

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY



JUBILANT—The first Miniature to win the Derrill W. Hart Memorial Gold Medal with a score of 85 and better in all four A.D.S. Trial Grounds in one year. Color is Cherry Red, inclined Orange with a lighter reverse—a sparkling gem.

Introducer: Dahliadel Nurseries, Vineland, N. J.

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American Dahlia Society

Contents for May, 1945

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32d Annual A.D.S. Show to be Staged At Hotel Pennsylvania

By DR. WARD H. COOK, A.D.S. Secretary

The climax of every Dahlia season is The Show. Whether the show centers the Dahlia interest of a neighborhood, a town, a county, a city, a state, a region or group of states, or the nation, enthusiasm runs high. Devoted fans willingly accept the manifold tasks that must be done, the stage is set, and the marvelous blooms in all their variety of color, form and size miraculously appear at the appointed time. Despite unprecedented drought, floods, hail, equinoctial wind storms, hurricanes, premature frosts—no matter what the calamity of weather—they always appear. Not even War, with its attendant dearth of manpower, limitation of transportation, shortage of cultural and other supplies, can stop them. In spite of all, the show goes on. So in 1945 we may plan with confidence seasoned with hope for the greatest and most interesting show of any year.

Threatened with extinction in January, the 32nd Annual Show of the American Dahlia Society is at this writing assured. The spacious Roof Garden of the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City has been secured for the event. The blooms will be on display Thursday and Friday, September 20 and 21. Under the experienced and capable management of Henry Olsen, faithful and willing workers are being assigned their duties. A smoothly run, well-ordered, well-balanced, well-staged, colorful and instructive show is promised Dahlia lovers who look forward so eagerly to this great annual event. There will be special features, prizes in variety, some of the best judging talent in the country is in view, world-beating new varieties, carefully guarded under wraps, are being planted especially for this show by the greatest growers in the East. There will be intense rivalry, no doubt, but there will also be cooperation and contagious good fellowship in abundance.

Age often develops conservatism. One might expect the show of the American Dahlia Society to follow fixed and immutable tradition. What has worked well might be expected to continue indefinitely. But the American Dahlia Society is not hide-bound in tradition. There is always room for improvement. Constantly well considered experiments will determine how various details can be worked out to maintain the interest of all classes of Dahlia growers, from the novice to the advanced amateur and professional. Progress must be the watchword.

In recent years the rigorously enforced requirement of accurate variety labels on the entries has greatly enhanced the public interest in the show and has made it far more instructive than was once the case. Adherence to standard form and color classification of named varieties as entered has improved competition and made judging more equitable. At the same time it is beginning to result in better balanced classes in the schedule since the Committee can foresee the range of varieties available for competition in the various classes. It was

not too long ago to remember when the revolutionary requirement of long, unsupported stems was an innovation. The older growers and exhibitors know from personal experience the beneficial effect of this requirement upon the production of better varieties and the greater adaptability of the Dahlia to decorative use. A few years ago the American Dahlia Society sponsored the tradition-breaking rule of permitting buds to be left on exhibits of miniatures. This was done to relieve the artificiality of naked single blooms of miniatures when their chief charm is the graceful informality imparted to these smaller flowers by their showing in clusters with buds. To be sure, this rule has, in its proper enforcement, raised the inevitable difficulty of determining the point at which a bud showing color becomes for exhibition purposes a flower. Miniatures may expand rapidly on the show table from bud to bloom. Yet it is felt that with reasonable tolerance by the judges the character of the miniature classes has and will continue to improve.

This year the American Dahlia Society is striking out hopefully on a new line. You will note from study of the published schedule (February BULLETIN) that sections are no longer determined on the basis of the unenforceable size of the competitor's planting or "number of hills" grown. We no longer attempt to rule upon how a gardener shall employ his land. An expertly tended plot of six dozen plants may yield sufficient superior blooms at show time to take a sweepstakes against the yield of an acre of plants grown by rule of thumb, so to speak. So the sections have been arranged progressively with exhibitors grouped in competition upon the basis of their record of experience and accomplishment. It is felt, and certainly hoped, that this policy will maintain the competitive interest of the most successful Dahlia growers and make the Open to All Section what it should be—the grand climax of the show. Here we may expect to find expertly grown and splendidly staged standard varieties compelling unnamed novelties to demonstrate their true merit in the acid test of competition. Divisional sweepstakes in this most advanced section have been arranged so as to permit growers who specialize in certain types to meet corresponding competition successfully. Furthermore, as an encouragement to the best growers to exhibit more fine blooms, the Open to All section provides for multiple entries and winnings in a class. Third place awards may also be made in this section, the same to count toward sweepstakes.

While the new plan will, perforce, advance certain exhibitors into the Open to All section it should encourage those who have shown promise in the junior sections to continue to compete undiscouraged by the fear of competition which may be regarded as too formidable. So

(Continued on page 12)

"Gardening Is a Way of Life . . .

a Profoundly Happy Way of Life"

By LEW SARETT

(Reprinted courtesy Better Homes & Gardens Magazine)

For better or for worse, I am an inveterate amateur gardener. I shall die one. I am a bit "touched" about every green-growing thing on earth. This queerness has not put me in any institution; it has kept me out of one.

Dahlias are my specialty. Annually I grow over a thousand plants from seed, with the hope that I may turn up a new one now and then, fit to go into commerce. Sometimes I do. But the profit on it pays me only a fraction of what it costs me to produce it.

I grow scores of tuberous begonias. I go to much trouble: special soil, special watering; coddling them all season. Strawberries—the time and money I spend on them is considerable. I fight constantly to keep the robins from harvesting my crop, and to stave off rot. The story is much the same with my muskmelons, iris, vegetables: expense, time, trouble.

Then why bother?

I can tell you why bother. I bother because gardening is a superb way in which every man who has the use of a patch of ground can solve many of his personal problems in living. Gardening is a way of life, a profoundly happy way of life.

Gardening is an exciting sport. Growing anything—strawberries, cauliflower, roses, even cabbage—is an intensely exciting competitive sport. It is a game in which you pit your strength and your wits against Nature; you match them against her sometimes grudging soil, her bitter winds and weather, against her drouths and floods, her bugs and blights, her fickleness and perverseness. A man gets a big kick from outmaneuvering Nature when she tries to throw him for a loss with epidemics and blights, with hordes of leaf hoppers, thrips, and red spiders, with unseasonable weather.

When you can take the cards which Nature deals you in any growing season—a few high cards and a lot of low ones—and play them so skillfully that you really make a killing with that poor hand—well, it is a source of deep satisfaction.

