

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY



SNOW SPRITE with white pine in white pottery, arranged by Mrs. L. Conover, Oradell, N. J. A winner at the A.D.S. Show in New York.

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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."

EDWARD B. LLOYD, *President*

2 Upland Way, Verona, N. J.

C. LOUIS ALLING, *Secretary and Treasurer*

251 Court Street, West Haven, Connecticut

GORDON WAASER RESIGNS AS BULLETIN EDITOR

Five years ago last January when Lynn Dudley became our president he appointed Gordon Waaser to take over his position as BULLETIN editor. It proved to be a wise choice. Mr. Waaser has given us a long series of excellent BULLETINS. He has many friends throughout the country with whom he has maintained a correspondence and has kept up with all of the latest "doings" of Dahlia circles, which he has passed on to our readers through the BULLETIN. He has served most faithfully at a sacrifice to himself and family. As many of his friends know he is an executive in a wholesale tea and coffee business in down town New York City. For some time pressure of business has been such that he has been taking the 11 P. M. train to his home in Long Island. Now with the shortage in the goods which he handles the work has continued to increase.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Board he asked to be relieved of his duties as BULLETIN editor as he did not feel that it was possible for him to carry on further. Fortunately we are to still have him with us in an official capacity as he is now our first vice president. We know that we can count on him for any work which the society may undertake as well as having the benefit of his wide experience.

Your secretary who has handled the business affairs of the BULLETIN for some time is to take over the complete editorial job, although we are going to miss Gordon with whom it has been a pleasure to be associated, but we feel sure that we can call on him from time to time as well as some of our other faithful supporters.

Increased publication cost and reduced advertising returns may force us to curtail some of the less essential details but it will be our aim to maintain the high standard set by our previous editors as far as conditions will permit.

Report on Fertilizing and Timing Garden

Sponsored by the A. D. S. Trial Gardens in coöperation with
The University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn., Season 1941

by ROLAND H. PATCH

The Tooker Garden was continued according to plans which had been previously agreed upon. There were fifty entries and two hundred and forty-five stakes. A list is included.

The most radical change which concerned this garden was moving it from the corner where it had been to a place in the rear of the regular Trial Garden. This came about, primarily, because of a scarcity of labor and the need to organize our work so that unnecessary moving about would be eliminated. In the end the change proved to be well worth while because it gave visitors an opportunity to see both gardens at once without having to move from one garden to another. On the part of judges and others interested, comparisons could also be made more easily between varieties growing in both gardens.

What was done from day to day follows:

(1) Rye was sown on the area the latter part of September, 1940.

(2) Sheep manure, from the University sheep barns, was spread over the garden on March 18 and 19, 1941.

(3) Plowing and harrowing was done on May 15, 1941.

(4) Planting was done on June 3, 1941.

(5) The tops were pinched out on July 10, 1941.

(6) The first application of fertilizer was July 12, 1941. The amount used was: one teaspoonful of Calcium Nitrate to one gallon of water, applied to each plant. That night the "White Showers" were run all night.

(7) The second application of fertilizer was July 25 and it was a repeat of the first. "White Showers" were run all that night.

(8) The third application of Calcium Nitrate was August 7 and water was used as before.

(9) To harden the growth, Nitro-Phoska was used in the same way as Calcium Nitrate on August 25 and September 8, 1941.

The plants were grown to four stalks and these were disbudded.

The secret in timing seems to be the date of pinching and it also depends upon the size of bud or shoot selected. As a rule, the shoot should be 3/16 of an inch long. However, once in a while there is a variety requiring a little longer, which is an exception to the rule.

The garden was timed to be in condition for Saturday, September 13, on which the Field Day was held. It very nearly reached the ideal and a fine display was the result.

Note taking was delayed hoping for just a little more development. The fall rains did not come as expected and drought conditions prevailed generally in this section of the country. Then on the night of September 29 the early frost came which, to a large extent, damaged the blooms. In fact, they did not fully recover. This completed the record taking and so there are unfilled space in the notebook for 1941.

It is our desire to go on with this garden and bring it more into line with the regular Trial Garden. By this is meant, each year, we shall pick a certain number of varieties from the exhibition class and among those scoring in the eighties or better to be grown in the Tooker Garden. These might be so designated in the trial ground report recommended for this honor. It is pretty well determined now that a garden of three hundred stakes spaced 5' x 5' is enough to take care of the requirement. Each year a few will be discarded to make room for the newer ones.

NAME OF VARIETY	OWNER	TYPE	HEIGHT OF PLANT	DEPTH OF BLOOM	DIAMETER OF BLOOM
<i>Lois Marion</i>	Prof. L. R. Detjen University of Delaware Newark, Delaware	5 Roots	5'	3"	7"
<i>Martha (1933)</i>	Judge J. S. Clark Gallipolis, Ohio	5 Roots	5'2"	4½"	7½"
<i>Elinor M. Radell</i>	Felsing's Dahlia Farm R. F. D. No. 2 Lancaster, Pennsylvania	5 Roots	4'8"	4½"	8"
<i>Arela Lloyd</i>	Charles H. Smith R. F. D. No. 1, Box 114 Mays Landing, N. J.	5 Roots			
<i>Josephine Hayes</i>	" " "	5 Roots			
<i>Dorcas Ann</i>	Elsie and Mary Williams R. 4 Connersville, Indiana	5 Roots	4'	3½"	7"
<i>Marianna</i>	" "	5 Roots	5'	4"	9¼"
<i>Hillside Beauty</i>	Walter Bissell Hillside Farm Austinburg, Ohio	5 Roots	4'	4"	8¾"

(Continued on page 4)

Fertilizing and Timing Garden—Cont. from p. 3

NAME OF VARIETY	OWNER	TYPE	HEIGHT OF PLANT	DEPTH OF BLOOM	DIAMETER OF BLOOM
<i>Margrace</i>	" "	5 Roots			
<i>City of Cleveland</i>	" "	5 Roots			
<i>Hillside Joy</i>	" "	5 Roots			
<i>Massasoit</i>	Messier's Dahlia Garden 955 Main Street Agawam, Massachusetts	5 Roots			
<i>Thelma Rose Poulos</i>	Chris J. Poulos 235 Power Road Pawtucket, R. I.	5 Plants	4'2"	3 3/4"	9"
<i>Mary Taylor</i>	S. E. Taylor R. 3, Box 206 Morgantown, West Virginia	5 Roots	4'9"	5"	8 1/2"
<i>Monarch of the East</i>	F. W. C. Almy Box D Tiverton, R. I.	5 Roots			
"Prexy" (D-11)	E. J. Wind 19111 Story Road Rocky River, Ohio	5 Roots	4'7"	5 1/2"	9 1/2"
<i>Murphy's Sport</i>	Charles Kilgore Kilgore's Dahlia Gardens Winona, West Virginia	5 Roots	4'6"	4 3/4"	10"
<i>Miss Englewood</i>	Joseph B. Daily 63 Brook Avenue Englewood, N. J.	5 Plants	3'5"	5 1/2"	11"
<i>Red Ruffles</i>	Glenn R. Hawkins Route No. 3 Fairmont, West Virginia	5 Plants	5'4"	5 1/2"	10 3/4"
<i>Pride of Austinburg</i>	Strasen Floral Gardens Austinburg, Ohio	5 Roots			
<i>Negus</i>	" "	5 Roots			
<i>Red Victor</i>	" "	5 Roots			
<i>Royal Velvet</i>	Samuel Lavinthal 514 Sanhican Drive Trenton, N. J.	5 Plants	4'	4 1/4"	10"
<i>Hertel's Autumn King</i>	Benjamin W. Hertel 1532 Hall, S. E. Grand Rapids, Michigan	5 Roots			
<i>Brigg's Seedling (No. 16)</i>	L. R. Briggs Tidioute, Pennsylvania	5 Plants	3'4"	3"	9"
<i>Dorothy Mae Hertel</i>	Benjamin W. Hertel 1532 Hall, S. E. Grand Rapids, Michigan	5 Plants	3'6"	5"	9"
<i>Mrs. Clara E. Peth</i>	Charles E. Peth 2823 Middletown Road Corliss Station Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	4 Plants	4'8"	4 1/2"	9 1/4"
<i>No. 9 Peth #3916</i>	" "	4 Plants	2'9"	5"	8 3/4"
<i>Mary Lynn Dudley</i>	Lynn B. Dudley 18 Interlaken Drive Tuckahoe, N. Y.	5 Roots	4'7"	4"	11"
<i>George O. Wallace</i>	Lawrence L. Wallace Chautauqua Dahlia Fields Mayville, N. Y.	5 Roots			
<i>Chautauqua Dawn</i>	" " "	5 Roots	4'	4"	10"

"Her Majesty"	A. & S. Dahlia Gardens 50 East Lincoln Avenue Valley Stream, N. Y.	5 Roots	3'	4"	7½"
Anna Benedict	Warren W. Maytrott Dahliadel Nurseries Vineland, N. J.	5 Roots	5'5"	5"	8½"
Democracy	" " "	5 Roots			
Myra Howard	" " "	5 Roots			
Robert Emmet	" " "	5 Roots			
Forest Fire	" " "	5 Roots			
DeMolay	" " "	5 Plants			
Mother Maytrott	" " "	5 Plants			
Flush of Dawn	" " "	5 Plants			
Snow Maiden	" " "	5 Plants	3'3"	4¾"	10"
Lynn Fontanne	Albert Parrella 3380 Ely Avenue Bronx, N. Y.	4 Plants	4'10"	6½"	10¼"
"Caroline Ludwig"	H. A. Ludwig 3808 Frankford Avenue Baltimore, Maryland	3 Roots	3'8"	2¾"	7"
Lord of Autumn	Gordon F. Waaser 269 South Grand Avenue Baldwin, L. I., N. Y.	5 Plants			
Billy Larch	" " "	5 Plants			
Kilgore's Lucifer	" " "	5 Plants			
Murphy's Masterpiece	" " "	5 Plants	4'3"	5"	11¼"
Maffie	" " "	5 Plants			
Yellow Giant	J. G. Ballego & Sons Oegstgeest Leiden, Holland	5 Roots			
Bandoeng	" " "	5 Roots			

Total of 245 stakes

SWEET GOODBYE

By George F. Cairns, National City, California

Goodbye old fishin partners
 Goodbye old fishin banks
 We've had good times together
 So I'll say "Many thanks."

