

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY



"OAKLEIGH CHAMPION"—straight cactus; Orange Buff, blended Rose. Winner of many Achievement Medals and the Derrill Hart Memorial Medal. Originator: E. R. Phillips; Introducer: Oakleigh Gardens.

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of the
American Dahlia Society

Contents for May, 1948

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GIANT BALLAY DAHLIAS

Since 1920

We still have a few copies of our 1948 catalogue for distribution. Many varieties are now sold out, so please name substitutes when ordering. Roots only.

BALLAY DAHLIA GARDENS
4309 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, California

ROOTS and PLANTS

BEST VARIETIES

STANDARD & NEW INTRODUCTIONS

QUALITY UNSURPASSED

Send for Catalogue

PARRELLA DAHLIA GARDENS
3380 Ely Avenue Bronx 66, N. Y.

A. D. S. Annual Show to Return to Penn Top in '48

The beautiful Penn Top will again serve as the backdrop for an American Dahlia Society Annual Show on the 21st and 22nd of September, 1948. The same rules will apply as last year, but some changes have been made in the show schedule. Two new color classes have been tentatively added to the eleven colors which were the basis of the classification list last year. The blend classes have been separated into "light blend" and "other blend." There is a new "autumn" class. These changes will be defined in the 1948 classification list, to be published soon.

To remedy some of the blank spaces on the show tables, the present schedule is more condensed than last year. Section A for novices remains unchanged. Exhibit here if you have not previously won a blue ribbon at an A.D.S. show. Section A-A and section B have been combined to form one amateur section. It is anticipated that this section will have some of the finest blooms in the show. The amateur with a limited number of hills can always give more individual care to his plants, and the results prove it! Bring your blooms to the show, and let us all share their beauty.

In section C, open to all, there has been some condensation by combining color classes for the B-medium-sized blooms. There are fewer basket classes in the hope that competition may be stimulated. All exhibitors are eligible to enter here. Commercial growers, estates, large and small amateurs may compete on equal footing. Put at least a few entries in open to all. (A note to originators, introducers, and commercial growers. How about showing those novelties against the old favorites, as permitted in section C? The open to all classes should be the proving ground for new varieties.)

The classes for large blooms in section D, private estates, now call for three blooms instead of five as heretofore. It is anticipated that this will make possible more exhibits in this section.

The Garden Club section will have added interest this year. Mrs. Humble will mail the new schedule shortly. We anticipate fine response from the exhibitors and a great Garden Club section this year.

For those exhibitors who live too far away from New York to bring their flowers to the show, there is section J for entries shipped by common carrier. A committee will be on hand to stage these entries with the utmost care. Plan to send in a few blooms, even if you cannot be there to set them up yourself.

*Special—Court of Honor Class
Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society Trophy*

Through the generosity of the Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society a special prize has been donated to be awarded for large dahlias at the A.D.S. show. After much discussion it was decided to have the class call for one bloom only, so that all exhibitors might be able to make an entry. A court of honor class has accordingly been added

to the schedule, where each exhibitor may show his single finest specimen bloom.

SECTION K

Class 337-A—Court of Honor—A special class designed to promote interest in the exhibition of fine, extra quality specimen dahlias. Entries to consist of one bloom, A-large, any type or color. Either disseminated varieties or seedlings may be entered in this class.

Award—Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society Trophy, the trophy to remain in the possession of the winner till the next A.D.S. Annual Show. An exhibitor winning the award three times shall retain permanent possession of the trophy.

Now is the time to plan for the show. Study the schedule, select your favorite varieties, and the classes where they should be shown. Time the plants to put out their best efforts at show time. Let's grow them and show them better than ever this year. Attend the show if you cannot exhibit yourself.

Get up early
Stay up late
Grow them bigger
In "forty-eight."

The A.B.C. of 1948 DAHLIA INTRODUCTIONS

A is for **ATOMIC YELLOW** (Proctor), the very much needed large semi-cactus yellow. Blooms 10-12 inches in diameter and 6-9 inches in depth. Long straight stems 10-14 inches. A naturally large flower requiring little fertilizer. Winner as the best semi-cactus seedling in N.Y. Show of A.D.S. Certificate of Merit at Fairmount, W. Va.

Roots \$15. Net Plant \$7.50 3 for \$20. Net

B is for **BUCCANEER** (Sarett), the flame semi-cactus, with striking new colors. Young blooms are intense scarlet with a wide band of chartreuse yellow at the base; mature blooms are soft tangerine with yellow tips. Size 9-11 inches in diameter by 5-8 inches in depth. Stems are 7-12 inches long, very straight and strong. Buccaneer is an arresting dahlia in the garden and a winner on the show table in the flame semi-cactus class, where it is much needed. Winner of the American Home Achievement Medal at the Central States Show in Chicago in 1947. Winner as best seedling in L.I. Show in 1945.

Roots \$15. Net Plants \$7.50 3 for \$20. Net

C is for **CINDERELLA** (Sarett), the exquisite blended incurved cactus, both in color and formation. A blend of pure deep pink with cream center petals tipped with lavender. In some weather the pink blooms develop a decided blue tone. A thickly petaled incurved cactus in type, always symmetrical and clean in formation. Blooms are 7-8 inches in diameter and 5-6 inches in depth. Stems are 8-13 inches, straight and strong. This beautiful dahlia has the enthusiastic support of many dahlia growers who have seen it growing.

Roots \$10. Net Plants \$5.00 3 for \$12.50

Catalog available.

RUSCHMOHR DAHLIA GARDENS
38 Vincent Street, Rockville Centre, N. Y.

Dahlias Need Good Start

By Edward B. Lloyd

With the approach of the planting season, about June 1 to 15 in this latitude, dahlia growers have three important matters to consider. First—a supply of good roots and desirable varieties for the purpose intended. Second—preparation of the soil to meet special needs for dahlia production. Third—correct planting and early care to have the planting get off to a good start.

Plant only roots developed from perfect plants of the previous year. Roots from an unhealthy plant of last year will likely prove disappointing if set out this year. If new stock is advisable, purchase it from a reputable commercial dahlia grower who will guarantee his roots to be healthy and true to name.

Dahlias are classified by the American Dahlia Society as of fourteen types with large flowering, medium flowering, and miniatures. A blue dahlia is not in existence, but most any other color and combination of colors may be had, making it possible to suit any taste or desire when it comes to a matter of designing the planting.

Although it is possible to start dahlias from seed sowed early in March, the usual practice is to use green plants or to plant single roots produced from clumps harvested the previous Fall. Dahlia green plants are grown from cutting taken from selected clumps and started into growth in a greenhouse or heated frame. As soon as the sprouts are long enough to handle, they are taken off and rooted in sand, vermiculite, or other rooting medium, and then potted.

An average dahlia clump will consist of about five or six roots, plus the old or original root planted in the spring, and if carefully divided each root of the clump will make a new dahlia plant—except the old root, sometimes disrespectfully called the Mother Root, which should be discarded. Early in May the clump will commence to develop eyes around the base of the old stalk. The clump can be divided so that each root has a section of the old stalk on which there is an eye, and from which this year's plant develops. A root without this section of stem and eye is worthless, for a dahlia root of itself will not reproduce.

Growing of dahlias from seed is an interesting hobby. Each dahlia produced from seed is a new variety. Although a great majority of the new varieties are inferior to existing varieties, the thrill of anticipation makes the growing of seedlings a fascinating project.

In selecting a location for dahlias it is essential to have a free circulation of air for healthy plant growth and to prevent mildew. Dahlias need direct sunlight at least 3 or 4 hours, preferably in the morning, and should not be planted near large trees which would shade the plants and use moisture and plant food. Some form of organic material such as a cover crop, well-rotted manure, or compost should be plowed under, and if the soil has not been limed for a few years, ground limestone may be applied after plowing at the rate of 1 lb. to 25 sq. ft. and raked in. If hydrated lime is used, one half this amount may be applied. About two weeks before planting, broadcast a good grade of commercial fertilizer at the rate of one pound to 30 sq. ft. and rake in.

