEDLING 109. Informal Decorative. Score 83 E. Entered by William Kline, 149 Milburn Avenue, Baldwin, L. I., N. Y. Greenish yellow overcast mallow-purple.

Stake No. 881. L. K. 219, Semi-cactus to Informal Decorative. Score 82 C. Entered by Lakeside Dahlia Gardens, New Baltimore, Michigan. Autumn color.

Stake No. 89. L. K. 246, Informal Decorative to Semi-cactus. Score 84 E. Entered by Lakeside Dahlia Gardens, New Baltimore, Michigan. Color greenish yellow entirely overcast Dahlia purple. General color effect oxblood red. Flowering habit good. First bloom September 17th. Stem 5-6 inches, short, thick; flowers facing. Habit of growth tall, branching. Health good. Diameter of flower 7-10 inches; depth 3½-4 inches. Height of plants 5 feet; spread 3 feet. Substance good. Remarks: Late bloomer.

Stake No. 90. BABY SATAN, Incurved cactus. Score 83.3 C. Entered by Otto J. Aumuller, 50 East Lincoln Avenue, Valley Stream, New York. General color effect Brazil red to lighter. Flowering habit good. First bloom September 5th. Stem 7-9 inches, straight, strong, bushy plants. Health good. Diameter of flowers 5-6 inches; depth 2½-3 inches. Height of plants 3½ feet; spread 2½ feet. Substance good.

C. E. Wildon.

## Variety Test Standards of Georgia Experiment Station

### General Qualities of Recommended Varieties

No Dahlia is perfect in accordance with standards set up by Dahlia societies and associations. There are, however, certain qualities which should be expected in varieties which a Dahlia fancier grows. Certain defects are decidedly objectionable such as an open center in varieties other than singles, poor growth of the back of the bloom, susceptibility to diseases and insect attacks, stems permitting the blooms to drop, malformation of bloom, and variations in coloration of blooms on the same plant. Some of these faults are shown in figure 1.

A recommended variety has shown a high degree of the following qualities:

1. A worthy Dahlia variety must first of all have the ability to grow and to resist or overcome adverse conditions, especially the heat of summer.
2. A variety to be recommended must show a type of growth which is free from disease and resists insect injury; the growth must also be sufficient to produce worthy blooms and to develop new stems as the blooms are cut.
3. The stems or canes should be straight, strong, and should hold the bloom erect, well above the foliage.
4. The blooms should be well formed, the centers full, of good substance, so that they will not wilt under the heat of an ordinary fall day, should be placed on the stem so that they may be viewed without lifting the bloom or stooping, and should be of an attractive formation.
5. The color must be clear and free from dullness without petals of off colors; it should not fade when exposed to the sun.

### Qualities of Award of Honor Dahlias

Between recommended and Award of Honor Dahlias there is, in many instances, a very small line of demarcation.

The Dahlia Society Committee of Awards grants the Award of Honor certificate to those recommended varieties which show the qualities of color, formation or growth, or a combination of these qualities, which are not found in the varieties now commonly grown. The Award of Honor Dahlias can be depended upon to represent something new or something better than now grown. A good Dahlia with no better qualities than commonly grown varieties, or varieties of commonly grown colors are not given Award of Honor Certificates. Neither are varieties showing a weakness which may soon cause the variety to deteriorate.

It must be understood that all recommendations and awards are based upon only one year's test, which, in itself, is a very limited time to judge the value of any variety for continued performance.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

New York World's Fair, September 20th-21st-22nd  
Louisville, Kentucky, September 21st-22nd



# Triumphs and Shortcomings of a Cloth House

by Edgar Van Velsor, East Norwich, L. I., N. Y.

So many requests for information about my cloth house have been received that your Editor persuaded me to jot down my views.

Growing Dahlias has been my hobby for nearly forty years. During the last three or four years the scourge of leaf hoppers and corn borers had increased to the extent where I was seeking the best means of control.

During the season of 1938 I used the electrocution method and these lamps were quite successful.

Much was being said about the benefits of growing under cloth. Claims for insect control—also improvement in size and color of blooms induced me to try such a house.

I am a construction man so I undertook to build and completed for the 1939 season a cloth house 66 feet by 120 feet and nine feet high. At the outset may I say that a house properly constructed will withstand heavy wind. I had no difficulty from this angle.

I planted 900 Dahlias and 1,000 Gladioli in the cloth house and sprayed insecticides only four times in the entire season. I had a little thrip but that was about all.

The season was one of prolonged draught and just about ideal for a cloth house.

The plants throughout July and August were about the most beautiful any of us had ever seen. Growth was luxuriant and clean and bushes taller than outdoors.

In mid-September the blooms were profuse. Size was

just about the same as outdoors—stems while good were not as stiff as open grown plants. Color was improved in some varieties, equal in others and very disappointing in many. All in all I counted my gain a matter of handling the insect problem more easily.

Trouble commenced on September 27th, the day of the New York Show. Rain fell and following that for nearly a week excessive humidity set in the cloth house. When the rain had started I placed shades over many specimen blooms but this did not prevent the reaction of the humidity. Beautiful flowers commenced to get "mushy" and rot and stems softened seriously.

I removed the top from the cloth house, cut away over 2,000 magnificent blooms and left buds which were just showing color.

Ten days later, with the new conditions of the open sky for a room I again had fine blooms.

Had the season been at all rainy earlier in place of the draught I dare not venture a guess as to what disastrous results might have been experienced.

Excess humidity is the real drawback.

This season I will operate the house *without* a top, simply cloth on the sides as I believe most of our insects fly low and not many will be inside the area.

I expect to use the electric lamps again on the outside of the house.

Then too the cloth side will have an advantage of a wind break.

## Long Island Dahlia Men Feast

Yes, we feasted on fine food and about all the joviality that could be packed into a single evening.

This annual get-together dinner—better known as Dr. Preas' party, added another chapter to almost a decade of these very enjoyable events.

Usually held on the closing day of the International Flower Show, the party was moved to April 13th this year due to Dr. Preas' very serious illness at the original date.

Many of us tried to dissuade him from giving this dinner as he is as yet far from his robust self. But you can't lick "Doc" and a grand time resulted.

Dahlia men from all quarters packed the tavern along the fishing wharf of Freeport. Led by a large delegation from Peekskill who arrived first the clan foregathered early to re-echo its appreciation to our genial sponsor.

