



# The Arboretum Bulletin



Vol. I. No. 10.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

AUGUST, 1938

## JOIN THE ARBORETUM

Now that you have seen a copy of our bulletin and have accepted, we hope, our invitation to visit the Arboretum, may we offer you an opportunity to extend your acquaintance with the University of Washington Arboretum.

If you become a member of the institution, the bulletin will be mailed you without extra charge and you will receive on occasions a share in the distribution of surplus plant material as well as other privileges.

You know that the funds which make it possible for the Arboretum to create and present to the public fine horticultural displays, to issue scientific and popular periodicals and carry on scientific work are derived in a large part from annual memberships and gifts. Thus a contribution which accords benefits to the giver becomes an important share in a worthy public interest.

We trust we may have the privilege of welcoming you as a member of the Arboretum. For your convenience we are enclosing an application blank.

## WOMEN OF FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS HONOR THE ARBORETUM

With the convention of the Pacific Coast Region of Federated Garden Clubs in Seattle July 29 and 30, it was only fitting that they should ask to make a planting as a memorial in the University of Washington's new Arboretum. The location chosen for the planting is one of the most strategic of the many beautiful natural settings in the area. On a triangular spot between an intersection of two boulevards, showing to advantage from both sides, stands a fairytale gate-house of grey moss-covered stones, round as the tower of an old moat bridge and crowned at its turret with a bronze weather vane. It was to create an ideal setting for this gate house that the committee chose five plants of *Juniperus Pfitzeriana*, scaling the effect into that

of an old ghostly forest surrounding a castle. Then to bring into the scene the resurrection of springtime they sifted ten lovely *Prunus Triloba* into the planting with their bronzy foliage and dainty pink blossoms, and scattered under their spreading branches the delicate blooms of twenty-four Ghent hybrids of the *Azalea Mollis*. To flutter over the eaves like a flock of white pigeons will be the sweetly fragrant blossoms of five *Magnolia Soulangiana*, and to furnish the background six *Mahonia Aquifolium* will spread their glossy leaves and purple fruits. Two *Juniperus Chinensis* Semina were chosen for their gnarled shapes as the dwarfs were chosen to bring out the fragile beauty of Snow White, and Snow White in this planting will be one magnificent plant of *Rhododendron Maximum*, spreading her white skirts in her beauty surrounded by her court.

This picturesque planting was chosen to honor the first two directors of the region, Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson of Los Angeles, California, and Mrs. Peter Corpstein of Phoenix, Arizona, who have given so much time toward making the Pacific Coast Region one of the most active in the National Council of Federated Garden Clubs.

Mrs. L. Houston Reusch, Junior Past President of the Washington State Federation and Bird Chairman of the National Council, made the presentation to President Lee Paul Seig of the University of Washington.

## ARBORETUM EXHIBITS AT SEATTLE GARDEN CLUB SHOW

The Seattle Garden Club Flower Show at the home of Mrs. Harry Fargo Ostrander had many outstanding exhibits and none drew more attention than the exhibit of native plants of Washington as exhibited by the Arboretum under the direction of Mrs. First Johnson.

A large map of the state, colored into different botanical areas, formed the background, and planted among the

rocks in the foreground were representative plants of the areas and numbered many of the rarer alpines of the state that have been collected by the Arboretum and are under propagation in the nursery.

## ALPINES FOR THE ARBORETUM

By DONALD McCLURE

*Regional Vice-Chairman of the American  
Rock Garden Society*

During the past months a great flood of information has been released in regard to the University of Washington Arboretum. Much has been said of the rhododendrons, of Mr. Herbert Ihrig's enthusiastic work, Mr. Endre Ostbo's skillful propagating of the Dexter and the Tenny collections. Much has been said also of azaleas, and *Azalea Way*, of the flowering cherries, and of the countless other interesting denizens of the area. However, there has been a scarcity of comment relative to the Arboretum rock garden and the wealth of material available for planting purposes.

Possibly such an oversight is quite natural. Conceivably, it may be necessary for one to make a personal visit to see the countless rows of alpine plants in perfect health and full vigor. Still conceivably, one must chat with Fred Leissler, feel the depth of his enthusiasm and love for his work, hear the stories of his collecting trips. Maybe one must do all these things before he is able to appreciate the potentialities of the Arboretum rock garden. Possibly this may be, for the day has not yet come when the alpines can blaze out in all their glory, speaking for themselves.

