

BULLETIN

of the

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

MAY 1954

Published Quarterly — Second Quarter

featuring:

Cook's Judging Manual
A.D.S. Trial Gardens
A.D.S. Seedling Sweepstakes
Southern Conference
Top Winners of 1953

Midwest Dahlia Conference
Spray or Dust: Which?
Calling All Amateurs
Southern California Conference
Dahlias and Friends

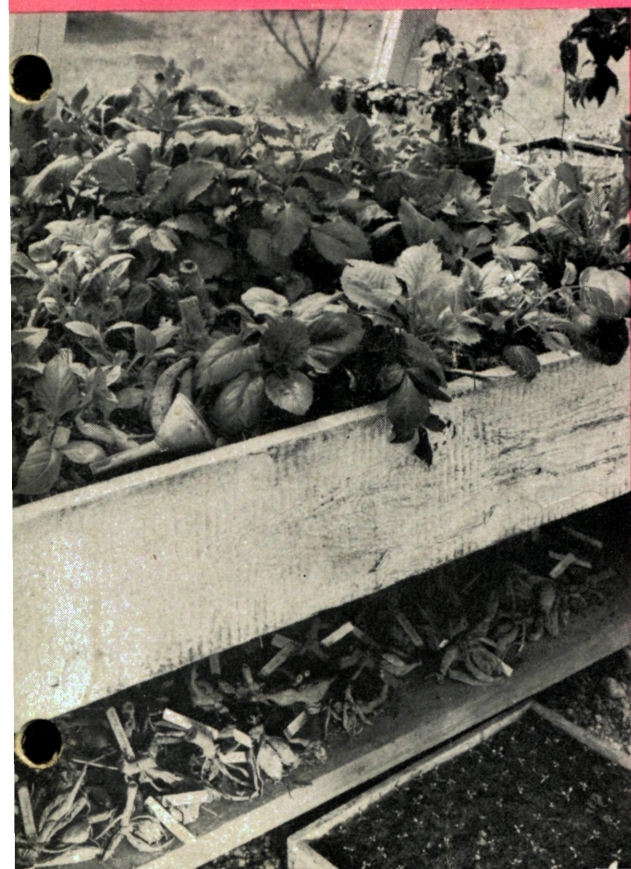
Also:

Roots Versus Plants
Summer Months in the
Dahlia Garden
1954 Show Dates
Across the Nation
Associate Editors
Book Review
and Other Interesting
Articles.

At left:

A typical view in a dahlia propagator's greenhouse this spring. Carefully labeled dahlia clumps under bench; a flat of seedling dahlias below and on bench are cuttings ready to be taken off to be rooted.

Cut courtesy Popular Gardening and Edward J. O'Keefe, Jr.



Stop and Think!

Each year at this time, we ask our friends to stop and think to make sure they have not overlooked a good new one that they should have. Our list of 1954 introductions contains some fine varieties in each size range, with a good choice of types. These are: *Adelaide*, *Harmony*, *Harry A. Beals*, *Little Rachael*, *Miss Echo*, *Silver Spring*, *Storm Cloud*, *Timmie*, and *Vision*.

The following from other introducers will be available in plants and rooted cuttings: *Bittersweet*, *Dr. J. Beyer*, *Fashion Hour*, *Friendship*, *Glacier*, *Gladys Brewster*, *Lady of the Snows*, *Mary Elizabeth*, *Maureen Connolly*, *Old Glory*, *Orange Special*, *Ruth Alampi*, *Sam Herst*, and *Sarah Carolyn*.

Dahlia Blue Book

Our 1954 DAHLIA BLUE BOOK describes the above varieties, with illustrations of our own introductions. It lists 400 of the more popular standard varieties with understandable descriptions and many illustrations. It contains complete and up-to-date cultural instructions based on approved horticultural practices, and other helpful bits of information. Seventy-two pages in all, it is a useful and handy booklet for anyone, and besides, it's free. Write now for a copy.

We Have Them

Whether you plant roots, pot roots, plants, rooted cuttings, or seed, we have them.

ROCKY RIVER DAHLIA GARDENS

E. J. WIND

19111 Story Rd.

Rocky River 16, Ohio

BULLETIN

of the

American Dahlia Society

Advertising Index

Contents for May, 1954

SERIES XXVII, No. 2

Published by

THE AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY, INC.
12 Warren Street, New York 7, N. Y.

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ADVERTISING RATES

Min. space accepted, one-eighth page.
Fourteen agate lines to the inch.

	One Issue	Two Consec. Issues
Full Page	\$80.00	\$145.00
Half Page	50.00	90.00
Quarter Page	35.00	60.00
One-Eighth Page	20.00	35.00
Double Center Spread (2 pages)	165.00	300.00

CLOSING DATES for ADVERTISING
February—JAN. 15; May—APR. 15;
August—JULY 15; Nov.—OCT. 15.

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Membership dues in the American Dahlia Society, \$3.50 per year, of which \$3.00 is for the annual subscription to the Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society, published quarterly.

Send subscriptions to the American Dahlia Society, 12 Warren Street, New York, N. Y., or to the Treasurer of the Society, Henry A. Olsen, 45 Clement Avenue, Elmont, New York.

All advertising for the American Dahlia Society Bulletin is taken subject to editing. The Society reserves the right to strike out of any advertising copy such parts as it deems objectionable, from any cause whatever, and it also reserves the right to cancel any advertisement for the same reason.

Editor - - - - - LYNN B. DUDLEY
25 Irving Place, New Rochelle, N. Y.
(See list of Associate Editors on another page)

Dahlia Exhibitors and Judges

Are Urged to Read . . .

COOK'S JUDGING MANUAL

By George R. Currie, Madison, Wis.

The recent publication by the American Dahlia Society of Dr. Ward H. Cook's thirty-eight page judging manual, "The Judging of Dahlias in Shows," fulfills a need which has long existed in the dahlia world.

It is an unusual dahlia show indeed when one overhears no criticism from exhibitors or show visitors about the judging. Much of it can be shrugged off as poor sportsmanship on the part of the fellows who didn't receive a first he thought he was entitled to. On the other hand, when such criticism comes from experienced dahlia growers, who have had no personal stake in the particular class or classes wherein they have voiced critical comments of the judging, it causes one to wonder if there may not be some basis therefor.

Many is the time when, after I have completed my judging assignment, at a show, some friend (usually another judge) has requested me to step over and view some class which has been judged by some other team. This is followed by asking me how to account for the particular judging results in that class, and we both scratch our heads and conclude that it is beyond our comprehension to explain. There is of course an obvious explanation—the judges who judged the class had an entirely different standard of values which they applied than we would have employed if we had judged it.

Dr. Cook's manual is based upon the American Dahlia Society official bench or show score card. Each of the nine characteristics listed on the score card are carefully analyzed and discussed in detail, and valuable suggestions are set forth as to how the proper points allotted for each characteristic are to be allocated. A summary of the salient features of the manual will not be attempted here, but brief mention should be noted of a few highlights.

One of the most valuable features is the treatment accorded color in

dahlias. The author points out that where two pink dahlias are entered against each other one shouldn't be scored higher for color than the other because it is "pinker." One may have a lighter tone of pink as a result of the reduction of the color context by white, and yet be just as bright and clear in color as the bloom of the darker hue of pink. On the other hand, an admixture of gray may dull the color, in which case there should be a scoring down. Color harmony and complementary colors are discussed and a chart is set forth which enables anyone to determine at a glance which colors are complementary.

Dahlia judges frequently disagree with each other as to how much weight to accord size in judging A sized blooms. Ten points are awarded in the score card to size, which means diameter times depth. Dr. Cook suggests that the product of the depth times the diameter be recorded for each entry being scored and the largest bloom on this basis be scored 10 points for size; that the product of its diameter times depth be then divided by 10 to obtain the equivalent of 1 point on the score card; and then the size product of the other blooms be divided by such figure to determine the points each is entitled to for size. If this method is followed meticulously, the troublesome question of the weight to be accorded size is solved to a mathematical certainty.

It has long been my belief that many dahlia judges, usually but not always those of little comparative experience in judging, penalize far too severely an otherwise worthy entry which may be a little past its prime in condition so as to show some brown petals in back. If all the instructions in the manual are followed in judging such a bloom but 3 points for burns could be deducted from the 20 points allocated to color, and a maximum of half of the points allocated to substance

also could be deducted for poor condition, or 5 points for an A sized bloom, making a total deduction of 8 points deductible for such defect. If of superior size, color, and form, with a good stem and facing properly, such a bloom might still outscore other competitors weak in those characteristics but having clean back petals.

