

The DAHLIA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN
Central States Dahlia Society

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In This Issue

THE DAHLIA CAPITAL
OF THE WORLD

See Page 3

★

IF SIXTEEN WERE THE LIMIT

See Page 5

★

SYMPOSIUM ON INSECTICIDES

See Page 11

★

DAHLIA NEWS AND
PERSONAS

See Page 31

★

VOL. 16 No. 1

SPRING 1947



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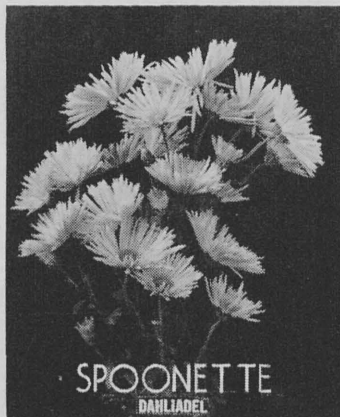
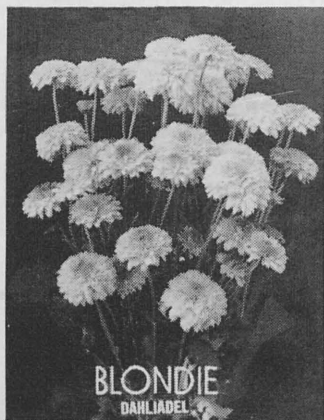
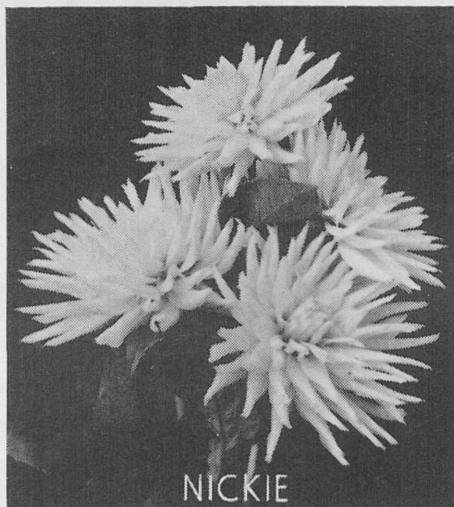
DAHLIAS by DAHLIADEL

We still believe Dahlias and Chrysanthemums should be reasonably priced so that more people will grow and enjoy them. You will therefore find Dahlia del offerings within your garden budget, from Introductions to standard varieties. Do not overlook the Miniature Dahlias for borders and mass plantings.

DAHLIADEL 1947 INTRODUCTION

NICKIE (Dahlia del 85M), StC, Bloom 4-5 x 3, Bush 1½ ft. This little dahlia was named by our younger daughter for her popular girl friend with this tricky nickname. If you knew these girls you would appreciate this lovely little dwarf, something new in a bedding dahlia. We are proud of this finest of all yellow dwarfs, regardless of type. It is a lovely Cactus, perfect in form. Truly dwarf with bushes 18 inches high. Blooms keep well on the bushes and hold their perfect form throughout the season.

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Postpaid, labeled and guaranteed. Include 15c for Special Handling on all plant or rooted cutting orders.

ROOTED CUTTINGS are very satisfactory as they stand shipment wonderfully well. They are wrapped in sphagnum moss and can be planted direct in your garden or potted up and held for a few weeks.

Our 1947 Supplement fully describes 100 of the best in Hardy Chrysanthemums, plants priced from .35 to \$1.00 each, rooted cuttings from .25 to .75 each. We list 400 varieties of the best in Dahlias, reasonably priced. Send for our complete catalog if not already on our list. FREE on request.

DAHLIADEL NURSERIES

WARREN W. MAYTROT

BOX 14

VINELAND, N. J.

Contents

	Page
ADVERTISERS' INDEX.....	2
THE DAHLIA CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.....	3
IF SIXTEEN WERE THE LIMIT.....	5
EAST LIVERPOOL INVITES YOU TO THE 1947 MID-WEST SHOW.....	6
THE WHY AND WHEREFORE OF THE CENTRAL STATES DAHLIA SOCIETY'S CLASSIFICATION LIST.....	9
SYMPOSIUM ON INSECTICIDES.....	11
MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....	23
EDITORIALS.....	24
1947 DAHLIA SHOW DATES.....	27
AS I SEE IT - "THE RIBBER".....	28
RECENT ACTIVITIES OF OUR SOCIETY.....	30
DAHLIA NEWS AND PERSONALS.....	31
FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK.....	35

COVER DESIGN BY E. A. SCHOENLAU



THE CENTRAL STATES DAHLIA SOCIETY, INC. Organized February 7, 1932

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Advertisers' Index

	Page
A & S Dahlia Gardehs	30
Baker Dahlia Gardens	5
Ballay Dahlia Gardens	38
Berwick Dahlia Gardens	12
Brucewood Dahlia Gardens	15
Clarksburg Dahlia & Floral Gardens	2
Bruce Collins	29
Comstock Dahlia Gardens	10
Dahliadel Nurseries	Inside Front Cover
Dahlialand (John Peck)	37
O. W. Downs	21
Fitchett Dahlia Gardens	40
Frank's Dahlia Gardens	23
Golden Rule Dahlia Farm ..	Inside Back Cover
Hanna Dahlia Gardens	18
Hill Dahlia Gardens	13
J. E. Hulin	27
Stanley Johnson	39
C. N. Keiser Dahlia Gardens	2
Kerr Dahlia Gardens	27
Lakeside Gardens	14
The Lasch Floral Gardens	8
Wilfred I. Larson & Son	17
Bill Mellenthin's Novelty Gardens	26
Northbrook Dahlia Gardens	32
Park Ridge Dahlia Gardens	40
Parrella Dahlia Gardens	16
Rainbow Gardens	Outside Back Cover
Rees' Dahlia Gardens	8
H. H. Robens	30
Rocky River Dahlia Gardens	19
Ruschmohr Dahlia Gardens	22
Springhill Dahlia Farm	25
Sunset Dahlia Gardens	36
Vaughan's Seed Store	20
Zant's Wildwood Gardens	37

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1/8 Page....	\$ 5.00	1/2 Page....	\$17.00
1/4 Page....	9.00	Full Page....	30.00

SPECIAL DISCOUNT ON YEARLY CONTRACTS

How to subscribe for this magazine —

Two issues of this publication are issued each year one in April and one in December to all members of the Central States Dahlia Society. Therefore, send \$2.00 covering one year's dues to the Secretary, Mrs. Marguerite B. Cummings, 26 Elmwood Avenue, LaGrange Park, Ill., and you will receive the April and December, 1947 issues.

Dahlias of Outstanding Records for 1947

American and Foreign Honor Roll Varieties

Choice Selected Plants — Grown By
Dahlia Specialists

Catalog Ready — Send for a Copy

Clarksburg Dahlia & Floral Gardens Clarksburg, Indiana

MICHIGAN ORCHID

Honor Roll Introduction for 1947

Certified East Lansing 1944
And Name Registered With A. D. S.

With description as follows: "Formal Decorative. Score 85E. Basic color Mallow-Rose. Stems 11 to 16 in. Flowers 7 to 10 in.; depth 3 to 5 in. Height of plant 6 ft. Health excellent. Robust grower. Very good."

Won Blue and Tri-Color Ribbon, New York Show 1946.

Excellent Cut Flower

Roots \$10.00—Net. Plants \$5.00.

C. N. KEISER DAHLIA GARDENS

Home of "Michigan White"
BERRIEN SPRINGS MICHIGAN

THE DAHLIA CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

By JOHN J. ZANT

The little village of Wayland, Michigan, situated between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, is rightfully referred to as the dahlia capital of the world. Here are located the Wayland Dahlia Gardens owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Ryno, who grow over 100 acres of dahlias, and the Zant's Wildwood Gardens, of 22 acres, 18 of which are planted to dahlias. In 1946 the Wayland Dahlia Gardens grew over one million hills of dahlias and in addition they had several farmers growing mixed varieties for them.

Mr. Ryno is an old advertising man whose health failed and he went back to the farm and started in the dahlia business about 18 years ago. At present, he is an invalid, severely crippled with arthritis which confines him to his home most of the time, so that the job of seeing that the planting, digging, cutting of clumps, and shipping is done, falls largely on the very capable hands of his wife, Mrs. Hazel Ryno.

Wayland Dahlia Gardens sell their dahlias exclusively on the wholesale market to large mail order nurseries and refuse to accept any small retail orders. Neither will they accept orders merely because the customer has a commercial letterhead, as they limit their customers to those who are listed as being in the wholesale business by Dun and Bradstreet.

On the other hand 99% of the business of our Zant's Wildwood Gardens is at retail and for the past fifteen years we have issued several thousand catalogs annually to our retail trade.

Mrs. Zant and I were visiting at the Rynos' last fall when a nurseryman drove in and in half an hour left an order for \$11,000 of dahlia roots. Around January of this year the Rynos sent 40 cartons of roots, each carton being 2 feet square, by air freight to a large seed house in San Francisco. They were shipped by motor truck to Chicago where they were transferred to a special plane arranged for by the customer



Partial view of an 18 acre field planting of dahlias at Wayland, Michigan.

— the plane being heated. They think nothing of getting an order for from 5,000 to 10,000 roots each of several varieties.

The Wayland Dahlia Gardens grow about 300 varieties in quantities, but Mr. Ryno states that if he were starting again he would not grow over 50 varieties. Their prices range from \$5.00 to \$25.00 per hundred roots, but they make more profit from the \$5-\$6-\$8 per hundred varieties, as these are old-standby varieties which are still popular and have proven to be good root-makers.

Their best sellers are varieties that most exhibition growers quit growing years ago, such as Jane Cowl, Mrs. I. D. Ver Warner, and Jersey's Beauty. Last season they grew 40,000 plants of Mrs. George LeBoutillier alone.

Most of the large mail order nurseries leave the selection of the varieties pretty much up to Mr. Ryno. He takes their orders in the late summer and early fall, and this past season had his entire stock sold before he started digging, and was turning back orders that ran into the thousands of dollars. It is just the old department and dime store way of doing business — volume at a price.

The soil at Wayland is a sandy loam particularly adapted to growing dahlias.



Frost Proof Storage Building of Zant's Wildwood Gardens
50 by 62 feet capable of storing 500,000 dahlia clumps.

The dahlias are planted in rows 3 feet apart and about 12 to 15 inches apart in the row, with no stakes to support them as none are needed because the plants sort of grow together. No irrigation is used and the bushes do not grow very tall.

About 36,000 roots are planted a day by means of a planter towed by an Allis Chalmers tractor. The roots are cut up into divisions having a single eye, and are placed in crates on the planter, and two employees sit on the planter and take turns in dropping a root into the hole in the plow point as the planter is towed along. There are two wide rollers back of the plow which roll the dirt over the roots. No attention is given to how the roots are dropped into the hole, so far as the location of the eye is concerned. The plow is set to plant the roots 4 to 5 inches deep. The tail end of each root is cut off, as a long stringy tail would get hung up in the planter.

Stakes with the variety number on to mark the varieties are 20 inches long and set so as to be about 6 inches above the ground so as not to interfere with the cultivator.

After the dahlias are up, they are cultivated with the same tractor — the tractor straddling the row. The cultivator is operated every day throughout the summer by an old, experienced employee who is an artist in handling the cultivating by means of the tractor.

Mr. Ryno has never sprayed his fields as he says that the bugs would get disgusted if they

ever looked at a million bushes of dahlias and would give it up as too big a job. The cut ends of the roots are dipped in agricultural lime at planting time, and it seems to keep the aphids away.

They start to dig every year on October 1, no matter whether or not there has been a killing frost. Mr. Ryno experimented at digging clumps with the digger, but too many necks were broken, so that it is all done by men and women by hand. During the war, when all the men in Wayland were working in factories in nearby cities, the Rynos used German prisoners of war under guard for this work. Last fall a gang of 25 men and women dug all the clumps in about three weeks, the men doing the digging and the women picking them up and putting them in crates.