Judge B. Moore of Rockville Centre pronounced the invocation which was followed by an impromptu recitation by Gus Cole of Peekskill—"The Master's Touch." We will want to hear more from Mr. Cole's repertoire

at our future meetings. The applause amply demonstrated our appreciation.

After the second course, our old friend, William C. Noonan of Hicksville arrived with his party. The dining hall was so crowded we had to "shove" over to make room for these "little" fellows. (By the way you bugs who love Single Dahlias, Bill has some grand varieties.)

After the serving of the dinner (late reports have it that some did actually eat the plates also because of the luscious flavor of the "done-to-a-turn" roast beef) Dr. Preas entertained with stereopticon cartoons in color. The writer advises all societies who are interested in the successes and shortcomings of Dahliasts everywhere to borrow these slides. Prepare to split your sides—some of us find ourselves laughing outright when we recall some of the incidents depicted.

Brief remarks were made by President Conrad Frey, Warren Maytrott, and Dr. F. Moore, President of the Camden Society.

The guests rose with a mighty burst of applause and cheer to the one, although bodily weary from sickness, proved again his indomitable spirit and matchless wit. We'll be with you again next year, Doc, and we sincerely hope you will soon be entirely well again.

## ST. LOUIS DAHLIA SOCIETY MEMBERS MAKE TOUR OF MANY GARDENS

There went forth as emissaries of good will three members of the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society last October to see what was doing in the Dahlia world east of the Mississippi. In the group were: Edward F. Nolte, local president; Pat Bennett, who has more enthusiasm than Dahlias; and J. W. Roussin, driver of the car and late recruit to the gentle art of growing Dahlias. It is from the latter we get our story.

"Ohio was on our mind and to there we headed, landing at Harley Peck's hangout near Lebanon. Arriving early, we discovered that Harley not only grows fine Dahlias but also doesn't bother about lacing his shoestrings upon arising. But with three Missouri Dahlia dignitaries to see him so early in the morning, Mr. Peck's oversights may well be excused.

"The most impressive part of this stop was the Peck acreage. Far as the eye could see, an ocean of Dahlias engulfed us. And even more amazing was the fact that the plants were so low growing—some six inches high but never without enormous blooms testifying to healthy growth. Groaning under the burden of staking something like trees in my own patch, this was a diversion for me. Adverse summer conditions, explained Peck, accounted for curtailed (though not stunted) growth.

"His show garden right in Lebanon, the product of Harley Junior's labor, was quite different. Here stalks rose to majestic heights decked with massive blooms. *Begonia Rose*, the latest star in the Peck firmament, did itself proud here and *President Benes* was certainly a bright light.

"Our next stop left us at Mr. Hintzman's, 3289 Observatory Road, in Cincinnati, where we saw the finest collection grown in the most orthodox manner I, personally, have ever encountered. Hintzman is not exactly a commercial grower, though I believe he does sell as a sideline measure. His first concern in business is with a railroad supply house. About his Dahlia interests, I prefer to think of him as a "classical grower" for his garden is superbly planted and cared for, lacking in nothing in the way of Dahlia welfare.

"Too many of us, in our enthusiasm for flowers of size and beauty, overlook other important points about the garden in a most flagrant fashion. For instance, labeling and staking with an eye to conformity; and ill-spacing of plants together with irregularity of pathways. In these respects, Hintzman has a lesson for all of us. He had plants like trees and by these he had not ordinary stakes but 2 x 4's in keeping with the size of the bush. His pathway system was most remarkable of all. In his garden, it isn't necessary for any visitor to walk on cultivated soil, for between each row is left a strip of grass which, without taking up any noticeable room, provides a carpeted aisle that as might be imagined adds greatly to the classic appearance of the Hintzman garden.

"Another laurel for Hintzman is his discrimination in varieties. To retain a place in his garden, a Dahlia must be good and I don't mean maybe. I am of the opinion that were more growers like this, Dahlias with defects

would soon be weeded out and a new day in Dahlia popularity would come.

"*Cerise Giant* was a banner variety in the Hintzman collection as was also *The Bride*, a white that acquits itself quite well. Extraordinary miniatures and poms of super excellence were in abundant evidence. Mrs. J. Telfer, a white pom, is his idea of the best pom in existence. And for a yellow he likes *Little Prince* better than *Grain O' Gold*. *Market Jewel*, a red, is tops with him in miniatures.

"Back to larger Dahlias, in my own garden *Pacific Splendor* afforded an unexpected treat, but his *Hillcrest Cinderella* grown the Hintzman way excels it. He had *Lois Walchers* twelve feet high hung with 12-inch blooms. Foreign varieties score high with him and are much featured in his garden, among the more notable being *Mascotte*, an intriguing red cactus, *Cyril Verschaeve* (like lovely *Polichinelle* only red), and *Frau de Knobe*, a quilled one I must have another year.

"A call at the Cincinnati Trial Grounds on Observatory Hill was a disappointment. There were only twenty-four varieties being tested there and they were too scorched by the heat and drought to be noticed. The location is one of the loveliest possible, high on a hill overlooking the city.

"We tarried at Columbus, Indiana, where the gardens of Mrs. Sparks furnished a real inspiration. Though it was almost dark when we arrived, we found her busy roguing Dahlias, instructing a helper to remove all unpromising bushes. By flashlight I toured her garden with her, becoming spellbound over her *Wedding Bells* and *Cheer Leader*, two of her own introductions sure to make a hit. There is always room in the Dahlia world for a good white, and *Cheer Leader* will boost the recent trend toward purples, always the most royal of all colors.

"At New Albany we briefly viewed the Kunzman outlay, but frost had preceded us and so not much was left to impress visitors from Missouri. In Louisville we contacted Mrs. Louise Kleinjohn, secretary of Kentucky's Dahlia Association. Radiant with her enthusiasm for Dahlias, she escorted us to various gardens in and near Louisville, the itinerary including Dixie Dahlia Gardens, Louisville Gardens, and Roy White's place where *Kentucky Sun* and *Kentucky Sportsman* originated. But these places, like Kunzman's, had suffered too much at the hands of the previous night's frost.