Of course, while seedling entries should always be scored, it is not practical in judging the usual competitive classes to score each entry. However, the table of values of the score card should be kept in mind and in case of a really tough decision now and then an actual scoring would be advisable.

I cannot praise too highly the excellence of this judging manual, nor urge too strongly that every dahlia exhibitor and judge read and study it thoroughly. The dahlia growers of the nation owe a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Cook for his great contribution to our cause.

May we suggest that it is still time to order dahlia roots or plants. Read the advertising in this issue and fill in the blank spots in your garden now.

"The Judging of Dahlias"

A MANUAL

By Ward H. Cook, M.D.

Authorized and published by
the American Dahlia Society.

Price \$1.00 per copy

1954

Classification of Dahlias

Sponsored jointly by the American Dahlia Society and the Central States Dahlia Society.

Price 50 cents per copy

Order the above new books
from

HENRY A. OLSEN
45 Clement Ave.
ELMONT, L. I., N. Y.

American Dahlia Society Trial Gardens—1954

During the 1954 season we, in co-operation with Rutgers University, Michigan State College, the Long Island Agricultural & Technical Institute, the Dahlia Society of Georgia, and the Ohio Valley Dahlia Association, and the Park Departments of the Cities of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Oakland, California, will continue operations of our Trial Gardens for the testing of your seedlings. As has been customary, the supreme seedling award of this Society, the Derrill W. Hart Memorial Award, will be offered



The Derrill Hart Memorial Medal
Awarded to High Scorers
In 4 Size Types

to the variety in each size class — namely, "A" large, over 8 inches; "B" medium, 6 to 8 inches; "BB" small medium, 4 to 6 inches; and "M" miniatures, under 4 inches—which scores an average of 85 or better in three (3) of our official Trial Gardens, not of necessity in one year but in not more than two years prior to its or their introduction in commerce. In other words, seedlings which scored 85 in 1953 can win this Derrill W. Hart award in 1954 if entered in two other gardens and receive a score of 85 or better. Three roots or plants of a variety should be sent prepaid to any one Trial Garden, or to as many Trial Gardens as is elected, to arrive not later than May 31st, together with entry fee of \$5.00 per entry per garden. The five official Trial Gardens to

All Branch and Affiliated Societies Are Invited to Participate in the

A.D.S. SEEDLING SWEEPSTAKES, 1954

Sixth ADS Seedling Sweepstakes Awards will be made in 1954. I think history could show that this popular Series of Seeding Awards was first conceived when a fine dahlia *Marilyn Dale* failed to receive recognition because it was beaten by another fine dahlia *New Look* for the American Home Sweepstakes Medal in the 1948 New York Show. The Seedling Sweepstake Awards first saw the light of day in 1949, and have proved their worth as a means of giving recognition to worthy new dahlias year after year for the past five years. In essence, this is the Trial Garden of the Show Table, in which seedling dahlias (at least three years old and ready for introduction) are scored on a point score, and worthy varieties, scoring 85 or over are given certificates. The varieties in each size class scoring the highest average score in at least three different shows receives an ADS Gold Medal. The results are published in the Bulletin, where all members may see them.

Any Affiliated or Branch Society of the ADS may make these awards at its annual dahlia show by making application. It is hoped that all will do so. A separate class for this competition must be made in the show schedule (schedule writer please note). A complete copy of the rules and an application blank are available from the present committee—F. J. Knocke, M.D., Box 13, Readington, N. J., Chairman.

A.D.S. Trial Gardens

(Continued)

which entries should be sent and from whom entry blanks may be obtained are:

Eastern Trial Garden. New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Dr. Charles H. Connors, Director, 115 North 6th Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey.

Mid-West Trial Garden. Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan, Dr. C. E. Widon, Director, 823 Huntington Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

Long Island Trial Garden. Long Island Agricultural & Technical Institute. Prof. C. Rissmeyr, c/o The Institute, Farmingdale, L.I., New York.

Southern Trial Gardens. Entries to Mr. Wyndel H. Carter, P.O. Box 8, East Point, Georgia. Correspondence to Mr. Nelson Crist, Chairman Trial Garden Committee, c/o H. G. Hastings Co., P.O. Box 4088, Atlanta, Ga.

Ohio Valley Trial Garden. Ault Park, Cincinnati, Ohio—Mr. Robert Seibel, Director. Correspondence to Miss Alice Mattick, Secretary, 4223 Dane Street, Cincinnati 23, Ohio.

In Oakland, California, we are again conducting in cooperation with The San Leandro Dahlia Society and the Park Department of the City of Oakland in Lakeside Park, a Trial Garden in its second year of operation as an unofficial American Dahlia Society Trial Garden. This garden will, in all probability, become an official A.D.S. Garden in 1955. We recommend that this garden receive your support. Entries may be sent to Mr. R. E. Harter, P.O. Box 640, Lafayette, California.

Entry blanks and further information relative to any of the above mentioned Trial Gardens, may be obtained from this writer as well as directly from the Trial Gardens.

—EDWARD B. LLOYD,

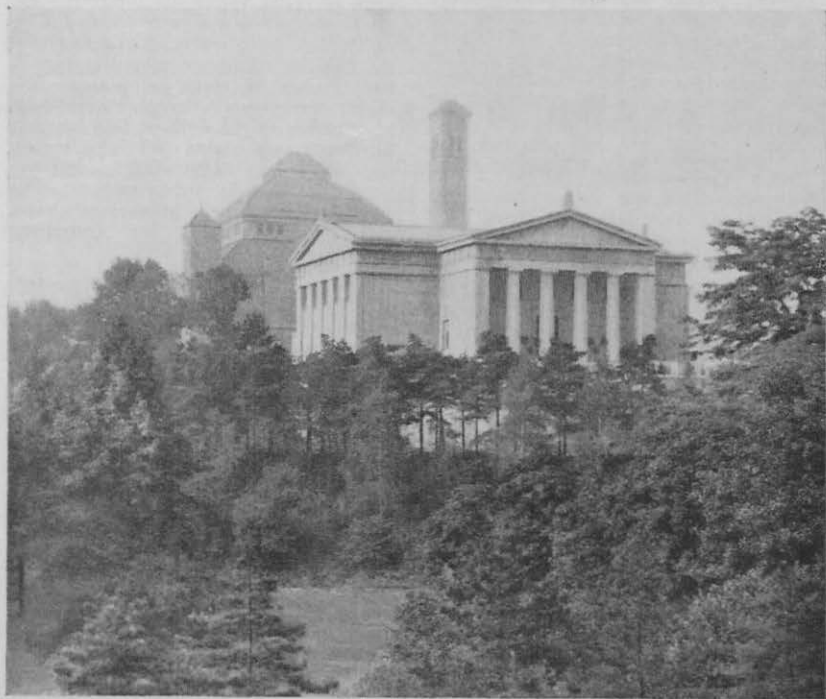
10 Crestmont Rd., Montclair, N.J.
Chairman, Trial Garden Committee.

You Are Invited to Attend the
MIDWEST DAHLIA CONFERENCE
Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 25-26

The Ohio Valley Dahlia Association welcomes the twenty-first Midwest Dahlia Conference to Cincinnati. This is an event that we have been anticipating for several years and we are making enthusiastic plans to entertain visitors to the "Queen City of the West."

The Midwest Dahlia Conference Show will be held at the Cincinnati Art Museum, Eden Park, on September 25th and 26th. Wilbur C. Anderson is Show Chairman. The Alms Hotel, a five minute drive from the Art Museum, will be Show Headquarters. The Alms is ideally suited to be Headquarters as it is centrally located in Cincinnati, and has ample parking facilities. A shuttle bus will be run from the Alms to the Cincinnati Art Museum. Those wishing to drive over will be furnished a map of the streets leading to the Museum.

(Continued on next page)



The Cincinnati Art Museum in Eden Park,
where 21st Midwest Show is to be staged.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

(Continued)

We, Cincinnatians, are very proud of our Art Museum and we think that it is one of the loveliest locations in the country to have a dahlia show. The Museum is located in one of Cincinnati's most beautiful parks. One thousand cars can be parked there. Setting up facilities are ample.