After digging, the roots are stored in potato crates, without a covering of any kind, in a concrete block storage house 75 by 150 feet, which has been added to several times as the business increased. Our Zant's Wildwood Gardens have a similar storage house, 62 by 50 feet in size, having a capacity of storing 500,000 clumps. The clumps in the Wayland Dahlia Gardens' storage house are piled in bins 6 to 7 feet high.

The plants are counted for each variety during the growing season and the salable quantity of the roots estimated at 2 roots to the plant. An 8 to 10-page folder or catalog is prepared in August and sent out to customers and orders are taken up to the total of the estimate based on 2 roots to the plant. All clumps that run over 2 salable roots are figured as gravy, and they certainly have plenty of gravy.

Both the Rynos and we purchase manure from various farmers each fall and early spring and spread it over the land with a manure spreader. The only fertilizing which is done is to use a commercial fertilizer called 3-12-12, which is applied with an attachment on the planter, and which drops about a one-fourth inch stream alongside the row as it is being planted.

(Continued on page 40)

IF SIXTEEN WERE THE LIMIT

By E. R. HEITZMAN

After growing dahlias for a number of years, one naturally acquires a fondness or may we say an affection for certain colors, types, and classes; some varieties just seem to take first place in our affections.

Year by year there are additions to this Super list.

Recent recruits are outstanding; *California Pageant*, *Deep Velvet*, *Miss San Diego*, *Coral Cactus*, *Frieda Gaylord*, *Bedford Beauty*, *Five Star General*, *Mrs E J*, and many others are tops on our must list.

From abroad we have *Goulburn*, *Mustang*, *Kelvin*, *Mother Ballego*, *Nirwana*, *Conqueror*, *Pop Harris*, *Nobby's Light*, and *Peter Pan*.

In a few years many of these recruits will be crowding our favorites of today for first place in our gardens.

If a dozen growers were sentenced to limit their planting to only sixteen large varieties, a few varieties would no doubt be found in each of the gardens, however, the total number of varieties in all of the gardens would be surprising.

After considerable difficulty and many revisions, I have selected the following as the sixteen varieties I would choose if limited to only sixteen. Having grown and tested them for years I class them as reliable performers, they are strong robust growers with good foliage, ideal stems, are floriferous and produce good roots.

My "Sweet Sixteen" as of September, 1946, with the bush height indicated are:

Golden Standard, I. C. Orange, 6'0"
Sarett's Pink Flamingo, I. C. Pink, 5'0"
Mary Taylor, St. C. Blended Pink, Cream & Yellow, 5'0"

Riele, I. C. Bl. Pink, White & Cream, 3'0"
Michigan White, S. C. 5'6"
Ballego's Surprise, S. C. White, 5'0"
Jane Lausche, S. C. Bi-Color, Rosy Mauve & White, 5'6"
Faithful, S. C. White, 6'0"
Maffie, S. C. Red, 7'0"
Halifax, F. D. Yellow, 6'0"
Darcy Sainsbury, F. D. White, 6'0"
Axford Triumph, I. D. Orange, 5'6"
Koongara Regal, F. D. Red, 6'6"
World Event, F. D. Pink, 4'0"
Col. A. G. Rudd, I. D. Red, 6'0"
Marie, F. D. Pink, 6'0"

If I were selecting the sixteen top notch varieties, judging them on their merits as blue ribbon winners at the Shows, I would make several substitutions.

The Show winners are not always the best all purpose varieties for the average grower or garden. However, the dahlias listed above would be my choice as of September, 1946, if limited to only sixteen in my garden.

I love them all, large, medium, and small, and would consider it a rare privilege indeed to have the opportunity some day of visiting a garden in which about six plants of each of the 3000 or more varieties were blooming.

Are You Interested In The Best New Dahlias From Australia And Europe?

We specialize in the newest and most outstanding Grand Champion dahlias from Australia, England, France and other European countries. Our dahlias have won the highest awards at the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto, and at American shows, such as New York, Cleveland and Detroit.

Send for your copy of our descriptive catalogue. We will be pleased to serve you.

BAKER DAHLIA GARDENS
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
15 Edgewood Avenue

East Liverpool Invites You to the 1947 Mid-West Show

By FRANK N. RICHMOND,
Publicity Chairman

The East Liverpool Dahlia Society, the pioneer dahlia society of Ohio, was organized March 5, 1926, with four charter members, all of whom were pottery workers and of the four organizers, three are still living. At the April 1926 meeting, 21 persons were enrolled and J. T. Watkins was elected president. Plans were soon made for the society's first exhibit. Since that show, held in a local department store, twenty consecutive annual shows have followed. At times,—those periods in mid-summer when the weather was uncooperative and the dahlia fan became disgusted and entertained a gloomy outlook on blooming prospects, and it seemed the show could not go on, some good optimistic soul always stood up in meeting and rallied the growers with an encouraging word, "We've always had a show regardless of the weather." As to the success of these 21 shows, the motto adopted by the society, "When better dahlias are grown, East Liverpool will show them," has been literally true and generally accepted.

The show this year on September 20th-21st is a combination Mid-West, Ohio State, and our 22nd. It is to be held in the spacious Memorial Auditorium-Gymnasium, the home court of championship high school basket-ball teams. Our show chairman is Mrs. Marie A. White, a gold star mother. She was our exceedingly capable show chairman last year, the first lady to serve in the capacity of show chairman in the society's history, and she will be the first lady to have served as show chairman in a Mid-West show.

East Liverpool, the city of "hills and kilns", has a population of approximately 27,500 with a drawing trade of 70,000. Ninety-one percent of the inhabitants use the English tongue.



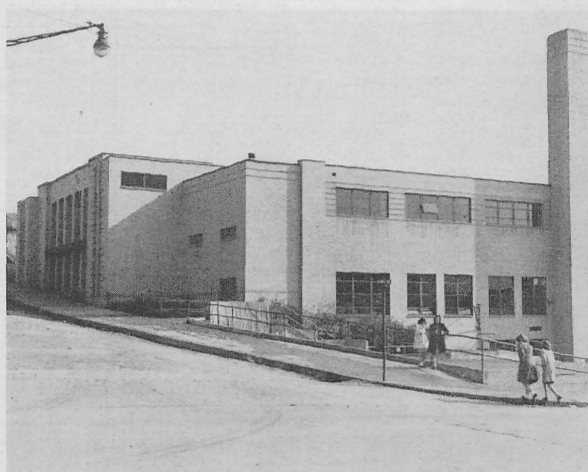
Mrs. Marie A. White, Show Chairman
of 1947 Mid-West Show.

The city is 40 miles west of Pittsburgh, Pa., located on U.S. Highway 30 and Ohio 7, 170, 267, and 39. Hourly efficient bus service following a river route between Steubenville, thru East Liverpool, and Beaver, Pa., provides the best connections with trains from Columbus, Dayton, and St. Louis to Steubenville, and from Buffalo to Beaver, and from Chicago to

Rochester (thence only a short distance by taxi or bus to Beaver). Visitors from Canton, Akron, and Cleveland, Ohio, should check with Greyhound, American, or other lines. Dahlia enthusiasts will find the way!

East Liverpool is a natural beauty spot. A past president of our society just to-day remarked to the writer in all sincerity, "When I first came to this country and saw this place, I thought it was the most beautiful spot I ever laid eyes on, and to me it has ever been thus." A panoramic view from the top of one of the city's hills, includes the hills of the northern panhandle of West Virginia and western Pennsylvania, as well as the city itself sloping toward the picturesque Ohio River with the kiln studied ceramic and refractory plants on both sides of the river, which mark this region as the "pottery center" of the world. At night may be seen the flares of the Crucible Steel Mills in Midland, Pa., eight miles up the river, and the Weirton (W. Va.) Steel Mills twenty-three miles down the river, in which mills, along with those of Follansbee and Jones and Laughlin, a number of our citizens are employed.

The largest pottery and the oldest pottery in the United States and related potters' supply plants are located here. Such well known and distinctive patterns in dinner ware as Homer Laughlin's *Fiesta*, Harker's *Cameo*, and Taylor, Smith and Taylor's *Lu-Ray*, with Sterling's and Wellsville China's hotel service ware, Hall's ovenware and famous teapots, and Knowles' excellent general line of dinnerware, are manufactured here. Apple cookie jars, artware, vases, and practical and novelty items made from the potter's clay and highly decorated, make up a part of the industry. Other diverse industries are fire brick, sewer tile, church offering envelopes, and apple production,—the willow twig variety predominating. I must also mention one natural product which is the bane of motorists but the comfort of dahlia growers, namely—fog. This ally has protected dahlia gardens thruout the valley against frost insuring long



East Liverpool Memorial Auditorium in which the 1947 Mid-West Show will be held.

growing seasons. Choice dahlias were cut by the writer as late as Armistice Day last year, untouched by the frost, thanks to Mr. Fog.

Show committees are at work and plans are being made for a successful show and a pleasant time for all in East Liverpool. A tour for visitors will include a visit to the Riverview Greenhouses where orchids may be seen in all stages of development. The firm's orchid industry started as a hobby in a small way and has grown to be the second largest of its kind in the state. The firm ships orchids weekly to cities within a 450 miles radius. A visit to local dahlia gardens should prove a happy part of the tour. It is possible to arrange a visit to a pottery on Friday morning if visitors should arrive that early.

The schedule committee announces approximately 500 classes for dahlias, adhering to the A. D. S. classification chart, and divided into separate sections of novice, amateur, large amateur, and open. An arrangement section is to be prominent with an invitation to men and boys to demonstrate their skills in floral arrangements. Classes for roses have become an integral part of our show. A distinctive part of the show last year was the inclusion of gladiolus

Don L.—S. C. to I. D. 11 by 7 in. Blend of scarlet and light cadmium yellow. Color effect is bright orange. On Eastern Honor Roll of 1946. **Roots \$7.50**

Red Bird—Ball. A bright red; A winner in the open to all red class; also special awards for best ball dahlia in Ohio State and other large shows. **Roots \$7.50**

Bright Spot—Semi-cactus 8 in. Bi-color, scarlet tipped white. A consistent winner in the bi-color class and has been runner-up for the best bloom under 8 inches. You will get many cut flowers that keep well. **Roots \$3.30**

The Lasch Floral Gardens, 1435 Dill Ave.
South Euclid Cleveland 21, Ohio

classes and this feature was so successful it was decided to repeat this year.

Our 1947 president and therefore president of the Mid-West Conference is Leo Lawrence, a glad enthusiast. Prexy Lawrence is a graduate of Miami (Ohio) University, and the father of three children. He received his early horticultural training from manipulating a hoe handle in his flower fancying father's garden. Young Leo yearned for the day of assertion when he would be done with all this foolishness. But the inoculation of the posy virus in tender years broke out in maturer years with a fever known as "gladitis". His efforts in this field as a hobby exceeded the results of his father and now in addition to yards of glads he has staked out lots of dahlias. Many glad growers have signified their intentions already to be present at this show.

East Liverpool shows have been acclaimed for their remarkable premium list. Most of these premiums are gathered from the products of the pottery industry and this year as in past years an outstanding array of interesting and valuable trophies will be awarded to winning exhibitors.

The accommodations committee and the Saturday night banquet committee request your reservations as early as possible. Don't delay. Write to Harold J. Gallimore, Secretary, 1309 Smithfield Street, East Liverpool, Ohio, and also ask him to mail you a show schedule.

We expect to see you in East Liverpool with bundles, boxes, and bouquets of dahlias, roses, and glads.

The Rees' Dahlia Garden

Tilden, Illinois

Try our rooted cuttings.

All base cuttings.