When planting large flowering dahlias, the plants

should be at least three feet apart in each direction—plant small type dahlias 16 to 24 inches apart. Most of the small type dahlias, if pinched back twice will not require stakes. The large type must be staked and it is good practice to set 5 or 6 foot stakes in advance of the planting. Roots should be planted 4 inches deep in heavy soil and six inches deep in light or sandy soil, laid flat down (never, on end), and with the eye or sprout about 5 inches from the stake. Cover the root with not more than 2 inches of soil and fill in the hole as the plant develops. Dahlia green plants should be planted with the ball of soil about 3 inches below ground level, the top of the ball covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch of soil, and the hole filled in as the plant develops.

In from 10 days to two weeks one or several sprouts will commence to appear. After these sprouts have grown 4 or 5 inches above ground level, remove all but one, leaving of course the healthiest and huskiest from which to watch your plant and blooms develop.

The next few weeks are perhaps the most important in the life of a dahlia plant. In order to produce the magnificent blooms which nature intends, vigorous sturdy growth must be maintained, unhampered by insects or plant diseases. A prime requisite for study and vigorous growth is frequent cultivation which not only prevents weed growth, but prevents moisture from escaping into the air, stimulates the root growth, and makes plant food available. Cultivate at least once a week, and as soon after a rain or irrigating as the ground can be worked. As the plant develops and the feed roots come towards the surface, the cultivation should be rather shallow around the plant for a radius of at least a foot in order not to disturb or destroy these feeding roots. Still work the balance of the ground rather deep. On the first of August scatter broadcast over the ground a hand-full of 5-10-10 fertilizer not closer than ten inches nor more than eighteen inches from the stalk. Rake this fertilizer in lightly and if rain does not come soon thereafter it will be necessary to irrigate in order to make the plant food available.

One thing is certain—if you want to grow GOOD dahlia, you must control the insects. Good soil, adequate food, water, and care, all are of no avail if the bugs get the upper hand. Many of these insects will appear and do irreparable damage before the gardener is aware of their presence. Aphids cause a lessening of vitality by sucking plant juices on the stems and around buds. They can be controlled by dusting or spraying with contact insecticides such as pyrethrum extracts, nicotine sulfate, or rotenone. Corn borers drill holes in the stalk usually at a leaf or branch, living and growing inside the stalk until the plant is so weakened that it breaks down. The adult moth of the corn borer lays its eggs on a leaf and it is at this time only that control measures are effective. Spraying with a 1 per cent DDT suspension has proven most effective. Japanese Beetles are very destructive of blooms, but can be very effectively controlled by the 1 per cent DDT. Leaf-hoppers are small greenish-yellow flying insects very active in warm weather. They are usually found on the under sides of the leaves sucking

the plant juices, causing the edges of the leaves to turn yellow.

The 1 per cent DDT suspension will control them perfectly. Red Spiders are very small black and white to brownish minute insects nearly always found on the under sides of the leaves. These insects multiply very fast in dry hot weather and can not stand cold water especially applied under pressure. A spray of one teaspoon of Hexate to 3 gallons of water will be very effective, and two sprays two or three days apart should clean up the infestation entirely. Tarnish Plant Beetles are small plant bugs about a quarter of an inch long brown mottled with shades of red and yellow. The bugs puncture the stalk stems and buds. The growth of the stung part is severely checked and causing buds to open one-sided or to fail to open at all. Badly infested plants are short, bushy, and never produce presentable blooms. However, a 1 per cent DDT suspension spray is highly effective. Thrips are very small light greenish-yellow to dark brown insects which may be found by close examination of the unfolded leaf tips and among the petals of the flowers. They are almost invisible to the naked eye. They cause malformed and blistered appearing foliage and often result in the stunting of the plants. Thrip are easily controlled by a 1 per cent DDT spray. Mildew, common in the Fall, is well known, and can be controlled by dusting the under sides of the foliage with dusting sulphur. One application is usually sufficient.

DDT is compatible with most other insecticides, except those containing lime, and can safely be combined with them for a "one application" spray. Former insecticides killed by contact or as stomach poisons, or by paralysis. One reason for the effectiveness of DDT is that it combines all three. It is toxic for a longer period than most other insecticides, and although not as rapid as some, it is definitely more certain. Spraying once every two weeks is usually sufficient for good control. Spraying may be done at any time of the day or evening, and may be applied before a rain if the material has a chance to dry on the plants. From the foregoing it is apparent that most dahlia pests may be effectively controlled by the use of a 1 per cent DDT suspension spray—one pound of DDT to one hundred gallons of water. Nicotine Sulfate, pyrethrum extracts, Hexate and rotenone are compatible with DDT and may be safely mixed with it, thereby controlling Red Spider and Aphids the two pests known to be immune to DDT, in a single application of materials.

With the insects under control, it is time to give some attention to the pruning and disbudding of the plants. After the plants are about a foot high, they should be pinched back, causing side branches to develop from each pair of leaves. When the buds appear on these side branches it will be noted that they usually come in clusters of three. The one in the center is generally the strongest. Remove the other two and the effort the plant would expend in producing flowers from them goes to the terminal bud which is left. The next two or three sets of branches—at each leaf below the terminal bud—may also be removed further increasing the size of the bloom to be produced. Be sure, however, that at least one or two sets of branches are left to produce the next flowers.

The month of September is the month of dahlia and Fall flower exhibitions. During the month there are outstanding opportunities for friendly and sporting com-

petition and the chance to see how you stack up with your neighbor and other good growers. At the immense show of the American Dahlia Society there are 360 classes for competition, with many classes arranged for those who have never before attempted to compete in this show. For these exhibitors the management furnishes ample help and advice in staging the exhibits.

Every dahlia grower is certainly going to exhibit in one or all of these shows so—start your preparations early. It requires about four weeks from the time the buds show until they are fully open. Go over your garden and select buds which should be ready for the show date. Don't spend your time on buds from any but the strongest plants. When buds start to show color, shade them from the sun and give them protection from the elements. The day before the show, examine all the blooms and select the ones which will be just right at cutting time. It will save time if you label them at once as show regulations will require that the blooms be named while on the exhibition table. Plan to cut the blooms at least twelve hours before time to set up in the show. Large deep cardboard boxes are very satisfactory for transporting the blooms. When packing, place the blooms with the longest stems in the box first, with the flower heads at the ends. Several rows may be placed in each end of the box but do not let the blooms overlap or the stems rub against the flowers at the other end of the box. See that none of the petals at the back of the flower are folded and that the cover of the box does not rub the face of the flowers.

As soon as the show is reached unpack, trim an inch or more off each stem, and place in deep water for an hour or more to revive the flowers. Be sure you know the rules of the show and what the classes you are entering call for. Many fine exhibits are disqualified because the schedule is not followed. For instance, if the schedule calls for a specific number of blooms, one too many or one too few can disqualify an entry. However, if no specific number of blooms is called for, concentrate on quality rather than quantity. If in any doubt, consult the show manager. Select vases in proportion to the size of the flower and the length of the stem. Good flowers poorly shown often fail to gain favorable recognition from the judges. Large specimens should have stems which hold the blooms well above the edge of the container. Stems should be straight, and strong enough to hold the bloom so that it faces at right angles to the stem. Blooms that "hang their heads" receive little or no consideration from the judges. Neither do flowers with "open centers" or "green centers." Centers should be full, round, and the petals around the center should have a uniform development. It is best to have blooms for exhibition with a fairly round contour. Many "lopsided" blooms may look well at first glance, but they will not survive the critical inspection of the judges. The most common instances of "lopsidedness" are found in blooms which have a majority of the petals below the center, caused by the weight of the petals pulling them down during periods when the bloom is slightly wilted. Withered, wilted or bruised petals on the back of the bloom will score against your entry. Also, blooms from which such petals have been plucked will be scored as though the bad petals were present. Many exhibitors overlook the importance of good foliage. No foliage is worse than bad foliage. Leaves showing insect injury, diseases, or mechanical

(Continued on page 13)

Helping Each Other Get Dahlia Show Containers

You may use your club's own metal containers at the local dahlia show this year, if you really want this improvement.

Why not work for it? Already much of the groundwork has been planned to make this a reality. I would even say that you could be more certain of that realization now than we were at Cincinnati by midsummer last year.

