WATERING PLANTS

Flowering and fruiting plants that are used to adorn Queen Anne's homes during the winter months bring a special problem to the indoor gardener. With proper attention their beauty and usefulness can be prolonged considerably. Some kinds can even be made to flourish in the house. But if neglected, they quickly lose their attractiveness and soon become subjects for the discard.

First comes the problem of watering. Few county residents realize that each plant must be treated with consideration for its particular requirements. The question, "How often should I water my plant?" cannot be answered by a simple "Once a day" or "Every other day."

Factors which determine the frequency with which a plant will require watering on the Eastern Shore include temperature, humidity, light, condition of roots, character and amount of foliage, activity of growth, size of container and kind of soil in which it is growing. The most practical general rule to follow is to maintain the soil always in that happy medium condition between extreme dryness and a top wet, mudlike condition. This can best be done by examining the plant—if a fairly large one—each morning, and when it begins to show evidence of dryness immersing the whole pot in a pail of water for a few minutes. It is well to make sure that the water used is at room temperature, and not icy cold as it comes from the faucet at this time of the year.

The immersion method is much the best way of watering, for it ensures that the whole ball of soil will be thoroughly moistened, a condition often not attained when water is applied at the surface. With very large specimens immersion is always possible. In such cases water is given in liberal quantities by means of a watering pot. To ascertain whether or not the soil is approaching a too dry condition, the pot is rapped sharply with a small wooden mallet or with the knuckles—a clear ringing tone indicates a need for water, while a dull, heavy sound results if the soil is sufficiently moist. With a little experience one can tell by lifting the plant and judging its weight whether or not water is required.

Atmospheric humidity is important to plants. Many failures can be rightly attributed to a too dry atmosphere. Humidifiers in a room help greatly. It is a good plan to have shallow trays made of copper or zinc. These are filled with pebbles, gravel or moss, which can be kept moist and upon them the pots are placed. The plants benefit from an atmosphere made moister by the evaporation from below.

Light is necessary for assuring satisfactory growth. This is particularly true of flowering plants. All plants benefit from full exposure during the winter and for this reason a window with a southern or eastern exposure will usually produce the best results. On cold nights it is deemed well to remove them from too close proximity to the glass, or else to insert two or three thicknesses of stout paper between the plant and the window pane.

Drafts, even currents of warm air, are harmful to living plant; cold drafts spell an early death to the delicately raised subjects that are used during winter months. Ofttime by changing the position of a plant in a room it will be found to thrive better.

CATALOGUE GARDENING

A bit of a "kick in the sun's rays and a little later lingering of the afternoon light—not much, to be sure, but enough to be preceptible—help to cheer the gardener in his long wait for Spring and planting time.

Already the exciting season for "ordering" is here. The new catalogues contain hundreds of tempting items. Naturally those who present them do so in very glowing terms. The experienced grower, however, before trying any novelty extensively, checks up on it by every method possible.

Some gardeners make a practice of setting aside a small plot as an experimental corner. Here the new plants are tried out, in minimum quantity, before being added to the list of standbys that are counted upon for general garden display and for cutting. This is the most satisfactory scheme of all, because it demonstrates what a new variety will do under one's own conditions of soil and climate. Furthermore, when it comes to color—one of the most important factors where flowers are concerned—this is the only conclusive test, for what to one observer may be a "beautiful cerise" or a "lovely rich purple" may be to another a hue that is anything but pleasant!

BULB COMPETITION

Holland may soon have a rival in the commercial cultivation of hyacinth bulbs if British progress continues at its present pace. It has long been a tradition in parts of England that there is some mystery about the raising of hyacinth bulbs and that only the Hollanders know the secret. The same tradition had to be shattered when English nursery men started to cultivate daffodil and tulip bulbs.

There is a similarity between the bulb-growing areas of the Netherlands and parts of Britain; in fact, some Britons insist that their climate is more suitable. Holland, of course possesses the natural advantage of the presence of water in the subsoil, but in a part of England there is a system of dikes and drains (ironically enough, planned by the Dutch) which rivals Holland's advantages.

English hyacinth growers started in a cautious manner. In 1933 but 3,700 bulbs were propagated by two farmers. In 1934 32,000 bulbs were raised. Last year's output was about 100,000 bulbs.