21 — 1947 varieties

34 — 1946 varieties

19 — foreign varieties

38 — 1945 varieties

31 — 1944 varieties

122 — standard varieties



All stock guaranteed true to name.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

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Rees' Dahlia Garden

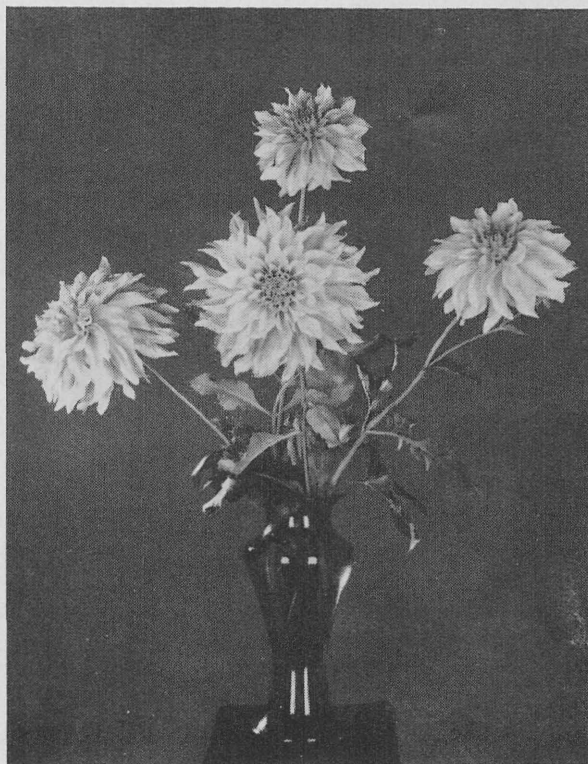
Tilden, Illinois

The Why and Wherefore of the Central States Dahlia Society's Classification List

By H. L. FRANZEN

The first Dahlia Classification of dahlias by color and formation ever to be published was by our Society in 1938. The original Classification List was copyrighted, but our Society has given its approval, when requested by other Societies, to issue the same classification with the stipulation that the issue carry the notation that it was by courtesy of the Central States Dahlia Society. The Classification's prime purpose is to assist growers and exhibitors of dahlias to determine the proper place or class to exhibit a particular variety in The Central States Dahlia Society Show, and the many thousands of hours of effort in collecting and compiling the original data for this Classification by our Society has alleviated the confusion that then existed prior to its adoption, and which confusion is still prevalent at many other shows where a classification is not an actual part of the Show Schedule.

As an explanation regarding the confusion that existed prior to a Classification it can be remembered that many an exhibitor would bring blooms to the Show, and in an endeavor to enter them correctly, would solicit the aid of someone at the Show as to where to properly exhibit a particular bloom and made out an entry tag accordingly—however, on the way to the exhibition table, he would run into someone who would ask why he was putting it in that class, so would change, making out a new entry tag and re-enter, only to be disqualified by the Judges because it was improperly exhibited. Also there were many abuses and intentional incorrect entries in an endeavor to gain additional points towards sweepstakes, as many dahlias could be put in several different classes, if it were not for a Dahlia Classification, as there are many borderline flowers, such as Cactus or Semi-Cactus, blends or predominating color, and under the old system, it was possible and happened quite often that a particular variety was wilfully entered in more than one Class—a Cactus variety being entered in both Semi-



September, Bright Autumn I. D., a 1947 Honor Roll Introduction of Rainbow Gardens.

Cactus and Cactus Class. There was also considerable abuse in the blends, and once a certain variety was actually entered in four different classes, instead of just one. It can be appreciated that an individual having several bushes of a particular variety that did exceptionally well, had sufficient blooms to enter all four Classes, winning a 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each, and providing a total of 24 points on one variety, and a specific instance can be recalled where, in addition to the single bloom entries, there were three bloom entries and a total of 48 points on one variety was possible.

The whole purpose of this Classification was to try and have all blooms of a variety exhibited in one class and let the exhibitor know in ad-

vance just where it was to be entered and permit him to make out his entry tags in advance of the show.

Much has been said regarding certain color classes and quite often the question is asked "What is an Autumn Color?" Under our Classification, all dahlias of a predominantly buff, bronze, tan, gold, apricot, salmon or orange color are classified as "Autumn".

Having in mind and being familiar with the color divisions in The Central States Dahlia Show, a Classification Committee passes on each particular variety that is added to our Classification, and in this way it is determined in just which class in The Central States Dahlia Show it should be exhibited, the Committee having in mind the competition in the particular class to which it is assigned, so as to insure fair competition. The division of colors in our show was the prime factor in setting up our Classification, and this color division was found most feasible after many years of experience and has proven very satisfactory.

The question as to the correct type of formation of a particular bloom has always been and always will be debatable, as it is generally known that experts do not agree, as many blooms can be and do change in type almost hourly, and a bloom that is cut in the evening before the show and is semi-cactus, may be cactus on the show table the next day. Also some varieties may be generally semi-cactus in the Midwest, whereas in the East they are cactus. Also colors can and do differ considerably in different soils and treatment, for surely certain varieties that are covered from the bud stage thru to maturity in a particular soil may differ considerably with the same variety grown in an entirely different soil and bud or bloom not given any protection.

Again we wish to emphasize that The Central States Dahlia Classification is compiled on the basis of the divisions of color classes of The Central States Dahlia Society Show as they existed at the time the first Classification was issued, which color classes are still in use in our show premium schedules.

DEAR DAHLIA FRIENDS:

We are pleased to announce the aquisition of four additional acres of fine land a few miles from our present location. This land is in an ideal location to greatly add to the possibilities of our harvesting the finest seed on earth. We feel that we have done our best in the past regarding fine seed and wish to advance further along these lines. With the continuance of your loyal patronage we will do our utmost to please you.

We were sorry to have to return your many requested orders unfilled but hope to do better next year.

We surely appreciate the reception accorded "Miss San Diego" and "Miss Liberty" in your localities and hope they may perform as well for you in the future as they have for us in the past.

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COMSTOCK DAHLIA GARDENS

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SYMPOSIUM ON INSECTICIDES

THE PROBLEM

By LEW SARETT

When DDT came on the market, many of us naively assumed that our battles with insects in the garden were over. True, we had been warned that DDT was not a cure-all; that it did not affect some insects, among them aphids and red spider. After our first experience with DDT in the season of 1946 we learned that DDT is assuredly a godsend in general; that it is superb in knocking out the most common dahlia pest, the leafhopper, also many beetles, and to a considerable extent perhaps borers. But many of us also learned that DDT destroys the balance of nature; it kills the hereditary enemies of certain pests. We discovered that it is utterly ineffective against red spider; indeed, when it is used exclusively, red spiders multiply enormously and become a real menace. And I should like to add, furthermore, this charge—no doubt it will be debated: in my experience DDT is not the most satisfactory insecticide for the control of the thrip—altho I am assured by many horticulturists that it is effective for thrip. We discovered, briefly, that our insect problems are by no means over. They have simply changed. We have new battles with different insects. We found out that with the use of DDT we must change the materials of our spraying and our practices in spraying. Thus we have a new problem. Hence this symposium: this pooling of the experiences of dahlia growers and of their recommendations as to spray materials and methods in the seasons to come.

Undoubtedly many—possibly most—of the contributions to this symposium will say: since I have used DDT, this season, my dahlia planting is the cleanest it has ever been, the most free from insects. To start a profitable argument, I wish to say here and now: since I have used DDT, this season, my dahlia plantings have been the poorest in my experience, the most riddled by insects.

In the ten years before the advent of this miracle insecticide, when I used Pyrote, a

pyrethrum-rotenone insecticide, a Mechling product, I never had the slightest trouble with pests. My dahlia patches year in and year out were as clean as a hound's tooth. I was never troubled appreciably by mite, thrip, leafhoppers, borers, or red spiders. I sprayed every week with Pyrote, 1 to 200. The spray knocked the leafhoppers cold—and instantly. For me it was a perfect insecticide. I was never troubled by red spiders or thrip. During the war, when Pyrote was not obtainable, I tried several rotenone sprays with little success. I managed to find some D-X with an unstated amount of pyrethrum in it, and this was satisfactory in dispatching leaf-hoppers. Again there was no sign of any other insect on the place in menacing numbers.

But with the exclusive use of DDT in the past season, for the first time in my dahlia experience I have been greatly troubled by insects—notably by red spider and thrip; so greatly troubled that I was in danger of losing irreplaceable stock. And I am not alone in this drastic experience with pests. The experiences of many other dahlia growers square with mine. I've seen many plantings seriously damaged. Moreover, many of the blooms I saw this fall on the show tables were covered with red spiders and their webs.

In the spring of 1946 I began to use DDT, in the form of Deenate 50W, wettable powder. I used 4 heaping tablespoons per 3 gallon tank. I sprayed once every 10 days. I did not use Dowspray 17 because I was uncertain about it; I had heard reports that it is a very powerful insecticide that demanded extreme care in its use. In June and July my plants were very clean. Leafhoppers were non-existent. Even the borers seemed discouraged by DDT. I thought: Ah, the millenium is here! But I was whistling before we were out of the woods.

Early in August I discovered two long rows of a valuable seedling infested with red spiders. The pests threatened to run away with one



John M. Peck, proprietor of Dahllaland, Lebanon, Ohio, using power duster to dust field planting with DDT dust late in August, 1946.

planting of 700 good seedling bushes. A heavy spray of Selocide stopped them for a time—enough so that they could do relatively little damage.

The next day I examined another of my plantings containing 800 one year seedlings. For some time I had been suspicious of it when I had noted that the tips of the laterals in it had an unhealthy, unnatural appearance. Lo, and behold, the whole patch now showed the effects of thrips; unhealthy, distorted laterals and blooms mottled and distorted by thrip. I examined the tips and the blooms with a magnifying glass. I found multitudes of thrips working on them. Having heard that DDT was effective in the control of thrip, I prepared Deenate 50W, 4 heaping tablespoons per 3 gal-

lons, and I literally soaked every lateral tip and bud and bloom and bush—until every bush dripped. After that, every day for a week or more I examined the patch. The spray scarcely put a dent in the thrip. They were still abund-

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ant. No doubt other growers will assert that DDT controlled thrip for them. If DDT controlled thrip for them, then it was effective for them. And that's the end of the argument. But I also know that it was not effective for me, and that as a consequence I am in the market for an insecticide, a spray, or a combination of sprays, that will control not only leafhoppers and borers, but also red spiders and thrip. And again, I am not alone in this search. I am sure that many other dahlia growers are bent on the same search.

Hence this symposium and the questions that follow. Dahlia growers are in need of the information from the men who will contribute to this symposium. Growers are not interested in theories in or speculations. They need definite facts, definite recommendations, the fruit of genuine experience. Hence we are asking the men who will participate in this pooling of knowledge for definite information on the following questions.

1. In the past season, 1946, what was your experience with insects and insecticides?

2. Specifically, what spray materials did you use? For what purposes? In what amounts? (Be specific in stating the trade name of the insecticide, the number of teaspoons or tablespoons or ounces per gallon or larger unit—preferably per gallon—and how often you sprayed?)

3. What insecticides would you recommend for the following insects: leafhoppers; red spiders; borers; aphids; thrip?

If it is necessary to combine with DDT an insecticide effective against red spider and thrip, which insecticide may be combined most effectively with DDT for this purpose? Dowspray 17? Selocide? And in what quantity per gallon of water to make a spray at once effective and safe—free from the danger of burning plants?

4. Most important, can you recommend a one shot, all-around spray, a combination of reconcilable spray materials that will control in one spray leafhoppers, borers, red spiders, aphids and thrips? (Be specific as to trade names, quantity per gallon, and frequency of spraying).

We Thank You --

Members one and all of the Central States Dahlia Society for the many favors extended us in the past and hope to serve you better than ever this coming season. Write at once without delay for a copy of our new folder "The Truth About Dahlias" issued in January.

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SYMPOSIUM ON INSECTICIDES

THE ANSWERS

By P. F. KERSHISNIK
Portland, Oregon

Most of the work with DDT in the Portland, Oregon, area has been done by H. C. Compton of Boring, Oregon. He used it when it was scarce and received a small allotment from Oregon State College for experimental purposes. He has used it during the past three or four years and has found it very satisfactory. However, he uses it in dust form and has equipped his farm with dusting equipment. The duster covers four or five rows at a time, and is pulled by a tractor. In this way, the whole dahlia planting of about ten acres is dusted in one day.

The members of the Portland Dahlia Society have become quite interested in DDT for the control of insects and in this way the control of dahlia diseases. The campaign against the growing of diseased dahlias has been carried on among our members for almost ten years. The

result is that they are all disease conscious and are ready for any remedy that will prevent the spread of dahlia diseases. We consider such articles as the symposium by Lew Sarett to be very timely and instructive.

Now for the answers to the questions.

