

The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

By GEORGE ABRAHAM show and now it's used as a bedding plant for shady locations and for a plant which will grow in the shade and give you a splash of color, try coleus.

The last several years have seen a remarkable increase in the use of this old-fashioned plant. Years ago it was grown in the north window for its seed and from "slips" rooted



CALENDULAS are one of the easiest annuals to grow and, now that the Pacific Beauty strain is available, bloom all summer long.

Calendulas Are Bloomin' Fools

It's always a joy to grow a plant that's easy, that isn't fussy about soil and that produces lots of beautiful blooms. So calendulas should be on every gardener's list for they prove all of the statements above.

Seeds should be planted outdoors when frost danger is over, covered with 1/4 inch of fine soil and seedlings thinned when two inches tall. You can transplant the seedlings or give them to a fortunate neighbor if you have sufficient plants left for your own use.

Calendulas used to be considered flowers for cool areas only because they stood the summer heat so poorly. But the Pacific Beauty strain changed that attitude for varieties of this strain bloom right through the summer.

Choose the colors you prefer from Lenox Beauty, Apricot Beauty, Flame Beauty (deep orange), Persimmon Beauty, Cream Beauty, with the most delicate coloring, or grow a mixture of all these shades.

All of the flowers of this strain have broad, incurved petals and are larger than those of older varieties.

SHOULD YOU be interested in different forms of blossoms, there are two that are remarkably different. The first, named Geisha Girl, has blooms so incurved that each looks like a Japanese chrysanthemum, colored orange with a reddish sheen. The other is crested—that is the center of the flower is made up of tiny, upright quills and the outer petals serve as a frame. Kabouna, available in separate colors or in a mixture of them is one such variety. Zvolanek's Crested is the other.

Most calendulas grow two feet high, with long stems excellent for cutting. However, there are times when dwarf forms would be preferable and you also can grow these.

Sunny Boy is a "natural" for pots as plants are mound-shaped and only 6 inches high, while Dwarf Orange grows about 12 to 14 inches tall with the usual bushy plants.

Sow calendula seeds early and treat yourself to the longest possible season of flowers.

Garden Chatter

Latest research shows that seeds of all types of petunias need light in order to sprout. Since most other kinds of seeds sprout well in darkness, this news may explain why some gardeners report difficulty in growing petunias from seeds.

THE BUSH form of summer squash is a favorite with the home gardener because it takes so much less room in the garden than the vine type. Now there's also a bush form of pumpkin which bears full-sized, smooth, round fruits, 4 to 10 inches in diameter.

PROBABLY THE most fascinating crop for a child to grow is peanuts because flowers bend over and bury themselves underground where the "nuts" grow. A fast-maturing variety like NC-17 will produce even in most northern states where the season is short.

Make certain that the peanuts planted are raw, not roasted. Shell nuts, plant eight to 10 inches apart in rows 2 1/2 to three feet apart. Cover with two inches of soil, preferably sandy.

Cultivate as needed, dig before frost and hang vines in an airy place to cure.

TRY SOME foliage plants in your garden to contrast with the bright blooms of your annuals. Dusty miller, flowering kale, coleus, or amaranthus are possibilities.

BUSH TYPE balsam is sometimes called summer gardenia. This type is dwarf, growing one foot tall. Each mound of plant is covered with clusters of flowers.

CROWDING cabbage plants in a row does not result in an increased crop. Instead, crowding causes plants to go to seed rather than form heads. For this reason set plants or thin seedlings to allow at least 12 and for large-headed varieties, 18 inches between plants.

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