This very afternoon I received a promise from the manufacturer, that their plans are completed for setting up an amortization basis. This merely requires the dahlia clubs throughout the country to combine enough orders to amortize the cost of the new tools required for efficiency.

We have had several conferences with the heads of departments. The net findings prove, beyond a doubt, that mass production is essential to a low-priced container. The investment cost for tools is a prohibitive burden on small orders that dribble in slowly. The production line must be tooled for accuracy and set up on a mass-production, efficiency basis.

The manufacturer has now developed efficiency for aiding every dahlia society that really wants its own show containers. The success or failure of these efforts will depend upon the enthusiasm with which the dahlia "Fans" will work together.

Weigh the needs of cooperation as follows:

1. If you would be interested in bringing the price of containers down to the level of any club that holds a dahlia show;
2. If you would like to locate a manufacturing company that has already developed the three standard size containers, generally needed at all dahlia shows;
3. If you want the aid of a voluntary representative, "on hand", to contact the producer;
4. If you care to eliminate the months of delay and tedious correspondence required to find a proper design for a dahlia container;
5. If you wish to help put the production of dahlia container on a basis which not only assures your club it's full need of containers for this year's show, but also provides a sound plan for any future needs; you are urged to contact Raymond H. Moffett, 6033 Hammel Ave., Cincinnati 12, Ohio, at once, and join in a cooperative plan for taking advantage of "Group bargaining" on a mass-production basis.

The sizes are as follows:

Size No. 1—2¼ in. top diameter, 4¾ in. bottom diameter x 10 in. high. When ordered in 10,000 lots—\$280.78 per thousand.

Size No. 3—2 in. top diameter, 3 7/16 in. bottom diameter, x 5½ in. high. When ordered in 10,000 lots—\$243.17 per thousand.

Size No. 700—4 13/64 in. top diameter, 5 in. bottom diameter x 9¾ in. high. When ordered in 10,000 lots—\$335.70 per thousand.

To set up an hypothetical case, suppose we could start with ten dahlia clubs, taking an average of 1,000 containers

each. They would pay slightly less than 25 cents each for miniature containers; less than 28 cents for a single bloom container; and less than 34 cents for a container to hold three or more large blooms. Now if we could combine the orders of 20 or more clubs, a real savings would be possible. Since amortization could be completed on the first ten thousand units, a savings of about \$125.00 per thousand would be possible on the remaining ten thousand units. But any such advantage in price really should be available to all purchasers. By dividing the cost among its proportional share. All who cooperate will benefit by the final price reduction.

Once the cost of the investment is eliminated, the producer could, probably adopt a price range somewhat as follows: twelve cents for small, sixteen cents for large and twenty cents for multiple bloom containers.

Even the highest prices used here are reasonable when we consider that one club made containers at a cost of forty cents each; increased its supply at sixty cents each; and a little later gave up trying when the cost went up to one dollar or more for each container.

Now the plan is simple. You have your club authorize the purchase of as many containers of each type as will be needed to set up your show. Buy as near to your maximum needs as is possible. It will reduce the cost per unit on the entire order. Send your authentic estimate to me, at once, to get a basis for our production. Cash does not have to accompany your order. We must have a show of interest, at the earliest possible moment.

I will combine the orders and turn the total number over to the producer as a basis for the estimates. When a price range is decided upon, each club will be required to arrange payment for its share of the containers ordered. They will be billed and shipped separately to the respective clubs, according to their orders. All containers will be packed in heavy cartons for convenient storage.

If we all enter into this enterprise with a proper enthusiasm others will be encouraged to join us in making it a complete success. Give the idea as much publicity as you can. Go before your club members and offer them an opportunity to make a free contribution for an improvement they have been wanting. I strongly oppose an assessment plan. We did not depend on letters or announcements. We visited the member in his garden or home. He was given a chance to help with an important improvement, without resort to pressure. If the advocates lead the list the others will subscribe liberally. There were many more names for five dollars than for all the less amounts, combined. We first authorized the purchase of the containers, then took our time collecting the money, while the manufacturer made the cans.

We have tried to clear as many of the obstacles out of your way as possible. Once you get your plans set up your progress will be faster than anticipated. We wish you every success in getting the show containers needed this year.

RAYMOND H. MOFFETT,
6033 Hammel Ave.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

An Invitation to Attend the 1948 Mid-West Show

By George R. Currie

The Dahlia Society of Wisconsin extends a cordial invitation to all readers of the American Dahlia Society Bulletin to attend the 15th annual Mid-West Dahlia Show at Milwaukee, September 11th and 12th. Those who were fortunate enough to attend the hospitality that the host society extends to visiting dahlia growers, and the quality and quantity of bloom that Wisconsin exhibitors are capable of bringing into the showroom.

This year's Mid-West show will be staged in the Milwaukee Gas Light Company Building, 626 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, where the past four annual shows of the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin have been held. Its facilities are ideal for holding flower shows, and the National Peony Show was held there recently. Not only is the space for exhibiting blooms on the first and second floors spacious and pleasing, but there are adequate unloading facilities at the rear of the building, and the well-lighted terazzo-floored basement, well equipped with tables, provides an ideal spot for unpacking and setting up blooms.

Visitors who arrive Friday, September 10th, will be entertained that evening at the famous Schlitz Brown Bottle. Saturday noon a complimentary luncheon for the judges will be served in the cafeteria of the building in which the show is staged. Saturday evening there will be a banquet at the Hotel Pfister, but two short blocks from the show, at which Dr. Stanley D. Tylman of Lombard, Illinois, will be the speaker. Dr. Tylman is past president of the Central States Dahlia Society and a past editor of its bulletin, "The Dahlia." He is also a member of the faculty of the College of Dentistry of the University of Illinois, and in recent years has made two trips to Central and South America under the auspices of the State Department as part of its program of fostering better relations with Latin America.

Sunday morning there will be a conducted tour of some of the outstanding dahlia gardens in and around Milwaukee, followed by an outdoor buffet luncheon served at the suburban home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Duchek, 8430 West Silver Spring Drive, Milwaukee. The Ducheks, in addition to their outdoor planting of dahlias, have one of the best built and most attractive cloth houses devoted to dahlias that the writer has seen.

Milwaukee is famous the country over as an ideal convention city and people enjoy its friendly atmospheric and superb eating places. John Gunther, in his recent book "Inside U. S. A." writes "the best single meal I had in America was in Milwaukee." In the writer's opinion, four of the city's best and most famous restaurants are:

Joe Deutsch Cafe, 1219 West Galena Street.

John Ernst's, Corner of North Jackson St. & East Ogden Avenue.

Mader's, 1041 North Third Street.

Karl Ratzsch's, 320 East Madison Street.

A meal in either place will demonstrate why Gunther paid his tribute to Milwaukee

Ben Makowski, president of the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin, and Mrs. Lorraine Hoppe, our capable show chairman, have set up a corps of committees which are hard at work on the preparations for the show. Those desiring hotel reservations are requested to write E. J. Heggstad, 4829 North Larkin Street, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. Premium schedules may be had by writing to Herbert Donner, Secretary of Dahlia Society of Wisconsin, 728 Empire Bldg., Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin.

Dahlia Society of Wisconsin shows have established a reputation for being "quality bloom" shows. The Artistic Arrangement Section has been particularly strong in recent years, and always proves the center of attraction to lady visitors. Special six and ten bloom classes, each of a different variety and each entered in a single container, are always a feature. Keen competition is usually to be found in the Undisseminated Division and at our 1947 show among the competitors for the American Achievement Medal were five entries which later made the Honor Roll in Flower Grower. This year more seedlings are being grown on trial for other growers than ever before, which should mean a strong American Home Achievement Medal Class. Special classes are being provided this year for dahlias of foreign origin. A special award is being made for the entry coming the longest distance.

All out-of-state visitors are urged to register at the registration desk at the showroom before noon on Saturday, September 12th, in order that the chairman of the judges may have the benefit of such registrations in selecting the judges, and so the judges may receive tickets for the judges' luncheon.

The business meeting of the delegates to the Mid-West Dahlia Conference will be held prior to the banquet, late Saturday afternoon or early evening at a time and place to be announced in the premium schedule.