1. Our insects consist of aphids, thrips, red spiders, tarnished bug, Western spotted cucumber beetle (*Diabrotica* Soror), leaf hopper, but no borers. Insecticide used is 5% DDT dust. The powder base consists of powder talc.

2. The 5% DDT dust was used as soon as the thrips appeared and every week to ten days after that. When the plants attained good growth one dusting was found to give 100% kill on thrips and other insects except aphids and red spiders. An entomologist watched the field till the thrips became numerous and another dose of dust was prescribed. This was usually two or three weeks later. This 5% DDT dust

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was manufactured by the Stauffer Chemical Company of Portland, Oregon.

3. The DDT dust was effective on all insects except red spiders and aphids. Nicotine Sulphate was used for aphids and the red spiders were held in check by water spray when the fields were irrigated. It was noticed that where the water spray hit the foliage with force, there were no red spiders. When the water spray did not reach the plants effectively, red spiders became abundant and did considerable damage. No combination cure-all has been used for all insects.

4. No.

By E. J. HEGGESTAD Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin

For five or six years prior to the war, the only insecticide I used in my garden was Red Arrow, a liquid spray containing rotenone and pyrethrum, and I used it from one to three times a week at a strength of about 1 to 200, that is, 1 tablespoon full to a gallon of water. This worked very successfully for me, and the foliage on my plants left little to be desired.

During the war, however, due to government restrictions, the Red Arrow spray was reduced in its potency, by first using pyrethrum and eliminating the rotenone, and later using rotenone alone and eliminating the pyrethrum. During this time the Red Arrow spray was not as effective as formerly. It was at about this time that the DDT came on the market, and in the growing season of 1946 I used a DDT

product which was on the market in liquid form at 25% strength under the trade name of Detex.

This DDT was used by me at a strength of 1 to 400, or approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon full to each gallon of water, which was in accordance with instructions on the container, and to this spray I added Red Arrow, which now again contains both pyrethrum and rotenone, at the strength used before the war, and I added it to the DDT spray solution at the rate of 1 to 200. In other words, when my spray solution was ready to use, it contained $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon full of DDT and 1 tablespoon full of Red Arrow to each gallon of water. This I used with good success all summer at about 1 week intervals, except for extremely hot spells, when the spray was applied about every five days. With this use of spray I had no trouble with hoppers, thrip, borers, aphids or red spider, but I can't say my plants were any cleaner or more free from insects than they were when using the prewar Red Arrow spray. The principal benefit, as I see it, from the use of DDT is that you spray less often and thereby save some work. I am firmly convinced that Red Arrow is thoroughly effective against red spider, and, in fact, against all insects that customarily cause damage to dahlias in this area, if it is diligently and thoroughly applied. The use of it is practically "fool proof", that is, it is comparatively harmless to plants and people in a wide range of concentration.

I know there are other sprays recommended to be used with DDT in order to combat red spider, but most of them are sulphurous sprays, and, in fact, many of them seem to have a lime sulphur base which makes them very dangerous for the average grower to use. The reason they are dangerous is that they frequently cause burning to the stems and foliage if not used in precise strengths, and, since we too often are in a hurry or a bit careless in mixing our spray solutions, we should not use those dangerous preparations, especially if there is a "fool proof" preparation that is just as good.

Last summer I made one exception to the regular prepared spray of DDT and Red Arrow which I used and described herein-before. I

DAHLIAS

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had read glowing accounts of the benefits derived from combining DDT with Dowspray 17 and, after chasing all over Milwaukee, I finally was able to get a can of Dowspray 17 on the 5th of July. That evening I used it, instead of Red Arrow, with my DDT. The results of using this combination was a sad, sad story, because the next day my dahlia patch looked as if it had been hit by a killing frost. All leaves were perfectly black,—many stems were burned and eventually broke off after several days. I used this spray in the strength recommended in the directions on the container as near and as accurately as I could determine.

I cite my experiences with Dowspray 17 just as an example to show that some sprays are dangerous to use. They may have worked out well in some experiments and for some users, but their use requires extreme caution and a background knowledge of chemistry and plant physiology, which few of us possess.

It is not my intention to recommend any particular spray. I only cite my experiences. However, I do believe that as a matter of princi-

ple we should choose insecticides that are comparatively safe, both to the plants and to the user. I have found nothing that is more satisfactory than the combination of DDT and Red Arrow.

**By C. MERRILL BROWN
Buffalo, New York**

My answers to the four questions proffered by Professor Sarett are as follows:

1. I used Deenate 50 W as a regular spray and sprayed once a week starting the first week in June. On two occasions I used Dowspray 17 to take care of red spider. It did that without burning any of the foliage. Grew the finest lot of plants and had the finest bunch of flowers I ever grew. Took them to Cleveland and won 9 firsts and 4 seconds; also to E. Liverpool and won 7 firsts and 3 seconds there. That is 200 and 230 miles respectively, so they must have had something. Quit spraying around the end of the 1st week in September, not knowing that frost was to hang off until the middle of November. During the latter part of the season I had red spider in spots and also black aphids galore on certain plants. Made no effort to check these as frost was expected at any time. Didn't see any earwig all season on the dahlias, tho had plenty of them the year before. Did observe a new beetle in the white dahlias which I was told was a rove beetle. DDT did not have any effect on this one. Flowers were clean, few blasted buds and no tarnish plant bug damage. All in all, it was a very satisfactory year.

2. Deenate 50 W was used at the rate of a 1% solution. Made up 10 gallons at a time and used 100 grams (weighed out, not estimated) per 10 gallon batch. Dowspray was used at the rate of 33 grams per 10 gallons of spray. Dowspray 17 was added only when red spider damage was noticeable. This was only in certain parts of the garden. Where there was plenty of humus in the soil or where the garden was a bit damp there was NO red spider.

3.-4. There is no single insecticide which will get all the insects which attack dahlias as far as I know. It is my intention to use a combination of Deenate 50 W and Hexcide this year. The

Deenate 50 W will be used as above and the Hexcide at the rate of 1 to 1600. The Hexcide is added to take care of the red spider and the aphids. DDT will take care of the others. To get a 1:1600 dilution one uses a teaspoonful and a half to 3 gallons of water, or a half a teaspoonful to the gallon. It is perfectly miscible with water and needs no spreader. Will not burn in the slightest. Kills on contact like nicotine. Will not destroy the red spider eggs so two, or possibly three, successive sprayings a week apart should be made to clean up the red spider. There is no residual effect. It is compatible with DDT. Spraying must be done within 4 hours after the Hexcide is added to the water, otherwise it decomposes and is of no value.

By R. G. HUEY
Ludlow, Kentucky

In my own garden, last year, no insecticide was used except DDT. This was used in dust

form, every two weeks from planting, till September 15th. With the exception of borers there was very little damage from insects. All the dusting was done late in the afternoon (not by choice but because no other time was available).

There was no red spider and hardly a thrip was seen during the season. However, from observation in the gardens of my neighbors, I am convinced that the use of DDT clears the way for a tremendous increase in red spider damage by upsetting the natural control by other insects which are killed by the DDT. Apparently, the spider simply skipped my plantings, for they were rampant in other plantings where only DDT was used.

Still another score needs to be marked against DDT. Its use is destroying the honey-bees, bumble-bees and other beneficial insects which aid in pollenization. As a result, only a comparatively small number of seed are being produced in the fields where it is used.

(Continued on page 20)

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Symposium on Insecticides

(Continued from page 18)

In former years, "Red Arrow", used every week, has given satisfactory control in my garden. The next year will find me returning to its use.

By **HENRY C. PARKER**
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington dahlia growers had much the same experience with DDT as reported throughout the country, namely, excellent results up to about mid-season — then red spider. One of our growers was able to secure some Dowspray 17 and was kind enough to share this with several of us. I sprayed part of my planting one evening with DDT and Dowspray 17, using 2 teaspoonfuls of the latter to the gallon. The next morning the sun came out hot. I was in in the garden and was horrified to see the sprayed plants wilting and turning black before my eyes. I ran for the hose but it was too late to save many of them. Several never recovered. At least one other local grower had much the same experience but another (Phillips) has reported excellent results using only $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful to the gallon. This is the strength I intend to use if I ever test Dowspray 17 again.

After this experience I looked over my stock of insecticides collected during the years and noted a label on a bottle of Bug-a-Boo Victory Garden Insecticide which stated it was good for red spider but did not state the active ingredients. The Black Leaf 40 label stated it was good for "red bug"—whatever that is— so I decided to try a mixture of these. Bug-a-Boo has an excellent spreader which enhances the effect of the Black Leaf 40. I found that a mixture of 2 teaspoonfuls of Bug-a-Boo and 1 of Black Leaf 40 to a gallon is effective for both red spider and aphids. A one-shot mixture can be made using this with DDT. Bug-a-Boo is a Socony Vacuum product.

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Protexall spray is a powder which mixes easily with water. Protexall Dust comes mixed with a spreader and is ready for instant use. Order the form you prefer and have the equipment to use.

Protexall Spray, 1 oz., **35c**, prepaid **40c**; 4 oz., **\$1.00** 1 lb., **\$3.00**, prepaid; 50 lbs., **\$12.00**, F. O. B. Chicago or New York.

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SODIUM SELENATE, applied to an ornamental plant or the soil about it, is absorbed by the plant tissues and destroys many insects that attack the plant. Excellent results are reported on control of gladiolus thrips and chrysanthemum pests outdoors. Safest method of outdoor use is to apply P-40, containing 2% sodium selenate, 3 lbs. to 100 square feet, or 100 feet of row. Broadcast after planting, and rake into top soil. P-40, containing 2% sodium selenate 3 lbs., (to treat 100 square feet or 100 feet of row) **\$1.50**, prepaid; 25 lbs., **\$6.50** by express, charges collect.

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1—That chemical nitrogen in the Dandykill solution will stimulate growth so grass quickly spreads to vacant spaces left by dying weeds.

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3—That Dandykill one-half recommended strength used on bent greens and lawns, kills most weeds without injuring the grass, though occasional brief discoloration may result.

Dandykill offered this year contains a concentrated form of nitrogen quickly soluble in water, in an amount which will not burn the grass leaves, but will produce immediate acceleration of growth.

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D. D. T. 50% Wettable Dust. One pound in 100 gallons of water makes effective garden spray leaving a heavy residual deposit on plants. 8 oz., postpaid, **\$1**; 1 lb., postpaid, **\$1.45**; 4 lbs., **\$3.25**, prepaid for **\$3.75**.

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I also learned that sulfur can be used to control red spider so I used a 50-50 mixture of dusting sulfur and Dura Dust (a 25% DDT preparation) in my dusting gun. At least one other local grower has also found this effective for controlling red spider. Incidentally I found that the sulfur entirely eliminates difficulties with mildew which had always bothered me previously. Towards the end of the season I was using the one-shot mixture mentioned above and the DDT-sulfur mixture as a dust alternately each week. This procedure eliminated difficulties from corn borer, thrip, aphids, leaf hoppers, tarnish beetles and even the cucumber beetle seemed to be pretty well under control. This was the first season I didn't have to cover my exhibition blooms.

With the exception of one or two who started too late to control red spider, all of the local growers had their best dahlia season this past year. And it is the general belief that this was due in no small part to the use of DDT. The dahlia plants seemed to grow taller and to be generally more healthy in the plantings where red spider was controlled than ever before.

For next season I expect to test out Hexcide or Vapotone in combination with 50% wettable DDT as a one-shot spray and, if this does not operate, I expect to fall back on the one-shot mixture mentioned above, using one of these alternately with a sulfur-DDT dust. Hexcide and Vapotone both contain hexaethyl tetraphosphate as an active ingredient and are recommended for red spider and aphids. The former

is sold by Niagara Sprayer and Chemical Co., Middleport, N. Y. and the latter by California Spray-Chemical Corp., Elizabeth, N. J. The smallest size container of Vapotone available is 2 quarts. A dilution of 1 x 800 is recommended.

By R. W. WEBB
Scranton, Pa.

I consider it a pleasure to add my two cents worth to Lew Sarett's Symposium on Insecticides. First of all I want to say that up to early September I had absolutely the cleanest garden I ever had, not even any damage from that worst of local pests, CORN BORERS.