Goodbye old huntin partners
 Goodbye to dear old blinds
 We've had good times together
 And you too, have been kind.

Goodbye old friends is not so sad
 For I will see you round
 And you can tell me fishin tales
 While I'm diggin up my ground.

The Dahlia fevers got me bad
 My fishin days are done
 With roots, and plants, and Dahlia Shows
 There's ribbons to be won.

Like fishin days, in early spring
 I'm up at break of day
 A "fussin" with my Dahlia plants
 To me, its just like play.

Carl Dahl and Glamour's coming great
 And so is Nancy Gene
 With movie colors they look fine
 When flashed upon the screen.

The Shows are here, the entries made
 A gold cup prize, OH, Gee,
 Who turns up as the winner
 Now your surprised, it's me.

The fishin seasons over
 And all the huntin done
 So I glance through my pet scrap book
 At the ribbons I have won.

There's plenty from California
 And one from Portland, I know,
 But the one that I prize most of all
 Is from the New York Show.

So fishermen take my advise
 Just listen to what I say
 This is the game, where you'll win fame
 For the big ones don't get away.

DAHLIAS *in the* GARDEN

Some Suggestions on Dahlia Culture

By DR. CHARLES H. CONNORS, Ornamental Horticulturist, New Jersey
Agricultural Experiment Station at New Brunswick, New Jersey
With Additional Notes on Insects by DR. C. C. HAMILTON
and Notes on Diseases by DR. R. P. WHITE

These suggestions on Dahlia culture appeared in our April 1933 BULLETIN. We are reprinting it for the benefit of our many new enthusiasts who have asked for fundamental and practical information on Dahlia culture. We are sure that many of our experienced-growers may also get helpful information from it.

SOILS AND FERTILIZERS

The Dahlia will grow on any well-drained soil, provided other conditions are favorable. The garden should have direct sunlight for at least four hours each day, and should not be close to any large trees, which may not only shade the plants but will also use moisture and other nutrients that the garden plants need. Also the garden should be in such a location that air will circulate freely among and through the plants, for the control of mildew and for the benefit to the plants themselves.

The physical condition of the soil is very important. The soil should be open and friable, so that it is well drained, as the Dahlia will not tolerate "wet feet." A heavy soil may be made more open by the use of sand, coal ashes, and decayed organic matter. In using coal ashes it is better to sift out the large clinkers. If strawy manure or garden rubbish is used, it is well to dig it under in the fall so that the crude vegetable matter may be well rotted before the young plants are obliged to grow in it. Rapidly decaying organic matter in contact with the roots will be fatal. The commercial forms of organic matter, such as peat moss, are coming into general use, but the benefit is chiefly in improving the texture. These materials are also acid in reaction and may call for the use of lime. These organic materials are desirable not only to improve the texture of the soil, but also to assist in moisture retention. The Dahlia uses large quantities of water, and as much moisture should be retained in the soil as is consistent with good soil aeration. The soil should be turned over to as great a depth as possible. Where the subsoil forms an impervious layer close to the surface this should be broken up. Some authorities recommend trenching; but for ordinary culture, digging the soil to the full depth of the spading fork will be sufficient.

The most important point about the fertilization of Dahlias is to give them enough plant-food to maintain a vigorous but not too rapid growth in the early stages. Too much readily available nitrogen will result in very soft and vigorous plants that will produce heavy foliage growth, but few and small flowers. The plants should be in a vigorous condition of growth to be able to with-

stand the hot, dry conditions of July and August. A complete commercial fertilizer having an analysis of 4 to 5 per cent nitrogen, 8 per cent phosphoric acid, and 4 to 6 per cent of potash should be applied at the rate of 1 pound to 40 square feet before the roots or plants are set out. This is best broadcast, but it is sometimes found desirable to place a small amount in the hill as each plant is set, to give the initial stimulus of growth; but the feeding roots soon grow out of the area influenced by the in-the-hill application and by the middle of July practically fill all of the soil body among the plants.

The Dahlia does best in a soil that is slightly acid in reaction, and applications of lime may be made every 3 or 4 years at the rate of 1 pound to 40 square feet for hydrated lime or 1 pound to 20 square feet for ground limestone or oyster shell lime. The reaction of the soil should be determined before lime is used.

The fertilizer treatment will vary with the soil type. Some soils are notably deficient in phosphoric acid or potash, and in such cases, the amounts added should be increased accordingly.

The soil should be dug deep and all lumps thoroughly broken up. A month before planting is none too early for digging and it is just as well to prepare the soil as early in the spring as it can be worked. Then rake it over about once a week to retain the moisture, and to kill such weed seeds as germinate. In this way, the weeds are destroyed early in the season.

PROPAGATION

The ordinary method of propagating Dahlias is by division of the clump into individual roots, each with an eye attached. The Dahlia storage root is not a tuber as is the potato; it does not have eyes at many places on the root that will form sprouts. In the case of the Dahlia the "eyes" or buds are located only on the stem, and especially on the enlargement, called the "knuckle" or "crown," to which the individual storage roots are attached, although with some varieties, as *Jersey's Beauty*, the buds are sometimes found higher on the stalk. The separation of the clump of Dahlia roots into individual roots, each with one or more eyes attached, requires a little skill, which is gained with experience, and some patience. It is well to cover them with moist sand and leave them in a warm room for a few days or until the sprouts begin to appear, as some of the eyes are "blind," i. e., will fail to develop. Do not allow the sprouts to become too long, as in the operation of dividing the clump they may be broken off. In case the sprouts become too long, cut them back, leaving one-quarter to one-half inch.

If the whole sprout is broken off, it is likely that no plant will result, although some of the dormant adventitious eyes may start.

A pair of good, light pruning shears and a knife are the tools needed for dividing the clumps. A good kitchen knife with a slightly flexible blade is the best. First cut off all tuberous roots that have broken or strained necks, or that have withered, and old fibrous roots, and it is often advisable, especially in the case of large clumps that have developed about a thick stalk, to separate the clump into two or more large sections, cutting through the stem. Then study the clump to determine where to begin. The removal of the first root is usually the hardest. When the one that appears most accessible is selected, make cuts in the knuckle or crown all around it, making sure that there is an eye, and then gradually work the knife blade under and around it and pry it out. Then proceed with the remainder. Handle the clumps very carefully, especially the varieties which have long slender necks, for if the neck is strained, the food stored in the roots cannot reach the shoot and no plant will result.

If a root is obtained with two eyes, it is entirely feasible to cut it in two lengthwise, leaving an eye attached to each part. It is well to sprinkle the cut surface with sulfur and to plant at once, to prevent shriveling.

PROPAGATION BY CUTTING

If a greenhouse is available or even in a house room where the temperature remains nearly constant and where ventilation can be given, the plants may be propagated by cuttings.

Always retain the best clumps for propagation, and select these clumps in the field during the growing season. The tendency to sell the best roots and use remains for propagation has probably been the chief cause for the "running out" of varieties.

The clumps are placed in sandy soil, in a house with a temperature of about 45 degrees, with the crown above the soil level. Either whole clumps or, better, parts of clumps may be used. The soil is then thoroughly watered. The soil should be kept on the "dry side," that is, just barely moist, until some signs of growth appear and then a little more water may be given; at no time, however, should the soil be wet. This may be done any time after the first of January. In 2 to 5 weeks, depending upon the variety and the condition of the roots, shoots should be long enough for cuttings to be made. As soon as the shoots reach the proper size, cut them close to the crown, leaving one-eighth to one-quarter inch. From below this point, numerous shoots will later appear.

The cuttings are then placed in sand which is kept moist, at a sand temperature of 65 degrees and an air temperature of 55 degrees, and shaded from the direct rays of the sun by a thin coating of milk of lime on the glass. In about 3 weeks the cuttings will have rooted, and they should be potted in a good sandy loam compost in 2½-inch pots. The cuttings may also be grown in pots. Under greenhouse conditions, cuttings will root readily in 2-inch or 2½-inch pots of good soil; or one may fill a 3-inch pot with soil, make a hole with a large stick, place the cutting in the hole, and pour sand around it. As soon as the plant is established, put it in a cold-frame or cool house, preferably setting the pots on a

layer of sand or ashes, where it will grow slowly. Slow growth is important at this stage. If the plants become "pot bound," shift to larger pots.