Take the soil in your garden, for example, when you set out to build a high-powered garden. It is on top of a hill. It is miserable yellow clay, stiff and poor. A chemical analysis of it shows a tragic lack of food elements: no nitrates to speak of, no phosphorus, no potash. In the first year when you grow glads and dahlias on that sickly yellow clay, your plants are spindly and your blooms minute. So you spit on your hands the next year and set out to build up that soil. You spade in coarse sand, or coal ashes, and humus. You spade in well-rotted manure, broadcast three inches deep; and you spade in a good balanced plant food—four pounds per 100 square feet. The next year you add more humus and sand, another feeding of a balanced plant food.

Then comes the year when you plan to grow dahlias in a big way, to go into the dahlia shows and shoot for the blue ribbons with big perfect blooms, you hope. On a May day you reach down for a handful of the earth

you've been working on; it doesn't stick in your hand the way it used to, like a ball of yellow putty—or like a yellow rock; it crumbles and sifts through your fingers and filters back to the ground. It is perfect in its physical structure. It is friable. Now air and rain and food elements can get down to the roots of your plants. The frail roots can penetrate the soil and develop properly. And you smile, because you know how it was done.

In July the foliage of your young dahlia plants has a deep dark clean green that tells the world that those plants are getting a lot to eat—especially a lot of nitrogen. In September you go into your patch and find it loaded with huge blooms ready to be cut for the dahlia show: one bush of Glamour, bearing three gigantic purple and violet blooms which measure 13 inches in diameter and 9 inches deep; a bush of Margrace, a flame informal decorative loaded with huge fiery blooms, like a bonfire; and a hill of Darcy Sainsbury, a beautiful pure white decorative, so heavy with show blooms that it looks like a white waterfall.

You know that those long symmetrical stems and that healthy dark green foliage are not accidents. You know also how you got those superb roses, delphiniums, vegetables, and fruits. Bigger than the thrill you experience when you win a handful of medals is the thrill—that feeling of power—you get from knowing that you fastened your hands on that stiff miserable yellow clay and made it disgorge an avalanche of breath-taking beauty.

That is what makes gardening an exciting sport, a great game.

Time and again Nature gets tough with you, rocks you on your heels with a heavy infestation of leaf hoppers, red spider, thrips, aphids, or with some other unpredictable insect—which may sicken and stunt your garden. Every season produces a new menace, an unusual attack from some bug or blight, an uncommon drouth. But whatever the current menace may be, you meet it. You stand toe and toe with Nature and you slug it out with her. You fight with spray tank and duster, sprinkler and hose. It's a joy to go through your dahlia patch at dusk with your spray tank and blow a cloud of leaf hoppers to the hell for leaf hoppers. You get a sense of conquest when you beat red spider and thrips and when you dispatch a horde of plant lice.

Gardening is a series of adventures. There is something of primitive man in the human being; he likes a fight and he likes adventure. Gardening is a succession of adventures. It is quiet emotional adventure when your seeds begin to germinate in the seed flat and the first frail green pops out of the soil. It is a disastrous adventure when some of them damp off. It is a dark adventure when you find a young green plant of one of your most expensive varieties cut down at the base of the stem by a cutworm—because you forgot to sink a paper collar around the stem.

Your heart skips many a beat in adventures in delight in April and May, when your eyes fall on the bed of golden crocus you planted, the blue squills, the scarlet tulips, and the daffodils. It is a sweet adventure when you see your hollyhocks in July march along the split-rail fence like a regiment of soldiers.

It is a sweet moment when you harvest your luscious Pride of Wisconsin melons and the Golden Jubilee and Scarlet Pritchard tomatoes. It is a rare adventure when you walk through your dahlia patch in September and note the cascades of white flowers, the pillars of flame-colored blooms, the banks of orange and yellow. And you pause a moment before the pompon varieties loaded with 2-inch blooms that look like perfect buttons—like shining brass buttons, white buttons and pink buttons, gold buttons and ebony buttons. You experience a thousand adventures with beauty when you grow anything that has roots in the earth.

Gardening is a road to riches. But there is more to the matter than even all this. How can I express it? I can suggest it, perhaps, and trust that all people who really know life, its bitter and its sweet, will grasp what I am talking about.

Let us start this way. Some of us feel—as the result of a good deal of experience—that the material world and the flesh are of small consequence, speaking relatively. We do not find in the material world and the flesh our most constant and deep joy. Some delight we find—oh, yes—maybe a great deal; for this we are grateful. We take it in our stride. But some of us know that the material world also has its share of weariness, worry, heartbreak, and disaster. Soon or late we stumble upon a fact that changes the course of our lives: we discover a world that strikes us blind with the splendor and range of its possibilities, that gives us serenity instead of turmoil, quiet delight instead of pain, a zest for life instead of weariness.

What world? It is the world of ideas and beauty. It is the world within your own skull. It is the country of the mind—the country one lives in when one reads a good book, or listens to good music, or plumbs the reservoirs of Nature in a laboratory of science, or follows a good hobby—color photography, painting, the art of flower arrangement, hybridizing glads, iris, dahlias, daylilies.

There are dozens of good roads into that country of the mind—activities that deal constantly with ideas and beauty. Creative work of any kind—writing, painting, interior decorating, devising dresses and menus, planning gardens, architecture—that is one road. Music is a road. Religion is a road—a royal road for millions. Scientific research, law, teaching, medicine, business—these may be roads when intelligently controlled to big ends. One's home—and all the dear people in it—this is a road. Oh, there are many others. And all the roads are good. But for some of us, gardening is a never-failing road.

And so, for some of us, gardening is more than a pleasant hobby; it is a way of life—of living happily.

To conjure out of the black earth the rich hues of pansies, iris, glads, roses, tuberous begonias, and tulips, of peppers and eggplants; to transform the odor of the dirt into the fragrance of peonies and lilacs, of ripe melons

and apples; to transmute the tasteless earth into the flavor of a Bartlett pear and of Concord grapes, and the succulence of Bermuda onions and tomatoes—this is worth doing. This is a road—a road into the country of the mind, into a world sweet and complete in itself.

In winter when one cannot work the soil there are a dozen vicarious roads into that world of ideas and beauty: the study of books on horticulture, chemistry, entomology; the study of journals devoted in whole or in part to these matters; the study of seed catalogs; the planning of gardens; the propagation of plants. There are scores of minor roads that lead into one big road: gardening.

And that is why some of us garden. That is the reason, way down deep, why some of us garden furiously, passionately, and happily. For us, it is a way of life—a way of living richly in an otherwise dark bewildered world. We go about our work, living realistically, fighting toe to toe with life as it is lived in a hard-boiled, materialistic world. But we are sustained and renewed constantly in body and spirit because we know and we follow a road into an amazing and lovely world, one of the oldest and one of the richest roads in human experience.

The Long Island Dahlia Society Organizes

A meeting was held at the Air Raid Wardens Sector, 126th Street and 111th Avenue, South Ozone Park, L. I., N. Y., on Thursday night, April 5th, with the following attending:

George Yaeger, James E. Kelly, B. E. Pitt, P. Garcia, E. Peterson, W. H. Southall, H. Kuhn, O. J. Aumuller.