We are planning a very special program for the entertainment of our guests. Registration will be at the Alms on Friday and Saturday morning and is free. At 1:15 Friday afternoon, there will be a tour of dahlia gardens of Greater Cincinnati and northern Kentucky. The Show will be set up on Saturday morning and at noon Saturday, the judges' luncheon will be held at the Museum. During the judging, there will be a tea for the ladies and a tour to world famous Rookwood Pottery.

The Annual Midwest Dahlia Conference meeting will be held at the Art Museum between 5 and 6 p.m. The Midwest Banquet will be held at the Alms Hotel at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, when the prizes of the Show will be awarded.

There will be a tour to Harley Peck's Golden Rule Dahlia Farm, Lebanon, Ohio, on Sunday morning. Mr. Peck's two acre cut flower and exhibition patch is considered one of the best in the country.

The Show will be open on Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m.

All blooms for exhibition should be sent via Air Freight to the Ohio Valley Dahlia Association, c/o Alms Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio. At the same time, send a telegram to Mr. Jack Wilsey, Show Secretary, 3605 Wilshire, Cincinnati 9, Ohio. For Show Schedules or Registration Cards write Mr. Wilsey.

The Ohio Valley Dahlia Association extends a very cordial invitation to members of all affiliated dahlia societies to come to the 1954 Midwest Dahlia Conference Show.

—L. M. WHITE,

*President, The Ohio Valley
Dahlia Association,
The Midwest Dahlia Conference.*

Calling ALL Amateurs

Don't Let Plants Scare You!

By RUTH BERRY

Associate Editor

2835 Wagar Dr., Cleveland 16, Ohio

Like most beginners in the Dahlia world, I started with roots. A friend (and I still regard my husband as such) gave me his surplus roots. I was thrilled with them. Even though they were not the latest varieties, I thought they were the most beautiful flowers I had ever grown.

So—the next year I got ambitious and purchased a few roots. But, *roots*. I had carefully read all the dahlia catalogues that came to our home, and I was *afraid* of plants and of rooted cuttings. Surely, they were meant only for the “expert”!

However, the question of performance of roots vs. plants interested me and I started on a tour of inquiry. One of the larger commercial growers told me that he could see no difference in the blooms of roots or plants. Another commercial grower who sells cut flowers to the florists, told me that he plants *only* plants and doesn't even dig his clumps in the fall, except for those he expects to propagate. The sweepstakes winners at various shows were queried; and the consensus was that plants were better.

The following year I experimented. I planted a root on one side of a stake and a plant of the same variety on the other. In almost every case, the plant performed better.

And so the “fear” of plants was put behind me. Actually, plants are easier to grow than roots. It is as easy to grow them as it would be a zinnia or a petunia plant. But their greatest advantage is that you can *see* them. Which means that as soon as planted, a program of cultivation, spraying and watering is not only possible, but practicable. They are far cheaper, especially when purchasing the new varieties. And, for the amateur or novice, they are the *perfect* type of dahlia to plant.

If you have never grown plants, order some now from your favorite commercial grower and have a successful and happy 1954 dahlia garden.

Alabama Dahlia News and Call to the Southern Conference

This is Station A.L.A. on the Dahlia Network broadcasting from Birmingham, Alabama, inviting "you all" (now that's plural, for a Southerner always means all of you) to come to the 7th Annual Show of the Southern States Dahlia Association held in conjunction with the 19th Annual Show of the Dahlia Society of Alabama in Birmingham, October 2nd and 3rd.

Already, in greenhouses and sunny windows you will see tubers sprouting, plants rooting and folks as busy as bees, for all thoughts are centered on making the 1954 Show the best yet. Mr. G. E. Alderson, Show Chairman, has the schedule at the printer's and he and his able assistants have things well in hand. The weather permitting and the good Lord willing, we will really have a Show. So, come to see us, won't you?

It's going to be lots of fun having "you all" come and we hope to make

you have a good time. We think one of the nicest parts of a show is the fellowship, so we've made our plans with that in mind. On Friday evening, October 1st, we're going to have a "get-to-gether" for the out-of-town folks. Saturday there will be a luncheon at "The Club," a beautiful place on top of Red Mountain, overlooking the city. We think you'll like the food too. That evening there will be a Smorgasbord out at "The Rikes"—you know what that means—a grand time for a "gabfest." An old time Southern barbecue following a tour on Sunday morning will round out the good times, we hope. So, come early, by Friday evening at least and be sure to stay through the barbecue. Not only do we promise you a good time but a good show with specimen blooms of every type and variety and an Arrangement Section you've never seen the likes of and one you will never forget.

STILL TIME TO ORDER

Plants of These Top Winners in Shows And on Honor Rolls

FASHION HOUR (Roberts)

I. C. Cyclamen purple. Size 10" x 5". Good stem and foliage. American Home Achievement Medal Winner in the Southtown Show in Chicago. Received Certificate of Merit in the American Dahlia Society Trial Grounds in Farmingdale, N. Y.

GLADYS BREWSTER (Brewster)

F. D. Dark blend, trian purple and white. Size 8" x 5". Color unusual and attractive. Has excellent keeping qualities. Good stiff stems. Winner of American Home Achievement Medal, Long Island Show. Also A.D.S. Sweepstake Award there. In the dark blend class.

RUTH ALAMPI (Lloyd)

S. C. Phlox purple, general effect deep lavender. Size 10" x 6". Good foliage and stems. Winner of the American Home Achievement Medal in the American Dahlia Society Show in New York. Also American Dahlia Society Sweepstake winner there.

SARAH CAROLYN (Whittaker)

F. D. Amaranth rose pink. Size 10" x 6". Strong, canelike stems. Winner of the American Home Achievement Medals in the Chattanooga Show and Southern Conference Show, Atlanta. A.D.S. Sweepstake winners in those shows. Winner at Birmingham and Rossville, Ga.

ALL OF THE ABOVE VARIETIES—ROOTS, \$15 NET; PLANTS, \$5.00 NET

Fine Plants for Quick, Safe Shipment. ORDER TODAY

Still some California Seed available, 125 for \$5.00

20 for \$1.00—60 for \$2.50

RUSCHMOHR DAHLIA GARDENS

38 VINCENT ST., ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N. Y.

Alabama Society—(Contd.)

Mr. Alderson, who is also president of Southern States, keeps before us at all times the real objectives, we pass them on to you along with his cordial invitation.

* * *

The Southern States Dahlia Association

This Association was organized in 1941 for the following purposes:

- to stimulate interest in and promote the culture and development of the dahlia throughout all of the Southern States.
- to encourage the novice and the amateur.
- to assist the growers in keeping a high standard in varieties best suited to the Southern States.
- to assist in the testing of new varieties and giving them such recognition as they deserve.
- to study the diseases of the dahlia and assist in finding remedies for same.
- to disseminate information relating to the dahlia not only over the South but over the entire country.

to secure uniformity in the awarding of prizes at flower shows.

to arrange flower exhibitions wherein all Southern States can cooperate toward one large show annually.

The participating clubs at present are the Dahlia Society of Tennessee, the Dahlia Society of Georgia and the Dahlia Society of Alabama but membership is open to any dahlia societies in the Southern States from North Carolina to Texas.

The annual show for 1954 will be held at Birmingham, Alabama on October 2nd and 3rd at the Thomas Jefferson Hotel.

Our dahlia friends as well as those whom we do not yet know, are here-with cordially invited to attend this Southern States show and, if you can arrange it, we believe that your visit to the deep South will be long remembered.

—G. E. ALDERSON

*President—Southern States
Dahlia Association.*

*Gen'l Chairman—1954 Show
Committees.*

Backing up our Southern States President and Show Chairman are a fine group of officers who in turn are backed up by a loyal committee and a hard-working group of members. Our president is J. J. Pate; vice-presidents are: A. H. West, D. Halak, H. L. McLane and O. A. Robert; secretary, W. W. Lawless, corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. G. Goodwin and treasurer, Mrs. F. M. House.

Now, this is Maude Goodwin signing off for Station A.L.A. on the Dahlia Network. Listen, you can hear us singing — "It's You—You—You, We're inviting You — You — You, That we want want you is true—true —true, We invite You—You—You."

"TUBEROUS ROOTS"

The definition of a *Tuber*, (which is the usual but wrong term applied to roots of a dahlia), says: "A fleshy, usually oblong, or rounded thickening, or out growth (as the potato) of a subterranean stem or shoot, bearing minute scalelike leaves with buds or eyes in their axils from which new plants may arise."

The definition of a *Tuberous Root* is: "A true root, so thickened as to resemble a tuber, but bearing no buds or eyes."

