

'Flowering Onion' Becomes Stylish Among Gardeners

By BETTY FRANKL
Special Writer
Alliums are "in style"—and everyone seems interested in these exotic-looking flowering onions.

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either spring or summer. Alliums vary in height from only a few inches tall to those five feet high. Colors vary from white and yellow through blue, lavender, rose, and deep purple, and there are varieties that bloom from early spring throughout the summer.

THE FIRST to bloom is the little snow allium only. By early May the rich yellow flowers have opened on foot-high stems. In June allium blossoms come into bloom. It has stiff stems that are

The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

LUPINE CULTURE: One of the showiest of perennials is the lupine. Right now your plants are loaded with seed pods. Should these be cut off? Probably your best bet is to remove the seed pods so strength can go into the roots and the rest of the plant. Lupines self-sow and plants sprout up near the base. These seedlings grow into handsome specimens, with some color variation. Some gardeners divide their clumps of lupines in early spring, but I think that sowing seed in the ground any time now, will produce plants and when spring rolls around you can transplant them.

Lupines should be moved when small. They have a fleshy tap root and do not move easily when too large. Did you know that the scientific name comes from lup, Latin for wolf? This alludes to an ancient belief that lupines robbed soil of fertility, which isn't true. If anything, lupines build up soils. They are a member of the pea (legume) family, taking nitrogen from the air and storing it in the roots. One more point about lupines: If you cut the old stalks or seed pods off now, they don't usually give you a second bloom the same year, as many believe.

ROOTING SNAKE PLANTS: If you'd like to start a few "snake" plants (manseveria) from cuttings, it's simple. Cut the leaf into sections two inches long, and root them in plain sand. The variegated forms cannot be started this way, as they produce plants with no striping. Striped snake plants are propagated by division, the only way to make them come true. Snake plants will send forth blossoms if you treat them right. This means a rather bright window, ample moisture

Choose Between 3 Closet Plans

A plan for a room divider that combines added storage space with cedar closet moth protection is available from the Aromatic Red Cedar Closet Lining Manufacturers Association. The suggested location for the divider is the basement, but it can be built in any 4' x 8' space that is open for both sides. The plan calls for 2' x 4' and 2' x 6' framing, exterior of 3/4" plywood, hollow core doors and all interiors.

The plan and two other plans for closet construction are included in a new folder available free of charge by sending a postcard to Home Closet Planning Service, Room 3906, Dept. CS, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois 60601.

allium giganteum, which grows five feet tall and has large heads of light blue flowers in June.

There are numerous other varieties available that are equally attractive and easy to grow. Some are good in clumps while others would make a striking decorative accent in front of foundation evergreens or shown off against a plain wall or fence.

They make good cut flowers, too, and are practically a complete arrangement in themselves.

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