This meeting assembled to form a Dahlia Society with the objective, "to improve the Dahlia, exhibition of the Dahlia and to generally assist the grower of dahlias and to get more people to grow dahlias.

The following were adopted:

The name of this organization is to be known as "The Long Island Dahlia Society."

Officers elected: B. E. Pitt, president; O. J. Aumuller, secretary and treasurer; James E. Kelly, vice-president, in charge of publicity.

Only dahlias are to be permitted to be exhibited at the shows of the Society.

Both sex are eligible for membership provided they are of good moral character.

Dues to be \$2.00 per year.

Meetings to be held on the 4th Thursday of each month.

The next meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 P. M., April 26th, at the establishment of Fred Munz & Sons, Sutphin & Rockaway Blvds., Jamaica, L. I.

OTTO J. AUMULLER,

Secretary and Treasurer,

50 E. Lincoln Ave.,

Valley Stream, N. Y.

Mid-West Show—Cleveland, Sept. 22 and 23. See page 10 for details.

Timely Cultural Tips

An old bit of advice ran something like this—"Better a ten-cent Dahlia in a ten-dollar hole than a ten-dollar Dahlia in a ten-cent hole."

Peat moss and well rotted cow manure worked deeply in the soil will prove very worth while.

If roots are to be planted, never plant entire clumps but divide them to single tubers if possible, the division must consist of a good sound root, unbroken neck, piece of the old crown and a live eye or shoot. A good two-bladed pruning shears will split the clump just where you want the cut to be made and without damage to necks.

Before setting out your plants or roots, drive a good strong stake into the ground a foot or eighteen inches. The stake should be about five feet above ground. The root or plant is placed very close to the stake and the growing plant securely tied every few weeks.

If roots are planted, lay them flat—four to six inches below the surface—deeper if soil is sandy, shallow if heavy. Cover over with just two inches of soil and fill in the depression as the sprout grows. It is not necessary to water when planting, in fact, it may be detrimental.

Plants are placed so the top of the ball of earth is three inches below the surface level. Plants should be watered at once. It is well to shade with a peach basket during the heat of the first few days.

Start to spray as soon as your plants are above ground. Continue each week or ten days throughout the growing season. The commonest and one of the best sprays is made up of one-half ounce Arsenate of Lead and two teaspoonfuls Black Leaf, 40 to a gallon of water.

Your Editor used Tri-O-Gen last season. I have used in the past G & O Plantspray, Rototox and other prepared insecticides and found each worthy. The main thing is to be relentless in spraying.

It used to be a universal practice among growers who wanted specimen blooms to pinch back the plants when a foot high and then set four or six canes.

The writer found that certain varieties did not respond well to this method, but had a tendency to stop growing or else check the vigor which was apparent before the operation.

For several years I have permitted my plants to grow right on to one cane. Then when the crown buds appeared (far too early for Show requirements), they were removed and the upper branches permitted to grow.

Some varieties are so early that the next two branches also would set buds too early. In such cases I removed the entire cane that produced these buds.

About thirty-five days before Show time, I examined all plants and kept those canes that just showed very tiny buds. During the several years I used this method it was surprising to note what a large percentage of the plants had blooms ready just on time.

I do not believe that nitrates or high powered fertilizers are necessary or advisable in producing huge blooms. Permit me to cite a couple of instances.

Prof. Morgan was teaching at Columbia College one season and asked me to save room in my garden in Baldwin for half a dozen plants of a seedling which he believed would prove to be one of the largest Dahlias in existence. About June 1st, a package arrived from his

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, address. It contained the plants and a package of bone meal. It was agreed that Mr. Morgan would plant and take care of these plants himself; he asked that no other attention be given them.

I saw him prepare the soil. He dug huge holes, full foot and a half deep and thoroughly mixed a couple of cupfuls of bone meal in each hill. The plants were set six inches deep in a light, sandy soil (full sunshine).

I had overhead irrigating and these plants of course, received generous watering as I always practiced that. They grew about four feet tall, large glossy foliage, beautiful plants. It was among those few plants that I witnessed the largest flower I had ever grown—measured and checked by several 15½ inches by 10 inches. It was introduced the next season. "Columbia" its name. No high powered fertilizer was used. I gave Prof. Morgan my word that his treatment of bone meal would be all that the plants would get.

Now another—our A.D.S. Show Manager Henry Olsen was confined to the hospital, very seriously ill at our Show time last year. Henry grows Dahlias about as well as anybody.

He uses commercial fertilizer 4-8-4 or 5-10-5, whichever is available.

It was my privilege to drive him home from the hospital. His good wife had told me that she did the best she could to pick up the plants and broken stakes after the violent storm and hoped something would be left of the garden to cheer Henry when he came home. Henry does love his Dahlias. In fact, his life centers around his many activities in his church, his devoted wife, and two splendid sons, each serving admirably with Uncle Sam's armed forces, and last, but not least, his Dahlias and the A.D.S.

Henry was still a very sick fellow that day, but he insisted on going around to the garden before entering his house. I will never forget that garden that day. Possibly fifty plants were in bloom, but the piece-de-resistance were six blooms of Ruschmohr's *Sherwood Peach* on three plants. We were too concerned for Henry's well being to stop to measure them, but I will attest to the fact that I never saw half a dozen larger blooms anywhere in my over thirty years of growing Dahlias. And it did not take nitrate to produce them either. Bushes were short and stocky, but boy, oh boy, how healthy.

I believe proper watering produces size. Bring your plants along healthy and strong and when buds form, water every four days very copiously.

Feed your plants good well balanced fertilizer—a little every five or six weeks.

A month before the Show disbud. Remove the two side buds and keep the center crown bud. (If you know the variety is crotch, reverse this method). Pinch out the crown bud and one side bud and keep the one side bud. This will give a longer stem. It will take four days longer to mature (use this timing also if some of your buds are a little too early).

Your first job is your wartime duties—after that is done, try to squeeze out a little time to take some of your blooms to your local Show. Boost the Dahlia. When Peace comes, we should do all we can to put Dahlias in every garden in our beloved country.

There's PEACE In A Dahlia Garden, Too

Writes Old Man Ature to His Son

Perhaps the celebration of V-E Day where you are, son, did not run to the excess of human emotions which were occasioned after Victory in World War I.

But if it did, and you saw people going literally crazy because the war in Europe was over, there are some things I would like you to think about.

Realize, if you please, that the dawning of relief and hope over the immense and sombre ruin of war must make us conscious of the terrible urgency of the immediate tasks before us—an honest, sincere and firm determination to protect our peaceful homes and country in the future—before a half mad politician can start a World War. The immediate tasks of relief—dealing justly with wrecked societies and peoples—hordes of “displaced peoples”—of dealing with overwhelming masses of prisoners, and many similar problems.