Dahlias make only Tuberous Roots.

CLEAN UP OFFER

3 Top Flight Dahlias

RUBELLITE, A-SC Purple
ST. NICK, B. SC. Bi, Red
and White

MISS ROSE FLETCHER, B-
SC Pink

All three winners
Catalogue Value
\$5.50, NOW for

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Catalogues Available
Finest Americans and Australians

Bruce Collins
88 RIVER ROAD
UTICA, MICH.

Spray or Dust: Which?

By C. MERRILL BROWN, Associate Editor

102 Oakgrove Drive, Williamsville, N. Y.

Everyone who grows dahlias knows that insect control is a *must*. The large variety of insecticides on the market gives one ample choice. Experience alone can prove which is best to be used in any particular instance. For years we have been advocating the combination of DDT and hexaethyltetraphosphate (sold under a variety of names) to take care of leaf hoppers, tarnish plant bugs and red spider. Then along came parathion and we switched to that, substituting it for the tetraphosphate. The DDT was available as a wettable powder and the hexaethyltetraphosphate as a miscible and compatible liquid with it. A power sprayer of 15 gallon capacity made control in the vicinity of the home a fairly easy matter. But plenty of work, especially when the plants got large.

Came the time, though, when part of the near at home garden turned into a new home and was no longer available. Driven into the open field the question became "How to control the insects?" One *could* use a three gallon affair that had to be carried around on your back after pumping up the pressure. It meant a lot of pumping and a lot of lugging of water to take care of a thousand or more plants in this manner. Besides, it was not so good for a person with a bad heart. What to do? We couldn't stop growing dahlias. Only one thing left: DUST.

So, we started dusting; first on a small scale and then on a larger scale. The first duster used was one designed for roses with about a pound capacity. The next one was a bellows-type affair of six pounds capacity made by the Champion Sprayer Co. of Detroit, Michigan. Their number 103. The first year we had to dust twice to get coverage: first one week with a 5 per cent DDT dust put out by DuPont and the next week with a 1.5 per cent parathion dust offered by the Niagara Sprayer and Chemical Co. This gave a fairly good control in the field. Spraying was still resorted to at home. Control in the field indicated that a

more frequent application should be able to hold all the insects in check. A single dust with *both* DDT and parathion should fill the bill. This (3 per cent DDT-1.5 per cent parathion) we found to be available from the Niagara Sprayer and Chemical Company who put it out in 50 pound bags at \$12.00 per hundred pounds. Using this combination for the past two years has been so successful that spraying is no longer attempted. Dusting once a week, preferably early in the morning or late at night when the dew is on the plants, has done a fine job of control on red spider, tarnish plant bugs and leaf hoppers. The time element makes dusting a joy rather than a chore. 15 minutes to take care of 350 plants at home and half an hour at the field planting for better than a thousand plants. And the cost: less than a cent per plant per season.

This year we hope to get a duster where we can turn a crank. We also hope to get a mixture of malathion and DDT in place of what we have been using. It is stated that malathion is much less toxic to human beings than parathion and just as toxic to red spider and aphids. It is available as a 2 per cent or 5 per cent dust. We are trying to determine if a combination DDT-malathion dust will be available this year. If so, we will try it. So, we suggest that those of you who have found spraying a difficult job, try dusting and see how much easier insect control becomes.

DAHLIAS NOW!

It is later than you think. So don't delay. Our root stock is selling out rapidly, but we can furnish strong, healthy green plants of most varieties.

Current Catalogue Is Still Available. WRITE

**PARRELLA
DAHILIA GARDENS**

3380 Ely Ave., New York 69, N.Y.

FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Southern California Dahlia Association



Left to right, back row: Pete J. Sarment, Tulare; Larry Hendsch, Bakersfield; R. Paul Comstock, San Diego; Mrs. Myrtle Wilson, Bakersfield; Hobart Jordan, Santa Anna.

Front row: Mr. Stephen Stewart, Inglewood; Mrs. Ann Oglesby, Bakersfield; Mr. A. Delamorte, Inglewood; Mr. Haywood O. Allen, Westminster; and Noel O. Scott, Glendale.

FOREWORD by NOEL O. SCOTT, *Associate Editor*
1436 Stanley, Glendale, Calif.

The Southern California Dahlia Association was organized in 1950. At that time it was composed of the membership of the following Dahlia Societies: San Diego County Dahlia Society, Orange County Dahlia Society, Inc., San Fernando Valley Dahlia Society (now non-existent), Inglewood Dahlia Society, Central Valley Dahlia Society, Fresno Dahlia Society.

Since then these groups of dahlia enthusiasts have gathered annually in February for purposes of fellowship and the advancement of dahlia "know-how" among members and their friends within the area. The first meetings were conducted by a "master of ceremonies," with the assistance of the "host Society."

In more recent years as the organization has developed, the president of the "host Society" becomes also the President-pro-tem of the Association Conference. The President then chooses his own "MC," and the Secretary of the "host Society" becomes the secretary-pro-tem at the Association meetings.

At each annual meeting, an outstanding guest speaker has been engaged. In addition, a subject of vital interest to all member-societies is "aired" to promote constructive thinking and action upon the return of the delegates to their homes.

For example, at the 1953 meeting in Santa Ana, we sought the answers to two questions: (1) What can we do to best assist the A.D.S. toward their goals? (2) What can the A.D.S. do to help us most?

The 1954 meeting of the So. California Dahlia Ass'n was held in the Bakersfield Inn, Bakersfield, California on Feb. 6th and 7th; Central

Valley Dahlia Society being the "host Society." This writer can't find words suitable to praise the Central Valley Society in their role of host. From the selection of the hotel to the smallest detail—everything was perfect! A very special "Oscar" to the following people for their untiring efforts in making this our best Conference ever: Myrtle Wilson, Ann Oglesby, Edna Rambaud, Mrs. Frederick Hoar and the Messrs. Hendsch, Shaffer and many others. Here now, is the Secretary's report:

Bakersfield Inn, February 6-7, 1954
Mr. Larry Hendsch, President, presiding with Ann Oglesby, as Sec'y.

Mr. Hendsch called the first session of the Conference to order at 2:00 P.M. After a warm welcome by City Manager C. Leland Gunn, Bakersfield, the minutes of the Fourth annual Conference in Santa Ana, 1953 were read and approved.

Member Societies represented this year were: San Diego County Dahlia Society, Orange County Dahlia Society, Inc., Inglewood Dahlia Society, Central Valley Dahlia Society.

The theme of general discussion by members was (1) "How to improve the local Society meetings," and (2) "The advisability of governing the local Society by an 'Executive Board'."

Upon the recommendation of Noel Scott, Glendale, that "In lieu of a decision by the separate Societies to adopt question (2), all Societies should extend the courtesy of giving their guest speakers the floor ahead of any business transactions in conducting their local monthly meetings."

It was concluded the adoption of the above recommendation would reflect appreciation of the speaker; adding dignity and interest for the program continuity. Upon question (2) it was shown that its adoption would make available much more time at each meeting for discussing the general culture, instruction to novices, and reviewing the pleasures and problems in the dahlia garden; whereas the 'Executive Board' could "thrash out" any and all problems at a different time and place. It was further pointed out this modern stream-lining of the organizational setup is very successful in many parts of the country.

Mr. Hobart Jordan, Santa Ana, was selected as Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws. To meet with, and assist him in this work, each Society is to select their own representative. All work on this document is to be completed and a report made to each member Society within three months.

The San Diego County Dahlia Society has agreed to "host" in 1955.

The Saturday evening banquet, at 6:30 P.M. will not soon be forgotten by the seventy-two assembled dahlia enthusiasts.

ANN OGLESBY, Sec'y,
Southern California Dahlia Ass'n.

Dahlia Roots Versus Plants for Blue Ribbons

By JOHN METZGER

Associate Editor

126 Allen St., Irvington, N.J.

Dahlia Tuberous Roots Versus Plants. In every gathering of Dahlia enthusiasts, each has his staunch supporters.

The Dahlia Tuberous Root will keep right on growing during a hot spell; whereas, the plant is apt to die or become stunted. However, the root will carry over any disease from the previous year, while the plant when set out is clean and vigorous or it is discarded.

So, we can go on endlessly. I like plants and so to make a few converts, here is how I start my plants in the greenhouse.

I start my root on the bench about the first of February. I prefer pot roots or bulbs from plants which have not been forced for exhibition bloom the year before.