"Thanking Mrs. Kleinjohn for the generous amount of her time given us, we headed for home, the drive through Illinois being plenty long for reflections of our two-day trek. The absence of tarnish plant beetle and the 12-spotted cucumber beetle in gardens where we visited struck me most forcibly. In eastern Missouri we are plagued to death by these two Dahlia drawbacks about which little can be done. I'm glad for my eastern friends they aren't pestered by them.

"And I'm glad, too, that in the states where we visited it was quite noticeable all is not forsaken for size in

(Continued on following page)



# Dahlia Personals—and Personalities

By Oliver Shurtleff

Secretary, West Virginia Dahlia Society  
Vice-President, American Dahlia Society

1264 Bryant Street, Fairmont, W. Va.

You have never heard him referred to as "tangle-foot" even though his name is Webb!

You have already guessed it! My subject this time is Roy Webb, Dahlia grower deluxe from Scranton, Pennsylvania.

He isn't an unknown quantity in the Dahlia world, either. He has never made very much noise—he doesn't need to. The records speak for him. Look down the newspaper column reporting the A. D. S. Show, the Eastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Show, some of the other important and big eastern Shows and this is what you will read: "first prize, Roy Webb, Scranton," "blue ribbon, Roy Webb, Scranton," "special cup for best Dahlias, Roy Webb, Scranton." If I wanted to fill many pages I could just "ditto" the last sentence which I have just written. It would be the truth, the pages would be full, but the half would not have been told! I tell you, Roy Webb grows Dahlias!

That's not the only reason why I like him or why he is liked by the many who know him. He is liked, mainly, for his real and sterling worth. There is no assuming, there is no counterfeiting, there is now artificiality in his make-up. The opposites to these qualities, however, exist in large quantities. That is why Roy Webb is liked.

There is no noise about his, there is no blustering, no selfish demands. On the contrary, his life, as I know it, as his friends know it, is one of quiet, calmness and generosity. That is why Roy Webb is liked.

There is a warmth and cordiality as he meets people which possesses them like the warmth from a welcome hearth. There is a substance about his friendship like the substance of rich foods. There is an integrity in his relationships like the worth of prize gems. That is why Roy Webb is liked.

He takes from life and gives back to life an even trade and life with Roy Webb is clean. That is why Roy Webb is liked.

He is a man for whom one likes to do favors.

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## St. Louis Tour—Cont. from p. 18

Dahlia blooms. We saw a preponderance of medium-sized varieties with generous sprinkling of poms and miniatures. One tires of the cabbage-sized Dahlias lately wished on us by well-meaning but misled introducers. Dahlias which, because of hugeness and lack of refinement, become a monstrosity and in our opinion are fit only for a horse's funeral."

Madelyn Roussin, *Chairman of Publicity*  
Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society.

A Department Devoted to the Idea that Worth While Achievement in the Dahlia World Should Be Recognized, Even Tho' The Achiever is Not Often in the Headlines in the Dahlia Magazines.

## When Green Plants Are Received

from the grower, remove from the boxes promptly and carefully. Water at once and allow the plants to rest in a sheltered place for a day. This protection from sun and wind gives the plants a sort of "breather."

When they are set out in the open ground they will keep right on growing. Of course you will procure your plants from a reputable grower only. A BARGAIN is fine merchandise purchased at a fair price!

Another splendid issue of *Dahlia Doings*, official bulletin of the Virginia Dahlia Society has been reviewed.

"Some winners in the 1939 Shows" is a concise article embracing most of the Shows last fall depicting the high-light winners. If you go after the "big" prizes you should write for a copy of these "timely tips." The annual report of President Robert O. Smith gives a glimpse of a well managed Society. Keep up the good work at Richmond! Also the commendable editorial job of our friend J. A. Millard.

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## Root-Inducing Substances—Cont. from p. 10

Bottom heat is not necessary, however, when the overhead temperature does not fall below 60° F.

Because of the time-saving element and because of the increase in the number of roots, root-inducing substances should prove of considerable value to the Dahlia grower. It would be well worthwhile for the grower to experiment and discover for himself the optimum strengths to use and the best propagation methods to follow when using root-inducing substances. Slight modifications in methods in common usage might be necessary to get the maximum benefits from root-inducing substances. Following is a list of the controlling factors which must be taken into consideration when root-inducing substances are used in the treatment of Dahlia cuttings.

1. Preparation of the cutting material.
2. Condition of cuttings at time of treatment.
3. Temperature of propagating house or bench.
4. Strength of treatment and method of application.
5. Care of cuttings in bench during rooting period.

Approximately ten of the newer Dahlia varieties have been obtained for experimental work and information obtained in the course of experimentation will be made available at a later date. If any grower should have some varieties which have proven difficult to root, the writer would be glad to conduct tests on any material forwarded to him. These tests would be carried on under conditions prevalent at the Boyce Thompson Institute to determine optimum conditions for good rooting with the use of the root-inducing substances.

# 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."

CONRAD FREY, *President*  
Nutley, New Jersey

C. LOUIS ALLING, *Secretary and Treasurer*  
251 Court Street, West Haven, Connecticut

GORDON F. WAASER, *Vice-President and Editor*  
269 South Grand Avenue, Baldwin, New York

## EDITORIAL

Spring—long delayed and perhaps better appreciated.

What are you doing to promote interest in the Dahlia?

Information is now available for the handling of your garden to produce maximum results. Also to control the pests which did beset us for a season or two.

Grow some of the newer varieties—add zest to your patch. Convince your friends of what they are missing until they get started on this fascinating hobby.

Time, too, to renew your interest in your local Dahlia Society—help in planning your Show.

This issue is smaller than the fall and winter BULLETINS but it does contain information for novice and "oldster" alike. If there is any particular phase of Dahlia culture you would like discussed in our pages—write your Editor. I will be glad to publish authoritative information.

Dahliadom's great opportunity present itself this year in the Annual Show of the A. D. S. to be held at the New York World's Fair. We believe this will be a tremendous step in the advancement of the Dahlia and ask for the wholehearted cooperation of every member who can have a part in planning or exhibiting at this great Show.