Pot-roots are a favorite method of handling Dahlias in England, and are used somewhat in this country. Late cuttings are rooted and potted up and then are placed in the coldframe or a cool house and allowed to develop a pot-bound condition, when small tuberous roots are formed. As soon as growth is checked, water is gradually withheld and the plants are carried over winter in the pots. This method is used also with cuttings made from field plants in late summer.

In the garden, if too many shoots appear, the excess shoots may be cut off close to the root and put into the soil at once. These may form roots and make good plants, if shaded for a few days and watered.

GRAFTING DAHLIAS

Dahlias may also be grafted, although the ease of rooting cuttings makes grafting of little value except to propagate very valuable sorts or to get good plants late. A tuberous root discarded because of a broken or strained neck should be placed in soil in a pot. When fibrous roots have formed on the storage root cut a slit in the neck. If the neck is the same size as the shoot, so much the better. Trim the shoot to a wedge shape and place at once in the slit in the storage root, so that at least one edge of the cutting coincides with one edge of the stock. Bind with raffia, coat with melted paraffin, and cover the union with soil. In a short time the union will be complete and the young shoot will have a good tuberous root to carry it on. If all the eyes have been removed from the tuberous root used for grafting, the plant that develops will be the same variety as the inserted shoot, for such characteristics as color, size, and form of flower are not influenced by the stock.

Some persons believe that when two half tuberous roots from two different varieties are grafted together, the fused root will give rise to a new variety different from the other two. This has no basis in fact.

WHAT TO PLANT

The old practice was to dig the clump in the fall, store it, and replant, without division, in the spring. This practice is not conducive to best results. Not more than one tuberous root should be set in a hill and only one shoot should be allowed to develop to form the plant. The size of the root, provided it has a bud, has little bearing upon the size or vigor of the plant developed. The purpose of the root is to furnish food for the young plant that will develop from the eye or bud. As soon as this plant appears above ground, it will start to manufacture food for itself. If the old tuberous root develops feeding roots on the distal ends, there is a probability that the new plant will not develop new feeding roots at the base of the shoot. It is from these latter roots that the new tuberous roots for next year are formed. Hence, if the root as planted is over 3 or 4 inches long, it is wise to remove one-third to one-half before planting, so that the new plant will be forced to develop a set of feeding roots for itself.

Green plants, as they are called, are the result of rooted cuttings. These make just as satisfactory growth as plants from tuberous roots. Furthermore, if the

growing conditions are favorable, good clumps of roots will develop on plants of most varieties. There is no more reason for plants from cuttings to degenerate than for plants from tuberous roots. Another piece of misinformation that is promulgated widely is to the effect that green plants propagated from clumps that had developed from green plants are not satisfactory. The writer knows of two varieties that have been propagated 8 and 9 years, respectively, by this means, with no appreciable degeneration.

There are many points in favor of the use of plants. When a tuberous root is planted, it may lie dormant in the soil for several weeks before the plant appears above the surface. Meantime, weeds grow and the soil may form a crust because of the danger of injury to developing shoots by cultivation. When plants are set out, cultivation may start at once. Plants are lower in price than roots, and hence a limited amount of money will purchase about twice as many plants as of tuberous roots.

PLANTING

Planting may be done any time after danger of killing frost is over, but the best time is from the middle of May until the middle of June for roots and about the middle of June for green plants. If plants are set earlier, they will come into bloom early, and in the late summer and early fall when bloom should be at its best, they will be bloomed out and only poor flowers will be obtained. Late setting permits the plants to become well established before the dry spells of mid-summer, and being better able to withstand this heat, they will bloom at their best under the favorable conditions of the late season. By starting early, successive planting may be made, to produce a continuation of bloom, or early planting followed by cutting the plant back severely about July 1st will give better plants for late bloom.

If stakes are used they should be placed before the roots or plants are set. A staple driven in near the top is a good means of attaching the label. The planting distance should be 3 feet in the rows with the rows 4 feet apart. Some varieties may require more, some few less, than these distances. This space will allow the plants to spread without touching the neighbors, will allow the air to circulate, and will permit ease of cultivation, besides giving more feeding space for the roots.

Plant the roots deep enough so that the eye will be 4 to 6 inches below the soil level, *the greater depth applying to sandy soils*. The root should be laid in a horizontal position with the eye close to the stake, in order that the stalk may be easily tied as it develops. Always lay the root with the eye *upward*. Then the stalk will be straight and a more symmetrical clump will be harvested in the fall, much easier to handle and divide than if the eye were planted down or the root in a slanting or vertical position. Cover the root with not more than 2 inches of soil not compacted too much, using care that no decaying organic matter comes into direct contact with it, and then fill in as the stalk grows.

If there has been some delay between the time of dividing the clump and the setting, so that the roots are shriveled, place them in a pail of cold water for 24 to 48 hours before planting, or better still, in moist soil, sand, or peat moss. This is a good practice with all roots, as the eyes will develop faster.

Set green plants as close to the stakes as possible in a hole 6 to 8 inches deep, covering the pot ball with about 1 inch of soil. Press the soil firmly about the ball of soil as removed from the pot, and water well. Fill in as the plant grows. *In heavy soils the planting should be shallower.*

Deep planting ensures deep rooting, one of the open secrets of successful Dahlia growing.

TRAINING AND PRUNING

The methods of pruning and training of the plant depend upon the variety, the type, and the purpose for which it is grown. In any case, only one shoot should be allowed to grow. Under the old-fashioned method of growing Dahlias, the whole clump was planted, which developed into 4 to 20 plants occupying a space which is fitted for only one. Hence small flowers in large numbers were developed early and when the best growing season came on, the flowers were poor. By permitting a single shoot to grow, one can shape it as one wishes, obtaining many or few blooms, but of a much higher quality and better size than is possible by the old method.

Where flowers are grown for the cut-flower market, or even for home decoration, good results can be had without staking. The tubers can be planted deeper and the shoot pinched back, forcing the development of side branches below the level of the ground, so that when the soil is drawn around the plant, these branches firmly anchor it. Most of the commercial men make their plants branch close to the ground and by successive pinching keep them down, thus obviating the necessity of stakes.

When two to three pairs of leaves are formed, pinch out the top bud. At the next joint below, two shoots will form, which should be pinched back as soon as they have made two joints or pairs of leaves. Then shoots will appear from the lower nodes on the main stem. This pinching back strengthens the stem and makes the heavy growth close to the ground. Successive pinching to hold back the bloom until the proper season, should be followed. By this method, 20 or more blooms of medium size on stems about 18 inches long can be obtained. Reducing the number of shoots that are allowed to bloom will produce larger flowers in small numbers.

The method used in growing the exhibition flowers on long stems is to allow only 1 to 6 main branches to develop, tying these to the stake at frequent intervals. In tying the young stalks, do not tie too tightly, as the stem will expand. Strips of cotton goods or green asparagus tape is excellent for tying the stalks to stakes.

It has been noted that a free circulation of air and free admission of light to all parts of the plant are highly desirable. Some varieties, especially of the cactus type, branch excessively. It is necessary, therefore, to remove some of these excess branches, not only once, but as they continue to crowd.

DISBUDDING AND DISBRANCHING

In order to obtain the largest flowers, it is necessary to disbud. When the time has arrived to permit the plants to bloom, usually about the first to the middle of August, buds may be allowed to set. Usually the terminal will carry three flower buds. When these are

about the size of peas, remove all but the central one. Any of the buds will develop well, but the central bud will give a straighter stem. If the bud has been injured, select either of the side buds and remove the others. With varieties that are inclined to be crotchky, i. e., develop the flower on a very short stem, so that the flower rests down in the first pair of leaves, it is wise to select one of the side buds instead of the crown bud. From this will develop a better stem. As the flower bud develops, side shoots will appear on the stem, which will divert food required by the flower, and should be pinched or snapped out as soon as they are large enough to handle. This should be done the full length of the stem desired, leaving at least the lowest pair, which should be allowed to grow to form later flowers. The length of stalk attached to the flower can be governed in this way.

This method applies particularly to the heavier cactus, decorative, and peony flowered varieties, and to some of the balls. The cactus and ball varieties that tend to have weak stems should not be disbudded too heavily, if at all; rather they should be pruned or disbranched. Singles are seldom disbudded. Pinching back helps to make a better show in the pompons, mignons, and bedding varieties.

CULTIVATION AND WATERING

One of the biggest factors in the successful culture of Dahlias is to keep them growing. The Dahlia is a very succulent plant and uses large quantities of water. The best method of supplying it is to conserve the moisture in the soil by cultivation. At least once a week the soil should be cultivated deep with a hoe or some form of garden cultivator. This conserves the moisture and kills weeds, allows air to circulate in the soil, and so hastens bacterial action upon the unavailable plant-food. The garden should always be cultivated as soon after a shower as the soil can be worked. Some growers recommend hilling the plants. Although hilling aids in supporting the plants, it exposes a greater soil surface than does flat tillage and so more water is evaporated.

If prolonged droughts occur, it may be necessary to apply water. An overhead irrigation system is good if practicable. Watering with a lawn sprinkler is satisfactory. Probably the hose is most commonly used.

The best time to water is late afternoon or evening. The soil should be soaked to a depth of 8 to 12 inches. A half-hour spent flitting a nozzle back and forth does more harm than good, as it simply moistens the surface, which quickly dries to a crust the following day, allowing the moisture to evaporate still more rapidly from the soil. It is better to do half the garden one day and half the next, and do it thoroughly. After a heavy watering, the soil should again be cultivated as soon as it can be worked, thus conserving the moisture that has been applied. Excess water will result in flowers of poor keeping quality.