Farmers Take Stand On Many State Problems

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

products was objected to, as was the sale of liquor on Sunday.

Among those present from Queen Anne's were County Commissioner Charles I. Boyle; John W. Smith of Sudlersville, president of the Queen Anne's County Farm Bureau, and Mrs. Smith; E. S. Graham of Barclay, John Cannon of Centreville, and Merton R. Shawn, Carmichael, delegates to the convention; Home Demonstration Agent Miss Isabel Bewick; County Agent Kenneth W. Baker; J. B. T. Merrick, secretary of the county Farm Bureau; former Representative Harry Flowers of Queen Anne.

Harry D. Shawn and Wendell E. Shawn, Carmichael; Dr. James W. Crowl and Robert W. Thomas, Centreville; Mr. and Mrs. Clay Coppage and Mrs. M. Grace Rambo, Sudlersville; Mr. Arthur Sittig, of Templeville; Mr. and Mrs. Algernon Carter and H. B. Hammond, Queenstown; and Joseph R. Van Valen, Chestertown.

Mr. Smith was elected vice-president of the State Wool Pool, and Mr. Boyle was named a representative to the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

Mrs. Rambo repeated her address on the "Farm Home and the World Today" at the Home and Community meeting on Thursday.

Harry H. Nuttle, of Denton, was reelected president of the state federation, with Wilbert L. Smith, Frederick, vice-president, and C. E. Wise, Jr., Baltimore, secretary-treasurer.

GRASONVILLE

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Baker, of Baltimore, were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Baker and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Collins, Sr., have returned home after spending some time with relatives and friends in Baltimore and Washington.

Mr. Charles Coursey, of Baltimore, spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Coursey.

Miss Gladys Taylor and Mr. Everette Saddler, of Baltimore, were week-end visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Carey Saddler and family.

Miss Eleanor Horney is visiting with friends in New York City.

Mrs. Laura Coursey is spending some time with relatives and friends in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ireland spent Monday in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Collier and daughter Beverly, of Bryantown are spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. James A. Collier.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Wyatt and children, of Chester, were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Tolson, Jr., and family on Talisman Farm.

Mrs. Alice Horney spent the week-end in Washington, D. C., with her stepson, Kenneth Horney.

Mr. Woodrow Collier has returned home after spending some time in Washington, D. C., with his sister, Mrs. Dorothy Graf.

Elder and Mrs. William F. Schmidt, of Dover, Del., spent Saturday in town with friends.

Mrs. Harris, of Stevensville, spent one day last week with Mrs. Crouch Lewis.

Mr. Clarence Salloway, of Baltimore, spent the week-end with his family.

Horses Face Future Of "Ups and Downs"

Farmers who raise horses and mules face conditions different from any that existed during the 85 years for which figures on these animals in the United States are available, says the annual outlook report of the United States Department of Agriculture. Shorter cycles of increasing and decreasing numbers and prices are in the picture for the future.

Horses and mules increased steadily—except during the late nineties—until about 1917 or 1918. Then there was a sharp decline which is expected to reach bottom in 1936, although the number 2 years old and over is expected to decline for several years because of the many old animals which will die.

About 785,000 colts were raised in 1934, the largest number in 10 years, an increase of 24 percent over the 1933 crop, and of 50 percent over the number raised in 1931—the year of the smallest colt crop this century. An annual crop of slightly more than 900,000 colts—about the number raised in 1935—probably will maintain the number of work animals needed in the years to come.

Horses and mules on farms at the first of 1935 numbered 16,622,000 head—about 266,000 or 1.5 percent, fewer than at the beginning of 1934. This decrease was the smallest in 15 years. Animals 2 years old and over decreased about 493,000, but this was partly offset by the sharp increases in numbers under this age—colts born in 1933 and 1934.

A judge who was asked to ban a book ruled that it was not obscene. The author is expected to appeal.—Punch.

Talkie Talk

By CHUCK COCHARD

Lily Pons is a brilliant pianist, a former prize winner at the Paris Conservatory of Music—but she didn't touch a key in "I Dream Too Much."

—o—

Preston Foster sang with the La Scala Opera company before RKO signed him. And he has played in eight successive pictures without warbling a note.