1. The only control measure I used was FARMRITE DUST containing 5% DDT.

2. Farmrite Dust containing 5% DDT dusted all over the plants, below as well as above, once a week or as near once a week as the weather permitted.

3. I recommend 5% DDT Dust for all insects common to these parts, except red spider and the aphids, as this dust gave me splendid control last year. Being lazy by nature, I hate to spray but like to dust. Right now I am willing to give the DN-269 which E. J. Wind mentions in his Rocky River Dahlia Gardens 1947 Blue Book, for red spider and aphids a trial.

4. Why not 5% DDT Dust weekly and once a month add DN-269 to the DDT? Or perhaps it would be just as well to use the two dusts separately, using DDT weekly and DN-269 every four or five weeks.

If I had proper spray equipment I would settle for Deenate 50W and Hexaethyl Tetraphosphate. But as to the amounts, I would have to get the figures from C. Merrill Brown. Perhaps Prof. Brown in his contribution to this symposium will furnish such data.

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SKYROCKET (C.)
Originator, Lew Sarett

A clear vermillion straight cactus. Diameter 10 to 12 inches; depth 5 to 6 inches. A striking scarlet bloom with a gold sheen; of remarkable substance; holds its color in the sun. The formation of the bloom is uniformly immaculate. Young blooms, especially in summer, tend to be semi-cactus; mature blooms in September at show time are straight cactus. The stems are 12 to 16 inches, straight, slender and strong. The bush is 5 to 6 ft. in height, a rugged grower, a good root maker and an early and continuous bloomer. The foliage is dark, tough and insect resistant. The uniformly flawless beauty of this dahlia in its color and formation, makes it a contender in "perfect bloom" competition. Winner of 4 American Home Achievement Medals in New York, Chicago, Milwaukee and Irvington, N. J. On the Eastern, Mid-Western and Pacific Coast Honor Rolls. We predict that its performance on the show table will be similar to the originator's previous successful introduction "Sarett's Pink Flamingo"

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A formal decorative of dark deep carmine with an overlay of ox-blood red. Diameter 8 to 10 inches; depth $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$. Stems are 10 to 14 inches, straight and stiff. Bush $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet. Excellent dark green leathery foliage. The color of the bloom is magnificent and causes exclamations from all those who have seen it in the garden or on the show table. A sure winner in the maroon formal decorative class. Winner of 2 American Home Achievement Medals, the Mid-West Conference Show in St. Louis and the Tri-City Show in Moline, Ill. Winner as best formal decorative, seedling class in A.D.S. Show. On the Eastern, Mid-Western and Pacific Coast Honor Rolls. Certificate of Merit in the A.D.S. Trial Grounds in Storrs, Conn. Also in the Mid-West Trial Grounds in East Lansing, Mich., and The Ohio Valley Trial Grounds, in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1946. **Derrill Hart Medal Winner.**

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3 Cuttings \$10.00

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By DAVID W. RADKE

Hats off to the countless men and women who, from the inception of Central States Dahlia Society to the present time have so unselfishly yet gloriously given of their time and unstinted efforts to mould the Society and make it what it is to-day. Throughout the past years these unselfish people have pursued a policy and that policy has been one that has elevated the Society as well as the Dahlia flower to the high level that we now enjoy. We can be proud of this outstanding fact.

However, we can also take pride in the fact that we are not standing still after having reached the high level that is our privilege to enjoy. Each year finds the Society reaching for a still higher plane, trying new ideas, and last but not least, meeting present day conditions.

Due to the democratic manner in which our Society functions we have enjoyed watching new members join our group. These new members were enthusiastic about the growing of dahlias but lacked the complete fundamental knowledge that is needed to grow good dahlias. However these green members were taken over by experienced growers in the Society and to-day we see the names of countless members who have achieved fame as leading dahlia growers of the nation. Another great achievement for the Society.

Who is the Society? You are the Society, you and every member who gives of their time and efforts that helps to keep this Society out in front.

1947 CENTRAL STATES DAHLIA
SOCIETY SHOW — SEPT. 13 - 14

Garfield Park Conservatory
Chicago

THE DAHLIA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF CENTRAL STATES DAHLIA SOCIETY

VOLUME 16

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EDITORIALS

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

At the annual meeting of the Central States Dahlia Society held on January 12th, David W. Radke was unanimously elected president of the society. Dave has been a tireless and unselfish worker in the interests of the society for many years, and served as secretary for three years (1940-1942) and as first vice-president for two years (1945-1946).

Our new president was born on a farm in Lake County, Illinois, on August 29, 1892, and since 1913 has been an employee of the Chicago Post Office. He is married and has a seventeen year old son.

For twenty years Dave has been raising dahlias, and for the past five years his special interest has been the growing of seedlings and he still is searching for that illusive perfect dahlia that is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for all seedling growers.

Dave has been an ardent supporter of the Mid-West Dahlia Shows. Mrs. Radke and he have been frequent visitors at these shows, and he has a host of friends among the dahlia growers of the nation.

In behalf of all our readers, we extend our very best wishes to you, Dave, and may your term of office mark another milestone in the upward march of our society!

A UNIFORM CLASSIFICATION LIST

The American Dahlia Society should be commended for its action in proposing that a joint committee be constituted to endeavor to iron out the differences now existing between the classification lists of the Central States Dahlia Society and the A. D. S. Their proposal is that each of the two organizations appoint two members of such joint committee and these four select a neutral chairman, who would not only preside over meetings of the committee, but would cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie. This is an eminently fair proposal and one which should receive the wholehearted cooperation of the board of directors of the Central States Dahlia Society.

The Central States Dahlia Society pioneered the way by adopting the first classification list

in 1938, and after a few years the A. D. S. recognized the value of such a list and adopted one of their own. The rules of most dahlia shows in the Eastern half of the United States now make the classification of entries according to one or the other of these two lists mandatory. However, much confusion results from the differences in the two lists, and there is a widespread demand on the part of dahlia growers generally that a compromise uniform classification be worked out.

Both lists classify dahlias both as to color and formation, and their use has remedied serious evils and abuses which previously were common occurrences in our dahlia shows. Elsewhere in this issue appears an excellent article by H. L. Franzen, past president of the Central States Dahlia Society, and a member of its Classification Committee for many years, explaining the origin and application of the C.S.D.S. Classification, which article describes some of these evils and abuses which existed at our shows before the use of the Classification.

Quite a large number of varieties are classified differently either as to color or formation in the Classification Lists of the A.D.S. and C.S.D.S. Furthermore, the breakdown of the color classes is different in the two lists, the principal difference being that the C.S.D.S. list has a "flame" class which the A.D.S. list doesn't have, while the A.D.S. has a "variegated" class that the C.S.D.S. doesn't have, and substitutes the name "orange" in lieu of the class which the C.S.D.S. designates as "autumn". The A.D.S. has just adopted a "maroon" class which resolves one previous difference existing between the two lists.

With this difference in color classes, the practical effect has been that the A.D.S. keeps its "orange" class for solid colored dahlias of a buff, apricot, bronze or orange coloring, and throws the other predominantly autumn colored varieties such as *Incandescent*, *Rita Wells*, *Mayor Frank Otis*, *Premier's Majestic*, and *First Lady* into the "blended" class because not being solidly of one color, varieties which the C.S.D.S. classifies as "autumn". The A.D.S. also places the red and yellow combinations in the "blend-

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ed" class while the C.S.D.S. classifies them as "flame". The result is that the C.S.D.S. "blended" class is largely reserved for the pastel blends such as *Silver Lady*, *Freda George*, *Crowning Glory*, *Five Star General*, and *Enkart's Prima*, which seems a highly desirable result.

While to the Central States Dahlia Society goes the credit of originating the Classification, the A.D.S. has made a valuable contribution in classifying dahlias as to size, those from 4 to 8 inches in diameter being designated as "B" dahlias, while those over 8 inches are designated as "A" dahlias.

If the joint committee is to succeed in its assigned task of working out a compromise uniform classification list that both societies will adopt, its members must face certain facts squarely.

The first of these is that neither society has any corner on all the brains in dahlia knowledge and experience, and that both present classification lists are the result of the labor and carefully considered judgment of people who are

eminently qualified by long years of experience for this painstaking task. Therefore, the representatives of each society on the joint committee should not attempt to "sell" their own classification list to the representatives of the other society, but should attempt to combine the best features of both and work out a true compromise.

Secondly, it should be kept in mind that the object of classifying dahlias into separate colors is to have those flowers which have a similarity in color, competing against each other, and to prevent such a result as now occurs when a bright autumn colored S. C. such as *Roselyn Straight* competes in the same color class as delicately pastel blends such as *Enkart's Prima* or *Greater Glory*. It is this desired result of having dahlias of the same similar general coloring grouped together rather than the nomenclature adopted for labeling the color classes which is important. An argument, such as the writer once heard advanced by an advocate of the A.D.S. Classification list, to the effect that "autumn" is not a true color while "orange" is seems beside the point, especially when "autumn colored" for years has had a very definite mean-

ing to most dahlia growers as describing dahlias which either are gold, buff, apricot, salmon, bronze or copper colored, or predominantly of those colors, while an "orange" colored dahlia has meant to most of us, as the name indicates, a dahlia of an orange hue, and the number of dahlias which are really orange colored are extremely few.

As a compromise of one of the chief points of difference, your editor throws this suggestion into the hopper: Retain the A.D.S. idea of classifying the solid colored autumn dahlias in one class, labeled either "orange" or "autumn", and create two blended classes, one for the autumn blends such as *Roselyn Straight* and *Rita Wells*, and the other for the pastel blends, such as *Freda George*, *Crowning Glory*, *Silver Lady* and *Miss San Diego*.

The members of the joint committee have a great opportunity to do something really constructive, and hundreds of dahlia growers throughout the nation will be looking forward with eager anticipation to the outcome of their labors.

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DAHLIA SHOW DATES

- August 2nd - 3rd** —San Diego County Dahlia Society, Silvergate Masonic Temple, San Diego, California.
- August 16th - 24th** —Wisconsin State Fair, Horticultural Bldg., Wisconsin State Fair Grounds, West Allis, Wisconsin (Dahlia entries on August 16th, 19th and 22nd).
- September 6th - 7th** —Dahlia Society of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Gas Light Company Bldg., 626 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- September 6th - 7th** —North Shore Dahlia Society, Young Men's Club, Lake Forest, Illinois.
- September 6th - 7th** —Dahlia Society of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio (place to be announced later).
- September 8th - 9th** —Minnesota Dahlia Society, Northwestern National Bank Lobby, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- September 12th - 13th** —Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society, Y.W.C.A. Auditorium, Scranton, Pennsylvania.
- September 13th - 14th** —Central States Dahlia Society, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, Illinois.
- September 13th - 14th** —Dahlia Society of Ohio, Masonic Hall, 36th St. at Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.
- September 13th - 14th** —The Indianapolis Dahlia Society, Brookside Community House, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- September 13th - 14th** —The Pennsylvania Railroad Garden Club, Pennsylvania Station (30th Street), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- September 13th - 14th** —Dahlia Society of Kentucky, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky.
- September 13th - 14th** —Totowa Floral Society, Totowa, New Jersey.
- September 20th - 21st** —1947 Mid West Show, under the auspices of the East Liverpool Dahlia Society, Memorial Auditorium Gymnasium, East Liverpool, Ohio.
- September 20th - 21st** —Tri-City Dahlia Society, Masonic Temple, 420-18th Street, Rock Island, Illinois.
- September 20th - 21st** —Southtown Dahlia Club, Hamilton Park Field House, W. 72nd St. and South Normal Blvd., Chicago, Illinois.
- September 20th - 21st** —Jersey City Garden Club, Medical Center, Jersey City, New Jersey.
- September 23rd - 24th** —American Dahlia Society, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, New York.
- September 26th - 27th** —Camden Horticultural Society, Camden County Vocational School, Browning Road, Merchantville, New Jersey.
- September 27th** —Long Island Dahlia Society, Jamaica Hall, Jamaica, L. I., New York.
- September 27th - 28th** —Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri.
- September 27th - 28th** —Ohio Valley Dahlia Association, The Paramount Theatre Bldg., 930 East McMillan St., Cincinnati, Ohio.
- September 27th - 28th** —The Tennessee Dahlia Society, Hotel Patten, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- October 3rd - 4th** —The Georgia Dahlia Society, Civic Auditorium, Atlanta, Georgia.
- October 4th - 5th** —Southern States Dahlia Association, Hotel Tutwiler, Birmingham, Alabama.
- October 4th - 5th** —Portland Dahlia Society, Sunken Ballroom of the Masonic Temple, Portland, Oregon.