The greatest war in Europe has ended as it should end. But the peace is not resolved and it will take all the ingenuity and resourcefulness of our nation and our allies to readjust ourselves and others to the colossal task of reconstruction.

You have done a fine job of adjusting yourself to life with a nation at war.

I am proud of the way you have done a man's work and helped your mother. I only hope that what the world saves out of the shambles of this war will make your future a bright one, with opportunities to be happy and successful.

There is one thing you can tie to, and come back to, where you have a world created by yourself, for the enjoyment of yourself and friends—your dahlia garden.

I am thankful that you like dahlias. Because, if for no other reason you will always have a group of fine people with whom you will have something in common. Dahlia people are fine people always. There is a mail carrier out in Oakland, California, who grows dahlias just for his own pleasure. He will never sell a root, or even a seed. But his life is complete because he takes so much comfort in growing better dahlias. There is a milkman over in Ramsey, New Jersey, who knows how to grow prize-winning blooms. Until 1943 he had never exhibited them in the New York Show. But when he did, he walked away with a lot of blue ribbons. That made him the happiest milkman in New Jersey.

I think I've told you about my friend on Long Island. He is a printer and he worked himself into ill health. His doctor told him to take a six months' vacation and go away and do nothing, or he wouldn't be responsible for his life. The printer did not follow the doctor's advice, that is literally, instead he started a dahlia garden. Two months later he met the doctor, who complimented him on his recovery. He looked ruddy and fit. He told the doctor that he did not go away, but found his health among the dahlias.

I cite these instances just to let you know that there is a connection between work and play, between dullness and beauty, between worry and health—and some of the threads between them can be found in gardens.

If you are putting in your roots and plants now as I

expect, you cannot be wishing I was there to help any more than I wish it, too. I would like to be digging the holes, driving the stakes, spreading the fertilizer, tying on the labels and all that stuff.

And I hope I can be there this fall when you begin to shade the specimen blooms, tie them back to keep the wind from whipping and bruising them, to get ready for the Show.

I hope you have selected and purchased some of the new A.D.S. Certificate Winners and some of the Honor Roll varieties. If you haven't, get some now and your chances for winning blue ribbons will be better. Not only that, the neighbors will be over often to chat and look over the new ones.

Read the last A.D.S. BULLETIN again. Answer some of the advertisements—you can rely on its advertisers—order some of the new ones. I have a feeling I'm going to be there to help you preen some of the big ones for the Show table. Mother will want some new small types, too. She don't like to cultivate them, but she sure likes to pick and arrange the little ones.

And you have found by now, I hope, that what mother wants is what we want too, isn't it, son?

YOUR OLD MAN, ATURE.

Irvington, N. J. Dahlia Show

The Irvington Garden Club of Irvington, N. J., have their program out, which has nine sections and ninety-one classes for Dahlias this year. Pueot Mills of Summit is chairman, and he welcomes anyone who would wish to exhibit in our show.

The Irvington Club has gone out strong for seedlings this year, the seeds and seedlings being donated by Mr. Geo. Swezey of Columbia, N. J., and Harvard Rival.

We also added a new and special class for men members of the club for the best basket, bowl, or vase of the small Dahlias. Section D is for the Undisseminated Dahlia, and we offer the American Home Achievement Medal for the best three blooms. This class is open to both amateur and commercial growers, and we would like to see more of the commercial growers compete for this award.

For further details write, Irvington Garden Club, Town Hall, Irvington, N. J., or Harvard Rival of 1275 Miriam Place, Hillside.

Retires to Grow Dahlias

John J. Zant, after forty-eight years at the Boston Store, Grand Rapids, Mich., retired March 17 to move with his wife to their 22-acre farm at Wayland, where they plan to spend the rest of their lives growing dahlias. For thirty years Mr. Zant operated Zant's Wildwood Gardens, growing dahlias exclusively, at 2160 East Fulton road, but he recently sold this establishment and the home adjoining it.

An International Color Standard?

By E. COOPER, M.M., F.R.H.S.,

Jescot Nurseries, 388 Hatfield Rd., St. Albans, Herts, England

For many years among those interested in flowers of all kinds there has been a desire to end the confusion caused by the multitude of terms and meanings used to describe color in flowers. Attempts made in the past to solve the difficulty met with little success, perhaps because technical knowledge of color was insufficient and color printing did not allow color charts to be absolutely standard, uniform or permanent. Color description remained one of the most inexact and misleading attributes of any trade or hobby using color. A hue that is described in one flower grower's catalogue as buttercup-yellow may be called tangerine, lemon or even apricot in others. In the absence of standard terms growers attempt to elaborate by adding adjectives which may sound good but mean nothing. The haphazard use of an adjective adds confusion to confusion. What is the difference between "a beautiful shade of yellow" and "yellow"? When does a "delicate salmon" become "salmon"? And what is "salmon"?

Without definite, fully defined and easily referable standards color description would always remain wildly inexact. It is impossible to memorize for even one minute the attributes of any color. To obtain a perfect match specimens must be viewed side by side and even then under proper conditions of light. Even then some people fail to make a perfect match while others seem to have a strongly developed "color sense."

Much more could be said to emphasize the need for international and reliable color standards. Imagine life without a fixed standard of measurement for weight or length? The Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain has earned the gratitude of every color user—now and for all time—for they have set standards that are as important and will have as far-reaching effects as the adoption of any other standards of measurement. "The Horticultural Color Chart" published in two volumes at the price of 21/- by the R. H. S. has set standards that ought to be adopted by every color user throughout the whole world. In the explanatory notes which accompany the chart, color and its attributes are clearly defined. A hue is a color name such as red, yellow or blue. The tone describes its relative dark or lightness. Intensity refers to freedom from greyness, its purity and strength. A full hue is a pure color free from any degrading factors. Tints are lighter tones of colors and shades are the darker tones of color.

In describing flowers definite terms are recommended. Selfs are flowers of one color such as the Red Salvias. Chromatic-selfs vary in tint or shade as in Calendula. B-colors have two distinct colors as in some Fuchias. Poly-chromes have more than two colors as in Pansies. Shots define where one color is apparently overlaid by another as in the material "shot-silk." Each color appears almost as a self according to the angle at which the flower is viewed as in *Escholtzia*. A "General Representation" is a special term used to define the predominating color in a flower or group of flowers and denotes that secondary hues are present, e.g. Light salmon-

orange is the "General Representation" of the Rose "Irish Fireflame."