Small cheese boxes are used, one root to each box, soil composed of

(Continued on next page)

The Garden Journal

is unique in that

it not only furnishes reliable cultural instruction on trees and shrubs, perennials, annuals, and bulbs, gives advice on chemical aids to gardening, on lawns, soils, and so forth, but also relates the history and romance of plants, their development, their economic as well as ornamental uses.

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BRONX PARK, N.Y. 58, N.Y.**

Roots Versus Plants

(Continued)

one-third vermiculite, one-third rotted cow manure, one-third good garden soil.

Medium sized roots, not over six inches, preferably with a good strong neck. Bulb is planted at an angle allowing the eye to show about 1 inch above the ground.

Soil is kept fairly moist until active growth starts, as too much water is apt to rot the root.

Do not keep temperature high, 60°F. bottom heat is ample. Too high temperature encourages soft growth, a prelude to trouble.

As growth starts, cutting time has arrived. When about 3 inches long, with a razor blade, or other sharp knife, the cutting is removed about one-sixteenth inch from root, being careful not to cut into same. Carefully remove any excess foliage, near heel of cutting and insert same into a rooting bed of either vermiculite or clean sand. Make sure sand has been washed of any solution builders use to keep sand from freezing. Insert at a slight angle about 1 inch deep, marking same with label stating name of plant. Plant closely in rows.

In about three weeks, cuttings should be rooted. Take a knife and carefully lift from sand. If not rooted replace; otherwise, plant cutting in 2¼ inch pot using a soil mixture of one-third each: peat moss, garden soil and rotted manure.

Keep plants clean with a weekly spray of Black Leaf 40, for white fly and aphids, and your favorite spray to prevent disease.

Clean plants grown cool are the foundation for the Blue Ribbons at the Fall Shows.

Roots versus plants? I'll take plants.

IN MEMORIAM

Correction

We regret to say that in the last *Bulletin* Mr. C. L. Armentrout's name was misspelled in his Obituary and that he was reported as being a past president of The Baltimore Dahlia Society. He was, of course, president of the National Capital Dahlia Society at the time when he passed away.

Harry W. Miller

Harry W. Miller, aged 68, passed away Sunday at his home, 35 Green Hill Avenue, Easton, Pennsylvania. He grew dahlias for the past 30 years and during the recent ones, had more and more devoted his energies to the growing of seedlings. In this time, among others he originated Gary E., Darl Z., Marion Glenn, and in 1953 two of his varieties, *Margaret Templeton*, A. size, informal decorative white, and *Pamela Jane*, B. size, white informal, won top show honors and Honor Roll listings.

Mr. Miller had many friends and all were always greeted with a smile. Until his illness in 1952 he was an indefatigable gardener. He once told Mrs. Miller that he wondered if he did not put his love of dahlias before his love of God. But his minister, we are told, did not believe this. He said, "We are all given some talents by our Creator. Harry Miller's talent was working with the soil and the garden is a wonderful place to get close to God."

He is survived, besides Mrs. Miller, by three sons and a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Templeton, for whom his latest seedling was named.

New Dahlia Registrations

Dr. Charles H. Connors, Chairman of the Nomenclature Committee of the A.D.S. announces the following names have been officially registered and made a part of the A.D.S. Name List on file at his office at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University:

Flying Saucer "A" size St. C. light blend with center white. About one-third tipped strong lavender. Registered in the name of Mrs. Charles Clapp, Jr., Albemarle County, Campbell, Virginia.

The Orange "B" size S.C. orange.

Joseph's Coat "B" size F.D. blend of pale yellow and tones of red.

Blackie "M" size F.D. dark maroon.

Pink Star "M" size F.D. pink.

All four above registered in the name of Harold R. Campbell, Cam-mat Ranch, 325 Penn Street, El Segundo, California.

DAHLIAS and FRIENDS

By LOUISA KLEINJOHN, *Associate Editor*

726 Barret Ave., Louisville, Ky.

Have you ever stopped to think just how closely Dahlias and Friends are related? If not, just stop and think. They belong to each other.

Growing Dahlias is a wonderful hobby and the most wonderful people grow them. It was once told to me, that anyone who loves and grows Dahlias, one of God's most beautiful flowers, must be one of God's children and is a fine person to know and call a friend. When you stop to think, there must be something to it, as we travel many, many miles to attend Dahlia Shows, especially the Midwest Dahlia Show. Do we go only because of the Dahlia? Yes we know that the Dahlia is the center of interest at any Dahlia Show, but honestly, let's be frank about it, don't we all look forward to that warm hand-shake and hello to our many friends and Dahlia lovers who come from all parts of the country and that we see only once or twice a year? At the Shows, we judge together, talk together, and many are the times when there are differences of opinion and we discuss our likes and dislikes, (for this would be a funny world if we all agreed on everything), whether or not a new Dahlia or a seedling is worthy or better than anything that is already in its Class, but after all is said and done, we all generally leave in good spirits, shake hands and hope to see one another next year.

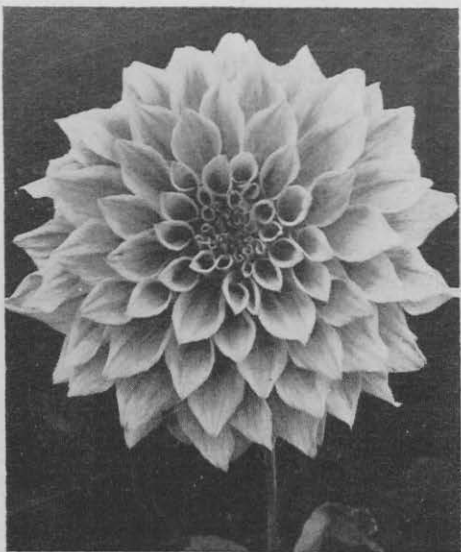
Many have been the times when God has called one of our friends to his heavenly home. They are missed very much, and then again, each year we add new Dahlia Growers. It is surprising what close Friendships have developed, all because of the Dahlia. When one is on vacation, it is very gratifying to know, that if you are passing through a city where there is a Dahlia Friend, you are always welcome to stop and when I say welcome, I really mean it, as the writer knows from experience. Many are the times, especially during the long winter months, that we can sit and think over the past season and be reminded that, we are thankful that growing Dahlias is our Hobby and that we are called friends to many who have the same Hobby—growing Dahlias. And then too, the ever welcome Mail-man who brings us a letter from afar from a Dahlia friend or a Catalog with the new as well as the old varieties.

They usually say that the Dahlia is a Man's flower and a Man's hobby, but I disagree, as I know that it can also be a Woman's Hobby too.

EDWARD J. O'KEEFE, JR.

On April 22, Edward J. O'Keefe, Jr., Harrison, N. Y., was appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the American Dahlia Society by President Andrew Mulcahy. Mr. O'Keefe is a dahlia grower, exhibitor and writer on dahlia subjects.

See membership blank in this issue. Why not renew your A.D.S. membership today? Also persuade your gardening friends to join and get the many cultural suggestions contained in every one of the four issues. Active membership dues \$3.50 per year, of which \$3.00 is for this Bulletin.



ARTHUR GODFREY—FD, Fl. This variety was fourth on Classification List Reports in "A" Size group. Cut by courtesy of "Popular Gardening".

1943 Top Winners

By LEO L. POLLAK

Associate Editor

Hotel Delmonico, New York 22, N.Y.

Many lists of show winning varieties of dahlias are published each year. But we feel certain that among our readers there may still exist some doubt about which varieties are outstanding when they come to the show table and are evaluated by competent judges.

The Joint Classification Committee of the American Dahlia Society and the Central States Dahlia Society compiles a new Classification List each year. Its present chairman is James E. Marsh of Chicago and its secretary is Dr. Edward McDade of Scranton, Pennsylvania. (These lists are sent without charge to the active members of both societies.)

The members of the committee for the American Dahlia Society are: Charles Diffenderffer, Baltimore, Maryland; Henry Olsen, Elmont, New York; Dr. Bruce Preas, Rockville Center, New York; J. Louis Roberts, Chicago, Illinois; Alternate Dr. H. C. Rike, Birmingham, Alabama. The members for the Central

States Dahlia Society are: Mrs. H. J. Blum, La Grange, Illinois; Harold L. Cummings, La Grange, Illinois; Hon. George R. Currie, Madison, Wisconsin; Fred L. Trauth, Chicago, Illinois.