## We Welcome Two More Participating Societies

We are happy to add to our list two more very active participating, or branch societies. The Dahlia Society of Baltimore, Maryland, and the National Capital Dahlia Society of Washington, D. C. These are both very wide awake Dahlia organizations and hold fine Shows each year. We also understand that they are co-sponsoring the new trial gardens at College Park, Maryland, which is mid-way between the two cities. Mr. Harry O. Aburn, 608 West Pratt Street, is Secretary of the Baltimore Society and Mr. J. Leslie Dowling, Homer Building, Washington, D. C., the National Capital Society.

## "A Chip Off the Old Block"

In days of old: Lynn B. Dudley grew very bold and wrote an article about E. E. Tooker and spoon fed Dahlias, also packing ice about the roots of Dahlias to retard the bloom for a coming Show (Tooker the old block).

John Allen of Rockville Centre, L. I., formerly of Seattle, Washington, and known to his intimates as "Capt. Dory Plug" has been growing Dahlias for the past three years in a field adjoining E. E. Tooker's garden. (Allen the Chip.)

In this glorious year of 1940, Mr. Allen has a choice collection of seedling plants in a cold frame—a few nights ago we had a frost and the following morning Tooker went over to peek at Allen's seedling plants, chuckling as he went, "I bet they are frozen," but low and behold, when Tooker removed the glass, the cheerful little seedlings were chirping "DA-DA-DA-DA-DA-DA"—Capt. Dory Plug did it as they nestled between jugs and bottles filled with hot water.

MORAL—"The chip exceeds the block."

Daddy-T.

## Entries for the Trial Gardens

Either roots or plants may be sent; all material to reach the Gardens before June 1st. It's necessary to furnish three of each variety. The entry fee for each garden is three dollars per variety.

For applications or any special information address:

Prof. Roland H. Patch, Department of Floriculture, Connecticut University, Storrs, Connecticut.

Prof. C. E. Wildon, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

Dean Oliver Shurtleff, 1264 Bryant Street, Fairmont, West Virginia.

Ohio Valley Dahlia Society, 3628 Kroger Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.



## Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society Show Gardens

A grand project which we started last year is being continued this year, namely the Dahlia Show Gardens at Nay Aug Park in the city of Scranton. This garden is sponsored by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society, Branch of the American Dahlia Society, and is maintained largely by the Department of Parks of the city of Scranton. Our committee supervises the planting and care of the Dahlias all the way through to the final digging of the clumps.

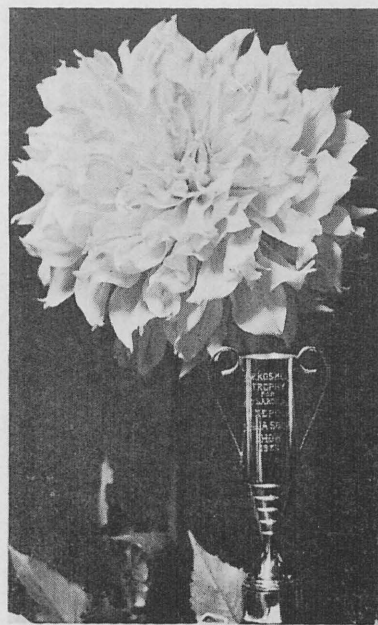
Our sole purpose in having this Dahlia garden is to get more people interested in this grand flower. To this end we try to secure stock from as many growers as possible, so that we will have a better assortment of varieties and types. We mark all varieties with the variety name and the name and address of the donor. We plant three of a variety in special beds which are so laid out that there is a wide walk between beds and the public can walk up and down these walks and see all the Dahlias without stepping off the walks, as there are only three plants in a row between walks. We plan to have a member of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society on duty each Saturday and Sunday during the blooming season, to explain the Dahlias to visitors. Last year the Dahlia beds were the greatest attraction at the park during September and early October, it was wonderful to see the interest shown by visitors who knew little if anything about Dahlias, and we know that some of these visitors will be anxious to see the planting this year. In fact the Superintendent of Parks tells us that we just must have the Dahlias there again this year as they were the most interesting spot in the park last year, and that we certainly sold him on Dahlias.

All stock is donated by growers from all over the world. There is no charge of any sort. All that is necessary is for the donor to ship stock to R. W. Webb, Chairman of Show Gardens, 1322 Schlager Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania, three plants or roots of each variety, marked with name or number of the variety. We will do all the rest. At digging time we will return clumps to the donors, when the donors want them returned, otherwise we will destroy or dispose of in any way instructed.

We want stock from as many different growers as possible, so feel free to send plants or roots. Send any varieties which you feel you would be proud to have planted with markers bearing your name and address. Many growers send varieties which they have introduced or expect to introduce, in this procedure there is little duplication of varieties. We have beds for the big fellows and different beds for the little miniatures, pompons, orchid flowering and single Dahlias, so the little ones are not hidden by the big fellows.

Our SECOND ANNUAL DAHLIA SHOW will be held at the Scranton Y. W. C. A. on September 13th and 14th, 1940. We have every reason to believe that this will be one of the very best Dahlia Shows in the country. It will be directed by Mr. O. F. Keene, who did such an outstanding job last year. The schedule will be complete in every detail and will be separated into several sections with classes for every sort of grower and every sort of Dahlia. Competition, for special awards, medals, etc.,

KATIE K—Court of Honor Winner at Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Show. Exhibited by Edward M. Keck, White Haven, Penn.



will be open only to members of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society. However, all growers of Dahlias will be permitted to compete for ribbons. If 1939 was any indication of what to expect, we can promise that many of the finest Dahlias exhibited will be seen at this Show. There will be seedling or undisseminated classes, Court of Honor Classes, Open to All Classes, Novice Classes and classes for the Amateurs. It will be a quality Dahlia Show in every respect.

We invite all lovers of Dahlias to come to Scranton and exhibit with us. If you are not a member of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society, we invite you to join so you can compete for the specials and trophies. If you don't feel like joining our Society, come and exhibit in competition for ribbons and enjoy the fine Dahlias with us. We can enjoy the other fellows Dahlia even if it beats our entry. If it is good enough to beat us, more power to both the bloom and the grower.

The main auditorium of the Scranton Y. W. C. A., the spot where our Show will be held, is just about the finest spot we have ever seen to stage a Dahlia Show. Water and make-up rooms are ideal, there being four different places to set up the Dahlias and secure plenty of water. Light and ventilation are ideal. Entrance to the building is by means of either the Linden Street or the Jefferson Avenue doors; large entries may be made by way of the rear entrance where the boxes of blooms can be unloaded right into the largest make-up room. For those who want to bring their blooms by D. L. & W. R. R. we are glad to report that the Y. W. C. A. is just a block from the Railroad Station and for those who travel by bus, the Y. W. C. A. is less than one block from either the Greyhound or Martz terminals.