The two volumes of the Chart consist of 200 loose sheets each showing three distinct shades of a single color. Each loose sheet has two distinct numbers for reference. The first 64 gives a complete spectrum range of full hues in correct sequence. The remaining sheets show variations of these full hues. Descriptive terms have been taken as far as possible from well-known flowers. Primrose yellow for example refers to a range of yellows of one well defined hue. Practical horticultural examples are quoted where possible for the colors defined. Commonly used equivalents are given and the foreign synonyms are tabulated. Eight pure tones and 32 different values can be obtained from each of the full hues by lightening, darkening and greying. Modern methods have insured that the printed colors are fast and reasonably permanent and a good white paper has been used so that ground color cannot falsify color values. A black card is supplied with a "cut-out" window to isolate and mask surrounding colors which may detract from the hue being examined. Users are warned to use the chart only in good north light and not to attempt matching when the eye is fatigued. Specimens should be isolated from adjacent colors and they should be examined only when fresh and in all stages of maturity.

All this may sound a little complicated but it must be realized that to reduce color definition to an exact science has been no easy task. The author Robert F. Wilson is to be congratulated on completing a task of immense importance. However, the chart is extremely simple and anyone can use it without instruction or trouble to match a color.

Since my last letter we have had the Annual General Meeting of The National Dahlia Society in the committee rooms of the Old R. H. S. Hall in London. It was resolved to hold a Dahlia Show in 1945. This reflects the indomitable spirit of our people, for in spite of the Hall being roofless, or should I say glassless, shows are still being held there. There will be a flower show on the 20th February and while our meeting was going on, a farmers' exhibition was being held in the Hall, open to the dull grey January skies. Many and wonderful were the mechanical aids to better farming which the bowler-hatted and over-coated salesmen tried to sell to our members.

The best sign of progress over here in the Dahlia world has been the enthusiastic support for the new trade growers' British Dahlia Growers' Association. We have resolved to use the R. H. S. Color Chart for all catalogue descriptions. An attempt is to be made to reform the classification of the dahlia. Here again, I believe that an international standard and terminology is the ideal at which we must aim. It is surprising how slipshod some traders have become—or perhaps remained—in regard to classification. They commonly use terms which have never been recognized by the N. D. S.

What a charm dahlia is no two growers can agree. Even the spelling of recognized terms is at fault. A pompon becomes a pompom, a pompone, a ponpom and even a pompome. Colletterettes are often miscalled col-larettes.

Another problem we are to tackle is the judging and trial of new varieties. Although it is appreciated that the R. H. S. has done some excellent work for dahlia growers at the Wisley trial grounds it is felt that a single trial ground is too localized to serve the interests of the whole country. The Wisley Trials have been held too long on the same ground so that plants grown there become badly infested with virus disease and are a poor advertisement for what are really good varieties. The trade proposes to institute four separate trial grounds, in Scotland, Northern, Midland and Southern England. Three plants of each novelty will be grown at each and the system of judging is to be reformed on the point system.

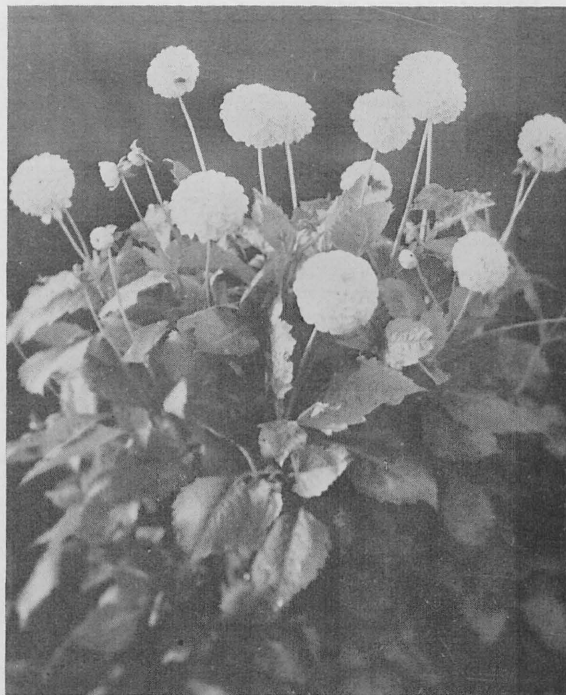
The greatest and most serious problem which the B. D. G. A. is to tackle is virus disease. It will be extremely difficult to control but unless growers over here do something the position may become serious in a very few years. Virus is on the increase among a great many crops. Until recently it was not known what caused virus disease. It was generally believed that the virus was a slimy organism that was able to pass through the finest filters. It has now been ascertained that it is not an organism but a chemical substance dissolved in plant saps. This substance has now been isolated in the laboratory in a crystalline form.

However, even with this knowledge control will be difficult and elimination almost impossible.

Virus can be transferred from diseased to healthy plants in a number of ways. By the tools used, such as knives, by the hands and by insects, more especially by aphides and thrips. Sap remaining on a knife, even when dry, can infect a plant, even after a long period. Tobacco smoking is especially dangerous, for virus is present in nearly all tobaccos, persisting even after the manufacturing process of "curing." Tobacco juice on the fingers is a potent source of infection. Aphides, or greenfly, are the worst offenders with thrips a good second. They feed by first injecting a tiny drop of pre-digested fluid into the plant tissue. This fluid may have come from infected plants. Aphides often travel miles—perhaps hundreds of miles—drifting on the wind. That is why our hop growers fear an East wind bringing swarms of aphides right across the North Sea to cripple the hop vines.

The particular types of virus that attacks dahlias also infects other plants such as the tomato and many weeds. To secure freedom from disease all these plants would also have to be kept clean.

The only solution would be to adopt the practice of the potato growers in this country. No potato grower attempts to grow a crop from "seed" of his own saving for more than one year. This is because the crops rapidly deteriorate through virus brought in by aphides. Every grower obtains clean "seed" each year from districts in Scotland and Ireland where climatic conditions do not enable aphides to become a menace. Even crops planted on land known to have never been cultivated before, or not to have carried the same or related crop before, become diseased with virus. Destroy the last aphide and



WHITE POMPON—JEAN LISTER. Originator: Alex Lister & Son, Rothesay, England

thrip and the whole "seed" potato trade would collapse. Growers could then maintain the health of their crops indefinitely. Similarly we could soon eliminate virus among dahlias.

Dr. Kenneth M. Smith of the Virus Research Station, Cambridge, has offered to help control virus in dahlias. He suggests forming a central pool or nucleus stock of popular varieties all of which would be certified clean and healthy. Growers would draw on this common pool to establish their own clean stocks which would be grown in isolation from other plants known to be susceptible to the types of virus infecting dahlias. He suggests clean stocks could be maintained in this way for a number of years, provided constant inspection and roguing was carried out. My own view is that no stock would remain clean long enough to warrant the necessary time, trouble and expense. The snag is that proper isolation cannot be achieved in this country. Aphides travel miles in a day and can infect clean stocks even on the day they are planted.