MULCHING

Whenever available, a mulch should be applied in the rows and between the plants in the rows. A mulch applied about the middle of August will conserve moisture, keep down weeds, and prevent the soil from being compacted. If wheat or rye straw is used, this

material may be dug under to furnish humus. Salt hay may also be used, but this does not readily rot down.

SUBSEQUENT FERTILIZER APPLICATIONS

When buds are set, a little stimulant may be given to increase vigor in growth and to give size and substance to the flowers. Half a trowelful to a plant, of either sheep manure, or poultry manure mixed with sand or soil, raked in or washed in with water, is recommended by successful growers. Make a rather wide (15-inch) depression about the plant, spread in the manure, pour upon it a pail of water, and when well soaked in, cover with soil. If plenty of cattle or horse manure is available, manure water is ideal for stimulating all plants. Nitrate of soda has been used, but unless applied properly, may give too rapid action. One and one-half level teaspoonfuls applied two or three times at intervals of two weeks should give good results. Spread it on the soil around the plant and cultivate in. Any stimulant applied much later than September 15th tends to make growth too rapid, resulting in tubers which will not keep well. Too much stimulation will result in soft growth and flowers that will not keep well after being cut.

CUTTING THE FLOWERS

The flowers should be cut in the early morning or else in the late afternoon or evening, for then the moisture content is greater than during the middle of the day. The flowers should be cut before completely developed; singles may be cut before fully opened.

Have a pail of water near at hand when cutting. Cut as long a stem as possible, remove the leaves from the lower part of the stem and plunge it at once into water. If the stem can be almost completely immersed in water, so much the better.

Some blooms will wilt almost as soon as cut and will never recover. This may be caused by too much nitrogenous food or too liberal water, and also seems to be characteristic of some varieties. These and hard-stemmed varieties can be improved by placing the stems in water as hot as the hand will stand, and leaving them until the water cools. Another practice is to put the ends of the stems for about an inch into boiling water for one minute. Stems thus treated should not be cut again. Sometimes placing the blooms in water in a cool, dark place for an hour or two will help to revive wilted blooms and may improve the keeping qualities. To make the flowers last longer, the best practice is to cut off a bit of the stem each day, and place the stems in fresh water, except such as may have been treated in hot water. No chemicals have definitely prolonged the keeping of flowers.

DWARFING IN DAHLIAS

One prevailing subject of discussion among Dahlia growers is what causes dwarfing in Dahlias. Some consider only one side of the subject. As a matter of fact there are many possible causes.

CULTURE—If a plant in a pot has been allowed to become pot-bound and the soil dried out, unless the ball of soil is thoroughly soaked before the plant is set, there is great danger that the roots will not grow freely. Sometimes it is not sufficient to soak the soil about the plant, as the dry pot-ball may take up water very slowly.

When plants are set out, any plant that is small should not be set too deep. Sometimes heavy rain will come and fill up the hollow around the plant, which may result in dwarfing, due to suffocation of the roots.

If caustic fertilizers are applied when the soil is too dry, and these come in contact with the roots, the result may be the burning of the root tips, which may cause dwarfing. A similar effect is seen when the fertilizers are placed in the hill, under the plant.

INSECTS—Dwarfing may be caused by insects eating the roots. Such insects as white grubs and wireworms have been known to feed on the young roots as they develop, thus causing dwarfing.

The thrips are frequently the cause of dwarfing, through attacks when the plants are very small. The same is true of the tarnished plant bug in more northern latitudes.

DISEASE—There are present in Dahlias a few diseases that may cause dwarfing. These are of the so-called mosaic or virus type of disease.

INSECTS AND ANIMAL PESTS*

Many insects attack the Dahlia, but, fortunately, relatively few are met with in any one locality, that is, in numbers that are serious.

CHEWING INSECTS AND ANIMALS

SLUGS—These are animals that eat the outer surface of young stalks or climb the stems and eat the leaves. They may be hunted at night with an electric torch and a darning needle. Poisoned bran bait, lettuce plants set among the Dahlias and sprayed with an arsenical poison, or even a spray of arsenate of lead on the Dahlia plant will be effective.

CUTWORMS—These chew through the stems of the plant at or just below the surface of the soil. The control is poisoned bran bait broadcast or placed near the plants. A collar of building paper 3 or 4 inches in diameter and 3 or 4 inches wide, extending at least 1½ inches below the surface of the ground and placed about the young plant as soon as it is set or starts out from the root, will prevent cutworms from reaching the young plants. Usually the infestation is past by June 15th, so that late set plants often avoid this insect.

STALK-BORER—The common stalk-borer winters as eggs on weeds. The eggs hatch in the spring. The larva feeds first on and in weeds and grasses and then visits the garden. It enters the stalks of the Dahlia (and other hollow or pithy stemmed plants) and feeds on the inside of the stem. Finally the top of the plant wilts. If the stem is inspected closely, the hole made by the larva on entering may be observed. Many persons claim to have brought about the death of the insect by injecting into the stem through the hole made by the insect, with a medicine dropper, nicotine, pyrethrum, or arsenate of lead spray solution. The only sure remedy is to slit the plant and kill the insect with a wire or the point of a knife. The stem may be bandaged together again. Oftentimes the plant will be benefited by cutting it back following an attack by this insect.

Some of the seedsmen are offering a material which, placed about the plants, is claimed to prevent the entrance

of these insects. This material is recommended by some growers.

Sanitation will help to keep this insect down. Cut and burn, during the late fall to early spring, all weeds in the neighborhood, and keep the grass clipped in the early spring. These means will destroy the eggs and the early food supply.

CATERPILLARS—Sometimes caterpillars, the larvae of various moths, will eat the foliage. These can be easily controlled by spraying the leaves with arsenate of lead.

GRASSHOPPERS—Late in the season grasshoppers sometimes attack the plants, chewing the tops of buds and causing a "trimmed" appearance of the flowers when they develop. Some measure of control may be had by clearing a strip adjacent to the Dahlia bed and by broadcasting on the strip poisoned bran bait.

MISCELLANEOUS CHEWING INSECTS—White grubs or wireworms may cause trouble when Dahlias are placed on land which has been in sod or out of cultivation for several years. Deep plowing and harrowing, or, on a small scale, fumigation with carbon bisulfide emulsion will help to control these. One grower reports successful control of wireworms by surrounding the roots with soil in which finely ground tobacco was mixed.

The aster beetle, the striped cucumber beetle, the 12-spotted cucumber beetle (the adult of the southern corn root-worm) may attack the flowers while in bloom. There is no control, except clean culture in the whole garden.

SUCKING INSECTS

Of recent years the sucking insects have been more serious in their injury than the chewing insects, and have been the cause of most complaints. Further, the control of these insects is important as they may be the carriers of virus diseases.

THRIPS—Thrips have been the cause of a large proportion of the dwarfing of Dahlia plants. These tiny insects, only about one-twenty-fifth of an inch long, enter the growing tips, usually within two or three weeks after the young plants are set out or the shoots from tuberous roots appear. The insects chafe the tender leaves in the process of development, and when the leaves unfold they are reduced in size, and crippled in appearance. There is some difference in susceptibility among varieties. Those varieties with thick, fleshy, and pubescent foliage are resistant to attacks, whereas varieties with thin, smooth leaves lacking pubescence are susceptible.

The control is effected by spraying with a nicotine and soap spray or a pyrethrum and soap spray, or by dusting with nicotine dust. The material should be applied as soon as plants are set out or as soon as shoots appear above ground, making sure that the material penetrates into the tip buds. The treatment should continue at weekly (or, if the infestation was serious the previous year, twice weekly) intervals for about six weeks. If early pinching back is practiced, thorough spraying should accompany the pinching, as the thrips are then exposed.

LEAFHOPPERS—Leafhoppers attacks about July 1st and from then on to frost may be a serious menace. They damage the plants by sucking sap from the leaves. The injury is first apparent when the margin of the leaf

*The notes on insects have been supplied by Dr. C. C. Hamilton.

becomes pale, then yellow or mottled. Following this the edge of the leaves may turn black and then dry up. The new growing tips may turn black in serious infestations. Another danger is that some one of the several species may be the carrier or virus diseases. The difference in susceptibility among varieties is the same as with thrips.

The control starts with sanitation. Tops should be plowed under and rubbish, in which the adults may winter, destroyed. The best time to control the insects is when they are in the nymph form and cannot fly. During the nymph stages, the feeding is usually on the under surface of the leaf. Nicotine-soap or pyrethrum-soap sprays or nicotine dust, *applied to the lower surface of the leaves* will control these and may kill some of the adults, of which there may be constant reinfestation. Recent investigation has shown that satisfactory results may be obtained by applying repellents, such as pyrethrum, either as a dust or as a thin wash, or heavy applications of bordeaux mixture spray. These applications should be thorough and should be made about once a week until buds have set. Enclosing the Dahlia patch with a cheesecloth fence about 6 feet high, followed by an occasional dusting or spraying, has given excellent control of leafhoppers.

TARNISHED PLANT BUG—When the flower buds turn black and dry up, or if the flowers are developed on one side and not on the other, this is the result, usually, of attacks by the tarnished plant bug. These insects frequently attack by inserting the mouth parts into the stem below a very small bud. Sometimes the only effect noticed is a vertical streak of brown or black on the stem, appearing like a callus or scar.