Reports thus far from those who have definitely stated their intention of attending this show point towards a record attendance of out-of-state visitors. When all is said and written, it is the getting together of growers from all parts of the country at these Mid-West shows and discussing their problems, and creating new friendships, that have made these shows so popular. To those of you who have never attended a Mid-West show, come to Milwaukee and see what they are like! I miss my guess if you will not be pleasantly surprised.

Mid-West Dahlia Conference

The Fall meeting of the Mid-West Dahlia Conference will be held at Milwaukee, Wisconsin on September 11, the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin being hosts.

It is time for each affiliated society to name their delegate or delegates to attend this meeting and please send their names to your secretary, Mrs. Louise Kleinjohn, 726 Barret Avenue, Louisville 4, Kentucky, as soon as possible. Also send addresses of 1948 officers.

A Little History and a Few Facts About A.D.S. Trial Grounds

This article about Trial Gardens is going to be introspective and we hope, somewhat informative. The reason is because some recent correspondence and some observations in a recent magazine have convinced me that too many dahlia growers have come to take the unselfish efforts of a lot of people as their inherent rights and too much as a matter of course.

We will begin by stating that as chairman of A.D.S. Trial Grounds for about a decade and writer of the Eastern Flower Grower Honor Roll for longer than that, I am fully aware of the uncertainty of the human element in judging dahlias. No one is perfect and the chance for error or mistake in estimating the public preference for new variety is always present. Likewise the responsibility which one assumes in evaluating the seedlings of others against the thousands of dahlias already in commerce is almost overwhelming, when one stops to think about it.

But when a grower sends his seedlings to a trial grounds, he is actually entrusting them to a group of people to plant, cultivate, disbud, spray, tie, judge, check, etc., as well as render a complete report on them. Those people who do it, work for the love of the dahlia, more than for an admiration of their fellow man. The small amount the originator pays for this service wouldn't hardly pay a fair rate of interest on the expenditure of time and material which goes into the job of testing that variety. If this group of people who do all this for him actually charged for their time and effort, the cost would be prohibitive.

Perhaps it is time here, to inject a little history into this subject. When the A.D.S. was established in 1915, it was "formed for the purpose of stimulating interest in, and promoting the culture and development of the dahlia."

The reasons for adopting such a platform were legion. There were only a comparative few who were interested in dahlia culture. There was a complete lack of standardization and uniformity in classifications, exhibiting and cultural practices. There were no test gardens. There was no methods of fair evaluation of the worth of one variety over another.

Dahlia shows were few and in those which were held, it was necessary to exhibit them, cut with short stems and hold the flower erect by using milk bottles or short vases to show them so they would look you in the face. Most of them had rubber stems. Then, the bloom was all that was judged. Foliage, stem, substance, none were important. Most of them would never be noticed along side of the types, sizes and colors, the correct carriage and impressive beauty of those we take so much for granted today.

Why? What caused this improvement in characteristics? In the main it was the effort to improve the dahlia by breeding to develop more satisfactory every-purpose-flowers. Also to produce varieties to compete with others being tested at the A.D.S. Trial Grounds and by winning a certificate of merit, become contenders for ribbons at the ever increasing dahlia exhibitions.

The A.D.S. Trial Grounds were responsible more than any other single factor for the rapid improvement in strains. The strong stemmed and more rugged varieties originated by Judge Marean and which were entered in the Storrs trial grounds, was one of the turning points in American dahlia breeding. Then the *Jersey Beauty* and *Jane Cowels*, both of which won A.D.S. certificates came along late to add their excellent "blood" to the improvement of dahlias.

But we are getting slightly ahead of our trial grounds history background. At a meeting of A.D.S. charter members which included among others I believe, George Vincent, president; E. C. Vick, J. A. Kemp, Joseph Lane, James Duthie, Lewis Alling, George Fraser, it was decided to establish a test garden at Storrs, Conn. George Fraser, who was then professor of horticulture at the then Connecticut Agriculture College, now the University of Connecticut, agreed to set up the garden. The small group of A.D.S. officials agreed to support it and secure dahlias to be tested and furnish judges to award A.D.S. certificates of merit to worthy varieties.

Under George Fraser's supervision for the first few years, and later for many years under that of Professor Roland Patch, this was the only place in the country where dahlias of every grower, whether a member of the A.D.S. or not, could be tested. Thousands of varieties were grown and judged by groups of A.D.S. members who went to Storrs at their own expense for transportation, meals and rooms if they could not complete the judging in one day, as was often the case. The originators paid \$3.00 for the privilege of having all this cultural and judging work done for them. (This fee of \$3.00 remained in effect for over 30 years, and was raised to \$5.00 in 1947.) It can easily be seen that the time of many people was contributed year after year, not as a favor to the originators alone, but for the broad goal of improvement of dahlia culture and strains.

We should add a paragraph on score cards. The present one may not be perfect, but it is the result of the judgment of those who have given many thousands of hours to judging. It has been revised many times to make it a better yard stick. The first one, I believe was worked out by Wm. B. Sweeny and George Fraser of Williamantic and sent to the A.D.S. BULLETIN by the former, back about 1915 or shortly after the Storrs Trial Ground was established. Then Warren Maytrott, Conrad Frey, and the writer, as well as many others, spent endless hours on revisions.

Here, I hope I can be pardoned for a little personal experience. For 17 out of 18 years prior to 1947 when Storrs garden was discontinued, I went to the trial grounds, usually driving my own car. I never took less than four judges with me and usually organized several other groups in other cars. It was the practice for everyone in each car to chip in on gasoline and oil for the 235 mile trip. We stayed at the Nathan Hale Hotel, paying for our own meals and room. It usually took two full days, Saturday and Sunday to finish judging the 2 or 3 each of 100 to 200 varieties. When judging,

the college sometimes paid for our lunches. Or perhaps Professor Patch paid for them out of the Trial Ground Funds, I never inquired the source. But we recall that on two occasions, during the war, when we went lunchless, but although tired, we didn't get disgusted and say our work wasn't appreciated and go home before the job was done.

It was on Sunday, on one of these occasions when the facilities of the college were overtaxed. It would take too long to drive back to Willimantic to eat, so Ed Lloyd, Dr. Ward Cook, Connie Frey and the writer judged straight through for 7 or 8 hours in the hot sun to get the job finished. No one could have paid us enough money to do such an altruistic and maybe foolish stunt, if we had not wanted to do it.

It is quite remarkable, when one stops to think about it, how one tries to do the right thing for a lot of nice people way out there in the old U.S.A., who wanted to know whether their dahlia is just another flower or a superlative one which would win at shows and command a price of from \$10 to \$50 per root.

But enough of personal things. They were injected as illustrations of the extent to which poor misguided lovers of a flower will go to follow a hobby or be of service. Also to help originators to realize the extent of efforts of others which may have resulted in an A.D.S. Certificate of Merit and subsequent publicity which their variety received through BULLETIN reports and descriptions are not just chance. They are the result of carefully laid plans. Plans by the people who operate the garden. Plans by the A.D.S. Executive Committee where score cards are developed, where funds are raised by subscription to buy trial grounds, irrigation systems, etc. Plans by local societies on whose shoulders often rest the actual operation of the trial gardens, at much personal sacrifice.

The success of the Storrs Trial Garden which was discontinued in 1947 after more than 30 years operation, led to the establishment of other A.D.S. Trial Gardens. Some of the early ones such as those at St. Louis, Mo., and the first one at the New Jersey Experiment Station, did not long endure. Why they were discontinued is not pertinent to this article.

Beginning about 1930 other societies began to request the establishment of A.D.S. official trial gardens in their localities. When president of the A.D.S., I encouraged this and drew up agreements for the local operation of such official trial gardens by branch societies.

One of these was the Michigan Dahlia Society. Professor of horticulture at Michigan State, C. E. Wildon, became interested and a garden was established there. Some of the earnest dahlia people who sponsored this garden were Lloyd L. Hook, Grand Rapids; A. H. Emmonds, Battle Creek; Nick Koenig, New Baltimore; A. T. Edison, Grand Rapids; Barton W. Elliott, Grand Haven; Victor Steckle of Lansing and others. These same men plus about fifteen others now operate the garden and form judging teams to go to East Lansing several times during the season and check, and score the varieties. Do you think the \$5 per variety you pay for testing pays for the earnest effort of these men, to serve you and help bring your variety up from obscurity to one everybody talks about?