Stocks infected late in the season would not show the usual symptoms and would carry in their tubers the virus to infect plants the following year. The question of imports is also difficult. We know that virus is not transmitted through the seed and that seedlings begin with a clean bill of health, but they can be infected as growing seedlings in their first year. It is generally believed, though with no proof that the spread of virus in this country is largely due to infected stocks brought in from abroad, perhaps because some of these stocks were badly diseased? Can we prevent the importation

(Continued on page 10)

INTERNATIONAL COLOR STANDARD

(Continued from page 9)

of diseased stocks? To do this each dry tuber would have to be subjected to laboratory tests, an impossible task. A certificate from the exporting country would have little value for even inspection of a growing stock does not guarantee that the plants are free for the symptoms may not have developed. Then we do not know if some varieties can act as carriers without being diseased themselves.

I do not think we shall reach perfection. Instead we must practice continual cleanliness in the propagating houses and in the dahlia grounds. We must spray the plants out of doors regularly and fumigate the houses. Constant inspection must be made and infected plants must be destroyed. Fumigating, spraying and rogueing must become regular routine jobs. Dr. Smith does suggest that some investigation might be carried out to test the possibility of curing virus by heat treatment. The tomato spotted wilt virus can be destroyed by heat (42 c.) and it is proposed to test dahlia tubers that are infected to ascertain if heat will provide a cure, but even then—pessimist that I am—re-infection can so easily take place. Then too, if, as has been shown, virus is a chemical, how can a gentle heat affect a cure?

Some growers support the views of Sir Albert Howard, the leading expert on soil composts and on the conversion of waste organic matter into humus. He believes that crops grown in soils rich in humus obtained from composts grow free from virus and other diseases. I cannot agree with this at all. Well-fed plants no doubt are more resistant to disease but they can contract disease just the same as people who feed well and generally take care of themselves, seldom die of old age! I heartily support Sir A. Howard's contention that civilization is destroying the fertility of the land by failing to return to the soil organic wastes—but high feeding does not necessarily confer good health.

Since I last wrote to you quite a number of outstanding varieties have been placed on the market. What Mr. Harry Stredwick believes to be the best Large Decorative he has ever raised is Queen Elizabeth, named in Honor of our Queen. He says it is the first, last and only seedling he ever got excited about. I do not know its "Chart" color and must describe it as a lovely yellow of great substance and form. Mr. Stredwick has recently received the highest honor that can be awarded in this country—The Victorian Medal of Honor. Another of his which looked glorious in last year's trials was Molly Coombe. A large decorative. The flowers are white at base, deepening to rose at the tips and they are held erect well above the foliage on massive stems.

Every florist will want Jean Lister, a perfect white which the raiser calls a pompon, but as the flowers are 3 in. in diameter it ought perhaps to be classed among the shows. Anyway, it really is a good cut flower with 18 in. stems and beautiful dark green foliage. Another notable advance has been made among the bronze foliage types. Mr. H. Harris has bred several seedlings with varying shades of yellow flowers and they are very good. What we have all been trying to visualize, since Mr. Tresseder introduced the bronze foliage varieties, has come to pass, a yellow flower with bronze foliage. S. J. Spencer has produced several small decorative and cactus types useful for the cut-flower trade among which I give the palm to Joyce Baker, cactus. Mr. Spencer, who uses

the Color Chart, describes it as a combination of dresden, tangerine and orange. His medium decorative, Tyrian Rose, will also be most useful as a cut-flower. It came from Helly Boudewijn and has nymphaea-shaped flowers on strong, stiff stems well above the foliage. J. F. Barwise has two that I have added to my collection. Murdock, a cactus, with scarlet on a yellow base and Stately, another cactus, yellow with apricot edge.

I am afraid some growers have lost heavily as a result of the severe weather in January when the lowest temperatures since 1894-5 were recorded. My thermometer registered 30 degrees of frost on January 29th. Not being accustomed to such low temperatures many neglected to store their tubers in really frost-proof places. As a result some have been caught napping. It was curious that such severe weather should have followed so mild an autumn. I was picking flowers until the middle of November and did not dig up the roots of some varieties until well into December. Normally, we get our roots up at least by the middle of October.

The horticultural cropping regulations have been relaxed so that commercial growers may now grow an unrestricted acreage of outdoor flowers. No alteration has been made for crops under glass so that propagation is still restricted to 10 per cent of the area. But even the growing of flowers out-of-doors is officially frowned on for we have been warned that the use of labor is still restricted to the production of food-crops. However, growers have co-operated splendidly in this war in the production of food. They have destroyed without compensation acres of valuable plant stocks. They have given up their skilled labor. They have submitted to very irksome control by regulation from innumerable government departments. Yet it is amazing the amount of food that has been produced under these difficult conditions. Produced with a good will because growers knew they had to fight to destroy the evil of Nazism.

News From the Ohio Dahlia Society —Mid-West Show Date Changed

April 13, 1945, the Dahlia Society of Ohio met at the Statler Hotel in Cleveland. Mr. Louis Roberts, writer of the Midwest Honor Roll, was our guest speaker of the evening. He also conducted a Dahlia quiz. The participants were H. H. Robens, John Bracht, Ralph Berry, and Harold Shannabrook. The questions began with the preparation of the garden and ended with the showing of the blooms. The quiz was interesting and educational, not only to the new members but to the old ones as well. We appreciate Mr. Roberts' visit very much and extend a very cordial invitation to him to visit us again anytime.

The time of the Midwest Show was changed from September 15 and 16, 1945, to September 22 and 23, 1945. The Show will be staged in the Masonic Auditorium, Euclid and East 36th Street, Cleveland, Ohio. The auditorium is large and it will take a lot of blooms to fill it. Plant a few more Dahlias and bring them to the show. We are looking forward to a great show and we hope conditions will be such that our Dahlia fans from near and far will honor us with their presence. Mr. E. J. Wind, 19111 Story Road, Rocky River, Ohio, is show manager. Any information regarding the show can be had from Mr. Wind.

F. V. R. VEIRS

An Open Letter from Col. Richard T. Eddy

Encino, California,
March 1, 1945.

To My Dahlia Friends:

Conditions prevailing here during the past three or four seasons have made it clear that there are better dahlia growing areas in southern California than Encino. Ever since returning to California more than 20 years ago, I have had a hankering to locate at or near Encinitas, a small town on the coast about 25 miles north of San Diego. Business interests no longer require that I live in the vicinity of Los Angeles so I have purchased six acres at Encinitas, on a gentle slope a third of a mile from the shore, and overlooking both the ocean and back country. The soil is a rich, deep sandy loam; irrigation water is abundant, and pressure good. "And this above all"—it is nearly frostless. Hundreds of acres are devoted to flower and seed raising. Glads are grown by the millions and the spikes shipped to market every day of the year. Sub-tropical fruits and shrubs thrive, and in my opinion better dahlia growing conditions are hard to find. Except for the absence of snakes, and the fact that apples won't grow here, I might believe I had located the Garden of Eden. Encinitas is close to San Diego, Santa Ana, Camp Pendleton, Elliott, Callan, Haan, and the many activities of the army and navy in this part of southern California. The latch string will always be out for dahlia fans and service men who may care to drop in. I am just two blocks from the business district of Encinitas, and back of the Bank of America Building, and the gardens may be seen from the highway and the Santa Fe tracks.

