Down Bonne

Exploration Continues In World Of Plants

There was a time when most new flowers and vegetables were introduced by plant explorers searching remote areas of the world for new varieties.

The greatest voyage of exploration before man went to the moon was sponsored by a botanist, Sir Joseph Banks, who 200 years ago financed the expeditions of Capt. James Cook.

Plant expeditions still are conducted today, and since 1956 the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has sent plant-finding trips around the world.

Some of the new plant discoveries resulting from these expeditions have been recognized by All-America selections, including Ornamental Basil, Dark Opal (found growing in Turkey and perfected by the University of Connecticut) and Lettuce, Butterking (discovered in Israel and selected by the Canadian Dept. of Agriculture).

The vast majority of new flower and vegetable varicties today are produced by a small group of professional establishments headed by dedicated breeders spend-their-time_conducting thousands of experimental crosses. They wait patiently for years to see their objec-

tives materialize. In 1932, the idea for All-America Selections for testing and evaluating new varieties was started by the late Ray Hastings, a prominent seedsman. The organization was an instant success and the American Rose Growers soon adopted their own system selections-now known All-America Rose Selections. Later both Britain and Europe created their own trials modeled after the American

Seeds of current, future and past years' selections are grown at more than 60 display gardens open to the general public.

These are located at fa-

mous gardens in the U.S. and other countries including Canada, Great Britain, South New Zealand and Africa. Bermuda. Disney World,



6930 N. TELEGRAPH LO3-2190 MON. -THURS.



SQUASH, Table King, winner of a 1974 silver medal, produces large fruit on compact, bushy plants of a size previously possible only by growing the vining varieties.

Florida, is also a display gar-

Over the years the winners have become favorites.

The tiny Thumbelina zinnia

was a gold medal winner in 1963-and-10-years-later-still outsells most other flowers.

The first truly red petunia. Fire Chief, was another gold medal winner that remains popular.

Rosie O'Day, the first deep rose colored annual alvssum: and Scarlet O'Hara, the first



BUSH BEAN GOLD-CROP, bronze 1974 medal winner, is a diseaseresistant bush wax bean developed by the United States Dept. of Agriculture in cooperation with Washington State Univer-

giant flowered scarlet morning glory were All-America Selection winners.

Among the vegetables to win awards the first year of the trials 40 years ago were Imperator carrot and Honey Rock melon, varieties that home gardeners still grow today.

Other famous winners are: Salad Bowl lettuce, Bell Boy pepper, Emerald Cross cab-bage, Cherry Belle Radish, and many others.

Garden Chatter

Mrs. Albert DeVic of 14910 Flamingo, Livonia, was admiring her crab apple tree from her kitchen window. She was musing that some of the leaves looked just like spring blossoms.

A closer examination revealed they were really blossoms. Clusters of blooms were scattered on 10 or 12 branches.

This is the first time in 12 years the tree has blos-



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