Control of this insect is difficult. Cleaning up all plant rubbish during the winter will destroy the hibernating quarters. When attacks are very serious, frequent spraying with pyrethrum-soap sprays have been effective, but the insects must usually be caught upon the fly.

APHIDS—Black aphids may attack the young shoots or flower stems of the Dahlia, usually late in the season. These are easily controlled by the contact insecticides used for leafhoppers.

DISEASES**

There are no diseases of the Dahlia that are widely prevalent in serious amount.

WILTS—Three wilt diseases are found in the Dahlia. One of these is bacterial and causes a wet, soft rot within the stem and a browning of the fibrovascular system, which will show a yellowish ooze when cut. The other two show the browning, but no ooze is present. These three organisms also cause decay of roots in storage.

Control is by the selection of healthy plants for propagation. If a plant wilts in the field, it should be removed, as soon as discovered, together with the surrounding soil.

CROWN ROT—The so-called crown rot of roots in storage can be controlled by making sure that the stalk is thoroughly dry. When the stalk is large, the clump may

be cut into two or more parts, permitting more thorough drying out of the tissue. Dry sulfur and lime in equal proportions dusted on the cut surfaces will help to dry them up and to prevent disease infection.

STUNT—Any dwarfing of Dahlias have been rather loosely called "stunt," but, in a previous section, the various causes of this failure to develop properly have been discussed briefly. There are, however, several virus diseases which will cause dwarfing of the plant, distinct mottling of the leaves, distortion and malformation of the leaflets, and asymmetrical blooms. To overcome these, any suspected plant should be destroyed and roots from only those plants that have made a vigorous, normal growth should be selected as propagating material. Such selection should be made in the field during the growing season.

In general, any plant which is not making a normal growth should be dug and destroyed at once. If it has a virus disease, it is altogether probable that some sucking insect will transport the disease, so that there may follow a rather general infection of plants.

REMEDIES

Poisoned bran mash

Bran—1 quart
Paris green—1 teaspoonful
Molasses or sugar—2 tablespoonfuls
Juice of 1 orange

Mix the bran and paris green dry. Dissolve the molasses or sugar in a little water, add the orange juice, and then stir in the dry bran and paris green, making a mash that will just stick together. Place the mixture in small piles (about a tablespoonful) at frequent intervals or in a ring around each plant, in the evening.

Stomach poison (for leaf-chewing insects)

Arsenate of lead (paste)—1 tablespoonful
or arsenate of lead (powder)—1½ teaspoonfuls
Flour—1 tablespoonful
Water—1 gallon

Mix the arsenate thoroughly in a small quantity of water and then add water to make a gallon. Stir occasionally while spraying.

Contact spray (for sucking insects)

40 per cent nicotine sulfate—½ tablespoonful
Soap—1 tablespoonful
Water—1 gallon

Dissolve the soap in a little hot water and then add the remainder of the water and the nicotine. The soap acts as a spreader. Spray thoroughly the under sides of the leaves as well as the upper parts, as every insect must be hit to be killed.

Pyrethrum sprays are purchased and diluted according to directions on the package.

Fungicide—Bordeaux mixture

Stone lime—1½ tablespoonfuls
Copper sulfate—1 tablespoonful
Water—1 gallon

Dissolve the copper sulfate in one-half gallon of water in a wooden pail, a crock, or glass jar by placing it in a salt bag and suspending it in the water near the surface. Slake the lime in a very small quantity of water and when thoroughly slaked dilute to one-half gallon. Do

**The notes on diseases have been supplied by Dr. R. P. White.

not mix until wanted for use, then mix equal portions of each, straining the liquids. Wash the sprayer thoroughly after using and before putting it away. If kept in tightly corked bottles, these materials will remain in good condition for several weeks.

Commercial brands of bordeaux mixture can be purchased at any seed store and used according to the directions on the package.

Baltimore Dahlia Society

"Keep them Flying" and "Keep them Growing" two watchwords of the Baltimore Dahlia Society, Incorporated. While many of our members are occupied with defense work they are still finding time to grow their Dahlias and in many instances an added Victory Garden.

In these busy and troubled times what better relaxation is there to be had than an hour or two working with your flowers. President Scheel has his various committees going at full speed particularly the Trial Ground Committee from whom lots is expected this year. Arrangements have been completed for a Skinner Irrigation system for the Trial Gardens which should be the means of overcoming some of the troubles of the past two seasons due to drought. Our genial and hard working Show Manager, George Schirmer is recuperating from an operation and even while in the hospital he was planning new and interesting ideas for the Show which will be held September 20 and 21, 1942.

Some of the details are being temporarily held up due to the Victory Garden Show program which may be held in conjunction with our Show. Further reports will be found on this in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

Our Society would like to extend an invitation to visitors to Baltimore and particularly growers or those interested in Dahlias to visit our Trial Gardens at the University of Maryland-College Park, Maryland, also to attend our meetings which are held the second Friday of each month in the Lecture Room of the Enoch Pratt Library, Cathedral and Franklin Streets, at 8:15 P. M.

University of Maryland Trial Gardens

Usually at this season of the year growers who have seedlings are considering where to send them for trial. No better location can be found than the University of Maryland Trial Gardens which is under the sponsorship of the Baltimore Dahlia Society, Incorporated.

Located on the Campus of the University of Maryland at College Park, Maryland, and under the direct supervision of Dr. W. R. Ballard and Dr. Mahoney you can be assured your seedlings will be properly grown and judged. The Trial Garden will be provided with a Skinner Irrigation system which will overcome the difficulties of the last two seasons due to drought. Certificates of Honor will be awarded to all Dahlias scoring 85 points or more. The charge is \$2.00 for three roots or plants of a variety and for further details write Dr. W. R. Ballard, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, or Herbert O. Aburn, 610 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

There will also be a display patch where named varieties will be grown and the Trial Gardens would appreciate tubers or plants of named varieties which will be planted free of charge with the honors name and the variety shown on the stake. In this way the public will have the opportunity to not only see the seedlings but also observe the growth and bloom of the advertised varieties.

The Dahlia Society of Kentucky

The Dahlia Society of Kentucky will hold its annual exhibition Saturday and Sunday, October 3rd and 4th, at the Kentucky Hotel, Louisville. A fine Show is anticipated despite uncertain gas and tire conditions.

Mrs. W. F. Kleinjohn, Secretary.

State of Delaware Dahlia Society

State of Delaware Dahlia Society will hold their Show on September 25 and 26 in the beautiful new Century Club in conjunction with the new Century Garden Club and Victory Garden Committee. Mr. Frederick Smith will be chairman of the Show which will be for the benefit of the Navy Relief. All plans point to a great Show this year.

*A. A. Yerkes, Secretary,
Box 32, Newport, Delaware.*

ALLING'S

Featuring the best large ones. Many
Ball Dahlias, the leading Minia-
tures and a select list of Pompons.

Send for list

A few roots left for late planting.

C. LOUIS ALLING

251 B. Court Street West Haven, Conn.

DAHLIAS

1942 SHOWS FOR NAVY RELIEF

Twenty thousand flower, vegetable and fruit Shows will be held throughout the United States during the month of September in an effort to raise \$2,000,000 for the joint benefit of the Army Emergency and Navy Relief Funds.

This greatest marshalling of the forces of gardening and horticulture in the history of the world will be the result of the combined efforts of all phases of gardening, from its many thousands of individual garden clubs in the nation to its specialty groups devoted to the interest of one plant. Thirty-seven National Societies, amateur, professional and commercial, are being invited to appoint state representatives in each of the forty-eight states, who in turn will serve as state committees to stimulate and aid the effort.

The plan, although only a little more than one month old, already has the endorsement of several hundred organizations which have signified their intention of participating. Many of the nation's leaders, including Secretary of Agriculture, Claude R. Wickard, have voiced their enthusiasm and approval of the plan which will aid the National Victory Garden Program and at the same time raise money for the two service organizations. Each state committee will lead the movement in its own area, working closely with the National Citizens Committee of the Navy Relief Society and the National Committee of the Victory Garden Harvest Shows.

Richardson Wright, Editor of *House and Garden*, and Chairman of the International Flower Show, was appointed Chairman of the National Committee for these Shows. J. W. Johnston, Horticultural Editor of the *New York Herald Tribune*, has been named by the National Citizens Committee of the Navy Relief Society to the Special Events Committee in charge of Horticultural Events throughout the nation. He will act as the coordinator between the National Committee of Victory Garden Harvest Shows and the various Navy Relief organizations which will cooperate with the movement.

United States Secretary of Agriculture, Claude R. Wickard, in approving the movement, said: "I think the idea of holding such Shows and turning over the receipts for Army Emergency and Navy Relief is an excellent one, provided, of course, that all services be voluntary and that there be no large overhead expenses to materially lessen the funds made available. I think the idea of having no prizes is also to be commended, and I am quite sure the country over, the proposal will meet with great response."