Then take Oliver Shurtleff. Almost single handed this

devoted dahlia enthusiast, besides his work as dean of the Fairmount College in West Virginia, supervised and, we even suspect he planted and cultivated, scored and recorded the dahlias for you for a decade. This garden is discontinued this year, because he took a teaching position elsewhere. There was no one else to work the way he did in your interest there. You profited from his hard work there, if your variety received a certificate. We even suspect he was money-out-of-pocket every year as well, to serve you.

The Dahlia Societies of Baltimore and Washington are both behind the A.D.S. garden at the University of Maryland. Henry Corey of Baltimore, carried this garden almost on his own shoulders when it first was organized and before, and even after it became an official A.D.S. garden. Now about 30 men give generously of their time and money to make it a success.

The trial garden at Ault Park, Cincinnati, established now about 10 years, has been most successful as a public park project. Robert Seibel gets his pay from the city. But he works many extra hours without pay to see that your varieties get the best culture. O. W. Mills and his associates are most generous of their time there, also.

The new Eastern Trial Grounds at the New Jersey Experiment Station hit very bad weather as it got a late start in 1947, but Charles H. Connors has many plans to make it a model trial grounds. He knows how to do it, and everybody expects that in 1948 it will be outstanding.

The South Atlantic Trial Grounds started at the Georgia Experiment Station in 1947, is being relocated in Mosley Park, City of Atlanta. Plants or roots should be sent to Nelson Crist, care of H. J. Hating, 180 Mitchell St. S.W. Correspondence or requests for entry blanks, should be addressed to president C. E. Faust, 3532 Piedmont Ave. N.E., Atlanta, Ga.

Messrs Faust, Christ and other members of the Georgia Society are determined to make it worth your while to send your dahlias there for testing. No time or effort will be spared by them to properly evaluate your great expectations dahlia-wise.

Send your best and most beloved varieties to at least three of these gardens this year. If you receive for one of them in large, medium or small classes the highest score average for three gardens, you win, besides the A.D.S. certificate, The Derrill Hart Medal. Each one of these medals, for which the society pays, is intrinsically worth more than the cost of entering the variety at one garden. But the honor of winning it and the roots you will sell as a result are worth, well, whatever you can get for all you have.

Of course, growers have grievances about trial grounds. One correspondent was most rath, because all A.D.S. gardens did not promptly return his roots. No contract is made by the trial gardens or the A.D.S. to do this, as I explained to him. If requested at time of entry, accompanied at that time by sufficient postage, and the variety makes good root, the garden can elect to return stock. But it's much safer not to send a variety to be tested until you have sufficient stock on hand to disseminate it. It is also best to send all varieties under number instead of the name. If it scores low, you have not given that name a black eye. But if it scores 85 or better,

(Continued on page 10)

HISTORY—A.D.S. TRIAL GROUNDS

(Continued from page 9)

the name selected should be sent promptly to the garden so that the report to the BULLETIN carries the correct name. It then gets the publicity for the name.

This article was written to be helpful. (It was completed, incidentally at 1:00 a.m.) It is not a defense of the many barbs and slurs, under which we who work without pay, to put money in your pockets, are burdened at times. Sure, we make mistakes in judging. Sure, we score them as we see them. Perhaps the culture did fall down. Perhaps on the other hand you did not rogue out mosaic or ringspot carefully and your plants or roots did not grow well. Yes, we all can make mistakes. But, brother give a little lee-way and charity to the fellows who work hard to help you win. If you're disappointed, just chuckle and decide to try again. Maybe it was not the fault of the gang who tried to help you.

And if you feel so disposed, give credit to the many earnest souls who have advanced the cause of the dahlia, improved cultural and judging practices through A.D.S. trial ground services for the past thirty odd years.

Yours for better dahlia understanding,
LYNN B. DUDLEY.

Send Your Seedlings to A.D.S. Trial Gardens

ADDRESSES OF A.D.S. TRIAL GARDENS

Plants and roots can be received for testing at the trial gardens up to June 10. Perhaps you may still have time to enter yours.

The addresses are as follows:

MIDWEST—Michigan State College, East Lansing. Attention: C. E. Wildon.

EASTERN—New Jersey Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N. J. Attention: C. H. Connors.

OHIO VALLEY—Ault Park, Cincinnati, Ohio. Attention Robert Seibel or O. W. Mills, 3628 Kroger Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

MID-ATLANTIC—University of Maryland, Silver Spring, Md. Attention: Wm. Wood.

SOUTH-ATLANTIC—Attention: Nelson Crist, care of J. A. Hating, 180 Mitchell St. S.W., Atlanta or C. E. Faust, 3532 Piedmont Ave. N.E., Atlanta, Ga.

South Atlantic Trial Grounds

As announced in the May, 1947 Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society, a new official trial garden was established known as the South Atlantic Dahlia Trial Grounds to be located at Experiment, Georgia, under the auspices of the Dahlia Society of Georgia.

Due to the distance from Atlanta, a request was made to the Trial Garden Committee of the American Dahlia Society for permission to change the location from Experiment, Georgia to Atlanta, Georgia. This request was granted.

Our new location is Mozley Park, Park Department of the City of Atlanta, Georgia. The trial gardens will have an expert gardener in charge under the supervision

of the Trial Garden Committee of the Dahlia Society of Georgia.

The Trial Garden Committee will be dahlia men of long experience and well qualified in judging dahlias.

We are inviting all dahlia growers to send in their new originations to the South Atlantic Dahlia Trial Grounds for testing. All judging will conform with the standards as set up by the American Dahlia Society, and a fee of \$5.00 is to be sent along with each entry blank. For entry blanks please write to Mr. C. E. Faust, 3532 Piedmont Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. Send 3 roots or plants of each.

We quote from the American Dahlia Society Bulletin—Derrill Hart Award Entries—"The highest average score in Large, Medium and Small varieties obtained by a variety at any three of these gardens in a period of not over two years will be awarded the A. D. S. Derrill Hart Medal. If you have a superlative new dahlia, this award is well worth trying for."

In forwarding roots or plants send to:

Mr. Nelson Crist, H. G. Hastings Co., 170 Mitchell Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia.

C. E. FAUST, President.

Mid-Atlantic Trial Gardens

On the 15th of April the writer made an inspection of our trial garden at College Park, Mr. Bill Wood and I got into a huddle with the Horticultural staff headed this year by professor Link who like the rest at College Park are 100 per cent with us. Our new and permanent garden looks good, Bill had it ploughed up last Fall turning under the grass and a heavy coating from the barn yard. This was followed by a heavy coating of manure on top. Our garden is a virgin soil with a good drainage right on the highway to Washington through Silver Spring. The building program being so large for the past two years put us under a heavy handicap, we had a different location each year, *now we are going to stay put*. I can assure any one who would like to send their seedlings along that Bill will take good care of them. (I wish you knew him as we do). Our judges are hand picked, Dr. Parker and his men visit the garden every week from Washington, (our Charlie, Mr. Diffendeffe) and his group visit the garden during the week from Baltimore. Among our final list of judges headed by Mr. Lynn Dudley—we have Dr. Cook, Dr. Connors and Mr. Connie Frey and all the rest of the big fry from the A. D. S. we are looking forward to a great year.

Send your seedlings to Mr. Bill Wood, Hart Building, U. of M., College Park, Md.

HENRY E. CORY.

Dahlia Society of Kentucky

The quarterly meeting of the Dahlia Society of Kentucky was held on Tuesday evening, April 20, 1948. The meeting was well attended and much interest and enthusiasm was shown. We also held a root sale.

The show dates for our 1948 show will be September 25, 26 and will be held at the Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky.

LOUISE KLEINJOHN, Secretary.

