



PROPAGATE CARNATIONS NOW

Carnations are increased by cuttings and must be taken from a perfectly healthy plant and well down on the flower stem. The cuttings should be from three to four inches in length, and must not be too hard nor too soft. The best way to tell if a cutting is in condition to root is to bend it; and if it breaks it is just right; if it bends and does not break it is either too hard or too soft. The best material in which to root them is clean river sand or very fine gravel, three or four inches deep, with good drainage.

The cuttings can be inserted one inch apart in the rows and two to three inches between rows. Insert cuttings about one inch deep, and if there are any leaves that would be buried in the sand, cut them off. In putting in the cuttings use a pointed stick, called a dibble or dibber. It can be made one-quarter of an inch thick and pointed like a lead pencil. Make the hole with the dibble and put in the cutting, and then make the sand firm at the base of the cutting. It is a good plan to let the cuttings stand in water twelve hours after picking and before planting. Never let a cutting wilt.

After the cuttings are in they should be shaded. The best thing to use is newspapers. Lay them on top of the box of cuttings, keeping them away from foliage by sticking in the sand a few little splinters of wood to take weight of papers. One thickness is enough. Cuttings should be kept from draughts so as to avoid evaporation in the foliage, and should also be sprayed two or three times a day for the first week or ten days in bright weather, and the sand should never be allowed to get dry. After ten days they can be given some sun. It will take six weeks for them to root, and they should never be allowed to remain in the sand any length of time after they are fairly rooted.

THREE GOOD VINES

Much enjoyment and companionship can be got out of flowering vines. The three which I, personally, like best are the Clematis, Cypress and sweet-scented Honeysuckle. The Clematis, of which there are several kinds, is very appropriate for a porch climber. It comes out with an abundance of new growth each year and produces a wealth of blossoms with ordinary care.

The Cypress Vine is an annual, dainty of vine, foliage and bloom, and makes a wonderful growth during the summer. It is well suited for growing about a south window, as it is not dense enough to shut out all of the light and its red or white trumpet-shaped blooms can be enjoyed during most of the summer and early autumn.

The blossoms of the hardy, perennial Honeysuckle are not showy, but their odor is the sweetest of all common vining plants. It also has the advantage of being a good foliage vining ornamental. It should be located far enough away from the dwelling so that the aroma from the blossoms will be carried faintly across the grounds and through the dwelling.—Exchange.

THE WICKSON PLUM

The advantage of Wickson plums over Kelsey for Southern California is that it colors up better, is better flavored and is a more regular bearer. It can be picked while still of a green color and firm, and in a week or so will become rich and juicy and of a dark red color all over. We know of one man who has ten acres of Kelseys and last year realized a handsome profit from them by shipping them east. Had his trees been Wickson he would have landed them in the eastern markets from four to five weeks earlier, would have had better looking fruit, just as good a shipper if picked properly and more fruit.

The Wickson is not generally considered a canning plum, there being no demand for it from the canners,

yet for home use it can hardly be surpassed for this purpose.

When picked from the tree while still firm and with a yellowish translucent appearance, laid away and allowed to ripen until red, it will develop a delicious aroma and is the acme of perfection among plums for those who like sweet fruits.

This plum requires different treatment from what is generally considered proper for plums. If not heavily pruned and the crop thinned the tree will overbear one year and have a light crop the next. It will break itself down if allowed to have its will.

This plum, perhaps, does best on peach root. It is known to do particularly well when budded into grown peach trees. We would judge that it will do as well on old apricot trees, as we know that Kelsey does especially well on them. There is no objection to it on myrobalan or mariana root.—Rural Californian.

CHEMICAL DESTROYER FOR WILD MUSTARD

The wild mustard and the Canada thistle are destined to complete extinction. As if by magic, these noxious weeds will disappear until nothing but a powder spot remains to tell of their having once existed. Before your very eyes their foliage will wither to the roots and the grease spot that remains will be as a fertilizer to the grains and grasses whose nourishment they had shared as parasites. It is the chemical eradication of the wild mustard and the Canada thistle.

This magical chemical is called agricultural sulphate of iron and is a by-product of the great wire mills of this country. The sulphate of iron is extracted from the waste acids remaining after the wire has been made and is converted into a crystalline substance, granulated as fine as the highest grade sugar. In this form it is ready for the market.

A spraying solution is made of the powder in proportions of about 100 pounds to a barrel of water and is applied on the field infested with mustard through a spraying machine, producing a fine mist. A machine has been designed with a capacity of 80 gallons, drawn by one horse, and which will spray about twenty-five acres a day.

Experiments have demonstrated that 100 pounds to 52 gallons of water will spray one acre and will cost between 60 and 75 cents. The cost varies according to the distance from the source of supply, but at the outside will not exceed 75 cents an acre. It is of the greatest importance that the spraying be done when the grain is young, before it has reached the first joint period of its growth. After that period a spraying machine could not be operated without injury to the tender shoots.

One of the anomalies brought out in spraying experiments is that while the acid spreads like a cancer throughout the circulation system of the mustard plant, it runs off any cereal as water does from the back of a water fowl. A slight discoloration of the tips of the youngest leaves occurs, but it does not injure them nor does it retard their growth. The oldest leaves will turn brown and shrivel up, but this also happens as the plant matures, being one of the natural processes toward ripening.

