

Gleaning tips from new catalogs

While browsing through the new garden catalogs arriving regularly, I've found some interesting bits of advice for gardeners.

From Cooks Garden: Lettuce is an ideal crop for intensive gardens. For successive harvest, start a new crop every 7-10 days. Several recipes are included.

Thompson & Morgan is introducing Nemesis Mello, good for bees, borers and contrainers. They tell us that tansy helps repel insects if grown with dwarf pole beans.

Ed Hume Seed Inc. is again offering Monthly Moon Sign Gardening calendar. It mentions that plants should be grown in well-drained soil,

protected from wind, in sun or partial shade... stored in a cool, dark place until planting... from April 15 to May 15. Fertilize planting area with 5-10-10 two weeks before planting.

Johann's Selected Seeds offers several new varieties of lettuce, beet and chili pepper seeds. One pepper is Sweet Chocolate, a slightly sweet flavor, the flesh under the skin is brick red and as handsome cooked as it is raw. Wouldn't it look pretty on a relish tray?

J.W. Jung Seed Co. also offers shrubs and plants. Their tip is about clematis. It needs a rich soil, good drainage and at least half day of sun. Keep roots cool with mulch or plant annuals in front to shade them.

Stokes Seeds has several new flower varieties, as well as vegetables. The advice here is to sow radishes when daffodils bloom. Dunching onions should be seeded when crocuses are in full bloom.

The Van Bourgondien catalog offers flowering bulbs and plants. Symbols beside each flower indicating height, sun and shade are helpful. Their wildflowers are all nursery grown plants.

Burpee's new varieties include a columbine, Harlequin, mixed colors and a snap pea which grows 23-25



inches tall and needs no support. It is stated that strawberries can be used as a ground cover or planted in a Dutch Garden catalog says that bulbs, tubers and corms offered for spring planting will start blooming about two months after planting.

Most catalogs offer garden accessories such as books and tools. For the address of any of them write to the Observer & Eccentric, Box 3503, Birmingham 48012, or call me at 644-2178.

Jackson & Perkins 1989 Holland collection of bulbs includes a chart to help in planting the fall bulbs.

Mike Whorf to narrate 'The Fabulous Fifties'

Birmingham resident Mike Whorf, well-known metropolitan area broadcaster, wrote and will narrate "The Fabulous Fifties," given by the Royal Oak Kimball High School, a capella choir at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the high school.

While the students do not intend to imitate the recording artists and performers of the '50s, the perform-

ance is almost certain to revive memories of Bill Haley and the Comets, Frankie Avalon, Fabian, Elvis, Connie Francis, the Kingston Trio, the Four Lads, Belafonte and others.

Sixty-five students are involved in the production from performing to working behind the scenes. Carole Gall is the director.

Pottery open for visitors

O'Neil Pottery, 1841 Crooks, Rochester, is open for visitors. They may visit the studio and sales area in the 119-year-old barn and the area

where the farm animals are kept behind the historic house.

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