1948 SHOW DATES

- August 5 - 6 - 7 - 8**—Pacific Dahlia Society, Municipal Auditorium, Long Beach, Calif.
- August 7th - 8th**—San Diego County Dahlia Society, Silvergate Masonic Temple, 3795 Utah St., San Diego, California.
- August 20th - 21st**—Orange County Dahlia Society, Y. M. C. A. Gym, Santa Ana, California.
- August 26th - 29th**—Bremerton Dahlia Show, Civic Recreation Center, Bremerton, Washington.
- August 28th - 29th**—Dahlia Society of San Leandro, San Leandro, California.
- September 3rd - 4th**—Northeastern Pennsylvania Dahlia Society, Y. W. C. A. Auditorium, Scranton, Pennsylvania.
- September 5th - 6th**—Badger Dahlia Society—Madison Community Center, Madison, Wisconsin.
- September 10th - 11th**—Dahlia Society of Ohio — Higbee Department Store, Cleveland, Ohio.
- September 11th - 12th**—1948 Mid-West Show under the auspices of Dahlia Society of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Gas Light Company Bldg., 626 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wis.
- September 17th - 18th**—Burholme Horticultural Society, Burholme, Pennsylvania.
- September 18th**—Long Island Dahlia Society, Jamaica, L. I., New York.
- September 18th - 19th**—Central States Dahlia Society, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, Illinois.
- September 18th - 19th**—Indianapolis Dahlia Society, Brookside Community House, Brookside Park, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- September 18th - 19th**—East Liverpool Dahlia Society —Memorial Auditorium, East Liverpool, Ohio.
- September 18th - 19th**—The Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society, Phipps Conservatory, Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- September 19th - 20th**—Baltimore Dahlia Society, Sears Community Bldg., Hartford and North Avenues, Baltimore, Maryland.
- September 21st - 22nd**—American Dahlia Society, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, New York.
- September 25th - 26th**—Southtown Dahlia Club, Hamilton Park Field House, West 72nd Street and South Normal Blvd., Chicago, Illinois.
- September 25th - 26th**—18th Annual Ohio State show —Beacom Memorial Gymnasium, Wellsville, Ohio.
- September 25th - 26th**—Tri-City Society, Masonic Temple, 420-18th Street, Rock Island, Illinois.
- September 25th - 26th**—Dahlia Society of Kentucky, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky.
- September 25th - 26th**—Portland Dahlia Society, Sunken Ballroom of the Masonic Temple, Portland, Oregon.
- September 25th - 26th**—The National Capital Dahlia Society, U. S. Botanic Garden, Maryland Avenue and 1st St., S.W., Washington, D. C.

October 1st - 2nd—Camden Dahlia & Horticultural Society, Camden, New Jersey.

October 2—Great Neck Horticultural Society, High School, Great Neck, Long Island, New York.

October 2nd - 3rd—The Greater St. Louis Dahlia Society, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri.

National Capital Dahlia Society Washington, D. C.

The following officers were elected at the December meeting to serve throughout the year 1948. George R. Hitchcock, president; Walter H. Gannaway, vice president; Robert R. Klein, secretary and John L. Bishop, treasurer.

At the January meeting the president selected Mr. J. Leslie Bowling as show chairman for 1948. Mr. Bowling advises that most of his show committee has been selected and plans for a larger and better show are now well underway. The show will again be held at the U. S. Botanic Garden, Maryland Ave. and 1st St., S.W., on Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26. Anyone desiring further information in regard to the show should contact Mr. Bowling at 815 Philadelphia Ave., Silver Spring, Maryland, who will be glad to assist in any way possible.

The Society again purchased roots of four of the leading honor roll introductions for 1948 and farmed them out to four of the members for plant propagation. The plants will be sold to the members at the May meeting and the profits turned over to the Show Committee to help defray the expenses of the show. This method of raising funds for the show has proven very profitable in the past.

The annual dinner of the Society was held at the Dodge Hotel on Thursday evening, January 15th. Stephen James, our first secretary acted in the capacity as toastmaster and what a job he did. A very interesting talk was made by Mr. Ben Y. Morrison, principal horticulturist of the Department of Agriculture on the history of the dahlia. Mr. Morrison suggested that the amateur and the hybridizers devote more time towards the cactus and anemone types which are very beautiful and useful for arrangements.

From all reports we are to have quite a display of foreign dahlias at our show this coming fall. Several of our larger growers having imported quite heavily of Dutch, French, Belgium and English introductions. Our show chairman advises there will be one complete section set aside for foreign dahlias, divided into classes and color. This should prove quite interesting as well as educational.

The Mid-Atlantic Trial Garden located at the University of Maryland, College Park, Md., has again been moved to a much more favorable location in regard to fertility and drainage. The trial garden will again be under the supervision of Mr. William H. Wood of the University of Maryland. Growers sending their plants and roots there for trial can rest assured they will receive every care possible under Mr. Wood's expert supervision.

— JOHN L. BISHOP, *Publicity Chairman,*
National Capital Dahlia Society.

The American DAHLIA SOCIETY, Inc.

ORGANIZED MAY 10, 1915



"The Society is formed for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting the culture and development of the Dahlia; to establish a standard nomenclature; to test out new varieties and give them such recognition as they deserve; to study the diseases of the Dahlia and find remedies for same, and to disseminate information relating to this flower; to secure uniformity in awarding prizes at flower shows, and to give exhibitions when deemed advisable."

LEO L. POLLAK, *President*

Upper Mountain Ave., Upper Montclair, N. J.

GORDON F. WAASER, *Editor*

378 Pennsylvania Ave., Freeport, New York

ANDREW F. MULCAHY, *Secretary*

20-Marshall Ave., Floral Park, New York

HENRY A. OLSEN, *Treasurer*

189-23—44th Ave., Flushing, New York

Editorial

Your Editor requested Lynn B. Dudley to do a little story on the "History and Pertinent Facts regarding the Trial Gardens."

The work that our Superintendents, Assistants and Judges are doing is among the most important functions of the American Dahlia Society.

They do not get the credit they should and it is time that our members be reminded about their great work... their untiring efforts... their utter unselfishness. These men have each made names for themselves in the Horticultural world... yet those of us who benefit greatest from their sterling efforts find time, generally, only to criticize.

We, who are putting forth our best efforts for the advancement of the Dahlia, will not stand idly by and

have the A.D.S. sold short... or any of our fine folk at the Trial Gardens. Read Lynn's article carefully, please. (Pages 8, 9 and 10 in this issue.)

1948 Classification List

The 1948 A.D.S. Classification list will be mailed very shortly.

Right up to the time of going to press, we had hoped that a Joint Classification list of the American Dahlia Society and the Central States Dahlia Society might have been published.

Agreement has been reached on almost every detail, but one or two differences make it necessary to await future developments before the desired goal will have been reached.

There is little doubt, however, that while each Society will print separate lists now... and there will be some differences... improvements will be noted compared with 1947 lists. Progress has been made.

The Committee will remain at work and perhaps in the light of experience in the coming growing and exhibition season, the last barriers will be overcome.

The life of all organizations depends upon new memberships, and while we have obtained approximately 300 in the past couple of years, we know it was through the efforts of about one-tenth of our members.

Mr. William Tilton of Glen Cove, Long Island, has secured more new members for our Society than any other member, and if all would follow the precedent set by "Bill Tilton," our membership would be substantially increased.

Your Membership Committee Chairman, Andrew J. Mulcahy, anxiously awaits receiving your new membership applications, and we hope that you will keep him extremely busy.

The Treasurer advises that most of the Branch and Affiliated Societies have paid their dues for the year 1948, and he would appreciate receiving remittances on those few whose checks have not been received, as he is most anxious to have these accounts settled before the annual audit.

Mid-West Dahlia Show

The Dahlia Society of Wisconsin is well on with its plans for the Mid-West Dahlia Show for 1948 which is to be held at the Milwaukee Gas Light Company Building, September 11th and 12th.

Mrs. Lorraine Hoppe was named show chairman and immediately appointed various committees which are well on their way in preparing a successful Mid-West show. For reservations at the Hotel Pfister write Ernie Heggstad, 4829 North Larkin Street, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. A great deal of enthusiasm is being shown at our meetings and there is no doubt that a bigger and better Mid-West Show is in store for all. The Society extends an invitation to all Dahlia fans and friends to visit and enjoy it with us.

BEN MAKOWSKI, President.