But this is all conjecture, and quite beside the point, for actually, in the Arboretum nursery, there lives healthy and happy a goodly company of alpine gems. In the sandy soil, carefully coaxed by the cultural skill and patience of Mr. Leissler, the *Lewisia*s luxuriate. Here are plants typical of the great Northwest mountains, symbolic of the beauty of the Washington landscape, prophetic of the richness of horticultural treasure to be found in native material. Unique is the rock gardener who has not tried to grow them, fortunate is the one who has not been scornfully rebuffed, and, glory be, they like the Arboretum.

Then, too, one really can't overlook the pentstemons, rough and ready, willing and able, generally prepared to do yeoman duty in the garden. Here their numbers are a legion, and, to make things more interesting, variations and breaks seem to be cropping up in specimen groups, all the members of which are presumably traceable to the same destination in a botanic key. This observation spotlights directly the manner in which the Arboretum may serve the field of plant taxonomy, refining and augmenting lists of species through painstaking observation and cultivation. But that is yet another story.

For the benefit of the connoisseur, there is a liberal assortment of jewel plants, the "hard-to-get" and the "touch-me-nots". *Phyllodoce Hypnoides* gives no evidence of

regret at its enforced absence from a Stevens Pass cliff, making numerous efficient-looking growths of scaly green heather foliage. Near it dwells quite complacently an Alaskan *phyllodoce*, apparently similar to the native *em-petriformes*, waiting for the passage of time and the deliberation of botanists to make an honest plant of it by giving it a name. *Eritrichium* has been collected and is said to hide shyly somewhere about the premises, while countless other treasures peer up from every frame, all giving mute testimony of their willingness to aid in fulfilling the dream of the future.

So ends a brief snapshot. To scramble terminology, it may be under-exposed, but it certainly is not overdone. Its aim is to create interest. If it fails, the loss is that of the reader, the writer got more than his share through personal contact.

## DELPHINIUMS AND HOW TO GROW THEM

By JAMES McCONAHEY

"Merrie" England, as we all know, is a land of beautiful flowers and very capable, experienced gardeners. In the past many of our finest plants have been imported from there, and we still import a number of choice varieties. But we now have many capable gardeners in the United States, and have they not had sufficient experience successfully to cope with our English cousins in many lines?

I have been interested in delphiniums for several years, have raised plants from seed purchased from both English and American growers, have visited some of our American growers, and have seen many of the prize-winning varieties introduced by the leading English hybridizers and grown in the Puget Sound country from cuttings imported directly from the producers. But there have been wonderful improvements in these flowers during the last few years, and wanting more first-hand information as to what has been accomplished by our Pacific Coast hybridizers, I decided to visit some of them this summer.

I first visited Mr. Charles F. Barber, of Troutdale, Oregon, whom I have had the privilege of knowing intimately for several years. He has specialized in raising delphiniums for over twenty-five years, and is the producer of the world-famous Hoodacres Whites, the original really satisfactory white hybrid delphinium. He has also produced many other choice plants with flowers varying from light mauve to dark purple and blue, and at the time of my visit had some beautiful medium blue selfs, a color much sought after.

I next visited Vetterle and Reinelt, at Capitola, California, and found Mr. Reinelt to be a very pleasant, courteous gentleman, who has made a thorough study of hybridizing and had many years of valuable experience both in this country and in Europe. There I saw thousands of delphinium plants, the different colors each in separate plots of ground. Perfectly marvelous whites, strong, healthy plants

## RUSSELL'S FINE LUPINES

"Join the Arboretum and get your package of seeds—"

"Something new in lupines has suddenly burst upon the world. It is a striking demonstration of what improvements can be accomplished by concentrated attention to an ordinary, likeable enough plant commonly grown in gardens, and hitherto neglected," says Leonard Barron in *The Flower Grower*.

As usual it is an Englishman who has contributed this new beauty to our gardens, George Russell, who has devoted twenty years of his life to the development of improved varieties of our favorites.