The Committee is recommending to all local exhibits that prizes as such be eliminated and that in their place, a seal signifying the award, be given. Blue will be used to designate first, red second, and white third. Admission price to the various Shows is set at a minimum of twenty-five cents and all Shows will be expected to turn in at least eighty-five per cent of their gate receipts to the joint fund. A national honor roll of garden and horticultural organizations participating in the movement will be formed and as fast as any group signifies its intention of participating its name will be added under states to the roll. Until state committees are functioning, all correspondence should be addressed to Victory Garden

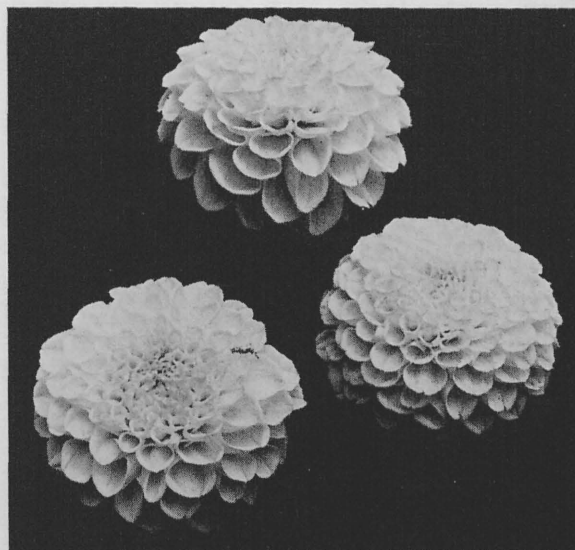
Harvest Shows, care of Navy Relief Society, 730 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Suggested schedule of classes to be included in the Shows will be available for all participating groups, although these will not be mandatory, for all or part of the classes may be used.

Included in the group of garden makers and horticulturists who have taken part in the preliminary organization of the movement, in addition to Mr. Wright and Mr. Johnston, are:

Mrs. Lewis M. Hull, Program and Lectures Committee, National Council of State Garden Clubs, Hotel Roosevelt, New York City; Aline Kate Fox, President, Garden Club of America, 598 Madison Avenue, New York City; Mrs. Dorothy Ebel Hansell, Editor, *Gardener's Chronicle*, 432 Fourth Avenue, New York City; George Burkhardt, 4-H Club Agent, Nassau County, Lawyers Building, Mineola, L. I., N. Y.; Dr. Charles H. Connors, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N. J.; Paul F. Frese, Editor, *The Flower Grower*, 70 East 45th Street, New York City; T. A. Weston, Associate Editor, *Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World*, 448 West 37th Street, New York City; John Fieseler, Vice-president, Peter Henderson and Company, 35 Cortlandt Street, New York City; Erna W. Cass, Secretary, Junior Garden Club Council, *New York Herald Tribune*, 230 West 31st Street, New York; E. L. D. Seymour, Horticultural Editor, *The American Home*, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City; F. F. Rockwell, Horticultural Editor, *The New York Times*, West 43rd Street, New York City; Henry B. Aul, Assistant Horticultural Editor, *New York Herald Tribune*, 230 West 41st Street, New York City; Jean Johnston, Horticultural Editor, *Philadelphia Record*, Philadelphia, Pa.; Helen Totty, President, Totty's, Madison, N. J.; and Clare Ogden Davis, Horticultural Publicist, 340 East 63rd Street, New York City.

MOZART—Dahliadel's pure white True Ball Dahlia, certified at West Virginia Trial Grounds—"Nuff said!"

—Photo Albert Humble



Dahlia Personals—and Personalities

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.

By Oliver Shurtleff

Secretary, West Virginia Dahlia Society
Vice-President, American Dahlia Society
1264 Bryant Street, Fairmont, W. Va.

Twice during the 1941 West Virginia Dahlia Show visitors stopped at the secretary's desk and announced that they were the "Dads of the Dahlia interest in this neck of the woods." That "fatherhood" was appreciated but we are giving you, in this issue of the *BULLETIN*, the Grandmother of the Dahlia interest and enthusiasm around these parts. And when we use the word "Grandmother" we use it with all the respect and admiration that that word connotes.

The subject of our "Personal" this time is Mrs. Olga V. Tennant, now living at 254 Kingwood Street, Morgantown, West Virginia. I do this because I like Mrs. Tennant.

Mrs. Tennant has grown Dahlias longer than most people. She bought her first order of what was then considered good Dahlias from George L. Stillman, way back when Millionaire, Billionaire, U. S. A., were considered to be the latest in Dahlias. *Ammun Ra* and *Rosa Nell* were also early visitors to Mrs. Tennant's garden.

About that time Mrs. Tennant had something like 2,000 Dahlias in her garden, along with 300 seedlings. Folks came for miles to see what they said "they didn't believe." Her gardens were visited annually by thousands of people. As a letter to me states, "The people came like crowds to an old-fashioned camp meeting." Among the visitors were real Dahlia people, too.

From those visitors this section of the Dahlia world, later, received many new Dahlia enthusiasts. If it were fitting, we could list several of them in this column, but this column is a tribute to Mrs. Tennant and not to her Dahlia disciples.

From her gardens have come several certificated Dahlias which became popular with other growers. It was right and proper that these Dahlias should be honored because they were worthy. From Mrs. Tennant herself came a love for the beautiful as expressed through Dahlias. From her has come a sweetness of spirit which has won her many lasting and true friends. From her has come a philosophy which has helped to make the world better—an unruffled spirit and a contented mind. We who know Mrs. Tennant know her to admire, to respect, to appreciate.

THE WEATHERVANE

Thoughts of a garden — Victory Garden Shows

By PAUL F. FRESE

"Flower Grower" Editor

There has been some talk in garden clubs and elsewhere of abandoning flower Shows this year. Members are too busy with war work, it has been said, to spare time to manage Shows.

Everyone knows, of course, that it requires the conscientious efforts of many people to stage even a small Show successfully, but these are days of personal sacrifice and no club or institution should abandon its Show this year without weighing all the facts. It has taken many years to develop the flower Show to its present high level of perfection. The educational value of these exhibitions cannot be estimated but without question they have been a great stimulus to personal endeavor and community action. To abandon the flower Show now when it may serve its greatest usefulness can hardly be recommended.

As we look about for a criterion upon which to base a policy it is only natural to turn first to England where, we learn, flowers and, of course, vegetables and fruits have been exhibited regularly during the last year. In fact, the Show program over there has been elaborated during the last two years to foster what has been termed "Victory Garden Shows." These Shows have been entirely of fruits and vegetables, according to reports. In 1940, two hundred and thirty Victory Shows were held, in 1941 a total of three hundred and fifty, and the goal this year is a thousand. These Shows have a two-fold object: (1) to provide for the food gardener that stimulus which is born of competition, and (2) to raise money for the Red Cross from small admission charges. Last year nearly £20,000 was raised by Victory Shows.

This remarkable record suggests that exhibitions in this country might render a similar service here. H. W. Hochbaum, Chief of the Division of Field Coördination of the U. S. D. A., has expressed interest in this movement. He wrote me March 26, "I believe that it would be a mistake for the garden clubs to give up their flower Shows, and I hope they won't do this. Surely they can make them a combination Victory Garden and flower Show. Some feel that emphasis on flower Shows now indicates that there are many people thinking of business as usual. That is why I am struck by the idea that the combination flower and Victory Garden Show would fill the bill now."

This is a direct challenge to the garden clubs and state and county fair managers. Will they meet is squarely? We hope they will.

Dahlia Forum and Exchange

If there's something you would like to know—
or some cultural or historic lore you would like
to pass along—or if you have the itch to write
about Dahlias—then this is your department.
Address Sec'y Alling.

An Experience

For more than thirty years a back-yard Dahlia grower; a long-time member of the American Dahlia Society, who has never competed or exhibited and is still as enthusiastic as ever, I am writing an account of what happened to me.

The last ten years or so have been most difficult ones in the wintering of clumps; before that time no trouble at all. I experienced the losses caused by crown-rot, shrivelling of roots, and the inability to get many eyes on those I have saved. Attributed it to the fact that I had grown mostly from rooted cuttings, and plants rather than from roots as heretofore. Tried various methods suggested by experienced growers with commercial back-grounds but to no avail.

However, last Fall had an early persistent and resistant spell of mildew infestation, which suggested to me the following idea:

In the past it had been suggested that the clumps be guarded against contamination by the use of bichloride of mercury or some of the other commercial germicidal washes. However, it occurred to me that when the bushes we cut down some of the mildew spores might be spread on the ground and when the clumps were dug some of these spores fastened themselves upon the freshly dug Dahlia clumps, and thus caused the various deteriorations during the winter storage. So, therefore, when I dug the clumps I washed them thoroughly with a cold water spray, allowed to drain and then dipped each clump, allowing to remain for a few minutes in a butter-firkin almost filled with a saturated "Bordeaux Mixture" solution (I used a wooden container as the copper-sulphate-lime solution is corrosive when contacted with metal.) Then allowed the fungicidal solution to drain and dry on the clumps, and when thoroughly so, packed in a newspaper lined barrel with a quantity of fine peat-moss (ordered granulated, but received the fine peat-moss) beneath, between and over the clumps; a heavier layer on top and then some more newspapers over all. Did not find it necessary to dust on the cut or broken places on the clumps. It was also found necessary also due to circumstances not under control to store the barrels within twelve (12) feet of the cellar furnace.

Nevertheless, this Spring when I unpacked the clumps, found them sound, fat, thoroughly healthy and handsome; no crown-rot or other contamination. Packed the clumps in bushel baskets filled with moistened fine peat-

moss and within ten days had a bountiful display of eyes on the crowns, making the separation easy and economical.

Jerome E. Hahn, D.D.S., 2778 Decatur Avenue,
The Bronx, New York, N. Y.

December 1, 1941.