Again we urge you to be with us on September 13th and 14th and enjoy one of the best Dahlia Shows of the year.

# Affiliated Societies Very Active

## News of The Dahlia Society of Indiana

The Dahlia Society of Indiana held a most interesting meeting Sunday, April 21st, Hotel Lincoln, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Highlight of the meeting was a description of his tour of various Dahlia gardens, and the showing of some very good colored pictures of recent Dahlia introductions by Mr. George R. Currie, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and President of the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin.

This was very interesting and beneficial to all those present, and it is evident that those not present, missed some valuable information.

There were visitors from The Central States Dahlia Society, and the Dahlia Society of Kentucky. Mr. W. B. Deitz, Louisville, made a report on the Show schedule of the Mid West Show to be held in Louisville. Judging from Mr. Deitz's report, the 1940 Mid West Show is really going over with a bang. Mrs. Kleinjohn, Secretary of the Dahlia Society of Kentucky, was among the group present from Louisville. Mr. Franzman, from Chicago, was called upon to make some remarks, and he did so, in a very pleasing way. We were happy to have these guests with us and hope they will return.

After the pictures of Mr. Currie's, the regular business of the Society was discussed. The next meeting of the Society will be in June.

The Indiana State Show is planned for September 28th and 29th in the gymnasium of the Martinsville, Indiana, High School.

The President of the Society, Mr. J. C. Rice, is principal of the High School and much enthusiasm for the Show is expected to be shown in the "City of Mineral Waters." This is the first time the State Show has been held in the southwest region. Mr. Rice was formerly of Corydon and was a member of the Corydon Dahlia Society and the Dahlia Society of Kentucky.

The officers of the Dahlia Society of Indiana are: President, Mr. J. C. Rice, Martinsville; Vice-President, Mr. C. W. Rush, Bloomington; Treasurer, Mr. Raoul H. Ayers, Indianapolis; Secretary, Mr. H. Joe Letterman, Linton. The executive committee is made up of the following: Mr. O. E. Oler, Past President, Dublin; Mr. Elmer See, Anderson; Mr. O. A. Guntle, Frankfort; Mr. Raymond Sparks, Columbus; Mr. Harry Kinnett, Indianapolis; Mr. Frank Key, Carmel. As yet the list of regional vice-presidents is not completed, but is expected to be finished shortly.

The executive committee of the Society met February 4th, Hotel Lincoln, Indianapolis, to map plans for the coming year and to lay plans for the 1940 Show, which is hoped will be a "whale of a good Show."

Plan either to attend or exhibit at the Dahlia Society of Indiana's State Show this year. You will be glad you did.

You can't meet any better people anywhere than those that you find at the Dahlia Shows.

*H. Joe Letterman, Secretary.*

## Dahlia Society of Wisconsin, Inc.

The tenth birthday of the founding of the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin was fittingly celebrated at the monthly meeting of the Society held at the Y. M. C. A. in Milwaukee, Saturday evening, March 16th. The program was in charge of Past-Presidents Schroeder and Heineman, and in excess of eighty members and guests were present.

The members were seated at card tables in groups of four, and each person was given a shipping tag on which he wrote his name and on the back of the tag a Dahlia question was typed to be discussed by those seated at the table. Thus each group had four questions to discuss in a round table discussion. At the end of the first twenty minutes the east and west couples changed places and then during the next twenty minutes each group at a table discussed the four Dahlia questions appearing on their tags (two of which questions hadn't been discussed during the previous twenty minutes). Again after the lapse of twenty minutes the north and south couples at each table moved and the process was repeated. Each time people moved from one table to another they introduced themselves and in this way the members became acquainted with others they had not previously met.

The round table discussions were followed by the giving of a true and false Dahlia test, each member being handed a typewritten sheet of fifteen Dahlia sentences and required to mark each "true" or "false." These sheets were then collected and scored and the prize awarded for the best score was a varnished garden plaque to be hung over a garden entrance with a garden verse inscribed on each side. This was won by Mr. H. J. Bluhm of Western Springs, Illinois.

President Currie then presented each of the four past-presidents of the Society with a past-president's gavel, each of whom responded with brief remarks. The past-presidents to whom such presentations were made were E. M. Larsen of Madison; John J. McCarthy of Racine, Theodore F. Schroeder of Mukwonago, and Joseph Heineman of Milwaukee.

The evening closed with the serving of ice cream, cake and coffee and the drawing of the door prizes. Among the door prizes awarded were four beautiful potted cineraria plants in full bloom and one bouquet each of carnations and snapdragons, all the gift of our good member, Arthur Heller, of Hartford, a plant of *Progress* donated by Mr. Schroeder, a plant of *Victory* given by Mr. Schroeder, and three books of raffle tickets for a raffle being conducted by the Central States Dahlia Society donated by Mr. Bluhm.

We were pleased to have present at this meeting Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Bluhm of Western Springs, Illinois, and Mr. H. L. Franzen of Maywood, Illinois. Mr. Bluhm is President and Mr. Franzen is Vice-President of the Central States Dahlia Society. Mr. Franzen is to be the speaker at our next meeting to be held April 20th, his topic to be "Dahlia Societies and Dahlia Shows," a subject he is eminently qualified to discuss because of having



been show chairman of the past three Chicago shows.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society also held on March 16th, it was voted to hold the 1940 Dahlia Society of Wisconsin Show on September 5th, 6th and 7th at Gimbel Brothers Department Store in Milwaukee. This is the largest department store in the state and well situated in the heart of Milwaukee's business district. The store management have allotted us for our Show 5,000 square feet of floor space on the third floor of the store. This is the first time we have attempted a three days Show.