The blues and whites of the common lupines are familiar to every gardener, but it was this young man of sixty who had little theoretical knowledge, but had learned a great deal from a keen study of nature, who decided to devote the rest of his life to a definite object. Some of these old-fashioned blue and white lupines exhibited at York Gala in 1911 fired his imagination.

He made a start by buying plants of every known variety, and writing to all corners of the world for seed. When they flowered, he must have felt that long life was promised, or he would never have had the courage to carry on with such unpromising material.

A start had to be made somewhere, and he decided to eliminate all but one or two of the better types, and so he continued, year after year, feeling he was making progress, but, more often than not, realizing he would be an old man before his dreams came true.

The least sensitive observer of this new strain of lupines will surely be conscious of the great boon which Russell's devotion and perseverance has bestowed upon the world. In almost any walk of life—art, literature, industry—an equally notable achievement would have brought public recognition and honors, but Russell, now well over 80 years of age, proud of a task well done, is still the old gardener of York who does a job here and there where needed.

Russell's lupines have been growing in our Arboretum nursery for the past year, and after saving enough seed for next year's planting, the director has turned over to the Foundation the surplus for distribution among Arboretum members. If you are not a member of the Foundation, fill out the enclosed blank and send it in to the Arboretum Foundation, 4420 White Building, Seattle, Washington, and you will be mailed a membership card and a package containing a few of these choice seeds.

## ARBORETUM ON THE AIR

Clifton Pease, radio broadcaster for the Associated Oil Company, who has been giving so much of his time to the introductions of interesting activities of the state of Washington, is giving a concentrated description of the University of Washington Arboretum on his broadcast August 2nd at 6:45 over KIRO.

with large, clear white flowers on long spikes; light pink-lavenders with a silvery sheen; blue selfs in three shades, some with white and others with dark bees, and gorgeous dark purples. The plants all have good-sized florets of clear, bright colors well placed on long, well-shaped spikes.

In going through their glass and lath houses, which cover many acres, I saw the largest and most beautiful tuberous begonias and gloxinias that I have ever seen. Mr. Reinelt specializes in delphiniums and the Vetterle brothers in tuberous begonias and gloxinias.

I also had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Reinelt, a very charming lady, intensely interested in his work, and a real helper.

Having been familiar with Mr. Barber's work for years, and now seeing the results of Mr. Reinelt's work and comparing same with the English importations which I have seen, I am confident our American hybridizers are doing just as good a job, if not in some ways a better job, with delphiniums than our English cousins.

### GROWING PLANTS FROM SEED

Delphiniums can easily be grown from seed by following a few simple instructions. But fine flowers cannot be secured from poor seed, so purchase only good seed from reliable growers. Seed should be fresh and sown soon after harvesting, preferably in July or August. For best results, sow in flats in a mixture of about two parts coarse sand, one part leaf-mold and one part loam, or two-thirds coarse leaf-mold and one-third loam, cover only slightly with the same mixture, then cover with burlap and wet thoroughly. Never let the flats get dry, as that is fatal. Keep in fairly dark place until the plants begin to appear, which will be in about ten days, then immediately remove the burlap and give them more light, but keep shaded and moist. When second leaves are developed prick into flats about three inches apart in a mixture of about two-thirds sandy loam and one-third leaf-mold. Keep shaded for two or three weeks, then gradually give more light and finally harden off in full sunlight. In this climate it is best to keep the flats over winter in a cold frame or other protected outdoor location, and as soon as they become large enough in the early spring, plant them in the permanent location about three feet apart.

### A FAST GROWING YOUNGSTER

The University of Washington Arboretum was begun three years ago and because of its natural beauties and advantages has assumed the proportions of importance in the United States. The 260 acres of wooded slopes leading down to the marshy edges of fresh water Lake Washington and just across from the University campus give it an important location in the city of Seattle landscape, and in the mild climate of the Northwest Pacific Coast area, it has an important place in the botanical rating of the temperate zones of the world.



Bellevue, Wash

Yarrow,

Mrs. William McGrath

Arboretum Foundation, 6620 White Building  
SEATTLE  
*Published by the*

THE ARBORETUM BULLETIN

Sec. 562 P.L. & R.