Dear Editor:

Following through on your suggestion or request for any suggestions that will help to get and hold the Novice. I have long felt that there ought to be one or perhaps two intermediate amateur sections in our Show schedule. The Novice shows one year and he feels that the jump from Section A to Section B is too big, in other words he is afraid to compete with exhibitors like Ed O'Keefe and Henry Olsen, with the result that he just drops out of the picture as far as exhibiting at the New York Show goes. I believe that there ought to be a section for the Amateur who grows not more than 100 hills and another for the Amateur who grows not more than 200 mills. Then change the present Amateur Section limit to 300 hills. This would spread out the competition and I believe mean a lot more exhibitors, it would remove the fear that the Novice now has of the big jump from the present Section A to Section B. I realize that it would mean more ribbons, more pottery and more table space . . . but the ribbons cost but little and the pottery not much more. But the increased interest in the New York Show because of more exhibitors would be worth a lot more than the extra cost for ribbons and prizes. There is no use of my reminding you that 95% of the exhibitors who show in the Novice Section never show at New York after that, why? Simply because they are afraid to make the jump into competition with seasoned experts. If one or two intermediate sections were in the schedule they would take the little jumps and in that way remain as exhibitors, thus building up the number of exhibitors.

Roy H. Webb.

(Editor's Note.) This matter was referred to the annual meeting of the A. D. S. in New York in January. Mr. Webb responded with his views with the result the suggestions will be seriously considered by the Show Schedule Committee, Warren Maytrott, Chairman.

A. D. S. SHOW
NEW YORK CITY
SEPTEMBER 24-25

Vegetables or Flowers

It looks as if 1942 might be a pretty poor year for the Dahlia. I hear a number of growers are going to grow vegetables instead of Dahlias. As far as I'm concerned, I intend to grow just as many as before, and work a bit harder and plant them closer in order to allow some room for vegetables as well.

I think we should also think that after this is over there will be lots of growers over there that during this catastrophe will have lost all their roots and will be only too pleased to receive our surplus roots. Especially as they will be devoid of funds to purchase them with and they would surely appreciate our sending them over to them. Do you not think it will go a long way to help them realize that this country of ours cannot only help them to win this war, but can also help them back into one of the best hobbies that man ever had? I think it will also help to create a better feeling between the different nations of the world.

As far as being of no use, may I tell of a little experience that happened to yours truly during the last war. I happened to be working in a ship yard and a friend of mine used to kid me about spending all my spare time in growing flowers instead of vegetables. One day at his work he had an accident and was taken to the hospital. I went to visit him and knowing his love for vegetables instead of flowers I took him a cabbage, and boy did his face go red and he told me to get out in no quiet tones. A day or two after I took him a grand bunch of roses but I did not offer them to him at first and I noticed the light in his eyes. I could not help teasing him a bit and said they were for the nurse. He got quite vexed as I said I was afraid to offer them to him. If you could have seen him grasp them, you would realize that flowers have their place as well as vegetables. When our boys come back we shall want flowers to decorate with.

Charles Garrity.

Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society

The Scranton Y. M. C. A. was the scene of the third annual banquet of the Society. John R. Steele of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, handled the role of toastmaster in a very efficient manner and made sure that all those attending become acquainted with each other. The committee in charge was headed by Mr. Albert E. Nicholls who provided a superb dinner and a fine program of entertainment. Dr. Armstrong, past president of the Society, gave a very interesting talk on his experiences in growing Dahlias under cloth. (We hope that we can persuade Doc to write some of those experiences for a near future BULLETIN—Ed.) Wallace M. Depew, well known newspaper man and radio commentator, gave an interesting talk in which he urged growing of vegetables wherever practical but also said "the world has never been more in need of the Dahlia, with all its glorious beauty, than now."

Guests included Edward Lloyd, president of the A. D. S., Ray Smith, president of the Dahlia Society of New Jersey, Dewey Mohr and C. Louis Alling, also of the A. D. S. each of whom made brief remarks. Musical entertain-

ment was furnished by Mrs. Elmer and Fred Schick and a splendid vocal solo was rendered by Miss Mary Beck. After the dinner a fine selection of Kodaslide were shown by Roy Webb. Our Scranton friends are to be congratulated.

Some of the notables at the Scranton dinner as seen by cartoonist Jim Walsh. Courtesy of the Scranton Times.



lated on their immense amount of enthusiasm for the Dahlia as well as the hospitality shown to out of town guests. We hope that nothing will prevent there being a fourth annual dinner.

A grand Show is planned for September, the date for which is still uncertain. However, announcement will be made in the next BULLETIN. A defense bond drive is planned in connection with the Show as well as many new and unusual features.

Mid West Dahlia Show

Plans for the Mid West Show, September 19-20, are progressing nicely though we have been somewhat hindered due to ever changing national regulations. We do hope to make this Show truly representative of the usual Mid West Shows, by having a strong undisminated section.

We realize that governmental restrictions on transportation and package delivery may make it extremely difficult for commercial growers and introducers to get exhibits here for entry. Accordingly in planning our schedule we provided for the entry of undisminated variety by permitting the introducer to allow someone to grow and exhibit for him. This was done at the Mid West Show in Milwaukee last year and provided an exceptionally strong undisminated section.

Thinking you will wish to have your next year introductions presented in creditable form for competition in the *American Home Achievement Medal Class*, we have the following arrangements subject, of course, to your desire to avail yourself of them:

Place plants or roots you might send in the hands of Dahlia growers who know how to grow for Shows.

Exhibit under their name for you any creditable flow-ers they are able to produce.

Carefully dig and return to you all clumps intact.

It is planting time in Indiana. If you desire to avail yourself of this opportunity (there is no charge) send by prepaid express plants or roots at once to Mr. Willard Johns, 49 South Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

E. M. Demlow, Show Manager.

The Southwestern Dahlia Society

We are opening the Southwestern Dahlia Society Trial Ground here at West Texas State College this season and wish to invite your participation.

This project was planned as a proving ground for a large area of the Southwest having a similar and favorable climate for growing Dahlias. The elevation here is nearly 3600 feet, providing cool nights and bright sunny days that are not excessively hot.

All rules applying to official American Dahlia Society Trial Grounds will be strictly followed here, except that for this season the charge for trial and scoring of new varieties will be \$2. Certificates of merit will be awarded varieties scoring 85 or better.

In connection with this trial ground there will also be a Show garden where reliable commercial growers may send some of their stock of the newer named varieties for display. Doner's names and variety names will be

prominently displayed in this section. No charge will be made for growing these varieties and all such stock with increase will remain the property of its doner, and will either be returned at digging time, express collect, or destroyed. Because of our advantageous location and the undeveloped possibilities for Dahlia growing in this section, we believe these gardens offer an unusual medium of advertising for responsible growers of high quality stock.

If you desire to send us either roots or plants for trial or display, it will be appreciated if you will advise us soon in order that we may reserve space for you. Our best planting time is May.

West Texas State College is located about fifteen miles southwest of Amarillo, Texas, on United States Highways 60 and 87 at the terminus of State Highway 117 leading to Palo Duro State Park, twelve miles away. This is the home of the famous "Tallest Basketball Team in the World." The Panhandle Plains Historical Museum is located here, which attracts thousands of visitors each year, and is just across the street from the trial ground.

You are invited to stop by and visit us at any time, and we assure you an interesting stopover. Dr. J. A. Hill, president of the college, or Dr. A. M. Meyer, faculty member and Trial Ground Chairman will be on hand to greet you.

Further information will be furnished if desired.

R. E. Harter, Secretary-Treasurer.

Minnesota Dahlia Society

Again the Minnesota Dahlia Society sends you greetings. At the annual meeting of the society on February 11 the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. R. S. Bryant; Vice-President, Mr. Chas. Schral; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. A. R. Owen.

At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Minnesota Dahlia Society, the dates of September 15 and 16 have been selected for their Fourteenth Annual Show to be held in the lobby of the Northwestern National Bank and Trust Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A great deal of enthusiasm was shown at this meeting and there is no doubt that efforts will be made to have a bigger and better Show than ever before. The Society extends an invitation to all Dahlia friends and fans to visit their Show and enjoy it with them.

Mrs. A. R. Owen, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Garden Club of Jersey City

The Garden Club of Jersey City will hold its Annual Fall Flower Show on September 19 and 20.

Plans are already under way to make this a gala Show, not only because this is our Fifth Anniversary but primarily to bring to the attention of the public the great need—now more than ever before—of flowers and the recreation afforded by gardening activities, so helpful to the morale of a warring nation.

May we count on your support? Any item that you may care to add to our premium list will be greatly appreciated.

Liberal space will be provided for the advantageous display of your circulars and material that will assist our

members and visitors in the care and culture of flowers and gardens.

*William T. Hevert, Show Chairman,
106 Randolph Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.*

The Camden Dahlia and Horticultural Society

The Camden Dahlia and Horticultural Society have set the date for this year's Show, Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4, 1942, to be held in the same place. The Camden County Vocational School, Browning Road, Merchantville, further information can be gotten from the secretary, Miss Myra Conover, Child's Street, Woodbury, N. J. Under a new President, Mr. Charles Taylor, the interest seem to be great and we are looking forward to having a good Show.

The highlight of the winter meetings was a talk by Dr. Charles Connors, well known to all Dahlia fans. He showed the society some pictures that were given to the college by the late Mrs. Stout that had never before been shown. As times have changed the schedule for the Fall Show will be changed so that everyone may enter in some of the class less blooms are asked. We hope this will bring the small as well as the large growers out. Don't forget the date.

Chas. H. Allen, Jr.