*Mrs. W. E. Kemen, Secretary.*

## Virginia Dahlia Society

The February meeting, which is the reorganization meeting, was held on the night of the 12th, at the John Marshall Hotel, Richmond, Virginia. This is a supper meeting and a large number of the members were on hand for the feast, which began at seven o'clock and was followed by the regular business session and election, after which the crowd was treated to a moving picture show of three reels of pictures made in various Ohio Dahlia gardens these having been furnished free by Mr. E. J. Wind of the Rocky River Dahlia Gardens and last of all, to two reels made in a number of the finest gardens in and around Richmond, ending up with a number of "shots" made in the Dahlia garden of our veteran grower and vice-president of the A. D. S., Mr. R. P. Liphart. These were made by Mr. E. Stuart Parrish, one of Richmond's expert young artists, who not only loaned us his reels but put them on the screen for us.

The retiring President, Mr. Robert O. Smith, who has served two years, made his final report, in which he called attention to the continued advancement made by the Society. He dwelt especially upon our sixteenth annual exhibit held on the 26th-29th of September, which taxed the capacity of the building furnished by the Virginia State Fair. With the increase in membership and therefore of exhibitors, all the equipment of the Society was not sufficient to take care of them last Fall and it will be necessary to add to it this year.

The treasurer's report showed that the Society had a "healthy" balance in the treasury, with all bills paid.

The editor of our bulletin, *Dahlia Doings*, called attention to the fact that since the beginning of this bulletin in the summer of 1937, that it had never failed to go out to all members, each quarter, while several state bulletins, which were once received as "exchanges" had, for some reason, ceased to function. He was re-elected as editor for another year.

One of the most interesting features of this meeting was the list of new members brought in by Mr. C. S. Sherman of Petersburg, our neighboring city, twenty-two miles south. There were fourteen of them and the announcement of their names by the President brought a real ovation for Mr. Sherman. History tells us that Grant took Petersburg and Sherman took Atlanta, but Petersburg seems to have surrendered to Sherman this

time! Would that we had a Sherman in every town and city in Virginia!

The newly elected officers are as follows: President and Editor, J. A. Millard, Richmond; First Vice-President, H. A. Williams, Richmond Second Vice-President, C. P. Miller, Richmond; Third Vice-President, Dr. A. S. Brinkley, Richmond; Fourth Vice-President, L. R. Shepherd, Norfolk; Fifth Vice-President, M. B. Hickson, Lynchburg; Sixth Vice-President, C. S. Sherman, Petersburg; Secretary-Treasurer, E. Guy Williams, Richmond.

Secretary Williams has already served the Society four years and he is perhaps one of the best that this or any other Society has ever had and as long as he will continue to serve we may look for a steady advance in numbers and interest in our Society.

*J. A. Millard.*

## The Camden Dahlia and Horticultural Society

Conrad Frey, A. D. S. President, was the guest speaker at the March meeting of the Society at which time he took his stand as champion of the miniature Dahlia.

With Mr. Frey's presence alone to attract a good attendance, the meeting was further enlivened by the introduction of a social half hour following the regular meeting. Mrs. George B. Glading and Mrs. David De-Marche were the two very good ladies in charge of the refreshments. By offering their services and providing the refreshments, they have taken this means of raising prize money for the annual Show which will be held October 4th and 5th.

George C. Eldridge, Jr., of Wenonah, contributed to the enjoyment of the April meeting, with the showing of his own colored plates of one hundred wild flowers of south Jersey. Mr. Eldridge spent the greater part of last summer ferreting out the specimens and photographing them.

In accordance with the revision in the 1940 schedule, two meetings will be held in May. At the meeting May 1st Dr. C. H. Connors, of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, will be the guest speaker. His topic, "Dahlia Culture."

So as to profit by the height of the spring season blooming, the June meeting has been moved back to May 29th in order to have a good Spring Flower Show. There will be oral judging by Professor Harry O. Yates, Jr., and Louis Mauer.

## PLANTS

**The cream of the 1940 and 1939 introductions**  
Also, **Roots** of most of the worthwhile varieties, still available, including our Lord of Autumn and Monarch of the East.

**ALMY'S SUPREME DAHLIAS**

**Box D**

**Tiverton, Rhode Island**

## Michigan Dahlia Growers Association

The Michigan Dahlia Growers Association staged a most successful Show September 9th and 10th in the Industrial Mutual Association Auditorium in Flint, Michigan.

The Show was sponsored jointly by the I. M. A. Education Committee and Yard and Garden Club of Flint.

The weather was ideal, the quality of bloom, entries, as well as the attendance, came up to expectations—what more could we want?

Over eight thousand visitors registered during the two days and many more failed to register.

A most gorgeous sight was a complete line of commercial displays running the entire length of the auditorium on both sides, with Flint Park Board making a park with benches in the center, surrounded with individual entries.

The judging of this Show fell to Mrs. Ray Cutris of Ionia, Perry Bowser of East Lansing, Evan Roberts, East Lansing, and Victor Steckle of Lansing. The judging was a very fine job and well received by everyone.

The Dixie Dahlia Gardens of Clio, owned by Albert Hendricks, again presented one of his finest Dahlia exhibits. Noteworthy in the collection were miniature *Little Diamond*, *Margaret Lou*, *Glow of Dawn*, *McKay Purity*, *Snowsprite*, while the poms, *Betty Malone*, *Little Snowball* received favorable comment. Paul Bunyan's *Charm*, *Miss Clio*, *Mrs. C. E. Wilson*, *Mrs. William S. Knudsen*, Dixie Dahlia Garden introductions of recent years were conspicuous among many large flowering types. This 300 foot exhibit won for Mr. Hendrick the first prize for the finest commercial exhibit.

Another fine commercial display was that of Jake Groll of Fenton Gardens, Fenton, Michigan, whose Dahlias always arouse interest. This display was of the most outstanding new varieties of both poms and miniatures on the market today, the many baskets were well blended. The display was a blue ribbon winner in the 100 foot class.

Speckmab Dahlia Gardens of Flint, a new comer in our commercial field, staged an exhibit which was a noticeable feature in the commercial class, containing about sixty varieties, beautifully arranged. This display also received a blue ribbon.

Floyd Forbus who handles the entire job as Chairman of the Show in a most capable manner, still found time to stage a display in Section G for amateurs, winning a first with his 100 foot entry which was very artistically arranged of large Dahlias in pyramid fashion.

Dr. A. Wheelock of Goodrich, won a blue ribbon for his display of 150 feet which also was in Section G.