The committee, in order to get the latest and most authentic show returns each year, contact the chairman or secretary of practically every important show in every section of the country to secure a compilation of all the winners. The reports thus received are used, along with other data, as a basis for the classification list the following season. Over one hundred shows reported last fall, so there can be no question as to the reliability of results.

From the lists of winners received in these shows, Dr. McDade has compiled what we think is one of the best lists of dahlias which have and can win at shows. It is our hope that it will help growers in making his or her decision as to what to grow to enable each to carry off some blue ribbons or perhaps some sweepstake prizes. The list consists of the top 25 winners in all shows reporting, in both the A and B size categories.

Study of the lists will show that there are many of the older varieties which are reasonably priced today. Many of them seem to win year after year. They are not too difficult to grow and most of them will produce enough roots to give one a fair quantity of plants to carry on the following year.

Because the list was made up of returns all over the country, it seems likely that most of these varieties do well in various parts of the United States. In other words, it is not a localized list from just a few sections. We hope it will prove valuable in making dahlia selections this year and in future years, wherever you may live. We consider it a most worthwhile contribution to dahlia knowledge and we thank Dr. McDade for making it available to all of us.

* * * A SIZE

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| • 1. Five Star General | F.D. Lt. Bl. |
| • 2. Kevlin | I.D. Pk. |
| • 3. Autumn Blaze | I.D. Dk. Bl. |
| • 4. Arthur Godfrey | F.D. Fl. |
| • 5. Mrs. Hester Pape | I.D. Dk. R. |
| • 6. Jane Lausche | S.C. Bl. L. & W. |
| • 7. Croyden Masterpiece | I.D. Au. |
| • 8. Marilyn Dale | S.C. L. |
| • 9. Patricia Spollen | I.C. Or. |
| • 10. The Cardinal | S.C. R. |

9. Clariam Royalty	St. C. Pk.	14. Barbarosa	F.D. R.
9. Pride of Holland	St. C. Pk.	15. Ballego's Glory	F.D. Dk. Bl.
9. Graf-folke Bernadette	S.C. Wh.	15. Michigan White	S.C. Wh.
10. Prairie Fire	S.C. Or.	15. Goudbroecaat	I.D. Var. Y.-R.
11. Ami Louise Blin	S.C. Dk. R.	16. Gypsy Girl	F.D. Var. L. Pu.
11. King Size	St. C. R.	16. Jersey Beauty	F.D. Pk.
12. Sarett's Pink Flamingo	L.C. Pk.	17. Grace	St. C. Pk.
12. Hypnose	I.C. Var. Y.-R.	17. Francis Hamilton Archer	F.D. L.
13. Tiara	F.D. Bl. O.-R.	17. Nay Aug	S.C. Pk.
13. Quinn's Tidal Wave	I.D. Y.	17. Brandaris	F.D. Fl.
14. Pop Harris	F.D. R.	18. Flamingo	F.D. Fl.
14. Oakleigh Champion	I.C. Au.	19. Yellow Special	St. C. Y.
14. Pride of Parkersburg	S.C. Y.	19. Snowball	St. C. Wh.
14. Prairie Sun	F.D. Y.	20. Agnes E. James	St. C. Or.
15. The Real Glory	F.D. Wh.	20. Lyriek	I.C. L.
15. Jaune La Belle	I.C. Y.	21. Judy G.	St. C. Dk. Bl.
16. Nellie Retzer	I.C. L.	22. Bedford Beauty	I.C. L.
17. Special Award	S.C. Au.	22. Captain Silverman	St. C. Y.
17. New Look	S.C. Y.	23. Deuil de Roi Albert	F.D. Bl. Pu.-W.
18. Nearest Blue	I.D. L.	24. Orange Flame	I.D. Or.
19. Madonna	I.D. Wh.	24. Gold Digger	I.D. Au.
19. Col. Little	I.D. Fl.	24. Punatueel	S.C. Y.
19. Helen Stafford	I.D. Lt. Bl. L. & W.	25. Duindigt	S.C. Or.
19. Dixie Winedot	I.D. Var. Wh.-Pu.	25. Sweetie Pie*	I.D. Y.
20. Bay City White	I.C. Wh.	25. Cease Fire*	(Never Listed)
20. Detroit 250	I.C. Dk. R.		
20. Troubadour	S.C. Var. Pr. & Pr.		
20. The Volunteer	I.D. Pu.		
20. Esquire	I.D. Pu.		
20. Kentucky Sportsman	I.D. Bi. Y.-Wh.		
21. Big Mo	I.C. Dk. R.		
21. Whitehall	S.C. Wh.		
22. Giant of Baarn	I.C. Fl.		
23. Don Jose	F.D. Or.		
23. Kirsten Flagstad	F.D. Au.		
23. Virginia B. Taggart	F.D. Pk.		
24. Bill Jack	S.C. Wh.		
24. King David	F.D. Pu.		
25. Mary Noble*	F.D. L.		
25. Roselyn Straight	S.C. Fl.		

* This variety not in 1954 classification list.

B SIZE

1. Golden Treasure	F.D. Au.
2. Stoplight	St. C. R.
3. Windlassie	I.D. Wh.
4. Orfeo	I.C. Pu.
5. Victory Maid	I.C. Bl. R. & Wh.
6. Ambassador Van Kleffins	F.D. Or.
7. Mme. Elizabeth Sawyer	St. C. Pk.
7. Aumonier Chandelon	St. C. Lt. Bl. Pk.-Y.
8. Juanita	St. C. Dk. R.
8. Hylas	S.C. Rd.
8. Deep Velvet	F.D. Dk. R.
9. Florence Chadwick	St. C. Wh.
10. Braith Davis	F.D. Pu.
11. Flaming Sunset	F.D. Or.
11. Broeder Justinus	S.C. Lt. Bl. Y.-Or.
12. Heart of Gold	I.C. Fl.
12. Gerrie Hoek	F.D. Pk.
13. Sellwood Glory	F.D. Dk. Bl.
14. Golden Rechtschaffenheit	I.C. Au.
14. Betty Blossom	F.D. Lt. Bl. Y.-Pk.

Dr. McDade's Thanks

We wish to thank all of the personnel on classification for their fine reports which were made on time, as requested, before the due dates. We hope that their work will continue and that each group will register the name of the Chairman of Classification of their local society with me as Chairman at the following address: Dr. Edward F. McDade, 1021 So. Main St., Scranton, Pa.

We would appreciate it if all chairmen or chairwomen on Classified Reports would send reports before October 15 and also register chairmen for ensuing year with their Branch and Affiliate Societies and with me.

You may be interested in the high score of the various varieties in the Classification Lists submitted to the Committee. Those varieties which topped all winners in the list were:

A-Size—*Five Star General*

(This one had more mentions than any other variety.)

B-Size—*Golden Treasure*

Min.—*Hazel Harper*

Pom.—*Margaret Williams*

NOTE: In the 1954 Classification List, note this error which was typographical. *Trinket*, M-ID, was listed as L., whereas it is "Red."

—Dr. EDWARD F. McDADE

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."

ANDREW J. MULCAHY, *President*
20 Marshal Ave., Floral Park, N. Y.

EDWARD B. LLOYD, *Secretary*
10 Crestmont Road, Montclair, N. J.

HENRY A. OLSEN, *Treasurer*
45 Clement Ave., Elmont, N. Y.

LYNN B. DUDLEY, *Editor, Bulletin*
25 Irving Pl., New Rochelle, N. Y.

The Aims of the Editors

An eminent and experienced group of dahlia people have consented to share the work and responsibilities of editing this publication. All of them believe that if this Bulletin is to best serve the greatest number it must appeal to every type of dahlia grower. One of them wrote recently, "How about directing some articles toward the amateur? If the Bulletin is edited so that it is of interest only to the experts, naturally the memberships will be limited, for after all, there are only a few hundred expert dahlia

growers in the country. So, on a page in the back, somewhere, how about having articles in each issue that might help the novice?"

We editors believe that is good thinking. No dahlia society, or other floral group, can long endure if it does not secure as members and workers, the young gardeners and exhibitors. We want the young people to join the A.D.S. and every other dahlia society everywhere. It will be our endeavor to include in every issue some cultural ideas that are simple and practical for the amateur growers.