Seedlings for trial may be sent any time after April 1. Please send only sound, disease free stock, and identify each tuber with a name or number so that later identification may be absolute. Also let me have a brief description—color, type, size and height so I can watch the growth. If you haven't three tubers or plants of a variety, send one or two. They will be carefully grown, and will be daily under my personal observation.

After April 1 all correspondence should be addressed, and all shipments, whether mail or express should be sent to Richard T. Eddy, Encinitas, San Diego County, California.

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COL. RICHARD T. EDDY—Far West writer of Flower Growers' Honor Roll

Honor Roll

The compilation of worthwhile undissemated Dahlias which is published annually in Flower Grower Magazine, is a very important contribution to the increasing interest in Dahlias.

The three experts spend all the time they can possibly spare in checking gardens and shows to do justice to the large number of seedlings seeking a place among the favored few. Not many mistakes are made by these competent judges—three men who enjoy the confidence of Dahliaists all over the country.

In talking to them your Editor finds that each ardently supports the official A.D.S. Trial Grounds. They suggest that growers send their worthwhile seedlings to our Trial Grounds.

Then, if additional stock is available each of these judges will be glad to grow your seedling in his own garden for testing and watching.

Col. Eddy's new address will be found in his open letter on this page. The other addresses are:

Lynn B. Dudley, 25 Irving Place, New Rochelle, N. Y.
C. Louis Roberts, 12147 Harvard Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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."

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378 Pennsylvania Ave., Stearns Park, Freeport, L.I., N.Y.

Editorial

Several years ago I reported in the BULLETIN a splendid speech by Prof. Lew Sarrett of Chicago, which featured an A.D.S. Annual Dinner.

It gives us great pleasure that House and Garden Magazine permitted us to reprint Professor Sarrett's story in their recent issue, "Gardening, a Way of Life." This you will read in the current BULLETIN.

Much of what was said that winter evening to a very enthusiastic audience is contained in this article.

Professor Sarrett is a very busy man. His principal activity, Professor of Speech at Northwestern University, is augmented by many other interests. He is a writer of great ability, a poet, an after-dinner speaker, ranking with the best and to we, having the privilege of knowing him—a grand guy.

A.D.S. show manager, Henry Olsen, made a very comprehensive report at our last committee meeting.

A few very simple rules are still not too carefully complied with.

Entries should be in the hands of our Secretary several days before the Show. Most exhibitors know at that time practically what flowers will be ready for their entries. The blanks should be sent in promptly—you are permitted to make necessary changes on Show day.

The help situation is serious—we never have quite enough. Don't run the risk of not being able to stage your exhibits—get your entries in on time.

Blossoms must have name tags attached. The judges will be instructed to disqualify any entry not being so tagged, no matter how worthy the exhibit may be.

One of our members has donated a number of fine prizes, pottery, glassware and china—articles worth competing for.

Study the schedule carefully. Grow some of the varieties which have proved themselves winners, handle your blooms carefully and bring as many into the Show as you can.

If you will have time to help the committee in the big job of staging, please let manager Henry Olsen know in advance.

Last year our Show got under way on time in a good, orderly manner, judging was completed before the doors were open to our eager public. Cooperation on the part of each one of us will duplicate the feat in September. May we count upon you?

32nd ANNUAL A.D.S. SHOW

(Continued from page 3)

there should be yearly improvement in number and ability of entrants.

The Garden Club section not only emphasizes the artistic use of Dahlias as decorative material but in recent years has brought out many fine blooms in its cultural classes. Those who have produced these blooms are encouraged to go on as competitors in the progressive sections of the show. We need to retain the interest of master growers, at the same time encouraging a steady stream of eager fresh competitors if the show is to serve its best purpose.

This year the Private Estates section has been revived with cash prizes for the gardeners. Always in past years one of the most colorful and hotly competitive sections in the show, we have missed its beauty during the war years. We hope that this feature will return to its accustomed importance as the war clouds begin to roll away.

A stronger effort is being made to recognize only real advances in the seedling classes this year. Judged on the basis of the new rules, a seedling which wins an award in an American Dahlia Society show must have real merit and definite superiority as compared with existing varieties in its class. The Society will continue its special trophy for the best undisseminated small flowering type, thus bringing these into the limelight side by side with the American Home Achievement and Flower Grower Award winners.

In keeping with the interest of every patriotic gardener in these days of food shortage, fall vegetables will again be featured in a special section as a timely attraction. After all, there is true beauty as well as the promise of culinary utility in well grown, attractively displayed vegetables. Remember, it has been abundantly demonstrated that vegetables can be grown in the same garden with Dahlias. It is almost like "having your cake and eating it, too." As we go to press, Dr. Bruce Preas is working on vegetable class additions to our schedule. Before planning and planting get in touch with Dr. Preas at Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, New York.

A Dahlia Personality

By Oliver Shurtleff, A.D.S. Vice-President

I am introducing to the readers of THE BULLETIN a real dahlia grower in the person of Mr. Charles Herbe of Pittsburgh, Pa. He is an interested and active member of the Western Pennsylvania branch of the American Dahlia Society. And that means he is in good standing with his organization.

He has been a dahlia grower for something over fifteen years. He now grows annually about one thousand hills of dahlias. Besides being a regular exhibitor at dahlia shows and exhibitions he is a hard worker when show time comes along and show time always demands extra work on the part of somebody. Mr. Herbe always does his share of this extra work. 'Tis no wonder that his friends rate him a real dahlia person.

This year he is propagating a dahlia which was sent to him from overseas. This dahlia was sent to him by his son Walter, who is in the army with the rank of corporal. When this dahlia was sent to Mr. Herbe it was accompanied by a very strict certificate permitting its shipment to this country. He is hoping that this dahlia will prove worthy of his fine son.

Besides his son Walter, Mr. Herbe has three other

sons and all are in the service. Earl is in the Navy, William is on a hospital ship and Richard is in the Air Corps. Besides these four service men of his family he has three daughters. Two of these daughters, Dorothy and Marion are married and in their own homes. Ruth Jane is still at home. His family is his big pleasure and his greatest joy.

Mr. Herbe rides a great many hobbies and, by so doing, stays young all the time. He reads sports articles, flower magazines, newspapers, exhibited fancy poultry, played baseball, was champion horse shoe pitcher a few years ago and is a member of a volunteer fire department. Hobbies? He is a regular hobby jockey! And besides all these he raises a thousand hills of dahlias, don't forget. Before coming to the Pittsburgh area he operated a dairy farm in Maryland. His church is St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh.