Pot Roots and Propagation

From observations and experiments conducted over a period of several years, I have come to the definite conclusion that the most foolproof and satisfactory way of wintering Dahlia stock for the following years planting is through the medium of Pot Roots.

For the information of the uninitiated, the growing of pot roots is a very simple and safe way to be sure of planting stock for the next year's planting. This is most true of the heavy stalk, crown rotting varieties that are so hard to winter over.

When you have made all the plants that you need for the current year's planting, then just make a few more, and when they have reached the standard setting out size, dig some trenches and bury the pots up to the very top. Water a few times, as they need it, or until the hair roots have grown down through the hole in the bottom of the pot and then unless the weather is extremely dry they will not need any further attention. It is well not to have the pots too close together in the trenches; say about eight inches. You will also be surprised how many fairly good blooms you will get from these pot clumps.

When frost kills them, just cut them off about an inch above the top of the pot, pry up, and store away in a dark cool part of your basement, pot, dirt and all. About Christmas I have found it a good idea to give each pot a light watering. This will keep them from drying out too badly.

About two weeks before you intend to start your propagation you should water every two or three days until the dirt in the pot has thoroughly softened and you can take the clump out and remove all the old pot dirt from it.

Try putting some of these pot clumps in your bunch and you will find that they take up so little space and pep—they have it. I have gotten as many as fifteen good strong cuttings from one pot clump.

Just a word of caution. Treat the first cuttings you take off as you would from a \$15.00 introduction. Cut them off with a good sharp knife, real close to the crown; after this first cutting you may break all the rest from the clump by gently wiggling first one way then the other and rooting as usual. Or, if you only need a few plants, just place the little clumps in some kind of damp mixture (peat, sand, vermiculite, etc.) and eye them up and divide.

Place these little divisions, one each, in a four inch pot of good potting soil and see what happens.

This potting should be done about five weeks before time to put out into the patch.

See if you don't find these to be the finest plants that you have ever made.

L. C. BENNETT,
St. Louis 9, Mo.

Southtown Dahlia Club

Our dahlia club will hold their annual show this year on September 25th and 26th. This will be our eleventh annual show, and each year we feel that it is a bigger and better show. It will be held at the Hamilton Park Field House, Chicago, Illinois, and we list our club as the Southtown Dahlia Club.

GRACE SWANSON, Secretary.

DAHLIAS NEED GOOD START

(Continued from page 5)

damage are taken into account by judges. In classes calling for "largest bloom," size alone will not win. In selecting blooms for entry in these classes, first select for perfection and second, for size. It will be found that all-around perfection is closely tied up with suitable size. Success as an exhibitor consists of a great deal more than the ability to grow fine specimen blooms. Experience is very important, and much can be learned from the failures while gaining the experience.

Judges are judges because of years of experience as growers, exhibitors, and students of dahlia perfection. They know the importance of factors which seem trivial to others. They make a great many decisions in a very short time and as a whole, have a very small percentage of error. If properly approached, the judge will gladly point out the flaws in one's entry, but do not approach him until he has finished judging.

Dahlia societies are the backbone of dahlia interest and merit one's active and financial support. The American Dahlia Society, with a world wide membership issues a quarterly Bulletin in the furtherance of general dahlia culture and the dissemination of information regarding all phases of this culture, and welcomes all to membership. This writer will gladly furnish information.

Dahlia Society of Ohio

Although the Dahlia Society of Ohio have always held their Dahlia and Flower Show on Saturday and Sunday, it was decided by the members at their February and March meeting to hold the 1948 show on Friday and Saturday.

Consequently, our show will be held on Friday, September 10 and Saturday, September 11 at the Higbee Auditorium in Cleveland, Ohio. One large hall will be devoted to the exhibition of dahlias. An adjoining hall will be used for arrangements, demonstrations of flower arranging, and other events of interest.

Thus, our 1948 show will not conflict with the Midwest Show—in fact, we are hoping that many dahlia enthusiasts from the East will leave their gardens a day early, and stop over with us on Friday, September 10. Our banquet will be held on Friday evening. Reservations should be made three weeks in advance for this event, and we would be more than happy to have each and every reader of the "Bulletin" attend our banquet and spend a social hour or two with our members.

This year has started out well for our society. We are fortunate in having enrolled a number of new members who really are dahlia enthusiasts. We have held a successful clump sale and a root and plant sale—and we know that some of these new members will be the ones to watch in the small amateur class.

The Dahlia Society of Ohio hereby extends our very best wishes to each affiliate society of the American Dahlia Society for a very successful season—and we hope to have the pleasure of meeting a great many of you in September. Don't forget the dates—September 10 and 11.

RUTH BERRY, Corresponding Secretary.

Good News from England

Mr. Gordon F. Waaser,
Editor A. D. S. BULLETIN:

You may recollect that before the war I contributed annually to the Dahlia Bulletin an article describing the dahlia season in England and in particular the newer varieties seen and exhibited at our shows. I was in a position to do this because I was not only in touch with all the leading dahlia growers in this country, but I had an extensive collection of the best and newest varieties, many of which were from U. S. A., Australia and European countries. I was, however, purely an amateur grower and am still the same, and I have never sold even one plant or root. I was in the Civil Service but early in the war my office was bombed badly and was moved to the north of England. One result was that the whole of my collection of dahlias was destroyed and I was unable to keep in touch with our dahlia growers (who just kept things going).

During the war my duties were of a responsible and important nature and were concerned mainly with the armament of India, and the work was so strenuous that I had to cease all my correspondence with dahlia growers abroad, otherwise I should have had a breakdown, which indeed I very narrowly escaped. This severing of my connection with my dahlia friends was a great disappointment to me at the time but I am only now fully realizing its seriousness because I have recently retired from business and have returned to my home near London where I have my old garden and facilities to pursue my old hobby as a dahlia grower. You may think that with the present food shortage dahlia growing is somewhat out of place in our country. My conscience is, however, quite clear because I have taken an additional piece of ground which I cultivate entirely unaided and I am growing the whole of the vegetables required by my wife and myself and our four boys, and I am limiting the number of dahlia plants that I shall grow to about 150 instead of over 300 before the war.

I am again a member of the most important committees of our Dahlia Society and the Royal Horticultural Society and am getting together a collection, most of which are being presented to me by my old friends, although their collections have been sadly depleted during the war and contain very few of the more modern foreign varieties. Several of my old dahlia friends in this country have passed away including my near neighbor Mr. J. B. Ridey and Mr. J. T. West with both of whom I was very intimate for many years. Mr. Doncaster who raised the first charm dahlias has also I believe passed on.

Before the war I had quite a good knowledge of the foremost American dahlias (which I grew when they became available to me) and also of dahlia personalities, some of whom used to write to me, but I gained my first knowledge of both dahlias and personalities from the Bulletin, which I received regularly and which I was greatly interested in. I would if possible subscribe for the Bulletin to be sent to me again, as I would very much like to know what dahlias are now being grown in U. S. A. and what they are like. I am however unable to pay the necessary dollars owing to our Government currency regulations. I wonder whether in the circumstances you could send me a copy of one or two recent issues of the Bulletin if you have any spare copies avail-

able? I should like particularly to see a report of the last National Exhibition. I should like also, if possible, to see an up-to-date catalogue of an American dahlia grower. Before the war several American growers used to be kind enough to send me their catalogues, but I have not seen one since 1939. I am afraid that there is not much that I can do in return, but I would willingly supply any information regarding English dahlias and any European dahlias that are grown or exhibited here. Our Dutch friends usually send over a number of their novelties to our annual show and they are also sending novelties for the Royal Horticultural Society's trials at Wisley (I am a member of the committee who judge the trials). I believe that you have articles in the Bulletin on English dahlias written by my friend John Dixon, otherwise I should be very pleased to write occasionally for the Bulletin.

Before I conclude I should like to say that in the middle of September we hold our National Dahlia Show at the Royal Horticultural Society's hall at Westminster, London. Any American dahlia growers who may happen to be in London at the time should if possible visit that show. I should personally very much like to make the acquaintance of any American dahlia fancier who may visit the show. Our Royal Horticultural Society also holds shows at fortnightly intervals throughout the autumn. These shows are for any flowers, fruit and vegetables that may be in season, but dahlias are fairly certain to be well represented until their season is brought to an end by frost which usually occurs about the middle of October, but it varies in different parts of the country.