In the amateur section, Mrs. Floyd Forbus took first prize for the best collection of pompon Dahlias. The most outstanding varieties were the large baskets of *Little Snowball*, *Betty Malone*, *Nerissa* and others, there being twenty varieties in the 50 foot entry. This attracted a great deal of attention, particularly from the ladies.

The following varieties winning blue ribbons and outstanding:

### Open to All

Cactus: *Golden Standard*, *Jersey Dainty*, *Tyrus*, *Miss Belgium*.

Semi-Cactus: *Andre Cizik*, *Son of Satan*, *Prachtkerl*, *Jean Trimbee*.

Informal Decorative: *Hunt's Velvet Wonder*, *Purple Mist*, *California Idol*, *Freda George*.

Formal Decorative: *Queen City*, *Marshall's Pink*, *Cavalcade*, *Sevrin's Triumph*, *Miss Oakland*.

Ball: *Wolverine Gem*, *Supt. Ambryn*, *Mary Helen*, *Tecomsa*.

Open to all amateurs provided plenty of competition as there were more blooms shown in this section than in any other.

Cactus: *Nocturno*, *Paul Pfitzer*, *Jersey Dainty*.

Semi-Cactus: *Mrs. Stewart*, *Son of Satan*, *Jean Trimbee*, *Frau O'Bracht*, *Josephine G.*

Informal Decorative: *Margrace*, *Mrs. Le Boutillier*, *Hunt's Velvet Wonder*, *Daddy Walker*, *Kathleen Norris*.

Formal Decorative: *W. H. T.*, *Miss Oakland*, *Buckeye King*, *Thomas Edison*, *Blue River*.

Pompons: *Aimee*, *Yellow Gem*, *Little Snowball*, *Nerissa*, *Sherry*, *Little Edith*, *Bob White*, *Morning Mist*.

Miniatures: *Persimmon*, *Sylvia*, *McKay's Purity*, *Corronne*, *Margaret Lou*, *Orchid Lady*, *Little Nemo*.

Ball: *Supt. Ambryn*, *Mary Helen*, *Charlotte Caldwell*.

Single Orchid: *Doris*, *Twinkle*, *Whisper*.

### Winners of Specials

Smallest and most perfect: *H. Wethy*.

Smallest and most perfect bloom by an amateur: *Little Edith*, grown by Floyd Forbus.

Largest bloom in Show: *Premier's Winsome*, grown by Floyd Forbus.

Best undisseminated variety cactus: won by variety *Sunset Needles* exhibited by Dixie Dahlia Gardens, Clio, Michigan.

Best undisseminated variety formal decorative: *A. G. Goodacre*, won by Dixie Dahlia Gardens.

Grand sweepstakes for greatest number of points was awarded to Floyd Forbus who scored 164 points.

A complimentary exhibit of lovely gladioli by the Vaughn Seed Company of Ovid, was much admired by the visitors and caused many favorable comments.

The lovely flowers and large baskets were donated to the three hospitals in Flint at the close of the Show.

Floyd Forbus.

### What They Don't Know Won't Hurt Them

Overheard at a regional Dahlia Show this year: "Now I wonder if they are going to take these Dahlias to their State Show at Madison next week?"

A portion of the Show receipts was to go to a local school children's milk fund. A portly matron was heard to comment: "Isn't it remarkable, giving a Show for the benefit of our local milk fund, and they are even using milk bottles as containers; I never would have thought of that, would you?"



## The Portland Dahlia Society, Portland, Oregon

Notes by Mrs. R. M. McClary

The President of the Portland Dahlia Society, Mr. P. F. Kershisnik, has held two business meetings and two open meetings since the fall election of officers. He, with the help of the Board, has been carrying out a plan started in 1939 to guide the group through the entire Dahlia year by contacting people of experience and authority to discuss the various phases of Dahlia culture. Accordingly the president introduced Dr. McWhortor, from the Oregon Experimental Station of the Oregon State College, who talked on Dahlia diseases and pests. They have had but few calls relative to the subject and are only beginning their experiments. He, with others from the Station, visited commercial gardens in our locality finding very little virus troubles. Any mosaic, stunt, leaf spot found was brought to the attention of the growers and such stock was destroyed. This condition was explained to the Society so they might eliminate any suspicious looking plants. Of course Dahlia bulbs shipped in may bring future trouble. The Experimental Station has asked for sample stock to carry out their experiments in our behalf and also for stock to study storage trouble. These have been minor worries up to date and we hope to be able to combat them.

One of our local professionals, Mr. Compton, gave an enlightening talk at our last meeting about his experiences in growing Dahlias. He began with soil analysis, as carried on in his community in Gresham Valley. As he has accordingly built up his soil he finds he is growing a better grade of tubers, as well as other crops of flowers, berries and apples. He gave the Society valuable and easily adaptable information on growing fine Dahlias.

The Men's Garden Club, a popular and enthusiastic body in our town, was represented at this meeting. The President, Mr. Joe Johnson, addressed the Society on the subject of an Horticultural Hall, something the city needs badly and which our Society has wanted for years, seemingly becoming a common desire of other clubs and societies. Our President appointed a committee to meet other committees working for the project, and we hope action will be taken on the matter in the near future.

At the December meeting the Comptons entertained us with motion pictures in technicolor made in their gardens during the annual picnic, while the guests were moving about among the fields of Dahlias. These pictures were most interesting as also were the colored slides shown by Dr. McWhortor of Dahlia gardens and Dahlia specimens grown in various parts of the U. S. A. showing effects of different climatic and soil conditions.

In October the Society made two Dahlia exhibits at the Golden Gate International Exposition. The blooms were collected and packed under the supervision of Mrs. Charles Mastick and air-mailed to Treasure Island where they were set up in the Hall of Flowers. One of our members, Mrs. William Bibelhausen, who attended the Fair, told at a recent meeting, how well the exhibit was received by visitors to the Fair, and by those in charge. But a few members could cut good flowers at that late date but among specimens sent the following were espe-

cially commented upon: *Freda George* because of its size and beauty, and *Charles L. Mastick* for the same reason and because it stood up so well through the entire exhibit. Smaller types much liked were the miniatures *Goldina*, *Glorious*, *Marjorie Emberson* and *White Baby Royal*, and the poms *Gertrude*, *Rosalie*, *Rose Gray*, *Little Snowball* and *Wee White*. Each exhibitor received a Certificate of Participation, and the Society was presented with a "Certificate of Merit." The Dahlia *Charles L. Mastick* was selected to be planted in massed groups for the decoration of the Long Court on Treasure Island.