—o—

Erik Rhodes won a Marion Talley music scholarship, sings in five languages—but does it all at home.

—o—

Erik Blore, famous for his comedy butler roles, was rated as the second best song writer in London—and hasn't written a song since American films claimed him.

—o—

Katherine Hepburn is an accomplished dancer of the Russian ballet school—but her talented toes never twinkle for the silver sheet.

—o—

Eddie Cantor's new musical film has been renamed "Strike Me Pink" in which he appears with that Broadway feminine singing star Ethel Merman.

—o—

Erroll Flynn, star of "Captain Blood," will return to Hollywood during the week with his dainty and charming wife, Lili Damita. His next screen assignment is expected to be the leading masculine role in "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

REMEMBERING

A small, small thing
May suddenly bring
Remembering,
May bring the very atmosphere
Of another place and another year:
The slant of the rain
On a dusty pane,
An apple's fall,
Steps in the lane,
The sunlight o nan old brick wall.

An elusive thing.
Remembering,
Fugitive, free.
It will flee
If your touch
Is too slight or too much.
As a lifted latch
May fall into place
Closing the door
Before
Your face.
But with quiet and reverence,
With careful fingers, you may catch
Even such spiderweb filaments.

A small, small thing
May suddenly bring
Remembering.

—Marjorie Knapp.

Obituary

JOSEPH B. V. PORTER

Joseph B. V. Porter, familiarly known as "Uncle Joe" and a lifelong Kent Islander, died at the home of his sister, Mrs. James W. Marvel, in Stevensville early Sunday morning. Suffering from diabetes he had been critically ill for about four weeks and death occurred at 3 a. m. Sunday. Had he lived until Feb. 14, he would have marked his 75th birthday.

Son of the late John Henry and Mary E. Lewis Porter he was born in 1861 on Kent Island and had spent his entire life there and was a farmer. Possessed of a kindly disposition he enjoyed a host of friends.

He had never married and for many years had made his home with his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Marvel.

In addition to Mrs. Marvel, he is survived by one brother, William E. H. Porter, of Stevensville.

Funeral services were held from his late home Tuesday at 10:30 a. m. conducted by the Rev. Charles Spry, pastor of Stevensville M. E. Church. Interment was in Stevensville Cemetery.

The pall bearers included the Messrs. T. Roland Carville, Frank Bunch, Carville Tolson, T. Walter White, Tilden Baxter and John M. Norman.

Card of Thanks

MRS SUSIE JONES and CHILDREN wish to thank all friends and relatives for the many kindnesses received in their bereavement.

We hereby wish to express our sincere appreciation to all our friends and neighbors who so kindly offered their assistance and help during the illness and death of our Brother, JOSEPH B. V. PORTER.

JAMES W. MARVEL
and FAMILY.

Household Hints

By BETTY HOLLOWAY Home Economist

Eastern Shore Public Service Company

BROWN BETTY CAKE

½ C Butter
1 C Sugar
2 Eggs
Pinch Salt
2 C Flour
2 t Baking Powder
½ C Milk
1 t Vanilla

Cream the Butter and Sugar to the consistency of whipped cream. Add the Eggs that have been beaten creamy. Sift the Flour, Baking Powder, and Salt together and combine with the first mixture. Add the Milk and Vanilla. Beat vigorously. Pour the mixture into a greased cake tin. Cover with a light coat of brown sugar. Place sliced apples on top and cover with brown sugar, powdered sugar, and cinnamon. For flavor, a few drops of lemon juice may be added. Bake at 375 for 25 to 30 minutes.

SWEET POTATO PONE

4 large Sweet Potatoes
4 Eggs well beaten
½ cup Brown Sugar
¼ teaspoonful Nutmeg
¼ teaspoonful Salt
2 tablespoons Butter
1 cup Top Cream
¼ teaspoonful Ginger
¼ teaspoonful Cinnamon

When making candy never scrape the sides of the pan or stir what has adhered down into the cooking candy. A few sugar crystals may cause the whole mixture to granulate.

—o—

When making fruit cakes remember that citron to be added to cake mixture should first be cut in thin slices, then in strips and floured and inserted between layers of cake mixture.

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