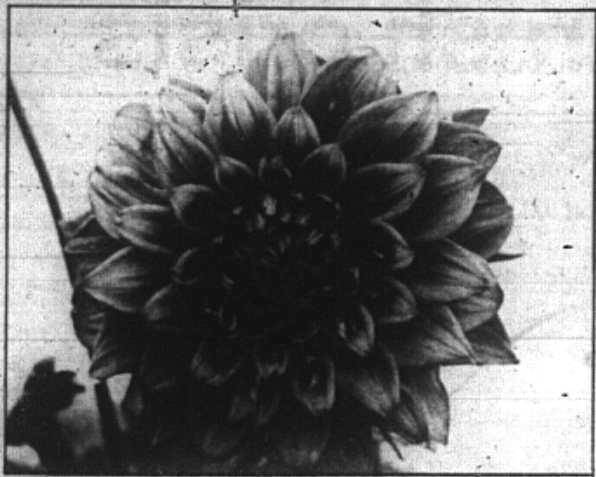


# Home/Garden



Recorder/Chuck Blake

## Dahlia

A dahlia grown in Greenfield earlier this week — before the freeze. Dahlias are among autumn's most spectacular blossoms.

# Crickets

## Musical visitors — or pests that go chirp in the house

By AMALLE ADLER ASCHER  
The Baltimore Sun

Fall is a time of withdrawal. Flowers are giving up their seeds, vines are winding down production, and trees are shedding their leaves, as plants generally prepare to turn in for the winter.

Outdoor creatures also are reigning in their activities, scampering to find cozy quarters as protection against the oncoming cold. The trouble, though, is that some of them may take a notion to move in with you.

Crickets are notorious for sneaking into the house. It never fails that no sooner do I bring indoors the few potted plants I summer outside than I begin to hear their familiar chirping.

There are actually two types of crickets. One is the darkly colored field species. The other, much lighter in shade, is the house variety. Members of this second kind are eas-



ily distinguished by the three prominent dark bands on the head and thorax (the second segment of the body). Both types enter homes, but the field cricket is more of a noisy nuisance, while the house cricket is more destructive. Houses near grassy or lighted areas or those littered with refuse are prime targets of the insects, which enter buildings through basements, cracks in walls and open doors and windows, as well as on plants.

As if their incessant chirping were not enough, crickets can damage clothing, especially if it is soiled, says Dewey Caron, professor of entomology and applied ecology at the

University of Delaware, in that institution's extension service newsletter, "Garden Check." They'll also go after food and paper products and a wide assortment of organic matter. An occasional cricket or two ought not to concern you much, but large numbers can quickly cause damage.

To help prevent crickets and other insects from stealing into your home, keep the yard clean of weeds and trash and seal their entry points. Should the intruders manage to get in anyway and become obnoxious, try dealing with them by treating the areas they are residing in with an insecticide such as malathion or diazinon. If the infestation is large, you may need to call in a professional pesticide operator, but for isolated insects an aerosol spray should do the trick.

Crickets, in case you were not aware of it, have quite a repertoire. Their songs might be a little more bearable if you knew what they meant.

# Narcissus: Harsh myth into beautiful flower

The story of the mythological Narcissus is not a pretty one.

The son of a river nymph, Liriope, and the river god, Cephissus, Narcissus was so beautiful that many people fell in love with him. Yet, he scorned all his admirers including Echo who finally pined away until nothing was left of her but her voice. Another rejected lover, Aminius, was not as gentle as Echo. She prayed that Narcissus would suffer as he had caused others to suffer; this prayer was answered by Nemesis.

One day Narcissus was hot and weary after hunting and he went to a forest pool to refresh himself. He looked into the water and, all-unknowing, fell in love with his own image. But this image was elusive and he could never capture it in his embrace. Now it was Narcissus' turn to pine away and die of unrequited love.

I suppose it is something his credit that he wished the ob- of his passion to survive him and his

Pat  
Leuchtman

Between  
The Rows



own prayer was answered. He breathed his last and his body was replaced by the beautiful golden flower which bears his name.

I cannot admire Narcissus, but I can certainly enjoy the large family of flowers the gods have given us in his place.

Narcissus is the family name of the many spring blooming bulbs we call daffodils and jonquils as well as narcissus. The difference between these usually has to do with the size of the cup or corona in proportion to the perianth segment, the six petals that form the circle at the back of the flower.

Jonquils are also set apart by their fragrance. Golden Perfection is a large multiple-flowered jonquil which naturalizes easily.

Narcissus bulbs can be planted through the month of October. They need to be given enough time to develop a good root system before the ground freezes so that they will be ready to bloom in the spring.

These early bloomers are especially welcome after months of winter white. They are also excellent for cutting. Their biggest drawback is that after blooming, the floppy foliage must be left to ripen, at least six weeks, while the bulb gathers enough food and strength for another year of bloom.

This is particularly noticeable and unattractive if they are planted in their own bed. Some people have the patience to plant them in a mixed flower border and carefully plan for an adjacent flower to overlap and hide the dying foliage. I must confess that I am not that careful or energetic so I prefer a naturalized planting.

Daffodils are strong growers and they can be planted and left to multi-

Ducat, or the white Mount Hood or Snow Princess. Barret Browning has a white perianth and nearly red cup and Rosy Trumpet, true to its name, has a pretty pink cup. In addition to the neat single flowers, some have double petals that are almost ruffled. Cheerfulness blooms later in the season with several double yellow flowers on a single stem. My own weakness is choosing flowers for their name as much as their appearance. Kissproof is white with a neat brick red cup, and White Lion resembles a creamy ruffled mane.

There are even some miniature daffodils like Tete a Tete, Jack Snipe and February Gold which naturalize well and are especially suited to the rock garden.

Daffodils are such a popular flower that bulbs are available from nearly every nursery or garden center. If you are planning a naturalized planting, choose at least a dozen of each variety, and plant them 8-12 inches deep and a foot apart. Don't space them evenly over a large area, but arrange them in clumps with areas of grass between.

Bulbs don't need much fertiliza-

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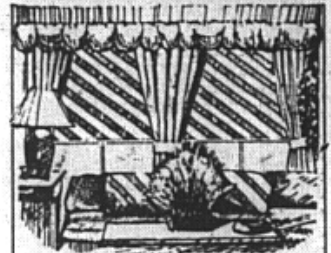
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