SPRING GREETINGS!

To all Dahlia growers, and more especially, members of the Central States Dahlia Society, we wish to announce we are ready for the 1947 "take-off". Our wish to all is a successful year. To assure this, we recommend roots and fine green plants from our gardens. Catalog on request.

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AS I SEE IT

By "THE RIBBER"

In the last edition, I mentioned that I'd have something to say this time, about judging the American Home Achievement Medal classes. I didn't know that our editor would read what I said and beat me to it with a nice editorial on the subject. To save space here, just get out the December issue of THE DAHLIA and re-read Mr. Currie's editorial on page 22. I'm sure I could not have done better! I agree with all he says.

However, there are a few points which I would like to make. The Achievement Medal class is the most interesting and most important class in the show. It is also the one which undoubtedly causes the most controversy, nearly all of which is unjustified. I claim that under the present set-up of the class, it is impossible to say which, if any, of the entries in the class meet the requirements. Seeing three blooms on the show table, and not knowing anything more about the variety than can be determined from examining these three blooms, I fail to understand how a judge can be expected to render a faultless verdict. To me, it is surprising they are right as often as they are. Yet, they are being accused of favoritism, total ignorance and everything else. After quite a few years of observation, I'm fully convinced that what mistakes are made are 99.44% honest. I've helped make some of them!

Often a judge is criticised for judging in this class because he has grown one or more of the entries on trial, or has helped to judge them at the trial grounds, or maybe just because he is more or less familiar with the variety. That's plain BUNK. Surely he knows those varieties far better than one who sees them for the first time as represented by three carefully selected blooms on the show table. As I see it, it would be best if all the judges could have grown each of the varieties before being asked to pass on their worthiness for the Achievement medal.

As a suggestion; we might come more nearly to a correct verdict every time if trial ground scores were made a pre-requisite for entry in this class. It would mean that a variety would have to be sent to the trial grounds the year before being eligible to compete for the medal, and would have to have a specified score,—say 85. That would eliminate, to a large degree, the one element which it is impossible to judge on the show table, i. e. the worthiness of the variety itself. The judges could then concern themselves chiefly with distinctiveness and superiority as compared to existing varieties.

Nearly every show has it's hard looser in Achievement medal competition. He is prone to accuse the show committee for selecting poorly qualified judges, he accuses the judges of playing favorites, etc., etc. He always reminds me of the proud mamma who thinks her darling child is the most perfect and sweetest ever. Pity them both. They are probably one hundred percent wrong all the time, but they are a problem worthy of some thought, if for no other reason than to prevent their spoiling the sport of the others. It might help to quiet them if they had, along with all other exhibitors in the class, a chance to help select the judges for the class. This could be accomplished in a little meeting before assigning the judges to their sections. It might not work, but I think it is worth a trial.

There is another headache in connection with this class, and that is the "sideline snipers"; those who have no direct interest in the class, but who promptly, and forcefully, come forward to find fault with anything and everything about the whole class and its judging. I really think they are egotists who take this means of trying to convince anyone within hearing that they know something about judging, when as a matter of fact their knowledge is often pretty limited, especially in this particular class. They are probably the same ones who throw pop

bottles at the umpires at baseball games (and they aren't from Brooklyn). They do not contribute anything to the show, and I doubt they contribute anything to their own "standing" among their listeners. To them, we should say: "Have you stopped to think why you were not asked to judge in that class?". To me, this type is the most obnoxious of all. I don't know what we can do with them, but let's do it,—and quick.

The American Home Achievement Medal class is the most interesting and important class in the show. Long live the American Home Achievement Medal class!

* * *

A letter from E. M. Fitchett of Johnstown, Pa., forwarded to The Ribber by our editor, brings up a question upon which I'd like to comment at this time. He writes, in effect, that all emphasis is on the large decoratives, cactus, and miniatures, and asks: "What has happened to all the rest". There are quite a few types which are almost extinct at our shows. They are neglected by schedule committees and exhibitors. Probably most of the blame can be put upon the shoulders of the schedule makers. If there is a place for them in the schedule, it is usually under an "other types" classification, and very often for just one bloom, or at best, three blooms. These one and three bloom classes for small types, and I include the types that do have better recognition such as poms and miniatures, are totally ineffective. They make no showing, and are very often more of an eyesore than a compliment to the show. A visitor coming upon this section at our shows sees one lonesome little flower in a container far too large, almost entirely concealed by a big, ugly entry tag. It is no wonder more people are not attracted to them. Let them be shown in groups large enough to bring out their true beauty, add brightness to what is now a conglomeration of tags and containers, and I'm sure more would be interested in them.

* * *

I had planned to say something about trial grounds and trial ground judging in this issue. Space will not permit a full discussion this time

Introducing Michigan Orchid

My first introduction after growing seedlings for many years. A commercial Orchid Pink, with light tips, S. C. Certificate Winner at East Lansing, that will perform for anyone, and will yield as much as 100 good flowers per plant, during the season, on 24 inch to 36 inch stems. If you are growing flowers for the florists, or for landscape use, here is one you should have. Size from 6 in. to 8 in. x 3 in. to 4 in. A Michigan White seedling, that I have grown for 5 years, without a failure of any kind.

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so that must be held over until next issue. Besides, I have recently learned that the A. D. S. trial ground at Storrs, Connecticut must be discontinued and a revision of some sort is due at East Lansing, so what I may have had to say now will be passe by the time it appears in print.

* * *

The MidWest Show at East Liverpool, Ohio this fall, promises to be a revelation to many. While I know little of the plans for the show, I do know there are quite a lot of real dahlia growers within "showing distance". I know what fellows like Gallimore, Eccleston, Robens, Haugh, Patterson, Delbrugge, Meade et al. can do with a variety over there along the Ohio River. Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, Wells-ville, Pittsburgh and Chester societies are close enough so that they can be counted upon to swell the totals to equal, or surpass, those of most of the Mid West shows of the past. Yes sir! I've sold myself on that show, and I'll be seeing you there on Sept. 20th and 21st.

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF OUR SOCIETY

By **FRANK A. KOVARIK**,
Corresponding Secretary

The annual election of officers and directors of the Central States Dahlia Society was held at Garfield Park on January 13th. A very fine attendance of members was on hand for this meeting. David W. Radke was elected President; Fred L. Trauth, 1st Vice President; Lewis J. West, 2nd Vice President; Mrs. M. B. Cummings, Recording Secretary; F. A. Kovarik, Corresponding Secretary; and Mrs. Grace Swanson, Treasurer. Directors are as follows: Harry A. Beals; Mrs. Lucille Bluhm; John Baer; W. H. Frank; Frank C. Gossweiler; H. L. Cummings; and Harry J. Lynch.

Mr. George Currie of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, presented an excellent lecture on new and old dahlia varieties. His color slides that were presented along with his lecture gave us first hand information on some of the newer varieties, which will be helpful to all of us in selecting the new varieties we will want to grow this season.

Marking its 16th anniversary, the Central States Dahlia Society members and guests met at the Stevens Hotel on Sunday, February 16th, with an excellent attendance to enjoy another successful Birthday Party Meeting. This meeting was packed with interest and enthusiasm from the word "go". Mr. David W. Radke, President of our Society, dismissed the formalities of the usual meeting with a few brief announcements. The names of past Presidents

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TAKE HEED:—American Dahlia Society Show, New York City, September 23 - 24.

The Long Island Dahlia Society, Jamaica, L. I., New York, September 27.

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of the organization were called off; each present, rising to a recognition of applause as his name was called. A tribute was also paid to those in attendance from points more than one hundred miles away.

Mr. Radke then turned the meeting over to Mr. Fred L. Trauth, Chairman for the Party.

Most outstanding feature was a showing of colored movies by Dr. R. W. Lee. These pictures were of the Chicago and St. Louis shows and various interesting gardens that Dr. Lee had visited last summer and early fall.

The celebration drawing to a close, the room cleared and the many varied donations of roots, cuttings, etc., that had been displayed were auctioned and raffled, and in excess of \$400. was realized. We should be assured of some fine trophies for our Central States Dahlia Society show at Garfield Park in September.

At the close of the meeting an announcement was made that the Central States Dahlia Society would have a booth at the Flower and Garden Show to be held at the International Amphitheatre in Chicago on March 16th thru the 23rd.

DAHLIA NEWS AND PERSONALS

Dahliadom sustained a severe loss in the death of Dr. Del Marr on December 28, 1946, at his hometown of Ridgetown, Ontario, at the age of 75 years, where he was a prominent physician. Dr. Marr was an ardent amateur dahlia grower who in years gone by was one of the leading exhibitors at the Dahlia Society of Michigan's shows at Detroit, winning many of the top honors. He annually imported many of the best new introductions from England and Australia. Dr. and Mrs. Marr were visitors to the 1943 Mid-West show at Chicago, and the doctor was the author of the article "Dahlias That Talk" which appeared in the December, 1945, issue of *The Dahlia*. He was also an active member of the Rotary International and was honored by that organization by having been elected District Governor of his district.

* * *

Four new dahlias of exceptional quality slated for introduction in 1948 which will bear watching this coming season are *Avalanche*, *Buccaneer*, *Masterstroke* and *Red Glamour*. *Avalanche* is a large white I. D. belonging to James Marsh of Chicago; *Buccaneer* is a beautiful blend of soft flame and yellow of Prof. Lew Sarett of Ravinia, Illinois, which won top honors in the seedling class at the 1945 Long Island dahlia show; *Red Glamour* is a huge bright red I. D. of William Wolbert of Springfield, Ohio, which has already made an enviable show record; and *Masterstroke* is an eleven inch red I. D. of Mr. C. W. Ballay of Palo Alto, California, having much the same color as *Murphy's Masterpiece*. All who have seen these four dahlias predict a great future for them. *Buccaneer* will be introduced by Ruschmohr Dahlia Gardens, and *Avalanche* and *Red Glamour* by Rocky River Dahlia Gardens.

* * *

The Dahlia Society of Ohio has really gone in for getting speakers from long distances for their January and February meeting programs at Cleveland. Their January speaker was the well-known dahlia authority, Prof. C. Merrill Brown of Buffalo, New York, while their February speaker was Attorney Lewis J. West of

Evanston, Illinois, a leading amateur dahlia grower and exhibitor in the Middle West, and Vice-President of the Central States Dahlia Society. Both Prof. Brown and Mr. West made extensive tours to various dahlia shows and gardens this past season, and both illustrated their talks with colored slides. The Dahlia Society of Ohio is to be complimented in being able to present its members with such outstanding programs.

* * *

Mr. John J. Zant, who contributed the article in this issue "The Dahlia Capital of the World", was a buyer for one of the leading department stores in Grand Rapids, Michigan for thirty-five years, and two years ago he retired and moved to Wayland, Michigan, to devote all of his time to his commercial dahlia business. This is his thirty-second year in growing dahlias, and last season he shipped dahlias to thirty-eight different states. For many years the three acre dahlia planting of his Wildwood Gardens at Grand Rapids, Michigan, was recognized as one of the most beautiful and well-tended dahlia plantings in the country. At Wayland he now has twenty-two acres at his disposal and this year he is installing the overhead irrigation system he removed from Grand Rapids, which will place three acres under irrigation, and also plans on erecting a greenhouse so that he can again propagate and sell plants as well as roots.

* * *

"Dahlia Doings", the newsy quarterly bulletin of the Virginia Dahlia Society, which is issued in mimeographed form, has again resumed regular publication under the capable editorship of Mr. J. A. Millard, 3803 Fauquier Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. The November, 1946, issue was particularly interesting with reports on the New York A.D.S. show and National Capitol Dahlia Society show at Washington, D. C., as well as the Richmond and Williamsburg, Virginia, shows. This bulletin was published at infrequent intervals during the war, due to the fact that Millard, its editor, who had retired from the employ of the Federal Reserve Bank at Richmond, was called back to work in the

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bank because of many employees of the bank entering into military service. Mr. Millard has again gone back on the retired list and in addition to being editor of "Dahlia Doings" has agreed to accept the office of Secretary of the Virginia Dahlia Society, although he had served several terms as its president in years past.