The membership is picking up in the Portland Society and there have been an unusual number of visitors during the past years. The April meeting will be devoted to making plans for the Fall Show and appointing committees to work for that event.

## National Capital Dahlia Society

### Account of the Annual Dinner

The National Capital Dahlia Society held their annual dinner Saturday, March 9th, at Henderson Castle, 2200 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Ways and Means Committee headed by Mrs. Williard A. Shiner had charge of all arrangements. The evening was an enjoyable occasion for all who attended.

Warren W. Maytrott, nationally known Dahlia grower of The Dahliadel Nurseries at Vineland, N. J., spoke on trial grounds and some proposed changes in judging.

Dr. A. L. Schrader, from the Department of Horticulture, Maryland University, who will be in charge of the new trial gardens at the University, spoke on some of the details relative to the new trial grounds. The University will conduct the trial grounds under the auspices of The Baltimore Dahlia Society, The National Capital Dahlia Society, and with the American Dahlia Society.

The principal speaker of the evening was Oliver Shurtleff, Secretary, West Virginia Dahlia Society, and Vice-President of the American Dahlia Society.

Mr. Shurtleff told in a very entertaining way the vast improvements that have taken place in the development of our present hybrid varieties.

*J. L. Bowling Secretary.*

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## Peekskill Dahlia and Gladiolus Society

At the seventh annual meeting of the Peekskill Dahlia and Gladiolus Society, Inc., the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Mr. Theodore E. Waterbury; Vice-President, Mr. Fred Kurzhals; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Stephen E. Croft, Continental Village, Peekskill, N. Y.

The Society held its annual dinner at the Peekskill Presbyterian Church on February 20th and in spite of the bad weather, the attendance was about as usual. Mr. Conrad Frey gave a very instructive talk on Honor Roll Dahlias. The Society was glad to have Mr. Gordon F. Waaser with them also. Later the groups enjoyed jokes, tricks and songs led by a professional entertainer. It was an evening well worth one's time.

The date for the Peekskill Fall Show has been set for September 13th and the committee in charge is planning to make it one of the best Shows yet.

The Society will exhibit at the Garden on Parades at the World's Fair, with "Peekskill at the World's Fair" as its motto.

*Laura W. Croft, Secretary-Treasurer.*

## Dahlia Society of Georgia

We stand on the threshold of a new Dahlia year, as 1939 fades into the distance, as planting time is very close, we realize what a field of service is ours. We are all anxious for Springtime, when all nature with refreshing newness calls us. We respond to the call. Our activities have been curtailed during the Winter months and now as Springtime is here, we are anticipating the pleasure of furthering our hobby, the Dahlia.

Our Society is progressing, we are very much encouraged by many new members, many good ideas and plans, a wealth of information, we have a very definite idea to further the interest of the Dahlia.

New officers have been installed: C. R. Perry, President; C. C. Mason, First Vice-President; Paul Yopp, Second Vice-President; Hugh R. Smith, Secretary; Howard Parker, Treasurer.

Different committees have been appointed and real progress is being made for a real banner year. The schedule for the Show has been enlarged and all classes of Dahlias will have a place for exhibition. Over fifty (50) prizes will be awarded.

Plans are now being made for a "Founders Day" banquet, and other social activities for each month are being planned.

On March 11, 1940, a delegation headed by our President, was the honor guest at a banquet in Birmingham, Alabama, given by the Alabama Dahlia Society.

At our regular meeting in April, a moving picture of all different phases of Dahlia culture was given and a record crowd was on hand.

On May 1, 1940, a delegation from the Dahlia Society of Georgia visited Chattanooga, Tennessee, for the purpose of organizing a Dahlia Society for the State of Tennessee. A representative crowd was on hand for the meeting and plans were made for the organization of a

society. A great many Dahlias are grown in that section and considerable interest is developing in getting a much needed organization for the development of the Dahlia.

## Show Material and Arrangements

The success of a flower show depends much on careful advance planning. A suitable schedule should be compiled many months previous to the show. Portions of the A. D. S. schedule may be used to suit the needs and abilities of the exhibitors of the exhibitors expected. Plenty of arrangements classes add much to the attractiveness of any show but many people do not care to make arrangements and much prefer specimen blooms classes. We suggest that the official A. D. S. classification and score card be used at all times. This will aid greatly in securing uniform classification and judging.

After the schedule is arranged comes the matter of planning the various supplies and materials needed to stage the show. Vases are usually the chief problem, and one that is hard to overcome, as most organizations have rather limited funds and vases quickly run into goodly sums of money.

The A. D. S. has for many years used a tapered sheet metal vase which was made by a local tinsmith. They are made in various sizes and being tapered nest together very nicely taking but little storage space. These may also be secured from most large seed houses.

Crockery vases are more attractive and where storage and transportation are not a problem are undoubtedly more satisfactory. By shopping around it is frequently possible to pick up job lots of this sort of material. Using the large number required as the basis of the bargaining. A very inexpensive vase for small classes is the new type of paper milk bottle. They may be painted in any color desired and being much larger at the bottom than the top do not tip easily. Most hardware stores can supply these.

Whether substantial prizes are to be awarded is another problem. However, most organizations are now following the plan of using ribbons in individual classes and sweepstakes for section awards, with a suitable trophy for a premium. The ribbons may be purchased at supply houses in various parts of the country who make a minimum of about five cents each, printed. There are a business of supplying the necessary equipment for Fairs and Flower Shows. Such addresses will be gladly furnished by the secretary to anyone interested. Please give details of the material desired.

Exhibitors card should be provided on which is written the section and class number together with the name and address of the exhibitor. Means should be provided so that the exhibitors name is concealed until after the judges have passed. This is usually done by folding the card and fastening with a wire paper clip. Judges' books should be provided with space for the awards in each class. There are various methods of arranging these books. Frequently a number is assigned to each exhibitor and this is entered by the judge in his book as the awards are made. The key being, of course, at the entry desk.

If, however, a clerk can be assigned to each judging team the exhibitor's name alone can be used and this is entered in the book by the clerk as fast as the awards are made.

Copies of A. D. S. schedules together with classification and score cards will be gladly sent to anyone interested on application.



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