WEST VIRGINIA DAHLIA SOCIETY

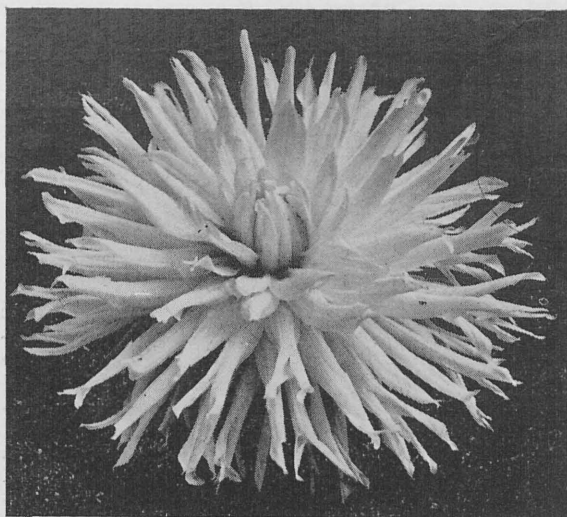
By Oliver Shurtleff, Secretary

The West Virginia Dahlias Society announces its season for the West Virginia Branch trial garden which will be conducted this year as usual. This garden is located on the campus of Fairmont State College in Fairmont, West Virginia. The writer of this notice will again be the garden superintendent. Entry material for the trial garden may be sent to him, care the college or to his home address which is 1247 Bryant Street, Fairmont, West Virginia.

If Dahlia growers who wish to have new varieties tried out do not receive an entry blank the Dahlias may be sent to the superintendent without a blank. These entries will have the same careful planting and attention as any other entry. Blanks will be forwarded. Entry blanks may be had at any time upon request.

It is hoped that several new varieties will be developed and tried out this year. We shall want some fine new varieties to use when we celebrate our great National Victory over the Axis powers which are now seeking to destroy all that is beautiful. The West Virginia trial garden will be looking for your entries.

His many West Virginia friends were sorry to hear that Gordon Waaser had to give up the editor's chair on THE BULLETIN staff. The readers of THE BULLETIN will miss him greatly but we cannot keep him out of the greater service. Let's anticipate that his absence is to be but temporary. For his successor, when he shall have been selected, we promise coöperation and whatever aid we shall be able to give.



Winner in Seedling Cactus class at Washington. WINTER MORN—white sport of Frau Ida Mansfield. A Dahliadel introduction.

Show plans for the 1942 West Virginia Dahlia Show are still somewhat hazy. We had hoped to announce definite plans through our notes in this issue of THE BULLETIN but the definite announcement will have to wait until the next number. In the mean time, plant and plant!

Yours for VICTORY!

Portland Dahlia Society

The war condition on the West Coast causing so many new activities is our paramount consideration, but the Portland Dahlia Society feels we can meet those emergencies more easily by living as nearly a normal life as possible, and by keeping up our Dahlia interests we will be building a stronger mental and physical resistance to these lurking dangers. We are going on with the plans for the Fall Show and the president, Mr. P. F. Kershnik, together with the Board is working enthusiastically to make this year's work outstanding.

Due to a long cold winter which caught us unaware many report heavy losses of tubers. All Dahlias left undug because of the sudden change in temperature or lack of help were a complete loss. Some of the Professionals were unable to issue catalogues this year because of their losses.

The regular Dahlia meetings have been along educational lines. In January W. C. Scrutton of the Estacada Dahlia Gardens, importer of foreign Dahlias, sent in a paper on small flowering types suitable for border planting and newer Dahlias for 1942. Among Dahlias listed were: *Marjorie Emberson*, *Robin*, *Leidens Miniature*, *Red Head*, *Dubonnet*, *Bishop of Llandaff*, *Hollandia*, *Little Darling* and *Beatrice von Valkenburg* for bedding and borders and newer ones: *Goldina*, *Gold Rose*, *Helly Boudewijn*, *Golden Drop* and *Memory* in the Nymphaea types and *Pixie*, *Basra*, *Thistledown*, *Little Sunbeam*, *Ger-*

mannetje, Salmon Beauty, Madame Simone Stapers, Mr. J. Goris, and Reverend Pere de Deken in miniatures.

In February a showing of sound films from the Oregon State College on "Aphids" and "Mineral Element Deficiencies in Plant Growth" was an interesting program. Oregon State has coöperated with the Portland Dahlia Society in trying to keep our Dahlias and other plants free of disease, and the growers are working diligently toward this end.

In March, Mr. William Ehlen, a landscape artist, talked on "Dahlias in Landscaping." He stressed the fact that commercial growers should advertise their small types suitable for landscaping so as to acquaint people with landed estates and gardens with these desirable flowers. He also made the statement that few Dahlias were used in landscaping, and personally, I believe this is due to the artist's lack of knowledge on the suitability of Dahlias for this sort of planting. Wouldn't it be quite worth our while to acquaint landscape artists and gardeners with the possibilities of Dahlias for their work?

Mrs. R. M. McClary told of her Dahlia plantings for color effect and harmony in her 1941 winning Dahlia garden.

Mrs. Compton of the Julia M. Compton Dahlia Gardens has added a number of the newer outstanding Dahlias to her large planting and she exhibited some of the newer honor roll Dahlias at our 1941 Show.

Plans are made for Mr. Compton, Mr. Scrutton and Mr. McCarter, Professionals, to conduct a forum on summer care of the garden and plants in the near future.

The April meeting will be devoted to the auction sale of bulbs furnished by the growers and society members. This feature is eagerly looked forward to each year. None but the better Dahlia bulbs are offered. Proceeds go towards financing the Show.

This year the program committee is having made colored pictures suitable for slides depicting all phases of Dahlia culture from cutting of tubers, planting, and the various stages of growth. Also showing healthy plants and infected plants and manner of treatment.

*Mrs. R. M. McClary, Special Correspondent,
Portland Dahlia Society.*

Puget Sound Dahlia Society

Seattle, Washington

After our successful Show of last year, the major undertaking of the Puget Sound Dahlia Society was to increase our membership and to bring about a closer relationship of all the Dahlia societies in our nearby vicinity.

Our March meeting was planned as our membership drive. Every member and visitor alike received a free Dahlia root. The inclosed letter was sent to every name turned in by amateur and commercial growers. The results were astonishing. Approximately 150 visitors and members were present.

You may have heard that the Pacific Northwest suffered a severe freeze this winter and amateur and commercial growers alike took a great loss in roots. So the

free Dahlia root was more than welcome as an inducement to start growing Dahlias again.

The Seattle group has tried to attend the Washington State Dahlia Society meetings in Tacoma as much as possible but due to gas rationing how long this can continue we do not know.

The officers of the Puget Sound Dahlia Society visited the Kitsap County Dahlia Society in Bremerton, Washington, April 30. Mr. Robert Sinclair, Vice-President of the Kitsap County Dahlia Society was presented with the President's Cup which he won at the Puget Sound Dahlia Society's Show. The two societies are planning to try an "Exchange Meeting." The Puget Sound Dahlia Society will hold their July meeting in Bremerton in conjunction with the Kitsap County Dahlia Society and in turn the K. C. D. S. will hold their August meeting in Seattle.

Our Society was fortunate in having a local paper publish an article "Dahlia Culture" by our President, Mr. A. H. Rousseau. We have also started a scrap book for our newspaper clippings, pictures, programs and etc.

The Puget Sound Dahlia Society suffered a great loss when one of its Founders and Charter Member, Mr. George S. Hunter, passed away April 4, 1942.

The officers for 1942 are: President, Mr. A. H. Rousseau; Vice-President, Mr. J. E. Hullin; Secretary, Mrs. Lynn Roper; Treasurer, Mr. Rush Drake.

Since tires and gas are to be rationed it is logical that more time will be spent at home and in the garden. And what better hobby can one have than growing Dahlias.

The Puget Sound Dahlia Society has pledged itself to keep the interest of Dahlias alive by going ahead as usual.

Vivian Roper, Secretary.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

As the War Production Board ordered the discontinuance of processing Rotenone, no more ROTOTOX is available.

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Honor Roll Dahlias for 1942

Roots and Plants of new and recent introductions

Send for your catalog of over 400 varieties

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LAST CALL FOR OUR 1942 INTRODUCTIONS

MOLLIE B. (Briggs) I. D. Tyrian Pink. Long stiff stems. Blooms 12-14 inches. Winner of Achievement Medal in New York.

Plants \$5.00
3 for \$12.50

Rooted Cuttings \$3.33
3 for \$9.00

IVORY PRINCESS (Hawkins) S. C. Ivory. The largest Dahlia we have ever introduced. This Dahlia was listed on all the Honor Rolls of the country.

Plants \$5.00
3 for \$12.50

Rooted Cuttings \$3.33
3 for \$9.00

SUSAN R. (Rev. Moyer) Miniature. Blend of salmon pink. Blooms from August until frost. Excellent for cutting purposes.

Roots \$3.00

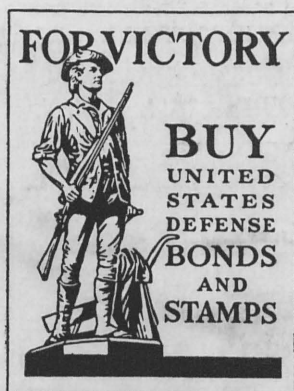
Plants \$1.00
3 for \$2.50

If you have not received a copy of our 1942 catalog, please drop us a postal card.

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