* * *

Mr. E. R. Heitzman who contributed the article "If Sixteen Were the Limit", which appears in this issue, is a resident of the City of Cincinnati and a manufacturer of railroad equipment. He is known as one of the leading amateur dahlia growers of the nation, and those who have visited his beautiful dahlia planting report that it surpassed anything in the perfection of bush growth that they have ever seen. He not only grows the best of the American varieties, but also many Australian and other foreign importations. Mr. Heitzman is also a dahlia judge of acknowledged ability as attested by the fact that he has frequently been picked to judge the American Home Achievement class at Mid-West shows. It would be extremely difficult to find anyone more competent than Mr. Heitzman to evaluate dahlia varieties and select the best for the average amateur dahlia fan to grow.

* * *

The newly-elected officers of the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society are: President, Perry Wilson; First Vice-President, John Ollinger; Second Vice-President, Ralph H. Rabenau; Recording Secretary, Robert McKee; Financial Secretary, Dan R. O'Gorman; and Treasurer (re-elected) Fred Beckman. The board of directors will consist of L. C. (Pat) Bennett, Walter H. Hildebrand, Harry Meyering, Joseph H. Seamers, Frank Moeller, Tom Crannage and Hubert Sandifur. The holding of the Mid-West show at St. Louis in 1946 served to stimulate new interest in this society, and it now reports a membership of well over four hundred.

* * *

The Storrs Dahlia Trial Garden, which has been operated continuously since 1919 under the sponsorship of the American Dahlia Society, is no more! The expansion program of the University of Connecticut, upon whose campus this trial garden is located, has made it necessary

to claim the space upon which the trial garden was located for other purposes of the University.

However, dahlia growers, while greatly deploing the death of the oldest and foremost of the A.D.S. sponsored trial gardens, will be glad to learn that a new official A.D.S. dahlia trial garden will be opened this year at the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, at Experiment (near Griffin), Georgia, with Dr. F. F. Cowart in charge. The Dahlia Society of Georgia was instrumental in securing the establishment of this new trial garden, and will cooperate with the Experiment Station in its operation by setting up Committees on Dahlia Culture, Judges, and Awards, with Mr. B. E. Phillips in charge. To the untiring efforts of Mr. Phillips much of the credit is due for the establishment of this new official trial garden. Mr. Phillips for twenty years has been an ardent dahlia enthusiast, was the moving spirit in the formation of the Dahlia Society of Georgia in 1934, and served several terms as president of the society.

A dahlia trial garden was operated at the Georgia Experiment Station during the years 1935-1941 under the sponsorship of the Dahlia Society of Georgia on an independent and unofficial basis where between 300 to 400 hills of dahlias, mostly new introductions, were grown annually and tested.

In addition to this new trial garden in Georgia, the American Dahlia Society sponsors official dahlia trial gardens at East Lansing, Michigan; Fairmont, West Virginia; Cincinnati, Ohio; and College Park, Maryland. This year the entry fee for entering three roots or plants of a variety at any of these trial gardens has been increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00. Anyone desiring to send entries to the new Georgia Trial Garden can secure additional information by writing Dr. F. F. Cowart, Department of Horticulture, Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, Experiment, Ga., or B. E. Phillips, 1570 Westwood Ave., S.W., Atlanta, Ga.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Maytrott of Vine-land, New Jersey, spent the weekend of March first and second visiting at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Emma Marie and John Rapalje, 2547 West 109th Street, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Maytrott is the popular proprietor

of Dahliadel Nurseries, and a past president of the American Dahlia Society. While in Chicago Mr. Maytrott found time to renew his contacts with such well-known Chicago dahlia enthusiasts as David W. Radke, the new president of the Central States Dahlia Society, and J. Louis Roberts, former president of the society and editor of *The Dahlia*, who report having enjoyed a most pleasant visit with Mr. Maytrott.

* * *

Mr. R. G. Huey, the new President of the Ohio Valley Dahlia Association, is the only dahlia grower to receive the American Amaryllis Society's highest award, the William Herbert Medal. This medal is given for outstanding achievements in the Amaryllis Family, and has been awarded to outstanding persons in England, Portugal and India, as well as the United States. Mr. Huey, while Superintendent of schools at Paintsville, Ky., used Amaryllis in the teaching of plant science. He conducted many experiments in plant breeding and tried to instill in his students a love for nature. For this pioneer use of Amaryllis as an appropriate educational tool he was given the Herbert Medal in 1945. Today he has one of the finest Amaryllis collections in America and his crosses which are in the fourth generation are producing some fine specimens. Mr. Huey is now Superintendent of Schools at Ludlow, Ky., which is right across the Ohio River from Cincinnati. His contacts in the dahlia world reach to every land where dahlias are grown, and through his influence, with the assistance of such fellow enthusiasts as Andy Doermann, George Richardson, and Ed Heitzman, Cincinnati is rapidly becoming an outstanding dahlia center.

* * *

There are violins and there are fiddles. Mass production produces fiddles. To make a violin is an art and must be done by one man alone. James R. Carlisle of Amelia, Ohio, is such an artist and is rated one of the best in the world. It is said that he has rediscovered the varnish used by Stradivari and it is claimed by musicians that that was the secret of those famous violins. Violin making may be the "bread and butter" of Mr. Carlisle, but his great love is dahlias. He has been growing dahlias for nearly

a score of years and seedlings for more than a decade. During most of this time it was just seedling growing like most are doing, with nothing really good developing. The past three years he has gone into the seedling growing more scientifically, with the result that out of five entries in the 1946 Cincinnati Trial Grounds he received four certificates of merit. He does a lot of hand crossing himself, but to get other strains into his garden he also buys seeds from California. At present he grows nothing but seedlings, except for those few standards that he is using in breeding. His first seedlings to be introduced are being offered this year.

* * *

Death suddenly called Dr. H. H. Smith of Rocky River, Ohio, on December 23, 1946, at the age of 60. At one time Dr. Smith was one of the best known dahlia growers of the Middle West. For a number of years he served as one of the Vice Presidents of the American Dahlia Society and was one of the founders of the Dahlia Society of Ohio. At one time he advertised and sold dahlias widely; and visitors to the Century of Progress Dahlia Show at Chicago in 1933 will recall his commercial display at the show. His expanding medical practice forced him to discontinue the commercial dahlia business, but he still thereafter continued to grow the flower he loved for his own pleasure until failing health required him to give up growing them completely. He still, however, retained his interest in dahlias and attended the 1945 Mid-West show at Cleveland.

* * *

Mr. James D. Burns, proprietor of The Rainbow Gardens, announces that these gardens have been moved from Baldwin to North Bellmore, New York, and that a 50-foot greenhouse for dahlia plant propagation is now in the process of erection.

* * *

On February 2, 1947, representatives from the Dahlia Societies of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama met at the home of Dr. H. C. Rike at Birmingham, Alabama, and founded the Southern States Dahlia Association. The following officers were elected: Dr. H. C. Rike, President, Mr. Clarence R. Kallquist of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Vice-President, and Mr. Nelson Crist, Atlanta, Georgia, Secretary-Treasurer. The Association's first show will be held at Birmingham on October 4th and 5th.

From The EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

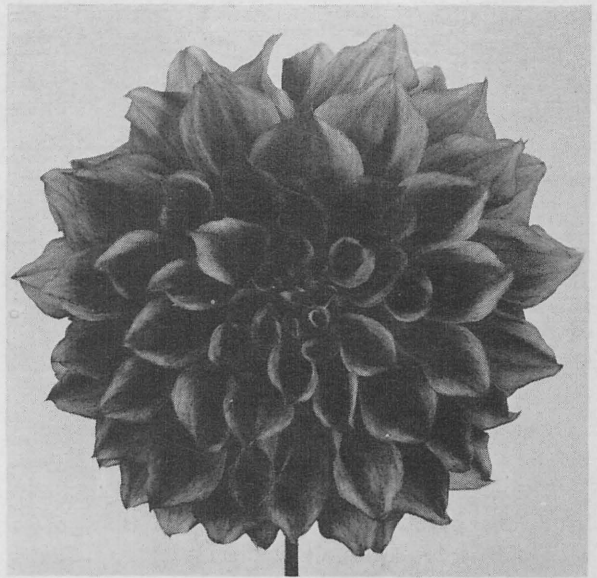
(This article was prepared for publication in the December, 1946, issue but due to lack of space was held over to this issue.)

This has been a notably successful dahlia season in the Middle West. Most of the shows attended exceeded in number of entries, quality of bloom and number of the general public attending those of previous shows for many years past. Many growers, including the writer, had the finest dahlias they have grown in years. The number of 1946 introductions which made good in their first year of dissemination has been unusually high. All of this bodes well for the immediate future.

The shows attended this past season by your editor were those of the Wisconsin State Fair at West Allis, Wisconsin, on August 17th and 20th; the Badger Dahlia Society show at Madison, and the South Central Wisconsin Dahlia Society show at Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, both held on September 1st; the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin show at Milwaukee on September 7th; the Central States show at Chicago on September 14th; and the Mid West show at St. Louis on September 28th and 29th.

While the Madison and Prairie du Sac shows were small in comparison with the Milwaukee and Chicago shows, they were both excellent shows, ideally housed in attractive surroundings, and many blooms of superior quality were exhibited. Anyone looking for the newer American and foreign introductions would have been especially pleased in attending these two shows. The Madison show was unique in having the finest artictic arrangements and table decorations the writer has ever seen at any dahlia show. This feature was especially appreciated by the lady visitors.

The annual Dahlia Society of Wisconsin show at Milwaukee has a reputation for being one of the top dahlia shows in the country, and this year's show excelled any held by this society in recent years. For the past three years this show has been held in the main display rooms of the ground floor of the Milwaukee Gas Building, which is ideal for the purpose.



Satan's Disciple, huge bright red I. D.
1946 Introduction of Rainbow Gardens.

This year an innovation was tried out in the premium schedule for this show in that in the sections for the competitive classes for specimen blooms, separate classes were provided for blooms over eight inches in diameter and for those eight inches or under. For several years the A. D. S. show at New York and a number of other shows have followed this practice. It was a decided improvement, and one that all show committees should seriously consider adopting in setting up their premium schedules.

At the Milwaukee show *Five Star General* won as best bloom over eight inches, *Mrs. E. J.* as best bloom under eight inches, and *Lynn Fontanne* as largest bloom in the show. In four out of the last five annual Dahlia Society of Wisconsin shows, *Lynn Fontanne* has won the award as largest bloom in the show, and this year's winner was one of the finest specimens of this variety ever to make its appearance on the show table, with clear, bright coloring and graceful formation, and in the pink of condition.

The American Home Achievement medal class at this show was better and larger than that at either the Chicago or St. Louis Mid West show. There were six entries, five of which

were of quality warranting consideration for the medal: *Windlassie*, a white formal bordering on the informal; *Deep Velvet*, a velvety dark red formal; *Boellner's Masterpiece*, a large flame colored I.D.; *Nancy Catherine Scharhag*, a sport of *Dixie's Wine Dot*, having a purplish-pink background instead of the white background possessed by the mother variety; and the winner, *Skyrocket*, a ten to eleven inch scarlet red cactus, having very long stems, exhibited by the originator, Prof. Lew Sarett of Ravinia, Illinois.

The Central States show at Chicago was fully covered in the December issue. In number of blooms entered it was the largest dahlia show the writer has ever seen.

The Mid West show at St. Louis was an outstanding success and many members of the Central States Dahlia Society from the Chicago region attended, as did dahlia growers from all parts of the nation. The entertainment at the banquet held at the Coronado Hotel on the Saturday evening of the show was unusually good. Everything about this fine show, and the entertainment provided to visitors, was a

credit to the hard work and planning that the members of the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society had put into their preparations for the show. A full description of this show also appeared in the December issue.

Now for a few comments on the observations made by your editor outside of the shows.