The why of all this has not been determined yet to the satisfaction of the scientists to whom the matter has been submitted, but the theory is that the wild mustard takes moisture from its foliage while the grain draws its moisture and nourishment from the roots.—Country Life in America.

GARDEN EPIGRAMS

"You don't want a garden too large—just large enough to make you happy. It'll do that. I've tried it many a time. It makes you feel good when you feel bad."

"A little garden, well tilled, and a wife well willed, means a table well filled."

APPLES FOR LOS ANGELES

We do not know of a better all-round early apple than Red Astrachan, except that it is a shy bearer some seasons. It has a close rival in Early Harvest, it being a regular and heavy bearer and coming in at the same season. It is not so acid as Red Astrachan, which makes it less desirable for cooking purposes. For a sure crop of early apples, Early Harvest cannot be excelled. Skinner's Seedling ripens just as Red Astrachan goes out. This goes under the name of Skinner's Pippin and Santa Clara King. It is one of our best summer apples. The color is a light yellow, quality good and sells well. The tree is a good grower and almost wholly resists blight. Yellow Bellefleur and Missouri Pippin are also good varieties, the latter being our best all round red winter apple for warm situations, while Winter Pearmain is our best late apple. All apples require a great deal of water. On our light sandy soil, the late varieties require as much water as orange trees in full bearing.—Exchange.

AN ELDERBERRY SCREEN

Elderberries need not mean only old-fashioned wine but might easily stand for a plant effective for roadside planting and one with screening possibilities. By this latter use I mean that the elderberry might well be planted to cover an ugly bit of old fence, to nod over a well or to fill in an inartistic corner of the yard.

The elderberry needs no preparation of the soil for its growth, no care after planting. It simply grows.

Gather some berries in fruiting season. Squeeze out the juice and some of the pulp through a piece of cheesecloth. Then merely scatter the seeds in the place you wish them to grow. In two or three years you will have a fine, sturdy clump of them.

I know of nothing more simple, more charming, more sweetly suggestive of summer and nature than a big mass of elderberries lifting up their white-lace head-dressings in an unexpected place. Try them just for the experiment, and you will love them for themselves.—Exchange.

WILD CLEMATIS

Comparatively few people are aware that we have two showy species of wild clematis. Both are well worthy of cultivation and a great deal of money is spent for poorer vines. The lowland species (*C. ligusticifolia*) has small creamy white flowers borne in a profusion of clusters all over the vine. The foothill species (*C. lasiantha*) has much larger flowers of the same color and is one of our showiest plants during the blooming season. In the interior canyons where it climbs over the trees and shrubs a vine of it at a distance often gives the impression of a white pyramid, so floriferous is the plant. Both species are easily transplanted in the late fall or very early spring and would make fine arbor plants.—Rural Californian.

TAMARIX GALLICA

This popular plant, which is known by the common name of "Tamarisk," is suited to all soils and conditions. It will grow in water or the driest soil, as well as in salty ground, and seems to thrive everywhere. In several countries it is used for binding shifting sand. Locally the fine, large sprays of pink blossoms are much in demand by the florists for decorating purposes.

MOVING OLD APPLE TREES

A question comes in relation to moving apple and other deciduous fruit trees four and five years old.

It is practicable to transplant apple trees of that age, but if you are intending to transplant a commercial orchard we would not say it is advisable. For a home orchard it might be advisable, and we would proceed by cutting back the top so as to leave only the main limbs, retaining the shape of the top and not more than three or four feet in diameter. Remove the soil from around the roots by digging a hole three or four feet in diameter without bruising the bark on the roots, make a clean saw or knife (not pruning knife) cut, removing with the tree all the roots possible. Transplant to the already prepared holes and do not allow them to settle in the ground to a greater depth than they originally were. Fill in with dirt, settle with water and keep the ground as moist as you would under ordinary circumstances. It might be advisable to wax both top and roots in case any of the latter are cut off when of considerable size.—Rural Californian.

SOILS FOR MONTEREY PINES

An English authority whose word is seldom or never questioned has recorded the fact that the Monterey pine native to a restricted area in California, does not thrive in England except on soil with a limestone base and exceptionally well drained. In Southern California these very conditions may be noted, a very well-drained soil containing a trace of lime proving the best for both health and longevity. At best it is a short-lived tree, and when planted on a cold clay with poor drainage, that is on comparatively level ground, it lives but from twenty to forty years. Much doubt exists as to whether it will live much longer than the latter period under any but perfectly natural conditions, that is, left to its own resources.—Rural Californian.

THE CASTOR OIL PLANT

The Castor Oil plant, more commonly spoken of in Southern California as the Castor Bean, is one of our best plants for quickly producing a most luxuriant growth of foliage quite tropical in general effect. When small plants of slow-growing sorts are being permanently placed a few castor beans planted not too near the better vegetation will provide one with immediate effects if something is needed to fill up and cover bare soil. If one cares little what effects he gains for the first season he may plant around the castor beans seeds of fast-growing annual vines; better still, plant these after the castor beans have made plants a foot or more high; about midsummer one would have a veritable jungle of leaf and blossom.—Rural Californian.

GROW PLENTY OF FREESIAS

Few bulbs are more satisfactory than freesias, for they simply "run riot" in California, in some instances almost a pest. They are such persistent little plants that they will even push up through the hard pathway and will blossom under circumstances discouraging or prohibitive to other bulbous plants. The fragrance of the freesia is one of the strongest yet pleasing of all flowers, and a few will fill a large house with perfume.

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