Folks who don't know this fine dahlia grower are missing something. I recommend that he be hunted up when dahlia strangers visit with the Pittsburgh dahlia folk. He is worthwhile knowing.

Fairmont, West Virginia.

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Quiz Corner

By J. LOUIS ROBERTS
A.D.S. Vice President

Question: What insecticides and fertilizers are available for dahlia growers this year?

I asked R. M. Carleton, in charge of Vaughan's Seed Store, at Randolph Street, Chicago, about insecticides. He stated that legally there is available the following:

Nicotine Sulphate. It is recommended as a spray for soft-bodied insects such as aphids or leaf hoppers. One of the trade names on this product is "Black Leaf 40".

Arsenate of Lead. This is for use against all leaf-eating insects as a dust or spray.

Bordeaux is a fungicide and as an insect repellant. It is used as a dust or spray.

Sulphur is put out in various forms. It is used as a fungicide and as a control for red spider.

Selocide is for use against red spider.

Oil Emulsions such as "Volck". Volck is recommended as a control for mealy bug, white flies, red spider, rust mites, aphids and thrips. Mr. Carleton suggests that you try Volck with Black Leaf 40 for red spider.

Pyrethrum is off the market, the entire supply going to the armed forces.

Rotenone is available for Victory Gardens, but it is 3 years old and is only $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent strength. At this strength it is of doubtful value unless combined with thiocyanide. These mixtures are put out under various trade names.

Mr. Carleton told me that the U. S. D. A. are working on insect repellants. The nature of these are at the present time military secrets. They are worked out for specific insects. A spary once a week will keep the particular insect off of our plants. For example one of these repellants was made for use against mosquito. Part of a man's arm was covered with the repellant. A screen was then put over the arm and a large number of mosquitoes then put in the cage. The mosquitoes then covered the part of the arm not treated with the repellant and none were on the treated part. It sounds as if they have something better than citronella for fishermen.

I asked Mr. F. L. Eldridge of the Swift Fertilizer Co. about the fertilizers.

He said that all of the various mixtures such as 0-12-12 or 0-4-8 are all allocated for farm use. Fertilizers for dahlia growers would come under the classification of use for ornamental plant food. Under this classification they have manufactured Vigoro or 4-12-4 in a very limited amount. This does not exceed the amount manufactured in 1944.

They are permitted to manufacture an unlimited amount of Victory Garden Fertilizer which is 4-12-4 analysis in the mid-west and 5-10-5 in the east. The shortage of help is handicapping the manufacture of all fertilizers.

Practically no nitrates are available as they are used in the manufacture of munitions.

Phospate is tight, due to the shortage of sulphuric acid which is also used in the manufacture of munitions.

Potash both muriate and sulphate is the easiest of all but there is not much to be had as it is used in the mixtures such as 4-12-4.

Bonemeal is tight, as it is used for animal feed in conditioning food.

This about sums up what Mr. Eldridge could give me on the commercial fertilizers.

Cottonseed meal and linseed meal are a source of nitrogen containing from 4 to 7 per cent. If you use either of these use care as they will mold and ferment if dampened in quantity.

Manure is available, depending upon the locality. Well-rotted is, of course, the best. However, you may only be able to get fresh manure. If so I would suggest that you reduce it to a liquid. Get a barrel or drum and fill three-quarters with water. Add the manure.

Chicken or poultry manure is pretty strong, so is hog or sheep in the fresh stage. Dry sheep or other manure can be dug into the soil. Don't try to feed a lot of fertilizer to your plants. Be moderate.

I have been told many secret formulas for the growing of dahlias and the best I can give you, is keep your plants clean of insects, enough water that they grow continuously without stoppage, but not enough water that the soil is soggy because dahlias cannot stand "wet feet" for 24 hours. They drown. Your drainage will determine the amount of watering. Mrs. Musseldorffer, who grew "Kaweah" to such big proportions, wrote me that the biggest one she grew was next to the garden faucet which dripped a little.

Correction

We regret the publication of an incorrect description of "Evelyn Reed", as reported in our Storrs' Trial Grounds scores in the May issue. The correct description is:

Evelyn Reed. Stake Nos. 169, 170 and 171. Informal Dec., entered by J. A. Kemp, Kemp's Gardens, Little Silver, N. J. (82.25L). Tips and outer rows are a pale Viridine Yellow with centers Viridine Yellow. Occasional center petals are Lemon Yellow. Flowering habit good; stem $2\frac{1}{4}$ -10 in., heavy to medium, flowers facing side, improved by disbudding. Size of flowers $5\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., depth $2\frac{1}{4}$ -5 in. Height 3 ft. 3 in.

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The varieties mentioned above are all outstanding and prize winners, and the finest in the dahlia world.

We still have some root stock available of many varieties. For complete descriptions, send for our illustrated catalog, ready now, free for the asking.

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Both are Home Achievement Winners

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This is a sport of that ever prize-winning dahlia Virginia Rute, with a new and pleasing color of terra cotta, with blends of henna and old rose. There is no dahlia like it in color. You can grow this as big as you can grow Virginia Rute. Foliage and growing habits are identical to that of Virginia Rute. Received a Certificate of Merit in East Lansing and West Virginia in 1943. Winner of The American Home Achievement Medal in St. Louis in 1943. Listed on Mid-Western Honor Roll and the Eastern Honor Roll of The Flower Grower.

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TEMPTATION (Dahliadel 85M), S, Bloom 4½-5, Bush 4 ft. The names Jubilant and Temptation were submitted to us by Carroll L. Post of San Marino, Calif. This fine scarlet red Single is almost identical to a poinsettia in color and form. It is a red that stands plenty of sunshine without burning or fading. A good open grower with long stems. Good keeper, and fine for cutting. One of the first to bloom, and truly beautiful all season.

Root, \$5.00 Each, 3 for \$10.00;
Pot Root, \$3.75; Plant, \$2.50

FLYING FORTRESS (Pittman-Dahliadel 85A), ID, Bloom 11 x 5, Bush 4½ ft. This is the dahlia that was featured in a naming contest in the A.D.S. Bulletin of August, 1943, with the temporary Seedling name of Pittman's Giant Cardinal. The winner of this contest was Dr. L. N. Sherrard, of Santa Ana, Calif., who submitted the name Flying Fortress. The general tone is soft scarlet with a lighter reverse. It is of artistic form and brilliant color, and arranges beautifully, especially in baskets. It is a rugged healthy grower and a profuse bloomer. Certified in W. Va. and Md. Trial Grounds in 1942. This variety does best from roots, so we grew it entirely from roots the past season, and sent it to some of our customers on trial, and it has proven very satisfactory. We have delayed the introduction of this dahlia to build up sufficient stock of it so that we could offer it in roots only at a moderate price.

Root, \$5.00; 3 for \$10.00

Our 1945 Supplement is still available.

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