Due to the extensive use of D.D.T. as an insecticide, the bush growth and health of foliage of the dahlia plants seen in the numerous gardens visited were by far the best ever seen, up until about the middle of September, but thereafter planting after planting showed the disastrous effects of the ravages of red spider, which D.D.T. does not control.

This was the first season since the ending of World War II that dahlias from Holland could be imported into this country and in many gardens visited were to be seen these Holland importations. Most of them were medium sized cactus and semi-cactus varieties. One noteworthy exception was *Conqueror*, an excellent large incurved cactus of a light yellow color which produced flowers from 9 to

Introducing Nancy Catherine Scharhag

Variegated I. D. Sport of Dixie Winedot which many leading dahlia authorities have pronounced better than the mother variety. Instead of the white background possessed by Dixie Winedot, it has a mallow pink background, but has the same streaks of amaranth purple. Same large size and identical growing habits as Dixie Winedot. Awarded Certificate of Merit at Storrs Trial Garden in 1946 where it scored 85.3.

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Roots \$7.50

We also offer strong plants of the following foreign varieties: Axford Triumph, Cliff's Choice, Coral Island, Croydon Ideal, Don's Sunrise, Dorset Autumn, Fermin Deslodge, Kelvin, Lucy Cook, Nobby's Light, Pop Harris, and Sulphur Queen; and of these late American introductions: Five Star General, Frieda Gaylord, Hiawatha, Jane Lausche, Joan Ferenz, Kirsten Flagstad, Miss San Diego, Mrs. E. J., Mrs. Hester Pape, Ray Smith, Ronnie Lee, Stellaette, and Sunburst.

SUNSET DAHLIA GARDENS

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11 inches in diameter on fine stems. Of the smaller varieties, *Sainte Therese*, a finely quilled pink straight cactus with a white center, a little smaller in size than *Mrs. E. J.*, was very good and a most prolific bloomer.

It was the writer's privilege to visit the gardens of James E. Marsh of Chicago and Professor Lew Sarett of Ravinia, Illinois, both of whom are extensive growers of seedlings. What he saw in these gardens causes him to make the prediction that some of the finest dahlia originations thus far achieved will come out of these two gardens in the next few years.

In 1946 introductions observed which made good the first year of their introduction were: *Alcazar*, *Bedford Beauty*, *Cheadle Park*, *Double Victory*, *Five Star General*, *Frances Hamilton Archer*, *Frieda Gaylord*, *Loveliness*, *Miss San Diego*, *Mrs. E. J.*, *Mrs. Hester A. Pape*, *Pardner*, *Ray Smith* and *Sunburst*. Every once in a while an A No. 1 dahlia escapes notice on the Honor Rolls and this year it was *Sunburst*, a huge yellow I. D. slightly suffused at the edges of the bloom with peach, which proved to be one of the very best of the season's introductions.

The writer again had a number of undis-seminated dahlias which he grew on trial in his garden which will now be introduced for 1947. A brief description of the best of these is as follows:

Butterfly. This is a dahlia which is different from any variety known to the writer. The color is henna with a rose reverse and center, and it is a formal decorative with pointed petals. Blooms can easily be grown to 10 inches in diameter and it is a prolific bloomer. Bush growth is healthy and the height is 3½ to 4 feet. Stems are nicely proportioned and strong, but short. However, by growing the bloom to a side bud, nice long stems were obtained. The originator is C. W. Ballay, Palo Alto, California.

California Pageant. This is another introduction of Mr. Ballay's and a giant autumn colored informal, producing blooms 12 to 13 inches in diameter and 8 inches in depth. The color is bright and attractive and stems straight and strong and carry the huge blooms perfectly. Foliage is very dark green and plant is a vigorous grower. Height about 4½ feet.

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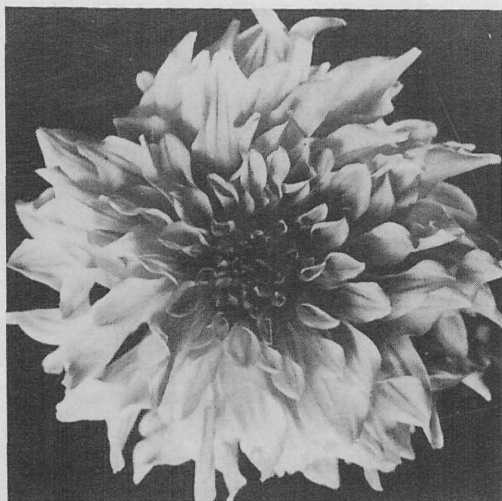
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The Dahlia Capital of the World

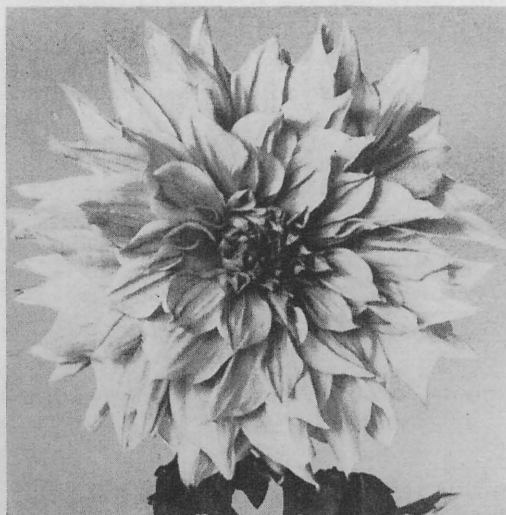
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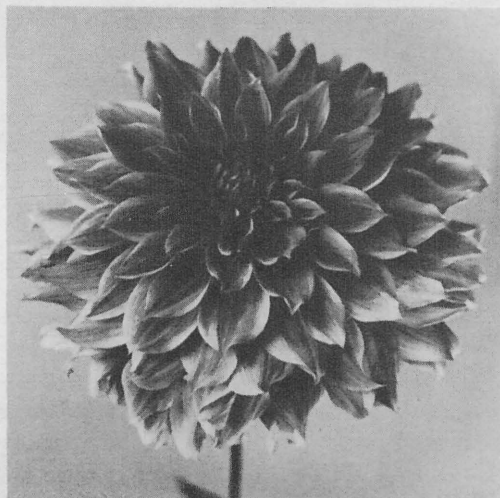
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← **CALIFORNIA PAGEANT** — Informal Decorative. Bright gold with shadings of reddish bronze. A very gay color and a very large flower. Medium tall plant, well branched, with long strong stems. A new dahlia that is definitely in the class of our last year's Frieda Gaylord in all respects. A number of complimentary letters have come to us from those who saw it growing at the trial gardens. Received Certificate of Merit at Storrs (score 85.5) where three blooms on one plant at the same time all measured 13x8 inches. It seems to have created quite a sensation there. On both the Eastern and the Western Honor Rolls.



← **BUTTERFLY** — Informal Decorative. Henna-orange with reverse and center rosy mauve. This odd combination of color is new to us and has been the subject of much favorable comment. It is a beautiful and distinctive new variety of fairly large size and a prolific bloomer with all good qualities. A new color is always desirable.

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Clara Hook. This won the American Home Achievement medal at the Ohio State show at Toledo and at Louisville, Kentucky and was originated by William Wolbert of Springfield, Ohio, and will be introduced by Rocky River Dahlia Gardens. It has a nice clear yellow color with a slight suffusion of apricot at the outer edges of the petals which may cause it to be classified autumn instead of yellow. The blooms are 9 to 11 inches in size and come both semi-cactus and cactus, carried on perfect stems. The foliage was the best of any dahlia in the garden, — deep green, with a glossy finish. Height 6 feet.

Deep Velvet. No dahlia was ever more aptly named, as the color is very dark maroon and the petals have the appearance of velvet. It is a true formal decorative and the size is from 8½ to 10 inches, and stems and foliage are excellent. The writer has grown this dahlia the past two seasons and is convinced that it is one of those “fool-proof” dahlias which will grow well under all conditions. Height 5 to 6 feet. The originator is George Baker of Moline,

Illinois, and it will be introduced by Ruschmohr Dahlia Gardens. It won the American Home Achievement medal at the Mid West show at St. Louis.

Skyrocket. Twelve inch blooms of this scarlet red full-petaled straight cactus created a real sensation at the A. D. S. show at New York where it won the American Home Achievement medal, an honor it also achieved at three other shows, thus establishing the best show record of any undisseminated dahlia since *Lois Walcher*. In the sunlight a distinct golden sheen can be seen on the blooms, and the average size is 9 to 10 inches, although it responds to forcing and can be grown much larger. Stems are very long to first leaf bracket, and it is a very profuse bloomer with nice foliage. Height is 5 feet. Prof. Lew Sarett of Ravinia, Illinois, is the originator and Ruschmohr Dahlia Gardens the introducer.

Two Australians, *Kelvin* and *Cliff's Choice*, grown for the first time proved to be two of the finest varieties in the garden, and also demonstrated their ability to win on the show table.



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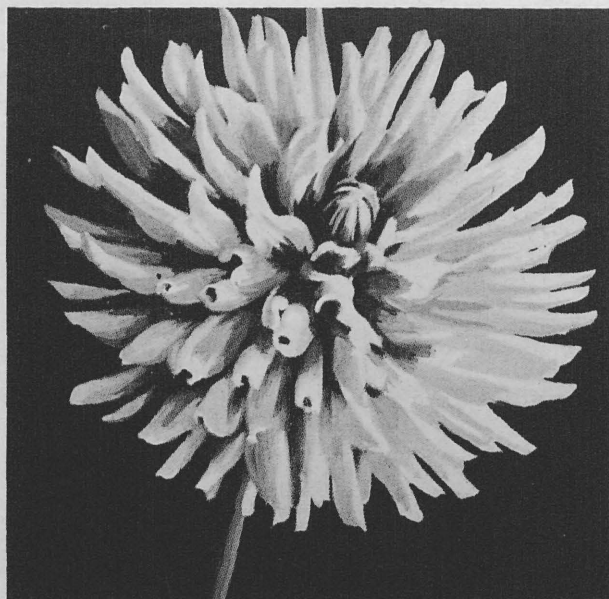
Fitchett Dahlia Gardens

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The Dahlia Capital of the World

(Continued from page 4)

The Rynos have two small greenhouses but only propagate varieties of which they are short of roots. If they find that they are running low of some variety like Kemp's White Wonder, Thomas Edison or Lord of Autumn, they will put 5 to 60 clumps of such varieties on the bench to be propagated. The plants are planted on the home place of 9 acres on Main Street (Route 131) where they can be watered with the village water system.



Julius C. Bunge

They start to cut the clumps December 1 or earlier and employ 12 women to do the cutting with men to wait on them bringing in the crates and taking the cut roots away for storage. There is also a packing room where from 10 to 12 women are employed to make shipments. One woman employee is stationed in the storage room to select the roots with which to fill the orders. Thousands of roots are sold to seed stores. These are wrapped separately in white water-proofed paper with a handful of green sawdust put around the eye end, and the roots keep in good condition for months even in a warm store. Each wrapper bears a printed variety label with a short description.

One hundred eighteen acres in bloom at one time is really a sight to behold!

Visitors are requested not to call at the Ryno home because of the fact that Mr. Ryno is an invalid and Mrs. Ryno's time is more than taken up with the management of the business. Visitors are always welcome at the Zant home and the writer will be glad to show any one who calls around or to furnish them with information.

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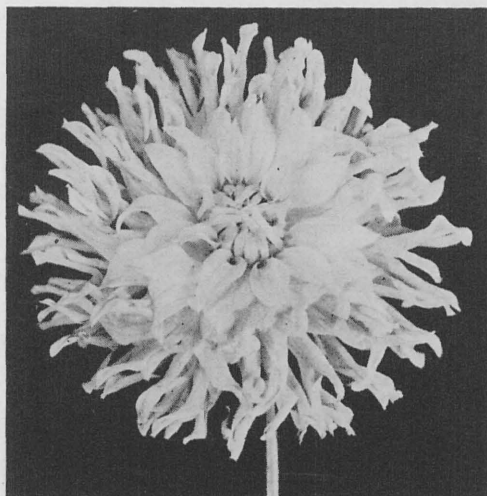


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