

The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Tomato horn worm: I've been asked what to do for that fat, cigar-shaped worm you see stripping your tomato plants. This is the tomato horn worm. They can strip a tomato plant in a jiffy.

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worm poisonous? While we've had some gardeners say that their sting is poisonous, many entomologists (bug experts) have written to tell us this worm is harmless.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS: This handsome shade-loving plant has been called the Stocking flower because its flowers resemble the carnation, camellia, gardenia, hollyhock and others. During the summer you're apt to find the plant dropping its buds and blossoms.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "Why is it our neighbor's petunias are so nice and thrifty, while ours are spindly and without any blossoms?"

Answer: I think you'll find that your neighbor babies her petunias—feeds them, waters them daily (or in dry weather) and she probably snips off the spent blooms (plus seed pods), cut only half the stem. The other half will mature and fall off by Free: Send me a self-stamped envelope for my bulletin, "How to Grow Petunias." You'll need this if your perennial bed is bad.

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Bouquets Have Natural Look

Nature is gorgeous, mistaking it in mid-summer. The home with fresh flower bouquets shows this same spirit of beauty and generosity.

Happily, the extravagant look is possible for very little money. The secret lies in selecting cut flowers that will make long-lasting bouquets.

Four of the very best, says the Society of American Florists, are daisies and pumpkins, chrysanthemums, carnations, orchids and lilies.

There is great charm in bouquets arranged as naturally as a child's handful of flowers. Even the natural look, of course, has its own special formula. If you seek to perfect it, you will need a few essential props. Start with containers. You'll need tiny ones for little bouquets, and it's good to have a modest variety on hand. Remember that the best vases are unobtrusive. Quiet in color and simple in line. This directs

Guide For Keeping Cut Flowers Fresh

- ANEMONES.** Add vinegar to the water, at the rate of 1/2 cup vinegar to two cups of water.
- ASTERS.** Place cut stems in quart of water and teaspoonful of sugar for one hour.
- AZALEAS.** Burn stem ends over gas or candle flame, place in water.
- APPLE BLOSSOMS.** Cut in bud stage—crush stem ends. Place in cool water with two drops hydrochloric acid to one quart of water.
- BLEEDING HEART.** Two tablespoons of table salt in two quarts of water.
- CALLA LILIES.** One-half cup vinegar to two quarts of water. The leaves should lie flat in water to cover them.
- CALENDULAS.** Cut in bud stage. Use ice cubes in arrangement.
- CAMELLIA.** Same treatment as Gardenias. Water is absorbed only through the petals and leaves.
- CARNATIONS.** Five drops of oil of peppermint in two quarts of water, or 1/2 cup of boric acid in one gallon of water.
- CATTAILS.** Cut with few leaves about Aug. 25. Place in vase upright, no water.
- CHRYSANTHEMUMS.** Crush or burn stem ends up to 3 inches. Eight drops of oil of peppermint in two quarts of water.
- DAFFODILS.** Place stems in one inch of water in cool place. Squeeze gelatin-like substance from stems before placing in water.
- DAHLIAS.** Burn stem ends and stand for two hours in one quart of water with one teaspoonful of wood alcohol.
- DAISIES.** Eight drops of oil of peppermint in one quart of water, or burn ends and soak in cold water for one hour.
- DELPHINIUM.** Crush stem ends and plunge into water containing one tablespoonful of wood alcohol to one quart of water.
- DOGWOOD.** Crush stem up two or three inches or cut stems. Peel off outer skin.
- FORGET-ME-NOTS.** Plunge stem tips into boiling water then into cold water. Protect blossoms from the steam.
- FUCHSIAS.** Place in two tablespoons of table salt to two quarts of water.
- GARDENIAS.** Spray flowers with water; place in box in refrigerator; table salt sprinkled over blossoms keeps them.
- GLADIOLUS.** Place in cold water. To make the tops curve, soak over night and curves will develop.
- HELLEBORE.** Crush stem ends up two or three inches and place in one pint water containing five drops of wood alcohol.
- HOLLYHOCK.** Burn the stem ends as soon as cut. Soak in deep water over night.
- HYACINTHS.** Plunge stem tips into boiling water then into cold water.
- HELIOTROPE.** Burn by char stem tips over flame, then place in pint of cold water with five drops of wood alcohol.
- HYDRANGEA.** Same as for Calla Lilies.
- IRIS.** Cut and plunge immediately in cold water.
- KERRIA.** Place in solution of 1/2 teaspoonful wood alcohol to two quarts of cold water.

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