I find that I have written a very long letter. I trust that it will not be considered boring.

I am yours truly,

G. F. DRAYSON.

Burholme Horticultural Society

The show superintendent, Mr. William O. Hird, announced the dates for the Fall Show sponsored by this society as September 17 and 18. Plans are already under way to make this the largest and finest Fall Show staged in the Philadelphia area.

The spotlight will be on dahlias which always predominate at this show. Mr. Charles G. Friedel, our new president, has received pledges from all local growers so a big show can be expected. Enthusiasm is running high and already the dahlia growers are discussing their new varieties. Many of the 1948 introductions should be in competition with the standard exhibition varieties.

A cordial invitation is extended to all and everything will be done to make it easy and convenient to enter your flowers. The prizes offered are usually good. The seedling class for the "American Home" achievement medal is wide open and your entry may win this highest award. Why not be with us on September 17th? Entries accepted to 5 P.M. I'll be glad to mail you our show schedule.

C. T. TROUT,

Corresponding Secretary.

Orange County (Calif.) Dahlia Society

The Orange County Dahlia Society has not been idle during the past two months. We have been busy getting our tubers ready for planting and preparing our ground. Our monthly meetings have been well attended. We have had guest speakers at the various meetings, giving us tips on dahlia culture.

Mr. Zant of the Zant Dahlia Gardens spoke several months ago when he was on the West Coast. He gave us a very interesting picture of Eastern dahlia culture. Mr. Pressel, of the Pressel Dahlia Gardens in California also spoke at one of our meetings. At the March meeting, Mr. Pape of the Pape Dahlia Gardens at Santa Barbara, California, gave us some valuable pointers on western growing of our wonderful flowers. We have been very pleased to have these guest speakers with us. We were honored in the American Dahlia Society election by the election of Adian P. Taylor as one of the vice-presidents. He is one of our leading members.

At our last meeting, we had one of our tuber and plant auctions. We use this method to raise money to put on our annual show. Over \$100.00 was realized from sales during the evening. We also enjoyed a program of Kodachrome color slides taken in the Pape gardens—through the courtesy of Mr. Pape.

Our yearly show will be presented in the Santa Ana, California Y.M.C.A. Gym on the 20th and 21st of August. This is two weeks earlier than we have held our show in the past, and we hope that the earlier date will produce more first blooms and better flowers. Mr. E. A. B. Smith, our show manager of last year, will also manage this year's show. We are looking forward to a very successful show. Any flower lover who should be in this neighborhood the last of August is cordially invited to attend our show.

ELDON McNEIL,
Corresponding Secretary.

Camden Dahlia and Horticultural Society

At the February meeting of the Camden Dahlia and Horticultural Society the following officers were elected:

President, Charles D. Taylor;
Vice-President, A. E. Long;
Secretary, Watson Conover;
Treasurer, George C. Rogers.

Plans were formulated for the Twenty-Fourth Annual Flower Show. The dates selected being October 1st and 2nd. Mr. A. E. Long will again be the Show Manager.

Many new members have been added during the past year and the Society anticipates a fine show for 1948.

WATSON CONNOR, Secretary.

Portland Dahlia Society

The Portland Dahlia Society's 1948 show will be held in the Sunken Ballroom of the Masonic Temple on Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26.

MADGE B. KERSHISNIK,
Secretary.

Great Neck Horticultural Society

Our Fall show, will be held on Saturday, October 2nd, 1948 in the auditorium of the Great Neck High School.

This will be the second annual Fall show, and this year it will be patterned after the Long Island Dahlia Society show, usually held in Jamaica.

The accent, of course, will be on dahlias with some other Fall plants for the benefit of local exhibitors. We are members of the American Dahlia Society and we plan this show as an annual event, making it the last show on the Fall circuit. We shall of course make every effort to obtain exhibitions from our largest exhibitors, and our further publicity will start on this early in June.

Henry Olson, Dr. Cook and Lynn Dudley know what we did last year and Andrew J. Mulcahy knows what our plans are for this season. We shall award the usual medals, and will keep you advised of further developments.

Cordially yours,
LOUIS SMIRNOW.

Dahlia Society of San Leandro

The San Leandro Society held their annual election of officers at the January meeting and the following were elected to serve for the year: president, Ambrose Arbini; 1st vice-president, John Sparre; 2nd vice-president, Charles Perry. Directors: Mrs. Bobsworth, Mrs. Parle and Mrs. Webster for the ladies. T. J. Sjoborg, F. Garms, F. Todaro. Secretary and treasurer, C. Garrity.

It was decided to have the classes for girls and boys again at our 1948 show and the members promised to see that the girls would have enough roots to insure them making a good show.

The show is sponsored by the San Leandro Post of the American Legion 117, and is held in the Memorial Building. The show is free as the merchants give freely of their goods for prizes and the society is helped financially by the city fathers and the Supervisors of Alameda County. The show is invariably held on the last Saturday and Sunday of August.

CHAS. GARRITY, Secretary.

The Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society

Thursday evening, March 18th, about fifty members of the Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society gathered at the Garden Center, Schenley Park, for our regular meeting.

The highspot of the evening was the full color movie "A Year in the Old Dirt Dobber's Garden."

Plans are under way for our Eleventh Annual Show to be held Saturday and Sunday, September 18th and 19th at Phipps Conservatory, Schenley Park, Pittsburgh.

Mrs. H. W. MACROBERTS, Secretary.

A.D.S. SHOW—Penn Top, New York City, Sept. 21 and 22. Plan to attend and to show more blooms than ever.

DAHLIAS and MUMS

By DAHLIADEL

Grow both *Dahlias* and *Hardy Chrysanthemums* in your Garden. Finish up the season with a lot of color. Our 1948 Catalog offers the best 400 Dahlias and 100 Hardy Mums. It contains color and type recommendations. Free on request.

5 BLUE RIBBON DAHLIAS \$5

Roots Value \$7.50

All large varieties for exhibiting and cutting. Dahlia-mum, gold—Faithful, white SC—John W. Sherwood, mauve—Kemp's Radiant Beauty, yellow splashed red—Mme Chiang Kai Shek, yellow and peach.

One root each labeled, guaranteed, and postpaid

INSECT CONTROL

Since the use of DDT much more red spider and mite have been prevalent on dahlias. We have used DDT, nicotine sulphate, rotenone, and pyrethrum in a spray with fair results. Have used DDT with Hexate with fairly good results but we could not recommend either of these sprays to our customers as they gave only a partial control.

A NEW INSECT CONTROL

We have obtained exceptional results, practically 100% insect control with one application of the following spray: 2 heaping tablespoonfuls of 50% wettable BHC in combination with 1/3 teaspoonful TAT Hexate and 1/2 teaspoonful LINCK WA to each gallon of water. Use the same precaution as when spraying with nicotine sulphate. This we feel sure will control the red spider, aphids, mite, and thrips along with practically all the other troublesome insects with the possible exception of the European Corn Borer.

TAT BHC contains the new outstanding chemical Benzene Hexachloride. This product acts as a contact, stomach and fumigant insecticide. It is up to 15 times as toxic to certain insects as DDT yet only 1/5 as toxic to warm blooded animals. Exceptionally effective against sucking bugs, aphids, leaf-eating insects (even killing the egg), wireworms, thrips, scale, grasshoppers, locusts and ants. It does not have the long residual effectiveness of DDT due to its fumigant action, however, this is advantageous in that it reduces the danger of any long lasting residue. 5 lb BHC \$5.00 Postpaid including 4th zone. Add 10c for each additional zone.

Although it has a somewhat objectionable odor, the results are so far ahead of anything else that you gladly tolerate the musty odor.

TAT HEXATE is a newly formulated compound containing Hexaethyl Tetraphosphate and a wetting, spreading agent. Replaces nicotine sulphate in controlling aphids; also excellent for control of plant mites (such as red spider), and other insects.

6 oz. bottle Hexate \$2.25 Postpaid. Only \$2.00 when ordered with BHC.

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