

gardening

BLOOMS, BERRIES, ETC...

Catalogs for colorful gardens.

By Pat Leuchtman
leisure Columnist

I promised to devote this week's column to a discussion of flower catalogs, but I left off speaking about berries and I'd like to continue briefly in that vein.

Right in our own backyard we have a berry nursery, Nourse Farms, Box 485, RFD, South Deerfield, Mass. 01373, and you can be sure that I'm sending off for their free catalog. They sell 23 varieties of strawberry that will do well in our climate as well as Heritage raspberry plants, rhubarb and asparagus roots.

When possible, I think it is a good idea to get plants and seeds as close to home as possible because they are more likely to thrive in your climate and soil. When you can't buy things locally, look around and see what varieties seem to do well and make your choices accordingly.

Besides a wide assortment of berries, J. E. Miller Nurseries Inc., Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424, offers



dwarf and semi-dwarf fruit trees. These bear more quickly than standards and are easier to maintain and harvest. They have new varieties of apple trees like the Jonagold which is a cross between a Jonathan and a Golden Delicious and is touted as being a heavy producer as well as a good winter keeper, but I am particularly interested in their antique apples, Snow Apple, Sops of Wine which dates back to medieval England, and Summer Rambo. They are almost worth buying for the names alone.

Besides apples, new and antique, they offer plums, peaches including the very hardy Reliance peach, pears, cherries and even apricots that are supposed to survive temperatures of 25 below zero. They also sell the Moorpark apricot, a more tender variety, but it might be worth trying to grow as a memorial to Jane Austen and Mansfield Park.

But onto flowers. When I had my first rock garden over 15 years ago, I spent hours pouring over the Way-

side Gardens catalog, 13 Garden Lane, Hodges, S.C. 29695. It was big and filled with beautiful photographs and loads of information. I considered it a whole course in horticulture. I haven't seen their catalog in several years, but I just sent them \$1 (refundable with my first order) and I'm looking forward to receiving the new edition, 144 pages of trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs.

Two years ago, I bought my mother Lily Collection No. 10 from White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Conn. 06759, and my reward was my own subscription to their cata-



log. Since my mother sold her house before those beautiful lilies finished blooming for the first time, I thought it was only fair that one of us get something out of the transaction. Their semi-annual catalogs and periodic Garden Notes are very handsome. The covers are in color and the paper is heavy slick stock. The text is illustrated with clear photos and line drawings of their

various offerings.

White Flower Farm sells roots and plants of perennials from Abeliophyllum, a species of white forsythia, to Zantedeschia, a non-hardy calla lily. The Garden Book is not only a catalog; it has listings for "Deep Digging," "Lime," and "Planning the Perennial Border" so it is a brief text on gardening practices.

Last summer I ordered two peonies, Bowl of Cream and Raspberry Sundae, as an anniversary present for my husband and me so I assume I'm on their mailing list for a while.

tudes, but this California company assures me that "hardiness is inherent in the rose variety."

Roses of Yesterday and Today specializes in old, rare and unusual roses. I like them because many of them, like the rugosa, hybrid musk and damask roses are not only hardy, they are disease resistant. Best of all they are wonderfully fragrant.

Last year I could not resist the rose called Passionate Nymph's Thigh which is descriptive of its color or Rosa Souliana whose aroma is "something to shout about

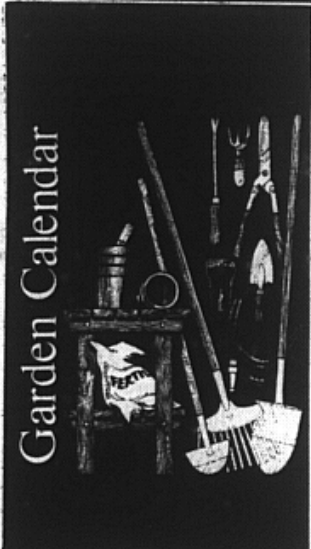
The following information is provided by the Franklin County Extension Service:

Now is the time to:

- order at least one new vegetable or flower this year.
- force paper white narcissus bulbs to brighten up your home. After blooms fade, discard bulbs.
- examine stored vegetables or fruit for spoilage.
- sprout seeds such as alfalfa, beans and fenagreek for eating.
- check stored tubers such as dahlias for disease.
- sow white clover seeds for a potted crop of shamrock for St. Patrick's Day.

Note:

- If you start feeding birds, they depend on you all winter.
- Ice is bad, but snow is a good mulch.



Garden Calendar

Even though WFF is not cheap, the quality of their plants is excellent and it won't be hard to splurge on a couple of things each season to keep the catalog coming. For new subscribers, it costs \$5.

But not all beautiful catalogs are expensive; Roses of Yesterday and Today, Browns Valley Road, Watsonville, Conn. 95076, puts out one of my favorite free catalogs. I am usually careful to order my seeds from companies in the northern lati-

... fills the air for 50 feet around." This year I'm waiting for four more roses, including the Rosa Gallica Officialis which dates back to 1300 and is one of the roses most used in potpourris.

Garden catalogs make good bedtime reading and send one off to sweet dreams and visions of the coming year's garden, or at least the garden as it will look the following year, or certainly the year after that at the latest.



Snow Tomorrow?

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WEATHER PHONE