

Home/Garden

Flying pests

Wasps should be le

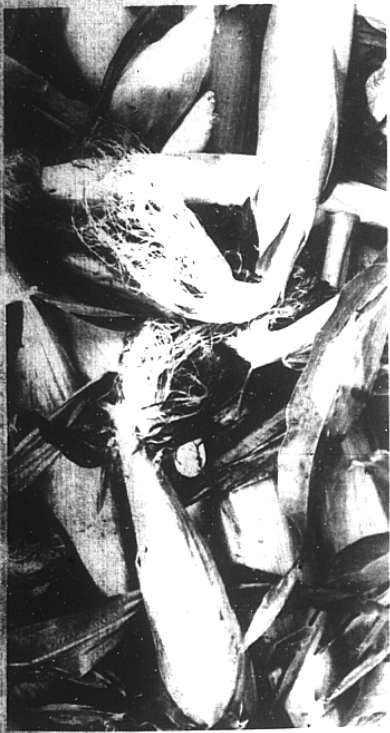
By PETER TONGE
The Christian Science Monitor

Thanks to entomologist Peter J. Landolt, we know a little better how to behave at picnics whenever a yellow jacket comes around.

Whatever happens, do not stomp on the insect or otherwise flatten it. The effect would be to send out a call for help, and those that respond would be more annoyed than merely curious.

For weeks a yellow jacket nest had been increasing in size just outside the Insect Attractants Behavior Laboratory in Gainesville, Fla. (Florida State University), where Dr. Landolt works. Landolt's prime work is with fruit flies and the cabbage looper moth, but the more he noticed the yellow jackets, the more intrigued he became.

Landolt noticed that whenever a truck or perhaps a lawn mower passed nearby, the wasps would become agitated and stay that way for



Recorder/Elmer Augalter

Tapestry of corn

It's the season for the valley's corn-lovers. Shown is native butter and sugar corn.

Chain saws: Precautions are necessary

When working with a chain saw always wear the proper safety clothes. Specialists say this includes safety glasses, snug but comfortable fitting work clothes, cuffless pants, safety boots with steel caps, special

leather non-slip work gloves and a hard hat.

It's also wise to wear ear protection at all times since hearing damage is cumulative.



A profile of Peg MacDonough

SHELburne, VT. — Every garden is a window into the gardener's heart. Peg MacDonough's garden also contains the family history. Her grandmother and mother both tended this house and yard and they are full of memories and associations.

When she was only four years old, Peg's grandmother took her on a tour of the summer garden. They passed the lilac and Peg grabbed a seed head and was entranced. Her grandmother was amused that she found it so pretty and assured her that if she liked the seeds she would really like the blossoms. But even at four Peg felt that every stage in a plant or flower's development has its own unique beauty to be appreciated for itself.

She remembers the year 1912 when her Aunt Flo had a packet of cosmos seeds from New York. Just the fact that blossoms come in a packet made them special. It was already late in the season when the seeds were planted. They sprouted and sent up fronds of leafy foliage. Peg heard the adults talking as they took their heads over her delight in the plants. "Poor Peg. She'll be so disappointed. The frost will come before they bloom." Peg was too young to know that a cosmos was supposed to bloom and she never was disappointed because even a blossom couldn't give her more pleasure than she found in those airy leaves.

Peg moved to her grandmother's house when she was five and always found happiness in the garden. When she went off to college her father started building a picket fence behind her flower bed. The fence is still there, a testament to a father's love for his daughter.

Eventually Peg married and moved away and had children of her own. It was after the loss of her mother and husband that she brought the children back to her childhood home to care for them as well as her father and brother. Her caring influence reached beyond the garden fence and she went to work for the Cooperative Extension Service. Peg has survived the storms that life brings even as the old garden has survived the harsh Vermont winters; both have welcomed the spring warmth and new growth.

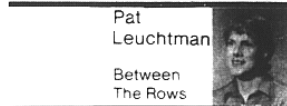
The doorway garden contains a Pinocchio rose introduced in New York at the World's Fair before World War II. This flower bed blooms all year long. "I like this flower because I can always find something to admire when I go in and out the back door."

Just come the earliest bulbs and spring wildflowers, scillas, violets and hepaticas. They're followed by the summer crocuses and peonies are succeeded by blue and yellow bearded irises. "I haven't divided those irises in 25 years. They just have to get along with the plants that follow them to get to like each other — and each other."

Later in the summer the yellow daylilies begin, the hydrangeas produce creamy blossoms and then the bushy blue campanula bloom at the end of July followed by silvery blue echinops with its unusual spiky flowers and Michaelmas daisies.

Every flower bed has some special delight. Pink mallows bloom on one side of the picket fence and a perennial sweet pea (Lathyrus) climbs a trellis on the other side. Everywhere the flowers multiply and spread, increasing and billowing with vibrant life.

Peg returned to a bed of fading foliage. "I planted a few yellow tulips there in 1953 and now I have 700 even though I've given away hundreds more to my



Pat Leuchtman
Between The Rows

friends. Her friends are familiar with the generosity of this gardener who rarely lets them depart without a root, cutting or envelope of seeds that she's gathered from her plants.

Her mother's garden patch has a pink rose and daisies, flowers that she carried in her wedding bouquet in 1903. "I think the reason so many brides were married in June is because the garden is full of flowers then. I have another white rose bush that I've always called the Wedding Rose."

The roses are lovely, a Dorothy Perkins climbing rose, an old Grootendorf and a Cardinal Richlieu that is so vigorous it has jumped the path and wanders through a bed of iris and phlox.

Peg has a special fondness for the flowers that dry well: echinops, teasel, sea holly, strawflowers, red and blue salvia, annual phlox with its starry white centers, baby's breath, German statice, parroties and johnny jump ups. She uses these summer blossoms to make dried arrangements and framed pressed flower pictures, a colorful summer preserve to enjoy when the skies are leaden and the ground is covered with snow.

And when spring comes Peg will check the flower bed by the road, to make sure that the wildflowers she's planted there have survived road salt and plows as well as the rough winter. And it will be obvious to anyone passing that she is as sturdy and beautiful as any native flower in her garden.

Iris auction and sale

Great news for local flower gardeners — especially iris lovers! The American Iris Society is holding its Annual Iris Auction and Sale for Region I (New England) at Greenfield Community College on Sunday, August 20. The auction begins at 1:30 p.m. but come by 1 to visit the growers, look at catalogs and see what treasures are going on the block.

The auction is a fund raiser for the American Iris Society, hybridizers and growers donate stock giving iris fanciers a chance to get the newest introductions at substantial savings. The auctioneer will inform and educate while he amuses and sells, door prizes will be given and there will be extraordinary bargains at the iris tag sale after the auction.

All types of irises will be offered including various bearded irises, tall, border, dwarf and miniature tall, Japanese, Siberian and Louisiana irises. There will also be species iris and antique iris. You might even find the iris that you remember from your grandmother's garden.

This sale has never been held in western Massachusetts before — usually it's been held near Boston, so this is a special opportunity to learn about growing irises, The American Iris Society, and to get some great bargains.