We hope that every society always will be on the alert to interest more young people in growing dahlias. The writer once undertook to distribute packets of small type dahlia seeds through the schools to get children to know and appreciate dahlias. Many teachers asked for and received allotments of seeds. The trouble was, we did not follow up and learn if any young people really became interested in growing dahlias. We would like to try it again. A number of growers contributed seed to the project and undoubtedly would do so again, if asked. But such a plan needs some earnest souls to volunteer to carry out such a project to a successful conclusion. How about you?

We cite this as just one way to promote dahlia culture to a larger and younger group. There are other ways. Perhaps one way would have classes for the sons and daughters of society members in every show. We could also have age classes: (1) Age group 10 to 12 years; (2) Age group 12 to 15; (3) Age group 15 to 18, and so on. But the object of any plan should be, in the end, to build up the younger dahlia-enthusiast element in all dahlia societies. When that is accomplished we will have bigger and better exhibitions and more and better operated and financed dahlia societies.

And to that objective, this publication is dedicated. We welcome articles and suggestions from anyone to this end.

Our Associate Editors

It has been suggested by A. W. Mason of National Capitol Dahlia Society that we publish the addresses of our editors. He recently visited the Pacific Coast and wanted to call up and visit with some dahlia folks. He couldn't locate any addresses out there

of dahlia growers, so had to be satisfied with talking to some iris men. He writes: "Publish the names and street addresses of your Associate Editors and Vice Presidents so that when some of us are traveling away from home we can get in contact with some member of the A.D.S."

Well, Arthur, we are sympathetic to this idea. Hereafter, where a name is listed in the Bulletin, the address will be included if we have it. In a forthcoming issue we will list names and addresses of A.D.S. Vice Presidents. But for now, here is the list of Associate Editors of this publication with addresses. Readers are free to write them and make suggestions for future articles or to comment on those written by them in this issue.

- J. Louis Roberts,
12147 Harvard Ave.,
Chicago 28, Illinois
- Dr. Ward Cook,
34 Puritan Ave.,
Tuckahoe, New York
- Col. Richard T. Eddy,
Box B-9,
Encinitas, California
- Dr. Frederick J. Knocke,
P. O. Box 13,
Readington, New Jersey
- Henry C. Parker,
6142—30th St., N.W.,
Washington, D. C.
- John Metzger,
126 Allen St.,
Irvington, New Jersey
- Leo L. Pollak,
Hotel Delmonico, Room 3117,
Park Ave. and 58th St.,
New York, New York
- Mrs. Louise Kleinjohn,
726 Barret Ave.,
Louisville, Kentucky
- Conrad E. Foust,
3532 Piedmont Rd.,
Atlanta, Georgia
- Dr. C. H. Rike,
1146—41st St., Balview Heights,
Birmingham 8, Alabama
- Dr. C. E. Wildon,
823 Huntington Rd.,
East Lansing, Michigan
- Professor C. Merrill Brown,
102 Oakgrove Dr.,
Williamsville, New York
- Noel O. Scott,
1436 Stanley
Glendale 6, California
- Ralph and Ruth Berry (Mr. & Mrs.),
2835 Wagar Rd.,
Cleveland 16, Ohio

Book Reviews

Dahlias for Every Garden. By Marian C. Walker. Published by M. Barrows and Company, Inc.—\$2.95).

Dahlias for every garden. What a soul filling thought for the dahlia fan! Turning over the frontis-piece, we find the book is dedicated to the author's husband, "The Man with the Spade." In the past, due recognition has been given to "The Man with the Hoe," so it seems quite fitting to run across this gesture in favor of "The Man with the Spade."

Designed primarily for the novice, this experienced and capable gardener paces us through the 128 pages covering all phases of the subject, side-lighted with illustrations and diagrams. Lists of varieties currently grown around the country are included, together with the names of commercial growers where they may be secured. A rather interesting chapter is devoted to the proper varieties to select for the best efforts when incorporated into a general flower bed. Elsewhere, promoting a dahlia show under the spur of a little enthusiasm, is made to look easy.

Unfortunately, there are a few inaccuracies in the book. Several of these have to do with matters covered in Dr. Ward H. Cook's "THE JUDGING OF DAHLIA IN SHOWS," to which frequent reference is made. More careful reading of this manual would have helped. However, the publishers have given their promise to correct any errors on a reprinting. In spite of the short-comings just noted, we dahlia hobbyists hope this book will fall into the hands of many flower lovers not ordinarily reached by our societies.

Mrs. Walker is on a trip around the world at the present time, and our hope is that on her return, this dahlia enthusiast will find the seed she has sown coming to flower in many gardens that hitherto have not featured dahlias.

By J. Ralph Berry,
Associate Editor.

2835 Wagar Rd., Rocky River, Ohio

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Summer Months In the Dahlia Garden

By HENRY C. PARKER

Associate Editor

6142 30th St. N.W., Washington, D.C.

After all the roots and plants have been planted in the dahlia garden there normally comes a lull. The plants look nice and healthy; the borders are neat and no weeds are present. It is easy to relax one's vigilance about this time. But this is usually regretted later on.

This is probably the most important time of the year to use insecticides since the few insects which are present are the ones whose progeny cause difficulties later in the year. I always dust or spray the dahlia plants soon after they are set out and take care to keep insecticide visibly present on the new sprouts breaking through the ground from tubers. Starlings and rabbits find these sprouts tasty. Benzene hexachloride will keep these pests away and kill thrip. The ground around the plants should also be dusted or sprayed. This may help to discourage stem borers and may kill Spring Tails and Bill Bugs. Spraying or dusting every 5 days is not too frequent at this time of year. Watering at least once a week, in the absence of rain, should also be started. Later in the year I dust the plants with a mixture containing from 10 to 25% of DDT and 2% of Parathion. Used once a week this mixture will keep leaf hoppers within bounds and will prevent difficulties from red spider. Dusting takes about $\frac{1}{4}$ th the time that spraying requires.

As soon as the plants develop three pairs of leaves they should be topped or pinched back, i.e. the tips should be broken off. This forces six branches or canes to grow. In the case of A-size dahlias two of these should be removed leaving four canes to produce eventually four blooms. In the case of B-size dahlias 6 or even 8 canes can be left to produce blooms. Miniature dahlias should be topped in similar manner but when the branches have developed two pairs of leaves these branches should be pinched back unless the plants have already produced numerous branches.

After the plants are about six weeks old, a few will show signs of growing poorly. I always plant a dozen or so

spares in 6-inch pots and these are substituted for the poorly growing plants before the potted plants become pot bound. The rest of the spares are left in the pots to produce pot roots.

During the first month or so after planting it is necessary to watch the plants carefully for signs of stem borers. These borers start in blades of grass but soon have to seek larger stems. Most insecticides are ineffective against them. The best way to forestall damage from them is to burn all coarse grass in the vicinity or to use collars around the plants.

About the first of July is a good time to apply a dressing of fertilizer. About 3 teaspoonfuls per plant of 4-8-12 can be used, for example. Hoeing should be stopped about the first of August and then it is desirable to mulch the dahlias. If the rows are spaced slightly over 3 feet apart, rolls of tar roofing paper can be unrolled between the rows and held down with a few shovels of earth. If the ground has a slight slope small irrigating ditches can be dug down the rows in the direction of the slope before the tar paper is laid. Water is run in at one end until it comes out the other end. It is also desirable to put spots of slug bait at 3-foot intervals before the tar paper is laid. Slits should be cut at intervals in the tar paper to permit rain to enter.

Then from about the first to the middle of August it is necessary to start removing flower buds from early blooming varieties in order to time blooms for the show. Timing dahlias for the show is described in the March 1953 issue of the A.D.S. Bulletin. Then about 6 weeks from show time additional fertilizer should be applied to A-size varieties and watering should be stepped up to produce large show blooms. All in all a lot of healthy exercise can be obtained by taking good care of a dahlia garden during the summer months.

Michigan Dahlia Association

The Seventh annual show of the Michigan Dahlia Association will be held in connection with the annual show of the Flint Yard and Garden Club at the I.M.A. Hall at 815 East Second

Ave., Flint, Michigan. The dates and hours are as follows: Saturday, September 11, 1954—4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday, September 12, 1954—10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Entries close at noon Saturday.

CLOSING DATE, THE 10TH

Secretaries of Branch and Affiliate Societies are requested to mail their reports for publication in the Bulletin on the 10th of the month preceding publication. These closing dates are:

January 10 for February issue

April 10 for August issue

July 10 for August issue

October 10 for November issue

If copy does not reach the editor by these dates it is quite likely to be left until the following issue, and when that happens its news value is greatly lessened, if not entirely lost.

Officers for 1954: A. E. Cadwell, President; Wilson Campbell, Vice-pres.; Mrs. H. C. Rhode, Vice-pres.; Roy Koch, Vice-pres.; Victor Steckle, Treasurer; Venus Cadwell, Secretary; Frieda Bottom, Ass't Sec'y; Dr. C. E. Wildon, Publicity Dir.; Mr. William Behl, Trustee; Mr. J. A. Raymond, Trustee; Mr. Arthur Wulff, Trustee.

—(Mrs. A. E.) Venus Cadwell

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Dahlia Society of Ohio

The Dahlia Society of Ohio will hold its annual Dahlia Show on Monday and Tuesday, September 13th and 14th, 1954, at the Higbee Co. Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio. Mrs. Edward Papesch will be chairman of the Flower Arrangement Division. Mr. Leonard F. Fuerst is the show chairman.

At the Annual Banquet held in January at the Masonic Temple Dining Room the following officers were installed: Bernard Henke, President; Alfred Sraile, Mrs. Goldsmith, Charles Lasch, John Burt, Vice Presidents; Joe Kavinsky, Secretary; Mrs. Howard Skorepa, Corresponding Secretary; and John Kavinsky, Treasurer. Dr. Ralph E. Neiswander, Associate Entomologist from the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, Ohio, gave an excellent talk on insects and insecticides which was enjoyed by all. Members also showed slides of dahlias.

The Dahlia Society of Ohio cordially invites all Dahlia Societies and Dahlia Growers to exhibit in or attend our great 1954 Dahlia Show.

HOWARD F. SKOREPA, *A.D.S. Cor.*

Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference

This is a new and coming organization for the purpose of welding together all the Dahlia Societies in this area, as well as the individual growers, into a strong Federation whereby the Pacific Northwest can make its voice heard throughout the Dahlia World. Today's Dahlia is one of the most versatile and generally loved flowers in all the Floral Kingdom. To further the planting and showing of the Dahlia the Conference will publish two bulletins a year, one in Nov. and one in March containing all essential information about the how and why of growing and showing.

We need the support of all Dahlia Growers and extend you an invitation to join with us. The membership dues are \$1.50 per year which entitles the member to all show privileges as well as subscription to the Bulletin. We are sure you will be glad you joined. Write your name and address at edge of this slip, enclose remittance and mail to either J. E. Hulin, Route 3, Port Orchard, Wash., or Mr. Tony de Rooy, Box 493, Monroe, Wash.

National Capital Dahlia Society

All signs indicate that our society will stage its largest and best show to date, come Sept. 25 and 26, at the U. S. Botanic Garden. Never has so much interest and enthusiasm been shown and the attendance at our regular monthly meetings has jumped to an average of 70 or over. Our shows have been costing over \$500 per year, exclusive of trophies. Fortunately the collections at our plant and tuber sales have been establishing new records.

Our monthly bulletin, DAHLIAGRAM, is growing both in size and quality under the editorship of Thomas Yano. The April issue contains seven pages and features articles by George R. Currie and Dr. Edward F. McDade. Mr. Arthur S. Mason furnishes a regular column filled with items of interest and our Show Chairman "Johnny" Gilmer provides a humorous touch in his popular column. Our energetic President, George E. Dodrill also has a regular column. Also featured is a "Children's Corner" written by Mrs. Henry C. Parker. We believe in developing our dahlia fans from a tender age. We have been averaging about a dozen new members a month since the appearance of DAHLIAGRAM and we now have members scattered all the way across the country.

This year the society will use a new "code" schedule which will save printing costs and simplify making our entry cards, etc. Briefly sections will be designated by letters which will serve to indicate the number of hills grown and the size of blooms while class numbers will serve to indicate the color and formation of the dahlias, these same numbers being used throughout the schedule to designate the same colors and formations. While code schedules are not new we believe that this will be the first such schedule to be used in a dahlia show. Copies can be obtained about August first from Thomas Yano, 8706 Garfield St., Bethesda 14, Md.

Our coming show will feature a perpetual trophy as a memorial to our late president, popular C. L. Armistead, who died in office last year.

SAMUEL SHAPIRO,
Publicity Committee.

DAHLIA SHOW DATES ACROSS THE NATION

<i>Date</i>	<i>Days of Week</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Location and Society</i>
Aug. 26-27	Th.-Fr.	Bremerton, Wash.	Bremerton Civic Center Kitsap Dahlia Society
Sept. 4-5	Sa.-Su.	Newark, N. J.	Branch Brook Park New Jersey Dahlia Society
Sept. 5-6	Su.-Mo.	St. Paul, Minn.	Holt Building, State Fair Minnesota Dahlia Society
Sept. 5-6	Su.-Mo.	Madison, Wis.	Community Service Building Badger State Dahlia Society
Sept. 11	Sa.	Northport, N.Y.	Northport Veterans Hospital Veterans Garden Club
Sept. 11-12	Sa.-Su.	Milwaukee, Wis.	Mitchell Park Conservatory Dahlia Society of Wisconsin
Sept. 11-12	Sa.-Su.	Tacoma, Wash.	Washington State Dahlia Society
Sept. 11-12	Sa.-Su.	Flint, Mich.	I. M. A. Hall Michigan Dahlia Association
Sept. 11-12	Sa.-Su.	Fresno, Calif.	Central Valley Dahlia Society
Sept. 11-12	Sa.-Su.	Irvington, N. J.	Irvington Dahlia Society
Sept. 12	Su.	Rochester, N. Y.	Rochester Dahlia Society
Sept. 13-14	Mo.-Tu.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Joseph Horne Dept. Store Greater Pittsburgh Dahlia Society
Sept. 13-14	Mo.-Tu.	Cleveland, Ohio	Higbee Auditorium Dahlia Society of Ohio
Sept. 17-18	Fr.-Sa.	Reistertown, Md.	Franklin High School Suburban Dahlia Club
Sept. 17-18	Fr.-Sa.	Philadelphia, Pa.	Jardel Recreation Center Burholme Horticultural Society
Sept. 18	Sa.	Franklin Sq., N. Y.	Plattdeutsche Park Long Island Dahlia Society
Sept. 18-19	Sa.-Su.	Baltimore, Md.	Turner Armory Baltimore Dahlia Society
Sept. 18-19	Sa.-Su.	Chicago, Ill.	Garfield Park Conservatory Central States Society
Sept. 18-19	Sa.-Su.	Englewood, N. J.	Bergen County Dahlia Society
Sept. 18-19	Sa.-Su.	Louisville, Ky.	Kentucky Hotel Dahlia Society of Kentucky
Sept. 18-19	Sa.-Su.	Patterson, N. J.	North Jersey Dahlia Society
Sept. 18-19	Sa.-Su.	Detroit, Mich.	Statler Hotel Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society
Sept. 18-19	Sa.-Su.	East Liverpool, Ohio	Memorial Auditorium East Liverpool Dahlia and Floral Society
Sept. 19	Su.	Elmira, N. Y.	St. Marys Recreation Center Southern Tier Dahlia Society

American Dahlia Society
ESSEX HOUSE, 7TH AVE. AT 59TH STREET
New York, N. Y.

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST and 22ND

Sept. 23-24	Th.-Fr.	Hagerstown, Md.	Hagerstown Dahlia Society
Sept. 25-26	Sa. Su.	Chicago, Ill.	Hamilton Park Field House Southtown Dahlia Club
Sept. 25-26	Sa. Su.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Cincinnati Art Museum, Midwest Conference (Ohio Valley Dahlia Ass'n. Hosts)
Sept. 25-26	Sa. Su.	Washington, D. C.	U. S. Botanic Garden National Capitol Dahlia Society
Sept. 27-29	Mo.-Tu.- We.	Richmond, Va.	Miller & Rhoads Store Virginia Dahlia Society
Oct. 2-3	Sa.-Su.	Williamsburg, Va.	Williamsburg Lodge Williamsburg Dahlia Society
Oct. 2-3	Sa.-Su.	Birmingham, Ala.	Thomas Jefferson Hotel, Southern Dahlia Conf. (Dahlia Society of Alabama, Hosts)

DAHLIAS

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Darker shades are in columns to the right with lighter tints to the left. Pages are covered with Cellophane and in a standard 6¾ x 3¾ binder. **Pocket Edition in Loose Leaf Binder, including 50 New Dahlia-del Record Sheets, \$15.00.**

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